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KyivPost

18th
Year



vol. 18, issue 36

INDEPENDENCE. COMMUNITY. TRUST

www.kyivpost.com

September 6, 2013



FEMEN activist Inna Shevchenko poses with other members of the feminist group during a preview of the documentary film "Ukraine Is Not A Brothel" presented at the 70th Venice Film Festival on Sept. 4. (AFP)

BY CHRISTOPHER J. MILLER
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The brain behind the "sextrémist" FEMEN group, the topless women protesters who have gained international fame and scorn, turns out to be a man. At least that is the revelation made in a new documentary called "Ukraine Is Not A Brothel."

In the hour-long documentary, previewed online by the Kyiv Post but not available yet in Ukraine, Australian film director Kitty Green identifies Ukrainian Viktor Sviatskiy, 34, as the architect of FEMEN's unusual protests → 9

Mezhyhirya saga takes its latest twist

BY KATERYNA KAPLIUK
KAPLIUK@KYIVPOST.COM

A familiar face will soon become President Viktor Yanukovich's new neighbor on the 138-hectare estate to which his residence is attached.

Serhiy Kliuyev, a pro-presidential Party of Regions lawmaker, said that in late August he signed a deal to

purchase Tantalit LLC, the lessee of 127 hectares, or 93 percent of the land area, where the Mezhyhirya palatial compound is located, some 25 kilometers north of Kyiv.

The close presidential ally will now take the place of a bewildering number of proxy companies and individuals for a price tag of \$18 million, or \$141,000 per hectare, according to Kliuyev. But

the company might have other assets, too.

The obvious speculation is that the ownership change is motivated by the desire of the compound's actual owners to safeguard the property, since the previous director of Tantalit's parent company has been imprisoned in Austria. An Austrian court on April 5 sentenced Johann Wanovits, 54, the

former director of Tantalit's mother company, to five years in prison for his role in manipulating the share price of Telekom Austria.

Yanukovich has never explained to the satisfaction of much of the public or his political critics how he was able to gain control of a valuable former state residence and who paid for the multimillion-dollar improvements.

Mezhyhirya has come to symbolize what critics say is deeply embedded corruption in the Yanukovich administration, accusations that the president has consistently denied.

According to Yanukovich's income declaration for 2012, he merely owns a 619-square meter home on 1.76 hectares of land inside the 138-hectare estate. Yanukovich has → 8

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Засновник ТОВ "Паблік-Медіа"

Головний редактор Якуб Парусинський

Відповідальний за випуск Якуб Парусинський

Адреса видавця та засновника

співпадають: Україна, м. Київ, 01004,

вул. Пушкінська, 31А, 6-й поверх.

Реєстраційне свідоцтво

Кв № 15261-3833ПР від 19.06.09.

Передплатний індекс ДП Преса 40528

Надруковано ТОВ «Новий друк»,

02660, Київ, вулиця Магнітогорська, 1,

тел.: 559-9147

Замовлення № 13-7670

Аудиторське обслуговування

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Ministry adjusts trade numbers with Belize

BY KATERYNA KAPLIUK
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In October 2012 Ukraine suddenly kick-started a booming oil products export to Belize. In the first month, Ukraine exported nearly \$60 million worth of gasoline to the small Caribbean country. By the end of the last quarter, gasoline exports reached \$209 million, according to the State Statistics Service.

Exports to Belize grew even faster this year. In the first five months of 2013 exports of oil products to Belize, an oil-rich nation itself, topped \$740 million. And then, out of the blue, the government changed its statistics.

The Ministry for Revenues and Fees released six-month data on July 30 that showed the export of oil products to Belize somehow shrank to \$92.7 million. The State Statistics Service followed suit. This means that \$648 million worth of gasoline products somehow vanished.

The change in statistics was interpreted by industry experts as a cover-up for vast business activities, possibly shady. Both the ministry and the State Statistics Committee denied wrongdoing, saying the change was of a purely technical nature.

The ministry's statistics changed just five days after a news report in the Kyiv Post, which pointed out the ballooning trade and suggested that Belize, an offshore haven, was simply used for tax evasion purposes. The Kyiv Post then found that if the January-May state statistics were to be believed, Ukraine consumed and exported 1.6 million tons more gasoline than it produced and imported in total.

An Interfax-Ukraine report as of October 2012 linked all of the Belize gasoline trade to three obscure companies: Zovnitransgaz, Armada-Plus and Petrol-Forwarding. These, in turn, were linked by Dzerkalo Tyzhnya's sources to Serhiy Kurchenko, a young

multi-millionaire who is often believed to be a major member of the "family," a group of people close to President Viktor Yanukovich. Kurchenko's company did not answer Kyiv Post requests for comment.

Coincidentally, Oleksandr Klymenko, the minister for fees and revenues, is also often referred to by political observers as a member of the "family."

The State Statistics Service, in their explanation accompanying export data, said that their data were "clarified" by the Ministry for Revenues and Fees. Data for about a dozen countries were affected, mostly offshore countries or zones with attractive tax legislation like Cyprus, the Marshall Islands, Malta, Switzerland, Seychelles, and Panama.

The "clarification" affected such categories as fuel, aircraft and ships. In one case, the figures for export of ships to Cyprus decreased by \$31 million. But Belize was by far affected the most.

In its response to a Kyiv Post inquiry, the revenues and fees ministry explained that the updated data no longer takes into account re-export of commodities, especially those that passed through customs warehouses. Only straight export of oil products is now accounted for.

The ministry cited a United Nations document called International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Concepts and Definitions 2010 as the reason why re-export data is no longer accounted for in national statistics.

However, the ministry's interpretation fails to take into account a part of the UN recommendation on re-export. "Re-exports are exports of foreign goods which were previously recorded as imports. It is recommended that re-exports not only be included in total exports but also be separately identified (coded) for analytical purposes," the UN guidelines say.

Incidentally, Zovnitransgaz, the most active exporter of oil products, as of Aug. 1 owned seven bonded warehouses in Kyiv and other regions, according to the ministry's register of such warehouses. Their ownership allows the company to conduct customs clearance through a special procedure. Petrol-Forwarding and Armada Plus own warehouses in Odesa and Kirovohrad regions, respectively. Gasoline imported to all these warehouses is exempt from customs duties and excise tax.

Zovnitransgaz was founded in September 2011 by its sole owner and director Oleg Kolosov. The company was registered in Simferopol, Crimea.

The Ministry for Revenues and Fees told Svoboda lawmaker Yuriy Syrotyuk in response to his parliamentary inquiry that in the first four months of this year, 1.259 million tons of oil products passed clearance in warehouses belonging to Zovnitransgaz, Armada-Plus and Petrol-Forwarding. Then, 1.203 million tons of oil products were re-exported from Ukraine, according to the ministry data, and these shipments were free of tax.

Kyiv Post staff writer Kateryna Kapliuk can be reached at kapliuk@kyivpost.com.



Back to school

Throughout Ukraine, the traditional first school bells rang on Sept. 1. During the ceremonies, students of all ages dress up and attend ceremonies for the start of another academic year. Kyiv Post photo editor Pavel Padufalov and photographer Kostyantyn Chernichkin went out to capture the joyous events at schools No. 53 and 269 in Kyiv. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

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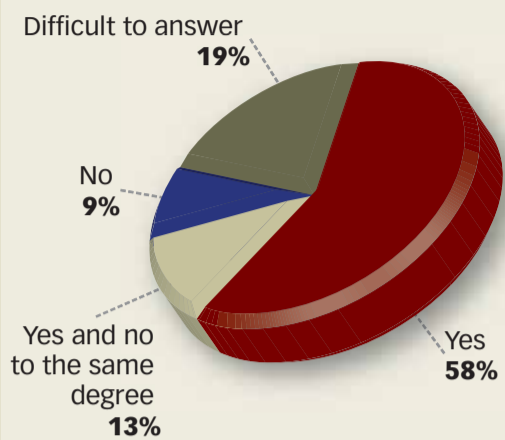
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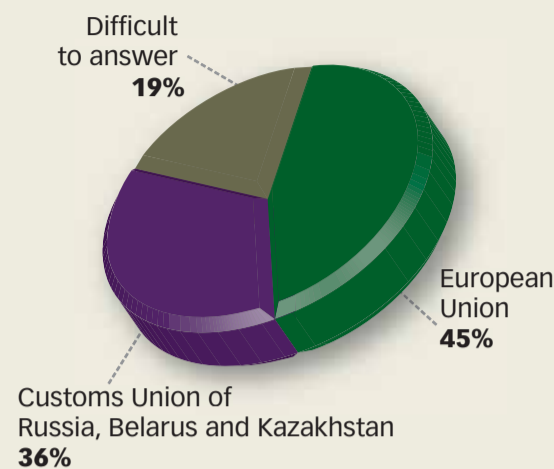
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Do you believe that Russia's blockage of Ukrainian import was a reaction to Ukraine's intentions to sign Association Agreement with EU?



Which union would you choose if it was necessary to make an unequivocal choice?



Source: Research and Branding Group nationwide poll of 2,079 Ukrainians on Aug.20-31. The margin of error is 2.2 percent.

Regardless of what politicians in Russia and Ukraine say, Ukrainians interpreted the brief August trade war with Russia as a Kremlin attempt to quash Ukraine's pro-European drive. Ukrainians prefer integration with the European Union over joining the Eurasian Customs Union of Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan.

Parliament acts fast to please EU except on issue of Tymoshenko

BY OKSANA GRYSSENKO
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It was hard to believe one's eyes on Sept. 5 as Ukraine's parliament, notorious for brawls and squabbling, almost unanimously approved five bills required for signing the Association Agreement with the European Union this November.

Although both the ruling party and the opposition vowed to support the requisite legislation for European integration, seeing it happen was a spectacle. Unexpectedly, even the Communists contributed votes.

Parliament still has more than a dozen laws pending, and most of the newly approved ones require a second reading. The most important bill, the one that would reform the prosecutor's office, is still being examined by the Venice Commission, the Council of Europe's advisory body on constitutional matters whose endorsement is essential for the bill's advancement in parliament.

But parliament had little to say over the imprisonment of Yulia Tymoshenko, the former prime minister. Her freedom is also viewed as compulsory for signing the agreement at the Eastern Partnership summit in Vilnius, Lithuania, on Nov. 27.

"We don't take European integration as some kind of religion for which there's a need to pass the laws," said Communist Party lawmaker Spiridon Kilinkarov. "We just vote for the point of these laws."

The EU is expected to assess Ukraine's progress and make the final decision on whether to sign the two landmark agreements on Oct. 21.

Approved on Sept. 5

1. Changes to the Criminal Code on prisoner conditions

The law was approved in the second reading with 379 votes. "We should vote the entire day this way," parliament speaker Volodymyr Rybak joked. His wish nearly came true. The bill allows prisoners to wear civilian clothes, use cell phones and see family members more frequently. The law will come into effect when the president signs it. But Iryna Lutsenko, the wife of former political prisoner and former Interior Minister Yuriy Lutsenko, said



A lawmaker of from Vitali Klitschko's opposition UDAR party puts on a shirt reading "Ukraine is Europe" on Sept. 3 to support Ukraine signing an Association Agreement with the European Union on Nov. 27. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

the law was merely ornamental and said she would file her own version.

2. On implementation of court decisions

The law improves the enforcement of court rulings. In particular, it compels the state to pay compensation to citizens soon after European Court for Human Rights rulings. Ukraine is among the five top countries that files the most complaints to the court on human rights abuses.

The opposition initially budged against voting for this bill, saying it would allow the government to ignore debts it currently owes to citizens who won court cases. But the controversial part was swiftly removed, and the law received 340 votes in the first reading.

3. Amendments to customs tariffs

The law was boycotted by the opposition just two days prior because it contains some parts beneficial for pro-government businesses. Those parts were partially amended, and the law got 365 votes. "We have removed the issues, to which there were objections," Viktor Pynzenyk of the opposition told the Kyiv Post. The law was required to bring Ukraine's customs legislation in-line with World Trade Organization standards.

4. Constitutional amendments to promote independence of judges

Arseniy Yatseniuk, head of

Batkivshchyna, the biggest opposition faction in parliament, initially said that this law increases the dependence of judges on the president, and that the opposition prepared its own bill, which "seriously differs from the presidential one" and includes proposals to liquidate the Constitutional Court and introduces a procedure to impeach judges. But despite the criticism, all factions voted for the presidential draft to be sent to the Constitutional Court — the first step in the lengthy procedure of amending the Constitution.

Yatseniuk later said the opposition was sticking to its agreement with the parliament speaker and the president's administration on Sept. 4 to support all legal initiatives to do with European integration. The law was supported by 377 votes.

5. Repeat election date set for five troubled single-mandate parliamentary districts

The pro-government majority and the opposition also managed to find a compromise on when to hold elections in five parliamentary constituencies where results of the Oct. 28, 2012 election were undetermined due to major fraud or other factors. Dec. 15 was set as the re-election date by 371 votes. The Party of Regions originally insisted on a later date.

Kyiv Post staff writer Oksana Grytsenko can be reached at grytsenko@kyivpost.com.

Advertisement

FOOD ADVISER

LACTALIS LAUNCHES INNOVATIVE KIDS' PRODUCT

The Ukrainian kids' food industry is gradually moving from quantity toward quality. If before import substitution was the manufacturers' main goal, the functionality of children's nutrition products is now on the front, too. The Lactalis company sets a pioneering trend, launching children milk products enriched with Omega-3 acids under the brand name "Loko Moko."

BRAND-NEW GROWTH

The Lactalis company is a new entrant to the Ukrainian dairy products market for children over 3 years old. Recently the manufacturer introduced a daughter brand of 'Lactel' — "Loko Moko" (desserts and tvorozhki). "Loko Moko" is produced at two sites — Pavlograd in the Dnepropetrovsk region, and in Nikolayev. The price range of "Loko Moko" is "medium +." According to Natalia Dzhepo, a Lactalis Group Brand Manager, "Loko Moko" children's products are aimed at the 3+ age group. They are unique not only because of their optimal balance of nutritional substances — the products contain Calcium + vitamin D₃, but also Omega-3, a vital element for the balanced growth of a child.

FUNCTION — HEALTH

Euromonitor International analysts predict the global market for health-care products (including functional, hypoallergenic, organic etc), growth up to \$1 trillion in 2017. According to this data, about 30% of world food companies now invest in the manufacture of healthcare products. At the same time the growth rates of the healthy nutrition industry exceed food industry development averages. Dairy and bakery foods dominate in the world market of functional food products with a share of almost 73%, which is not surprising as milk foods have extra nutritional value and preventive effects in GI tract activity recovery. Meanwhile, leading manufacturers have already shifted to the development of functional products for children. In the Ukrainian market there is a great variety of kids' food enriched with calcium, vitamin C, fortified vitamins, Iodine, Iron and non-GMO. But for dairy products for children over 3 years old the choice is not that large. The lion's share of manufacturers concentrate on babies under 3 but when a child joins his parents at the dining table, they no longer pay attention to nutritional issues.

It is this very segment that is now filled by the Lactalis company with the launch of the new child brand "Loko Moko" enriched with Omega-3 acids.

As nutrition specialists note, Omega-3 fatty acids play an essential role in brain development as our brain cells have membranes which are built out of this important component. In the grey matter of the human brain, Omega-3 acids make up more than 50% of its content.

Omega-3 enables the fast increase of energy levels necessary for the impulse transmission of signals from one cell to another. This improves mental power and thinking skills, and the storing and fast extraction of information in and from the memory.

'Children who take Omega-3 with their food are more focused, have less stress and hyperactive behavior, and have better learning scores' notes Natalia Dzhepo.

AID TO A MOTHER

A great many companies in Ukraine have expressed a desire to manufacture products containing Omega-3 fatty acids for adults. And this is not just fancy trend chasing. Dozens of scientific studies are in favor of Omega-3 components for human health. Omega-3 is the ultimate benefit in the functional nutrition products market. Omega-3 deficiency can lead to many health disorders and complications. It is even more important for children than for adults as the body is building brain cells with Omega-3's help. Our body is unable to produce Omega-3 acids by itself — they must come from outside in the food we eat. One of the main sources of Omega 3 is sea fish, such as herring, sardines, salmon and halibut. However, children are not always that fond of fish! That is why a tasty dairy product containing Omega-3 acids helps mothers to solve the problem. For instance, in Norway doctors recommend Omega-3 for babies from six months old. In other European countries it is from the age of three. Pediatricians consider about 400 grams of fresh fruit and vegetables a day and sea fish 3 not less than 2-3 times a week to be a good diet for the healthy growth of children aged 4-10. But in reality this doesn't happen very often. Even in the families with traditions of good, healthy food, a child can suffer an Omega-3 fatty acids deficit. Environmental problems, the effects of cooking or food processing (when fish is frozen the amount of Omega-3 is halved) and the fact that many kids do not like fish can all contribute to a deficit. And children who do have an Omega-3 deficit can have difficulties with studying and behavioral problems at school. They are easily distracted and are often hyperactive.

* Nota Bene

Child food production in Ukraine has increased by a half to 16,000 tonnes since the beginning of the year. Furthermore, over the last six months, the biggest growth rates were shown in liquid kids' food and milk-based production — up 51% to 12,000 tonnes. The number of locally produced products is growing, with two new plants opened last year in the Kyiv region. The Ministry of Agrarian Policy for Food in Ukraine predicts that growth dynamics will allow the manufacturers to substitute imported products and also to export significant amounts. Today's Ukrainian consumer is no longer satisfied with just a run of the mill, standard quality product for their kids. Long ago did our fellow-countrymen started to read labels and to check the contents — for instance: 'Are there any allergenic chemicals, GM foods, artificial additives or aromatizers?' etc. Ukrainians are not indifferent to modern worldwide trends such as building up health with a good diet to ward off illness. Nowadays the producer has to offer multifunctional products — just making a natural, standard quality product is no longer enough. They must also provide additional benefits. That means the product must be enriched with vitamins, minerals and other valuable ingredients. And nowhere is this more important than with kids food.



Editorials

Emptiness

As Kitty Green's new documentary "Ukraine Is Not a Brothel" made clear, the FEMEN topless women's movement is mostly about bare breasts, a hunger for publicity and...not much else. No great passion to change society for the better. That's the impression we got from previewing the Australian filmmaker's hour-long film based on 14 months of living with FEMEN.

We kind of figured it out ourselves in 2008 when we wrote one of the first articles about FEMEN. In the early days, they were a breath of fresh air – calling attention in novel ways to the problem of sexual exploitation of Ukrainian women through prostitution abroad and sex tourism at home. But by 2011, their antics lost meaning. In a Nov. 17, 2011 editorial, "End this show," the Kyiv Post wrote: "They became publicity-obsessed showgirls who nowadays seem more interested in putting on a performance more worthy of a tawdry strip joint."

Green's documentary broke new ground by portraying a foul-mouthed Ukrainian man named Viktor Sviatskiy as the mastermind behind the group. The film shows him having a Svengali-like influence over the women. In one scene, Sviatskiy dons a rabbit mask and asks how to say rabbit in English, then says: "I fucking rabbit." He suggests that he launched FEMEN for sexual reasons. He talks poorly about the women and goes into an obscenity-laced tirade against them for not following his instructions at a protest.

"These girls are weak...They don't even have the desire to be strong. Instead they show submissiveness, spinelessness and lack of punctuality and many other factors which prevent them from becoming political activists," Sviatskiy tells Green. Sviatskiy blithely acknowledges the irony of a man leading a feminist organization: "I am a patriarch in an organization against patriarchy." Even FEMEN's Alexandra Shevchenko admits his influence is unhealthy. "It isn't exactly slavery, but we might call it that... we need to end this relationship," she says.

And with that, we hope photojournalists end their fixation with FEMEN's breasts. There are better role models for feminism. We abhor the physical attacks on FEMEN. It appears that the group is being hounded out of Ukraine. Their free speech rights and their safety – as anyone else's – deserve government protection. But we also hope the group's members use their relocation to France to think about smarter ways to solve some of Ukraine's most pressing problems.

Vanishing millions

It took a clever internal instruction, and \$648 million worth of gasoline products, simply disappeared. At least they did from the national statistics of exports in the first half of 2013 to Belize.

There are two sources of such statistics. It originates from the Ministry for Revenues and Fees. Then, the ministry told the State Statistics Service to alter their figures.

The ministry cited United Nations guidelines for the new rules that exclude some types of data (namely, re-exported gasoline) from the national figures. But the reasoning does not stand up to criticism because the guidelines, in fact, say this data should also be kept separately.

So why would the ministry need to hide obscure national statistics from the public eye? We think we have answers.

Ukraine's biggest gasoline trader at the moment is Serhiy Kurchenko, a young multi-millionaire who shot into the limelight last year. He has been linked by an Interfax-Ukraine news report to the three biggest gasoline traders selling to Belize. He, as well as Minister for Revenues and Fees Oleksandr Klymenko, are members of the "family," a close circle of advisers to President Viktor Yanukovich and his elder son Oleksandr.

It would not be surprising if one pal was covering up for another – especially if there was something to hide. It is doubtful that Belize, a nation of 300,000 people with its own oil industry, needed \$740 million worth of gasoline in the first five months of 2013, as was initially reported.

Nor is there a proper official explanation as to why, in the first five months of this year, Ukraine consumed and exported more gasoline than it produced and imported – much more, in the range of 1.6 million tons. Unless, of course, the "family" critics are right and Ukraine is not exporting nearly as much gas as traders claim, and instead are using a scheme called "interrupted transit" to avoid taxes.

It works this way: On paper, a company imports and exports gasoline, which allows it to avoid paying excise and import taxes on these products. In reality, the fuel is sold in Ukraine. And if the trader's documents show that the oil products are re-exported through bonded warehouses, this business operation no longer registers in the national statistics. Bingo.



NEWS ITEM: President Viktor Yanukovich can no longer deny knowing who owns the rest of the 136 hectares of land on the gigantic estate where he lives after Serhiy Kliuyev, his close political ally and a national lawmaker, announced that on Aug. 22 he signed a deal to buy the proxy company that owned the lavish compound. In his first press conference after being inaugurated in 2010, Yanukovich told journalists he didn't know who his neighbor was.



NEWS ITEM: Health Minister Raisa Bogatyriova on Sept. 3 called on freshmen at a Kyiv medical university to look like 100 years ago to evoke trust among the patients. "We need to look like doctors did 100 years ago to evoke patients' trust. No excesses in clothes, hairstyles and perfume. Gel nails, unimaginable hair color and hairdos from the catwalk are incompatible with the medical profession," the minister said. Ironically, Bogatyriova, a former gynecologist, is nicknamed "Miss Tuning" for plastic surgeries she allegedly underwent, as well as her manicure, hairdo and groomed appearance. Bogatyriova has denied undergoing cosmetic surgeries.

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In this March file photo, insulin is produced at an Indar center in Kyiv. At the same time, the company features in many corruption scandals and its director is now under criminal investigation. (UNIAN)

VOX
populi

WITH
ALISA SHULKINA



What do you think about the FEMEN topless protest group's decision to close their office in Kyiv and leave Ukraine after some of the women were physically assaulted?



Anna Kolot,
student

"I believe that they were one of the peculiarities of our country. They were well-known across the world, not

in a good way maybe, but still people recognized them. The principles and ideas that they fought for are the things that most of the people of the country should fight for. Ukraine is going to be missing something now."



Oleksiy Lyaschenko,
scientist

"I believe that everything they did was just pure politics. I was not able to determine what they wanted to say,

what was their point of view and what they wanted to fight for. Maybe they didn't even know themselves. As for the fact that they are leaving Ukraine, others will come and take their place, I am sure. This niche is going to be taken, maybe even by the people who know what they are fighting for."



Lyudmyla Kotelenets,
homemaker

"I have no opinion about the matter. Either they close their office or open it – their actions do not

affect me and it is their business. We are busy people. We have to get on with our lives with or without them in the country."



Maria Skryshenska,
pensioner

"They have decided that they are going to be more comfortable away from Ukraine. I honestly

believe that there are more civilized ways of protest, so them being away is a good thing."



Petr Malnovskiy,
student

"I am glad that they are going to be away from Ukraine. What does it even mean, using

your breasts as a way of protest? It doesn't mean anything! They are future mothers of this country and it is just not right to behave this way."

Nation's sickest fall victim to corruption



**HALYNA
SENYK
AND
DARYNA
KALENIUK**

The director of state-run pharmaceutical company Indar, Liubov Vyshnevskaya, recently came under a criminal investigation after she refused to provide information on certain medicines that the company allegedly makes and which it successfully sells to the health ministry for millions of hryvnias.

The investigation was the result of watchdog activity by the Anti-Corruption Action Center in partnership with Ukrainian lawmakers who are members of the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption.

Indar was established in 1997 exclusively to produce affordable and inexpensive insulin, which the company did until 2012. But that year Indar started to win health ministry bids for the supply of new, yet untypical medicines for the plant, in particular medicine for antiretroviral therapy and tuberculosis treatment.

Several public statements by the director, Vyshnevskaya, accompanied this new development and claimed the plant's production line of medicines had been expanded. In particular, Vyshnevskaya more than once announced that the plant would start producing medicine locally for the Chicago-based pharmaceuticals company Abbott Laboratories.

Apparently, Indar had passed Abbott company inspections and arrangements were made to gradually start making the American company's medicines at Indar in Ukraine.

The Anti-Corruption Action Center could not confirm whether Abbott had conducted an inspection of Indar. Indar did, however, start re-packaging medicines, in line with Vyshnevskaya's proclamations of localizing production.

The meteoric rise of Indar to become the leader of Ukraine's pharmaceutical market also coincided with substantial changes that took place in public procurement laws in the last year that favored Indar.

In July 2012, the public procurement law ceased being applicable to Indar and any other state enterprise. Thus, in the Ukrainian pharmaceutical busi-

ness, this meant complete secrecy for how and from where the state-enterprise Indar procures the medicine that it, in turn, sells to the health ministry: does it make the medicine or re-sell it from another supplier?

Then in April 2013 a bill was passed which gave Indar the green light to a wider circle of health ministry orders. The draft law allows public procurement clients to include "the presence of our own manufacturing facilities" as a qualification criterion on medical bids, the same thing of which the Indar director had boasted.

We took an interest in Indar Plc following a TVi cover story into the company's uncanny ability to "force" public procurement tenders of the health ministry.

According to the investigation, on June 11, 2012, Indar Plc signed a contract with Altona Trade Agency LLP to purchase glucose test strips. The contract was worth \$1.93 million. On that serendipitous date, the Ministry of Health announced a call for proposals to purchase glucose test strips for the same exact quantity. On Aug. 23, 2012, the ministry named Indar the bid winner and gave the company a 100 percent advance payment. In turn, Indar Plc transferred this money to Latvia in September 2012, where Altona Trade Agency LLP had its bank account in Privat Bank in Riga. As soon as the money reached Latvia, Altona Trade Agency LLP started its liquidation process.

Our quick research of Altona Trade Agency LLP found that this company was established by Intera Limited in Denver, Colorado, a small mass-production company, and London-based Croftex Ltd. After signing the contract with Indar Plc, Altona Trade Agency changed its founding members to two companies belonging to the same person, Ruairi Laughlin-McCann.

Then, Laughlin-McCann's companies were changed to two Belize-based companies Corporex Limited and Integrex Limited, which filed for Altona's liquidation, making it impossible to prosecute Altona Trade Agency LLP for assisting in money laundering.

Thus, the test strip case clearly shows that the proceeds from the purchase of medicines by the health ministry from the state enterprise Indar, sits in foreign bank accounts that belong to foreign proxies, who in turn, disappear after they receive the money.

Our research also show that state suppliers of medicine purchase drugs at inflated prices from

offshore proxy companies, who in turn, buy medicinal drugs from stock residues or directly from the manufacturer.

Accordingly, state suppliers of medicine like Indar don't make a profit since the entire profit is kept out-of-country, and so they don't have money with which to invest into the development of pharmaceutical production in Ukraine.

In addition, large pharmaceutical companies cannot bid for health ministry public procurement orders, which would positively impact the value of and the quality of medicinal drugs. Furthermore, the biggest victims from corruption in medicinal public procurement are the nation's sick who receive low-quality, expensive drugs.

The Anti-Corruption Action Center took an interest to find evidence of – aside from Vyshnevskaya's statements in the media – whether the Indar plant has "its own manufacturing facilities." Together with parliamentarian Lesya Orobets, we submitted a lawmaker's inquiry to the director of Indar requesting a list of drugs manufactured at the plant that it supplies to the health ministry.

In violation of the law, Vyshnevskaya declined to provide a complete response to this and a repeat inquiry. In turn, Viktor Chumak, the head of the national branch of GOPAC, the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption, requested that law enforcement bring the director of Indar to justice for obstructing the work of a member of parliament. As a result, criminal proceedings were launched against Vyshnevskaya who faces up to three years in prison if found guilty.

Civil society in Ukraine will closely follow the criminal case and will continue to demand that Indar's management provide a complete and exhaustive reply concerning which drugs the plant makes, and what it sells to the health ministry.

The Anti-Corruption Action Center in cooperation with GOPAC will also monitor other suppliers of drugs to the health ministry since we believe that a systemic problem exists in the use of public procurement money in Ukraine, which only enriches a small circle of individuals at a time when seriously ill people receive less medicine than what is critically needed, or in poor quality. We believe that corruption is unacceptable when death is a threat.

Halyna Senyk is member of the board of Anti-Corruption Action Center, a non-government organization. Daryna Kaleniuk is CEO of the same NGO.

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More representative offices coming under tax scrutiny

BY OLGA RUDENKO
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Foreign companies have frequently found it daunting to do business in Ukraine. Now, those with representative offices registered as non-commercial entities have faced increased scrutiny by tax collectors.

Last year, the Ukrainian office of Pfizer pharmaceutical company was ordered to pay Hr 31 million in taxes and fees. The levy dates to 2010 when tax inspectors accused the company of violating its non-commercial status. According to the tax office, the pharmaceutical company's Ukrainian

branch had imported Hr 21 million worth of medicines for testing.

Normally, representative offices with non-commercial status only cover payroll taxes, which is usually 50-55 percent of salaries. In addition to payroll taxes, commercial entities pay 19 percent income tax and 20 percent in value-added tax.

According to Ron Barden, partner of PwC in Ukraine, the Pfizer case could embolden tax authorities to challenge representative offices beyond the pharmaceutical sector. The trend started with the pharmaceutical industry four years ago "and they had success. So now they want to do more of this,"

Barden says.

Barden and other experts acknowledge that the tax authorities have a valid claim in alleging commercial activity by some representative offices. But he complained of indiscriminate enforcement.

"They go after everyone now," Barden says. "Every time they look at a non-commercial office, they try to assess it. If the office has two or three employees and the tax demanded is \$10,000 to \$20,000, the companies choose to pay, because it costs more to fight. But in some cases they are assessing millions of dollars."

The Ministry of Incomes and Fees, which since last year united the tax and customs divisions, has become a powerful force for cracking down on tax evasion and tax avoidance as Ukraine seeks to beef up its government revenue.

According to Serhiy Verlanov, legal manager at PwC Ukraine, the ministry in 2012 sent 45 pages worth of detailed instructions to local tax officials on how to treat non-commercial offices.

"On the ministry level, the approach is quite sophisticated. But that's why this approach is hard to understand for local tax inspectors, and that's why the application of this approach is quite

formal, making it difficult to fight with a specific tax inspector when being audited," said Verlanov.

Olena Levshun, a partner in EBS Ukraine, says international companies established non-commercial representative offices to enter Ukraine's market because it used to be the favored way to establish a presence in Ukraine. "To some extent the violation (of non-commercial status) was unintentional, because the legislation is fuzzy," she said.

Dmytro Savchuk, an associate in Lavrynovych & Partners law firm, says he warns clients who register a non-commercial office that their tax status may be challenged. "The legislation is intricate, and Ukrainian tax inspectors can twist it," he says.

"The edge is quite thin," says Viktor Shekera, senior manager of tax and legal consulting at KPMG Ukraine, of the grey zone between commercial and non-commercial activities.

EBS Ukraine's Levshun believes that tax authorities are legitimately targeting commercial activities. Companies found to have evaded taxes must pay the back taxes plus penalties, but company officials can also be individually assessed fines of up to Hr 425,000 for

a second offense.

To count as non-commercial, the representative office must conduct activities different from those of the head office. "If it's a staff of two or three people, it looks reasonable, but not when it's 50 people, a 1,000-square-meter office, and 100 cars in possession," Levshun says.

Elena Makeyeva, managing partner of Aksenova and Partners audit firm, said: "In the beginning, I ask how many in the audience think their company is non-commercial. And so many hands rise at once. In the end, after I go through the indicators of a commercial representative office, I ask the same question, and the situation is completely different. I see the sad faces of accountants, who are puzzled with the risks."

Providing services to other companies other than the head office can also disqualify the firm's designation as non-commercial. That's what happened to Pfizer, tax authorities said.

But even the most careful approach is no guarantee, Barden says, because "you can never be 100 percent secure in Ukraine."

Kyiv Post staff writer Olga Rudenko can be reached at rudenko@kyivpost.com.

Coming in the Sept. 13 edition of the Kyiv Post

World in Ukraine: Kazakhstan



The series explores Ukraine's bilateral relations, this time with the Republic of Kazakhstan. Special focus is given to Kazakh businesses working in Ukraine, their achievements and the challenges they face.

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Many overlook advantages of buying government bonds

BY MARK RACHKEVYCH
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In the West, many parents give their children blue-chip stocks as gifts or a savings bond that matures in 20 years when they are adults. The practice of buying long-term financial instruments hasn't yet caught on in Ukraine due to low financial literacy and lack of long-term planning.

The size of the nation's internal bond market is worth \$44.3 billion, of which \$29.1 billion is comprised of government bonds, says Sergiy Lyashenko, head of CBonds for Ukraine, an information agency that researches the bond market.

As a share of gross domestic product, the internal Ukrainian government bond market is 16.2 percent, while the external government bond market is 9.1 percent of gross domestic product.

But with yields that often surpass the savings deposit rate of many banks, some of which are denominated in U.S. dollars, only 4 percent of Ukrainian government bonds are held by residents, another 1.82 percent belong to non-residents, according to Taras

Kotovych, fixed-income analyst at Investment Capital Ukraine, a Kyiv-based investment bank and one of the nation's largest bond traders.

The central bank owns nearly 60 percent for liquidity management purposes, while banks hold the remaining 35 percent.

As an investment, government bonds allow for diversification in addition to placing money in property, entrusting a bank with it, or simply placing it under a mattress.

"With (government) bonds, there's no counter-party risk...since 2000 the government has had no problem with debt repayments," said Kotovych of ICU, which offers the only bond investment fund in Ukraine.

And for those who could afford the \$50,000 to \$100,000 to purchase a Ukrainian government or corporate eurobond, they offer higher yields and more liquidity.

Usually, internal short-maturity government bonds have 6-7 percent yields, and go as high up as 12-15 percent for bonds with maturity of one

year or more.

As of Aug. 29, ICU's bond fund, 80 percent of which is comprised of eurobonds, has a net asset value performance of 101 percent since it started trading in July 2011, and a 25 percent NAV performance since the beginning of this year.

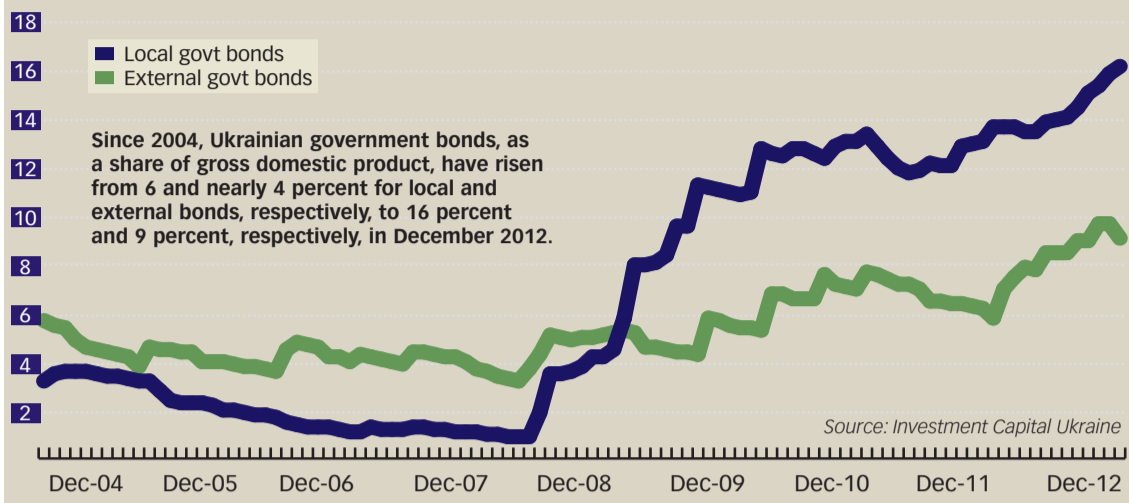
But the minimum initial investment into the fund is Hr 100,000. →7

What a non-resident needs to purchase a bond:

1. Copies of passport or other document identifying an individual personally certified and signed.
2. Certificate of residence or temporary domicile or such information provided in free form (which can be a hotel confirmation, for example)
3. Information about mailing address, phone/fax number.
4. Bank reference with details of the bank account opened with an authorized bank on the territory of Ukraine.

Source: Investment Capital Ukraine

Ukrainian government bonds as percentage of Gross Domestic Product



Interest rates for bonds exceed those of banks

→ **6** Still, there are signs that the public's financial literacy is improving. In October 2012, the finance ministry released \$100 million worth of U.S. dollar-denominated bonds to the public purchasable in hryvnias. They sold out in one and a half months. Requiring no bank accounts to be opened and made available through the state-owned Oschadbank, the bonds had an annual coupon rate of 9.2 percent paid every six months, and were sold nominally for \$500.

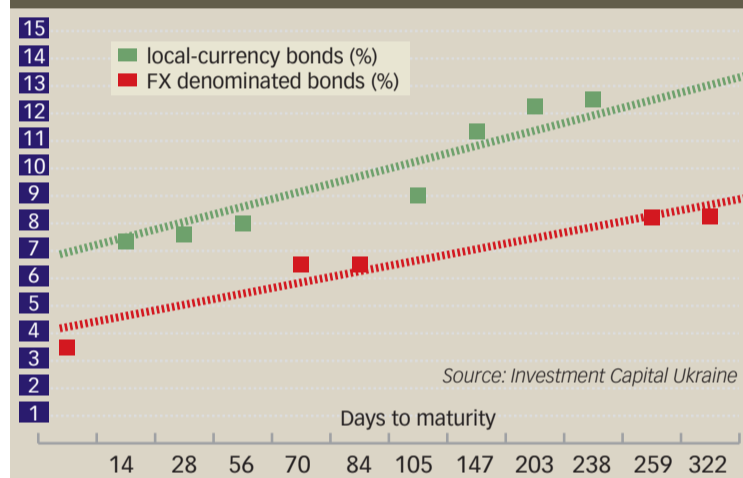
"This essentially allowed Ukrainians to convert local currency into dollars while earning interest on it," said ICU's Kotovych.

Spurred on by their popularity, the finance ministry issued a second series of the U.S. dollar-denominated bonds in November 2012 under the same conditions, but with an 8 percent yield. They have yet to start selling through Oschadbank.

"As treasury bonds are certificated securities, opening a bank account or concluding an agreement with the bank is not required," said Oleksandr Dubykhvyst, a central bank department head. "Holders of government treasury bonds are not obliged to declare investment income that considerably simplifies transactions in these securities."

Another indication of enhanced financial literacy, according to what

Yields of Ukrainian government bonds



Yields for U.S. dollar-denominated Ukrainian government bonds can reach 8.25 percent with maturities of 322 days, and up to 12.5 percent for local currency bonds with 238 days to maturity.

deputy central bank governor Valerii Prokhorenko said in July, is that deposits in the national currency grew by 12.8 percent over the same period last year. Also, cashless payments are on the rise, doubling in value in 2012 – reaching more than \$11 billion.

Earlier this summer, a survey commissioned by the central bank in conjunction with the Independent Association of Ukrainian Banks

revealed a low level of financial awareness. Only 13.4 percent of those polled acknowledged having "limited knowledge about money and ways of saving" it, the survey found. The same survey found that only 9.2 percent of Ukrainian families keep records of their family budget.

Kyiv Post editor Mark Rachkevych can be reached at rachkevych@kyivpost.com.

Tough business climate keeps big investors at bay

BY DARYNA SHEVCHENKO
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Ukraine's improvement in this year's World Bank Doing Business report has not won over many investors who still are not ready to navigate the nation's uncertainties and risks.

Ukraine climbed 10 spots in the last year – to 137th place among 185 countries, making progress in business startup procedures, property registration and ease of paying taxes. The economy saw \$1.6 billion in foreign investment in the first three months this year, a 76 percent increase over the same period in 2012, but still a paltry sum for a nation of 45 million people.

"Of course there were some new laws adopted, and attempts were made to simplify the business registration process...and of course it becomes easier to work in Ukraine at some stages but I still don't see a grand qualitative leap in these improvements," says Roman Ivaniuk, head of investment banking at Concord Capital. "Most investors don't look at Ukraine as a priority country to invest in, especially if they never had prior experience working in former Soviet countries."

Ivaniuk said investor caution stems from multiple country risks, such as potential currency devaluation and bleak minority shareholder rights.

Typically, those who do invest are experienced international and Russian corporations. Next are rich Ukrainian expatriates who keep their funds abroad and those who have strong local partners, says Pavel Mishustin, head of investment banking at Altana Capital investment company.

Those who have Ukraine on their radar, according to experts, are interested in fast-growing companies that are less dependent on country risks, such as information technology outsourcing abroad.

"Of course there are some tax and market risks, but those companies tend to grow 30-40 percent a year and their margins can reach 50 percent a year, so it makes sense to invest anyway," Ivaniuk of Concorde Capital explains.

Portfolio investors, both foreign and local, are keen to capitalize on Ukraine's huge agricultural potential and the sub-sectors related to it, says Mishustin.

Most Russian investors tend to invest

in real estate, machinery manufacturing, steel production and port infrastructure, while international angel-investors focus on high technology projects, according to Ivaniuk.

Unless a deal promises huge profits, Ivaniuk continued, most investors are not ready to take risks and "would rather choose safe havens."

However, Chevron and Royal Dutch Shell are seeking to cash in on shale gas production, potentially giving local energy players lots of competition.

According to the State Statistics Service, companies made nearly \$13 billion in investments in Ukraine, with the lion's share – nearly \$6 billion – going to the industrial sector, nearly \$1 billion in agriculture, \$500,000 in information technology and telecommunications.

However, Concord Capital's Ivaniuk is not expecting big new investors soon.

"I can't imagine a situation when an investor big enough to invest more than \$250-300 million comes to Ukraine. The Ukrainian market is simply not ready for such a move, besides that the chances that something like that can really happen any time soon are very small," he says. "If in Ukraine we talk about five or six interesting segments for investors, there are 35 to 45 interesting segments in Europe."

Altana Capital's Mishustin cited ways to improve Ukraine's investment climate.

"The Ukrainian investment environment urgently needs improvement in the business climate and economic liberalization that are mostly connected with reforming the court system and fighting corruption, but this is not going to happen any time soon as the financial crisis and political confrontations only increase the role of the state in the economy," Mishustin says.

Equally important, said Ivaniuk, are the need for clear business rules and political stability, a better-functioning banking system and elimination of devaluation risks. "The expected 20-25 percent (currency) devaluation would be a good thing to happen for the business. It would take the pressure off the market a lot," he explains.

Kyiv Post staff writer Daryna Shevchenko can be reached at shevchenko@kyivpost.com.

Protecting Business In Ukraine: Challenges of 2014

A potential for rapid growth and strong margins continues to attract firms to Ukraine.

However, severe problems with the business climate, notably in regards to relations with tax authorities and protecting intellectual property rights remain major challenges.

These are the topics of a special roundtable discussion sponsored by the Kyiv Post in cooperation with Lavrynovych & Partners on Sept. 17 at the Intercontinental Hotel in Kyiv, from 9 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

This timely conference is open to CEOs and business owners and will feature top businesspeople in Ukraine discussing their problems, their concerns and their hopes.

The Kyiv Post and Lavrynovych & Partners bring you a roundtable you can't afford to miss.

PROGRAM:

9:00 – 9:15 Arrival and welcome coffee

9:15 – 10:45 Tax authorities: Source of stability or risk?

10:45 – 11:00 Networking break

11:00 – 12:30 Protecting intellectual property

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Yanukovych ally buys Mezhyhirya company

→ **1** never said how much in 2010 he paid for the 1.76 hectares of land. Ukrainska Pravda deputy chief editor Serhiy Leshchenko has even filed a lawsuit against the Vyshgorod District Administration – which sold the land to Yanukovych – to the European Court of Human Rights for its unwillingness to disclose the amount, following unsuccessful litigation in Ukraine that lasted from August 2011 to November 2012.

Yanukovych, furthermore, has repeatedly said he doesn't know who owns the rest of the grand compound which includes a horse stable, a five-story mansion, man-made ponds, an extravagant boathouse, an 18-hole golf course, a helicopter landing pad, as well as other amenities that are enclosed behind a 6.5-meter-high perimeter wall.

The suspicion is that Tantalit is a front for Yanukovych's close family circle, an accusation also repeatedly denied by the president.

At the end of August, Kliuyev asked Ukraine's anti-trust body for permission to buy 100 percent of Tantalit LLC. Regulators aren't expected to refuse.

According to Kliuyev, he has known details of the Mezhyhirya project since 2007. He says that Tantalit's previous beneficiary was Ihor Humeniuk, a Donetsk-born businessman, who recently bought Donbasenergo power company with the help of the newly created EnergoInvest Holding. However, its official owner is a Netherlands-based offshore company with the same name. This year Humeniuk quit Tantalit so Kliuyev decided to buy the company.

"I met with Viktor Fedorovych (Yanukovych) and said that there was a desire to sell from one side, and a desire to buy from another side. There was no negative reaction (from Yanukovych) and he said he would be happy to have such a neighbor," Kliuyev said.

The contract was inked on Aug. 22.

In the year 2007, in his waning weeks as prime minister, Yanukovych's



Serhiy Kliuyev

government privatized the Mezhyhirya estate. The state received no money for the compound's sale. Instead, two dilapidated buildings in Kyiv were exchanged for the compound where 100 square meters of land costs up to \$3,000 given its riverside location and close proximity to Kyiv. A company in Donetsk took ownership of the estate, but immediately re-sold it, subsequently filing for bankruptcy a few years later.

In 2009, after an unsuccessful bid to forge a political alliance with Yanukovych, ex-Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko tried returning Mezhyhirya to state ownership, but nothing came of it.

Kliuyev said the \$18 million he paid for Tantalit was mostly his own money and partially covered with a loan from Ukrpidshypryk enterprise. In Mezhyhirya, he plans to develop the infrastructure, build houses and then sell them.

Kliuyev, with his older brother Andriy – the secretary of the National Security and Defense Council – once controlled Ukrpidshypryk. Now the company is owned by Austrian SLAV Handel, Vertretung und Beteiligung Aktiengesellschaft. Serhiy Klyuev sat on the firm's board of directors twice in between 1997-2005.

Some also believe that the Kliuyevs control the biggest Ukrainian alternative energy producer Activ Solar, charges they deny. In 2008,



What, where is Mezhyhirya?

Named after a 10th-century monastery that once stood on the site, Mezhyhirya is a 138-hectare former government estate located in the village of Novi Petrivtsi, just north of Kyiv, along the west bank of the Dniro River in Vyshgorod District. Given that it's just 25 kilometers from Ukraine's capital, sitting on the river surrounded by tranquil forests, land here costs from \$1,000 to \$3,000 per 100 square meters.

SLAV was Activ Solar's owner. In 2009, it was replaced by Liechtenstein-based P & A Corporate Trust.

The purchase of Tantalit is not the first real estate deal that reportedly involves Serhiy Kliuyev and Yanukovych. According to a Ukrainska Pravda investigation, Serhiy Kliuyev in 2008 bought a flat from Yanukovych in Kyiv for an inflated price of \$7

million.

At the time, observers interpreted the deal as a way to legalize some of Yanukovych's income that would otherwise be difficult to explain.

Tantalit, however, is a more attractive acquisition. According to Forbes Ukraine, in 2011 the company's revenue increased by 19,000 percent – from Hr 9 million to Hr 1.7 billion. It is unknown how exactly the mysterious company makes money.

According to media reports, Tantalit belongs to Austrian Euro East Beteiligungs GmbH. The Austrian firm is owned by UK-based Blythe (Europe) Ltd.

One of the last companies in this offshore chain is P&A Corporate Services Trust from Liechtenstein – the same company that owns Activ Solar, linked to the Kliuyevs in media reports.

There's also one another detail that connects Mezhyhirya's owners and the Kliuyevs. The director of Euro East Beteiligungs GmbH is Wanovits, the Austrian who was sentenced to five years in prison this year. He prepared Kliuyev's Slav AG for listing on the Vienna Stock Exchange in 2001.

"Apart from the reputational losses for Yanukovych, Wanovits's further participation in the scheme was problematic – he physically would not be able to send reports to Austrian regulatory authorities about Tantalit's owner," Ukrainska Pravda's Leshchenko wrote in his blog, following the news of the company's sale to Serhiy Kliuyev.

Kyiv Post staff writer Kateryna Kapliuk can be reached at kapliuk@kyivpost.com. Kyiv Post editor Mark Rachkevych contributed to this article.

Ukrainian IT Outsourcing Forum

September 12, Kyiv

IT Ukraine Association invites you to participate in IT outsourcing Forum. IT is a leading sole direction in economic development as in whole world so in Ukraine nowadays. The forum ought to be a unique and major communication platform for discussion of key trends in the industry that should be interesting for flagmen of Ukrainian software development market and key stakeholders.

The main purpose of the forum is to give responses to a majority of different topical questions such as the following ones:

- What competitive advantages should IT company develop today?
- How Ukrainian government should foster development of the IT in Ukraine?
- How will be growing the global market of IT outsourcing and what criteria will be actual for choosing an appropriate outsourcing partner tomorrow?
- What trends will define dynamics of the labor market in Ukraine and what surprises we should await in this industry.
- What changes in the law will affect the IT business in the next year?

This is a strategic mix of the most important research relevant to any senior managers, plus analysis from Luxoft Personnel and PMR Publications and a master class on leadership and strategic management. Speakers of forum are the leaders of the market, who define its trends today, and specialized experts of key issues in the IT business. Among our speakers are Nicholas Royenko, Taras Kytsmey, Dmitry Kushnir, Heads of IT associations in Poland, Belarus and Russia, hi-profile government representatives.



Supported by the Ministry of Education and Science and the Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce and Industry



To view the program of the forum and register for the event please follow the link below: outsourcingforum.org.ua

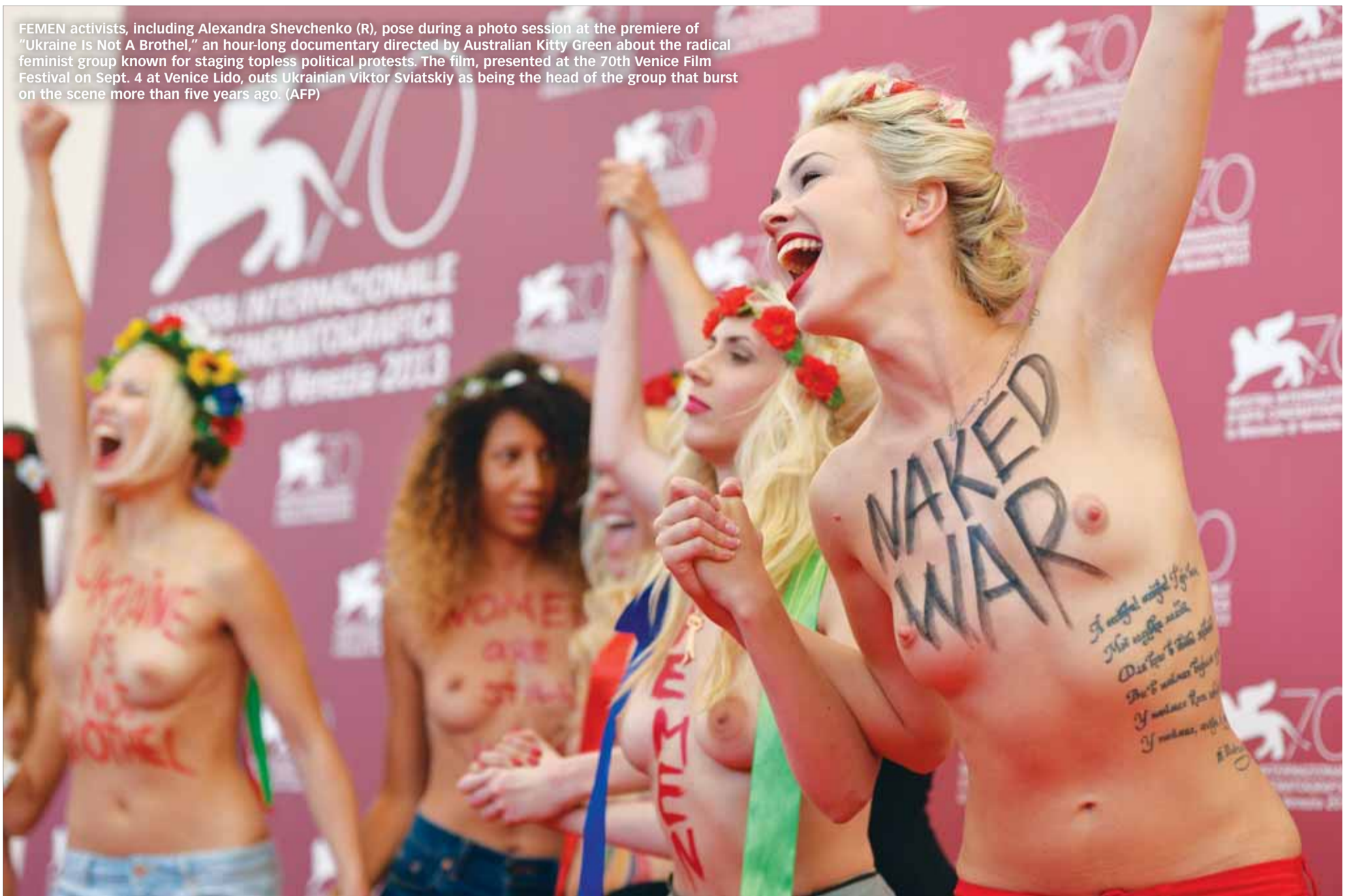
We would be happy to see you on our forum.

For additional information please feel free to contact us by phone +38 044 4965296, +38 099 2663903 or by email address press@itukraine.org.ua



Multimillion-dollar renovations have been made to the former state residence known as Mezhyhirya that is now part of a compound where President Viktor Yanukovych lives, some 25 kilometers north of Kyiv near the Dniro River. (Dmytro Zhabatansky)

FEMEN activists, including Alexandra Shevchenko (R), pose during a photo session at the premiere of "Ukraine Is Not A Brothel," an hour-long documentary directed by Australian Kitty Green about the radical feminist group known for staging topless political protests. The film, presented at the 70th Venice Film Festival on Sept. 4 at Venice Lido, outs Ukrainian Viktor Sviatskiy as being the head of the group that burst on the scene more than five years ago. (AFP)



Filmmaker: FEMEN 'patriarch' Sviatskiy has 'messiah complex'

→1 since the group's founding in 2008.

The release of the film came as FEMEN complained of being hounded out of Ukraine by physical violence and repression. They allege harassment ordered by government authorities in Ukraine and Russia. The group's leaders have now relocated to France. Government officials either did not respond to the Kyiv Post's requests for comments or denied any campaign against FEMEN.

Green spent 14 months living in Kyiv with FEMEN activists. She was able to gain their trust and conduct a revealing interview with Sviatskiy, who cannot articulate clearly why he founded the group other than a "deep subconscious" desire for new sexual relationships with women. Through his lawyer, Sviatskiy refused to talk with the Kyiv Post.

FEMEN has always been tight-lipped about who leads and finances the group, creating the image that the female founding Ukrainians Anna Hutsol, Alexandra Shevchenko and Inna Shevchenko ran the show.

However, in the documentary screened at the Venice Film Festival on Sept. 4, Sviatskiy is portrayed as calling the shots in many ways, including selecting members based on physical beauty and directing protests. "I am a patriarch in an organization against patriarchy," he says.

He denigrates FEMEN members in the film and, near the end, is shown

launching a verbal tirade against them for not following his instructions during a protest.

"They don't have the strength of character. They don't even have the desire to be strong," the Khmelnytskyi native says. "Instead they show submissiveness, spinelessness, lack of punctuality, and many other factors which prevent them from becoming political activists. These are qualities that were essential to teach them."

Speaking to the Kyiv Post by phone from Venice, Green described Sviatskiy as a "highly intelligent" man with revolutionary and grandiose ambitions. "He has a messiah complex," Green said. "He thinks he's God, and that he can treat anyone and everyone how he wants. He wants to be like (Vladimir) Lenin and (Karl) Marx. He's a very Soviet man."

Activist Alexandra Shevchenko in the film likened the group's relationship with Sviatskiy to the "Stockholm Syndrome," in which prisoners empathize with their captors.

"We felt ashamed before and we were afraid to say anything," she said. "But we opened up today (at the Venice Film Festival screening) and told the truth, that we were victims of this patriarch, like the people for whom we fight."

Alexandra Shevchenko says she is surrounded now by close friends and the relative safety of her new home in Paris.



Viktor Sviatskiy in a screenshot from "Ukraine Is Not A Brothel"

She and three other FEMEN members fled Ukraine on Aug. 29, fearing charges would be brought against them in connection with a police raid on their Kyiv headquarters. Police say they found weapons and pictures of Russian President Vladimir Putin and Orthodox Church Patriarch Kirill with crosshairs drawn over their faces on Aug. 27. FEMEN said the items were planted by officers. "Our bodies are our only weapons," Alexandra Shevchenko said.

That same day the group announced it would shutter its Kyiv office, complaining that its members have been "systematically harassed, severely beaten, kidnapped, and repeatedly given threats" by Ukrainian and Russian authorities.

Kremlin officials and Russia's Federal Security Service could not be reached to comment on FEMEN's allegations of harassment, nor could the Security Service of Ukraine. President Viktor Yanukovich's press service offered something of a non-denial denial, saying that he "pays great attention to the development of civil society and NGO activities."

Alexandra Shevchenko, Hutsol and Sviatskiy were attacked by unknown assailants on Aug. 17 near an Odesa apartment where they were staying while on vacation. Sviatskiy also was beaten near FEMEN's Kyiv office at the end of July, sustaining injuries to his face that forced him to spend two weeks in a hospital.

Hutsol was attacked near her apartment shortly afterwards. Her assailants punched her in the face and stole her dog. At a Kyiv bar that same night, she was attacked again and her laptop containing FEMEN documents was taken.

The assaults follow the arrests of activists Alexandra Shevchenko, Yana Zhdanova and Oksana Shachko, as well as an accompanying journalist, on July 27. The four were ordered by a Kyiv court to pay fines before being released.

Members say they have had enough of Ukraine. "I think we will ask for asylum in France," Alexandra Shevchenko said.

The four women will join Inna Shevchenko, who fled to France last year after she used a chainsaw to cut

down a cross in Kyiv to protest the jailing of Russian punk rockers Pussy Riot.

FEMEN's exit from Ukraine marks the first time since the group's inception five years ago that all leading members reside outside the nation. The group has protested against sex tourism in Ukraine, dictators, the denial of visas to Ukrainian women by India, female circumcision in Africa and the Catholic Church's anti-gay stance. In Turkey, the group protested domestic violence, while in London it stood against "violent" Islamic states.

The group's credibility has suffered as many people began to see FEMEN as willing to protest anything in exchange for financial backing. The exposure of a verbally abusive man as the group's de facto leader is likely to damage the organization's reputation further.

"This message should be clear – FEMEN is fake," said Olexiy Haran, a political science professor at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy.

Kyiv Post editor Christopher J. Miller can be reached at miller@kyivpost.com.

Where to see the film:

"Ukraine Is Not A Brothel" will play at the 57th BFI London Film Festival on Oct. 18 at 9 p.m. and on Oct. 20 at 12:45 p.m. Tickets for both showings go on sale Sept. 20 at 12 p.m. There are currently no plans to screen the film in Ukraine.



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Sept. 13 – 15



SeptemberFEST 2013

Modeled after the famous Oktoberfest, this three-day event is highly anticipated. The event offers an opportunity to sample more than 100 different kinds of beer and consume delicious snacks while settling in for a relaxing time. It is advised to bring your ID with you – underage guests of the festival can only get soft drinks. The fun atmosphere will be supported by performances from bands like Lyapis Trubetskoy, Lezo Terezy, Without Limits and Skryabin. Moreover, those who go have the chance to win a year-long supply of beer in different contests and challenges.

SeptemberFEST 2013. Sept. 13 – 15. 12 p.m. ExpoCenter Ukraine. (1 Hlushkova Sq.). Free

Free Games 2013

Fans are ready to hold the Free Games Extreme Sports Festival in Kyiv. Those who believe that sport does not discriminate against age or social status invite everyone to watch, participate in and enjoy the show and good music. The festival offers master classes in martial arts and competitions in wakeboarding. It also presents an opportunity to take part in the "Life or Death" marathon, which includes physical challenges that require strength, determination and the desire to win. The DJs promise to keep everyone in high spirits.

Free Games Extreme Sports Festival 2013. Sept. 7. 11 a.m. Druzhby Narodiv Park. Free



Sept. 7

Sept. 13 – 22



Gogolfest 2013

The Multidisciplinary International Festival of Modern Art is here. The plans for the 2013 festival will involve even more people than usual, open new horizons for the artists and give the audience a chance to participate and admire the entertainment. Every category (music, literature, theater, film) has a specific project that is being developed. Famous directors and film enthusiasts, for instance, are obliged to do a project called "Ideas and Actions," looking for perfect thoughts. Apart from the screening of a great variety of international movies, the participants can create their own production of a short film that should be dedicated to finding ideal solutions. Being part of Gogolfest is always exciting and engaging.

Gogolfest 2013. Sept. 13 – 22. ArtKlaster Vydubychi (Inzhenerna St.). Free

Sept. 13



Gorchitza live!

Founded in 2007, this band has been going strong with their performances, gratifying fans and creating good music. Performing exclusively in English, Gorchitza was often mistaken for a foreign band. Delivering electronic music and dance rock to audiences at a variety of festivals, this band was recognized by major artists like Nelly Furtado, Faithless, Morcheeba, Jay-Jay Johanson, Montefiori Cocktail and many others. In 2007, Gorchitza Project won the prestigious Nightlife Award as the Best Vocal Club Project. The group also represented Ukraine at the Popkomm (Berlin) and Reeperbahn (Hamburg) festivals in Germany.

Gorchitza band performance. Sept. 13. 8 p.m. Green Theater (2 Parkova St.). Hr 120 – 300

Compiled by Alisa Shulkina

Sept. 10

World Cup qualifier: Ukraine vs. England

Ukraine will have to beat England in their World Cup qualifier on Sept. 10 if it wants to book a ticket to Brazil for next year's soccer tournament. But the road first leads to Lviv on Sept. 6 (9 p.m., Inter TV) where Ukraine will face San Marino. But with England just one point ahead of Ukraine and in second place in their European zone qualifying group, this game will be all-or-nothing.

Ukraine-England World Cup qualifier. Sept. 10, 9:45 p.m., Olympic Stadium, purchase tickets at box office or at ufi.com.ua, or watch on Inter TV



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'Mixed' marriages flourish in Kyiv

BY DARYNA SHEVCHENKO
SHEVCHENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

The entrance to Kyiv's central registration office looks like a bizarre conveyor for production of newlyweds. Couples arrive, pose on the stairs for a picture and then move inside to give way for the next couple. Some arrive by limousine and are classically dressed: the brides in ornately designed white gowns, grooms in black or grey suits.

Others come by taxi, wearing casual attire, showing up only to collect marriage certificates. Dressy or not, about 10 percent of the 9,000 unions in the last six months were between a Ukrainian and a foreigner.

Liudmyla Dudnik, the Central Registration Office's lead specialist, says the "mixed" weddings are not much different from the local ones – except that they overwhelmingly involve foreign men and Ukrainian women.

American Brian Gessler, 28, met his wife Yulia Gessler, 24, four years ago in Kyiv while he worked as an English teacher. The couple moved to America and married shortly after their meeting here. While Brian Gessler says there is much more joy in his marriage, there are trying times, too.

"She is down to earth, and didn't even complain when we were sleeping on the floor of our new house, and bathing in the back yard after dark. We didn't have a kitchen, or hot water from the tap. She said she grew up without hot running water and that it just reminded her of her childhood," he says.

The only conflicts that the Gesslers have had were money-related. "We rarely fight and argue, but it's about how much my parents help us compared to hers most of the time," Brian Gessler says.

Psychologist Olena Bohatyriova says that marital problems between spouses of different nationalities are often rooted in culture.

"In the West the fight for equal rights reached its apogee, while in Ukraine most women still believe that their men have to be the breadwinners. They can't get used to the fact that, let's say, paying the rent in equal shares is normal" in many countries outside Ukraine, she says.

→ 13



A newlywed couple enters Saint Michael's Church in Kyiv for a wedding service after their official marriage ceremony at the State Registry Office. The state says that in the first six months of the year, 10 percent of more than 9,000 marriages registered by the Central Registry Office are between a Ukrainian and a foreigner. (AFP)

Food Critic



WITH CHRISTOPHER J. MILLER
MILLER@KYIVPOST.COM

Zheltok Diner offers slight taste of America

There are few things more American than the diner. Steel-legged tables and checkered floors, soda fountains and bottomless coffee, jukeboxes blaring oldies while a wait staff in uniform serves up greasy spoon burgers and fries – all integral parts of the overall experience.

Zheltok, yolk in English, a new Kyiv café styled after the American diner, succeeds in having some of these. The uniforms are there – women in pastel yellow and white, men in light blue – as is much of the necessary aesthetic: the metal-legged stools, the bulbous coffee pots, Heinz Ketchup bottles atop each table and Elvis Presley and other oldies roaring from the speakers. There is even a neon "Yolk Diner" sign hanging from the exposed brick wall and a gumball machine for added effect.

When it comes to the food, Zheltok also delivers – to an extent. A variety of omelets (Hr 20 and up) are on offer for breakfast, as is bottomless coffee – though refills are at the mercy of a wait staff more accustomed to Ukrainian practices than American. Pancakes (Hr 25 and up) are also on the menu, and can be served with real maple syrup (Hr 15).

For lunch and dinner there is an array of burgers to be had, from the beef BBQ burger (Hr 55) to the Miami burger with prawns and pineapple (Hr 65). The best way to get a taste of what's available is to order the mini-burger set menu (Hr 80) comprised of a mini-beef burger, mini-fish burger and mini-turkey burger (each Hr 35 separately). Zheltok also has a decent variety of salads, including a traditional and refreshing big green salad (Hr 45).

After filling up on burgers, wash them down with homemade Zheltok sodas (Hr 10 per glass, Hr 35 for a pitcher). Flavors include cola, orangeade, lemonade, and tonic. The homemade smoothies and milkshakes (Hr 35-45) aren't half bad, though not as thick as American-styled shakes should be. It's not so much diner behavior, but if you're feeling sophisticated, sip a glass of Californian red or white wine (Hr 40-50).

With room left still, try the Louisiana cheesecake (Hr 45), classic crème brûlée (Hr 45) or the apple pie with vanilla ice cream (Hr 35). The apple pie is a quintessential American treat, and though it won't likely taste like an Oregon mother's homemade recipe, it will remind those who've been across the pond of what they're missing.

While Zheltok's price is good for its quality and quantity of → 13

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Ukrainian women marrying foreigners common in Kyiv

→ **12** But budget issues as well as adjustments to daily life together can be conquered by love, Bohatyriova adds.

"My fiancé is a great cook and I have a restaurant of American cuisine at home, and he has a restaurant of Ukrainian cuisine and we both enjoy it so much," says Marianna Mykhailiuk, 23, a Ukrainian from Lviv who is engaged to a 28-year-old American man.

Mykhailiuk says that too much emphasis is placed on problems between spouses related to cultural differences. "It can be even more difficult in a marriage with a compatriot," she says.

"The differences between partners are often the main attractions for those who marry foreigners, and these differences seem to be very special at the starting stage of relationships," says Alla Dashko, a Kyiv psychologist. "But one should keep in mind that every personality also includes national identity."

Cultural differences aside, there are legal and bureaucratic hurdles to overcome. Alyona Adamkovych-Patti has been married for less than six months and hasn't seen her husband Joseph Patti since the wedding.

Messages of love to each other splatter their Facebook timelines, but the last picture of themselves together



Julia and Brian Gessler wear Ukrainian traditional embroidered shirts in Kyiv ahead of their wedding in 2010. (Courtesy)

is from their wedding day. Joseph Patti is American and left for home soon after marriage because of his job. She stayed behind to do the paperwork to join him.

"We thought we were nearly done when we finally got married and left all the bureaucratic horrors of preparing the right documents for registration behind. But we couldn't have imagined that we'd have to stay apart for so long," she says. "I'm not even able to predict when I'll be able to reunite with my husband."

The bureaucratic war is almost over for the Gesslers. After three years, Yulia Gessler is eligible for American citizenship in December.

Cultural differences have never been a big problem for this couple. "One of the strongest bonds we have is that I have first-hand knowledge of where she is from and how that influences her as a person," Brian Gessler says.

Kyiv Post staff writer Daryna Shevchenko can be reached at shevchenko@kyivpost.com.



American-styled Zheltok diner and restaurant delivers on aesthetic grounds and with some dishes, but comes up short in service. (evelinapopova.blogspot.com)

Food Critic: A slice of America in central Kyiv

→ **12** food, it still leaves some of the American diner experience to be desired. The serving of fries that comes with each meal, instead of a heaping pile, is merely a shot glass of five. And the kitchen rarely seems to get food orders out together, leaving one person either watching the other eat or with a cold burger.

Another letdown rests with the wait staff. In America, it might come with a bit of sass, but a waiter or waitress

will always welcome you with a "good day," a smile and his or her name. Don't expect that at Zheltok.

Kyiv Post editor Christopher J. Miller can be reached at miller@kyivpost.com, and on Twitter at @ChristopherJM.

Zheltok, 11 Lva Tolstoho St./61 Volodymyrska St. 063-396-1010. Open 8:30 a.m. to midnight, Monday-Sunday. www.jeltok.com.ua

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Details are the secret to creating a feeling of perfect comfort – paintings by the Ukrainian contemporary art master Ilya Chichkan, tables set with porcelain tableware from legendary French producer Bernardaud, candles fitted in candle-

sticks of multifaceted Baccarat crystal, and the spacious lounge area with natural smoky shades and a fireplace.

From the moment it opened Sanahunt Lounge was one of the trendiest places in Kyiv and a major gastronomic attraction on the map of the capital. The restaurant offers Italian, Japanese, Thai, Georgian, Russian and Ukrainian dishes. Sanahunt Luxury Concept Store President Oksana Moroz-Hunt personally sought out exotic ingredients and unique combinations of flavors from all over the world, which were introduced into the Sanahunt Lounge menu with brio by a team of highly professional chefs.

The most popular dishes include roasted rack of lamb with wine and blackberry sauce, black cod with cherry tomatoes in Thai sauce, grilled scallops with ginger-lime dressing, and Kamut spaghetti with cherry tomatoes and basil risotto with porcini mushrooms. Our demanding guests also prize our delicious desserts: the restaurant's menu offers a pear tart, chocolate cake, apple baked with honey, nuts and raisins, fresh pineapple carpaccio and the famous "Napoleon" cake. The restaurant's bar menu includes classic drinks and exclusive cocktails. You should definitely try our store's signature cocktail, the "Sanahantini," which has already become a cult classic Kyiv, both among girls and foreign visitors.

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Check out these romantic venues on next Kyiv date

BY ALISA SHULKINA
SHULKINA@KYIVPOST.COM

Finding a perfect place for a date in Kyiv is sometimes a challenge for a young couple: everything must be well thought out and prepared. To help get you started, the Kyiv Post has compiled a list of a few particularly interesting spots in the city that are certain to impress your significant other and help lay the foundation for an unforgettable evening.

Kyiv Post social media manager Alisa Shulkina can be reached at shulkina@kyivpost.com.

Rooftop dinner date

A simple dinner with a loved one can be turned into a memorable adventure: just the two of you on the rooftop of a 35-story building, relaxing in cozy chairs to the sweet sounds of the latest popular tunes and a glowing sunset. It is a choice spot for two lovebirds to enjoy a romantic, secluded date. The

deal includes champagne, chocolates, cheese and fruits, a skillfully decorated table with candles, rose-petals and a photographer, who captures shared special moments. A variety of additional options will be able to satisfy even the most particular client: a large heart-shaped candle, a private serenade and dinner delivered from any restaurant in the city are available upon request.

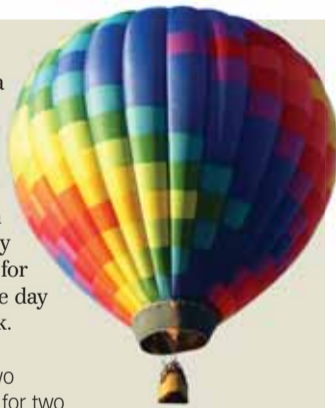
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A simple dinner can become much more romantic if held on the rooftop. (Courtesy)



Hot air balloon adventure

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A hot-air balloon ride is a surefire way to impress your special one. (Courtesy)



Fireworks above Maidan Nezalezhnosti, as seen from the Skybox, help celebrate Ukraine's Independence Day on Aug. 24. (Anastasia Vlasova)

Skybox Kyiv

Usually reserved for conferences, SkyBox is quite an underestimated romantic date locale. Overlooking Maidan Nezalezhnosti, it offers a panoramic view of the city center at night. The beauty of the main square and Khreschatyk Street at sunset, illuminated by thousands of tiny lights is an attractive option for both Kyiv natives and guests of the capital. Seating a maximum of 30 people, Skybox can be

an exciting location for an anniversary celebration or even for a wedding party.

SkyBox Kyiv
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Gondola ride

It might not have all the pleasures of Venice, but a Gondola ride on the Dnipro River can be a romantic ride, as well as a chance to take in some of the nature along its banks. Besides the stillness of the water at sunset, couples can enjoy a private serenade, performed by your own boatswain, who is also the creator of the city's first gondola company, "Regina Galina."

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Horseback ride in woods

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ponies that are also available for sale in case you would like to continue horseback riding on your own.

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A horseback ride for two is almost a definition of romance. (Courtesy)

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