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KYIV POST

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on Zlenko, telling Ukraine's foreign minister that - ho-hum - the U.S. supports democracy in Ukraine.

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and other lore surrounds Kamyanyets-Podilsky in western Ukraine. For tourists, it's a city lost in time.

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is on the rise, and while officials claim that beef sold in the city's markets is safe, they warn against buying uninspected meat sold on the street.

Hryvna millionaires

are on the rise, but vast numbers of Ukraine's population continue to live below even Ukraine's official poverty level.

TYMOSHENKO FREED FROM JAIL

By OLGA KRYZHANOVSKA
Post Staff Writer

She's back. The question is, for how long?

Yulia Tymoshenko, the leading lady of Ukrainian politics and one of the biggest thorns in the side of President Leonid Kuchma, was sprung from a Kyiv jail by order of a local court on March 27, one-and-a-half months after being locked up on charges of financial improprieties.

Tymoshenko, who heads the opposition Fatherland party, was released by Judge Mykola Zamkovenko of Kyiv's Pechersk District Court. Zamkovenko based his decision on international law as well as Tymoshenko's personality and her "political authority in the country."



Yulia Tymoshenko is greeted by supporters after leaving jail. (Photo by Viktor Suvorov)

"I am convinced that political circles and people's deputies will understand this decision and will start working effectively in parliament to adopt long-awaited laws for us, the judges," Zamkovenko said after announcing the verdict. "The international community will see that Ukraine is functioning and that the tension that has appeared in our society will fade away."

The court opined that prosecutors lacked sufficient grounds to hold Tymoshenko. Zamkovenko said prosecutors had failed to prove that Tymoshenko had plans to flee the country or to avoid interrogation.

The court also decided that previous public statements by Tymoshenko did

See TYMOSHENKO, page 4

Private eyes could probe corpse case

By OLGA KRYZHANOVSKA
and PETER BYRNE
Post Staff Writers

With Ukrainian officials continuing to make no progress in solving the likely murder of journalist Georgy Gongadze, Russian and American private investigators are lobbying to get involved in the investigation.

If they can't solve the crime, U.S. forensic specialists from the Federal Bureau of Investigations possibly could - if American diplomats say it's OK, that is.

A Russian scriptwriter is among those who thinks he can find the killer of Gongadze, who vanished mysteriously in the center of Kyiv last September.

"I am sure that this case can be finally solved and the people who committed this crime will face a court," said Andrey Konstantinov, who directs the Agency for Investigative Journalism (AZHUR), on March 26. "While we might not be able to track down the people who ordered the murder, it's definitely possible to find the people who carried it out."

AZHUR is based in St. Petersburg but, mysteriously, involves several Ukrainian political heavyweights, all close allies of President Leonid Kuchma.

Konstantinov himself moonlights as a scriptwriter for the popular Russian detective series "Criminal Petersburg." He claims that AZHUR's investigation was mostly based on the records of mobile and home phone calls made by Gongadze's closest friends and colleagues. He would not specify how his employees obtained the records, which are considered confidential and not subject to disclosure without the caller's permission.

"It's not hard to find connections in the telephone companies. Operators shared the information with us out of good will," explained Konstantinov, adding that his helpers had learned that someone called from Tarashcha - the small village where the headless body alleged to be Gongadze's was found buried last November - to the offices of Ukrainska Pravda, Gongadze's Internet site, in mid-November.

Another call from Tarashcha to the Czech Republic was recorded on the day that Mykola Melnychenko - the former security guard who secretly taped President Leonid Kuchma - received a Czech visa.

The calls are more than just coincidence, according to Konstantinov, who learned that Melnychenko had allowed Gongadze to listen to the now-notorious audio records of conversations between Kuchma and top aides and had warned Gongadze that he might be kidnapped.

Konstantinov refused to name the source of the sensational revelations until AZHUR completed its investigation,

See PROBE, page 3

Flood victims pick up the pieces

Second 100-year flood in three years poses hard questions

By KATYA CENGEL
Post Staff Writer

UZHGOROD - Olena Halas tore the floorboards from the first floor of her brand new house in the Western Ukrainian village of Variyevo.

She isn't sure if she will put them back.

When construction on the house's second floor is finished she and her family will abandon the first.

"We are afraid to stay here," said Halas standing in the first floor's only dry room where she, her husband and their three children now live.

The family began construction on the house after their first house was washed away during severe flooding in 1998. They were nearly finished when their youngest daughter, 12-year-old Christina, came home from school on March 5 in tears after being told the water was rising again.

Two days later the water was up to the roof and the family was forced to evacuate. It was the second time in three years that the village's approximately 3,500 residents found their world afloat. Located in the multi-ethnic area shared by Hungary, Ukraine, Slovakia and Romania in the Transcarpathian mountains, the village found itself at nature's mercy March 5 when melting snow and heavy rainfall caused the Tisza river to overflow.

As of March 27 nine people had died, 33,509 buildings had been flooded, 16 roads damaged and 5,124 people had been evacuated. A similar flood hit the region in November 1998, but water lev-



Katya Bogdanova stands amid what is left of her belongings. The floors of her house had not dried from 1998's flood when the water flooded her village of Variyevo again on March 5. (Post photo by Katya Cengel)

els this time were about a meter higher.

Both floods caught residents and local authorities unprepared.

"The 1998 flood was the kind that only happens once every 100 years,"

says Vasyl Ilyo, head of the coordinating department of renovations in Transcarpathia oblast.

See FLOOD, page 2

Kuchma replaces Kravchenko

(Wire reports) President Leonid Kuchma ended a week of speculation by finally sacking Interior Minister Yury Kravchenko on March 26.

Kravchenko was replaced by Yury Smirnov, a deputy interior minister and the Kyiv chief of police.

The move was welcomed by the anti-Kuchma opposition, which accuses both the president and Kravchenko of involvement in the murder of journalist Georgy Gongadze. Calls for Kravchenko's dismissal intensified after the police beat and arrested demonstrators in the wake of violent protests in Kyiv on March 9.

"The dismissal is a positive step in the necessary direction," said Oleksander Turchynov, leader of the opposition Batkivshchyna party in parliament. "It is the result of pressure from the opposition and also Kuchma's desire to bury all problems with Kravchenko..." he added.

"Kravchenko is an odious figure," said Rada deputy Volodymyr Filenko, a member of the opposition National Salvation Forum. "He [is tainted by] the Gongadze affair, the events of March 9, retribution against recalcitrant businesses, and harassment of the mass media."

However, Filenko was quick to add



Former Interior Minister Yury Kravchenko, seen in this 1999 photo, is the latest casualty of the scandal-plagued Kuchma administration. (Post file photo)

that the opposition does not consider Smirnov any more acceptable than Kravchenko. "Smirnov is as tainted as Kravchenko, and the events of March 9 confirmed this," Fylenko said.

Although Kravchenko's ouster met one of their key demands, opposition representatives showed little willing-

ness to compromise.

"Our main goal is not the resignation of Kravchenko or [Prosecutor General Mykhailo] Potebenko, it is to change the regime," said Filenko.

International organization Reporters Without Borders immediately called upon Smirnov to put an end to

violence against journalists in Ukraine.

"Nine murders of journalists committed in the last five years have yet to be cleared up," said Robert Menard, the organization's secretary general. "There have been dozens of cases of attacks and threats against journalists and intimidation of the press in recent months. This extremely serious situation makes it necessary for you to take immediate decisions on this situation, unless it stems from a direct governmental policy."

After reports of Kravchenko's imminent dismissal first leaked March 17, political analysts were saying that Kuchma was seeking to offer a compromise to the opposition without making any fundamental changes.

However, many analysts have said that, on the contrary, Kuchma dismissed Kravchenko because of his failure to quash the mounting opposition movement.

Analyst Mykhailo Pohrebynsky suggested that Kuchma dismissed Kravchenko for his inability to protect the authorities during the ongoing political crisis and that Kuchma hoped to strengthen the Interior Ministry by appointing Smirnov, who has proved his readiness to act decisively.

Powell tells Zlenko to hold course

PETER BYRNE
Post Staff Writer

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell expressed firm support for Ukraine's independent destiny on March 27 during talks in Washington with Ukraine's Foreign Minister, Anatoly Zlenko.

"It was a very positive meeting," said State Department Spokesman Richard Boucher. "[Powell] expressed our support for democracy, for freedom of the press, for the free enterprise system in Ukraine and said we would continue to work with them and encourage that course."

That Zlenko is the first foreign minister from Central and Eastern Europe to visit the State Department since George W. Bush was inaugurated this January highlights the important role Ukraine plays in U.S. foreign policy, according to Ihor Hrushko, spokesman for Ukraine's Foreign Ministry.

Powell "made quite clear that our support for the independence of Ukraine and other neighbors of Russia led us to object ... with Russia when there was perceived to be Russian pressure on neighboring countries," Boucher said. He called "inappropriate" Russian pressure on former Soviet states, including Ukraine, regarding energy supplies.

While vague about the specifics of Zlenko's one-day working visit, Hrushko told the *Post* on March 26 that the high-level meeting would touch on familiar themes, including cooperation issues and Ukraine's integration plans with Europe.

For Ukraine, Zlenko's meeting with Powell represented an opportunity for Ukrainian officials to reassure the new U.S. administration that the path President Leonid Kuchma has chosen for Ukraine has not already ended in disaster.

American emissaries visiting Kyiv in recent weeks have promised to broach touchy topics with Ukrainian government officials, who have complained recently that opposition political leaders are exploiting surreptitiously recorded conversations between Kuchma and top officials in an attempt to undermine Ukraine's pro-Western reform policies.

"This is a fight for the change of political course of my country and our dilemma: [whether] to continue moving toward Europe, or be pushed back into an alliance with the Russian Federation and Belarus," Zlenko warned on March 23 in New York, according to Radio Liberty.

Zlenko parroted that line throughout his Western swing, implying that those in opposition to President Leonid Kuchma were conspiring to push Ukraine toward Russia through the scandals.

The opposition, which claims to be pro-West, says the Kuchma administration is guilty of driving the country toward Russia.

Radio Liberty's Prague-based Ukrainian Service recently aired new recordings of an alleged discussion between Kuchma and State Tax Administration chief Mykola Azarov.

Kuchma has admitted that the so-called Melnychenko tapes contain his voice. But he alleges the tapes were edited to put words in his mouth, despite the fact that Western forensic experts say that doing so would be virtually impossible.

RADA REPORT

New amendment would give Rada more muscle

By JIM DAVIS
Special Political Correspondent

In a surprise move on March 22, the Verkhovna Rada approved submission to the Constitutional Court of amendments that had been drafted by the "gang of seven," a group of anti-Kuchma leaders. The amendments, if finally adopted and made a part of the Ukrainian constitution, would considerably strengthen the parliament at the expense of the president.

Most interesting is that the measure could have been stopped by acting speaker Viktor Medvedchuk, but he appeared to be sensitive to the complaints of the anti-Kuchma activists whose party allegiances range from the Communists on one extreme to the National Liberals on the other.

After a first inconclusive vote of 222 yeas, a second vote allowed by Medvedchuk only five minutes later produced 228 positive votes. The measure could be considered anti-Kuchma and received not a single vote from

Labor Ukraine, Regional Rebirth, or the newly formed, Donetsk-centered Regions of Ukraine faction.

Remarkably, Rukh leader Yury Kostenko abstained from the vote. Yet, another prominent pol, ex-president Leonid Kravchuk, was the only member of the Social Democratic Party of Ukraine (united) to vote in favor of the measure, which could trim presidential powers.

Also on March 22, the Rada discussed the presidential veto of the new law that will govern the March 2002 parliamentary elections. [See article page 4].

That vote was also highly fractionalized. The reason that the voting remains so was made abundantly clear by recent appointments to the supervisory boards of two state-controlled banking institutions, the State Savings Bank (Oshchad Bank) and the Ukrainian Export-Import Bank. Of 14 members appointed to the two supervisory boards, 13 different factions were represented. The 112 member Communist faction got a seat

on each board while other factions got only one seat on one of the boards. Incidentally, the Yabloko member on the Oshchad Bank supervisory board is Viktor Suslov, which may in part account for his reasons for leaving his most recent home among the SDPU(u). Suslov is one of the Rada's most portable members, having been a member of 14 different factions during his career in the Rada. Joining the ExIm supervisory board were Volodymyr Makeyenko of Solidarity and Serhy Teriokhin of Reforms.

In a surprising vote on the National TV and Radio Broadcasting Council, a resolution was passed requiring that all parliamentary Council members, who were appointed only one year ago, must be replaced. The vote raised the possibility that when it comes time to renew licenses on television channels, the fruits may be divided once again.

Oleksandr Volkov, leader of the Rada's Regional Rebirth faction, who is already extremely unhappy over the defection of five members of his fac-

tion to the new Regions of Ukraine party, was further displeased by a vote that refers an inquiry into his allegedly illegal activities to the Ukrainian Prosecutor General. To add insult to injury, four of the former Regional Rebirth members who established the Regions of Ukraine faction voted in favor of the inquiry into Volkov's activities. For such a referral, 150 votes are required. The addition of the votes of the defectors brought the total to 151 and Volkov to a boil.

Much to the chagrin of the State Security Service (SBU), the version of the law on intelligence activities in Ukraine that the Rada passed on March 22 gives the Ministry of Defense authority to operate its own intelligence service outside the supervision of the SBU. Although the SBU lobbied hard against this provision for Ukrainian 007's, the measure passed with 299 votes. Perhaps as a consolation prize, the president decreed that March 25 should be celebrated as Special Services Day.

PIs, FBI, others flock to investigate Gongadze case

PROBE, continued from page 1

which was facilitated by former Prime Minister Valery Pustovoitenko, one of Kuchma's closest chums and a self-confessed fan of Konstantinov's fiction.

"We did our best to create normal work conditions for AZHUR's investigation," Pustovoitenko said, without citing specifics. He declined to answer the burning question of how he ended up on the AZHUR team in the first place.

Not to be outdone, another politician loyal to Kuchma, parliament deputy Serhy Tyhypko, announced March 23 that his Labor Ukraine party had contracted with U.S. private detective agency Kroll Associates to assist in determining the cause of death of Gongadze's supposed corpse.

Tyhypko said the deal was sealed after he floated the idea past U.S. Ambassador Carlos Pascual and received Kuchma's approval.

The U.S. Embassy spokesman acknowledged on March 28 that Pascual had indeed met with Tyhypko, but said the ambassador had expressed no reaction to the initiative.

Under the arrangement, Kroll will provide information to Labor Ukraine based on information gathered by Ukrainian law enforcement agencies.

Kroll director Michael Cherkassky said six to 12 sleuths, including the head of its New York department, would travel to Ukraine for the investigation, which would take several months.

"For now, we are looking for an office," Cherkassky said, adding that Kroll had conducted similar investigations in other countries.

If AZHUR or Kroll fail, the FBI may step in, at least according to an anonymous diplomatic source in Washington, who on March 27 told Reuters that Ukraine had re-invited FBI forensic specialists to Kyiv to collect additional

blood and tissue samples from the headless corpse for DNA analysis.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoly Zlenko, who visited Washington on March 27, hand delivered to the U.S. State Department a letter from Potebenko to FBI Director Louis Freeh.

"We have received another official request from the Government of Ukraine for assistance in the investigation of the Tarascha corpse and have taken it under consideration," confirmed the U.S. embassy spokesman in Kyiv on March 28.

Gongadze's mother, Lesya, has refused to cooperate further with Ukrainian investigators because of several earlier missteps in the corpse probe. But she has said she would contribute a DNA sample and provide some X-rays of her son under the following conditions: Foreigners must supervise any comparison between the X-rays she provides and the X-rays of

the corpse; and investigators must offer an assurance that they will look into the cause and time of death.

Acting on an earlier request filed under the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty between Ukraine and the United States, two FBI agents were in Kyiv from March 5 through March 8 to collect samples for DNA testing.

They were able to gather some DNA samples as set forth in the agreement between the FBI and the Ukrainian General Prosecutor's Office, but said further samples would be necessary to undertake the analysis.

Earlier, Russian forensic experts contracted by Ukrainian prosecutors found that DNA from the corpse matched DNA of Lesya Gongadze.

But German forensic tests contracted by a parliament committee looking into the case found that tissue allegedly taken from the corpse back in September could not have been Gongadze's.

Rada kicks election bill back to president

Unable to override the presidential veto on the elections law, the Verkhovna Rada passed a revised version of the law on March 22. For the new version, deputies accepted 23 of 38 amendments attached to the bill by President Leonid Kuchma after vetoing an earlier draft.

Even so, deputies retained a key element of the original legislation, clinging to a plan that gives parties the sole right to field candidates – something Kuchma objects to.

The new version of the law includes Kuchma's proposal to set a Hr 1,700 limit on individual contributions to party election funds. The bill also

allows heads of local councils to set up election commissions.

Deputies left the remainder of the original bill that passed parliament intact. Kuchma maintained that the provision giving parties the sole right to field candidates – the so-called proportional system – is unconstitutional, since it limits the rights of those unaffiliated with parties.

Ukraine currently operates under a system in which half of the deputies are elected on the basis of party lists and the remainder from first-past-the-post electoral districts.

— Olga Kryzhanovska

Ukrainian monk held in Miami murder case

MIAMI (AP) — A nun was found stabbed and beaten to death at the Eastern Orthodox Church school where she lived and worked, and an 18-year-old monk confessed to the slaying, police said March 26.

Mykhaylo Kofel, a Ukrainian belonging to the Byzantine Monastic Order of the Eastern Orthodox Church, was jailed without bail on charges of murder and burglary.

The nude body of 39-year-old Sister Michelle Lewis was found March 25 in her residence at Holy Cross Academy after she failed to show up at Mass. Authorities said they did not know if she had been sexually assaulted.

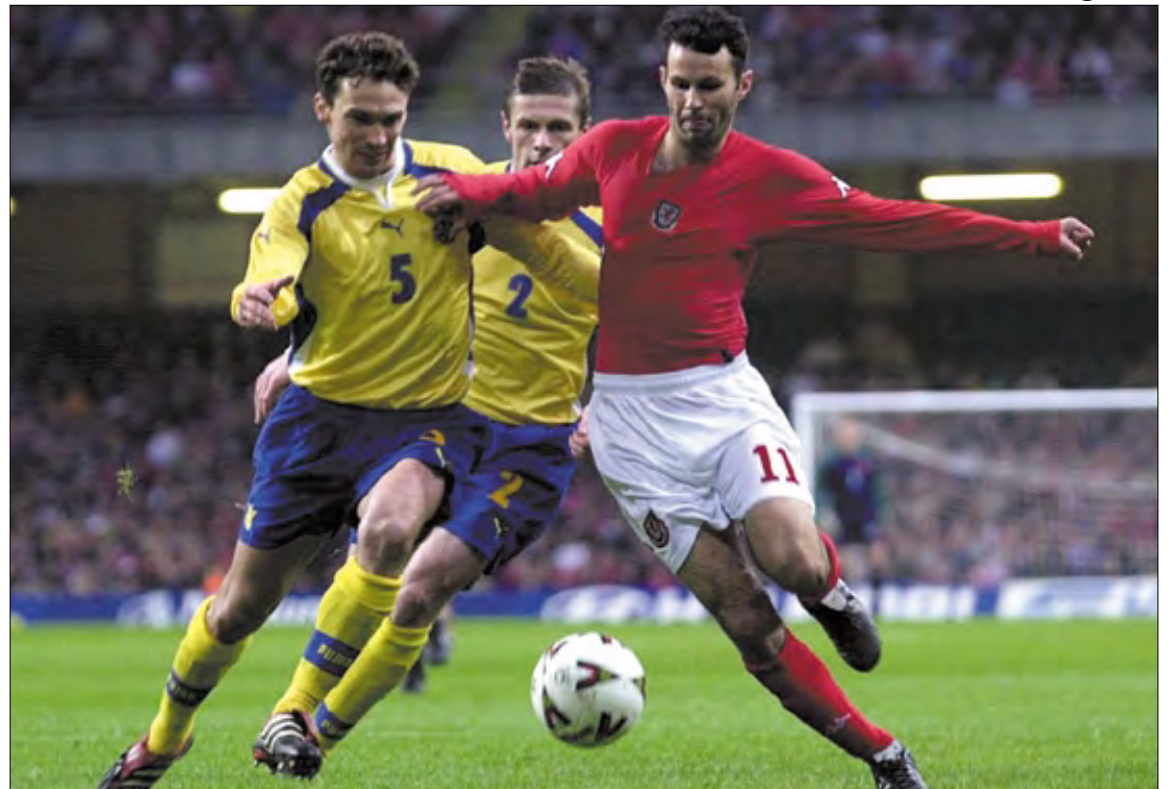
She was killed late March 24 or early March 25, police said.

The academy shares its campus with the Eastern Orthodox monastery in the well-to-do Kendall neighborhood outside Miami. Kofel had been at the monastery for about four years.

No students live on campus. There was no immediate response to a message left on the academy's answering machine seeking comment from Holy Cross officials.

Classes continued March 26, though some students appeared upset and left early with their parents.

"This is a wonderful school, an incredible school," said Zoraya Regalado, who had brought her niece to school. "This is really shocking. How could it happen here? We don't know."



Fit to be tied - again

Wales's Ryan Giggs, right, battles for the ball with Ukraine's Vladyslav Vaschuk, left, during the teams' 1-1 draw in a World Cup Europe Qualifying Group Five game in Wales on March 28. After surrendering an early goal, Ukraine equalized with a goal by Andriy Shevchenko in the 52nd minute. The tie left Ukraine in third place in its Group, two points behind Belarus, which beat Norway, and five in back of Poland, which crushed Armenia. (AP)

NBU scandal gains momentum

(AP) — New charges will be brought against the former deputy head of Ukraine's National Bank, arrested a week ago on suspicion of financial abuses, prosecutors said March 27.

Kyiv city prosecutor Yuri Haisinsky also assailed former National Bank chief and now Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko, who has defended his ex-aide.

The attack on Yushchenko could indicate a political motive behind the sudden arrest of his former aide, Volodymyr Bondar. Opposition groups, which have conducted a protest campaign against President Leonid Kuchma, would like to see the popular prime minister as their leader, though Yushchenko has largely sided with

Kuchma.

Yushchenko, speaking in the western town of Lviv, denied putting pressure on the investigators and hinted at a political motive for the case. "Sometimes cases are being thrown into the political arena, not for the sake of giving a true answer but to demonstrate the implementation of certain political speculations," he said.

Bondar was arrested March 19. Prosecutors suspect him of making a "knowingly unprofitable" deal to deposit \$75 million at the Cyprus-registered affiliate of Credit Suisse First Boston bank in 1997, supposedly resulting in the loss of \$5 million for Ukraine.

Haisinsky said Bondar will also be

charged with depositing \$15 million in the Zurich branch of Credit Suisse First Boston in 1997, with the money meant to be later transferred to a Ukrainian private bank, Real-Bank.

"The contract was written in such a way that Ukrainian funds became Swiss funds and have not been returned yet," Haisinsky said. Thus the damage allegedly caused by Bondar totals \$20 million, he said in comments cited by the Interfax news agency.

"The accused says that Yushchenko knew nothing about it," noted Haisinsky. "So it's even worse, if such funds from Ukraine's gold and hard currency reserves left for banks abroad without his knowledge."

Tymoshenko out of jail — at least for now

TYMOSHENKO, continued from page 1
not constitute attempts to pressure investigators. Tymoshenko has routinely criticized Ukraine's law enforcement authorities and described the charges against her as groundless in both the local and foreign news media.

Tymoshenko's deteriorating health also appeared to play a role in the judge's decision. Zamkovenko noted that prosecutors didn't take into consideration Tymoshenko's medical condition when they were arresting her, nor the appeal of 72 people's deputies ready to guarantee that Tymoshenko wouldn't try to leave Ukraine if released.

On Feb. 12, the day before she was arrested, Tymoshenko postponed a scheduled interrogation session in the General Prosecutor's Office because of the flu.

The court spent two weeks deliberating an appeal by Viktor Shvets, Tymoshenko's lawyer, questioning the legitimacy of her arrest.

The final decision on March 27 came after being postponed five times throughout the day; Zamkovenko did not announce the decision until about 6 p.m., at which point the largely pro-Tymoshenko gallery burst into applause.

Tymoshenko's supporters greeted the rare piece of good news with relief.

"This was a natural decision. It was clear to everyone that the arrest was an example of political repression. Any other decision wouldn't have been appropriate from a legal or moral point of view," said Stepan Khmara, who heads the Ukrainian

Conservative Republican Party, an opposition group that aided the Tymoshenko defense team in court.

Tymoshenko's release fueled speculation that the Kuchma administration wants to stem growing international criticism of Ukraine's human rights record.

While Western governments have not been openly supportive of the anti-Kuchma movement, the substance of diplomatic criticism has mirrored that of the opposition.

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), due to visit Ukraine this month, has been critical of Ukraine's human rights record and the arrest of Tymoshenko in particular.

But Khmara said he doubted the judge's decision had been ordered by the Kuchma administration.

"The fact that the case gained the attention of the international community certainly helped, but the main factor was the judge's courage and objectivity," Khmara said. "I don't think she was released because the authorities sanctioned it. It was made against the will [of the authorities]," Khmara said.

Prosecutors apparently agreed. On March 28, Obikhod said that the prosecutor's office had filed an appeal in the Kyiv City Court.

Tymoshenko is charged with bribing former Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko, smuggling gas, laundering money and evading taxes. The charges stem from her days as head of United Energy Systems of Ukraine back in the mid- to late 1990s.

After her release was announced about a hundred Tymoshenko supporters, including several parliament deputies, went to greet her at Lukyanivska jail.

Her allies had hoped she would be released immediately, as stipulated in the verdict, but jailers took three hours. Undeterred, Tymoshenko's followers celebrated as they waited, drinking cognac and singing Ukrainian songs. Some gave short speeches.

Raisa Sotnykova, a member of Green World, a pro-environment non-governmental organization, was the first one to raise her glass to Tymoshenko's release.

"Tymoshenko is different from the rest of Ukrainian politicians because she's got character, strong will and the people's love. She is a charismatic leader," Sotnykova said. "That's why she is dangerous to those in power."

Like many Tymoshenko supporters, Sotnykova was concerned that Tymoshenko's freedom won't last long. Even if prosecution's appeals fail, new charges may be filed.

"They don't care about what people here think," Sotnykova said. "They let her out only because of pressure from Europe. They can put her back later."

When Tymoshenko finally appeared at about 9 p.m. she was surrounded by police. She paused briefly to address the crowd — her words inaudible — then was whisked off by an ambulance.

According to Scvets, she remained hospitalized with digestive problems and severe headaches on March 28.

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'Blue Orchid' sting nets porn site

MOSCOW (AP) – Despite a successful Russian-U.S. operation to shut down a Web site that sold child pornography, police on March 26 decried legal chaos that leaves them virtually powerless against Russian child pornographers who peddle their production around the world.

Operation Blue Orchid, a joint effort by the U.S. Customs Service and the Moscow city police, has led to criminal investigations in 24 countries against people who ordered child pornography videotapes from the Russian Web site.

Operation Blue Orchid was named after the Web site, which was shut down in December. Many of the tapes were bought by people in the United States; others were in Germany, Britain, France, Denmark, China, Kuwait, Mexico and scores of other countries.

But Russian investigators on the case said March 27 that the operation nabbed only a handful of the legions of child pornography producers who run international distribution networks from Russia with near-immunity.

"According to estimates by foreign experts – and though it pains us to hear this, it is true – Russia is turning into a kind of Malaysia or Thailand, where the main flow of child pornography now is coming from Russia," said investigator Eduard Lapatik.

Under Russian law, possession of pornography is not a crime. Production and trafficking are illegal, but the law also makes no distinction between child



Accused child pornographer Victor Razumov is shown prior to his arrest in his Moscow apartment March 2. (AP)

pornography and pornography involving adults – treating both as lesser crimes punishable by a maximum of two years in prison, the same punishment as for petty theft or shoplifting.

Deep poverty in Russian hinterlands drives scores of children to flee their homes and their often-abusive parents, and travel to Moscow. Once there, the

children become easy victims.

"Some are paid for these activities, others just get food," said investigator Alexander Bynenko.

Even when the children fall into the hands of police, there is little that cash-strapped authorities can do. Since the start of the year, some 5,000 teenagers from out of Moscow have been detained in the capital for various offenses. Of them, only 98 could be placed in orphanages; the rest were sent home, and probably ran away again, Lapatik said.

During Operation Blue Orchid, police seized some 600 videotapes, 200 digital video disks, and many boxes of photographs. Stacks of graphic photographs that investigators showed at a news conference March 27 involve hundreds of children, Bynenko said, but authorities are unable to track the fate of each child.

Under Operation Blue Orchid, four people have been arrested in the United States and 15 search warrants issued. At least four people have been arrested in Russia, and two suspects have committed suicide – apparently not for fear of long prison terms but of the treatment that sex offenders get from other inmates in Russian jails, investigators said.

Adding to the difficulty of fighting child pornography in Russia, the country's age of consent is 14 – but even offenders convicted of having sex with younger children face a maximum of four years.

The light punishment has stoked sex tourism to Russia, police said.

Spanish court frees Gusinsky

MADRID (AP) – Spain's National Court freed Russian media magnate Vladimir Gusinsky on bail March 26 while it decides whether to extradite him on Russian fraud charges.

Court sources said the ruling indicated the three-judge panel had already rejected the extradition request but hadn't made its decision public yet. It was not known when the judges will issue their decision, which is open to appeal.

"Given the present state of our deliberations, it is appropriate that the current situation of the arrested person should be changed and he should be released immediately," the court said in a brief statement.

The court maintained a \$5.5 million bail Gusinsky posted in December and ordered him to report to Spanish police daily. Gusinsky has a home in Sotogrande in southern Spain.

Gusinsky left Madrid's Valdemoro prison March 26 and went to a hotel to rest and shower before a scheduled flight later to Malaga, from where he will drive to Sotogrande, his lawyer Domingo Plazas said.

The 48-year-old media magnate is wanted in Russia in connection with an alleged multimillion-dollar fraud case involving his Media-Most empire. He claims he is a victim of political prosecution because of Media-Most's criticism of Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Russian prosecutors say Gusinsky overstated the assets of Media-Most to win \$300 million in loan guarantees in 1996 from the state-owned natural gas monopoly Gazprom.

Major pipeline opens to export Caspian Sea oil

ALMATY (AP) – With the ceremonial twist of a valve, Russian and Kazak officials on March 26 began pumping crude oil down the first major pipeline to be built in the resource-rich Caspian Sea region in a decade.

The opening of the pipe, which runs from Kazakstan's Tengiz field to Russia's Black Sea port of Novorossiisk, was a victory for Russia. It will bring Moscow welcome new transport tariffs for years to come – and added political clout in the strategic

region.

The United States has struggled to limit Russia's control over petroleum exports from the Caspian region, thought to hold vast oil reserves and described as a key source of energy for the 21st century. The United States backs an alternative pipeline route through Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey to the Mediterranean Sea that would conspicuously bypass two key Caspian states: Russia and Iran.

Russian Prime Minister Mikhail

Kasyanov and his Kazak counterpart took part in the opening ceremony for the new route in the town of Atyrau in western Kazakstan, according to the Interfax news agency.

For at least three months, operators will pump only a test flow of about 70,000 barrels of oil a day from this republic in Central Asia. The viscous crude will trickle slowly along the pipe and reach Novorossiisk only at the end of June, when the first tanker will be loaded.

The pipeline runs over mostly flat scrub and steppe lands north of the Caspian Sea and across Russia's Volga River to oil wharves in Novorossiisk. Unlike the U.S.-backed route – which crosses the Caucasus Mountains – this path is relatively void of natural obstacles.

Russia had strongly advocated the new route, which takes advantage of some existing Russian infrastructure and supplements a pipeline to the central Russian city of Samara.

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EDITORIAL

Grounding capital flight

The administration of U.S. President George W. Bush has been much more direct and straightforward in dealing with the world than its predecessor. That is a good thing, but there is no evidence as yet that Ukraine is going to change its evil ways because of it. On the contrary, President Leonid Kuchma seems as impervious as ever to calls for him to clean up corruption and protect human rights. Several months have passed since the Gongadze scandal broke and Kuchma was forced to assuage the West by promising to put his ship in order. The result? Today the media is as awful and one-sided as ever, members of the level-headed, pro-European opposition are still labeled either neo-Nazi punks or pro-Russian leftists; and the Gongadze investigation seems to grow more farcical by the day.

Really, how much of this do we have to take? How much can the West take, for that matter? If tongue-lashing Kuchma is not going to work – and it's not – perhaps it's time to start thinking about more ingenious methods. Rather than rely on the false hope that Kuchma will curb corruption in Ukraine, the West should do its part to moderate corruption by taking aim at capital flight.

Billions of dollars made by illegal or questionable means are spirited out of the country every year by Ukrainian oligarchs, almost all of whom serve as leaders in parliament. These individuals represent the core of political power in this country and their immense fortunes go a long way toward explaining how Ukraine got stuck with a lackluster leader like Kuchma. These powerful individuals should be the subject of intensive interest and action by Western governments if the West truly desires to have any real positive impact on the future of Ukraine. Blocking access to their funds in the West would demonstrate an interest in curbing the money-laundering efforts of tycoons from Ukraine and other Eastern European countries.

Even better, it's actually possible to block those funds. It would require that some legal steps be taken by the United States and other Western governments, but contrary to popular belief, that's the easy part. Ukrainian law states that any Ukrainian national or corporation must receive legal sanction of the National Bank of Ukraine in order to set up foreign bank accounts. But about 99 percent of those accounts fail to meet that basic legal standard and are therefore illegal, making their owners subject to criminal charges. Not only that, the great majority of funds smuggled out of the country end up in major Western banks or their offshore subsidiaries. Banks holding such funds are violating internationally accepted banking standards.

Thus there appears to be adequate legal basis upon which the United States and other Western governments might take action to block such accounts. What has kept them from doing just that in the past? A lack of common sense, it would appear. The Bush administration has a chance to change the situation. For several reasons, it should do so as soon as possible.

First, such action would make it harder for oligarchs who have spent hundreds of millions of dollars on buying votes in previous elections to buy votes in the parliamentary elections coming up in March 2002. Lessening the amount of money available to be spent in expensive vote-buying campaigns might also encourage a wider field of candidates, including some new, truly reformed-minded persons who might otherwise be scared off by the huge sums needed to mount a parliamentary campaign.

If all that seems a bit Utopian in purpose and hard-nosed in execution, Bush might huddle with his team at the State Department and reflect on where Ukraine stands after eight years of Clinton-Kuchma happy talk and backslapping. Ukraine is a sinkhole of corruption whose current leaders are in too deep to possibly change things now. Until Kuchma and his team steps down – and it's looking like Ukraine may just be facing the appalling prospect of three more years with Kuchma at the helm – all the West can do is try to prevent Ukraine from exporting the spoils of its dirty ways to the West. Closing its doors to capital flight is one way to start.

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NEWS ITEM: KUCHMA SACKS DERKACH, THEN KRAVCHENKO THREE WEEKS LATER. WHO IS NEXT?

Corrupt state of Ukrainian TV rooted in politics

The following is an excerpt from an article by Dmytro Vityk that appeared in the Ukrainian newspaper Svoboda on March 6 and was translated by BBC Monitoring. The author begins by noting that the situation in the Ukrainian mass media clearly demonstrates the dominance of politics over economics. The low level of advertising revenues means TV channels are dependent for their survival on financing from wealthy backers, who impose their political agenda on the channels' news coverage. Noting that "everybody understands" the situation at the National Television Company, but nobody can do anything about it, he turns to a discussion of the situation at the private channels.

A vivid example is ICTV. The first owners of the TV company were American. The Americans were not successful in business in Ukraine – and they could not have been, as TV is, in principle, unprofitable here. The Americans were trying to sell ICTV for quite a long time, but this is not an easy thing to do in Ukraine. Here, the mass media is first and foremost a means of propaganda. That is why any acquisition of a TV channel, even more so, a TV channel with national status, should be initiated by "the pope" ...

So that ICTV did not fall into other hands, the channel was handed over to the state oil and gas company Naftogaz Ukraine and put under the protection of Oleksandr Volkov. However, the coming to power of Yulia Tymoshenko and the resulting revelation of Naftogaz's debts plus Volkov's overestimation of his abilities led to the channel's decline.

On the eve of the millennium, the Working Ukraine faction began to emerge on the Ukrainian political arena. It is the creation of Viktor Pinchuk, who has a relationship with President Kuchma's daughter. The fate of ICTV was decided. Such proximity to the holy of holies meant that shadow capital could be driven into the channel practically without any obstacles ...

The proximity of TV channels to the authorities in Ukraine determines how free they are to conduct business, as well as their overall functioning (we are not talking about abstract rule, but about the president). It is difficult to call the activities of our TV channels business in the classic understanding of the word – they do not earn money directly, but as an integral part of political business, channels serve their role admirably. The scheme is a simple one:

political advertising – acquisition of power – approval of the necessary laws (money).

The Social Democratic Party of Ukraine (United) remains in third place in the rating of political parties thanks solely to its mass media resources. Owning Inter [a national channel] and TET [whose broadcasts cover only Kyiv and Kyiv Oblast] this party, or to be more precise, the business structures which are close to it, bought up shares in the 1+1 TV channel [which broadcasts on UT-2] and turned their attention to the regional channels. In fact, this is a monopolization of the domestic television sphere which contradicts legislation. ...

The National Council for TV and Radio Broadcasting should prolong the licenses for broadcasting the ICTV and Inter channels. In accordance with the law, the frequencies on which they are broadcast should be put out to a tender competition. With the NCTRB turning a blind eye to their numerous violations of legislation and the terms of existing licenses (like the law on advertising, the ratio for domestic and foreign product-ion that is broadcast, the ratio between Ukrainian and Russian languages, etc), which are typical for all broadcasters, these channels will have a priority in obtaining licenses for the next five years, as they are currently operational, and, to date, there are no other candidates of equal strength. ...

In addition, tenders for frequencies are being held in the regions at the moment. Regional channels and three central TV channels – STB, Novy Kanal and ICTV are competing for them. It will be a great surprise if the last of these does not receive the majority of frequencies, as half of the NCTRB's composition has commercial interests in ICTV. These are: NCTRB deputy head V. Pturayev, a former journalist and presenter of Vulychne Telebachennya [Street TV], an organization which, along with ICTV, is part of a holding company headed by Pinchuk; NCTRB secretary Y. Plakysuk, a former general director of ICTV, who still receives wage arrears owed to him from his previous job at the channel; V. Bahrayev, president of the Tavriyski Ihry joint-stock company, which has exclusive rights to music broadcasting on ICTV; Mykola Knyazhytsky, who works as a journalist and presenter on ICTV and, quite evidently, in contravention of the last paragraph of article 11 of the law on the National Council for TV and Radio

Broadcasting, "has personal interests which conflict with the principles of the council's work." ...

It really is difficult not to agree with the arguments put forward by the NCTRB in *Den* on Jan. 16, 2000, that comparing the situation with that in Poland or Russia, the current advertising pie of \$35 million is quite insufficient for the existing number of domestic channels. ... But where does the optimism of the head of the NCTRB come from? In the article mentioned, Mr. Kholoda expresses satisfaction at the transfer of domestic TV to digital format – "So that there are not three big TV channels, but five or six ... there are seven regional channels, but there will be 12-13 ..."? Using what money? And is he not lying when he says that (in capital letters in the headline of the article) "Television companies which were formed solely for the purpose of political battles will be removed from the country's information space." Doesn't he understand that given the unprofitability of Ukrainian TV, only forces that are interested in attaining power can invest in it, at least for the time being? Politically ambitious Serhy Tyhypko admitted honestly to the charming Olena Romina on the late night "The Night before Saturday" show on the Era television and radio channel [broadcast on UT-1] that practically the main argument for him joining Working Ukraine was the mass media resources of this party, which, as has already been said, owns ICTV and Pinchuk's representatives are holding persistent talks on the purchase of STB. ...

The appearance of new owners at any channel invariably begins with the reorganization of news services and changes to their personnel, which naturally should be especially devoted to the idea which led to the formation or reformation of the channel.

The fate of the Vikna program of Mykola Kanishevsky, which has minimal independence – a fatal habit for the information and political business, is revealing. Kanishevsky was sacked from Vikna STB (Vadim Rabinovych's). Vikna was taken off the INTER channel after the latter was linked to the Social Democratic Party of Ukraine (United). On ICTV, the program was replaced by "News From All Sides" from Volkov's Hraivis channel, which, in its turn, made way for "Fakty" from Pinchuk's television factory [ICTV]. Kanishevsky and Co are currently at TET (it is thought for only a temporary period).

Quotes of the week

"IF YOU DON'T LOSE
YOUR CULTURE, YOU WILL
NEVER BE LOST."

- *Kamyanets-Podilsky resident Artur Hasparyan on the struggle to save the historic treasures of his hometown in Western Ukraine. (Page 29B)*

"[UKRAINE HAS] NEVER
HAD BSE, AND I HOPE
WE NEVER WILL."

- *Oleksandr Kucheryavenko, deputy head of the state veterinary inspection service, on meat safety in Ukraine. (Page 17B)*

"IT IS OBVIOUS
SOMETHING IS WRONG."

Iryna Miles, president of Mukachevo city Red Cross in Transcarpathia, on why the region has had two 100-year floods in three years. (Page 2)

"THE OPPOSITION IS
NOT SATISFIED WITH KUCHMA'S
PRO-EUROPEAN POLICY AND IS
USING THE GONGADZE CASE TO
DISCREDIT THE PRESIDENT AND
INTENSIFY INTEGRATION WITH
RUSSIA AND BELARUS."

Foreign Minister Anatoly Zlenko misrepresenting the opposition, which happens to be almost exclusively pro-European, March 23.

"UNDER KUCHMA,
ANY CHANGE OF DERKACH TO
RADCHENKO OR KRAVCHENKO
TO SMIRNOV DOES NOT
FUNDAMENTALLY
CHANGE THE SITUATION."

Opposition leader Volodymyr Chemeris, Reuters, March 27.

"AS LIFE IS LIKE A RIVER,
SO, TOO, DO CADRES CHANGE
ACCORDING TO THEIR ASSIGNED
TASKS, WHICH ARE SET IN THE
PRESENT AND THE FUTURE."

Newly appointed Interior Minister Yury Smirnov waxing existential, Ukrainska Pravda, March 28.

"I DON'T WANT TO PUT
THAT STANDARD OF CONDUCT
ON THE SECRETARY."

U.S. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher on whether reporters should read anything in to the fact that Colin Powell did not accompany Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoly Zlenko to the front door of the State Department in Washington after their meeting, March 27.

"SHE'S THE ONLY UKRAINIAN
POLITICIAN WITH COJONES."

Kyiv Gypsy taxicab driver Serhy Kachanovsky on Yulia Tymoshenko, March 28.

"GONGADZE'S DISAPPEARANCE
IS A RARE CASE OF SPECIFIC
POLITICAL MOTIVES ACTUALLY
BEING INCORPORATED INTO
THE PLANNING OF A CRIME."

Comrade Andry Konstantinov of the St. Petersburg Agency for Investigative Journalism, UNIAN, March 26.

Q&A with Boris Feldman

Authorities saw Sloviansky as Tymoshenko's wallet

Interview by PETER BYRNE

Boris Feldman is the brains behind the Sloviansky Bank.

For a year Feldman has languished in jail, awaiting trial on charges of income tax evasion, misuse of office and misappropriation of collective property.

His Zaporozhia-based bank, which set record profits among Ukrainian commercial banks for 1998 and 1999, began experiencing problems last March when tax authorities arrested five of its managers, including Feldman.

Since then, the NBU has suspended Sloviansky's licenses to perform key banking operations and the State Tax Administration confiscated securities constituting a large proportion of the bank's assets.

Last month the STA said they had proof that Yulia Tymoshenko, former deputy prime minister for the energy sector, conspired with Feldman to steal about \$1 billion intended to pay for Russian gas.

Tymoshenko and Feldman say none of the numerous investigations into their companies' operations have uncovered any evidence of wrongdoing.

Both say a corrupt regime is attempting to shut them up, a charge backed up by recently released secret recordings of alleged conversations between President Leonid Kuchma and State Tax Administration chief Mykola Azarov.

This Q&A was conducted via correspondence with Feldman, who has asked the European Court for Human Rights in Strasbourg to overturn rulings by the Ukrainian courts.

Q. Why did authorities go after your bank?

A. The motivation for launching the case against the bank is rather complicated. First, many and varied officials initiated the action against the bank and me. Secondly, their "desires" have changed over time, in accordance to both internal and external circumstances, which have changed over time.

Audio records of conversations recorded [by former security guard Mykhola Melnychenko] reveal part of the reason authorities went after Sloviansky, as do recent statements made by public officials.

From the beginning, authorities have tried to portray Sloviansky as the wallet or financial instrument of Tymoshenko. The spin was simple: "It is necessary to destroy Sloviansky in order to deprive Tymoshenko of her financial empire."

Tax agents had a slightly different aim – to show their readiness to carry out any order to demonstrate who rules the roost. Destroying Sloviansky enhanced STA's prestige and provided a lesson to other banks, which the STA could – and would – act against with impunity.

For Sloviansky's business competitors, the objectives were more appar-

ent – access to profitable clients, invested credits, and a way to eliminate an uncompromising competitor.

For state officials, our demise represented an opportunity to use Sloviansky as the scapegoat for their own sins. On Saturday, Feb. 17, Mr. Marchuk took to the airwaves on National State Television [UT-1] and said Sloviansky and Grado banks were underwriting protest actions in order to avoid prosecution themselves.

As for the STA officials, after the liquidation of Sloviansky, the goal has become to wash their hands of the matter as quickly as possible. Both tax authorities and employees of the NBU need to endure possible court action and want to escape criminal responsibility for what has been done. They want what happened to Sloviansky to be forgotten as quickly as possible. But in order to use the case against Sloviansky against Tymoshenko, all judges in Ukraine would need to be controlled by the authorities.

Q. Why did the NBU jump on the bandwagon?

A. What motivated the actions of [National Bank of Ukraine Governor Volodymyr] Stelmakh and the NBU vis-a-vis Sloviansky can be summed up using one word – fear.

Q. What was your bank's relationship with United Energy Systems of Ukraine and Yulia Tymoshenko?

A. Sloviansky Bank was formed in 1989. I became a shareholder five years later. In 1995, I made the acquaintance of Yulia Tymoshenko of United Energy Systems of Ukraine (UESU). Earlier, in 1992 and 1993, I had met her casually on a few occasions. Our relationship was on the level of "hello" and "goodbye." I never worked for UESU, although I had an offer to become the company's financial director at the end of 1996. They even allocated me an office, but I refused the offer. But by that time, I had grown accustomed to acting independently, so our relationship remained one between bank and client.

Q. What exactly are you accused of?

A. The indictment against me was 80 pages. When asked, "Do you understand the charges being brought against you?" I had to honestly respond, "No."

Prosecutors charged me on five criminal counts. Last month, they dropped two of the charges, leaving income tax evasion, misuse of office and misappropriation of collective property. Law enforcement authorities investigating wrongdoing accuse a "group" led by myself of perpetrating these crimes.

Understanding the logic behind the investigation or the essence of the charges against me is difficult, even for my lawyers. I still have not received the opportunity to acquaint myself with the particulars of the case against me.

Perhaps then I will be able to under-



stand what the authorities are driving at, but for now I'm left only with a general impression about the ineptitude of state prosecutors. We don't understand one another. At times, I think we speak different languages. For example, three years ago, I borrowed money from a company. Investigators – who apparently do not understand Ukraine's criminal code – still can't figure out how I paid off the debt, much less accomplished the transaction. On the one hand, prosecutors accuse me of stealing the sum (although they can't say from whom, when or how) and, on the other hand, State Tax Administration agents accuse me of pocketing untaxed profit from the deal.

Q. Have authorities asked you to provide evidence against Tymoshenko or to arrange a plea bargain?

A. There are no grounds for me to come to any "accommodation" with law-enforcement agencies. If rule of law existed in Ukraine, I could wait for an open legal trial, at which the arbitrariness of the charges against me would be exposed. In the absence of rule of law, there's little or no reason for them to talk to me at all.

I sought in writing to redress the actions of Ukraine's State Tax Administration, asking the courts to overturn decisions taken against Sloviansky's account-holders, who have suffered

tremendous losses. To date, I have not received responses to formal applications as stipulated by law.

The counter suits I filed against the State Tax Administration, General Prosecutor's Office and NBU have been ignored. Even though Article 55 of the Constitution provides citizens the right to seek legal redress for illegal – let alone criminal – acts committed by state officials, it remains almost impossible for ordinary citizens to avail themselves of this right in practice.

Take, for example, the case brought by Mrs. Lesya Gongadze against the [Deputy General Prosecutor Oleksy] Bahanets. Although the court accepted the case, state prosecutors successfully appealed the decision on grounds that Ukrainian courts had no right to "interfere" in an ongoing investigation.

In his ruling, [Perchersk District Court Judge] Mykola Zamkovenko said his ruling would take immediate effect because of the public significance of the [Gongadze] case. [Human rights ombudswoman Nina] Karpachova hailed the decision as "historic." It has taken five years since we adopted the Constitution for judges to apply it to a "dead person of European significance."

It seems Ukrainians have a long fight ahead of them before judges will protect their constitutional rights.

Letters to the Editor

Editor's note: Bryan McCormick reads the online version of the Post and sent this open letter to President Leonid Kuchma:

Dear President Kuchma,

Since independence, Ukraine has undergone a tremendous transformation, and I believe that a democratic Ukraine has vast potential. As President of Ukraine since 1994, you have had a role in this transformation, and should be proud of the progress

Ukraine has made.

Ukraine still needs to improve its transportation, health care, energy, water and sewage systems and housing. With help from other democratic countries, these problems can be solved.

Unfortunately, the actions of the Ukrainian government against its own people, most recently on March 9, are not as easily solved.

For a country to realize its potential, it is imperative that citizens be

allowed to express their ideas and opinions, even when they are not shared by the government. Using violence to silence the voices of concerned citizens who are protesting peacefully leads to tension, unrest, resentment, and mistrust. It also says the government does not respect the rights of its own people.

I hope that further violence by the government against its own people will be avoided. Your willingness to sit down with those who oppose you

was not easy, but it was correct and it was presidential.

It is this process, listening and acting on the concerns of the people that makes a president a great leader.

It is time for Ukraine to take another step forward, this one coming from its president.

**Bryan J. McCormick, Director
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Arabs criticize Israel at summit

AMMAN (AP) – In the wake of renewed Israeli-Palestinian violence, Arab leaders at their first regular summit in 10 years clearly stated their strong support of the intefadeh, or Palestinian uprising.

Even Syrian President Bashar Assad, whose country has had bumpy relations with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat for cutting a framework peace deal with Israel in 1993, came out in strong support of the Palestinians. He criticized Israeli society for electing hawkish Israeli leader Ariel Sharon as prime minister.

"To know the reality of the coming peace, it is necessary to know the reality of the Israeli street," Assad said in impromptu remarks interrupting the official text of his speech. "It is a racist society and more racist than Nazism."

It remains to be seen if Arab leaders will so easily overcome their differences over Iraq, whose 1990 invasion of Kuwait has shattered Arab ranks.

In speech after speech at an ostentatious conference hall in the heart of the Jordanian capital, Arab leaders praised the 6-month-old Palestinian uprising. Some – including hard-line Syria and Lebanon – harshly rebuked Israel.



The Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, talks with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat during the opening of the Arab Summit in Amman on March 27. (AP)

In his opening speech, Assad sent a strong message of reconciliation to Arafat, saying, "We stand by you in establishing your Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital and we stand by you in support of the intefadeh."

Arafat bluntly demanded Arab financial aid for the Palestinians, whose

economy has been paralyzed by recurring closures imposed on their territories. Arab leaders are expected to adopt a recommendation to pay the Palestinian Authority \$40 million a month for six months to cover salaries, health and education costs.

Arafat was especially critical of

Sharon, who has said he was not bound by concessions which his predecessor, Ehud Barak, made to the Palestinians. Barak had proposed setting up a Palestinian state in 95 percent of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, sharing Jerusalem and dismantling settlements.

"Those who really want peace should not try to take us back to the zero point and waste more time in finding new agreements and new alleged terms of reference," Arafat said somberly.

Lebanese President Emile Lahoud was equally angry at Israel, calling it an "entity against peace." Even Kuwait and Iraq, subjects of the most contentious debate at the summit, used their opening speeches to express their Palestinian support instead of furthering their own issues.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, in a speech read by his deputy Izzat Ibrahim, offered an army to fight Israel that would "make the occupier's blood run cold."

The streets surrounding the summit's venue were closed to the public with armored vehicles forming road blocks and soldiers toting machine guns.

Searchers find U.S. jet wreckage

LONDON (AP) – Search teams have found wreckage in the Scottish Highlands where two U.S. F-15 jets were reported missing, the Royal Air Force said March 27.

The wreckage was found near the summit of 4,296-foot Ben Macdui, one of the peaks in the Cairngorm mountains, Britain's highest mountain range.

At this stage, we are not in a position to identify the wreckage which is believed to be of one aircraft together with spare fuel tanks," a Royal Air Force statement said.

"Weather conditions at present are hampering the search with 46 mph winds and whiteout snow. The rescue teams are continuing the search for further evidence of a crash."

The search was being conducted by up to 250 Royal Air Force members, police and civilian personnel, including three RAF mountain rescue teams from Kinloss, Leuchars and Leeming.

The aircraft – each with one pilot on board – disappeared 45 minutes after taking off for a training mission March 26 from Lakenheath air base, 75 miles northeast of London. Weather in the Cairngorms at the time was cold and bright with good visibility, the Meteorological Office said.

The F-15s disappearance and a crash March 26 of a U.S. Army reconnaissance plane in Germany that killed two pilots are the latest in a string of tragic military mishaps in recent weeks.

China accepts human rights treaty with reservations

UNITED NATIONS (AP) – China has formally notified the United Nations that it will abide by a 1966 human rights treaty – though it opted out of a clause allowing workers to form independent trade unions.

Chinese Ambassador Wang Yingfan delivered the ratification paperwork for the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights at a ceremony March 27 at U.N. headquar-

ters.

China ratified the treaty Feb. 28, but announced that it was excluding a clause that says workers should be allowed to unionize. Beijing says Chinese law already safeguards the rights of workers.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson, the International Labor Organization and human rights organizations expressed

disappointment that China had objected.

China's deputy ambassador to the United Nations, Shen Guofang, said March 27 that China's ratification of the treaty showed it had made strides in improving its human rights record.

"In every country, we believe that there is a little room for improvement in the human rights situation," he said, adding that the issue has got in the way of bilateral relations with some coun-

tries – a reference to the United States.

"We hope that we can narrow our differences or solve our problems with them through dialogue, negotiations on the basis of mutual respect," he said.

China's government only allows one national trade union, which is controlled by the ruling Communist Party. It has jailed scores of activists who demanded or tried to form free trade unions or who pushed for workers' rights.



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Eight die in rail wreck

PECROT, Belgium (AP) – On the computer screen, the two trains were speeding towards one another – an accident about to happen. An attempt to cut power on the line came too late March 27 and the crash left at least eight people dead.

An empty train was riding on the wrong side of the tracks at about 90 kph when it collided with a train filled with rush-hour passengers in the village of Pecrot, 15 miles east of Brussels.

The death toll could still rise as emergency services continued to cut into the wreckage to search for one missing child. One 13-year old was among those killed. Nine were injured, three seriously.

Rail officials said some 30 passengers were on the train at the time of the accident.

Rescue workers picked bodies out of the wreckage, wrapping them in silvery gray body bags and took them on stretchers to a crisis center nearby.

The chief of the SNCB-NMBS public rail company said the driver of the empty, two-carriage train neglected a red signal and plowed into four carriages of the southbound passenger train, crushing and flipping the lead carriage back onto the second.



Rescue workers remove bodies from the tangled wreckage of two passenger trains which collided in Pecrot, Belgium March 27. Eight died in the accident. (AP)

The mangled lead carriage of the empty train was pointing skyward resting on the other train below.

"We saw he was on the wrong track," SNCB-NMBS spokesman Paul van Alst said. "Signal operators cut the power off the line, but it was too late."

Cutting power to the line would have automatically triggered the emergency

brakes on both trains but at move came too late.

The railway company has invested in an automatic system to avoid such accidents but the system is not yet fully operational.

Both of the engineers were killed, along with one other railroad official and five passengers.

World Bank: Reform must be home grown

WASHINGTON (AP) – Add "conditionality" to the buzzword junkyard. The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund say making developing countries in Africa jump through too many hoops to get money doesn't work.

The bank said March 27 in a new report that these countries are likely to adopt reforms to stimulate their economies and reduce poverty only if their governments and peoples broadly agree on the need for change.

David Dollar, co-author of the bank's report said, "conditionality cannot be a substitute for commitment. Reform has to be home grown."

He said foreign aid from donor governments can help lock in these reforms, increase public confidence in the process and create a good environment for private investment.

"It is ironic that when many African governments are making significant social and economic reforms, development aid (from industrialized countries) is being cut," Dollar said.

He said governments receiving aid welcome a modest number of conditions -stabilizing exchange rates or fos-

tering development of an independent judicial system – but that imposing dozens of conditions is largely ineffective.

Lawmakers in the United States and other industrialized countries and international relief groups have long been critical of the bank and its sister institution, the IMF, for imposing a laundry list of conditions on poor countries to qualify for loans.

Now the bank and the IMF are moving to streamline loan conditions and not demand that countries make so many changes that they strain their economies' ability to carry them out.

Last week, the IMF announced it was developing a new set of lending guidelines ready for approval later this year that will significantly reduce the number of demands on IMF borrowers.

The World Bank report, "Aid and Reform in Africa: Lessons from 10 Case Studies" covered the Ivory Coast, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia from the 1980s to the mid 1990s.

Chirac rebuffs summons to testify in City Hall corruption probe

PARIS (AP) – French President Jacques Chirac refused March 27 to answer a summons from a French judge about a kickback scandal centering on Paris City Hall that allegedly unfolded during Chirac's time as mayor.

The presidential Elysee Palace said that Chirac was unable to be questioned in the case because it violated the constitutional separation of powers.

The judge in charge of the investigation, Eric Halphen, sent Chirac a summons last week, asking him to appear as a "witness" in his investigation, *Le Parisien* newspaper reported March 27.

The Elysee confirmed receiving the summons, which set off a cascade of reaction and dominated a later parliamentary meeting of Chirac's right-wing allies.

"In view of the constitutional rules, he cannot answer this summons, which is contrary to the principle of the separation of powers and to the demands of the continuity of the state," the statement from the presidential palace said.

It added that Chirac, who was mayor of Paris from 1977 to 1995, would already have spoken with judges about

the case if he had any information on it. "He has already spoken publicly on several occasions and has no other information," the statement said.

Dozens of officials from Chirac's party have been placed under investigation in the scandal, in which Paris City Hall during the late 1980s and early 1990s allegedly took hefty bribes in exchange for building contracts in the

Paris area. The funds were allegedly used to finance the RPR and other political parties.

The scandal took a bizarre twist last September when a videotape emerged in which a deceased RPR official, Jean-Claude Mery, directly implicated Chirac in the scandal.

Chirac has denied any role in the alleged wrongdoing.

Chretien denies conflict of interest

TORONTO (AP) – Prime Minister Jean Chretien insisted that a handwritten bill of sale and other documents he made public show there was no impropriety in a controversial land deal that prompted conflict of interest allegations against him.

Under increasing pressure from political opponents and Canadian media over the controversy, Chretien said the documents showed accusations by his enemies were empty.

At Chretien's request, government ethics counselor Howard Wilson released the documents March 27 and said they proved Chretien had no financial interest in the Grande-Mere Golf Club when he lobbied a federal development bank to loan money to a neighboring inn.

"They have it now," Chretien said in Parliament. "What they should do is to apologize, turn the page and deal with the problems of the nation."

The controversy – called Shawinigan after Chretien's hometown of Shawinigan, Quebec, where the golf club is located – has dogged the prime minister since a November election that gave his Liberal Party a third straight majority government.

Political opponents have demanded that Chretien prove he sold his stake in the golf club before he became prime minister in 1993. They say Chretien might have had a conflict of interest when he later lobbied the Business Development Bank of Canada to give a loan to the Auberge Grand-Mere – next door to the golf club.

After previously refusing to release documents linked to the case, Chretien on March 26 authorized Wilson to turn the papers.

The documents Wilson released



Prime Minister Jean Chretien speaks in Canada's House of Commons March 22. (AP)

included the handwritten bill of sale dated Nov. 1, 1993, that said Chretien's 22 percent stake in the golf club was sold to a company owned by Jonas Prince for \$200,000.

The bill of sale, and another one dated Sept. 29, 1999, when Prince sold the same shares, showed Chretien gave up his financial interest in the golf club in 1993, Wilson said.

But Chretien's opponents say the controversy remains unresolved.

"There is absolutely nothing in the documents that were released today that clears this up," Canadian Alliance Leader Stockwell Day said. He renewed his call for an independent judicial inquiry, which Chretien has rejected.

Day and former prime minister Joe

Clark, head of the Conservative Party, say Chretien's lobbying for a loan for the Auberge Grand-Mere in 1996-97 could have increased the value of the neighboring golf club, creating a conflict of interest if Chretien still held a financial stake.

Chretien has insisted the 1993 sale of his golf club shares to Prince was final. When Prince failed to pay him, the golf club shares were sold to another buyer in 1999 in order to obtain the money owed Chretien, the prime minister says.

Calls for further investigation increased after media reports last week that golf club records listed Chretien's family holding company as the stakeholder after 1993, and that Chretien's lawyer helped arrange the 1999 sale of the golf club shares.

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NCAA BASKETBALL

Spartans make 3rd straight Final Four

(Reuters, AP) – Michigan State and Arizona on March 25 booked the last two berths in the NCAA Tournament Final Four on March 25, setting the stage for the national college basketball championship semifinals in Minneapolis.

Michigan State stayed on course in their quest to repeat as national champions by beating underdogs Temple 69-62 in the South Region final.

Top-seeded Michigan State (28-4) never trailed against the stubborn, 11th-seeded Owls of Temple as they booked their third straight trip to the Final Four.

Later in San Antonio, second seeds Arizona (26-7) beat top-seeded Illinois 87-81 to claim the last Final Four spot and the right to meet Michigan State in the March 24 opening semifinal at the Metrodome.

The other semifinal will match Duke (33-4) against Atlantic Coast Conference rival Maryland (25-10). The winners will play for the national championship on April 2.

David Thomas scored a career-high 19 points for Michigan State and Charlie Bell added 14 in a game that saw Temple (24-13) hang close but never quite catch the Spartans.

Thomas, who also grabbed seven rebounds, hit what amounted to the game-sealing shot, a 3-pointer from the right side that gave Michigan State a 65-57 lead with 61 seconds left.

The Owls fell behind by double digits early but stormed back with a

12-3 run that closed the first half with Michigan State leading 30-27.

Temple, however, could manage only two field goals after Alex Wesby's 3-pointer pulled them within 54-51 with 6 1/2 minutes left.

Lynn Greer led Temple with 22 points, and Kevin Lyde added 21.

Arizona, which started the season at the nation's No. 1-ranked team before falling from grace, was led by Gilbert Arenas, who scored 21 points, while Loren Woods and Jason Gardner both contributed 18.

Illinois (27-8) were paced by Robert Archibald – a native of Scotland – with 25 points and Cory Bradford with 22.

Michigan State is trying to become the first school to win consecutive NCAA titles since Duke in 1991-92. They beat Florida in last year's championship game.

While Duke is in its 13th Final Four, Maryland heads to its first.

Duke beat Southern California 79-69 March 24 in the East Regional final. Maryland dominated Arizona's Pac-10 conference mate Stanford, rated No. 1 in the nation for much of the year, 87-73 in the West.

Duke and Maryland squared off twice in the regular season and again in the ACC conference tournament. Duke won twice, each time by two points, and Maryland won the middle game by 11.

In the first meeting, at Maryland on Jan. 27, the Terrapins blew a 10-point lead in the last minute of regulation and lost in overtime.

Klitschko stops Jefferson

MUNICH (AP) – Vladimir Klitschko jumped on Derrick Jefferson's mistakes March 24, needing just two powerful shots to stop the American in the second round and defend his WBO heavyweight title.

The Ukrainian dropped Jefferson with a straight right in the second round, catching the American on a left eye that was swollen from the first round knock-down. That may have already left him blinded on one side and unable to see the punch coming.

Jefferson, 24-3-1 with 20 knockouts, struggled to his feet, but stumbled around until Klitschko sent him back down and the fight was stopped. Those blows didn't look clean, but the American was clearly already glassy-eyed.

"It went the way I wanted it to. I used his mistakes – that is what boxing is all about," said Klitschko, now 36-1 with 33 knockouts.

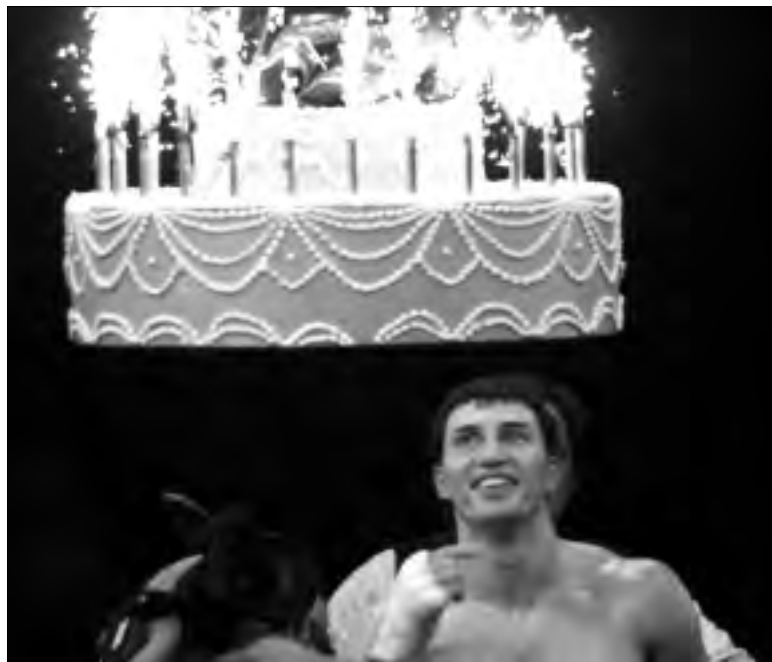
Jefferson pushed aside a slow left from Klitschko with his glove on the knockout blow, exposing his jaw, and the Ukrainian didn't hesitate, stepping fully into the straight right he threw, sending the 260 pound Jefferson sprawling to the canvas.

Klitschko, who turned 25 on March 25, said he hoped to fight Lennox Lewis, regarded by most as the undisputed heavyweight champion.

"If it's this year or next, I don't care. The most important thing is he doesn't retire," the Ukrainian said.

Jefferson, known for his wild style, and just an inch shorter than the 6-ft-7 Ukrainian charged out from the opening seconds, but it was clear the fight wasn't going to last long at the end of the first round.

Jefferson missed with a right and Klitschko jarred the American with a short left jab that dropped the American



WBO heavyweight world champion Vladimir Klitschko of Ukraine celebrating his 25th birthday after the WBO heavyweight World Championship fight on March 24. (AP)

in his tracks with 30 seconds left in the round. He got up, but was clearly hurt.

Klitschko, the 1996 Olympic super heavyweight champion won the lightly regarded WBO title in October by pounding American Chris Byrd over 12 rounds, but it was the first time he had faced a fighter as big as himself.

The big Ukrainian probably didn't hurt a growing reputation that he one the most promising young fighters in the weak heavyweight division.

"Hello America, we're coming. We've laid the groundwork," said Klitschko promoter Hans-Peter Kohl, about his protege, who is already a huge draw in Germany and a folk

hero in his homeland.

Jefferson had previously lost to two contenders, David Izon in nine rounds, and Kazakstan's Oleg Maskaev in the fourth after he twisted his ankle in the first round.

But Jefferson, who once said of himself, that he just goes out and throws punches paid for it immediately against Klitschko, who had demonstrated against Byrd that he has some speed and boxing skills.

On the undercard, Mexico's Fernando Montiel retained his WBO fly-weight by stopping Romanian-born German Zoltan Lunka in the seventh round. That ran his record to 21-0-1 with 16 knockouts.

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WORLD CUP 2002

Ukraine can't solve Belarus, draw 0-0

(Reuters) Ukraine were held to a 0-0 home draw by a defensive-minded Belarus on March 23 in their World Cup European group five qualifier, failing to capitalize on their nearly complete domination of the match.

With Poland beating Norway 3-2 in Oslo, Ukraine and Belarus both needed a win to stay close to the Poles at the top of the group, and the draw did little for either side's chances of reaching the finals for the first time.

Ukraine created a number of clear openings for star strikers Andriy Shevchenko and Serhy Rebrov, but although the Ukrainians, roared on by a partisan home crowd, sprayed the ball around well in midfield, they lacked the imagination to break the deadlock.

The first half started actively with the teams provoking dizzying play at both gates. In the 15th minute, Belarus' Maxim Romashchenko failed to score as he sent the ball close to Ukraine's right bar. Ukraine's forward Serhy Rebrov tried and failed to score from the left corner in the 32nd, and Andriy Shevchenko lost his chance on a penalty shot from about 18 meters in the 42nd.

In the second half, Shevchenko almost scored in Belarus' empty goal in the 67th minute but was ruled offside.

Shevchenko then broke the defense at Gennady Tumilovich's goal in the 82nd minute, hitting the ball in a meter from the left bar, but defenseman Vladimir Shumeiko blocked the goal.

In the torrid final minutes, Shevchenko shook off a challenge from Belarus' Alexander Ostrovsky and bore down on the Belarus goalmouth, but the AC Milan striker's close-range effort was cleared from the goal-line.

Spanish referee Juan Fernandez Marin showed three yellow cards, two to Ukraine and one to Belarus, all in the second half, which also saw Ukrainian Defender Yuri Dmitrulin of Dynamo Kiev stretched off in the 77th minute.

Ukraine was looking to make up ground on Poland on March 28, when the team traveled to Wales. Poland was due to play Armenia at home.

Ninety-six people were detained in Kyiv the day after the Belarus match in connection with brawls that broke out before and after the match.

Police said two people were injured in the fracas after the teams played to a 0-0 draw.

About 150 people were involved in the brawl, which took place near a ticket office at the entrance to Kyiv's central stadium.



A police officer arrests a Belarusian soccer fan during a clash between Ukrainian and Belarusian fans in Kiev on March 24. (AP)

Police detained 11 Ukrainian and 85 Belarusian fans in connection with the fighting, during which the ticket office window was smashed, the report said.

Dozens of fans also clashed a half-hour before the match, AP reported.

Police detained about 40 fans, and several people were injured.

OTHER MATCHES

England kick-started their World Cup campaign with a 2-1 win over Finland, Germany needed a late header to squeak past Albania 2-1 and Italy beat Romania 2-0 in Bucharest on March 23.

The biggest winners of the day were the Netherlands, who got their campaign back on track with a 5-0 win over Andorra in neutral Barcelona, Denmark, who crushed Malta 5-0 in Valletta and Spain, who trounced Liechtenstein by the same score in Alicante.

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

EASTERN CONFERENCE											WESTERN CONFERENCE																																																																				
Atlantic Division											Central Division																																																																				
W	L	T	OL	Pts	F	A	W	L	T	OL	Pts	F	A	W	L	T	OL	Pts	F	A	W	L	T	OL	Pts	F	A																																																				
x-New Jersey	43	18	12	3	101	271	180	x-Detroit	41	18	9	4	103	237	193	x-Philadelphia	40	23	11	2	93	229	196	x-St. Louis	41	19	11	5	98	236	180	Pittsburgh	38	27	9	2	87	257	237	Nashville	31	34	9	3	74	173	190	N.Y. Rangers	28	41	5	1	62	227	270	Chicago	29	35	7	4	69	195	219	N.Y. Islanders	20	45	7	3	50	166	241	Columbus	25	36	9	6	65	179	218
Northeast Division											Northwest Division																																																																				
W	L	T	OL	Pts	F	A	W	L	T	OL	Pts	F	A	W	L	T	OL	Pts	F	A	W	L	T	OL	Pts	F	A																																																				
x-Ottawa	44	20	9	3	100	251	185	y-Colorado	49	13	9	4	111	255	174	Buffalo	42	28	5	1	90	200	173	Edmonton	37	26	10	3	87	223	204	Toronto	34	26	11	5	84	221	192	Vancouver	35	24	10	7	87	229	222	Boston	31	29	8	7	77	204	231	Calgary	26	32	14	4	70	186	220	Montreal	25	39	7	5	62	189	220	Minnesota	24	35	12	5	65	158	192
Southeast Division											Pacific Division																																																																				
W	L	T	OL	Pts	F	A	W	L	T	OL	Pts	F	A	W	L	T	OL	Pts	F	A	W	L	T	OL	Pts	F	A																																																				
Washington	38	25	10	2	88	212	196	x-Dallas	43	24	7	2	95	217	173	Carolina	34	20	8	3	79	193	202	San Jose	36	26	12	2	86	194	177	Florida	20	35	12	9	61	188	231	Los Angeles	34	28	12	2	82	235	220	Atlanta	22	40	12	2	58	200	268	Phoenix	32	26	16	2	82	199	200	Tampa Bay	23	43	6	4	56	187	258	Anaheim	24	38	9	5	62	176	225

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Two points for a win, one point for a tie and overtime loss.

March 20
Buffalo 3, Toronto 0
Boston 2, Pittsburgh 2, tie
Florida 3, Montreal 3, tie
N.Y. Islanders 4, St. Louis 3, OT
Colorado 4, San Jose 1

March 21
Vancouver 1, Columbus 1, tie
Carolina 1, Buffalo 0
Tampa Bay 4, Atlanta 3
Florida 3, Toronto 1
Nashville 0, Minnesota 0, tie
New Jersey 4, N.Y. Rangers 0
Dallas 8, Anaheim 0
Ottawa 5, Phoenix 2
Edmonton 7, Los Angeles 0

March 22
Montreal 4, Carolina 2
Buffalo 4, Atlanta 0

Philadelphia 3, Ottawa 3
Columbus 2, Edmonton 4
San Jose 0, Los Angeles 0

March 23
Carolina 5, Pittsburgh 3
New Jersey 4, Vancouver 0
Florida 4, Washington 1
Dallas 2, N.Y. Islanders 1

March 24
Colorado 4, Boston 2
Detroit 6, N.Y. Rangers 0
St. Louis 5, Chicago 1
Columbus 6, Calgary 4
Anaheim 3, Los Angeles 3, tie
Buffalo 3, Carolina 1
Atlanta 3, Montreal 2
Toronto 5, Philadelphia 3
Washington 3, Tampa Bay 2
Ottawa 4, Nashville 0

Phoenix 7, Edmonton 4

March 25
Pittsburgh 4, New Jersey 2
Vancouver 2, Minnesota 2, tie
Calgary 3, Chicago 1
Boston 3, N.Y. Rangers 2
St. Louis 1, Dallas 1, tie
N.Y. Islanders 2, Phoenix 2, tie

March 26
Philadelphia 3, Ottawa 3, tie
Montreal 4, Carolina 2
Buffalo 4, Atlanta 0
Edmonton 4, Columbus 2
San Jose 0, Los Angeles 0, tie

March 27
New Jersey 7, Tampa Bay 1
Pittsburgh 4, Buffalo 1
Calgary 3, Columbus 0
San Jose 3, Los Angeles 2, OT

WORLD CUP GLANCE

EUROPE											EUROPE																				
14 or 15 Qualify											June 2																				
(France qualifies as defending champion)											Czech Republic vs. North-Ireland						Denmark vs. Czech Republic														
											Iceland vs. Malta						Denmark vs. Malta														
											Northern Ireland vs. Bulgaria						Iceland vs. Bulgaria														
PLAYOFFS											PLAYOFFS																				
Cup System											Cup System																				
(Winners Qualify)											(Winners Qualify)																				
Eight European runners-up will be drawn against each other, ninth will face Asian playoff winner.																															
FIRST ROUND											FIRST ROUND																				
(Group winners qualify)											(Group winners qualify)																				
(Runners-up qualify for playoffs)											(Runners-up qualify for playoffs)																				
GROUP 1											GROUP 1																				
Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Russia	3	2	1	0	5	1	7	Russia vs. Yugoslavia	4	1	3	0	7	6	6	Poland	4	3	1	0	9	4	10	Belgium	4	2	2	0	16	3	8
Slovenia	4	1	3	0	7	6	6	Faeroe Islands vs. Switzerland	4	2	1	1	5	5	7	Ukraine	4	2	1	1	5	5	7	Scotland	4	2	2	0	6	3	8
Switzerland	4	1	2	1	8	5	5	Slovenia vs. Luxembourg	4	0	3	1	4	5	3	Belarus	4	2	1	1	5	5	7	Croatia	3	1	2	0	5	2	5
Yugoslavia	2	1	1	0	3	1	4	Russia vs. Faeroe Islands	4	0	2	2	5	7	2	Wales	4	0	3	1	4	5	3	Latvia	4	1	0	3	2	9	3
Faeroe Islands	3	1	1	1	5	7	4	Switzerland vs. Slovenia	4	0	2	2	3	5	2	San Marino	3	0	0	3	1	13	0	Sweden	4	2	2	0	16	3	8
Luxembourg	4	0	0	4	1	9	0	Luxembourg vs. Russia	4	0	2	2	3	5	2	Belgium	4	2	2	0	6	3	8	Denmark	4	2	2	0	9	3	8
								Faeroe Islands vs. Yugoslavia	4	2	1	1	6	3	7	Scotland 2, Belgium 2	4	2	1	1	6	3	7	Bulgaria	4	2	1	1	6	3	7
								Yugoslavia	4	1	1	2	2	3	4	March 28	4	2	1	1	6	3	7	N.Ireland	4	1	1	2	2	3	4
								Portugal 3, Andorra 0	4	1	0	3	3	8	March 28	4	1	1	2	2	3	4	Iceland	4	1	0	3	3	8	3	
								April 25	4	2	0	2	8	10	6	March 28	4	0	1	3	0	9	1	Malta	4	0	1	3	0	9	1
								Yugoslavia vs. Faeroe Islands	4	2	0	2	4	6	6	March 24	4	0	0	4	1	9	0	March 24	4	3	1	0	6	0	10
								Feb. 28	6	0	0	6	3	19	0	March 24	4	2	2	0	5	2	8	Turkey	4	2	2	0	4	1	8
								April 25	6	0	0	6	3	19	0	March 24	4	2	2	0	4	1	8	Slovakia	4	2	2	0	4	1	8
								April 25	6	0	0	6	3	19	0	March 28	4	1	1	2	3	3	4	Macedonia	4	1	1	2	3	3	4
								April 25	6	0	0	6	3	19	0	March 28	4	0	2	2	0	3	2	Moldova	4	0	2	2	0	3	2
								April 25	6	0	0	6	3	19	0	March 28	4	0	1	3	0	5	1	Azerbaijan	4	0	1	3	0	5	1
								April 25	6	0	0	6	3	19	0	March 24	4	0	2	2	3	5	2	Sweden 1, Macedonia 0	4	2	2	0	5	2	8
								April 25	6	0	0	6	3	19	0	March 24	4	2	2	0	5	2	8	Turkey 1, Slovakia 1	4	2	2	0	4	1	8
								April 25	6	0	0	6	3	19	0	March 24	4	2	2	0	5	2	8	Azerbaijan 0, Moldova 0	4	2	2	0	3	1	8
								April 25	6	0	0	6	3	19	0	March 24	4	2	2	0	5	2	8	March 28	4	1	1	2	3	3	4
								April 25	6	0	0	6	3	19	0	March 24	4	2	2	0	5	2	8	June 6	4	1	1	2	3	3	4
								April 25	6	0	0	6	3	19	0	March 24	4	2	2	0	5	2	8	June 6	4	0	1	3	2	12	1
								April 25	6	0	0	6	3	19	0	March 24	4	2	2	0	5	2	8	March 28	4	1	1	2	3	4	4
								April 25	6	0	0	6	3	19	0	March 24	4	2	2	0	5	2	8	June 6	4	1	1	2	3	4	4
								April 25	6	0	0	6	3	19	0	March 24	4	2	2	0	5	2	8	June 6	4	1	1	2	3	4	4
								April 25	6	0	0	6	3	19	0	March 24	4	2	2	0	5	2	8	June 6	4	1	1	2	3	4	4
								April 25	6	0	0	6	3	19	0	March 24	4	2	2	0	5	2	8	June 6	4	1	1	2	3	4	4
								April 25	6	0	0	6	3	19	0	March 24	4	2	2	0	5	2	8	June 6	4	1	1	2	3	4	4
								April 25	6	0	0	6	3	19	0	March 24	4	2	2	0	5	2	8	June 6	4	1	1	2	3	4	4
								April 25	6	0	0	6	3	19	0	March 24	4	2	2	0	5	2	8	June 6	4	1	1	2	3	4	4
								April 25	6	0	0	6	3	19	0	March 24	4	2	2	0	5	2	8	June 6	4	1	1	2	3	4	4
								April 25	6	0	0	6	3	19	0	March 24	4	2	2	0	5	2	8	June 6	4	1	1	2	3	4	4
								April 25	6	0	0	6	3	19	0	March 24	4	2	2	0	5	2	8	June 6	4	1	1	2	3	4	4
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								April 25	6	0	0	6	3	19	0	March 24	4	2	2	0	5	2	8	June 6	4	1	1	2	3	4	4
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								April 25	6	0	0	6	3	19	0	March 24	4	2	2	0	5	2	8	June 6	4	1	1	2	3	4	4
								April 25	6	0	0	6	3	19	0	March 2															

How to place an Employment Ad in the Post

In Person

Bring your ad to our office at 34 Lesya Ukrainka Blvd., 5th floor, Room 501 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Ask for Tetyana Purik.

By Fax or Phone

Send a fax including number of boxes, number of issues and form of payment to **254-3113** or call **573-8353**. e-mail: purik@kppublications.com

Deadline

The deadline for Thursday Employment ads in the Post is one week before publication.

Payment

Pre-payment is required in all cases.

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Send us a brief CV (it should be no more than 20 words) and we'll run it in 2 issues of the Post for only Hr 50. Please stop by at "Vash Dom" agency, Triokhsviatitelska St. 3 to drop off your CV. Tel: 228-4010

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REGIONAL COORDINATOR for Ukraine and Moldova	- Male, University degree, 3+years relevant experience in international FMCG company, good knowledge of English, driving license.
GROUP BRAND MANAGER	- University degree, aged under 35, 2+years relevant experience in international FMCG company, good knowledge of English.
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Phone: 228-7444, 228-1997 (Mon - Fri, 9 am - 6 pm) Fax: 228-2059 (24 hrs)
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On behalf of our client we are looking for:

- **Head of sales department:** Experience in sales of corporate services in Internet branch - 2+ y. e.
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- **Network Planning Engineer:** SDH, WDM, xDSL networks and equipment planning. Fluent English - 2+ y. e.
- **Sales Manager:** Experience in sales of IT, telecommunication equipment. Fluent English - 3+ y. e.

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INTERNATIONAL LAW FIRM
is looking for
ATTORNEY
to advise on Ukraine law

All candidates must have the following skills:

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- Fluency in English and Ukrainian (written and spoken) and
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Please send your resumes to ukr_legal@hotmail.com or fax to (044) 4906547

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SEARCH & SELECTION, CONSULTING & ANALYSIS

Sales & marketing engineer	• Technical education (radiotechnics, telecommunication), experience in sales of high-tech equipment/solutions - 1 year+, under 32 y.o., fluent English.
Chief Editor	• Working experience in mass media (information agencies), in the position of chief editor - 3 years+, good spoken German (preferably), relevant education.
Financial Analyst	• M/F under 37, higher education in finance, good knowledge of GAAP/IAS, good knowledge of the national accounting standards, experience in practical accounting and using GAAP/IAS, preparing the financial analysis, fluent English or German. Work location - Southern region of Ukraine.
Chief Accountant (well-known foreign company)	• 7+ years experience as Chief Accountant with foreign or local company (export-import activity), strong knowledge of Ukrainian accounting and taxation, knowledge of SunSystems/Scala is a plus, English - fluent.

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- law degree; Ukrainian national
- min. 7 yrs. legal experience & management experience
- English desirable

Resume & cover letter
in English by e-mail: director@dc.com.ua

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INTERNET CORPORATE
SERVICE SALES MANAGER

Requirements: Minimum 1-year experience in sales of Internet Access Services, strong basic knowledge of the corporate Internet access methods, good PC skills, higher education, psychological features - self-organized, good communications skills, active, result oriented, able to persuade people.
The position offers good career opportunities and a competitive salary with benefits.

Contact person - Anna Bogdanovich
(e-mail - anna@nuvse.com)

KIEV REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE IS LOOKING FOR :

Service Engineer: male, age 24-35, Ukrainian, University degree in electronics, fluent English, 2+ experience as service engineer (in the field of consumer electronics), computer skills (Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint), driving license, communicable.

Service Assistant: female, age under 30, Ukrainian, University degree (electronics is preferable), fluent English, 2+ experience as secretary, office-manager or service assistant, computer skills (Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint), driving license, communicable.

Marketing Assistant: male, age under 30, Ukrainian, University degree (marketing, economy or logistics), fluent English, 2+ relevant experience, computer skills (Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint), driving license, communicable.

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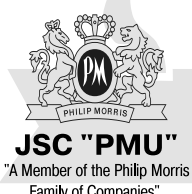
THE POSITION

Provide full personal assistance to Senior Management by taking administrative responsibilities, including secretarial service, for efficient running of office in a professional and timely manner and contribute to the achievement of company objectives.

THE PERSON

- University degree
- At least 2 years of relevant experience in a multinational company
- Ability to demonstrate initiative and commitment
- Excellent communication skills and strong customer orientation
- Ability to set priorities and to seek actively for information from different sources
- Good analytical skills
- Fluent English
- PC literate (Word, Excel, Power Point)

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MINI RESUME Professional babysitter and housekeeper with five years experience in foreign family is looking for position. Letter of reference is available upon request. Tel.: 411-5286 Gala

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MINI RESUME UM, 27. University degree in International management. MBA/USA. Over five years experience in management and marketing in USA and Ukraine. Strong communication, negotiation and presentation skills. Able to handle multiple tasks. Good leadership skills and team-player attitude. Ukrainian, Russian, English. PC literate. Tel.: (044) 550-3280

MINI RESUME UM, proven experience in project management and administration in both commercial and non-profit projects. 9 years with Western companies and organizations, experience in dealing with Ukrainian state authorities. Computer literate, driver's license. Tel.: 220-8875 (home), 561-8555 (cellular), e-mail: to63@mail.ru Oleg

MINI RESUME Marketing and management specialist/consultant. Successful track record in a range of managerial positions. Leading Western corps, then restructuring of local companies. Marketing management, aftersale service, dealer networks, direct sales, PR, business training. For details call/fax (044) 559-7489

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MINI RESUME Professional driver, 55. Volvo 740, fluent English, experience with international companies. References available upon request. Tel.: 550-4553. Gennady, e-mail: busenko@svitonline.com

MINI RESUME Driver with extensive experience of work with Western companies and excellent knowledge of the city is looking for a job (with your car). Please call Pasha 8-050-351-3687

Driver

MINI RESUME Professional driver, 36, Opel Omega car (1993), 6 years experience as driver with foreign companies, intermediate English, references available. Tel.: 380-44 555-9548 (h), mobile: 067-247-7327 Andrej

Miscellaneous

MINI RESUME UM, 31, university degree in economics. English, Russian, Ukrainian. PC, driver's license. 7 years experience (banking, finance, administration, Ministry of Economy). Tel.: 493-7644 Gleb.

MINI RESUME UM 40, University degree in Mechanical Engineering. Solid experience whitening Western companies in HVAC systems assembling, maintenance and construction supervising. Fluent English, PC skills (Word, Excel, AutoCAD). Tel.: 245-9922 (h) Vladimir.

MINI RESUME UM, 29, (MBA, linguistics) looking for a responsible position in Western company. 5 years experience in database and warehouse management, accounting, logistics. Fluent English, basic French and German. Strong PC skills. Enthusiastic, honest, hard-working. 543-7514 (h), 543-9815 (w) Sergey.

MINI RESUME UF, 24, degree in management, good English, basic Italian, PC literate. 2,5 years in taxation sphere. Seeking a position of a manager (assistant) or related options on full/part time basis. Alina 219-4148 (after 18 p.m.). alinasadako@yahoo.com

MINI RESUME 4 years as Deputy Director of Tacis Coordinating Unit. Deep knowledge of Project Cycle Management (Logical Framework Approach). High leadership abilities, hard-working, strong analytical, decision making and organization skills. Trained abroad. Good English, fair French. Tel.: 274-0191 (h). Andriy. E-mail: akolesnyk@ukr.net

Marketing/Sales

MINI RESUME Lady, 30, university degree in engineering: basic English, PC-windows, Word, Excel, Access. Internet; Programmer Visual Basic. Tel.: 555-6542.

MINI RESUME UM, university degree in economics and management, experience in newspaper and social marketing. Computer skills: MS office and Internet. Language skills: fluent English, Russian and Ukrainian. Fast learning, self-organized, responsible. E-mail: romdosa@yandex.ru, tel.: 264-6049

MINI RESUME UF, 35. Solid sales experience. Experience in marketing (promotion). Contacts in about 300 companies. Listening, analytical, decision making skills. Higher education, English, PC. Position in sales, marketing (advertising), customer service. Call manager Irina 531-9559 (w), 476-8412 (h)

MINI RESUME UM, looking for position of sales person/consultant. 2 + years of experience in sales sphere. Fluent English. Contact tel.: 8-067-722-3232

MINI RESUME UM, 28, university degree in economics (honour graduate). Experienced in financial analysis, business-planning, marketing. Excellent PC, good English. Reliable, responsible, eager to learn. Looking for a position of a financial analyst, economist. Tel.: 423-1475, e-mail: evhen@gmx.net

MINI RESUME Good experience of work for well-known foreign firms as clients and sales coordinator, office-manager. Trained in Great Britain, Germany. University degree. Self-motivated, client-oriented. Objectives: customer service, commercial assistant or similar. 492-3620 Irina

Interpreter/Translator

MINI RESUME Lady, 31, master's Degree in Library & Information Science (New York). 2 years experience with NGO in grants and information center management and library automation programs. Seeking a position of an information specialist or translator/interpreter in an information center/library setting or an International organization. Strong PC/Internet skills, fluent English, Ukrainian, Russian. E-mail: obukovska@aol.com; ph: 268-3535 Oksana

MINI RESUME 25 years UF is looking for a job as assistant, interpreter, manager. 3 years of similar position in marketing, administration, finance. Fluent English, PC, colloquial German. (044) 570-8161 Victoria.

MINI RESUME Your guide, interpreter and English translator in Ukraine. Skilled in small office administration, translation, travel arrangements. Diplomated engineer. 8 years full time with EU companies. Igor 227-1647, e-mail: ilinskij@yahoo.com

MINI RESUME Female, 29, higher linguistic education. Fluent English, basic German, PC. 5 years experience as interpreter administrator, director's assistant. Good communication skills, hard-working, responsible. Tel.: 414-7396, Tatiana.

Office Manager/Administrator

MINI RESUME Objective: position of office administrator, PA. Larisa, 29, university degree, fluent English, familiar with an office environment. Good employment record, references. Home tel.: 2191291, e-mail: profitcp@yahoo.com

MINI RESUME UF, 25. Higher economics education. Perfect English, strong PC skills. 7 + years of work experience. Looking for a position of administrator/office-manager/executive secretary. Phone/fax: 463-9369

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or FAX 464-0598
CLOSING DAY FOR APPLICATIONS IS 05 APRIL 2001

Office Manager/Administrator

MINI RESUME Lady, 29, high education. Good French and English, German with dictionary, PC skills, responsible, organized, able to learn is looking for a job as a secretary, an office-manager. 574-6734 (12 p.m. - 16 p.m.) Evgeniya

MINI RESUME Lady with good English, experience of work as a receptionist, office manager with Western company is looking for a relevant position. PC user, easy to learn. Call Lesya 555-1641

Personal Assistant

MINI RESUME Lady, 30, looking for a position of a personal assistant, interpreter-translator, office-manager. University degree, fluent English, computer skills, well-organized and sociable. Please call 543-3654 Ruslana

MINI RESUME UF, 22, university degree in economics, fluent English, fair German, proficient PC user, 5 years of relevant experience with Western companies. Objectives: PA, translator, office-manager. Tel.: 211-5939, mob 492-0396 Snezhana.

INFORMATION OFFICER
for the Poland-America-Ukraine Cooperation Initiative (PAUCI)

Applicants are being sought for the position of Information Coordinator of PAUCI. The purpose of this trilateral USAID-funded grant program is to foster linkages between Ukraine and Poland (www.pauci.iatp.org.ua).

PAUCI is administered by Freedom House, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that promotes liberty and democracy throughout the world (www.freedomhouse.org).

The ideal candidate will have 1) strong communication skills; 2) experience in newsletter and webpage design; 3) experience working with the mass media and government officials; and 4) fluency in Ukrainian and English (Polish also a very strong asset).

Please send resumes by e-mail: pauci@pauci.kiev.ua or fax: (380 44) 238 6869



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Now you can place your classified ad over the phone by calling 543-3844 or 543-9938. All ads will be credited directly to your monthly telephone bill.

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DEADLINE:

The deadline for Thursday Classified ads in the Post is Friday at 6 p.m

CLASSIFIED AD COSTS ARE:

Normal word 3 Hr
 Bold or CAPITAL word 4 Hr
 BOLD and CAPITAL word 5 Hr
 In frame 20 Hr
 A boxed ad costs \$80 per issue.

THE POST




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HORODETSKOHO	LONG	4	160	2500
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LUTERANSKA	OFFICE	4	140	2800



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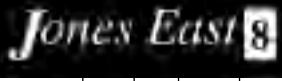
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West apt	110	3	center	1600
West apt	150	4	center	4000
West apt	150	5	center	4000
House	170	3	center	5000

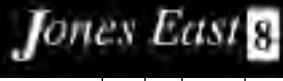
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West office	150	2	center	20
West office	56	2	center	17
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Basseyna	2	60	60
Mikhaylovska	3	120	90

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BUSINESS

MARCH 29TH, 2001

This section is part of
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Jan. 16, 2001.
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Most still in poverty, says government

By VITALY SYCH
Post Staff Writer

In a sign of Ukraine's widening socioeconomic gap, the number of official hryvna millionaires increased dramatically last year, even as more than 90 percent of Ukrainians continued to wallow below the poverty line.

According to Oleksy Shytrya, deputy head of the State Tax Administration, 1,221 Ukrainians reported incomes in excess of Hr 1 million last year. That's more than a 30-fold increase on 1999, when just 40 people admitted to incomes of Hr 1 million or more.

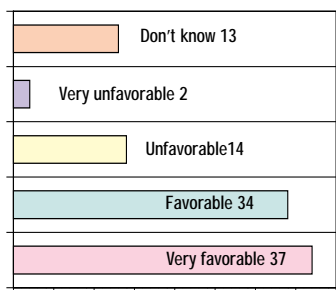
Shytrya said that 171 people posted incomes higher than Hr 5 million (about \$1 million) last year. More than 5,000 people declared incomes of at least Hr 200,000.

The numbers might not mean much, though. STA spokesman Vitaly Lukyanenko said the statistics were due more to a growing willingness among Ukrainians to legalize and declare their earnings, rather than a sudden spurt in income among Ukraine's wealthy class.

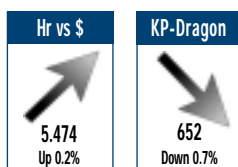
See INCOME, page 22B

BUSINESS SURVEY

Economic relations between Russia and Ukraine are:



Source: GfK-USM Ukrainian Surveys & Market Research (Poll conducted among 1,000 people ages 15-59, nationwide)



Street Currency Exchange Rates MARCH 20

	BUY	SELL
U.S. Dollar	5.474	5.569
Deutsche Mark	2.492	2.649
Rus. Ruble (10)	1.83	1.97

Source: Ukrainian News

MEAT SAFE, STATE VETS SAY



Government officials vouch for meat sold in the city's markets but warn that uninspected meat sold by vendors on the street may not be free of the diseases plaguing Western Europe. (Post photo by Viktor Suvorov)

By VITALY SYCH
Post Staff Writer

An outbreak of livestock disease in Western Europe is leading Kyivans to question the safety – and origins – of meat being sold in city markets.

State health officials deny that Ukraine has any problems with mad cow and foot-and-mouth disease,

which are currently wreaking havoc in Western Europe's livestock industry.

But officials admit that large quantities of meat is entering the country illegally, raising fears that meat from infected animals could sneak into the country despite tight controls.

According to Oleksy Voznyuk, a spokesman for Ukraine's State Tax Administration, officers detained two trucks transporting meat of "question-

able origin" in Zhytomyr oblast on March 21. Voznyuk said officers opened fire on the trucks after drivers ignored orders to stop. The drivers fled into the forest but were later captured.

Voznyuk said the trucks contained 70 tons of chicken legs and beef that lacked quality or origin certificates. Voznyuk said he didn't know whether

See DISEASE, page 22B

Court hears Ukraine gas theft issue

MOSCOW (Reuters) – Russian gas giant Gazprom said on March 23 that a Moscow arbitration court had held a hearing into alleged illegal siphoning by Ukraine of gas from pipelines.

Gazprom spokeswoman Olga Moreva said the initial hearing took place at the International Commercial Arbitration Court of the Russian Chamber of Commerce, and the next hearing was scheduled for April.

"No ruling has been made," she said.

Interfax news agency quoted Gazprom officials as saying on March 22 that the company had filed a suit in an unnamed international court regarding gas debts from early last year.

Ukraine is estimated to owe Russia at least \$1.4 billion in gas debts, but the two countries said last December they would bury the hatchet in the long-running row and Russia would agree to restructure Ukraine's debts.

Ukraine's government said it was surprised by reports that Gazprom had launched international legal proceedings against it.

"We are surprised at such a question. Right now, there is no unsanctioned tapping of gas," Deputy Prime Minister Oleh Dubina told reporters on March 22. "There were 8.2 billion cubic meters last year, which have been registered and

See GAS, page 22B

Organization grooms young professionals

By ROMAN OLEARCHYK
Post Staff Writer

In six years, a Ukrainian branch of an international students' organization has helped about 300 Ukrainian students land well-paying jobs by buffing up their resumes with training and work experience in foreign countries.

AIESEC, short for the International Association of Students in Sciences and Management, is obviously doing something right for Ukraine's young professionals.

AIESEC Ukraine Vice President Oleksandr Demenko says the organization helps students not only build business networks within its worldwide membership, which numbers 50,000, but provides training and an opportunity to work abroad.

The 50-year-old group's Ukrainian branch was established in 1994, and has about 300 members and 300

alumni, virtually all of whom have found good jobs.

Ihor Lazarev, a 24-year-old Kyiv National Economics University graduate and AIESEC alumni, is a prime example of AIESEC's successful Ukraine operation.

Lazarev was one of 63 local AIESEC members sent on a paid working exchange program. He was assigned to electronics giant Siemens in Germany and Slovakia. It was his first work experience.

Today, he is a client coordinator for the Bates-Ukraine ad agency, handling big clients like Kyivstar GSM and Oleina.

"Daily work and activities at AIESEC were virtually identical to those in Western companies," Lazarev said. "As a result, I had no trouble adapting to work in a Western-style company."

Membership in AIESEC is free, but only highly motivated students

are accepted.

The group receives financial support from a broad range of multinational corporations, including Procter & Gamble, Citibank and PricewaterhouseCoopers. The Ukrainian branches have even received sponsorships from local companies such as PrivatBank and Arthur Andersen Ukraine.

Apart from training, members also get access to various informational resources. English is the official language of AIESEC. As a result, most members get lots of practice and end up speaking English well.

AIESEC Ternopil alumni Mykola Ivaniniv, 25, is another success story.

Ivaniniv joined the group five years ago. He graduated three years later and quickly landed a job as a senior assistant in the financial planning and analysis department at Kraft Foods Ukraine.

"The AIESEC experience has

really proved useful in my business career," Ivaniniv said. "It helped me broaden my mind, improve my business relationships and communications skills."

About 36 foreign AIESEC members have benefited from working experience in Ukraine too.

Norway's Hans Leine is one of them. He has been working at the Ukrainian Marketing Group as a business development specialist since last fall through the exchange program.

"I didn't know anything about Ukraine before I got here," Leine said. "Of course I could be making a lot more in Western Europe, but this is an eye-opening experience. I am learning Russian in the meantime, a language that is highly valued in Europe."

The list of other successful AIESEC alumni is long, and includes

See STUDENTS, page 22B

ECONOMY

While IMF loans remained frozen, the World Bank showed Ukraine some cautious signs of support. The Bank approved a **\$28 million loan to improve energy efficiency** in Sevastopol. The project, which foresees replacing 40 percent of Sevastopol's municipal heating systems, will cost \$35 million, still needs parliamentary approval. Separately, a top World Bank official said the Bank would consider a **\$60 million loan to support administrative reform** in Ukraine, which has stalled almost completely after a brief period of government sackings in early 2000.

Stepping up efforts to fight the **shadow economy**, President Leonid Kuchma proposed limiting the number of accounts that businesses may have with commercial banks. Kuchma signed a decree giving the government and the National Bank of Ukraine until June to draft a law imposing the limitations. Under present law, there is no limit to the number of bank accounts businesses may maintain.

ENERGY

The Cabinet of Ministers is prepared to **connect the Ukrainian power grid with the Russian power grid** on April 1, but has vowed not to import Russian electricity, Deputy Prime Minister Oleh Dubyna said on the eve of a visit to Russia to discuss the issue. Dubyna said, however, that Ukraine would agree to exchange electricity between the two power grids. Ukraine's former Fuel and Energy Minister Serhy Yermilov signed a memorandum on reconnection of the Ukrainian and Russian power grids with Russia on Feb. 12.

OIL & GAS

TNK-Ukraine said it received the **largest loan ever** arranged for a private

Ukrainian company without a sovereign guarantee. The company, a subsidiary of Russia's Tyumen Oil Company, received a one-year, \$50 million revolving loan that will enable the firm to upgrade the Lysychansk-based Lynos refinery, which it controls.

U.S.-registered Itera, a gas transportation company linked to Russia's Gazprom, said it had filed suits in a Moscow court to try and **recover \$48 million from Ukrainian consumers**. The suit covers more than \$24 million owed by Ukrainian energy generator Tsentrengo, \$16.8 million by gas wholesaler Ukrainian Energy Company, and \$7.3 million owed by gas wholesaler Ukrenergosbyt. Itera says Ukraine owes it about \$350 million. The suit follows a similar suit by Gazprom (See story, front business page).

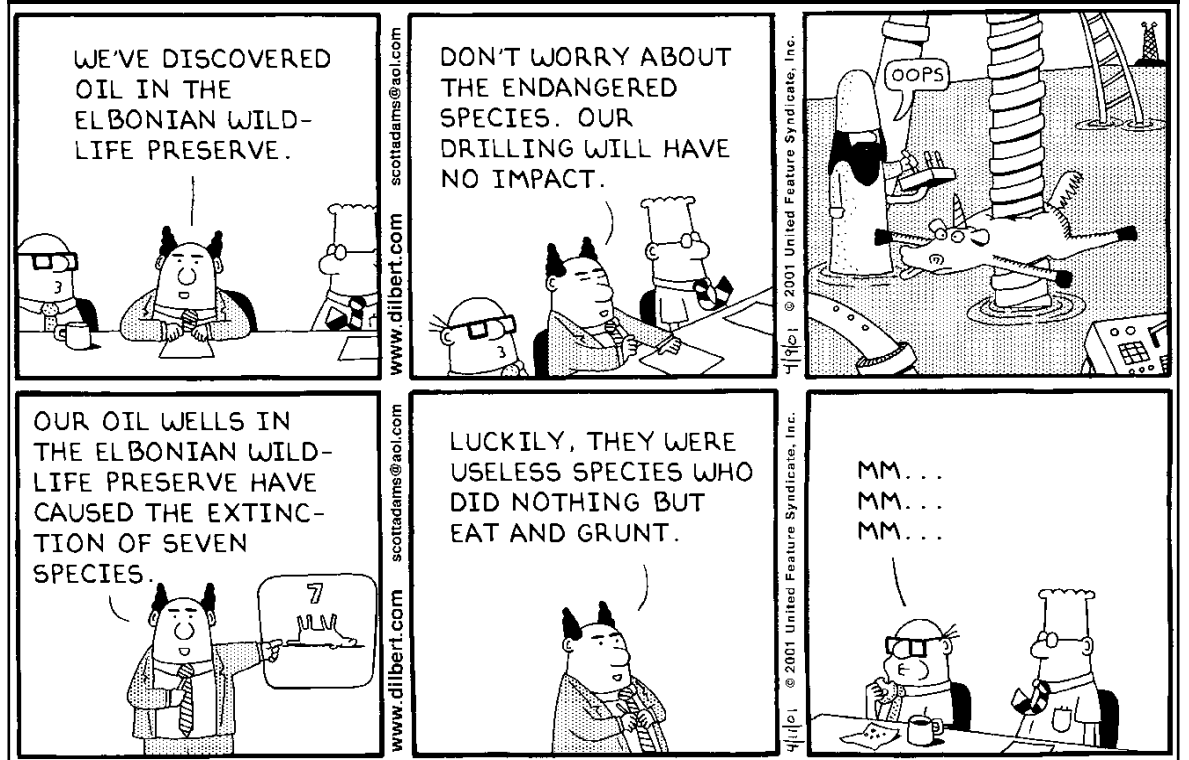
BANKING AND FINANCE

Parliament's Finance Committee said it opposes President Kuchma's proposals to **cancel write-offs of arrears** on excise taxes, citizens' income taxes, Pension Fund contributions, and Social Security Fund taxes. First deputy committee chair Serhy Teriokhin said attempts to prevent the debt write-offs are economically and legally unjustified and could lead to more corruption. The STA has already approved the law for implementation and plans to write off debt by April 1.

The PFTS over-the-counter stock exchange **de-listed shares of shipper Ukrichflot**. According to the PFTS, the company was de-listed because it changed the basic parameters of its securities without providing the corresponding information to PFTS. Ukrichflot Vice President Pavlo Podlesny said the company would sue the PFTS over the decision and has filed a com-

DILBERT

by Scott Adams



plaint on the actions of the PFTS with the State Securities and Exchange Commission.

Banks that issue credit cards have created a trade group aimed at combating fraud. The new Forum for Security and Credit Card Settlements will set uniform security standards for cards, according to Oleksandr Karpov, director of the Ukrainian Association of Europay Member Banks.

AGRICULTURE

The United States Agency for International Development stepped up its efforts support to see **more land titles issued in Ukraine**. USAID said it will

grant Ukraine \$14 million to finance a project for issuing some 1.8 million land titles to farmers, a top Ukrainian agricultural official said, according to Ukrainian News. This is about 28 percent of the total number of government land titles that will be issued. The United States and the World Bank are reportedly in on the project.

The country's **23 percent export duty on sunflower seed** must be scrapped, not just cut, a group of Ukrainian agricultural traders said. Traders were reacting to a bill approved for first reading by parliament last week that would cut the duty to 17 percent. Only full cancellation of

the duty will do, the Ukrainian League of the Agroindustrial Complex said in a statement.

AUTOMOTIVE

Parliament **wrote off Hr 4.8 million in fines and penalties** imposed on the AvtoZAZ automobile factory in connection with a loan it obtained from a German bank under government guaranty in 1993. In 1997, parliament required the Finance Ministry to write off the company's Hr 20.776 million debt, but the Finance Ministry wrote off only Hr 16 million, claiming that the law was contradictory. The Rada's most recent action forgives the balance of the debt.

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Ukrainian firms join piracy fight

(AP) – Government officials and business people March 22 said active measures were needed to fight widespread piracy and copyright violations to avoid trade sanctions against Ukraine.

“Public assistance to coordinate all authorities’ organs is an expedient measure,” said Serhy Movchan, director of the PBN company, one of six companies and organizations that created the Intellectual Property Association last year to launch a campaign against copyright piracy.

“First of all, we should acknowledge publicly and openly that our society is a piratic one,” said Yevhen Utkin, head of the Ukraine’s Software Creators Association.

He said a first step to stop copyright violations was a government decision to purchase only licensed software for all its offices.

The State Department on Intellectual Property is expected to sign a memorandum with the Intellectual Property Association and to promote a parliamentary bill on regulating compact disc exports and imports.

Among other measures, the department will establish special courts to deal with intellectual property cases and will train judges at seminars in European licensing bodies, said Mykola Paladin, the department’s head.

The government also plans to control the import of materials that are used in illegal CD production, Paladin said.

Piracy thrives in Ukraine because there are no legal controls over copyright protection. Illegal production of compact discs costs up to \$300 million a year in damages to the global recording industry, according to experts.

Ukraine failed to meet a March 1 deadline to solve piracy problems under an agreement last year with the United States. The U.S. threatened last week to impose trade sanctions against Ukraine unless the government makes greater effort to battle piracy.

Firm touts crate expectations

Domestic relocations a growing market for one moving company

By ANNA KOZMINA
Post Staff Writer

“Moving twice is like having your house burn down once” – Ukrainian proverb.

The stereotypical mover is a burly, dim-witted, ham-handed and at least marginally dishonest character in almost every culture. It’s a tough reputation to rehabilitate, and professional movers say not everyone in the industry is helping.

Nevertheless, Kyiv’s moving and storage business is highly competitive, with the city’s four biggest firms battling for the lucrative international relocation market, while the market for domestic moving remains essentially untapped.

Kyiv’s major movers offer a full range of services, from packing and loading possessions, to international transportation and customs clearance. Clients are drawn from foreign companies and organizations with larger, mobile workforces.

For moves within the country, Ukrainians tend to use smaller and less expensive moving companies. That’s a trend Ihor Marchuk, director of The Interdean Interconex Group’s office in Ukraine, is trying to change.

It’s not that Ukrainians cannot afford high-quality moving, Marchuk says, but simply that people aren’t aware they have an option.

“Ninety-five percent of Ukrainians associate moving with packing things in boxes and bundles and letting a gang of drunken loaders put it on an old truck,” Marchuk said. “Quite a few Ukrainians are wealthy enough to avoid this painful process by giving it to professionals. They simply don’t know about it,” he said.

Marchuk and Interdean Interconex want to expand by introducing international standards moving to the domestic moving market.

Interdean was founded in Austria in 1969. Last year it merged with Interconex, becoming one of the world’s largest global movers, with 57 offices in 38 countries.

The Kyiv-based subsidiary was opened with Austrian capital in 1997, employing just two workers equipped with a minibus. Despite its international connections, the firm found it tough to break into the local market, already dominated by movers who had been in Ukraine for at least three years. Interdean’s chief competitor, Holland-based Corstjens arrived on the scene in 1992.

Interdean had to work to win its place in the market. Marchuk says he was a sales manager in the morning, a packer in the afternoon and a loader and customs broker in the evening. At the same time, he



Interdean Interconex Group Director Ihor Marchuk says he knows moving “can be a pain.” (Post photo by Viktor Suvorov)

was the company’s director and strategic manager.

Marchuk drew inspiration from the fact that Interdean’s founder, Viktor Bondarenko, was a Ukrainian. “We wanted to continue the Ukrainian success here in Ukraine,” Marchuk said.

By the end of the company’s first year in Ukraine, success had begun to take hold. Interdean’s staff expanded to four packers, and the company purchased a truck. By 1999, the company’s earnings were nearly \$500,000, with revenues increasing 25 percent annually.

Today, Interdean’s operation in Ukraine has 22 employees.

Clients include embassies, the United Nations, and the World Bank, as well as corporations like Procter & Gamble and Daewoo Motors.

“I can’t name a large foreign company in Ukraine that we haven’t worked with in some way,” Marchuk said.

Ukraine lacks official statistics on the moving and storage business, but Interdean Interconex claims it is the market leader.

“I don’t have much information about my competitors, but I know the market volume,” Marchuk said. “Based on our orders and our clients, I believe we are the market leader,” Marchuk said.

Erik Christiaensen, general manager of the Ukrainian office of Corstjens, didn’t exactly dispute that claim.

“[Interdean Interconex] still has the [American]

Embassy tender. It could be that they are the market leaders for the time being,” Christiaensen said.

In the moving business, embassies are plum clients, followed by large corporations and small companies, Christiaensen explained. Getting a contract with an embassy is what all movers strive for.

Interdean Interconex first won the bid to move U.S. Embassy employees in 1999 and the contract was renewed in 2000. The contract expires this month, but the company hopes to win the 2001 bid as well.

In what seems a pretty basic business, the movers have found that unusual situations can require creative thinking. Marchuk once had to hire a mountain rescue crew to get a wardrobe safely through a window after it couldn’t be brought in through a door. Another time, his movers had to hire a construction crane to literally raise the roof of a building, lift out a power generator, and then replace the roof. To transport a collection of fragile houseplants, movers have developed special boxes that include a drip irrigation feature and internal wooden supports for the branches and stems.

“We know what a pain moving can be, and we also know what world-standard moving services are,” Marchuk said. “We want to introduce them to Ukrainians, so that people can do what they like and let us worry about their move.”

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D'Arcy adds Chichkan, Bytsko to creative stable



Ilya Chichkan, 33, has been named senior art director at advertising agency **D'Arcy Masius Benton and Bowles (DMB&B)**.

At D'Arcy, Chichkan will work on creative projects for Procter and Gamble, Coca-Cola Ukraine, Mars and Western Union. He will also work to develop effective advertising support for those brands.

Chichkan worked with a number of large advertising agencies prior to joining D'Arcy, including Meridian, Leo Burnett and Ark/J. Walter Thompson. He helped develop strategy and advertising campaigns for corporate clients including Unilever, Johnson and Johnson, Marlboro, Heineken, Nestle and Golden Telecom.

Chichkan graduated from Kyiv State Art University. His modern art works have been shown in Kyiv, Warsaw, Prague, Berlin, Paris and San Paulo.



DMB&B has also added Katerina Bytsko, 26, as an account manager. In her new job, she will oversee several high-profile accounts, including Coca-Cola Ukraine.

Prior to joining D'Arcy, Bytsko worked for McCain, a manufacturer of quick-frozen products, as a sales and marketing manager.

Bytsko has worked for Ogilvy and Mother as an account manager, for

Saatchi & Saatchi as a new business manager and for Bates advertising as an account executive.

Bytsko is a graduate of the Kyiv Pedagogical Institute, where she earned a degree in psychology.

In addition, she obtained a degree in marketing and management from Kyiv's Institute of Investment Management.

Ukrainian Inna Kovtun, 31, has been appointed editor-in-chief of a new business weekly, *Delovaya Stolitsa* (Business Capital), to be launched by the **Kartel publishing house** in April.



Before joining Kartel, Kovtun served three years as editor-in-chief of STB's "Windows" and "Business Studio" television news programs.

From 1995 to 1997, Kovtun was finance and banking editor for the weekly magazine *Biznes*.

Kovtun is a graduate of Kyiv Shevchenko State University, where she earned a degree in economics.

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Company happenings

ELLE COMES TO UKRAINE

Competition in Ukraine's magazine market heated up March 21 with the official launch of *Elle Ukraine*, a Russian-language edition of *Elle* magazine. *Elle Ukraine* expects a readership comprised of active young women. The monthly publication plans an initial circulation of 50,000.

The parent *Elle* magazine is published by the French Hachette Filipacchi Press. Ukraine becomes the 34th country in which the magazine is produced.

At the launch, Paola Messana, general director for the CIS of Hachette Filipacchi Press, said the magazine's various editions reflect the interests of the local market. She said that the company planned to put out eight issues this year.

Elle Ukraine will focus on fashion, beauty, culture, travel, health, decor and cuisine," said Nana Morozova, *Elle's* chief editor.

The magazine will sell for Hr 10.

Several prominent Ukrainian entertainment figures attended the magazine's launch party.



Paola Messana, general director for the CIS of Hachette Filipacchi Press, left, and Nana Morozova, *Elle Ukraine's* chief editor, at a launch party held in Kyiv on March 21. (Photo by Viktor Suvorov)

IMF: Faster reform may spur loans

(Reuters) – The International Monetary Fund praised Ukraine's economic growth in the first two months of the year on March 23, but said only speedier structural reforms could allow it to consider resuming stalled lending in May.

The IMF's senior representative in Kyiv, Henri Ghesquiere, told a news conference macroeconomic results in January to February showed Ukraine was on track to meet its annual targets for economic growth and inflation in 2001.

But he said the IMF could consider

disbursement of a \$190 million tranche under a three-year loan in May only if the government accelerated structural reforms and showed good progress in the next four weeks.

The IMF and the government have failed to reach agreement on a tranche due to be disbursed in March. IMF loans and support are vital for Ukraine to sustain economic recovery and help repay or restructure its foreign debts.

Transparent privatization, better payment discipline in the energy sector and banking sector reform are the

key conditions to secure lending under the \$2.6 billion loan, Ghesquiere said.

He said the IMF still hoped the government would reduce the sunflower seed export duty to 10 percent from 23 percent. Last week parliament approved a cut in the duty to 17 percent in a first reading.

Ghesquiere said structural reforms were vital to improve the investment climate and attract foreign investors who were scared away by red tape, widespread corruption and opaque legislation.

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Who reads billboards? Socis Gallup International knows

For advertisers, targeting is everything. Selling cosmetics? Use a women's magazine. Toothpaste? A TV program geared toward families may work best.

Then there are billboards. It's virtually impossible to target billboard ads, because everybody sees them, whether they want to or not, right?

Wrong, according to Natalya Gasanenko, who heads the Media Research department at Socis Gallup International. Today, advertisers know that a successful outdoor advertising campaign depends on more than luck. Gasanenko says a scientific approach is possible.

Gasanenko and her colleagues analyze the vehicular traffic passing a billboard and other factors to devise an indicator called OTS, or Opportunity to See.

Not everyone who drives past an outdoor ad pays attention to it, though, leading researchers to devise another factor, dubbed VAI, or Visible Adjusted Index. VAI estimates the number of people who actually read a billboard ad.

Understandably, the number of people who actually read a given billboard ad is small com-

pared to the number of people who are exposed to the billboard.

"In the United States, the VAI is 15 percent," Gasanenko said. "In Ukraine, it is 12 percent."

These indicators help quantify how useful advertising on a specific billboard can be. In effect, the indicators are used in much the same way as publishers use circulation figures or broadcasters use audience share ratings.

Outdoor advertising companies do similar studies to determine where to place billboards, allowing advertisers to review both the data provided by the billboard owner and the independent evaluation Socis Gallup provides.

Why all the demographic fuss over a simple billboard? Perhaps because outdoor advertising has annual revenues of about \$47 million and occupies 15.4 percent of the overall ad market.

The heaviest users of outdoor advertising are tobacco companies, which are denied access to television. Mobile phone firms are the second biggest billboard users, Gasanenko said.

"UMC is a very big company with very big targets," said Boris Lazinsky, an account manager at PROVID/BBDO advertising, which handles the UMC account. "It is essential that we work locally. When national media advertise the service, it seems very far away to a person in, say,

Poltava. But when that same person sees a billboard in his home town and a local address is shown, the ad is more effective."

According to Lazinsky, UMC positions billboards in the center of every district, as well as in some smaller cities. He said the ads help people

obtain more detailed information than can be relayed in a short radio or television spot. Also, Lazinsky credits billboards with helping the businesses that sell UMC's products, since the signs are located where the shops are.

The D'Arcy Masius Benton and Bowles (DMB&B) advertising agency is preparing a full scale launch of two brands – Super Lotto and

Keno – for the Ukrainian National Lottery's online games. D'Arcy has already developed 20 different ads for the two brands, including two television ads. The campaign launches next month.



DMB&B has also initiated a campaign for client Efes-Ukraine, producer of Chernomor beer. To support retail sales, the agency has designed ads for radio, billboards and newspapers. The campaign targets the Odessa market.

The "Oleina is Your Pure Advantage" ad campaign ended with a big prize giveaway in which 800 Ukrainians won gifts ranging from pots and pans to new stoves. The prize drawing was part of a campaign organized by the Euro RSCG New Europe agency for the Dnipropetrovsk Oil-Extraction Plant, which produces Oleina sunseed oil.

Evgenia Mussuri can be reached at gen@kyivpost.com.

Ukraine's arts community gets a portal of its own

Ukraine's art enthusiasts now have a Web site of their own.

Virtep (virtep.hypermart.net), is a portal dedicated to the arts, artists and art lovers. It was launched March 19.

The site is financed and sponsored by Kyiv's branch of the International Renaissance Foundation and by the Ukrainian League of Theatrical Participants, according to a news release.

Virtep is probably Ukraine's first portal dedicated to the arts.

The most useful feature of the site is a calendar of upcoming local arts events.

Brief descriptions are included for most events. The site also provides information on the most popular venues, such as the Lesi Ukrainka Theater and the National Opera Theater. The site also contains the history and contact information for most of Ukraine's regional theaters, such as Lviv's well-respected Zankovetsky Drama Theater.

Links to famous theaters in other parts of the world are also available on the site.

A library of Ukrainian arts is also integrated into the Virtep site.

The site also contains an announcement board where local artists and thespian types can post news, present project ideas and even find work within the community.

The site is currently available in Ukrainian only. But the site states that an English version is coming soon.

Bank Aval and Bambook (bambook.com.ua), a popular Ukrainian online store specializing in book and audio sales, recently announced plans to offer online credit card purchases, a first for local Web retailers.

According to a Bank Aval news release, the services will be available to purchasers using credit cards issued by Bank Aval. Online signatures are used for security purposes as part of the system.

According to bank officials, the services will be available on the Bambook

site by mid-April and will also be made available to other online stores upon request.

Bambook claims to have served more than 6,000 customers and offers around 10,000 products.

Kyiv's President Hotel Kyivsky has launched a Web site at ukrhotel.com.

Prices, room descriptions and leisure options are all covered on the site. The site even allows surfers to make online reservations.

The site is well designed and available in English, Ukrainian and Russian.

Roman Olearchyk can be reached at romchik@kyivpost.com.

TOP 10 UKRAINIAN WEB SITES (30 days ending March 26)		
	HOSTS	HITS
1. Ukrainska Pravda pravda.com.ua	211,848	1,653,080
2. Korespondent.net korespondent.net	124,982	1,028,849
3. Atas atas.com.ua	122,808	702,386
4. IZONE izcity.com	112,497	397,304
5. Ajob ajob.com.ua	109,439	854,500
6. Ukr.Net ukr.net	106,879	255,146
7. Bigmir.net bigmir.net	102,640	1,132,743
8. Lenta Anekdotov humor.gbe.ru	96,660	277,800
9. Chat Bizarre bizarre.kiev.ua	96,124	326,692
10. ITC Online itc-ua.com	68,784	711,876

Data provided by Bigmir.net

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Gazprom sues over debt for pilfered gas

GAS, *continued from page 17B*
agreed on."

Gazprom's deputy head of gas deliveries, Anatoly Podmyshalsky, told Interfax that the court case only covered 1.1 bcm of the full amount.

A court spokesman declined to comment on the proceedings.

A copy of the court's charter posted on the National News Service Web site (www.nns.ru) says adherence to the court's decisions is

voluntary and the two sides must agree between themselves to launch the court case.

The agreement signed in December between Russia and Ukraine aimed to restructure the gas debts over eight to 10 years, although a final deal has yet to be signed.

Dubina, who oversees energy questions, went to Moscow for talks with the Russian government on March 26.

More millionaires, but Ukraine's masses poor

INCOME, *continued from page 17B*

"We see this as one of the elements of a growing taxpayer culture in Ukraine," Lukyanenko said.

A poll conducted in February showed that the vast majority of Ukrainians live on the other end of the earnings spectrum. Of 1,200 Ukrainians polled by Socis Gallup and the Democratic Initiatives Fund, 93 percent said that their personal monthly incomes were less than Hr 300 – slightly less than the Hr 311 monthly subsistence level established by the government.

Many respondents indicated that they were doing much worse than that. Seventy percent of those polled put their monthly incomes at lower than Hr 150.

More than a half of those questioned, or 56 percent, said they didn't work. Those respondents included pensioners, students,

93 PERCENT OF UKRAINIANS HAD INCOMES SLIGHTLY LESS THAN THE HR 311 MONTHLY SUBSISTENCE LEVEL ESTABLISHED BY THE GOVERNMENT

– Socis Gallup poll

unemployed persons and women on pregnancy leave. Of those who said they did work, 55 percent said they were state employees. The rest described themselves either as entrepreneurs or as employees of private companies.

Networking aids students

STUDENTS, *continued from page 17B*
three AIESEC alumni working in the sales department at KP-Druk, publisher of the *Kyiv Post*.

Members who have not had the luxury of working abroad say their experience working with AIESEC sponsors in areas like budget, financing and partnership building is valuable in itself.

"I got my first work experience as a chief accountant for AIESEC's national office in Kyiv," 26-year-old Yevhenia Oliynyk said. Oliynyk is now a client manager for Kyiv's Jasper Ad agency.

Today, new members have taken Oliynyk's place, managing AIESEC's offices in Kyiv, Berdyansk, Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv, Odessa, Ternopil and Cherkasy.

The success of AIESEC's Ukrainian alumni is proof to members that success is possible, even in Ukraine.

Members say that another key advantage of AIESEC membership is access to the organization's network of 50,000 worldwide members. Apart from online contact with distant members, an annual international conference offers a chance for members from various regions of the world to meet in person and establish closer contact.

There is also networking within Ukraine. Regional branches meet about once a week. In Kyiv, members meet on Sundays in one of Kyiv's central pubs for an informal gathering. Ukraine's national branch creates several opportunities to meet each year.

"Members are more than just business contacts. They quickly become friends," Oliynyk said.

Not all AIESEC alumni have settled



A weekly Sunday evening gathering of AIESEC members and alumni at Kyiv's Yantar bar located on Yaroslaviv Val. From left to right: Oleksandr Demenko, Vitaly Bilokin, Yevhenia Oliynyk, Maxim Onoprienko, Yevhen Rodin, Vitaly Kupchak, Olena Verbytska and Iryna Zeldes. (Post photo by Viktor Suvorov)

for stable jobs at big companies in Ukraine. A few have dared to start businesses of their own.

Late last year, Mykolayiv native Andrei Terentyev established First Tuesday Kyiv, a local chapter of First Tuesday, an international networking club for information technology professionals.

About a year earlier, he started two IT companies: UAGroup, an IT consulting company; and IT@Sourcing Inc., an offshore software development company.

Terentyev's entrepreneurial spirit is a common trait of AIESEC alumni.

"I want to start up my own businesses," Oliynyk said. "An associate and I are hoping to establish an Internet Cafe and an Internet advertising company in the near future."

Alumni Vitaly Bilokin and Yevhen Rodin, both in their 20s, have similar plans, having recently quit their jobs to launch a computer programming firm. They hope to snag contracts from both local and international clientele.

"A lot of IT professionals have left Ukraine in search of bigger salaries," Bilokin said. "If our venture works out, we hope to keep many of them here."

Smuggled meat posing health threat

DISEASE, *continued from page 17B*
the cargo was infected or not, as a veterinary inspection had not yet been performed.

Two weeks earlier, police detained a shipment of tainted beef in Zhytomyr oblast. Voznyuk said the driver of a truck loaded with 35 tons of beef had no paperwork for his cargo. Laboratory tests established that the beef was unfit for consumption.

All the trucks had been headed for Kyiv when stopped, Voznyuk said.

How the meat got past Ukrainian border guards is anyone's guess.

Voznyuk said it may have entered the country via Moldova. It may also have been declared as transit cargo, he said.

While the country's western border is well guarded, borders with Russia and other former Soviet states are more porous, peppered with secondary roads and paths that are not protected by border checkpoints.

The incidents have occurred despite what the government describes as unprecedented efforts to block the introduction of the livestock diseases plaguing Western Europe.

In February, the Cabinet adopted a program aimed at preventing the spread of infectious diseases. It includes controls on imported cattle and requires close monitoring of animals.

Then on March 12, Ukraine's veterinary inspection service widened an existing ban to include importation of meat and meat products from 13 European countries, Canada, Oman and the Falkland Islands. The ban includes live cattle, sheep, milk products, meat and bone flour and bovine sperm, as well as medicine and perfume that contain animal protein, according to Oleksandr Kucheryavenko, deputy head of the veterinary inspection service.

Kucheryavenko said that similar bans

imposed last year resulted in a drastic reduction in the amount of legally imported meat. State statistics show that only \$759,000 worth of meat and meat products was imported to Ukraine in January, compared with \$4.43 million worth of meat brought into the country during January 1999.

With legal imports waning, however, meat smuggling appears to be on the rise.

According to government data, meat valued at Hr 1.6 million has been seized since the beginning of this year. Last year, Hr 3.6 million in contraband meat products was confiscated.

A customs service official who asked that his name be withheld said that illicit meat could be entering Ukraine through the country's borders with Moldova, Belarus and Russia. He said there are as many as 1,000 unguarded roads on Ukraine's border with Russia alone.

"There is a high likelihood of anything infiltrating Ukraine through these countries," he said.

State Customs Service spokesman Pavel Takovoy admitted his agency is struggling to control Ukraine's borders with other former Soviet republics, saying that the customs service has neither the equipment nor staff to monitor the vast frontiers with these countries. But he said that the Service has recently stepped up its efforts to uncover smuggling schemes and to halt the flow of contraband from former Soviet states.

Kucheryavenko said meat brought into the country illegally can't be sold in a mainstream market.

"You can bring it into the country, but there is no way you can sell it at a market," he said.

Meat sold in markets is subjected to triple controls before landing on the butcher's counter, Kucheryavenko said. Animals are checked before being



Meat sold on the street may be unfit to eat, authorities say. (Viktor Suvorov)

slaughtered. After slaughter the meat is certified by a regional veterinary doctor. Without a certificate, meat would not be accepted for a third examination, which takes place at the market itself, he said.

According to Kucheryavenko, the only way for infected meat to end up on a consumer's table would be through an uncontrolled street vendor.

Iryna Lesyk, meat manager for Billa, said the specter of bad meat doesn't haunt her company's three supermarkets in Kyiv. Lesyk said Billa sells only inspected, domestically produced meat. She said Billa employs a vet to control documentation and meat quality.

Kucheryavenko said that foot-and-mouth disease in Ukraine was last registered in 1988, and that mad cow disease, is a purely foreign phenomenon. He said that, in principle, mad cow disease can't occur here as domestically grown cows are purely vegetarian. Use of bone flour feed additives, which cause BSE, was banned in Ukraine in 1998.

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PRIVATIZATION

ZAP sale continues to hit snags

(Wire reports) The sale of the Zaporizhya Aluminum Plant (ZAP) to a unit of Russian carmaker AvtoVAZ, thought to be a done deal after months of controversy, is apparently not a done deal yet.

AvtoVAZ-Invest, AvtoVAZ' foreign trade arm, said March 22 that a local court in Zaporizhya had prevented it from registering its purchase of a 68 percent stake in ZAP and taking up seats on the factory's board.

The decision came a day after the State Securities and Exchange Commission determined that stock registrar Service-Register had not violated securities laws by refusing to register AvtoVAZ-Invest as the new owner of shares. Service-Register is the registrar for ZAP shares.

The setbacks for AvtoVAZ came about a month after the SPF, after months of wrangling with Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko, finally got the go-ahead from the courts to register the ZAP sale to AvtoVAZ.

Yushchenko had argued that the stake should have been sold to a higher bidder, Kremenchuk-based truck maker KrAZ. But KrAZ's \$101.5 million bid was thrown out by the courts, which decided that KrAZ had entered the tender illegally.

But KrAZ's drive to wrest control of ZAP through the courts is apparently not dead yet. Service-Register claimed that it had been barred from recognizing AvtoVAZ-Invest's purchase pursuant to an order entered by a court based in none other than KrAZ's hometown of Kremenchuk.

The State Securities and Exchange Commission agreed with Service-

Register that until a final decision is made in court, or the Kremenchuk court's order is withdrawn, AvtoVAZ-Invest cannot properly be registered.

AvtoVAZ-Invest said that it intended to appeal the Kremenchuk court's ruling.

AvtoVAZ-Invest concluded a purchase agreement with the SPF on Feb. 8 and paid for the share package within a week. Formally, however, it is still not the controlling owner of ZAP.

Meanwhile, AvtoVAZ-Invest has settled its conflict with ZAP's plant leadership.

AvtoVAZ Invest Vice President Sergei Petrov said AvtoVAZ-Invest and Ivan Bastryga, ZAP's director general, have agreed that Bastryga will remain director of the plant until the next meeting of shareholders. Representatives of AvtoVAZ Invest will have access to the management of the plant.

AvtoVAZ-Invest's Petrov said he has become ZAP's financial director.

AvtoVAZ Invest representatives had said during the conflict that they intended to dismiss Bastryga.

The government will verify the legality of the sale of 25 percent plus one share in the Ordzhonikidze ore mining and enrichment plant to the Ukrayinski Polymetal company, Deputy Prime Minister Oleh Dubyna told journalists on March 23.

Dubyna said that Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko ordered the planned verification.

Controversy over the sale arose after the state-owned Ukrainsky Polymetal sold the 25 percent stake plus one share in the Ordzhonikidze ore mining and enrichment plant to an undisclosed buyer for Hr 22.1 million on March 11.

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENTS

The State Property Fund said it will begin selling the state's 21.66 percent interest in the Meridian shipyard on the stock exchange next month. The share package has a starting price of Hr 2.1 million.

The SPF announced a tender to sell 25 percent of the Meridian dockyards last summer at Hr 8 million. Only the Metallurgia Consortium bid on the package.

The Meridian shipyard is an open joint stock company related to the Chornomorsky Ship Building Plant, which owns 51 percent of the enterprise.

The SPF announced that a tender of 95 percent of the Etal scientific production association will take place between April 1 and Dec. 31.

The SPF plans to put the other 5 percent on stock exchanges between April 1 and August 1.

The statutory fund of the Etal scientific-production association is Hr 23.9 million. The nominal value of one share is Hr 0.25.

The company, which produces low-voltage contact equipment, microprocessor equipment and assembly electric drives, is located in Alexandria, Kirovohrad region.

SPF, Kenney battle over Poltava Oil

(Wire and staff reports) State Property Fund officials and Poltava Petroleum Plant director Timothy Kaunov continued to exchange harsh words in the continuation of a three-year scandal that erupted March 14 with the SPF revoking a British firm's 49 percent stake in the company.

On March 26, Andry Barabash, SPF's legal chief, announced that Poltava-based Naftogaztekhologia had been officially registered as the holder of a 49 percent stake in the company instead of Britain's JP Kenny Exploration & Production Ltd., a Ukrainian subsidiary of British oil-and-gas giant firm JKC Oil & Gas PLC.

According to Barabash, the fund was legally able to make the swap after the High Arbitration Court last week cancelled its own March 15 decision to suspend the registration of a new statute and a new founder of the Poltava Petroleum Company.

"We have transferred all the authority and created new bank accounts, a new stamp and a new statute. The new

office has been fully registered with all government agencies," SPF's legal chief Barabash said.

Despite Barabash's statements, the SPF-appointed management headed by Oleksandr Somov has been unable to actually take control of the plant, which is presently under control of the company's previous management, headed by JPKenny-loyal director Kaunov, who has refused to accept the SPF's decisions.

Legally, it is not yet clear who really controls the company. The court will consider a lawsuit filed by the British side accusing the SPF of illegally excluding it from the list of the founders of the plant April 5.

Both sides are not waiting for the court decision but running aggressive public relations campaigns of their own.

Kaunov, an employee loyal to JPKenny, held a press conference March 26 alleging that Naftogaztekhologia was owned by a shady offshore company registered in Cypress, which, in turn, was owned by

other offshore companies registered in other parts of the world.

SPF deputy chief Serhy Hlushko countered, alleging that a 35 percent stake in JP Kenney was owned by the Swiss-Israeli offshore banking mogul Bruce Rappaport, a controversial figure tied to the Bank of New York Russian money-laundering scandal.

This scandal at the plant erupted March 14 when the SPF decided to exclude the British investors from the list of company founders, accusing them of violating Ukrainian legislation and investment obligations.

The conflict, however, has its roots back several years when state-owned Poltavagazprom, one of the original shareholders in the plant, was liquidated. Both the SPF and JKC have been fighting over Poltavagazprom's 26 percent share ever since.

Poltava Petroleum Company was originally founded in 1994. It extracts only a small fraction of Ukrainian gas and oil, but is currently the largest petroleum and gas extracting JV in Ukraine.

Dutch investor to divest UMC shares

By VITALY SYCH
Post Staff Writer

Dutch KPN Telecom has announced that it will sell its stake in Ukraine's largest mobile phone operator, Ukrainian Mobile Communications (UMC), but another of the mobile phone firm's foreign shareholders is likely to snap up KPN's shares.

UMC was on a list of holdings KPN made public March 26. It plans to sell the holdings to help cut its massive debt.

Bram Oudshoorn, a spokesman for the Dutch firm, confirmed on March

27 the company's holding in UMC landed on the list. KPN owns a 16.3 percent stake in the communications company.

Oudshoorn said negotiations on the sale are underway but wouldn't elaborate. Sources close to negotiations told the Post another shareholder in UMC, Deutsche Telekom AG, is interested in KPN's stake. KPN's Oudshoorn would neither confirm nor deny that information.

KPN, Deutsche Telekom and TeleDenmark each hold a 16.3 percent stake in the UMC joint venture, with the remainder held by Ukraine's state

phone monopoly Ukrtelecom. If Deutsche Telekom goes ahead and acquires KPN's stake in UMC, it would bring the German company's holding in the joint venture up to 32.6 percent.

KPN said it was planning to divest its shares in at least 15 other companies to reduce a debt totaling 21.9 billion euros. KPN, which has the lowest credit rating of Europe's former telecom monopolies, said it expected to raise 5 billion euros from the sales, with at least a fifth of that amount arriving in the next six months.

INDEX COMPARISON						
Index	Country	Last Value	1w Chg.	YTD Chg.	YTD High	YTD Low
KP-Dragon	Ukraine	652	-0.7%	2.0%	689	639
RTS-Interfax	Russia	175	-2.0%	22.3%	187	131
Dow Jones	USA (traditional)	9,688	-0.3%	-10.2%	10,984	9,389
NASDAQ	USA (tech stocks)	1,918	3.3%	-22.3%	2,859	1,830

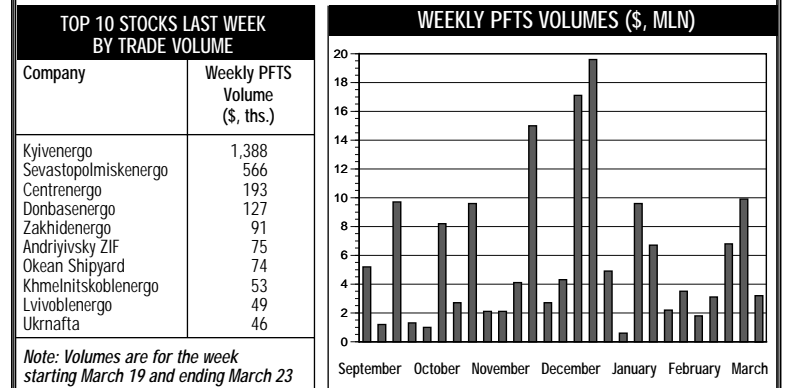
Note: Ukraine and Russia values are as of March 27, the U.S. indices are as of March 26



Note: The index is denominated in U.S. dollars; the base was set at 1,000 on May 5, 1997.

LEADING UKRAINIAN STOCKS						
Company	Bid Price (\$)	1w Chg.	Ask Price (\$)	1w Chg.	Mcap (\$, mln)	YTD Chg.
Centrenerg	0.120	-1.5%	0.127	-1.4%	46.0	-9%
Dniπροenerg	17.533	0.0%	18.271	-1.0%	69.5	1%
Dniπροenerg	4.614	0.0%	10.520	0.0%	49.8	-1%
Donbasenerg	2.399	0.0%	2.639	-4.7%	59.8	-10%
Donetskoblenerg	0.138	0.0%	0.609	0.0%	26.6	0%
Kharkivoblenerg	0.203	15.8%	0.314	13.3%	63.9	13%
Khartsyzsk Pipe Rolling	0.138	0.0%	0.268	0.0%	6.7	0%
Kyivenerg	0.993	-0.4%	1.043	-1.7%	109.0	14%
Kyivoblenerg	0.018	0.0%	0.060	0.0%	28.8	-8%
NPR	0.406	0.0%	0.646	0.0%	9.9	-23%
Stirol	2.030	0.0%	2.399	0.0%	59.1	-3%
Sumy Frunze	0.074	0.0%	0.221	0.0%	7.9	-15%
Ukrnafta	4.429	0.8%	4.688	0.4%	243.2	6%
Zakhidenerg	5.167	-1.8%	5.537	-1.6%	67.3	4%
Zaporizhyaoblenerg	0.397	0.0%	0.646	0.0%	74.5	-21%

Note: Data in this table are valid as of March 27



Note: Volumes are for the week starting March 19 and ending March 23

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NTV ROW INTENSIFIES

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia's embattled private NTV television on March 26 said an April 3 shareholders' meeting called by Gazprom, which is vying for control of the station, was illegal.

In January, Gazprom claimed it had a controlling stake in NTV because it owns 46 percent of the station, and a 19 percent stake owned by Media-Most was frozen in a Moscow court dispute over debts. Gazprom demanded a shareholders' meeting be called so it could install more of its representatives on NTV's board of directors.

NTV responded by calling a shareholders' meeting in Gibraltar, where the laws are more advantageous to Media-Most and where the disputed 19 percent stake is registered. But a Moscow court banned the meeting on the island.

Gazprom-Media, the media arm of the natural gas giant, then notified shareholders that the meeting would be held April 3 meeting in Moscow, Gazprom-Media spokeswoman Aelita Yefimova said.

KPN PUTS GSM STAKE ON SALE

(Reuters) KPN Telecom of the Netherlands on March 26 put its stake in Pannon GSM up for sale and analysts said this would trigger a scramble for Hungary's number-two mobile operator, which they value at up to \$1 billion.

Putting its 44.7 percent stake in Pannon on the market, KPN has opened the way for other Western European telecoms groups, like France's Vivendi, to enter the hot Hungarian mobile market which has experienced rapid growth in mobile subscribers in recent years.

In addition to Vivendi, Norway's Telenor and Finland's Sonera are likely buyers of KPN's stake, valued at \$820 million to \$1 billion, analysts said.

Billions of dollars fleeing Russia

MOSCOW (AP) — The customs lines move glacially for travelers leaving from Moscow's international airports as agents squint at currency declarations, count the bills in passengers' wallets and occasionally paw through luggage if they think something's suspicious.

The measures are aimed at preventing money from being spirited out of the country, but aside from an occasional nab, what they accomplish is mostly delays and annoyance.

Tens of billions of dollars in money that Russia badly needs escape the country every year, and the pace of so-called "capital flight" appears to be increasing even as Russian officials claim the economy is recovering from the financial crisis of 1998.

Much of the lost money clearly goes into luxury consumption such as buying overseas villas, said Russia analyst Nik Malyshev. "On the French Riviera, everybody talks about how much Russian is spoken there," he said.

Last year, capital flight rose 30 percent over the year before, to \$24.6 billion, according to analyst Mikhail Delyagin of the Institute for the Problems of Globalization, an independent think-tank. The Troika Dialog investment bank gave a more conservative estimate of \$20 billion in a report calling capital flight "a disease under control," but now sees the outflow increasing.

Capital flight caught wide international attention in 1999 when U.S. authorities said some \$7 billion of Russian money had been laundered through the Bank of New York, but the problem has worried economists since the collapse of the Soviet Union a decade ago.

In hearings on the problem March 26, the lower house of parliament heard calls for creation of a national agency to monitor and control capital flight. But economists say efforts to control capital movement don't address the root of the trouble — why the money leaves in the first place.

In pure economic terms, it's irrelevant whether the money leaves the country legally — sent by individuals and companies who want to put their earnings in currency more stable than the ruble — or illegally via phony paperwork or in a wad of green-

backs strapped to a traveler's leg. In either case, it's money that's being put to uses other than investing in restoring Russia's troubled industries.

The estimates of last year's capital flight are about double the \$9.6 billion that Arkady Volsky of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs said came into the country as foreign investment in 2000.

"These are resources that are not being used for machine-building and redeveloping the industrial sector," said Oleg Vyugin, a former deputy finance minister who now is chief economist at Troika Dialog.

In addition, the revenue-strapped Russian government doesn't collect taxes on capital that leaves the country clandestinely, stifling efforts to restore social services, pay pensions and pay off staggering foreign debts.

Even as officials tout an economic revival, Russia this year hasn't kept up with payments on its debt to the creditor nations known collectively as the Paris Club. The government says it can find extra revenue to make the payments, but that assumption appears based on continued high world prices for its oil exports.

Because of that, capital flight could force Russia into a crisis by 2003, Delyagin predicted. Russia faces an especially high foreign debt payment of more than \$17 billion that year, and by that time oil prices may be substantially lower, Delyagin said.

With its potential to cripple the economy, capital flight may look like a disease, but economists see it as simply the symptom of a larger disease. The money that leaves Russia legally does so because of legitimate concerns, Delyagin said.

"It is not the cause of our misfortune, but a result of our insufficiencies, a consequence of these causes. Capital runs from the country because ... private property is not protected," he said.

Delyagin especially criticized the power of Russia's natural resources monopolies and behemoth companies in forcing their will on smaller enterprises and said laws must be changed to effectively "decriminalize" bankruptcy.

Russian media have reported that the Ministry of Finance is drafting proposals on stemming capital



A Russian flag is set up at "La Promenade des Anglais" in Nice, France, in this 1998 file photo. (AP)

flight, but when those might come to a vote in parliament is unknown. The only measure taken so far under Vladimir Putin's presidency that could directly affect capital flight is the simplification of the tax system.

The package contains some positive, innovative moves, said analyst Malyshev of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. But the changes went into effect only at the beginning of the year, and Russia often has failed to follow through on good ideas, he noted.

"The problem with Russia has always been implementation," he said.

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Kamyanets-Podilsky fighting to save treas

Kamyanets-Podilsky, is a great cultural phenomenon that everyone must see.

By KATYA CENGEL
Post Staff Writer

KAMYANETS-PODILSKY – Most people consider pots of gold and disappearing treasures elements of fiction and fantasy.

But for residents of Kamyanets-Podilsky, such intrigue is part of the local lore that sets their town apart from other Ukrainian cities and may one day bring riches from the pockets of tourists.

Just talk to any old-timer and mysteries abound. Take, for instance, the story about the lost gold. In the late 1970s a trunk filled with gold was unearthed during renovations at the town's Armenian monastery. Six months later the police confiscated it.

That was the last anyone heard of it. "Nobody knows where the treasure is," said a witness to the unearthing, too scared to give her name.

The gold found in the Armenian monastery can be traced to the 1920s when many Ukrainian priests chose to bury their churches' treasures rather than have them confiscated by the government. Oleksandr Karbovsky, a scientist at the national historical architecture preserve Kamyanets, says there are many more hidden treasures.

Lucky tourists may even encounter an old woman who will take them to the place God told her a treasure was buried.

Welcome to Kamyanets-Podilsky, a town of 108,000 nestled in southwest Ukraine. It is a city lost in time, where kids kick soccer balls against the stone ruins of an Armenian church, and all the cobblestone streets lead to the fortress. At night the only sound to be heard is a chorus of crows and the clatter of an old woman's cane tapping on the winding cobblestone walkways.

Not all that is hidden here is golden.

When architect Anatoly Ignasenko was renovating the Dominican and Orthodox monastery 30 years ago, he found hundreds of standing skeletons. Further research revealed that the monastery had been used as a slaughterhouse for victims of Stalin's repression in the 1920s. The killings are acknowledged by a monument to heroes near the old city's central square. Nowhere on the monument's inscription is it said how the heroes were killed or by whom.

UNESCO TO THE RESCUE

Founded by the Kievan Rus empire in the 11th century, Kamyanets-Podilsky is on the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) tentative list of world her-



One cannot imagine Kamyanets-Podilsky without the famous Old Castle, a unique fortified structure of the 11-18th centuries. The castle was laid out on a rocky cape near the narrow isthmus, which crossed the main road to the old city. (Photo taken from the book, "Kamyanets' National Historical Architectural Preserves.")

itage cities and is expected to make the official list in the next few years.

But many fear that if the international community and thus outside donors don't act fast, the city's vast historical, architectural and cultural treasures will go the same way the treasure did.

"If they [UNESCO] take so long with documents, everything will be destroyed by the time they get here," said Vasyl Fensur, director of the national historical architectural preserve, Kamyanets.

UNESCO representatives and possible investors. Much more is needed to restore its crumbling monuments.

During Soviet times money to maintain monuments was not hard to come by. Government assistance, company exchanges and prosperous factories meant money was always circulating in the city. Soviet students were encouraged to make a trek to the historical town and brought in cash. Back then, the town drew about 450,000 tourists a year.

"IT IS A CITY LOST IN TIME, WHERE KIDS KICK SOCCER BALLS AGAINST THE STONE RUINS OF AN ARMENIAN CHURCH, AND ALL THE COBBLESTONE STREETS LEAD TO THE FORTRESS."

Fensur worries that a lack of money to maintain the city's more than 200 historical monuments will result in their disrepair and ruin. The city has been a national historical and architectural preserve since 1977, but in recent years the government has had little money to devote to its maintenance. Fensur said that the government put up only Hr 36,000 to prepare the city for the visit of

Now the number is closer to 25,000. Students still account for a large number of visitors, but unlike their Soviet predecessors, they come empty handed.

"School groups come and usually they don't even have enough money for a tour of the city, but we let them go anyway and we let them eat in our cafeteria," said Ludmyla Borkovska, director of Kamyanets-Podilsky poultry enterprise.

A lack of modern hotels means tourists seldom spend the night. Borkovska plans to change this. Like many of the city's residents, she hopes that when the city is officially acknowledged by UNESCO, there will be an influx of cash and tourists and she is preparing for it. Borkovska wants to convert an ancient tower into an eight-story hotel complete with restaurant, bar and entertainment center.

Yury Nikityuk, first secretary of UNESCO's Ukrainian National Commission, agrees that making the UNESCO list would bring tourists and investment to Kamyanets-Podilsky.

The city has much to offer, especially for those looking for a good mystery

and a little historical intrigue. But a lot still needs to be done before tourists can enjoy the city's peace. Borkovska's hotel is still only a tower with no plumbing, no floor and no rooms.

Popular Ukrainian architect Ignasenko, whose monuments can be found throughout the world, has big plans for the tower and the city's reconstruction. Ignasenko wants private individuals to take an interest in the city and thereby help with the preservation and renovation of its ancient monuments. Along with Fensur, Ignasenko has drawn up a plan of what needs to be done. But true to Ignasenko's character, the plan is grand and will require quite a bit of outside investment.

The pair hopes that representatives of the nations that have called Kamyanets-Podilsky home over the years will take an interest in the project.

The city's ancient inhabitants include Jews, Poles, Turks and Armenians. Separated by their own cultural regions, residents left distinctive architectural and cultural marks. Even today the city is home to large communities of Armenians and Poles, and it retains Ukrainian-Russian, Polish and Armenian markings.

"In all of Europe you won't find a place with a Turkish minaret, an Armenian monastery and a Polish church all in one place," said local resident Artur Hasparyan.

Such multicultural gems can occasionally even be represented in one building. Take for example the 15th-century Polish cathedral that is topped by a 17th-century Turkish minaret. While the Jewish community was wiped out and the Turkish segment was never very strong, the Armenian community numbers around 75 families. Hard economic times in the early 1990s caused the exodus of many older residents, who chose to return to their homeland. But renewed interest from the mayor and the Armenian ambassador to Ukraine have helped spark what Armenian community representative Hasparyan calls a renaissance. This

includes the opening of an Armenian-owned restaurant, Armenian Sunday school classes and renovation of monuments.

Hasparyan is excited by the renaissance: "If you don't lose your culture, you will never be lost," he said.

Kamyanets-Podilsky residents hope the world steps in soon so their cultures will not be lost.



Kamyanets-Podilsky is located in the southern tip of Khmelnytskyi oblast.

GETTING THERE:

Buses leave Kyiv daily at 6 p.m. and arrive at Kamyanets-Podilsky at 4 a.m. Call 265-0430 in Kyiv for details.
Trains leave at 8 p.m. daily and arrive at 7 a.m.; tickets cost Hr 29 for a second-class ticket.

WHERE TO STAY:

Hotel Ukraina, where bed prices range from Hr 20 to Hr 80.
Call (03849) 391-48.

WHAT TO DO:

Three agencies offer tours of the old city in English, Polish, German, Russian and Ukrainian; starting price Hr 15. The companies are: Avitenatranzit, tel. (03849) 323-00; Diplomattur, tel. (03849) 271-18; and Niaz Kamyanets, tel. (03849) 239-45.



The Church of St. George is located in the city's Polish section. (Photo taken from the book, "Kamyanets' National Historical Architectural Preserves.")

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

FRIDAY 30

GIUITAR FESTIVAL/Valery Petrenko Open Guitar Festival Competition. In conjunction with the Valery Petrenko Open Guitar Festival Competition, a seminar on classical guitar methodology and the challenges of teaching will take place at Music School #14 (69 Lepse) at 11 a.m. Starting at 6 p.m., a classical guitar concert featuring the young participants of the competition will be held at the Culture Center at the University of Civil Engineering (31 Povitroflotsky). Admission is free. *Valery Petrenko Open Guitar Festival Competition. Culture Center of Civil Engineering University. Seminar begins at 11 a.m. Concert begins at 6 p.m. Admission is free. For further information about the festival, see page 27B.*

CINEMA FESTIVAL/"Prologue." Organized by the University of National Theater, the Prologue Student Cinema Festival will be showing films written, directed and produced by university students. *Prologue. Dom Kino. 4 p.m. Admission is free.*

TRADE FAIR/food Industry Exhibition. The 4th International Exhibition of Foods, Beverages, Soya Products and Food Industry Equipment will be taking place at Sports Palace. *10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tickets Hr 5.*

CLUBS/"Crazy Party." Disco with erotic slides being shown on a big screen. *Promzona. 11 p.m.*

CLUBS/"Jungle Show." Disco. *Joss. 11 p.m.*

CLUBS/"Guys from Heaven." Male strip show. *Dino. 9 p.m.*

SATURDAY 31

DANCE FESTIVAL/Serge Lifar International Dance Festival. Named after the late



Hey Ladies! The guys are taking their show to a new venue. Ukraine's only all-male, striptease ballet troupe "Guys from Heaven" will be taking it all off at Dino on March 30.



One of Europe's most successful hard rock bands, Scorpions, will be performing at Ukraina Palace on April 5.

Russian dancer, choreographer, director, teacher, and dance historian, Serge Lifar, the 5th Annual Serge Lifar International Dance Festival will feature ballet competitions and concerts through April 1. Ballet stars Anastasiya Volochkova (Russia), Ivan Putrov (Great Britain), and Viktor Ishchuk (Ukraine) will be highlighting this year's festival with various performances. *The 5th Annual Serge Lifar International Dance Festival. National Opera. 7 p.m. Tickets Hr 5 to Hr 70.*

GIUITAR FESTIVAL/Valery Petrenko Open Guitar Festival Competition. Famous Ukrainian flamenco guitarist Valery Petrenko will perform a solo concert at the Teachers' House. *Valery Petrenko. Teachers' House. 4 p.m. Admission is free. For further information about the festival, see page 29B.*

CINEMA FESTIVAL/"Prologue." Organized by the University of National Theater, the Prologue Student Cinema Festival will be showing films written, directed and produced by Ukrainian university students. *Dom Kino. 4 p.m. Admission is free.*

CONCERT/Ukrainian song and dance. Folk

and classical music bands and dance troupes of Halychyna. *Ukraina Palace. 6 p.m.*

CLUBS/"Heavenly Day." Program featuring more than 200 erotic slides and dance troupe Promzona. *Promzona. 11 p.m.*

TRADE SHOW/food Industry Exhibition. The 4th International Exhibition of Foods, Beverages and Food Industry Equipment will take place at Sports Palace. *10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tickets Hr 5.*

CONCERT/"Razlivaika." Performance by Russian pop singer Yury Loza. *Zair. 11 p.m.*

SUNDAY APRIL 1

BALLET FESTIVAL/Serge Lifar International Dance Festival. The festival will feature ballet stars performing from around the world. *National Opera. 7 p.m. Tickets Hr 5 to Hr 70. Please see March 31 listing for further details.*

CINEMA FESTIVAL/"Prologue." Organized by the University of National Theater, the Prologue Student Cinema Festival will be showing films written, directed and produced by Ukrainian university students through April 2. *Prologue. Dom Kino. 4 p.m. Admission is free.*

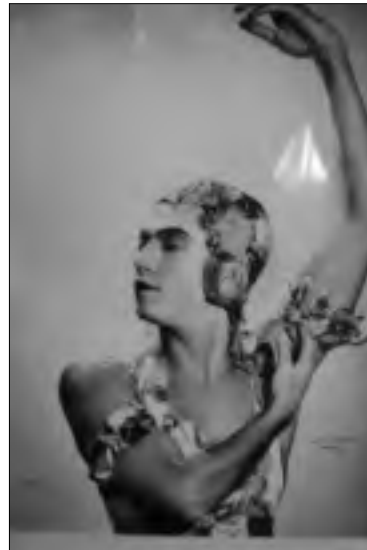
COMEDY THEATER/"Vyshnevi Usmishky." Comedy and satire based on stories of the late famous Ukrainian writer Ostop Vyshnya. The program will feature the Yavir Vocal Quartet, Pulse dance troupe, Nadzbruchanka Ensemble, and the Berehynya Theater of Ukrainian folklore. *Vyshnevi Usmishky. Tickets from Hr 5 to Hr 50. Ukraina Palace. 7 p.m.*

THEATER/"Lubovnik." (The Lover). Staged by Lviv-born theater director Roman Viktyuk (Russia), The Lover is an adaptation of the Harold Pinter novel of the same name. *Officers' House (30/1 Hrushevskoho). 7 p.m.*

LIVE MUSIC/The Drum. American singer and songwriter Evan Tracz will be performing with New York native Marc Gartman at the Drum. The two will be performing a mixed bag of folk standards, rock and jazz classics, bluegrass, flamenco as well as some homegrown material. Check out them both at the Drum over a few pints. *Evan Tracz. The Drum. 5:30 p.m.*

MONDAY 2

CLASSICAL MUSIC/Kyiv Symphony Orchestra. Conducted by Roger McMurrin, the Kyiv Symphony Orchestra will be performing Overture "1812" by Tchaikovsky and Symphony #9 by Beethoven. *House of Organ and Chamber Music. 7 p.m. Tickets Hr 15 to Hr 50.*



The 5th Annual Serge Lifar International Dance Festival, will take at the National Opera on March 31 and April 1.

FASHION SHOW/IWCK Meeting and Fashion Show. In addition to holding a membership meeting, IWCK will be putting on a spring fashion show, featuring designs by Rito, Larissa Vasilenko, Dolce Dona and Salon Lorens. IWCK members are encouraged to bring guests. For more information and for IWCK members to register your guests, please call the IWCK Office at 227-5463. *IWCK General Membership Meeting and Fashion Show. Architect House. 7 p.m.*

TUESDAY 3

CLUBS/"Whisky Kiss." Ballet choreographer Aleksey Frolov will present the musical "A Whisky Kiss." The ballet will feature dance troupes Promzona and Sabotage. *Promzona. 11 p.m. Tickets from Hr 5 to Hr 10.*

TRADE EXHIBITION/The 9th International Exhibition of Woodworking Industry. The world's finest woodworking equipment will be on display until April 4. *Ukraine Expo Center (1 Hlushkova). 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.*

WEDNESDAY 4

CLUBS/"Russian Mustard." Disco featuring Russian videos from music channel O-TV. *Promzona. 11 p.m.*

TRADE EXHIBITION/The 9th International Exhibition of Woodworking Industry. The world's finest woodworking equipment will be on display until April 4. *Ukraine Expo Center (1 Hlushkova). 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.*

THURSDAY 5

CONCERT/Scorpions. One of Europe's most successful hard rock acts, the Scorpions, will

be receiving a rapturous reception when the band performs at Ukraina Palace. The Scorpions, the first international hard rock band to play in the former Soviet Union, will be performing songs from the band's CD "Moment of Glory," as well as its most famous hits like "Hurricane," "Wind of Change," and the international love ballad, "Still Loving You." *Scorpions. Ukraina Palace. 7 p.m. Tickets from Hr 400 to Hr 1,200.*

CLUBS/"Jungle Show." Disco. *Joss. 11 p.m.*

CLUBS/"Radio Naftalin." Retro party. *Promzona. 11 p.m.*

CLUBS/"Amazon's Island." Male strip show. *Al Capone. 10 p.m. Men are allowed after 11 p.m.*

JAZZ AND BLUES CALENDAR

Buddy Guy

Fri 30 Serhy Shulika. 7 p.m. Sound Reason. 9 p.m.

Sat 31 Serhy Shulika. 7 p.m. Sound Reason. 9 p.m.

Sun 1 Sound Breeze. 7 p.m.

Cowboy Club

Fri 30 Alex Dixieland. 10:30 p.m.

Sat 31 Mary W Hunter. 10:30 p.m.

Sun 1 Jankoi Brothers. 10:30 p.m.

Mon 2 Second Breath. 10:30 p.m.

Tue 3 Mary W Hunter. 10:30 p.m.

Wed 4 Southern Hot Guys. 10 p.m.

Thu 5 Foxtrot. 10:30 p.m.

River Palace (Bar)

Fri 30 Jankoi Brothers. Midnight- 4 a.m.

Sat 31 Rock and roll. CD Band. Midnight- 4 a.m.

Sun 1 Foxtrot. 10 p.m.- 4 a.m.

Mon 2 Rendezvous. 10 p.m.- 4 a.m.

Tue 3 Alex Dixieland. Midnight- 4 a.m.

Wed 4 Double Density. 10 p.m.- 4 a.m.

Thu 5 Rendezvous. 10 p.m.- 4 a.m.

Dixieland

Fri 30 New Orleans Connection All Stars. 8 p.m.- 10 p.m.

Sat 31 Alexey Tuzov, Lana Merkulova & "2+ ". 8 p.m.- 10 p.m.

Sun 1 Rainbow Jazz Quartet. 8 p.m.- 10 p.m.

Mon 2 Olga Voice. 8 p.m.- 10 p.m.

Tue 3 Night Groove and Yulia Roma. 8 p.m.- 10 p.m.

Wed 4 Inesa Armand & Bolshevik Trio. 8 p.m.- 10 p.m.

Thu 5 Alex Dixieland. 8 p.m.- 10 p.m.

CLUBS
(R=Restaurant on premises)

Al Capone. 26 Kostyantynivska. 417-6658.
Bany. 5 Kovalskyi, Dorm 14.
Brasilia. 5 Druzhby Narodov. 252-8224.
Big Boy Club. 26/2 Harmatna. 441-4432.
Bingo. 112 Peremohy. 444-2555.
Bravo. 44 Khreshchatyk. 229-4137.
Budapest (R). 3 Leontovycha. 234-0347.
Cabaret. 12 Hospitaina. 294-3006.
Caribbean Club (R). 4 Kominterna. 244-4290.
Chicago. 3 Okipnoyi. 517-4148.
Cinema Club. 1 Entuziastiv. 555-0641.
Club Resttown. 3 Zheleznyaka. 444-8150, 444-7370.
Cesky Lev. 3 Lysenka. 234-4637.
Desperados (R). 20 Artema. Tel: 216-3198.
Dynamo Lux. 3 Hrushevskoho. 229-2884.
Evrika (R). 30A Lesi Ukrayinky. 295-9081.
Fiesta. 115 Gorkoho. 269-4029.
Harley Club (R). 12 Hospitaina. 247-8651.
Hollywood. 134 Frunze. 435-4068.
Joss (R). 2 Okipnoyi. 516-8674.
Kino Club. Kino Kyivska Rus, 93 Artema. 219-4903.
Mirage (R). 37/41 Artema. 246-9529.
Nayada (R). 105 Saksahanskoho. 227-5387.
Night Fly. Sholudenko Vyshgorod. 296-56-343.
Night Mask (R). 19 Shota Rustaveli. 246-7829.
New York. 2 Perova. 558-2545.
Orki. 29/2 Bohdana Khmelnytskoho. 228-1187.
Park Center. 12 Rusanivska Naberezhna. 555-9847.
Promzona (R). 18 Metallistov. 446-1248.
Red and Black. 24 Peremohy. 274-0953.
River Palace (R). Dnipro metro. 416-8204.
Saigon (R). Inside Olympic Stadium. 244-2237.
Split (R). 6 Prorizna. 228-5877.

Strike Bowling Club (R). 84 Peremohy. 442-6464.
Ultra. 36A Shchorsa. 269-2775.
Vernisazh (R). 17 Sichnevoho Povstannya. 290-5289.
Veronica. 31 Nikolsko-Botnichna. 244-2900.
Zair. 15 Hryboyedova. Irpin. (297) 62-248

BARS/PUBS

Amigo Disco Bar. 14 Chervonoarmiyska. 235-9469.
Baskerville. 33 Peremohy. 243-4802.
Buddy Guy Blues Club. Passazh. 228-5577.
Blindazh. 15A Mala Zhytomirskaya. 228-1511.
Cowboy Club. Passazh. 228-1717.
Desperados. 20 Artema. 216-3198.
Eric's Bierstube. 20 Chervonoarmiyska. 235-9472.
Jazz Club. 3 Druzhby Narodiv. 252-8881.
Jerome's Tavern. 76 Chervonoarmiyska. 248-7366.
John Bull Pub. 36 Saksahanskoho. 220-1369.
Korona. 4 Rohnedynska. 220-0216.
Kupidon. 1/3 Pushkinska. No tel.
Manhattan. 12 Hospitaina. 220-1978.
Massandra. 19/21 Borysohlibska. 416-0440.
Miami Blues. 114 Chervonoarmiyska. 252-8721.
Non-Stop. 6 Peremohy. 216-4073.
O'Brien's Irish Pub. 17A Mykhailivska. 229-1584.
Olexandria. 6 Sahaydachnoho. 416-0109.
Olzhen Dvir. 7 Desyatynnyi. 212-3962.
Opera Cafe. 51/53 Volodymyrska. 228-2836.
Planeta Sport. 3 Bohdana Khmelnytskoho. 229-7929.
Pilsner Bar. 20 Pushkinska. 225-2101.
Sports Bar 2000. 111/113 Chervonoarmiyska. 269-2000.
Stara Fortetsia. 4 Hospitaina. 294-3991.
Stray Dog. 10 Nesterovskyi. 466-1274.
Superbowl. 4 Chekhovskyi. 234-5656.
Vechirny Kyiv. Passazh. 228-7922.
The Wall. 2 Besarabska. 224-1259.

CAFES/COFFEE SHOPS

Kaffa. 3 Shevchenka prov. 464-0505.
Passazh Coffee House. 15 Khreshchatyk. 229-1209.
Bon Bon. 3 Leontovycha. 244-3564. Passazh. 228-2782

RESTAURANTS

Asian
Aist. 174A Gorkoho. 268-1742.
Hanoi. 6 Sichnevoho Povst. 290-3228.
Hokkaido. 36B Saksahanskoho. 246-6610.
Korea Hills. 129 Saksahanskoho. 235-9796.
Kyoto. Turyst Hotel (Left Bank). 516-2145.
Kytaisky Smak. 54 Chokolivskyi.
Luang Phong. 1a Naberezhno Khreshchatyk. 416-1487.
Nobu Sushi Bar. 12 Shota Rustaveli. 246-7734.
Pekin. 57 Chygorina. 269-6145.
San Tori. 41 Sahaydachnoho. 462-4994.
Seoul. 160 Gorkoho. 268-5529.
Tienli. 48A Taras Shevchenka. 225-7350.
Tokyo. 10 Zoolohichna. 490-0604.
Vostok. 11 Naberezhno-Khr. 416-5375.

American
Alcatraz. 67 Saksahanskoho. 227-1278.
Arizona BBO. 25 Nab-Khresh. 416-2438.
Boston Burger. 114 Chervonoarmiyska 252-8851.
El Toro. 14 Gorkoho. 227-2327.
Time Out. 50 Gorkoho. 248-7396.
Uncle Sam. 37 Zhylyanska. 227-2000.

European
011. 18 Illinska. 416-0001.
Concord. Dombass Bus. Center. 229-5512.
Deja vu. 30 Bohdana Khmelnytskoho. 235-9802.
Europeysky. 57 Volodymyrska. 244-1880.
Niagra. 129A Saksahanskoho. 224-6521.
Black Orange. 29A Sahaydachnoho. 416-3567.

Premier. 10 Shelokivhna. 253-3008. 253-7691
Renaissance. 26 Shevchenko. 235-6153.
Steak House. 10 Chokolivskyi. 241-0597.

French
Chateau de Fleur. 24 Khreshchatyk. 228-7800
Chicot. 27 Ivano Franko. 246-5283.
Dixieland. 14/2 Kyrylo-Mefodiyivska. 274-1137.
Gavroche. 3/7 Mezhygirskaya. 416-5524.
Le Grand Cafe. 4 Museyny Provulok. 228-7208.
Provence. 165 Gorkoho. 261-1620.
Richelieu. 23 Chervonoarmiyska. 235-8862.
Surpyz. 3 Pyrova. 235-7234.
Svitylytsya. 13B Andriyivskyi uzviz. 416-3186.
Zaporizhnya. 27 Sahaydachnoho. 416-2309.

Georgian
GoretS. 9 Vorovskoho. 212-1549.
Mimino. 10 Spaska. 417-3545.

German/Austrian
Avgustin. 12/7 Husovskoho. 290-4114.
Edelweis. 7 Sahaydachnoho. 416-0213.
Mylly Avgustyn. 18 Chervonoarmiyska. 224-9129.
Vienna. 11 Pushkinska. 229-2401.
Winstub. 9 Andriyivska. 416-8277.

Greek
Acropoli. 4 Hrushevskoho. 229-0437.
Maksimal. 116 Gorkoho. 268-3768.

Indian
Himalaya. 23 Khreshchatyk. 462-0437.
Ishan Rasnoi. 13 Druzhby Narodov. 261-1788.
Taj. 25 Litnya. 268-7200.

Italian
Apollo. Passazh. 229-0437.

Arlechino Pizna. 2 Shevchenko. 225-8343.
Chelentano. 41 Sahaydachnoho. 416-0046.
Columbus. 15 Prorizna. 228-9370.
Da Mario. 52 Saksahanskoho. 220-8062.
Da Vinci. Vevropeyska ploscha. 229-0059.
Il Capo. 68 Saksahanskoho. 220-7332.
La Bella. 7 Pushkinska. 229-2701.
Lola Pizna. 5 Lva Tolstoho. 234-7423.
Pantagruel. 1 Lysenka. 228-8142.
Papa Carlo. 26 Dehtyarskoho. 213-0832.
Portofino. 5 Sofiyivska. 229-8771.
Primavera. 6 Melnikova. 213-3283.
Vezuvio. 25 Reitarska. 228-3028.
Vito. 29A Velyka Zhytomirskaya. 212-0641.

Mexican
Azteca. 31A Vorovskoho. 216-8656.
Chico's. 112A Saksahanskoho. 235-4097.
Tequila House. 8 Spaska. 417-0358.

Middle Eastern
Express Pizna. 1 Fyzkultury. 227-5550.
Lajaly Odessa. 114 Chervonoarmiyska. 269-7707.

Seafood
Odessa. 114 Chervonoarmiyska. 269-7707.
Pelikan. 3 Poshtova ploscha. 463-7360.
Poseidon. Naberezhna shose. 254-2137.
Venezia. 3A Rusanovska Naberezhna. 555-1730.
Vydubychi. 5 Pecherska Naberezhna. 294-7148.

Spanish
Barcelona. 23 Kopernyka. 213-7063.
Gold Cup. 22 Moskovska. 254-2204.

Turkish
Bosphorus. 97 Gorkoho. 269-0551.

Festival promotes classical guitar

By DMITRY KOZMIN
Post Staff Writer

For many Ukrainian teen-agers, the guitar is associated with camping, parties and rock concerts. Other than those who studied classical guitar, few understand the creative potential of this instrument.

One organization is trying to change all that. This week in Kyiv, classical guitar will be the theme of the Valery Petrenko Open Guitar Festival Competition.

The event is organized by the Association of Guitarists of the National All-Ukrainian Music Society (NAUMS), with the purpose of promoting world classical guitar masterpieces and Ukrainian musicians.

The festival will feature seminars, performances and a competition for young Ukrainian guitarists, which is aimed at identifying and supporting talented young guitarists, as well as teachers.

The festival opened March 27 with an opening solo concert by world-renowned flamenco guitarist Valery Petrenko.

Young guitar students and their teachers from all over the country were expected to take part in the competition, which comprises three age categories: beginner – up through 10 years old; intermediate – 11 through 13 years old; and senior – 14 through 17 years old. Participants who make it to the last round will receive a special certificate.

The competition's repertoire requirements include pieces from classical composers of the late 18th to early 19th century, such as Ferdinando Carulli, Mauro Giuliani and Matteo Carcassi. The participants also must perform a piece from a Ukrainian composer or an arrangement of Ukrainian melodies.

The festival is the first of its kind in Ukraine, but organizers hope to



World-renowned flamenco guitarist Valery Petrenko. (Post photo by Viktor Suvorov)

make it an annual event. The organization would also like to encourage foreign musicians to participate and will be opening up the competition to Belarussian guitarists next year.

Petrenko says Ukraine's guitarists are far superior to foreign musicians in playing classical music.

"The main difficulty is to perform

a classical musical composition well. Our musicians are second to none in this field," Petrenko said.

The competition accepts only young musicians with sophisticated knowledge and talent in classical guitar.

Petrenko points out that while there are no commercial incentives for participants, some of the young

guitarists may land opportunities in the future, such as world concert tours.

The festival also will feature seminars dedicated to teaching methods of guitar and the challenges that many instructors face when teaching classical guitar. Those making presentations include some of Ukraine's finest teachers and published authors from Kharkiv, Myrhorod and Poltava.

Petrenko is known not only in Ukraine, but in the United States, Europe and Asia. His career has spanned more than 35 years. Over the past couple of years, Petrenko has toured the globe, receiving rave reviews.

The head of NAUMS, Petrenko is the only guitarist who has been awarded the honorary title of "National Artist of the USSR and Ukraine." As an adolescent, Petrenko never dreamed he would become a professional musician some day.

"I fell in love with the guitar from the first sound," Petrenko said. "When I was a teen-ager, I was at a party and started to play a recording of romantic Gypsy music. The first sound won my heart and sometimes I can still hear it."

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

On Friday, March 30, a seminar on classical guitar methodology and the challenges of teaching will take place at Music School #14 (69 Lepsa) at 11 a.m.

Starting at 6 p.m., a concert featuring the young participants of the competition will be held at the Culture Center at the University of Civil Engineering (31 Povitroflotsky). Admission is free.

On Saturday, March 31, Valery Petrenko will perform a solo concert at the Teachers' House (57 Volodymyrska) at 4 p.m. Admission is free.

MUSIC

House of Organ and Chamber Music
Fri 30 Vivaldi, Bach, Petrali. (Organ)
Sat 31 Faure, Massenet, Berezovsky. (Soprano, mezzo, bass, piano)
Mon 2 Overture "1812" by Tchaikovsky, Symphony #9 by Beethoven. Kyiv Symphony Orchestra and Choir conducted by Roger McMurrin.
Tue 3 Faure, Massenet, Berezovsky. (Soprano, mezzo soprano, bass, piano)

National Philharmonic
Hall of Columns
Sat 31 Vedel, Caccini, Saint-Saens, Dvorak. Ukraina Bandurist Trio.

National Opera
Fri 30 Romeo and Juliet. Ballet.
Sat 31 The 5th International Dance Festival.
Sun 1 The 5th International Dance Festival.
Tue 3 Forest Song. Ballet.
Wed 4 Zaporozhets on the Danube. Opera.
Thu 5 A Secret Wedding. Opera.

Operetta
Fri 30 A Night in Venice.
Sat 31 and Sun 1 All Passes Away. Guest performance of Aleksandr Abdulov and Irina Alferova (Russia).

Scientists' House
Fri 30 Schubert. (Baritone, piano)

Ukraina Palace
Sat 31 Folk and classical music bands and dance troupes of Halychyna. 6 p.m.

Culture Center of Civil Engineering University (31 Povitroflotsky)
Fri 30 Valery Petrenko Guitar Festival. 6 p.m.

Teacher's House
Sat 31 Valery Petrenko Guitar Festival. 4 p.m.

Culture and Arts Center (109 Alma-Atynska)
Sat 31 "Reality and Illusions," musical performance. Rachmaninov. 6:30 p.m.

THEATERS

(All plays begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted)

Lesya Ukrainka Theater
Sat 31 Little Princess. 1 p.m.
Sat 31 School for Scandal.
Sun 1 Flea in the Ear.
Mon 2 Royal Games.
Wed 4 Christmas Dreams.
Thu 5 Russian-style Divorce.

Ivan Franko Theater
Fri 30 I Am Henry II.
Sat 31 Lawyer Martin. Premiere.
Sun 1 80th birthday celebration of of Franko Theater choreographer Borys Kamenkovych.
Tue 3 Chasing Two Hares.
Wed 4 Villains' Ball.
Thu 5 Baroque-style Love.

Drama and Comedy Theater
Fri 30 That's how the Summer Ended.
Sat 31 Magic Stone. Noon.
Sat 31 Anna Karenina.
Thu 5 Much Noise in Paris.

Suziria Theater
Fri 30 Last Year's Snow.
Sat 31 Pro Forma Marriage.

Officers' House (30/1 Hrushevskoho)
Sun 1 The Lover, staged by Roman Viktyuk.

GALLERIES

National Art Museum
Paintings by Oleksandr Murashko. Through April 5.
Paintings by Yury Lesyuk (Lviv). Through April 5.
Paintings by Mykhailo Turovsky (USA). Through April 5.

Center for Contemporary Art
"Lost Things," exhibit. Through April 22.

Ukrainian Decorative and Applied Arts Museum (21 Mazepa)
Paintings by Natalia Kondratyeva (Germany). Through March 31.

Aquarel
Paintings by Pavel Pushkaryov (Chernivtsy). Through March 31.

National Union of Folk Artists Exhibition Hall (7A Boryshlibska)
"Pysanka" exhibit of Easter eggs timed to Easter. Through April 20.

Sovi Art Gallery
Exhibit of paintings by Oleksandr Zhyvotkov. Through March 31.

Nef Gallery, 21 Mazepa (Pecherska Lavra)
"Sword and Rose," exhibit of metal works, arms, plates and dishes by handicraftsman Yelimir Kyshsh. Through April 10.

36 Gallery
Paintings and graphics by Valentyn Bakhtov (Mykolaiiv). Through April 15.

Karas Gallery
"Self-identification, Overture," exhibit of paintings by 14 contemporary Ukrainian artists. Through April 12.

Grifon
Ceramics by Oleh Myrmin (Odessa). Through Apr. 8.

National Literature Museum, (11 Bohdan Khmelnytsky)
Exhibit of graphics and paintings by Bohdan Beznyso (Lviv) timed to the 130th birthday of Lesya Ukrainka. Through March 31.

Lada Gallery, (12 Horodetsky)
Abstract paintings by Oksana Klymenko. Through April 10.

RA Gallery, (32 Bohdana Khmelnytskoho)
Art photography exhibit by Maksym Mamsikov and Dmytro Dulfan (Odessa). Through April 3.

MOVIE LISTINGS

Kyiv cinemas often change show times or substitute films without notice. Readers are advised to confirm listed times by telephone.

ZHOVTEN

Dracula 2000 (USA). In the millennium version of this classic Gothic horror we find Abraham Van Helsing who has tangled with Count Dracula in the past, working as an English antiques dealer. Simon is a vampire hunter in training under his apprenticeship. Van Helsing and Simon travel from London to New Orleans to rescue Van Helsing's daughter Mary from the family's life long nemesis - Dracula. Through April 1. 3:50 p.m., 6:20 p.m., 8:10 p.m.

Charlie's Angels (USA). Based on the popular 70's TV show, three cute gals work for the mysterious Charlie. They are the female "James Bonds" of our time. They try to retrieve stolen software and balance in high heels. Through April 4.

KINOPALACE

Small Hall

Chocolat (USA, France). In 1960, in a small town in France, Vianne Rocher and her pre-teen daughter move into town and open a chocolate shop just as Lent is beginning. The town's small-minded mayor can't accept this and does his best to shut her down, but her warm personality and incredible chocolates manage to win over many townsfolk. Things get shaken up even more when a group of river drifters, led by Roux, stop into town and Vianne takes up with him. Through April 1, 12:30 p.m., 11 p.m.

101 Dalmatians (USA). After a spot of therapy Cruella De Vil is released from prison a changed woman. Devoted to dogs and good causes, she is delighted that Chloe, her parole officer, has a dalmatian family and connections with a dog charity. But the sound of Big Ben can reverse the treatment so it is only a matter of time before Ms. De Vil is back to her incredibly ghastly ways, using her new-found connections with Chloe and friends. Through April 1, 10:30 a.m., 5 p.m.

The Wedding Planner (USA). Jennifer Lopez plays San Francisco's most successful supplier of romance and glamour. She knows all the tricks. She knows all the rules. But then she breaks the most important rule of all: she falls in love with the groom, Matthew McConaughey. Through April 1, 3 p.m., 7 p.m., 9 p.m.

Big Hall

Gladiator (USA). Maximus is a powerful Roman general, loved by the people and the aging Emperor, Marcus Aurelius. Before his death, the Emperor chooses Maximus to be his

heir over his own son, Commodus, and a power struggle leaves Maximus and his family condemned to death. The powerful general is unable to save his family, and his loss of will allows him to get captured and put into the Gladiator games until he dies. The only desire that fuels him now is the chance to rise to the top so that he will be able to look into the eyes of the man who will feel his revenge. March 31-April 1, 4 p.m.

Traffic (USA). Intertwining vignettes frame this tale of America's escalating War on Drugs. Ohio Supreme Court Judge Robert Wakefield has been appointed the nation's Drug Czar, his new position made more daunting by the discovery that his teenage daughter Caroline is a heroin addict. Meanwhile, DEA agents Montel Gordon and Ray Castro are pursuing Helena Ayala, wife of jailed kingpin Carlos Ayala, as she seeks to control the business that her husband had kept hidden from her. March 31-April 1, 7 p.m., 8 p.m.

KINOPANORAMA

Dinosaur (USA, animation). Dinosaur is set in the twilight of the dinosaurs, when the killer comet arrives, and deals with the legacy they leave for the emerging mammals. One dinosaur who had been raised by Lemurs becomes a sort of saurian Moses and leads the Lemurs to safety after the comet ends the age when his own kind ruled the earth. Through April 5, 11 a.m.

ENGLISH CLUB

Baby Geniuses (USA). Dr. Elena Kinder and Dr. Heap work for BABYCO, the world's leading manufacturer in baby products. What the public doesn't know, however, is that Dr. Kinder and Dr. Heap are secretly working on cracking the code to "baby talk" which is actually a highly sophisticated language which allows babies to communicate the knowledge of the secrets of the universe with which they are born. March 30, 3 p.m. March 31, 3 p.m., 7 p.m.

Dom Kino

"Prologue," Student Cinema Festival. March 30 - April 1. (For further information, call 227-4663).

VENUES

CINEMA

Dom Kino. 6 Saksahanskoho, 227-4663.
English Club. 11A Panasa Myrnoho, 291-2109.
Kino Palace. 1 Instytutska, 228-7223.
Kinopanorama. 19 Shota Rustaveli, 227-3041.
Zhovten. 26 Kostyantynivska. 463-6008.
Ukraina Cinema. 5 Horodetskoho. 229-6301.

CONCERT VENUES

Bolshevik Plant Concert Hall. 38 Peremohy prospek, 446-0416.
House of Organ. 77 Chervonoarmiytska, 269-5678.
International Culture and Arts Center. 1 Instytutska.
Kyiv Aviation Institute Concert Hall. 1 Komarova prospekt, 488-3300.
Kyiv Polytechnic Institute Concert Hall. 37 Peremohy prospekt, 441-1818.
National Music Academy. 1/3 Horodetskoho, 229-0792
National Philharmonic. 2 Volodymyrska, 229-6251.
National Opera Theater. 50 Volodymyrska, 224-7165.
National Radio Company concert hall. 5A Leonida Pervomaiskoho.
Officers House. 30/1 Hrushevskoho, 224-2578.
Operetta Theater. 53/3 Chervonoarmiytska, 227-2630.
Reunion Arch. 2 Volodymyrsky uzviz 2, behind National Philharmonic.
Rostok Center. 26/2 Harmatna.
Scientists House. 45 Volodymyrska, 224-3190.
Spivchoche Pole. Near WWII Museum (end stop of trolley 20.)
Sports Palace. 1 Sportyvna. 246-7406.
St. Oleksandr's Catholic Church. 18 Kostyolna.
Teachers House. 57 Volodymyrska, 224-0291.
Ukraina Palace Concert Hall. 103 Chervonoarmiytska, 268-9250.
Ukrainian Armed Forces Concert Hall. 6 Irynska, 212-7211.
Ukrainian House. 2 Khreshchatyk, 290-3590.

GALLERIES AND EXHIBIT HALLS

36. 36 Andriyivsky uzviz, 228-2985.

Aquarel

6 Kostyolna, 229-1438.
Architects House. 7 Hrinchenka.
ARTEast. 13 Reitarska, 229-6552.
Artists' House. 1/5 Artema, 212-0535.
Artists' Union Exhibit Hall. 12 Chervonoarmiytska, 224-4006.
Contemporary Art Center. 2 Skovorody, 416-2262.
French Cultural Center. 194 Gorkoho, 269-2759.
Grifon. 6 Kostyolna.
Irena. 35 Artema, 244-7493.
Kyiv University Gallery. 60 Volodymyrska, (red building).
L Art. 2 Andriyivsky uzviz, 416-0320.
Lavra. 17 Sichnevoho Povstannya.
M Gallery. 2 Sofiytska, 228-1241.
National Art Museum. 6 Hrushevskoho, 228-1357.
One Street Museum. 2B Andriyivsky uzviz.
Post Office Museum. 2 Poshtova ploshcha.
Russian Art Museum. 9 Tereshchenkivska, 244-6218.
SoviArt Gallery. 11 Kostyolna, 229-6240.
Studio Karas. 22A Andriyivsky uzviz, 2nd fl., 416-0247.
Tadzio. 10A Andriyivsky uzviz, 2nd fl., 416-1297.
Triptych. 34 Andriyivsky uzviz, 229-0759.

THEATERS

Actors House. 7 Yaroslaviv Val.
Bravo. 79 Honchara.
Dakh Theater Center. 136 Chervonoarmiytska, 269-4062.
Drama and Comedy Theater. 25 Brovarsky prosp., 517-5906.
Ivan Franko Theater. 13 Franka ploshcha, 229-5991.
Koleso Theater. 8A Andriyivsky uzviz, 416-0422.
Lesya Ukrainka Theater. 5 Khmelnytskoho, 224-4223.
Metrobud Theater. 8 Prorizna.
Molodoi Theater. 17 Prorizna, 224-6251.
Pantomime Theater. 7A Shovkovychna.
Suziria Theater. 14 Yaroslaviv Val, 212-4188.

CONCERT REVIEW

After 15 years, Aquarium still rocks to the ages

By EVGENIA MUSSURI
Post Staff Writer

Some might think that an aging band with more than 15 years of touring under its belt would have difficulty packing a concert hall.

This is not the case with Russia's legendary rock group Aquarium, which headed by frontman Boris Grebenshikov, also known as BG, performed in front of a large crowd on March 24 at Kyiv Polytechnic Institute.

Although many critics complain that BG is too old and his music has become flat, the 45 year old still manages to attract a large crowd wherever he performs. Not only was the concert standing-room-only, it was nearly impossible to find a place to stand.

The concert was scheduled to begin at 7 p.m., yet in keeping up with its long-held tradition, Aquarium delayed the concert for 40 minutes. The fans, however, were unfazed.

Aquarium concerts are, for the most part, formula affairs. After the band plays for an hour and a half, BG cuts the concert short and gives the audience a brief adieu. After five minutes of applauding, whistling and pleading for "one more song," Aquarium will bounce back on stage and play an hour-long encore.

The Kyiv concert was no exception.

Aquarium's encore performance was crammed with the group's most memorable hits, such as "Captain Voronin." Many fans wonder how Aquarium manages to decide which hit singles to play considering the band has released more than 70 albums since 1983.

Aquarium performed mainly from the new compilation CD "Territory," which contains 17 songs recorded between 1983 and 2000, including such hits as "Adelaida" and "Babylon."

Most of Aquarium's later songs and sounds are derived from Asian culture and philosophy, which is not surprising considering that BG is a Buddhist. As the group's songwriter, his lyrics often touch on issues



Russia's underground rock band Aquarium played in a sold out concert on March 24. (Post photo by Viktor Suvorov)

about religion and the meaning of life. During the concert, BG dedicated a few songs to the season of Lent, such as "Valentinov Den" (St. Valentine's Day) - kissing the stage a few times as a sign of gratitude to Mother Earth.

The stage was adorned with a large hologram, at times resembling the symbol for Yin and Yang and an embryo.

Demographically, the audience represented a mixed bag. Like at any typical rock concert, there were obnoxious, screaming teen-agers who plowed their

way through the audience to get a closer view of the group, with some managing to get a hug from BG. Yet the majority of the audience, both young and old, sat quietly in their seats, tapping their feet. "You are so calm," BG said to the audience. "It is nice."

The crowd especially enjoyed hearing "Zvezda Adelaida" (Adelaida Star) and "7 Noyabrya," (7th of November) and "Potselui v Chakru" (Kiss on a Chakra). With the diverse play list of quiet love ballads, light reggae or powerful rock-n-roll anthems, Aquarium performed something for everyone.

THE BEAT

Ukrainian alternative group **Skryabin** finally has announced the dates of the group's concert tour of universities across Ukraine. On April 10, the group will be performing at Kyiv Mohyla Academy. The concerts are open mainly to university students of the particular university where the group is performing.

However, concert organizers have saved 50 tickets for each performance. Those interested in getting one of those 50 tickets should e-mail skryabin@skryabin.com.ua. In addition to Kyiv, the group will be performing in Kharkiv on April 5, Dnipropetrovsk on April 6, Zaporozhya on April 7, Odessa on April 9, and Khmelnytsky on April 11.

One of the original members of the British pop group **Smokie**, **Chris Norman**, will give a solo concert at Ukraina Palace on April 29. Smokie hit it big in the 1970s in the former Soviet Union, South America and Europe. In the mid-1980s Norman parted from the group to pursue a solo career. In 1998 he performed the duet "Stumbling In," with Russian pop singer Natasha Korolyova.

Russian alternative group **Aukt-sion** (Auction) will give a concert on April 15 at Kyiv Polytechnic Institute. Since forming in 1978 in St. Petersburg, The group's most notable albums include Hollow (Erio, 1990), Hangover (SNC, 1991), and Bird (Dyadyushka Records, 1994).

— Evgenia Mussuri

MINI REVIEWS

BARS

Blindazh

Once upon a time, Blindazh was the best bar in Kyiv. By eleven every night, the patrons were all buying each other drinks and waxing philosophical about the reactionary state of neo-Kantian epilepsy. Those days are over. Apparently, the management wanted to clean up its image and it transformed into a sterile space with bad music and a security guard. 15A Mala Zhytomyrskaya. Open 5 p.m. to 2 a.m. Tel: 228-1511.

Jazz Club

Not such a bad place to hear not-so-good jazz. 3 Druzhby Narodiv. Open 10 a.m. until last customer. Tel: 252-8881.

Olzhin Dvir

One of those holes in the wall that are the staple of any good bar scene. But since Kyiv doesn't have a good bar scene, this place seems exceptional. Unfortunately, they

only have Yantar on tap, but for Hr 3, you really can't complain. 7 Desyatynnyi. Open until late. Tel: 212-3962.

Miami Blues

Be a beautiful person, go to Miami Blues. Or at least see one at one of Kyiv's best devushka-watching locales. Since they're usually escorted, making friends is trickier; but the bar puts out decent, albeit expensive, cocktails. Music runs from the not particularly noteworthy to the distracting. 114 Chervonoarmiyiska. Open 24 hours. Tel: 252-8721.

Opera Cafe

This former dive has transformed itself into one of Kyiv's best bars on the strength of atmosphere, cheap drinks and a plethora of diversions. If you get tired of your date preoccupy yourself with darts, foosball, billiards or Connect Four. Feeling lucky, punk? Minimum bet at the Blackjack table is just \$2. 51/53 Volodymyrska. Open noon to 5 a.m. Tel: 228-2836.

Stara Fortetsia

As far as we know, this is the only microbrewery in Kyiv. After a half-liter of three shades of beer are cheaper than any but the cheapest dives in Kyiv. The only problem is that the beer, unpasteurized and too heavy on the hops, tastes bizarre. But the decent standard-Ukrainian fare will get the taste of your mouth in a hurry. 4 Hospitaina. Open noon to midnight

CLUBS

Caribbean Club

This hot ex-pat Latino night spots is always packed on weekends. Dancing is reasonably dirty and the crowd stays pretty sauced. The absence of striptease and "show-programa" earn this club extra points as does the small cozy patio. 4 Kominterna. Open noon till the last customer. Tel. 244-4290.

Desperados

This cozy place has all the makings of a spicy Latin club:

Latin dancers, Southern music and, best of all, tequila shooters. Prices steep, but the club provides a nice change for those weary of dancing techno with teens. 24 Artema. Open noon until 5 a.m. Tel: 216-3198.

Joss

The point at Joss is variety. Where else can you find a Japanese restaurant, a British pub and a place to dance, all under the same roof? And because this Left Bank establishment is seldom crowded, you'll have no problem checking out each of them. Don't worry about hassling with taxis for the trip over the river - the Lvoberezhna metro is right there. 2 Okipnoyi. Open noon to 6 a.m. Tel: 516-8674.

Strike Bowling Club

Bowling? A lower class sport played by fat auto workers in dumb leagues and silly shirts, right? Not in Kyiv, where only the rich and wealthy bowl in this state-of-the-art center: biznesmeny, ex-pats, and their slick girlfriends. Also features a fake garden and about 10 pool tables. 84 Peremohy. Open Mon. to Thurs. 5 p.m. to 3 a.m., Fri. 2

p.m. to 4 a.m., Sat. 11 a.m. to 4 a.m., Sun. 11 a.m. to 3 a.m. Tel: 442-6464.

New York

The sign on the entrance says that teen-agers under 18 are not allowed, but it's hard to imagine any rule anywhere being so blatantly ignored. The design is rather poor, music is techno and Russian pop. Yet there is no better place in Kyiv to meet a bunch of school girls (except for a school, of course). 2 Perova (metro Darnytsya). Open 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. Tel: 558-2545.

Promzona

If you can make your way through the narrow doorway, past the two security checks and out to the crowded dance floor, you've narrowed your chances of fighting to about 30 percent. While its industrial-chic interior and warehouse locale make Promzona one of the most interesting clubs in town, it's a haven for brooding thugs and underage girlfriends. Walk softly, stranger. 18 Metallistov. Open 9 p.m. till last customer. Tel: 446-1248.

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National serves up Ukrainian home cooking

By SCOTT LEWIS
Post Staff Writer

In June, the *Post* visited Pokhmelye and the reviewer, Jake Rudnitsky, didn't find much about the restaurant that he liked: The service was atrocious; the decor was cheap; the entertainer was talentless; local beer was unavailable; and the food quality was poor, Rudnitsky wrote.

Restaurants so uniformly awful usually don't get a second look. Nevertheless, nine months after our initial review, I sought the place out.

It was a good idea.

Immediately evident was that the restaurant's name has changed. Pokhmelye (Hangover) is now National, though the menu still sports the old name and, presumably, offers the same dishes served up when Rudnitsky visited last year. The interior doesn't appear to have changed either, although I'd disagree with my colleague's characterization.

Tables at National are enclosed in small individual rooms off a central floor, creating an intimate atmosphere. The decor is reminiscent of a home in an old Ukrainian village, making clever and extensive use of white stucco walls, foliage and traditional woven bramble fences.

The menu, available in English and Ukrainian, makes entertaining reading. Travelers know that there is no worldwide shortage of bad-English menus containing poor, literal translations and comical misspelling, but the

humor in National's menu is intentional, for the most part.

I passed on the Potato Pancakes with Plucks (Hr 17) and the Herring in a Fur Coat (Hr 11) appetizers, as well as the Southern Bug Salad (Hr 10). While I still don't know what plucks are, or why herring would wear fur, I am relieved to report that the salad contained beets, prunes and nuts rather than bugs, and that no young women were sacrificed for the Ukrainian Girl Salad (Hr 16), a rustic combination of boiled chicken, potatoes, salted cucumbers, carrots, apples, peas and mayonnaise.

A nation bares its collective soul in its traditional cookery, whether it is Cuban black beans and rice, Indian curry or Ukrainian varenyky. I enjoy Ukrainian food.

National provides a reasonable representation of Ukrainian fare, too. The menu includes the fish, chicken, beef and pork dishes most locals grew up with, presented nicely. The unpretentious dishes are straightforward renditions of Ukrainian cuisine, and the abundant portions ensure that nobody stops at Mak Smak on the way home.

I thoroughly enjoyed my pork cutlet with cheese and mushrooms (Hr 37) but the highlight was a side order of homemade baked noodles (Hr 12). Fresh pasta is always welcome, and this didn't disappoint.

The crunched meat (Hr 35) my companion ordered was a satisfying plateful of fried and shredded beef in

NATIONAL
18/24 Dmytrivska.
Tel: 235-4859, 201-3661.
Open noon to 11 p.m.



Chef Oleh Lyashchenko shows one of National's beautifully presented salads with all the Ukrainian fixings. (Post photo by Viktor Suvorov)

a flavorful, slightly spicy sauce. A stuffed baked potato (Hr 10) rounded out the meal nicely.

We found the service was attentive and appropriate and appreciated that our server knew enough English to

answer our basic queries.

The restaurant offers Obolon (Hr 5 for a half-liter) and a few imported beers at reasonable prices – a bottle of Heineken goes for Hr 8. There is a full bar and an appropriate selection

of regional wines.

With its creative decor, solid menu and reasonable prices, National would be a regular stop for tourists, if Kyiv had any. Until then, it's a pleasant place for the rest of us.

MINI REVIEWS

BEYOND TOLSTOHO PLOSHCHA

Time Out \$\$\$

Gary Russo, formerly the chef at Arizona BBO, has created yet another menu of American favorites. The atmosphere is reminiscent of a West Coast brew pub and the quality of the burgers and sandwiches is high. Beware of the small portions and the Arizona-style prices. 50 Gorkoho. Open 8 a.m. to 2 a.m. Tel: 248-7396.

Akara \$\$

This decadent little nook is a nice little find. The soups and European food – primarily seafood – are superb. But the space – a tiny, lavishly adorned room with little tables, is its most distinctive feature. A word of caution: The small space makes the volume of the vio-

lin/piano duet comparable to an Ozzy Osborne concert. 95 Chervonoarmyiska. Open noon to midnight. Tel: 268-3428.

Pizza Express \$

Don't let the name fool you. This unassuming Middle Eastern restaurant serves one of the best meal deals in Kyiv. Great service, relaxing atmosphere and smoke-free environment. Warning: there is no booze! 1 Fizkultury (adjacent to Republican Stadium). Open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Tel: 227-5550.

Korchma Bila Krynystya \$\$\$

A tasty little cafe, done up Ukrainian. Nothing revolutionary about the menu, but the Ukrainian food is done right. Best avoided during lunchtime, as the four tables are not enough to accommodate the masses looking for a cheap, quality meal. 32 Gorkoho. Open noon to 2

a.m. Tel: 220-8186.

El Toro \$\$

Bills itself as a steakhouse, but the menu is limited. Don't go expecting a massive Texas-sized cut. They have a salad bar, spuds in aluminum foil with the fixings, and decent suids. The atmosphere lacks ambience. 14 Gorkoho. Open noon to midnight. Tel: 227-2327.

Taj \$\$

Taj was a *Post* favorite long before it became a centerpiece for Pink Dot. This cozy, hard-to-find hideaway off Shchorsa is rarely crowded. The portions are huge, the food good and the prices rock bottom. Kyiv's best deal. 25 Litnya. Open 12:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. Tel: 268-7200.

Seoul \$\$\$

Now that Daewoo is out of town, Seoul is one of the few

places you can find metal chopsticks in Kyiv. They've put the Asian crisis behind them and continue to serve up Korean delicacies. With plenty of spicy food and sizzling dishes, Seoul's menu will seem exotic even to those who are familiar with Asian cuisine. 160 Gorkoho. Open 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Tel: 268-5529.

Bosphorus Istanbul \$\$

Not much on ambience, but boasts arguably the best chicken shashlyk in town. That, decent prices and a wide selection of unique salads and Turkish specialties make Bosphorus a favorite among ex-pats. 97 Gorkoho. Open 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Tel: 269-0551.

Provence \$\$

Cute little wedge of a restaurant with a bite-sized menu. One of Kyiv's most underrated establishments, the interior is nicely decorated and spacious, the food freshly prepared

and delicious, and the prices more than reasonable. Located next to Furchet on Gorkoho. 165 Gorkoho. Open noon to 11 p.m. Tel: 261-1620.

Maksimal \$\$

The best asset of this little Greek gem is its outdoor dining patio. The inside is just not the same. The versatile menu offers some consolation: Greek and Georgian dishes with a smattering of Ukrainian specialties mixed in. 116 Gorkoho. Open 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. Tel: 268-3768.

Atlanta \$\$\$

This cozy basement restaurant doesn't get the attention it deserves. Warm, simple decor combined with great service – almost to the point of obsequious. Oh, and the food is good, too, especially the fish dishes. 56 Chervonoarmyiska. Open 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. Tel: 227-1073.

READERS POLL

What's the funniest film?

In honor of April Fool's Day, we asked our readers, "What is the funniest movie ever made?"

From dry and cynical to slapstick and satire, not a comedy genre was ignored. Comedy is the toughest thing to gauge, after all. What makes one person laugh, makes another person wince. Who would have thought that a deranged film like "A Clockwork Orange," would leave one reader in stitches?

By a sliver, the Monty Python troupe received the most votes for the absurdly funny, low-budget "Monty Python and the Holy Grail." Full of random scenes and musical skits, "Holy Grail" has one of the most memorable cast of characters - a killer rabbit, a wizard named Tim, a Trojan bunny and the Knights who say "Ni."

Coming in second place was the Soviet cult comedy, "Brilliantovaya Ruka" (The Diamond Arm, 1969). The film is about a regular Soviet guy who gets to go on a cruise to Istanbul. But he is mistaken for a smuggler by a bunch of villains who plant some contraband jewels in a cast on his arm.

"Caddyshack" also received a respectable number of votes. This "snobs versus the slob" classic has one of the most quotable dialogues in film. Plus, who can forget the wacky synchronized swimming scene? Shown on Ukrainian TV every now and then, "Caddyshack" has won the hearts of many Ukrainians. Unfortunately, the film isn't available in video and instead we are all stuck watching the edited-for-television version.

Up their with Caddyshack was the plotless "Scary Movie," which drew one reader to say, simply, "Whassuuuup?"



"There are some who call me ... Tim?"

RESULTS

1. MONTY PYTHON AND THE HOLY GRAIL
2. BRILLIANTOVAYA RUKA (THE DIAMOND ARM)
3. CADDYSHACK (TIE) SCARY MOVIE
5. DUMB AND DUMBER
6. THE PARTY (TIE) ZA DVOMA ZAITSAIMI (CHASING TWO HARES)

Others receiving votes:

Animal House; Back to School; Bolshaya Progulka (The Big Trip); Blues Brothers; Blazing Saddles; Something About Mary; Deja vu; It's a Mad, Mad World; A Clockwork Orange; Coming of the Train; Operation "Y"; Fletch; Groundhog Day; Ivan Vasilyevich Meniyat Profesiyyu; Liar Liar; Meet Wally Sparks; Me, Myself and Irene; Skin Deep; The Gods Must Be Crazy; When Harry Met Sally; Young Frankenstein; Taxi I; Taxi II. Ironiya Sudby ili s Lyogkim Parom (The Irony of Fate).

On board the prosperity train

Ukraine's leading Web sites garner more than 20,000 hits per day. ISPs, news portals, and business directories are springing up like prefab pools in a trailer park. Fiber optic networks and satellite connections are solving archaic infrastructure difficulties.

Technology is here, ladies and gentlemen, and with some ingenuity, hard work, and six to seven color glossy photos of naked women, you too can still get in on the ground floor of this exciting industry. What am I talking about, you say? Impossible, you say? Well I say SPAM! Yes, nothing says Westernization like bargain-basement offers for Viagra and pornography.

Act Now! The boom and bust cycle won't last forever. No start up funds? No problem. No revenue model? No problem. Simply ride the tide of inflated paper wealth, provide temporary employment for a whole generation of educated young people, and then leave them adrift without skills that are otherwise applicable.

Don't miss the boat. Just click on the links below, send them along to five friends at no initial cost to you, the investor, and watch the money roll in.

THIS IS WACKY NAKED STUFF

delectablegirlsfromdarnitsya@ukr-porn.net

WARNING!!!! This leads to an adult web site. If you wish to be removed from future correspondence, click the link below. It won't work, but you can try. We'll continue sending you e-mail after e-mail from a variety of easily obtainable e-mail addresses.

If you continue, you must be at least 21 and not be offended by adult material. Of course, we have no way to confirm your age. In fact, we have absolutely no means of deterring you underage viewers from experiencing this WACKY NAKED STUFF.

INNER SENSE ABROAD

Steven Shaklan



If you're over 21 and are offended by adult material, you're a bed wetter and everybody knows it. Mama's boy.

YOU'RE GOING TO DIE!!!!

imminentdisaster@vassyanet.com

We all have to go sometime, but there's no need for sexual dysfunction while we're living. From the friendly pharmaceutical folks in Slovenia who brought you really sterile gauze in the mid-1990s, now there's Davai! Through a complex metabolic process, Davai! lowers your high-density lipids and raises your low-density lipids, giving you LIPIDS OF AVERAGE DENSITY! "What does all this mean?" you ask. It means "stallion" ain't just a fancy word for a horse, my friend.

Click on this link and you'll receive a street address. Go to that address at the appointed time. There you will meet a man named Kolya. He'll be the one smoking a cigarette and wearing a black trench coat. You will then give him the secret code: "I don't want to work. I just want to bang on the drum all day." No, he can't make change for a twenty. Also makes a great gift!

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AN E-MAIL FOR CHRIST'S SAKE

jesus142@yahoo.com

He died for your sins. Why not send an e-mail for Jesus?

The place: a small village outside of Ivano Frankivsk. The year: 1956. A small boy witnesses a small miracle. From an illuminated icon depicting Stepan Konstantinov (Patron Saint of Loose Change), tears pour fourth. Amazed, the boy falls to his knees and begs for the saint's blessing. Instead, he receives a string of insults and a recipe for stuffed cabbage.

"This stuff takes time. You can't rush a good stuffed cabbage," says the painting.

Viewing it as a sign from God, the boy dedicates his life to the church, even after they ask him to leave. On his deathbed, his last request is that his story be disseminated to the general public through that holiest of media, e-mail, or in a made for TV movie starring Charles Durning. Durning was unavailable, but if you send this e-mail on to five of your most pious friends, we can establish the Kingdom of Heaven here on earth.

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COMING SOON!

PROFILE: MARGARITA MAMA



Name: Jodi Lynne Cornell.
Hometown: Bloomington, Minnesota.
Time in Kyiv: She spent one semester in Kyiv on a student exchange in 1994, returned in June 1996 with the Peace Corps and has been here ever since.
What she is doing in Kyiv: Working at American Councils on the Future Leaders Exchange Program (FLEX).

EX-PATS IN EXILE
Where she was when Ukraine declared its independence: In her senior year in high school.
Future plans: Undecided.
Favorite Ukrainian word to pronounce: Shkarpetky (socks).

Greatest fear: Being robbed again.
Special talent: Playing the drums.
Biggest turn on: Politeness.
Biggest turn off: Cheating.
How often she changes her underwear: "My dad has always told me that a pair of underwear can be worn twice. The first day you wear them like usual, and the second day you turn them inside out. I don't usually take my dad's advice."
Favorite stomping ground: "Podil, Andriyivsky uzviz and Tequila House on a hot summer evening or any other time of day or season!"
Funniest Ukrainian experience: "Finding out that I had eaten a pig's ear in holodets, fried chicken blood and drank watered-down spirits."
Most important characteristic of a significant other: Trust.
One thing she cannot live without: Meat. "I respect vegetarians, but I don't really understand them."
How often she washes her bath towels: Once a week.
What she would do if invisible for 30 minutes: "Maybe sneak into Tequila House and make as many margaritas as possible and then drink them with my friends."
Dream car: "The newest, top-of-the-line black Mercedes, so I could finally be a *kru-taya devchonka*."
Favorite Bushism: "If I actually listened to his incoherent babble, I'm sure I'd have a lot to say regarding this."

Best breakfast: O'Brien's Irish Pub

Even though some members of the Best Of team are hard pressed to rise before noon, they'll never refuse a heaping portion of bacon and eggs – day or night.

While there are many variations on this favorite repast, there are certain basic criteria for a passable breakfast. First, eggs. They have to be there and they have to be there in force. Any less than two eggs (three in an omelet) and we don't even bother to butter its basket of toast.



Which brings us to the second requirement: toast. No, not a baton, we want toast.

Jack Sprat would eat no fat; his wife would eat no lean. When it comes to bacon, we side with Jack. Too often restaurants and bars will try to pass salo or its cousin, *grudinka*, off as bacon. No dice. They want it meaty and crisp.

And don't forget the sausage. In this land of stuffed meat products, the absence of some kind of sausage is anathema to breakfast lovers.

Understandably, we the Best of Team gravitates toward the city's European and American eateries, choosing to avoid the oily omelets that tend to dominate the breakfast at most local cafes.

Arizona BBQ has all the bases cov-

ered. You've got your eggs, your bacon, your toast and bottomless coffee. And there's a selection of omelets. The breakfast at Arizona is solid, if somewhat pedestrian, and it continues its trend of providing meals of consistent quality.

Time Out has one of the more adventurous breakfast menus, but on a recent visit we found the almond-encrusted French toast bland and mushy.

Eric's provides a bargain offering. Its breakfast combo costs a mere Hr 25, but the bacon is rather limp, the beans are inconsistent and the sausage is a little too far toward the hot dog side of the spectrum. However, the Peasant Breakfast, a scramble of eggs, potatoes, cheese and bacon, is a substantial dish suitable for late-night snacking or early-morning rising.

Uncle Sam's provide weak to middling fare. On the other end of the spectrum, Le Grand Cafe provides an elegant, though rather expensive Sunday brunch offering.

But for a quality breakfast in an unpretentious, friendly setting, O'Brien's is our unanimous favorite. The breakfast combo for Hr 45, includes two eggs any style, crisp bacon, a choice of Irish or European sausage, beans, and home fries or French fries. There's also a heaping



Wake up and smell O'Brien's breakfast combo with free coffee refills. (Viktor Suvorov)

pile of sauteed mushrooms and a roasted tomato for a little added flare. O'Brien's also caters to that medicinal need for morning coffee with free refills.

The pub also offers a range of omelets (Hr 20 to Hr 30) with traditional fillings (ham, cheese, tomatoes

and onions) as well as some more refined choices like smoked salmon.

O'BRIEN'S IRISH PUB.
 17A Mykhailivska. Tel: 229-1584.
 Open 8 a.m. to 2 a.m.

TIP OF THE WEEK

HOW TO SURVIVE A HOSPITAL STAY

No matter how healthy you are today, there's always the grim possibility that an accident, injury or illness could land you in a Ukrainian hospital tomorrow. And foreigners unfamiliar with the local hospitals may be shocked by some fairly significant differences between the Western medical establishment and the Ukrainian health care system.

To lessen the shock and prepare accordingly, here are some things to keep in mind just if you wind up in the hospital:

- You will likely be in the hospital for longer than you think is necessary or tolerable. Former Soviet hospitals are notorious for keeping patients for weeks or even months to ensure that patients are absolutely recovered

before they return home. Whereas Western hospitals tend to discharge patients before the cast is even dry, Ukrainian hospitals expect patients to remain in the hospital to "rest" even though their symptoms have long since passed.

The good news is that it is fairly easy to escape just by walking out the door if you feel there is no reason for you to stay there.

- Don't expect the hospital to provide all your necessities. To say that hospitals are underfunded is a major understatement. Chances are doctors and nurses who care for you haven't been paid in a while and general maintenance is lacking.

Many hospitals no longer feed patients or even provide medicine. Families are expected to bring in those things. And that's not all that's been left off the list. For a comfortable hospital stay, be prepared to

bring more than slippers and a magazine. Other items that are not provided include toilet paper, soap, shampoo, lotion, tissues, towels and bedclothes.

Even hospitals that do serve meals, don't always hit the four food groups. Arrange to have someone bring fresh fruit, vegetables, and high-protein foods like nuts, boiled eggs, cheese and peanut butter. Unless you are not worried about drinking from the tap, arrange to have someone bring plenty of bottled water and juice.

And don't forget utensils and a mug for beverages.

Most hospitals have a pharmacy in the building where you or your family can buy the medicines that are prescribed. You might also be expected to buy needles and the apparatus for an IV drip if that is needed.

It is also helpful to bring a mobile

phone because most hospital rooms do not come equipped with telephones. For entertainment, consider getting a Walkman or Discman, plenty of books or magazines and cards or other games.

Unless your Russian or Ukrainian is excellent, non-native speakers should bring a dictionary. Medical jargon can be difficult to decipher even for the most fluent speakers.

- Be prepared to ask questions and bring in a translator if necessary. Chances are Ukrainian doctors operate much differently than what is the norm in the West. Herbal remedies and non-traditional methods are common in Ukraine. Remember that you must take responsibility for your own health. If you feel uncomfortable with a treatment method, don't be afraid to decline – or simply to leave.

– Diana Elliott

COMMUNITY LISTINGS

Send your community listings to Dana Liss by fax at 254-3113 or e-mail readers@kyivpost.com one week before publication.

BUSINESS CLUB
 Business club "Kyiv - The Netherlands" meets on the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. For more information, call Irina at 216-29-22 or e-mail Alexey at Alexey_Romanko@erc.kiev.ua.

SUPPORT GROUP
 English-speaking meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. at 17 Kostolna. For more information please call Sergey at 565-7997.

"LEISURE WITH DIGNITY" CLUB
 We offer English training classes according to age, levels and interests: "English Addicted and Fun Lovers Club", "Travelers and Adventurers Club", "ABC Club", "Career Makers Club", "Amateur Translators and Guides Club" and "Young Learners Club". The club is open 6 days a week from 5 to 9 p.m. at School #128, 6 Raisy Okipnoi (Levoberezhnaya metro). For more information, email sirgee@com.ua.

ENGLISH CLUBS/LESSONS
 The new temporary location for the free WIUU - CCX Saturday movies is the 600 - seat hall of #9 Pirogova, opposite the University metro. Films, with English captions for language learning, start at 6 p.m. March 31, Angels in the Outfield April 7, Bonhoeffer: Agent of Grace. Films return to permanent location in late April. For more information, visit our website www.wiuu.kiev.ua.

THE NEW ENGLISH CONVERSATION CLUB
 We meet every Saturday at 5 p.m. Come speak English! Now located on Entuziastiv in Livoberezhna. Call 296-1373 or 555-1663 from more details or e-mail us englishclub@svitonline.com.

HASH HARRIERS
 Kiev Hash Harriers will meet every other Sunday at Eric's Bierstube 20 Chervonoarmiytska at 1 p.m. The next hash will be March 25 at 1 p.m. at Eric's. As of April 1, the new

Summer Hash schedule will start with hashes starting at 12 a.m. at Eric's. Future Hash Dates: April 1, 12 a.m. April 15, April 29, May 13 and May 27. For more information, please leave a message at 269-7008 or e-mail: kievhhh@yahoo.com.

POST PSYCHOLOGY STUDIO
 Welcomes all who are interested in avangard philosophy, self-learning, art, poetry and classical music. For more information, please call Yuliana Sapozhnikova at 274-0500 or Yuri Bessarab at 417-1839 or visit our website: www.victorian.fortunecity.com/brutalist/278

KYIV ROTARACT CLUB
 Rotaract is an international organization of service clubs for men and women aged 18-30 that fosters leadership, responsible citizenship, and promotes international peace. For more information, please call Leeka Parra at 296-6063, or e-mail: kyiv@rotaract.org/kiev, or visit our website at www.rotaract.org/kiev.

TOASTMASTERS
 Toastmasters International helps men and women learn the arts of speaking, listening and thinking through effective oral communication. Kyiv Toastcrackers Club invites English speakers to participate in club program every Wednesday at 7 p.m. at 45A Volodymyrska. For more information, please visit our website: http://come.to/toastcrackers or email Sergey Grebenyuk at toastcrackers@mail.ru

RELIGION
International Christian Assembly
 All are invited for English-language services with Pastor Jerry Sturgeon on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. at 16 Khreshchatyk, 2nd floor, 450-4076.
"Word of God" Church
 Word of God Church. Worship and Bible Study in English and Russian. Western style worship service and children's

classes, Sun. 11 a.m., 5A Melchakova. For more information, please call 514-27-03 (Russian speakers) or 517-5193 (English speakers).

Religious Union for Progressive Jewish Congregations of Ukraine

All are welcomed to attend the services of Progressive Jewish congregation. 1B Shevchenko. For more information, please call 234-84-82, 234-22-15 or e-mail: kcpj@hatikva.kiev.ua

St. Catherine's German Evangelical Lutheran Parish

All are invited to Sunday service at 10 a.m. Daily services at 6 p.m. except Sunday. All services and activities held in German and in Russian. We are located at 22 Luteranska. For more information, please call 293-63-19.

Christ Church (Anglican)

All are invited to Sunday services in English at 10 am at the British International School (through the arch at 70 Artema). For more information, please call Jonathan Fraiss, Minister, 216-5369.

The Presbyterian Church of the Holy Trinity

All are invited to our service held in Ukrainian and Russian with simultaneous English translation. We meet each Sunday at 50-52 Shevchenko in room 402. For more information, please call 234-3571, 234-0794 or e-mail: cht@ukrpack.net.

Kharkivska Church of Christ

All are invited to Bible studies every Tuesday at 7 p.m. and to Sunday worship services at 2 p.m. English classes by native English speakers. 11 Verbitskogo, Room 430).

St. Alexander's Catholic Parish

English Mass is held every Sunday 9 a.m. Other Christian activities during the week open to English and non-English speaking people: charity activities, Bible discussions, and Rosary group. 17 Kostolna (near Maidan Nezalezhnosti).

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