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KYIV POST

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FEBRUARY 24TH, 2005

Vol. 12, Issue 08

Top Kuchma crony falls under probe

BY ROMAN OLEARCHYK
Post Staff Writer

Ihor Bakai, a powerful official in former President Leonid Kuchma's administration, has fallen under the prying eye of prosecutors.

As a result, Bakai could find himself as the first high-ranking official from Ukraine's previous leadership to face corruption charges.

Ukraine's Prosecutor General's Office announced Feb. 22 that a criminal investigation had been launched into alleged violations incurred by the State Affairs Department, an agency run by Bakai within Kuchma's Presidential Administration. Newly elected President Viktor Yushchenko dissolved both the Presidential Administration and the State Affairs Department soon after taking office in late January.

The charges, which include illegal spending of nearly \$20 million in state funds, date back to 2003. The funds were allegedly spent to service automobiles, purchase airline tickets and acquire medical equipment.

see BAKAI, page 4

GOING WEST



President Viktor Yushchenko meets U.S. President George W. Bush, right, at the NATO meeting in Brussels on Feb. 22. "Ukrainians took a courageous and brave step towards democracy and the European Union, and now it's time for such a step to be taken toward Ukraine," Yushchenko declared, stressing that he would like Ukraine to be closer to NATO. He also said that achieving this goal would be impossible without good relations with Russia. See story on Page 3. (AP)

Ex-pat fights backyard land fiasco

BY VALENTYNA KOLESNYK
Post Staff Writer
AND RYAN GROTTÉ
Post Business Editor

Controversy has broken out in Kyiv's elegant embassy district over who owns a choice piece of land – local residents or a development company rumored to be allied to one of Ukraine's major banks.

Trouble began in December when machines from a company called D.I.A. Development pulled up behind the property at 4 Ivana Franka, at the corner of Ivana Franka and Yaroslaviv Val streets, and started digging. Old trees were cut down, their roots torn out of the ground.

"It was such a beautiful place, with nice old houses and apple and cherry-plum trees," says Antonina Zborovska, a resident of 13 Yaroslaviv Val, a building abutting 4 Ivana Franka. "When they began to ruin all this I was simply crying."

By the end of the month, this elegant area had become a dangerous dirt heap. Phillip Hudson, an owner of several apartments at 4 Ivana Franka, says that a hot water pipe was broken during the

see LAND, page 12

INSIDE

Nation:

Talking with an outspoken critic of the way today's booming Kyiv looks

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Opinion:

Readers say the Post's editor is all wrong on the "Stalin wine" issue

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Business:

Public Radio closes, and it's a new game for Ukrainian broadcasting

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The Guide:

Normal Kyiv restaurants, plus Chicken Kiev and marriage tips

Page 27

WEATHER FORECAST

FRIDAY:
Snow showers: High -5, Low -11

SATURDAY:
Snow showers: High -4, Low -8

SUNDAY:
Snow showers: High -5, Low -10

Making revolution: Q&A with Dmytro Potekhin



Pro-democracy activist Dmytro Potekhin, who played a large role in the Orange Revolution, says he and fellow activists started planning for the presidential election more than a year before the race began. (Post photo by Yulia Pobedinskaya)

BY PETER BYRNE
Post Staff Writer

Even amid all the media speculation about "revolution templates" last fall, few reported what pro-democracy activists were actually doing to set the stage for the non-stop demonstration against voting fraud that erupted in Kyiv on Nov. 22.

Dmytro Potekhin, who ran one of the million-dollar projects funded by Western donors, was available to talk in Kyiv on Feb. 22 about his non-violent civil campaign.

Having studied foreign donor election activities for the International Renaissance Foundation in 2002, the 28-year-old Kyiv native took stock of the campaign's deficiencies in designing his own project, dubbed "Znayu" ("I Know"), in time for the 2004 campaign.

In addition to covering the costs of flying delegations of former U.S. Congressmen to Ukraine, the money emboldened voters and helped to smooth over a conflict between twin non-violent activist groups.

Potekhin, who studied international affairs at the Kyiv Humanitarian Institute, worked previously at the Japanese embassy as a political analyst. He left the embassy to join the Ukraine Without Kuchma (UWK) protests, which

petered out after a bloody brawl in March 2001 led to the arrests of hundreds of protestors.

KP: How much did your presidential election project cost U.S. taxpayers?

DP: The total budget for the first and second rounds of the contest was \$650,000, with an additional \$350,000 for the Dec. 26 repeat run-off.

In addition, the U.S.-based non-profit Freedom House chipped in \$50,000. Most of the money was spent on publishing leaflets – about 10 million pieces – maintaining a toll free hotline, and placing voter education advertisements.

KP: Were the jolly, non-violent elves funded by Uncle Sam responsible for the so-called Orange Revolution, as some foreign pundits have alleged?

DP: As Aleksandar Maric, one of the co-founders of the Serbian opposition movement Otpor [Resistance] once told me, "Every success is preceded by a failure." So I attribute what we achieved to lessons learned from the flawed protests organized by the UWK movement five years ago.

KP: When did you start planning for the election?

see POTEKHIN, page 7

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Ukrainians on the bottom of the world

Penguins are one of the perks for researchers at Ukraine's scientific station in Antarctica

Page 5



FEBRUARY 24TH, 2005

CHARMING THE EUROPEANS

(Staff and Wire Reports) – President Viktor Yushchenko on Feb. 23 stressed his desire to more closely integrate Ukraine with Euro-Atlantic organizations, such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the European Union, but said that achieving this goal would be impossible without good relations with Russia.

Addressing the European Parliament in Strasbourg, Yushchenko called on European officials to demonstrate their appreciation for bravery displayed by his supporters.

"Ukrainians took a courageous and brave step towards democracy and the European Union, and now it's time for such a step to be taken toward Ukraine," Yushchenko declared, according to Interfax-Ukraine.

Speaking with reporters earlier in the day after breakfast talks with European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso, Yushchenko said Ukraine's policies "should not harm any side."

"We want to demonstrate we have a clear, transparent policy toward our strategic neighbor in the east," he said. "We are ready to solve problems we have inherited from the old government, including complicated relations with Russia. We will solve these problems."

The European Union on Feb. 21 expressed support for Ukraine's proclaimed desire to overhaul its corrupt judiciary, reestablish the rule of law, observe human rights practices and respect free speech.

The EU also stressed that work on the EU-Ukraine Action Plan endorsed by the Cooperation Council should begin immediately.

The three-year plan aims to bring Ukrainian laws more into line with EU norms and is seen by Kyiv as a step toward eventual EU membership. Yushchenko has said he would like to start pre-accession talks with the bloc in 2007.

Ukraine is also hoping the EU will back Ukraine's bid to join the World Trade Organization this year and ease visa restrictions.

Barroso said there was no "Russian factor" in the EU's relations with Ukraine.

"When we have relations with Ukraine, we have relations with Ukraine. That's not incompatible with relations Ukraine wants to develop with other countries," Barroso said.

Yushchenko during the talks also mentioned the Odessa-Brody pipeline, which will be used for pumping Russian crude oil to Europe via Ukraine, as an example of cross-border cooperation.

"We believe the [pipeline] project can be organically included in the concept of a unified energy market," he said. "The project will allow us to explore new fields and new markets."

Yushchenko a day earlier met for seven minutes with George Bush before calling on NATO leaders to back his drive to deepen relations between the alliance and Ukraine as it struggles to "consolidate democracy."

Yushchenko was the only non-allied leader invited to the NATO summit.

"The changes in Ukraine open the way to elevate relations with the alliance," he said.

At a news conference after the meeting, he confirmed Ukraine's ultimate goal was membership.

"We would like to see Ukraine integrated into the EU and the Atlantic alliance."

NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer told a news conference that "NATO has an open door policy" for European democracies, but he emphasized the need for reform and increased cooperation.

"NATO is firmly attached to solid, efficient and thorough cooperation with Ukraine," de Hoop Scheffer said.

Yushchenko said his administration



President Viktor Yushchenko laughs during questions at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, on Feb. 23. Addressing the assembly, Yushchenko said that "Ukraine's future is in the European Union." (AP)

would give priority to political, economic and defense reforms to bring Ukraine into line with NATO and EU standards.

"We will make all efforts to achieve this noble goal," he said. "The time has come to speak about new possibilities."

Over the weekend, NATO announced a 12-year program to help the former Soviet republic destroy millions of surplus weapons, in what the alliance called the largest demilitarization effort in the world.

A NATO statement said the program would eliminate 133,000 metric tons of munitions and 1.5 million small arms and light weapons. That includes shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles, which are seen as a particular threat to aircraft if they fall into the hands of terrorists.

"We hope this project will serve as a concrete demonstration to the Ukrainian people of the tangible benefits of NATO-Ukraine cooperation," de Hoop Scheffer said.

Pyskun to remain in post as PG

BY PETER BYRNE
Post Staff Writer

President Viktor Yushchenko on Feb. 23 announced that he has no intention of dismissing Svyatoslav Pyskun as Prosecutor General.

The announcement came during a press conference that followed Yushchenko's address to the European Parliament in Strasbourg, according to Interfax-Ukraine.

"There are circumstances under which I consider that this Prosecutor General must make his own way," he said. "[Pyskun] must defend the honor of citizens and fulfill demands citizens have put before me as president."

Pyskun served as Prosecutor General from July 2002 to October 2003, before President Leonid Kuchma sacked him

PYSKUN GAINED NOTORIETY BY HEADING THE GOVERNMENT'S CONTROVERSIAL CASE AGAINST BANKER BORYS FELDMAN.

for "grandstanding." A Kyiv court re-appointed Pyskun to the post in December 2004.

The glib 45-year-old Zhytomyr native gained notoriety nationwide in 2000-2001 by heading the government's case against Borys Feldman, the founder of Ukraine's most profitable commercial bank, the Zaporizhya-based Sloviansky Bank.

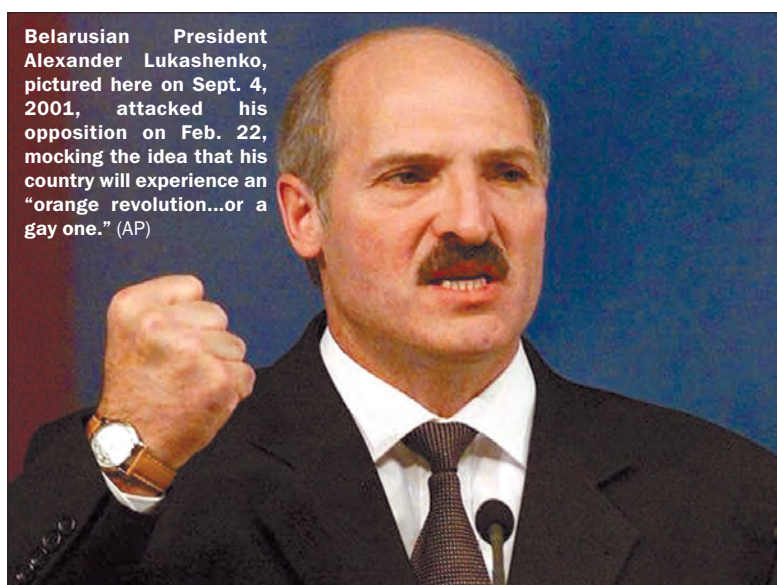
During the investigation Pyskun accused Feldman and his bank of laundering hundreds of millions of dollars to offshore banks at the behest of Yulia Tymoshenko, then a deputy prime minister.

Hours of secret recordings from Kuchma's office available over the Internet through a project sponsored by Harvard University suggest that the former president conspired with former State Tax Administration chief Mykola Azarov to put Feldman in jail and convict him on trumped-up charges. Feldman was released in May 2004 after the Criminal Chamber of the Supreme Court overturned the conviction.

Mykola Katerinchuk, a deputy belonging to President Viktor Yushchenko's Our Ukraine parliament faction, hinted in early February that Pyskun had "every chance" of remaining the nation's top prosecutor.

"We already see during these first weeks what he has done to prosecute election violations...[we see that he] intends to follow the law," he said on Feb. 3. "The activities of the PGO today are fantastic. We want to see more court cases, and if we do, then his chances of remaining PGO head through 2006 are 100 percent," the lawmaker added.

Lukashenko lashes out at 'little pansy' opposition



Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko, pictured here on Sept. 4, 2001, attacked his opposition on Feb. 22, mocking the idea that his country will experience an "orange revolution...or a gay one." (AP)

(Staff and Wire Reports) – Belarusian leader Alexander Lukashenko on Feb. 22 said that he knows that the West is funding his opponents, pledging that he will nip any revolutionary scenario in the bud.

"We are receiving more and more information about the financing of our so-called revolution," he said, according to the Minsk-based Belapan news agency.

"The West is not being stingy, but is thinking that Belarus is ready for some kind of orange revolution or, and it's terrible to say, a gay [light blue] one, or a cornflower one."

"The little pansies aren't satisfied," Lukashenko railed. "Our imbecilic opposition leaders don't like the social policies we've been carrying out, and their recruits are searching for any pretense to block the road along

which Belarus has been moving.

"They are already demanding that the West impose economic sanctions against us," Lukashenko said. "There's a lot of time left until the presidential elections, and the riffraff are already crawling out from under their hovels and getting ready to seize power."

Lukashenko said his opponents could seize power only if "we give up and political chaos reigns, if we don't continue to pursue the policies we've been following up to now."

"We know who finances these so-called independent individuals, and the people will be informed too," Lukashenko said.

Presidential elections in Belarus are expected to be held in May 2006.

Lukashenko's Belarus has been widely condemned for being Europe's last authoritarian country.

Investigators target Bakai, paragon of Kuchma order



Former State Affairs Department head Ihor Bakai, pictured in an undated photo, is under investigation for corruption. (Post file photo)

BAKAI, continued from page 1

Vyacheslav Astapov, a spokesperson for the Prosecutor General's Office, said the charges are "for now not against certain individuals." Investigations conducted by Ukraine's Accounting Chamber have established that a crime was committed, but not who committed it. Bakai "should be questioned" Astapov said, while declining to discuss his whereabouts. Bakai is rumored to have fled Ukraine.

Bakai was dismissed in December during President Kuchma's last days in office. Yushchenko allies alleged at the time that Bakai was already in hiding.

It remains unclear if Bakai will return to Ukraine for questioning. Astapov said that if Bakai has fled and refuses to return to Ukraine or cooperate with the investigation, prosecutors could place a warrant for his arrest through Interpol and use various international treaties with other countries to seize him for questioning.

Bakai managed to avoid investiga-

tions into highly-publicized alleged wrongdoings during his one-year tenure in the State Affairs Department, a secretive and lightly-regulated agency that managed prized state assets, allegedly selling many of them off to well-connected insiders. The department's assets included a vodka plant and property on Crimea's Black Sea coast.

Yushchenko's allies have in recent years voiced suspicions that Bakai was linked to wrongdoing, including shady land sales involving Crimean real estate.

Bakai, 41, struck it rich in Ukraine as a gas trader in the 1990s. He was a co-owner of private trading firms that acted as intermediaries between the state's gas company and consumers. He also headed Ukraine's state-owned oil and gas company Naftogaz Ukrainy from 1998 through 2000. In recent years investigators have probed his activities at Naftogaz, but he has never been officially charged with wrongdoing.

Repeated attempts by the *Post* to contact Bakai were unsuccessful.

More Ukrainian missiles go missing

(Staff and Wire Reports) – Two anti-aircraft missiles are missing from a military depot in southern Ukraine after an apparent break-in, the Defense Ministry said Feb. 22.

The Defense Ministry said a duty officer at the depot in Ukraine's southern Crimean peninsula saw two unidentified men trying to force their way into the storehouse early on Feb. 22. The men fled after being spotted, and the officer found the door lock broken.

Two SA-7 Grail, or Strela missile systems were missing, the ministry said in a statement.

A local commander notified law enforcement authorities. The Defense

Ministry said an investigation has been launched. No other details were given.

TWO SA-7, OR STRELA MISSILES ARE MISSING FROM A WEAPONS DEPOT IN SOUTHERN CRIMEA, THE DEFENSE MINISTRY HAS ADMITTED.

The heat-seeking Strela missiles are produced in Russia, Eastern Europe, China, Egypt, former Yugoslav republics

and elsewhere. They are the anti-aircraft weapon of choice for guerillas, rebel forces and terrorists worldwide. Ukraine's new government has stepped up efforts to clamp down on illicit weapons deals that flourished under former President Leonid Kuchma.

Ukraine's Secret Security Service (SBU) last month acknowledged that it was investigating the sale of six nuclear-capable air-launched cruise missiles to Iran and China in 2000 and 2001. During the presidency of Leonid Kuchma, Ukraine was widely criticized for dealing military equipment to outlaw regimes, and generally for maintaining too loose control over its formidable arsenal.

Putin sends Yushchenko birthday hello

MOSCOW (AP) – Russian President Vladimir Putin wished President Viktor Yushchenko a happy birthday on Feb. 23 in a gesture of reconciliation amid bilateral tensions.

The Kremlin press service made the unusual decision to send a press release quoting part of Putin's message.

Usually, such public presidential missives are reserved for significant birthdays of aging Russian actors, musicians, cosmonauts and other popular national figures.

Yushchenko, who was visiting the European Union headquarters in Brussels, turned 51 on Feb. 23.

"I highly appraise the results of our recent meeting in Moscow and the constructive character of relations growing up between us," Putin said in his mes-

sage. "I consider that the continuation of our direct dialogue will serve the development of equal and mutually beneficial Russian-Ukrainian cooperation in all spheres."

Putin had openly backed Yushchenko's opponent in the

THE UNUSUAL GESTURE FROM YUSHCHENKO'S OPPONENT COULD BE ONE OF RECONCILIATION AMID BILATERAL TENSIONS.

Ukrainian presidential race, former Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich.

A statement from Yushchenko's press service said on Feb. 23 that "the president will celebrate his birthday with family and closest friends" after he returns from his visit to Brussels and Strasbourg, France, where he was to travel later in the day to address the Council of Europe.

In Brussels on Feb. 22, Yushchenko met U.S. President George W. Bush and attended the NATO summit.

Russia has watched warily as Ukraine, along with formerly Soviet Georgia, has sought to follow in the footsteps of the three Baltic countries, deepening ties with Western organizations such as the EU and NATO and moving out from under Russia's shadow.

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Science and solitude for South Pole Ukrainians

BY YULIANN VILKOS
Post Staff Writer

"In an Antarctic expedition, human relationships are everything," says Mykola Leonov, 59, a member of the Ukrainian Third Antarctic Expedition in 1998-1999. "You learn to communicate better; you really become a better person."

Relationships are the reason people who stay the winter in Antarctica take a dip together in the frigid water when they come to and leave the White Continent. The experience is a way of affirming human solidarity in the face of daunting conditions.

On March 20, Ukraine will see off its Tenth Antarctic Expedition, consisting of 15 scientists who over the course of a year will, among other things, study the climate and observe the ozone hole above the South Pole.

Linked to Boston

After the collapse of communism in 1991, Russia assumed control of the Soviet Union's Antarctic bases.

Ukraine recommenced its Antarctic research in 1996, after it acquired Great Britain's Faraday scientific station. Founded by the British in 1934, it was one of the two British stations that in the early 1980s together determined that an ozone hole existed above Antarctica. Located on Galindez Island, just to the west of the Antarctic Peninsula, the station was renamed for Volodymyr Vernadsky, a Ukrainian academician prominent during the first half of 20th century.

Today Ukraine is one of the 19 countries that maintain year-round scientific bases in Antarctica. It is also one of a handful of states, including the U.S., Great Britain, and Japan, that conduct ground-based ozone layer studies – using sophisticated devices called Dobson spectrophotometers – to provide "ground truth" studies that complement the findings of satellite ozone-measuring equipment.

"It really boosts the country's image internationally to have a base in Antarctica," says Hennadiy Milinevsky, deputy head of the Kyiv-based National Antarctic Scientific Center (NASC).

Milinevsky says Ukrainians have not only been advancing the research



Top: An iceberg rises 50 meters above the waterline off the Antarctic shore on which Ukraine's Vernadsky scientific research center is located. Bottom: Penguins cavort in front of the Ukrainian facility. Both photos were taken in 2004. (Courtesy photos)

initiated by the British, but developing their own.

"We discovered that the geographical location of our station is magnetically connected with the industrial regions of Boston, in the U.S.," says Milinevsky. He explained that one of the Earth's magnetic lines starts at Vernadsky station and extends into

the Boston area.

"Our scientists in Lviv are currently developing very sensitive magnetometers that will allow us to observe the electromagnetic situation" in eastern Massachusetts, says Milinevsky.

Nine months alone

The biggest challenge the Antarctic

expedition faces, says Milinevsky, is that the researchers are cut off from the rest of the world for the full nine months of the Antarctic winter. From April to January, ice makes access to the station impossible. The expedition is on its own.

see POLE, page 7

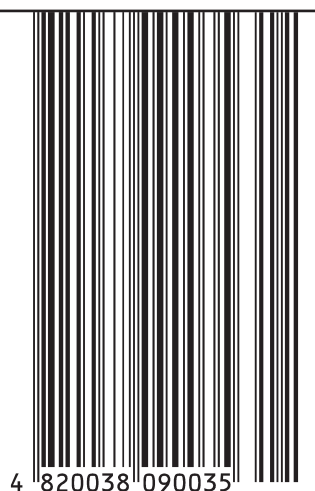


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Q&A: Kyiv development's fiery critic

BY VIKTORIA BARCHENKO
Post Staff Writer

Architect Larysa Skoryk is professor of architecture at the National Academy of Fine Arts and a member of Kyiv's City Planning Board. Founder of the Club for Esthetic Disobedience, she has emerged as the preeminent critic of development in Kyiv in the independence era. The Post talked to her in her Kyiv office on Feb. 11.

KP: You've made clear your negative opinions of Kyiv's construction boom, particularly in the historical center. One of the issues involved is Kyiv's traffic situation. How can traffic in the capital be managed?

LS: Right now it's almost impossible. It would be necessary to dig out tunnels under the whole city center to reduce the main load. In civilized countries, they simply make sure that the historical center of the city is free of establishments that lead to traffic; they take hotels and trade centers, offices and banks, out of the center.

Shopping malls that attract masses of people are placed on cities' outskirts. In contrast, here we put them right in the center; moreover, we put them underground. The Kvadrats and Globus are incredibly stupid projects. But the high-rise buildings in the center are even worse. The city center should not, in general, be used for residency. The air is too contaminated. Existing residential projects should be sanitized by planting more trees around them and removing any extraneous objects and constructions.

By contrast, in Kyiv, developers build in any spot they want. A great example of that is the construction of the residential building on Luteranska that ate up the green yards of two public schools at once. A huge complex is being built on Kruhouniversitetska.

KP: Who has allowed all this to happen?

LS: Obviously, the City Administration; in particular, the city's architecture division. All this started in earnest when [Serhiy] Babushkin was the chief architect of Kyiv. There is a great symbiosis of interests between Kyiv's City Administration and the Kyiv City Council. I believe I shouldn't talk about



Architect and advocate Larysa Skoryk has become prominent for her opposition to aspects of Kyiv's recent development boom, including what she calls bad architecture and lack of respect for the city's historic character and urban fabric. Kyiv's elite "believe in satisfying their personal needs, and the rest is fairly unimportant," she says. (Post photo by Pavel Terekhov)

how the Kyiv Council's deputies are personally implicated in Kyiv real estate deals. The majority of them have their own shares of the city's real estate pie; some of them have much more than some. It's hard to believe that any of them would refuse property that comes to them so easily.

By the way, building is also extremely easy for them, since all of the city's real estate and land committees are created by members of the City Council. Working as an architect, I know what hell it is for any outsider who wants to construct something to get through all these committees. Clients all know that permission to build anywhere in the city depends on how big the bribe is. If the payment is big enough, there are no problems even with the Department of Protection of Historical Heritage and Monuments. A shining example of this sort of construction is the fitness center built literally 10 meters from St. Sofia Cathedral. I was fighting then like a lion

against that construction, including protests next to the Kyiv City Administration. President Leonid Kuchma, vacationing in Crimea, saw our protests on TV and sent an order to investigate the case and, for a period, stopped the construction.

Another example was the restaurant

"THE KVADRATS AND GLOBUS ARE INCREDIBLY STUPID PROJECTS. BUT THE HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS IN THE CENTER ARE EVEN WORSE."

that was built right in the middle of the Kyiv Pechersk Lavra zone. Again, we wrote appeals to the Prosecutor General's Office...

This rapacious commercial construc-

tion boom is happening thanks to our so-called elite.... They believe in satisfying their personal needs, and the rest is fairly unimportant. It results in the destruction of the city's profile. Nearly all the downtown city blocks now have newly-erected, huge, tall "syringes" among them. The smaller, older buildings around them lose their harmony and seem unneeded....

The situation with Kyiv is also complicated because nouveau riches from all over Ukraine have come here and they all want to build or buy real estate here. Some want to build not just in the center, but directly on the Dnipro hills. To avoid construction of that monstrous building on 9A Hrushevskoho I set up two civil hearings. One was on construction and the problem of preserving the historical heritage, and the other was on preserving green spaces.

Destroying a building with historical value is one thing, but destroying the unique natural hills above the Dnipro is

much worse. And now they're willing to destroy them just so that a number of these moneybags have a view from their windows stretching out to Chernihiv region. I believe that the deliberate defiling of a city with a thousand years' worth of history deserves at least a life sentence in jail. It's equivalent to destroying the Taj Mahal.

KP: What can be done to stop this tendency from spreading? What laws exist, or have you forgone these in favor of civil action?

LS: Only civil action is effective.... We have hundreds of people coming with complaints about the City Administration cruelly violating the law by giving away pieces of land. One case was outrageous: The City Administration tried to take away land a family that had owned it since the middle of the 19th century, and which had all the ownership certificates proving this. The Ukrainian Land Code provides for these people's full rights. They initiated numerous court hearings to defend their rights. Unfortunately, I don't know the result of the case. Such examples are numerous.

I'm not even talking about park areas or protected green areas that are being destroyed without any consideration. And you talking about [developers] obeying the law?

KP: What about other places in the city, such as Trukhaniv Island or Parkova?

LS: Well, you can see the first early bird on Parkova. It's the Panorama hotel. The idea of a having a fine view has made everyone crazy. Not only does this construction violate the landscape, it also diminishes the view of beautiful churches. Back to the fine view: they charge \$9,000 per square meter in apartments up to the seventh floor and about \$12,000 per square meter on floors above the seventh in that notorious 9A Hrushevskoho building.

Lower parts on the Dnipro embankment are being endangered. The park slope stretching from Poshtova Square up to the metro bridge is already being subject to privatization and change.

see SKORYK, page 7

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Embassy of the United States of America Kyiv, Ukraine

Internal Revenue Service
DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

IRS Tax Advisor in Kyiv

The U.S. Embassy is pleased to announce that from March 14 through March 16, 2005, a representative of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) will be in Kyiv to provide free income tax assistance to U.S. citizens and other individuals required to file U.S. income tax returns.

On Monday, March 14, at 5:00 pm, the IRS Tax Advisor will lead a public seminar at Artyom Business Center, 4 Hlybochyt'ska Street. The seminar will discuss recent changes in U.S. tax law, outline tax filing procedures, and address taxpayers' questions.

The advisor will also be available for individual consultations at the U.S. Embassy's Consular Section located at 6 Pymonenka Street. The service is free of charge.

To schedule an individual appointment or register for the public seminar, please contact the Consular Section of the U.S. Embassy at 490-4422 or acskiev@state.gov.

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Young activists had recipe for revolt

POTEKHIN, continued from page 1

DP: A long time ago, more than a year before the race began. Together with Anatoliy Tkachuk from the Civil Society Institute and Petro Koshukov from the Europa XXI Foundation, we submitted a funding proposal with the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation (USUF) staff, headed by Markijan Bilynsky in Kyiv and Nadia McConnell in Washington. Koshukov joined in mid-2004. Petro had his own project with Swiss funding. Our projects shared a mission, and we decided to launch a campaign under a joint brand.

The overriding goal of the exercise was to ensure that voter preferences were in conformity with how ballots were cast, and to protect official tallies from being tampered and manipulated.

We had one negative message and three positive ones – why it was important for people to vote, how they should choose their candidate, and what could be done to prevent fraud – targeted at the voters.

The one negative message – don't steal the votes – was meant to frighten, warn, and educate the authorities.

KP: When did the work begin?

DP: Non-violent presidential election-related protest preparations began after parliamentary elections held in March 2002. A series of training sessions were conducted by people with past experience conducting similar campaigns, including the Serbian civil disobedience campaign Otpor. These activities were funded by the U.S.-based non-profit Freedom House, which organized seminars throughout Ukraine designed to teach activists to independently coordinate their activities and organize others, stage actions, talk with journalists, distribute information and work with young people. The Albert Einstein Institute also funded the printing of 12,000 copies of "From Dictatorship to Democracy" by Gene Sharp, a theoretician specializing in nonviolent protest. The pamphlets were printed locally in Ukraine and an edition was made available on the

Internet. Steve York, a film director and author of the documentary film "Bringing Down a Dictator," about the fall of Yugoslav strongman Slobodan Milosevic, talked AEI into funding publication of the book, which was promoted and widely read through the civil society Internet portal Maidan (www.maidan.org.ua).

KP: How much time was spent on training people?

DP: About a year. Trainings started at the end of 2003. In April 2004 a group of Ukrainian activists visited Novy Sad. By summer 2004 there were several hundred trained activists nationwide. There existed another group in Kyiv led by Mykhailo Svystovych, the co-founder of Maidan and the UWK movement. Svystovych and his associates had for a long time planned to create such a movement, but didn't have the time, resources or understanding of how to organize the operation themselves. He also came to Novy Sad.

KP: Are they the ones who helped create the non-violent protest Pora movement?

DP: Yes, in early 2003, after protracted discussions about how to name and present the movement publicly. By that time, there existed a structure for a civil disobedience movement with all the same attributes as similar campaigns in Georgia (Khmara), Serbia (Otpor) and Armenia (Mjaf). The name Pora was decided on in January 2004.

KP: What happened next?

DP: Following the creation of the Pora "brand," replete with its black emblem, logotype, etc., the strategic goal of the campaign was defined: to fight against the system of power under Kuchma. The Internet site Kuchmizm.info (www.kuchmizm.info) was launched. Stickers, reading "What is Kuchmizm?" appeared on March 29, 2004 in 17 cities. Stickers answering, "Kuchmizm is poverty," "Kuchmizm is banditry," "Kuchmizm is corruption," etc. answered the question weeks later.

KP: How about the yellow Pora group?

DP: A copycat Pora movement appeared in Kyiv, replete with their own (yellow) logo and campaign in April 2004. The group, led by 31-year-old Ternopil native Vladyslav Kaskiv, appeared out of nowhere and began making the rounds of foreign donors. They created their own Pora (www.pora.org) site, copying content from the kuchizm.info site, and began appearing in photographs with deputies from Yushchenko's Our Ukraine parliament bloc. In Mukachevo, a yellow Pora activist appeared smiling in a photograph with Yushchenko himself. In several cases during the election campaign yellow Pora flags appeared at Yushchenko rallies, which questioned the declared neutrality of the Pora brand. On April 5 he told the Kyiv-based UNIAN news service that a "Hvylya Svobody" campaign would be launched. But in late April, he started with his version of Pora in Mukachevo. Kaskiv at the time headed the Secretariat of the Svoboda Vyboru Coalition, an organization he founded after the presidential elections in 1999.

The copycat Pora, however, created a problem because young activists in the regions were confused and became disillusioned. Many experienced difficulty differentiating between the two groups, and the resulting confusion reminded some of the power-sharing tussle experienced by the Rukh movement, which in 1999 bifurcated into separate, competing entities.

To solve the problem, we brought the two Poras together at a congress in Kyiv, where they worked out a common logo. We, in return, redirected part of our budget so that they could deliver our negative message. It became much easier, after they agreed to work together, for us to mobilize young people in the regions.

We brought them together not at a congress, but through negotiations. We redirected a part of our budget to black Pora, because they have regional network. We never gave money to yellow Pora.

KP: What are your future plans?

DP: I'm getting ready for the parliamentary elections, scheduled for 2006.

Solitude and bleak beauty define South Pole winter

POLE, continued from page 5

"Such circumstances necessitate well-tempered, healthy people who are capable of teamwork," says Milinevskyy, who says the average age of the all-male winterers is 35.

In addition to scientists, the expeditions include support and technical personnel, including a doctor, an electrician, and a radio operator, says Milinevskyy.

According to former Antarctic hand

UKRAINE'S VERNADSKY BASE HAS BECOME AN ANTARCTIC TOURIST DESTINATION, DRAWING FOREIGN VISITORS IN PART FOR ITS BAR, WHERE TOURISTS LIKE TO HAVE A GLASS OF CHAMPAGNE.

Leonov, the expedition's busiest period is summer, from January through the end of March, when most of the research is done.

General monitoring and observations continue all year. The winterers unwind by throwing regular Saturday parties (a tradition they inherited from the British), playing chess, and, inevitably, trekking in and observing the forbidding but bleakly beautiful landscape.

"Nature there doesn't give you the chance to be bored," says Leonov, whose favorite leisure activity was to observe the local penguins. "I noticed that some penguins are much like our fellow humans. They'd rather steal a rock for their nest from their neighbor than find one themselves."

NASC director Valeriy Lytvynov

says the Education and Science Ministries fund each exhibition to the tune of some \$1.3 million.

"There's never enough money, you know," he says wryly. After travel and maintenance expenses are taken care of, he says, there is little money left for research.

Lytvynov's other big concern is a ship capable of making expeditions to and from the Antarctic station. Currently, Ukraine doesn't have one, so the NASC rents a boat from Ushuaia, in Tierra del Fuego in Argentina, when it needs one.

Local attraction

One of the more remarkable things about the Vernadsky base is that it has become an unlikely tourist attraction, welcoming 2,000 to 3,000 international visitors a year, says Andriy Fedchuk, who works as an expert on Antarctic tourism at NASC.

"Many tourists first learn about Ukraine and its scientific potential after visiting our station," says Fedchuk.

He says the base is one of the 20 most visited objects in Antarctica, thanks to its geographical location – it is the last destination on many tourist itineraries – and its Faraday bar, where foreign visitors like to have a glass of champagne.

"The bar is popular thanks to the amusing story behind its construction. They say that a British engineer built it out of wood meant for a dock that the station needed," explains Fedchuk.

But for the Ukrainian researchers departing for Vernadsky station in March, the trip isn't about fooling around. Volodymyr Lozysky, 22, a physics graduate of Kyiv National Taras Shevchenko University, wants to test out his knowledge of the ozonosphere. He also wants to learn something about himself.

"I want to test my maturity," the young researcher says.

Architect attacks Kyiv 'nouveau riche' and a new Kyiv cityscape

SKORYK, continued from page 6

KP: What is the legal status of that particular area?

LS: It's a protected landscape with special historical and cultural value. I hear that the new Culture Minister is complaining that she doesn't have a decent study, instead of worrying about the miserable condition of our memorials and historical heritage, whether that means parks, or cemeteries, or preserved areas. Anyway, as they say, history doesn't judge the winners. Meanwhile, in civilized countries one can't even put a nail into the wall of a historically valuable building without receiving permission from the relevant city agency.

KP: What do you think of the chances that Ukraine's joining the European Union will force changes in legislation that protects cultural and historical heritage sites?

LS: You see, our legislation is not that bad. The problem is that no one obeys the law. And the Prosecutor General's Office rarely pursues lawbreakers... At the same time, the case that the PGO opened to investigate illegal construction of the restaurant Lavra was successful and quietly dropped. And now when they say that everyone responsible for such deeds will be judged, I don't believe it. There are various ways to avoid responsibility for

breaking the law in Ukraine. And all the guys who shout these slogans are personally engaged in violating Ukraine's land codes.

Society today lacks nobility of spirit. I'm not talking about inherited nobility, although both the Russian and Polish nobilities originated in Kyiv. I mean the sort of noble human spirit that can originate in any family, which implies a solicitous attitude towards everything that surrounds you. These days, I see that there's a vacuum-like lack of such spirit in this society.

KP: What do you think about the younger generation and what they will learn about appreciating their cultural environment?

LS: I don't think they are learning. It will be hard [to teach them] now. Back at the beginning of the 1990s, I remember a generation of kids in the Academy of Fine Arts with inspiration in their eyes and hope in their souls. They still remembered the Communist and Komsomol repressions and valued their new independence and freedom. Their personal qualities were tremendous. Every time I came from the Rada they wanted to know about everything that was going on in the country. They were 18- to 20-years old back then, and they could have become our cultured nobility.

Unfortunately, the moment was missed. Kuchma became prime minister

and then president, and hopes faded. Instead, depression set in. All these kids now who went on Maidan two months ago know nothing about true repression or freedom. I get the sense that they came back with something extinguished inside of themselves. The creative process can't tolerate revolution; instead it requires evolution. The youth have seen all the cynicism flourishing for the past eight years, and I know how hard it is to direct them towards true values. The students have changed. I hesitate to speculate about when we can nurture them to become an aristocracy. Above all, they can't imagine the feeling of responsibility. They all know that it's possible to earn money in these design firms where it's thought normal to put a house on a schoolyard's territory... Mercantilism and readiness to do anything - that's the standard attitude for both older and younger architects now. I see how young people are deteriorating.

KP: What about construction on the Left Bank?

LS: Building on the other side [of the river] was already a big mistake. It ruined the magnificent view of the endless plains that you saw when you stood on the Dnipro hills. I remember that feeling of flying when, in my youth, I had just come to Kyiv. When I came to the city, I didn't like Kyiv's architecture, because com-

pared to Lviv it is somewhat sloppy and merchant-like, but those landscapes fully made up for it.

So when in the 20th century they decided to build on the Left Bank, they at least succeeded in creating a green buffer between the housing and the river, letting the river breathe and allowing beautiful parks to appear. That allowed for the creation of pretty islands and picturesque bays, giving Kyiv the status of the most beautiful European capital in terms of landscape.

Unfortunately, I'm almost certain [Trukhaniv Island]... will also be totally urbanized. I remember their former intentions to build a high-rise hotel there. It will be the same way this time: parking lots, buildings or, even better, some areas turned into private zones and closed to the public. That's why I believe we need the most severe civil control. If we've ever achieved anything, it was only due to our civic initiatives.

KP: What about knocking down buildings of historical value?

LS: Many such buildings have been destroyed or disfigured lately. However, the new law on historical and cultural heritage says that no building of historical value can be either excluded from the heritage register or destroyed. We'll see how it works out. My belief is that it won't work.

Right now, they are treated like corpses. All the insides are stripped and only the facades are preserved. In the worst cases, such as on Yaroslaviv Val, we see houses razed to the ground and new ones erected, though several floors higher and vaguely resembling the originals. The builders claim that in this way they're maintaining the city's historical appearance.

KP: What do you think should be done?

LS: First of all, we need a moratorium on any kind of construction in Kyiv's historic downtown. It should stay in effect until detailed construction plans for the downtown are considered and approved. This document should be as strong as iron and should – along with codes for building in Kyiv – create a policy no one is allowed to violate.

That was already done in Pechersk, although the City Administration on purpose delayed accepting the plan for 10 years: During the delay, those monstrous buildings in Pechersk appeared. After such plans are created, every one of them should be discussed with the public...people have the right to know what will happen to their city.

And there should be time for these plans to be considered. The designs should be open to the public, and special consultants should answer all questions people might ask.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Putin says Russia will develop its own model of democracy

MOSCOW – Russian President Vladimir Putin said Feb. 22 that his nation will pursue a model of democracy befitting its history and traditions and voiced hope for a friendly dialogue with U.S. President George W. Bush on global security issues and the fight against terrorism.

Speaking to Slovak media ahead of the Feb. 24 summit with Bush in the Slovak capital, Bratislava, Putin said they will discuss Iraq, Iran and the North Korean nuclear bid among other issues.

"There are many spheres of common interests," Putin said in remarks released by the Kremlin press service. "Such meetings are always important, because they not only allow us to review the results of previous work but to plan future steps." He added that they will talk as friends.

"The president of the United States has repeatedly called me his friend, and I also consider him a friend of mine," Putin said.

Bush, however, had some critical words for Putin on Feb. 21, suggesting the Russian leader was backsliding on democracy.

"I've got a good relationship with Vladimir. I intend to keep it that way. But as well, I intend to remind him that if his interests lie West, that (the United States and its allies) share values, and those values are important," Bush said. Asked whether he anticipates unpleasant questions from Bush about Kremlin backtracking on democracy, Putin

sounded conciliatory, emphasizing that Russia has firmly chosen a democratic path.

"Russia chose democracy 14 years ago not to please anyone, but for its own sake, for the sake of the nation and its citizens," Putin said. "Naturally, basic principles and institutions of democracy must be adapted to today's realities of Russian life, to our traditions and history. And we shall do it ourselves."

On a softer note, he added that "a friendly look from the outside, even a critical look, won't hurt and will only help us."

At the same time, Putin warned unspecified foreigners against using the democracy issue to "achieve their foreign policy goals or turn Russia into something amorphous" in order to manipulate it. "I don't think that is the goal of our partners," he added.

"In any case, we have never had questions that would exacerbate our relations in the dialogue with President Bush," Putin said.

U.S.-Russian relations were boosted by Putin's support of the United States after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, but later soured over Moscow's opposition to the war in Iraq and American concerns over Putin's domestic policy, the crackdown on the Yukos oil giant and, most recently, Russian involvement in Ukraine's presidential election.

Georgian police official flies to U.S. for talks on cooperation

TBILISI, Georgia – Georgia's top police official left Feb. 23 for a two-day

trip to the United States to discuss security cooperation.

"We have traditionally had active cooperation with the FBI and CIA and hope to deepen and strengthen our contacts," Interior Minister Vano Merabishvili told reporters.

His trip began a day after the Georgian parliament approved a plan by President Mikhail Saakashvili to merge his ministry with the State Security Ministry, giving him expanded powers as the head of the new agency.

Saakashvili ordered the shakeup last month, saying it was necessary because "diverse, subversive elements are now activating against our country, plotting conspiracies."

He didn't elaborate, but many saw comments as a reference to separatist movements in two Georgian regions – Abkhazia, on the Black Sea, and South Ossetia, which borders Russia – which became de-facto independent after wars in the early 1990s. Saakashvili has vowed to reassert central control over both regions, which enjoy strong Russian support.

Russia and Georgia have a tense relationship, complicated by Georgia's hard-to-patrol border with Chechnya and the continuing presence of two Russian military bases on Georgian territory.

Also Feb. 23, construction began on a new cafeteria and barracks at a Georgian military base, Krtsanisi, where a \$50 million military training program is being conducted.

"Construction of the barracks will increase the possibilities of the Krtsanisi

training center and we will be able to receive more people for further training," Deputy Defense Minister David Sikharulidze told Rustavi-2 television.

The U.S.-funded program is to last one and a half years and train close to 3,000 Georgian servicemen for international peacekeeping operations.

It is the second U.S. military training program in Georgia, following Train and Equip, which was aimed at bolstering the armed forces' ability to fight terrorists.

Turkish best-seller describes war against America

ISTANBUL – It's the year 2007, and U.S. troops in northern Iraq fire on a group of Turkish commandos, setting off a war between the two NATO allies.

U.S. tanks quickly pour across the Iraqi border into Turkey, annihilating Turkish forces while U.S. warplanes target Istanbul. A Turkish agent, acting on his own initiative, exacts his revenge. He detonates a nuclear bomb in a park in Washington that levels the U.S. capital.

Turkey's new hot-selling novel is "Metal Storm," and although it is pure thriller, it highlights the deep fears that many Turks harbor that the U.S. invasion of Iraq will put the decades-long allies on a collision course.

The mood of suspicion has become so serious that U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, in a meeting with Turkish leaders earlier this month, raised concerns about the negative image of the United States in Turkey, diplomats said.

The book is "fiction but in Turkey everyone is questioning whether there will eventually be a conflict between America and Turkey," Cem Kucuk, an editor at Timas Yayinlari, the book's publisher, said in an interview Feb. 22.

During the Cold War, Turkey and the United States saw their alliance as crucial to stopping possible Soviet expansion.

But now, the critical security issue to both countries is Iraq, where the two sides have vital interests that could conflict.

Washington sees Iraqi Kurds as key allies in bringing stability to the country. Turkey, however, is terrified that growing Iraqi Kurdish power could inspire Kurds in Turkey, where the army has battled autonomy-seeking Kurdish insurgents for decades.

A turning point for Turkey came in 2003 when U.S. forces seized 11 Turkish soldiers in northern Iraq that they suspected of plotting to assassinate a top Iraqi Kurdish official. U.S. soldiers handcuffed the Turks and put sacks on over their heads, which many Turks considered an extreme humiliation.

"There is a perception that the United States is encouraging ... Kurds in Iraq and they are not taking into account the concerns of the Turkish government," said Sami Kohen, a columnist for the *Milliyet* newspaper.

Criticism of U.S. policies is hardly new in Turkey and has long been championed by leftist and pro-Islamic groups.

see BRIEFS, page 9



The semi-finals for the Miss Ukraine 2005 competition were held at the luxurious Cornelia De Luxe Resort Hotel in Belek-Antalya, Turkey, from Feb. 19-20. The 26 contestants, aged 15 to 22, came from all over Ukraine, and from them a final field of 16 was chosen for the finals. The finals will be held on April 24 at Ukraine Palace in Kyiv. (Post photos by Ruslan Tracz)

Turkish delight

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

BRIEFS, continued from page 8

"What is new and what makes this anti-Americanism so widespread now and so strong is the large mass which includes the elite and the intellectuals...and some of the military," said Kohen. "All of these elements who...had a lot of sympathy for the United States are turning against" America.

Turkish newspapers have recently been filled with stories of the increasing tensions. Kohen said that in questions that he has fielded at recent university lectures and conferences, the United States "is being portrayed more as a hostile country than an ally."

Also at issue is the fact that Turkey's ruling party, the Justice and Development Party, has its roots in the Islamic movement, whose members have sometimes identified more with besieged Iraqis than with the United States.

"The (party's) base is radically anti-American and is very sensitive to populist policies," columnist Cuneyt Ulsever wrote in the *Turkish Daily News*.

And many Turks fear that the United States may soon provoke a conflict with neighboring Iran, further inflaming tensions in the region.

A BBC World Service Poll taken in 21 countries, showed a chart-topping 82 percent of Turks felt that Bush's re-election was a negative for global peace and security. In France the figure was 75 percent.

"It is impossible not to see the anti-American movement's rise," columnist Ismet Berkan wrote in the daily *Radikal*.

Turkish officials have been working hard to blunt the hostility on the street and have recently emphasized the importance of the relationship with the United States.

In Brussels, Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan was asked about anti-American sentiments.

"Let's not focus on this, but on making friends," Erdogan said after meeting with Bush Feb. 22.

"At the moment, our relations are just fine," he said, adding that it was "out of question" for the government to con-

tribute to such negative sentiments.

While criticism of Bush and U.S. policy has skyrocketed, there is little hostility toward Americans on the streets and officials have taken pains to point out that just a few years ago, U.S. President Bill Clinton was enormously popular in the country.

Burak Turna, co-author of the book, says he wrote "Metal Storm" to try to prevent a U.S.-Turkish clash.

Protests continue in support of disqualified candidates

BISHKEK, Kyrgyzstan – Demonstrators supporting opposition politicians disqualified from this week-end's parliamentary elections blockaded key highways for a second day on Feb. 23 and occupied a government building.

The protests raised tensions ahead of the Feb. 27 poll, considered a key test of Kyrgyzstan's commitment to democracy. Analysts have predicted that any signs of fraud could trigger mass protests similar to those that helped overturn past election results in Ukraine and Georgia.

Opposition figures have complained of being denied candidacies on improper grounds.

One protest, by supporters of banned candidate Akyzbek Japarov, shut down traffic on a road linking the capital, Bishkek, with the country's southeast and with China – a vital trade route for the former Soviet state.

Japarov estimated the number of protesters on Feb. 23 at about 5,000. Local police could not immediately be reached for comment.

On Feb. 21, election officials stripped Japarov of his registration for alleged campaign violations. Japarov, who denied any wrongdoing, was running against former Communist boss Turdakun Usubaliyev, 86, who led Kyrgyzstan between 1961 and 1985.

A second demonstration in support of another disqualified candidate, moderate opposition lawmaker Arslanbek Maliyev, blocked a road between Bishkek and the eastern Issyk-Kul region. A regional

police duty officer, Akyzbek Abdylashev, estimated the number of demonstrators there at 2,000.

Maliyev had been running against a brother of a local governor.

Hundreds of Maliyev supporters later occupied a regional government building in Bokonbaev, news reports and Maliyev spokeswoman Zinagul Kydyrmyshev said. Police could not immediately be reached for comment.

Japarov said the Supreme Court would look into his case on Feb. 24. He said he expected his supporters would come to Bishkek to protest if the court didn't reinstate his candidacy.

Independent election observers say eight candidates have been accused of breaching the election law and removed from the race.

Bolot Januzakov, first deputy chief of staff for President Askar Akayev, criticized the demonstrations. "The candidates are breaking the law by bringing their supporters to the streets and getting them to block the roads. It is pressure on the courts. It is illegal," he told *The Associated Press*.

Ex-NSA: U.S. should pay more attention to Moscow

WASHINGTON – As President George W. Bush prepares for talks Feb. 24 with Russian President Vladimir Putin, a former U.S. national security adviser accused Bush of paying insufficient attention to relations with Moscow.

Brent Scowcroft, who last served as the top presidential security adviser under Bush's father, President George H.W. Bush, also was critical Feb. 22 of the current president's policies in Iraq and the Middle East.

"U.S. policy in the last few years has not reflected the importance of the relationship" between the United States and Russia," Scowcroft said in a talk at the Nixon Center, a private think tank.

He said the world has changed dramatically since the United States and the Soviet Union concentrated on each other as the world's two superpowers during

the Cold War, but Russia remains one of the world's two great nuclear powers.

Scowcroft said one reason for paying close attention to Russia was its supply of nuclear technology to Iran.

Also, he said, Russia is at the very center of a great arc where U.S. security interests are concentrated. But, he said, the Bush administration became absorbed in countering terror after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, and then on Iraq.

As a result, he said, the relationship with Russia slipped, especially with the abandonment of a high-level U.S.-Russian commission headed by former Vice President Al Gore that President Bill Clinton's administration used to smooth over disputes with Moscow.

Government seeks money for Poles who lost lands in WWII

WARSAW, Poland – The Polish government on Feb. 22 proposed legislation that would provide compensation to Poles who lost property in the east of the country after its borders were moved westward at the end of World War II.

Infrastructure Minister Krzysztof Opawski said the government wants to pay 15 percent of the original value of lost property to Poles who were forced to leave their homes in the post-1945 resettlements but were never compensated at the time.

After the Nazi defeat, Poland gained some former German territory in the west and north but lost land in the east to the Soviet Union – territory that is now part of Lithuania, Belarus and Ukraine. Millions of Poles were resettled from the east to the formerly German provinces in the west.

There have been some small-scale attempts in the past to give limited compensation to individuals who lost land, but the new proposal marks the first attempt at a broad regulation of the matter. It wasn't immediately clear whether it would gain lawmakers' support.

The government estimates that about 52,000 people will file claims for compensation.

Polish painter Beksinski found dead with stab wounds

WARSAW, Poland – Zdzislaw Beksinski, a leading Polish artist best known for his foreboding surrealist paintings, was found stabbed to death at his Warsaw home, police said Feb. 22.

Relatives found Beksinski's body overnight, and "everything indicates it was murder," police spokeswoman Zuzanna Talar said. He suffered multiple stab wounds, she said.

There were no signs of forced entry or robbery, police spokesman Mariusz Sokolowski told TVN24 television.

Beksinski, 75, was considered one of Poland's leading contemporary artists. He emerged on the Polish art scene in the 1950s and was best known for his abstract renditions of skeletons, monster-like creatures and other apocalyptic images evoking death and decay.

Beksinski also enjoyed a large following outside Poland – mainly in France, Japan and the United States – among fans of surrealist art and collectors, said James Cowan, the president of Morpheus Fine Art, a company which has published a book on Beksinski and sold some of his works.

Cowan said Beksinski's paintings often sold for between \$30,000 and \$50,000 to collectors – among them a number of "Oscar-winning people in Hollywood."

Beksinski studied architecture in Krakow before throwing himself into painting, photography and drawings. His works hang in the National Museum in Wroclaw, the National Museum in Warsaw and in a dedicated museum in Sanok, his hometown.

"It misses the point to ask me what my paintings mean," he once said. "Simply, I do not know myself. Moreover, I am not at all interested in knowing."

Beksinski's wife died several years ago, while a son, Tomasz, committed suicide after battling clinical depression, Cowan said.

– *The Associated Press*

LETTERS TO EDITOR

LETTERS, continued from page 10

support of an ideal of freedom, and the ability to step away from the Russian yoke. I certainly did not hear any criticism of the Ukrainian Diaspora when it, nearly single-handedly, marshalled global opinion in support of free and democratic elections in Ukraine last November and December, in opposition to the pro-Russian communist agenda.

Perhaps your family were among those Ukrainian *apparatchiks* who supported Joseph Stalin in starving and/or murdering 7-14 million Ukrainians. We really do not know how many died, because Stalin and his criminal cronies (Russian, Ukrainian, and otherwise) did not see it necessary to count and bury these people with any kind of dignity. But you and apparently your family, as you say, are alright with that.

And I am sorry to say that, if you are not ignorant of history, then the only conclusion that can be reached is that you supported the Holodomor. And that is simply immoral, coming from a so-called Ukrainian.

I find it hard to believe it when you make a smokescreen statement about liking Churchill. This had nothing to do with the British leader. Here in North America, at least, many people know that FDR was a weak president, and that he tacitly supported "Uncle Joe," the mass murderer. That is why he made a deal with Stalin, against the wishes of Churchill. I do agree with you, however, that Churchill was truly a great statesman.

Further, I would challenge your myopic statement that this objection is from a small minority of individuals. Perhaps you can go to your computer and conduct research into how the

Ukrainian-Canadian Civil Liberties Association single-handedly brought worldwide attention to the Holodomor. Nearly every nation has now unanimously condemned Stalin for the mass murder – but you are alright with that because this global condemnation is apparently superfluous to you.

As to marketing, perhaps Massandra should not market the wine here. They should rather sell it to Russians who may, no doubt, appreciate the fact that they nearly were successful in wiping out the Ukrainian race.

For too long, Ukrainian people have sat back and kept silent about the abuses of others visited on them. No more. Now we are beginning to stand up for ourselves, irrespective of ignorant little minions such as you, if this article is reflective of your character and knowledge.

I wonder if you, or your ilk, would have the same cavalier attitude if a German company sold white German wine with a swastika on it.

Your final commentary about the Diaspora's opinion is just plain stupid, at worst, and not thought through, at best. It was, and is, the Diaspora that substantially saved the national history and language so it would not be erased or forgotten – and especially after the Ukrainian National Library & Archives in Kyiv were burned by agents of the *moskali*. If you know how to do any research at all, you should find out about the role played by the Ukrainian Free University in Austria and other major schools, such as the University of Alberta and many others, in preserving the historical and national character of pre-Russified Ukrainian writings.

Perhaps you have had your head up the Russian ass for so long that you have forgotten what it is to be a Ukrainian. If so, then remove your head from that orifice – breathe some fresh air – and, if you would care to learn, then come to Austria, to France, to England, to Canada, to the U.S., to Australia – and indeed all over the world – and see for yourself. I think that you, refreshingly, will find and experience the true Ukrainian character.

*David Repetowsky,
Calgary,
Canada*

The image, not the wine

Andrey Slivka: I am not against Massandra wines being sold in Canada. I welcome the idea. I am against the winery's lack of sensitivity to Ukrainian and especially emigre history, and against its political incorrectness. At a church gathering in Toronto, the wine was presented as the wine of choice, because it was Stalin's favorite wine. This, in a large parish in Toronto, whose membership has memories of relatives being shot, starved and sent to the camps by Stalin and his henchmen. Where is the political sensitivity there? Do they know where they are going and have they done their marketing homework for the North American market?

It is not the Diaspora that should be questioned for its actions, but the people who run Massandra, who think they can do as they please and throw out whatever they want for the Diaspora to consume.

Why didn't they come out with Hitler's favorite wine in Ukraine? No

doubt he must have had one.

*Valentina Kuryliw,
Toronto,
Canada*

Deeply offended

Andrey Slivka: As one of the so-called "Diasporans," as you describe us, I am deeply offended by your opinion piece regarding the "Stalin wine." This evil person raped and pillaged our land and massacred our people. In fact, Hitler learned from Stalin how to be an especially vicious dictator. To acknowledge "Uncle Joe" in this fashion is extremely offensive to any Ukrainian no matter where he or she lives, and should be so to the citizens of independent Ukraine.

We in the Diaspora have struggled, demonstrated and lobbied our governments to let them know that Ukraine exists and is not a province of Russia. If we did not do this over the years, the level of support that the world gave Ukraine in its times of trouble during the last election would not have been there. You know that.

It seems to me that you need an education in Ukrainian history – the real history, and not that garbage that was doled out by the Communists. I will gladly help you in this noble effort. If you wish, I will gladly send you any historical material or refer you to sources that can provide it. Please let me know.

*Jerry Kocijowski,
Ontario,
Canada*

And the Jewish community?

Andrey Slivka: With due respect, let me suggest to you that if a German winery saw fit to put out a wine with a picture of Hitler on it, in any context, with

any respectable world leader next to him (and he did meet with many!), the outcry and indignation that would result would hardly be questioned by you or anybody else.

Why is it that when Ukrainians protest or show indignation against past crimes or oppressions committed against them, they are put down and told to put the past behind them? Somehow I doubt that you will write a similar treatise against the Jewish community in the Diaspora next time they protest some current manifestation of neo-Nazism. This kind of selective chauvinism is not worthy of you or your publication.

*Walter Kish,
Kyiv*

No Hitler beer

Andrey Slivka: I suppose you would have no objection if, three years from now, a Bavarian brewery was to put out a beer with Hitler, Mussolini and Neville Chamberlain shaking hands on the label in order to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Munich Agreement.

*Marco Levytsky,
Edmonton,
Canada*

Andrey Slivka replies: Thanks for the letters, several of which allude to "free market" or "democratic" principles as being behind the Manitoba wine ban. I'd argue that those very same principles dictate that the controversial wine stay on the shelves, and people be free to choose for themselves without interference from the authorities. When a mobilized minority gets a government to ban a product because the product is ideologically suspect, that's not the free market at work.

EDITORIALS

High anxiety

Most voters who dropped a ballot for President Viktor Yushchenko probably wanted things shaken up in Ukraine. That's exactly what they're getting.

Yushchenko's activist government is upsetting one card table after another, to what appears to be consternation among a Ukrainian elite that has had it easy – scandalously easy – for a long time. What remains to be seen is how long the new government can continue to make its enemies uncomfortable without shooting itself in the foot, and damaging the country in the process.

In these fast-moving days, it's difficult to figure out exactly what's going on in the government. The privatization controversy is a good indication of that. In the early days of his tenure, Yushchenko announced that the government planned to restrict review of possibly crooked privatizations carried out under former President Leonid Kuchma's watch to a mere 30 state properties. Then, last week, Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko stunningly revised that number upward to 3,000, generating panic among certain members of Ukraine's tycoon class. Soon after that, word seeped out from the government that the revised number was wildly inflated. The number of privatizations to be reviewed was closer to 30 after all.

If such gestures are meant to keep off-balance the crooked Kuchma-era elites who form a significant percentage of the opposition to the new government, they're working. It's been interesting to see the charm offensive that's been launched by certain powerful Ukrainians recently: after years of remaining silent and in the shadows, confident of their power, they're now rushing to the press, eager to justify themselves and trumpet their virtue and patriotism. In short, they're scared.

The trouble is that the government's gestures might keep off balance people who aren't members of the rapacious Kuchma-era robber elite. There are early signs that foreign money is starting to become impatient with the turmoil: no one wants to invest in a country in the midst of permanent low-grade revolution, and the economic life of which is in uproar thanks to the fact that thousands of properties are reverting to state ownership. Thanks, also, to the shenanigans of rich, powerful and rattled Yushchenko enemies who are running to the courts to fight out their privatization battles, and who are making as big a mess as possible.

Nor is it even clear whether the government is masterfully toying with its enemies like a cat toys with a mouse, or whether the confusion is an expression of internal disagreements. Last week, new Justice Minister Roman Zvarych either tried to quit his new post, or noisily staged a resignation. His actions seemed to be in response to a murky situation involving possible illegality and corruption in the oil-export business. The details remain unclear. What is clear is that the new administration is, like any administration, a patchwork of conflicting factions. Some of them have different visions than the others; some of them are possibly more honest than others.

Whatever the situation, Ukraine needs stability. By that we don't mean the corrupt "stability" of the Kuchma years, which losing presidential candidate Viktor Yanukovich promised to maintain. We mean the stability of a democratic country in which citizens know they can expect official adherence to the rule of law, and in which is tolerated neither a thieving elite nor perpetual government crusades against its enemies and their property. It's the stability of a balanced, healthy society. We hope things calm down, and that Yushchenko leads Ukraine to that type of stability soon.

Not again, please

Speaking of crusades, even as President Viktor Yushchenko rides forth on his steed to confront the tycoons and take back Ukrainians' stolen assets, he should be keeping his eye on the smaller stuff.

For example, a controversy has developed between city dwellers and a development company in one of central Kyiv's loveliest districts (see Page 1). Residents of a building at 4 Ivana Franka claim that a plot of land in their backyard has literally been stolen from them – that one day a company called D.I.A. Development simply moved in, razed the old trees, ripped up the turf and started preparing the plot for construction. It seemed that by virtue of the black magic that has often defined real estate deals in Ukraine, people who thought they owned something turned out not really to own it after all. Indications are that D.I.A. could be affiliated with Diamant bank, a Ukrainian institution press reports have tied to David Zhvania, a Yushchenko ally and the current Minister of Emergency Situations.

There is no indication yet that Zhvania has done anything wrong. Nor, given the murkiness and lack of transparency of Ukrainian finance, can it be stated as fact that he is involved with D.I.A. or Diamant at all. But shouldn't we know if he is or isn't? If we ask, shouldn't he tell us? He is refusing to comment on this case – and shouldn't such reticence be a thing of the past? There's a tedious familiarity to all this that irritates us. Let's see: allegations surface that a rich tycoon with government ties is implicated in some unpleasantness; he stonewalls; a corporation with mysterious affiliations issues slippery evasions to the press. It sounds like the way Ukraine was under former President Leonid Kuchma.

It's still early in the Yushchenko presidency, but it can't hurt to ask: Wasn't this the sort of thing that was supposed to stop?

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No more immunity for the powerful

On Feb. 12, Hennady Vasyliiev, leader of the newly-formed Derzhava (State) Party, said he opposes immunity for parliament deputies and the president, and would initiate a referendum to do away with it. If there ever was an idea that symbolizes the positive changes Ukraine has seen in the past several months, this is it. Immunity should be thrown out along with many other holdovers from yesterday's Ukraine.

According to the Constitution, deputies are immune from legal prosecution throughout their tenure in the legislature. A deputy can't be arrested, and no one can open criminal proceedings against him, without a parliament majority voting to allow it. Needless to say, deputies aren't fond of voting to expose one of their own to prosecution. (It has happened only twice, and both votes were highly politicized.) The result is that lawmakers are above the law.

Some argue immunity is necessary, as it lets lawmakers take bold stands without being pressured by law-enforcement agencies and the powerful people who control them. There's some truth to that, but the way immunity works here in Ukraine makes the situation quite different.

Developed democracies strike a balance between protecting officials and elevating them to a caste above their fellow citizens. A U.S. congressman, for example, can't be arrested if he's present at a Congressional session or else coming from one. But elsewhere, he's fair game. In Japan, it's impossible to arrest legislators during a session, except in specific

cases. The rest of the time, they have to obey the laws everyone else does. These systems make a crucial distinction between the lawmaker, who enjoys certain privileges so that the system will run better, and the person, who is subject to the law.

Jed Sunden

Not in Ukraine. Here the model of immunity is held over from the Soviet era, when government officials were a privileged class. Immunity has been a blessing for crooked independence-era businessmen whose only interest in joining the Rada is to protect themselves from the law. Many deputies don't bother showing up for Rada votes, because the Rada to many of them is nothing but a "roof." Immunity encourages people to join parliament for the wrong reasons. They should be there because they want to serve the public. Between Feb. 14, 2004 and Feb. 22, 2005, well-connected deputy Leonid Derkach attended 87 plenary sessions, and missed 70. It's hard to assume that he had his constituents in mind.

This has all led to injustices. Last October, deputy Nestor Shufrych, a powerful member of the Social Democratic Party of Ukraine (united) hit a man with his car in central Kyiv, and allegedly tried to flee the scene. Immunity kept him from legal proceedings. Yet when Shufrych was himself hit in the head on Independence Square on Inauguration Day, his alleged attacker was immediately detained.

Public servants should be most stringently held to the law, because they're the ones who make and enforce it. It defies the whole idea of democra-

cy if lawmakers are privileged over the citizenry.

Judicial corruption

Immunity also makes another serious Ukrainian problem worse: corruption in the court system. It has undermined the incentive to ensure an independent judiciary, because without their necks on the line, deputies spend little time worrying if the justice system is fair. They can rather concentrate on making sure they're re-elected, and on their extra-legislative business activities.

Scrapping immunity, then – for both deputies and the president – should be a priority for the new government. It's a holdover from a backward, corrupt system President Viktor Yushchenko presents himself as an alternative to.

It's true that I've called in this space for Leonid Kuchma to be granted immunity for life. That was because I think it would be best for the country that he leave the public stage quietly, and let the country move ahead without more bitterness and infighting. But Yushchenko has pledged himself to a higher standard, running as a man who would bring Ukraine under the rule of law. He should set a good example and end immunity for himself. Getting rid of parliamentary immunity won't be easy, since it's written into the Constitution and would require a super majority to overturn.

But this is one battle that all citizens of Ukraine should join forces to support. Unless, that is, they like being ruled by a bunch of criminals, well above the law.

Jed Sunden is the publisher of the Kyiv Post.

LETTERS TO EDITOR

Bad marketing move

Andrey Slivka: As a subscriber to *Kyiv Post* over the last year, I have usually agreed with your paper's editorial positions, and have at times shared your views critical of the Ukrainian Diaspora (by way of full disclosure, I'm part of the Diaspora).

I was, however, rather surprised at your Feb. 17 opinion piece, "Diaspora: Hands off the 'Stalin Wine'!" To begin with, you misjudge how many Diaspora Ukrainians were offended by the label which included Stalin. You say it offended "a very small Diaspora activist minority," but based on the amount of Internet traffic and discussion I've seen, it's significantly more than that.

Now, I have to share with you the fact that my family, too, had a wonderful summer vacation that included two weeks in Crimea, an evening spent touring the facility and tasting wines at Massandra, and a day at the Livadia Palace (as well as other places associated with the Yalta Conference of 1945). I took advantage of this not only to enjoy the beautiful sun and gorgeous scenery of Crimea, but also to educate my children about who Stalin was and what he represented, not only to Ukrainians, but also to the Crimean Tatars and the many nations of what was once called the "Eastern Bloc." The two – enjoying a place and learning its history – are not incompatible.

I should also add that I have a few bottles of Massandra wine in my collection at home. None of them include any images of Stalin, with or without Churchill and FDR. As I recall, I had the opportunity to purchase such a bottle, but just did not feel comfortable doing so. You could say I quietly boycotted that bottle, and chose to purchase a different Massandra wine instead.

You see, the image of Stalin is offensive to me. It is also offensive to many others, not just in the Ukrainian Diaspora. The recent row over the possibility of erecting a monument at Livadia to the Big Three

shows that Stalin's image (even alongside FDR and Churchill) is very offensive to the Crimean Tatars. In fact, numerous Americans and Canadians of Central and Eastern European descent find that very image of the Big Three to be unsettling – it is seen by many as the moment when FDR (despite Churchill's misgivings) ceded half of Europe to Stalin.

You imply that Diaspora Ukrainians should support any product coming from Ukraine in order to help make it a success. Does that mean that by analogy Diaspora Ukrainians should be indiscriminately supportive of any government of Ukraine, in order to help it become a success? Would that have included a Yanukovich government?

People's opinions can differ – you did not find anything offensive in the photo of the Big Three. But others do find it offensive – why should they not actively "vote with their dollars"? In the U.S. in the 1970s, there were numerous consumer boycotts of products that people objected to (Cesar Chavez and California grapes come to mind). If a group has the size and economic clout to fight a product (as Ukrainian-Canadians in the western provinces apparently do), they will fight it. That seems to me to be one of the positive features of the free market.

Face it, Massandra made an error in marketing this wine using this label in North America. Part of marketing is knowing the likes and dislikes of your target audience. They will do much better to market wines with the image of Prince Golitsyn, or with other images related to Crimea, in that market.

In the 1960s, Chevrolet wanted to sell the Nova in Mexico. Initially, they found that nobody would buy one. Why? "No va" means "doesn't go" in Spanish. Chevrolet changed the name of the model for sale south of the border. They sold like hotcakes. Massandra should learn from that lesson.

Walter Anastazievsky,
Shoreview, MN,
U.S.A.

What about Hitler?

I have followed with interest the issue of the "Stalin wine" from Crimea, and the Feb. 17 op-ed by Andrey Slivka. I cannot agree with his opinion, which in my view belittles the view of Diaspora Ukrainians. My own father was a Holodomor survivor, escaped to the west during World War II and spent the rest of his life battling the evils of communism. The way that I see it, your slant is that it is alright to portray Uncle Joe (along with FDR and Churchill), as they represent the victors of World War II. Stalin was a mass murderer who brought the Ukrainian nation to its knees. Ukraine today still bears the scars of his actions, physically and sociologically. If his image is allowed, why not have another line of wine with Hitler and Stalin (allies up to 1941)? It's a historic truth, so what's the big deal?

Well, I'm sure that images of Hitler would never be accepted in Ukraine, or anywhere else in the world. So if Hitler is verboten, how can we say anything different about Stalin? Diaspora Ukrainians (and I'm sure many citizens of Ukraine) were rightfully offended when this product hit the marketplace. After all, didn't President Viktor Yushchenko come out against erecting a statue in Crimea depicting Stalin, FDR, and Churchill?

Walter Salmaniwo,
Victoria,
Canada

Sense of disbelief

Andrey Slivka: I read your so-called article about the Massandra Winery with a sense of disbelief – not about the wine but about your conciliatory attitude towards Stalin.

I guess you do not need the Ukrainian Diaspora anymore after all, or the financial assistance and influence that have been contributed to the Ukrainian people from all over the world. Many ordinary people, of Ukrainian origin, here in Canada, gave all the money they had in

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KYIV POST **Business**

Dipsy-doo, dunkeroo!
The NBA All-Star Game weekend proved another highlight reel bonanza
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FEBRUARY 24TH, 2005

Grigorishin strikes back at rivals

BY ROMAN OLEARCHYK
Post Staff Writer

An already heated three-year standoff between influential and wealthy local businessmen is snowballing into a full-blown legal war that has now engulfed the country's top soccer team.

At stake in the nearly three-year conflict between businessmen Konstantin Grigorishin and his one-time partners former Presidential Administration Chief Viktor Medvedchuk and deputy Hryhory Surkis is control over a handful of multi-million dollar power utilities and the capital's internationally renowned Dynamo Kyiv Soccer Club. The assets of Dynamo Kyiv were ordered frozen by a court ruling on Feb. 23.

On Feb. 23, Kyiv's Pechersky District Court froze 98.71 percent of the shares of the closed joint-stock company Dynamo Kyiv Soccer Club in response to a lawsuit filed by a shareholder, the Pacific International Sports Club Limited. Insiders say the shareholder is affiliated with Grigorishin. Grigorishin claims once to have controlled 20 percent of shares in Dynamo Kyiv, but was forced to cede them to Surkis.

Ihor Surkis, the younger brother of Hryhory Surkis, is the club's president.

Confrontational tactics

Grigorishin has in recent months openly supported President Viktor Yushchenko and used the favor he's courted from the new administration to wage war on Medvedchuk and Surkis, who now find their power waning since former President Leonid Kuchma stepped down in January.

A clash between the two sides nearly erupted in violence last week when armed security units from each side faced off at two regional utilities, each side claiming

ownership of the properties. Parliament deputies supporting Medvedchuk and Surkis were on hand in both cases, crying foul and labeling the events as a "forceful and illegal takeover" blessed by the country's new leadership.

Escorted by security guards and waving court rulings authorizing a change in management, individuals loyal to Grigorishin on Feb. 17-19 reclaimed control at the utilities Prykarpattiaoblenergo in Ivano-Frankivsk oblast and Poltavaoblenergo in Poltava oblast. Existing management, supposedly loyal to Surkis and Medvedchuk, claim still to legally be in charge at these facilities and point to court rulings of their own to back this up.

These events have fueled fears that armed conflicts could arise at Ukraine's 27 other regional utilities, especially those in which both sides are shareholders. In response, security was beefed up at Lvivoblenergo and reportedly at other utilities.

At a Feb. 23 press conference in Kyiv, the newly instated managers at Poltavaoblenergo and Prykarpattiaoblenergo called the previous management teams "criminal" and presented journalists with a printout detailing the holdings of Surkis family members.

Yevhen Korniychuk, a partner at Kyiv's Magister & Partners law firm, which represented the interests of offshore firms allegedly controlled by Grigorishin, said the management changes were legal. However, he added the case requires prompt intervention from the government.

The government owns stakes of about 25 percent in each oblenergo.

Power games

Mykhailo Dobkin, a member of the



Konstantin Grigorishin is moving to acquire key assets from his powerful former partners and current enemies Hryhory Surkis and Viktor Medvedchuk. (UNIAN)

Medvedchuk-led Social Democratic Party of Ukraine (united) party tried to prevent the management changes at Poltavaoblenergo, crying foul at Grigorishin and his associates. Other party members did the same at Prykarpattiaoblenergo.

"I'm convinced that a businessman on the level Grigorishin can't forcefully take over an oblenergo without support from the government," Dobkin said, adding that he has reason to believe that

National Security Chief Petro Poroshenko and other government officials "blessed" the takeover.

Poroshenko and other state officials have denied this allegation, while promising to maintain stability at the regional electricity distributors.

Dobkin also alleged Grigorishin was trying to wrest control of the oblenergos before a March shareholder meeting.

see FIGHT, page 16

Investors worried by gov't plans

BY ROMAN OLEARCHYK
Post Staff Writer

Foreign investors and Ukrainian business moguls alike are nervous over the government's proclaimed re-privatization plans, as critics are calling the process confusing, unfair and potentially damaging in its own right.

During a trip to Brussels on Feb. 22, where he met with European Union officials and U.S. President George W. Bush, President Viktor Yushchenko tried to calm investor fears, re-emphasizing statements that only about 30 privatization deals would be reversed and not the "hundreds or thousands" Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko suggested a week earlier.

In recent weeks, Yushchenko has pledged to reverse the most egregious transfers of state assets made by the previous administration.

He has also promised to re-tender such bids in a free and fair manner, provide equal access to foreign and local bidders, and sell the assets for the highest possible price.

But the government's inability or reluctance to publicly list the sales it plans to review has fueled concerns that thousands of past state privatization deals could be reviewed, not mere dozens.

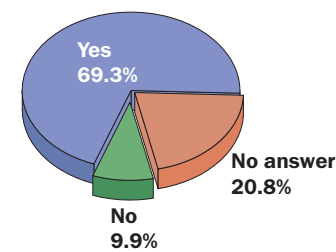
Most concerned are Ukraine's business elite and foreign lenders, who have funded these recent privatizations through lines of credit. Yushchenko allies have accused Ukraine's wealthiest tycoons of crony capitalism, saying that they have built diversified, multi-billion dollar business empires by virtue of close links with Ukraine's top power brokers. True or not, they stand to take a hit from Yushchenko's re-privatization efforts.

Gennady Bogolubov, co-owner of the so-called Privat Group, doesn't hide his unease at the government's plans. He thinks the government's opaque methods are more damaging than the threat of losing ownership of certain assets.

"For the Privat Group, the biggest blow is occurring now, in the uncertain time between the declaration of their re-privatization plans and the announcement of the list of what they actually

see WORRY, page 16

DID YOU PAY TAXES LAST YEAR?



Source: TNS Ukraine
Omnibus survey of 1,200 Ukrainians, age 16-75, November 2004

Is Public's end swansong of independent radio?



Left to right: Oleksandr Tkachenko, former chairman of Novy Kanal television channel, Oleh Rybachuk, deputy prime minister for European integration, and Yevhen Hlibovytzky, head of the Kyiv Independent Media Trade Union, gathered at Public Radio's final show on Feb. 18. (Post photo by Yulia Pobedinskaya)

BY VLAD LAVROV
Post Staff Writer

After three difficult years spent trying to obtain broadcasting rights, Ukraine's first independent radio station covering political and social issues closed its doors on Feb. 18 after its primary donor announced it would no longer provide funding.

Public Radio, which was founded in 2002 by the late Oleksandr Kryvenko, was positioned as a talk radio station that would give equal air time to both pro-government and opposition politicians, while also focusing on social and cultural issues. The advent of the Orange Revolution, however, posed a dilemma for the station and its primary donor, the International Renaissance Foundation (IRF).

The IRF, which is part of the Soros Foundation Network, announced earlier this month that it will not issue any more grants to the station. Hryhoriy Nemyria,

IRF's Chairman of the Board, said that the situation in the country has changed, and that a similar change is expected from Public Radio.

"The [political climate] is no longer hostile to the media," said Nemyria on Feb. 21. The IRF, which has already donated over \$300,000 to the project, expects the once exclusively donor-funded station to come up with a two- to three-year plan laying out how it would transform itself into a self-sustainable media institution, as well as answer the community's demand for public radio. "As a donor, we are no longer interested in an Internet project, which they currently are," Nemyria said.

Decision came as a surprise

"[The decision] came as a total surprise to us," said Public Radio's acting president, Taras Kuzmov. He thinks the station's format irritated allies of former

see RADIO, page 13

Residents fear for their building after construction starts

LAND, continued from page 1
digging. At least one basement apartment was flooded with the steaming water.

Besides the inconvenience, there was a problem: the residents claim that they, and not D.I.A., own the land.

Hudson, an architect and land developer who has lived in Ukraine for 13 years and who is married to a Ukrainian, purchased four apartments with the legal understanding that residents of the building would eventually have rights to the surrounding land. He and other residents hoped to develop the land themselves.

He said that in 2002 he and the other residents of 4 Ivana Franka formed a society of owners, a legal entity that can own the land on which the building sits once it is registered with the appropriate district authority. The society as a whole owns the territory in common, and members of the society have rights to it proportional to their ownership of the building.

Once the owners' society was formed, they applied to Shevchenkivsky district to have ownership of the property transferred from the city to the residents.

Then they met with a surprise. Hudson recalls that officials at Shevchenkivsky district "insisted we had to go to court" to acquire the land. Hudson began to gather signatures to present to the city. Soon after, Hudson said, they "discovered that the city was in the process of allocating the land to others, to development companies.

"We resisted this, pointed out how wrong it was...but in the face of all our efforts, they actually allocated the land without a transparent privatization process," Hudson said.

Proper title

By law, land adjacent to a building belongs to the owners of that building – in this case, the owners' society Hudson and his fellow residents formed in 2002.

Larysa Skoryk, a professor of architecture in the National Academy of Fine Arts in Kyiv and a member of the City Planning Board, says it is obvious that any building cannot stand without adjacent territory and "if the building is owned by the residents, this territory logically should belong to them as well."

Skoryk said that according to all building standards, adjacent territory should be defined in a manner that leaves at least six "green" square meters for each resident.

Hudson admits that there were some ambiguities regarding an outbuilding on

the land. Some of the land, he says, could have belonged to whomever owned that structure. But he insists most of the land should have passed to the owners' society, which he heads.

Hudson showed the *Post* copies of documents from the Department of State Architecture and Construction Control that grant D.I.A. Development the right to build on the land.

A source within D.I.A. Development explained that there is no way for a company to build on territory it does not own. Thus, according to his logic, D.I.A. Development owns the land. The company did not comment further, despite repeated phone calls.

The *Post* also made repeated attempts to obtain comments from the city's Main Department of Land Resources, the government department the *Post* was referred to, but received none.

A higher power

A document obtained by the *Post* indicates that D.I.A. on Oct. 12, 2004 asked Hudson as head of the owners' society for permission to remove a fence on the communal property. Text on the bottom of the document shows the developer is a client of Diamant Bank.

Hudson says that in his meetings and correspondence with D.I.A. and Diamant Bank, the two companies regularly referred to one another's actions. He says he believes that D.I.A. Development is "a subsidiary, or anyway certainly closely related, to [Diamant Bank]."

Hudson met in July 2004 with Sergey Radko, who presented himself as the vice president of Diamant Bank.

"In the meeting Sergey Radko clearly stated that D.I.A. Development is the development branch of the bank," Hudson said.

When the *Post* called Diamant to get a comment from Radko, a bank representative said Radko no longer works at Diamant.

Andriy Sidelnikov, a member of the Board of Directors of Diamant Bank, said that according to Ukrainian law, the bank can purchase land, but it cannot build on it. But, he said, "we are by no means the purchasers of Ivana Franka 4-B."

Sidelnikov denied that a D.I.A. Development was a subsidiary of Diamant Bank.

A joint-stock company, Diamant bank was founded in 1993 and has assets of just under \$100 million, which ranks it 59th out of more than 150 Ukrainian banks.

Reports by business weekly *Kontrakty* and E-zines *Glavred.info* and *Ukrainska Pravda* have linked David Zhvania, the current Minister of Emergency Situations, to Diamant. Zhvania declined to comment on the issue.

Zhvania is a former Our Ukraine deputy and well-established businessman who was a major contributor to President Viktor Yushchenko's campaign. On Feb. 16, Zhvania promised to sell all of his businesses to avoid conflicts of interest.

For now, the land behind 4 Ivana Franka remains a muddy mess.

After the digging began and the trucks started coming, residents started to worry about their safety. A resident of a neighboring building, who lives underneath a retaining wall over which the trucks drove, said she noticed the wall collapsing. "I looked and thought, my God, it's going to fall on us," said the resident.

Building resident Zborovska said her neighbors fear the construction will destabilize the foundations of the surrounding buildings.

"Our houses need careful repair, not dangerous construction," she said.

City officials do not see a need for concern. They say that the construction at 4 Ivana Franka has broken no safety rules.

Oleksandr Rebytsky, head of the Department of State Architecture and Construction Control, said that various commissions examined the construction conditions and came to a different conclusion than the residents.

"We carefully studied their conclusions and found those conditions absolutely correspond to Ukrainian laws and norms."

City officials maintain that they did not break any rules of safe construction.

Hudson and the building tenants disagreed and decided to act.

"We were worried about our safety, so we said bugger it, you know, let's just put a truck there, let the tire down, that'll stop them a bit," Hudson said.

A green cargo truck now sits, tires deflated, in front of one of the driveways construction workers had used to reach the site.

Hudson said he brought the case to court in September, but that the decision has been continually put off. He hopes to resolve the case next month, at the next scheduled court date.

"It's a perfect example, really, of whether or not the government and the city are willing to implement the policies that are much trumpeted at



The contested land behind 4 Ivana Franka, once filled with trees, is now dangerous and ugly, residents say. (Post photo by Serhiy Zavalnyuk)

the moment," he said.

A historic district

The spot on Ivana Franka and Yaroslaviv Val has been categorized by the city as a reserved historic place of the first category, a designation that also includes Kyiv's Golden Gate and Desyatynna Church. The steep hills along Yaroslaviv Val once served as fortifications for the ancient city of Kyiv. Archeologists say that, buried nearly 17 meters below ground level in that area, archaeologists have found ancient human remains, ancient building materials and other important artifacts. The building at 13B Yaroslaviv Val was built in the 19th century and is considered a historic monument.

"This site is apparently of great archaeological and historical value," Skoryk said, adding that it now appears to be endangered by the construction.

According to plans of the building obtained by the *Post* from Hudson, the structure planned by D.I.A. is similar in style to the buildings that are sprouting up on Kyiv's outskirts, and would not seem to fit with the dominant architectural style of Shevchenkivsky district.

"But the guys who are eager to get luxury apartments for \$3,000 a square meter at minimum won't stuff their heads with such things," Skoryk said.

Rebytsky said the controversy was sparked only because "of a conflict of interest."

"These residents, they just care about their own comfort and interests," he said.

"Every construction process looks unattractive and is uncomfortable. But we should think of the city, which is growing.

"They bemoan the felled trees, [but] they should know that it's too much of a luxury for a resident to have a personal park in the center of the city. There are settled parks and these residents shouldn't be [too] lazy to walk there," he said.


Nick Cotton, the Regional Director of global development and real estate consultancy firm DTZ International, said that the case does not surprise him.

"It's clear that close connections with the city are extremely valuable in procuring land transactions," he said over the phone Feb. 22.

The new government, he thinks, will have a positive effect on the situation, if a limited one.

"The opaque nature of land allocation in Kyiv and the resultant concerns over proper governance has been more of a city issue than a central government issue... [The change here] accordingly won't be as profound as elsewhere in the general economy," he said.


Meantime, the residents of 4 Ivana Franka await a decision from the district court. Protests continue in front of their building, and residents have strung banners across the building's entrance that read "No to illegal construction" and "Hands off the trees."



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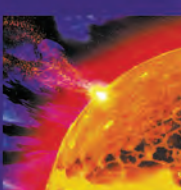
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Funding fades with changing times

RADIO, continued from page 11

President Leonid Kuchma, who directed the National Council for Television and Radio. Four of the eight members of the NCTR are nominated by the president.

Earlier this year, Public Radio lost its two other sources of funding in addition to IRF: the European Commission in Ukraine (EC) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). Both withdrew their support when Kyiv-based Era radio discontinued re-broadcasts of Public Radio programming. The EC and Swiss funding sources require that its donors be on the air.

Kuzmov, who says that the station's identity was built on BBC standards, which stipulate that an independent radio station should not favor the opposition, said the station differed because

itary inspector said that the Radio Rocks transmitter was in the wrong position and turned it off, Kuzmov said. When the station reappeared on the air two months later, they were no longer willing to rebroadcast Public Radio. Representatives of the radio station did not return the *Post's* requests for comment.

Public Radio was also rebroadcast on Radio Kontyent from 2002-2004 before it, too, was shut down for allegedly operating without the necessary license. Its president, Serhiy Sholokh, then fled Ukraine and sought political refuge in the United States.

Fight for a frequency

Vadym Kastelli, head of the Rozmay Media Center, a Kyiv-based production

operating nationwide.

"I can understand the IRF if they are concerned with airtime loss, as our audience now is extremely limited," says Kuzmov, "But if they think such a project is no longer needed, I will challenge that."

In his view, the station is perhaps the sole media institution in Ukraine that maintained a "purely independent editorial policy" throughout its existence.

The station's last broadcast was a four-hour non-stop talk show on Feb. 18. The guests, who included Ukrainian politicians and fellow journalists, expressed support for Public Radio and agreed that it should continue to receive funding.

Still, Kuzmov remained pessimistic about the future of Public Radio. He is sure that Public Radio will no longer exist the way it does now, as most of the 15 people who still worked there have already found new jobs.

"It is hard to say whether the way [Public Radio] has ended is for better or for worse," he said.

Kastelli thinks that the Public Radio project simply came to its logical end.

The more than \$500,000 donated to Public Radio served a purpose during a crucial time for Ukrainian media, he said. The station became a beacon of free speech for journalists, even though it existed only "virtually."

"When it gets lighter, the beacon is no longer that critical," Kastelli said on Feb. 22. In his opinion Channel 5, a TV broadcaster favored by one-time opposition politicians such as President Viktor Yushchenko and one that was at the forefront of the Orange Revolution, would not have existed without Public Radio.

'The revolution is over'

Public Radio is not completely dead. Ukrainian News reported on Feb. 20 that Deputy Prime Minister for Humanitarian Issues, Mykola Tomenko, wanted the best Public Radio programs to be broadcast by the state-owned National Radio Company, until the station's financial troubles are solved. In his view, this is the best way to solve the current crisis.

Kastelli, however, thinks that any new radio project in Ukraine should be different from Public Radio.

"The revolution is over. People are more or less feeling like they won. They are no longer addicted to politics and news programs," he said. Kastelli believes that stations that recently changed their formats to news and talk shows will soon have to shift back to music and news.

After analyzing the market, Kastelli concludes that the only niche that is both vacant and worth investing in is the classical and jazz music format. "Most of the stations simply play pop music, usually of questionable taste," he says. In his view, a station playing jazz and classical music would attract middle class Ukrainians.

Lux's Fedoryshyn disagrees. She says that a political news and talk show format will surely attract socially aware listeners, which might make it a successful business venture.

"There are no precise rules of play in this market," said Fedoryshyn. She thinks there is no reason why more people shouldn't start playing music-playing radio stations, in any format. "There are 40 radio stations in New York, while we only have 25," he added.

Regardless of what radio projects emerge in Ukraine, Kastelli is positive that they are unlikely to share the fate of Public Radio, even if they openly oppose the new government. "It is safe to assume that the changes that have taken place in Ukraine are irreversible," he said.

Fedoryshyn agrees, but she also thinks that a person should really like radio before venturing into it as a business. "There are definitely easier ways to make a living. Starting a radio station is sort of for fans only."



If donors feel "that such a project is no longer needed, I will challenge that," says Taras Kuzmov, acting president of Public Radio. (Post photo by Yulia Pobedinskaya)

anyone could call and ask questions directly of any official in the studio, regardless of their position.

Helga Pender, a civil society development project manager at the EC, confirmed on Feb. 21 that the European body had suspended its financing. At the same time, the EC's funding agreement with Public Radio is valid through 2005, so the funding could be renewed if the station goes back on the air. The EC has given nearly 100,000 euros to date to Public Radio.

Transmission problems

The NCTR refused to give Public Radio a frequency on five separate occasions, and also exerted pressure on stations that agreed to provide it with airtime. As a result, rebroadcasts of Public Radio material were sporadic.

An agreement Public Radio had with Radio Lux exemplifies the station's problems, Kuzmov said.

In early 2002, Public Radio and Radio Lux were to operate as a joint project in which Public Radio received 12 hours of airtime on Radio Lux each day. Radio Lux backed out of the project days before it was to begin, citing a warning they had received from the NCTR. Public Radio was left with no other choice but to broadcast online.

As Radio Lux's general director Natalka Fedoryshyn recalls, her station received a very clear warning from the NCTR indicating that if the joint project moved ahead, Lux's own license would have no chance of being renewed.

"It was about then we lost all illusions about the Ukrainian mass-media market, and turned Lux from a station trying to popularize quality Ukrainian music into a purely commercial project," Fedoryshyn said on Feb. 21. She added that the ratings of Lux, which is now broadcast across most of Ukraine, have soared since it went purely commercial, now playing pop music as part of its regular programming.

For several months in 2003, Public Radio programs were rebroadcast by Radio Rocks. The deal ended when a san-

studio also largely dependent on foreign grants, claims that officials in the previous Presidential Administration had tentatively promised that the station would get its own frequency in Kyiv. He bases his claims on personal conversations with the station's late founder, Kryvenko.

Vitaliy Shevchenko, a member of the NCTR from July 2002 until he resigned earlier this month, said on Feb. 22 that there was no way that Public Radio could get a license for its own frequency. None of the Presidential appointees to the Council, he said, would vote in favor of it for fear of losing their jobs.

"It was one of those cases when everybody knew it deserved a license, but still any attempts to get it would be blocked," he said.

Shevchenko added that the vote was a rare case, as none of the Council members would document their reasons for voting against Public Radio's numerous bids.

Kastelli added that Public Radio should have become an example of freedom of the press and freedom of speech in Ukraine for the Western world. What disrupted the plans, he said, was the series of protests by the Ukraine Without Kuchma protest movement that took place in 2001-2002 in response to the Melnychenko tape scandal.

Former presidential security guard Mykola Melnychenko fled Ukraine in November 2000 with a sack of 35 CDs allegedly containing 700 hours of conversations of secret recordings made in Kuchma's office. He claims the tapes contain evidence of Kuchma's involvement in the kidnapping and murder of muckraking journalist Georgy Gongandze.

Kastelli says that the openly oppositionist stance of Kryvenko during the protests was the reason why the authorities abandoned their plans to allow the station to broadcast in Kyiv.

Hope for the future

To make the situation worse for Public Radio, Kuzmov says, the station's funding was cut exactly when the station had hoped to become part of a larger state-owned public television and radio station

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Teaching the creative aspects of accounting



Kevin Ellis, a teacher of finance at the International Christian University in Kyiv, calls accounting "the language of business." (Post photo by Vitaliy Pavlenko)

BY VLAD LAVROV
Post Staff Writer

Kevin Ellis, MBA, MAR, has been teaching accounting and finance at the International Christian University in Kyiv since 2003. He also worked for one year at Wisconsin International University USA-Ukraine. Before teaching, he was a consultant with Burger & Associates, a consulting firm based in Baltimore, Maryland.

The Post met him in an ICU classroom on Feb. 22.

KP: What is the first thing you tell your students about accounting?

KE: I tell them that it is the language of business. I tell them that some people are going to be accountants, while some are not. But what they are learning is the basics, and if they are in business, they still need to know how to read and interpret financial statements.

KP: Do you think they are intimidated by accounting, especially during the first lectures, because they already have a prejudice about how boring it is? How do you deal with that?

KE: First of all, I need to be entertaining. Always. Students have to enjoy the class.

I tell them that the first six weeks are difficult, learning the basics is difficult. But if they have the basics, the rest of it, as well as other courses in finance, will be much easier. I try to convey to them the idea that what they are learning is going to be the basics for the rest of their studies at ICU, as well as after they graduate. I try to stress its practicality, if they are going to be working in business.

KP: What percentage of your students actually become accountants? Can you see who is a future accountant in your class?

KE: I see a number of students trying to work for international accountant and consulting firms. First of all, it is a prestigious job and it is a good foundation. You learn a lot when you work for the Big Four, and it helps you to get jobs at other international companies. And many students do want to be auditors.

KP: Big Four starting salaries are impressive by Ukrainian standards. Do see students attracted and stimulated by that, as they study?

KE: I tell people that if are going to be good at accounting, it is one thing to

see ELLIS, page 17

Getting paid for independence

BY VLAD LAVROV
Post Staff Writer

Marco Groen has been managing partner of Ernst & Young in Ukraine since 2002, shortly after the merger of Ernst & Young and Andersen. Prior to that, Marco was a partner at Andersen's Amsterdam office. Between 1993 and 1998, and in 2001, he was the partner responsible for taxes and legal practice at Andersen's Kyiv office. He has worked in the Ukrainian market for eight years.

The Post talked to him at his office on Feb. 22.

KP: What's happening on the auditing market in Ukraine at the moment?

MG: The biggest development on the market is that big conglomerates of Ukrainian companies – owned by the businessmen commonly referred to as "oligarchs" – are starting to work more actively with auditing companies. They clearly want to become players on the global market, clearly understanding that to do that you have to have credibility, you have to be transparent, and you have to make sure that your foreign partners consider you reliable. And one of the steps in the process is getting [checked out] by an...internationally-reputed auditing firm. It always helps.

While in the past only isolated companies from those big conglomerates wanted to work with us for specific reasons, recently we've seen some consolidation happening at the top of those groups. They want to make the whole group more transparent, to present themselves as a group, not as isolated companies.

KP: What are the most challenging auditing jobs you've done recently?

MG: In most cases, the most challenging are purely Ukrainian companies, new to the phenomenon of an international audit, where you really have to go through this whole process to help them get their accounting right from the Western perspective. Audits are performed on the basis of international standards, and so [is the] accounting.

The biggest challenge is to get on the same page with your client, as we call it. To make sure that you have a common goal ahead of you and that the client understands that if they want to become a player on the global market, they have to start playing by the international rules.

KP: What is the major difference between the accounting system originally used in Ukraine and Western accounting?

MG: If you would allow me to be extreme, Western accounting usually is aimed at trying to establish a value of a company, to check the amount of profit that has been generated by a company, while the Ukrainian, or rather the Soviet, system of accounting, was basically a [property]

stand-alone, not part of the big groups of companies run by someone who has proven to be a very successful manager.

The people referred to as oligarchs must be very intelligent and progressive to have built all those empires.

KP: When you audit their empires, what do you find on their books?

MG: Most of the time there are issues



Marco Groen, managing partner for Ernst & Young in Ukraine, said Ernst & Young's business grew by 20 percent in both of the last two years. (Post photo by Vitaliy Pavlenko)

registration system...a system to try to help the government establish that nothing was stolen from them. It is a completely different approach, and it is questionable whether it helped.

Soviet-style accounting allowed the existence of so-called "creative accounting," which helped avoid showing the real truth.

KP: Is this the case with the so-called "oligarchs"?

MG: From our experience, they are quite professional. They already have been working towards building a more transparent global company stance. So they already have some knowledge that we need.

Working with them is more challenging from the perspective that they are usually stronger personalities, and they are difficult to approach, so you have to work through different levels of people that work for them, so the communication is often indirect.

The problem that I have described is usually with growing successful Ukrainian companies that are more

that can be resolved, and this is what they want – a clean and transparent business structure that they can work with globally, not having to watch over their shoulder all the time, because there might be problems lingering somewhere that can backfire.

KP: Is that possible to conceal some information from your auditors?

MG: Of course. We can only ask questions, but if we do not get satisfactory answers, then what can we do? We might have certain suspicions, as we have common sense, experience and understanding of how businesses are run. So sometimes we can see that something doesn't make sense. Often, there are plausible and acceptable explanations, but when you do not get an answer that clicks you get a bad feeling, which is a reason for withholding a final audit conclusion.

Again, we have to protect those who will rely on what we are saying, and we just have to tell our client, "Sorry, we just cannot certify that everything is fine."

see GROEN, page 17

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						Administrative staff	Audit staff	Accounting staff	Accounting	Auditing	Tax and Legal	Consulting	Financial Advisory	Management Consulting	Human Resource Consulting	Other					
Ernst & Young Ukraine	19A Khreshchatyk kyiv@ua.ey.com www.ey.com/ukraine	490-3000 / 490-3030	Marco Groen	1991	0 / 100	44	88	None	No	X	X	X	X	X	X	Technology and security risk services, professional education center services	WND	English, French, Spanish, Italian German, Dutch	WND		
KPMG Ukraine	11 Mykhaylivska info@kpmg.kiev.ua www.kpmg.ua	490-5507 / 490-5508	Mason Tokarz	1992	0 / 100	32	73	21	X	X	X	X	X	No	Corporate finance, transaction services	WND	English	WND			
AF Balance	13 Chokolovsky Blvd, #303 afbalance@adamant.net	245-8858 / 245-8826	Serhy Zubik	1993	100 / 0	1	6	1	X	X	X	X	No	None	Aval, Etalon, MFS	English, German	Hr 518,000				
Deloitte & Touche USC	42/4 Pushkynska kyiv@deloitte.com.ua www.deloitte.com.ua	490-9000 / 490-9001	Vladimir Vakht	1993	WND	24	72	None	X	X	X	X	X	Training center	UMC, DCC, AES, Prominvestbank, Aval	English, German, Czech, Georgian, Spanish, Polish	WND				
PricewaterhouseCoopers	38 Turhenevska, 4-5th floors pwc.ukraine@uapwc.com www.pwc.com/ua	490-6777 / 246-4211 / 216-4558	Gerry Parfitt	1993	WND	WND	WND	WND	X	X	X	X	X	Global risk management solutions	WND	English, French, Spanish, German, Italian	WND				
JEL-audit Kyiv	7/19 Andryushchenka, #24 jel@law-agency.com	249-6252 / 249-6985	Ludmila Jankovaya	1996	70 / 30	1	2	WND	X	X	X	No	No	None	WND	English	WND				
Kyiv Audit Group	1/2 Kikvidze info@kagaudit.com www.kagaudit.com	451-4280 / 295-2716	Vadym Linnik	1996	100 / 0	22	39	3	X	X	X	X	No	None	Azot Severodonetsk Union, Poltavagasvydobuvannya, Khib Ukrainy, Ukr. State Innovation Company, Kyivenergo	English, French	WND				
BDO Balance-Audit	26 Lesi Ukrayinky, 1st floor bdo@bdo.kiev.ua www.bdo.com.ua	496-0587 / 496-0588 / 537-0631	Serhy Balchenko	1997	100 / 0	18	70	10	X	X	X	X	No	None	Naftogaz Ukrainy, Silur, Nikopol Ferroalloys, Agio, Bayersdorf	English, German, Dutch, Armenian, Tajik, Georgian	WND				
Conto-Consulting	7 Naberezhno-Luhova, #200-201 konto-c@i.kiev.ua	239-2413 / 428-8178 / 428-86-54	Valery Mazurenko	1997	100 / 0	2	7	WND	X	X	X	X	No	None	Heidelberger Druckmaschinen Ukr. Rep. of Mitsui&Co., Emerson Process Mgmt., Chio-Wolf Ukraine, Mary Kay Ukraine	English	WND				
OLGA-Audit	2 Rybalska olga@audit.com.ua www.audit.kiev.ua	290-3656 / 290-9564	Oleksey Gachkivskyy	1997	100 / 0	5	8	5	X	X	X	X	X	None	WND	English, Spanish	WND				
Alpary	12 Dovzhenka, #51 alpary@ukr.net	453-32-82 / 453-32-82 / 453-23-58	Marina Zhuk	1998	100 / 0	1	3	WND	X	X	X	X	No	Presentation of interest in trade courts, analysis of economic activity	WND	English	WND				
Igk-Ukraine Audit	71 Turhenevska, #314 audit@igs.com.ua www.igk.com.ua	490-6424 / 536-0859	Alexander Pochkun	1999	100 / 0	9	38	6	X	X	X	No	X	Due diligence	Ukrproduct, Eurotek, Avis, Nadra bank, Ingo-Ukraine	English, French	WND				
Emergex Business Solutions	37/97 Zhylyanska, 5th floor ebs@ebskiev.com www.ebskiev.com	494-1917 / 227-4354	Helen Volska	2000	34 / 66	7	0	15	X	No	X	X	X	IT consulting	Avaya Nederland, Western Union, Baker&McKenzie, UkrSotsbank, Molinos Ukraine	English, German	WND				
Units Consulting	13 Maryanenko Lane info@units.com.ua www.units.com.ua	253-9452 / 467-6353	Vyacheslav Lebed	2000	WND	WND	WND	WND	X	X	X	No	No	None	WND	English	WND				
Inform Plus	6 Sofiyivska info@buh.kiev.ua www.buh.kiev.ua	278-6494 / 278-6418 / 278-3640	Tatyana Kurmashova	2001	100 / 0	5	2	12	X	X	X	No	X	Registration, re-registration, securing permissions for foreigners' employment	Europe-Center publishing house, Tradex, Hungaro Invest Ukraine, Bio-cosmetic	English, Italian	WND				
Factor-Roedl-Audit	1 Laboratny Lane, #803 kiev@roedl.factor.ua www.roedl.de	252-9394 / 252-9275	Valery Moroz	2003	70 / 30	WND	WND	WND	X	X	X	X	No	Due diligence	Leoni, Schuco International KG	German, English	WND				
Sofia Audit	46D Heroyiv Stalinhradu info@sofia-audit.com www.sofia-audit.com.ua	209-1247 / 216-9747	Andrey Grigoryev	2003	100 / 0	2	2	7	X	X	X	X	No	None	WND	None	WND				

Source: Accounting and audit companies, public information and Kyiv Post staff. This chart is not meant to be all-inclusive. WND means *Would Not Disclose*. N/A means *Not Applicable*.

Dragon Capital

M&A Advisory Privatizations
Public Bids Fund Raising

Brokerage

Euromoney Awards for Excellence 2002 **Awards for excellence 2004**

Best Equities House in Ukraine

BONGRAIN SA

Acquisition of a majority stake in Zvenyhorodka Cheese Producing Plant

Sole Financial Adviser
Dragon Capital 2001

SUN Interbrew

Sale of a majority stake held by Rogan Brewery in Alexandria Brewery

Sole Financial Adviser
Dragon Capital 2001

FORUM BUSINESS CITY

Acquisition of a majority stake for a group of private investors

Sole Arranger
Dragon Capital 2002

SUN Interbrew

Public bids for Ukrainian breweries

Sole Financial Adviser
Dragon Capital 2003

HOBA IHIR™

Capital raising from the International Finance Corporation and Raiffeisenbank for USD 14 mil. expansion

Sole Financial Adviser
Dragon Capital 2004

HOBA IHIR™

Acquisition of a controlling stake by a group of foreign private equity investors

Sole Financial Adviser
Dragon Capital 2002

БІЗНЕС Most Professional Securities Firm 2000, 2001, 2002

Second Place:
Dragon Capital
Awarded by Business Magazine

PFTS Ukrainian Stock Trading System

Top Stock Broker by Trading Volume in 2003
Dragon Capital 2003

БІЗНЕС Most Professional Securities Firm 2003

Third Place:
Dragon Capital
Awarded by Business Magazine

УКРАЇНСЬКИЙ АЛЮМІНІЙ (Subsidiary of Rusal)

Purchase of a 10% stake in Mykolayiv Alumina Plant from the State Property Fund of Ukraine

Sole Financial Adviser
Dragon Capital 2001

CENTRENERGO

Launch of Level 1 American Depository Receipts

Sole Financial Adviser
Dragon Capital 2000

HEIDELBERGCEMENT

Public bids for Ukrainian cement plants

Sole Financial Adviser
Dragon Capital 2003

CRH

Public bid for a Ukrainian cement plant

Sole Financial Adviser
Dragon Capital 2003

AGROFERT

Investment advisory services in the Ukrainian chemical sector

Sole Financial Adviser
Dragon Capital In progress

Dragon Capital

Analysis of opportunities in Ukraine's agricultural sector

Adviser
Dragon Capital 2002

УкрТРАСТ

Privatization advisory Public bid

Sole Financial Adviser
Dragon Capital 2004

ПЕРЕКРЕТОК

Analysis of investment opportunities in the Ukrainian retail market

Adviser
Dragon Capital 2004

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Taxi hacks say new rules chisel them

BY VIKTORIA BRAYCHENKO
Post Staff Writer

The Trade Union of Taxi Drivers of Ukraine is protesting the adoption of new tax and insurance rules, which they claim could increase fares by as much as 30 percent.

The Trade Union, which claims to have about 30,000 members nationwide, has demanded review of two laws that were scheduled to go into effect Jan. 1. The first concerns taxes, and the second mandates compulsory third-party liability insurance, according to the Trade Union's head, Vasyl Popyk.

Popyk said the laws could result in a 30 percent increase in taxi fares. For example, today a five-kilometer ride in an Avtosvit cab costs about Hr 15. Under new rules, the same ride would cost closer to 20 Hr. The Trade Union also indicated that the rules might force drivers to operate in the shadows.

Last week, representatives of the Trade Union of Taxi Drivers of Ukraine appealed to the Transportation Ministry, asking it to mediate between the government and the country's small business sector.

According to Kseniya Lyapina, coordinator of the analytical group at the Center of Ukrainian Entrepreneurs, in late 2004 outgoing Vice Prime Minister Mykola Azarov signed amendments to the 2005 state budget that resulted in new tax laws. One requires small entrepreneurs – including taxi drivers – to contribute more to the State Pension Fund.

After the introduction of the 2005 state budget late last year, the minimum amount entrepreneurs are required to pay into the State Pension Fund nearly tripled. President Viktor Yushchenko

has said that he plans to review the budget later this month or in March.

Insuring trouble

The new insurance law is also a problem, Popyk said.

Under the new law, which took effect Jan. 1, drivers must have an insurance policy for their car. Without one, the car cannot pass the required annual technical inspection and therefore cannot legally be driven. The rate for such insurance has risen.

"While the cost of automobile insurance for a vehicle with a 1.6-liter engine was about Hr 100 last year, now third-party car insurance would be about Hr 500" a month, Popyk said.

The Trade Union planned to protest the new rules Feb. 20 on Maidan, but decided to postpone the protest after Transportation Minister Yevhen Chervonenko called for a round-table discussion to determine a new basic rate for mandatory insurance.

Chervonenko also said that he is planning to impose a moratorium on fines for violations of the simplified tax system through March 1.

Chervonenko also said that he plans to meet with President Yushchenko and Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko Feb. 24 to discuss the issue.

This is not the first time the Trade Union of Taxi Drivers has protested new laws. Last September, hundreds of taxi drivers from Donetsk, Kharkiv, Odessa and Lviv oblasts protested against the Kyiv City Transportation Department's initiative requiring all taxis to use meters.

A compromise was reached, and Popyk now believes that all the country's cabs will be equipped with taximeters within 2005.

New sites for old battles

FIGHT, continued from page 11

Yuri Kubrushko, the business development director at IMEPOWER Investment Group, a Kyiv-based consultancy firm, said it was difficult to judge which side had the legal upper hand in the conflict, and that the conflict would probably remain at a standstill if both sides control shares in the companies involved.

"This conflict will be resolved only when one of the shareholders sells its stake to another or both shareholders sell their stakes to a third party," Kubrushko said. "Otherwise, it will be a never-ending conflict."

A third party appears to already be on the scene, say insiders. The *Post* has learned that one of Ukraine's largest business holdings, the Privat Group, has acquired a significant share of the utilities involved in the conflict.

Oleksandr Sagura, who serves as chairman of Energorynok, Ukraine's wholesale electricity market, and also is the general director of Ukrenergoc consulting, a company which has managed shares in the power companies, was quoted by Ukrainian News on Feb. 23 as saying that Surkis controls about 38 percent of the shares in the two oblenegos while Grigorishin and Privat Group control about 20 percent each. Grigorishin sold a portion of his shares in these companies just ahead of the 2nd round of the presidential elections in November 2004, said Sagura. It remains unclear whether the Privat Group owns significant shareholdings in other oblenegos.

Painful memories

In previous interviews with the *Post* and other publications, Ukrainian-born businessman Konstantin Grigorishin

claimed to have suffered at the hands of former partners Medvedchuk and Surkis. In a well-documented case, Grigorishin was jailed in 2002 for possession of a firearm and narcotics, which he claims were planted on him by law enforcement officials loyal to Medvedchuk and Surkis.

Grigorishin, a Russian citizen, has alleged for two years that a political-business group headed by Medvedchuk and Surkis used its influence to rob him of control of his businesses, mainly in the energy and manufacturing sectors.

He has alleged the men gained control of assets valued at hundreds of millions of dollars illegitimately. Grigorishin's business group claims to own from minority to controlling shares in seven regional electricity distributors, including Sumy-based Frunze Machine Plant and Zaporizhtransformator, a producer of transformers for the energy sector.

In an interview with *Ukrainska Pravda* last December, Grigorishin unveiled his plans to go to court to regain control of the assets he lost.

Surkis was not available for comment on the power struggle. He and Medvedchuk have in previous interviews with the *Post* distanced themselves from the conflict, denying that they have interests in Ukraine's oblenegos.

In a telephone interview with the *Post* on Dec. 13, Surkis said that "many [people are] willing to talk about their current situation with respect to different business situations and conflicts." He added that the statements made by these people "do not completely correspond with reality."

In a February interview with the *Post*, Medvedchuk said he sold all of his business interests, some of it to close associates, whom he declined to identify.

ON THE MOVE



British national **Andriy Hunder** has been appointed Area External Affairs and Communications Manager at GlaxoSmithKline, a world leading pharmaceutical company. Andriy's new role will cover Ukraine, Central Asia and the Caucasus. He joins GlaxoSmithKline, a British company with offices in Ukraine, after seven years at UMC, a leading mobile phone operator, where he created its Public Relations department. Mr. Hunder has degrees in Philosophy and Theology obtained in Italy, where he lived for 10 years. He has been living in Ukraine since 1996.



Olga Grytsuta has joined Air Baltic SAS as their Area Manager for Ukraine. Earlier, she worked as a District Manager in Ukraine for Estonian Air. Grytsuta graduated from the Kyiv National Taras Shevchenko University with a degree in Geography.

Lowe & Partners Kiev has appointed **Helen Kustova** director, promoting her from Client Service Director. Kustova graduated from Kyiv Polytechnic University and took Marketing Communications courses at Warsaw University.



Gareth Brown has been named Managing Director at Initiative Media advertising agency in Kyiv. He previously worked at the same position in Initiative Media, Istanbul. Brown holds a diploma in Contemporary Culture from Middlesex University.

Businesses scramble to prepare

WORRY, continued from page 11

want to take back," Bogolubov said. He added that future investment plans and talks with Western lenders are currently "frozen." Investors and partners have put everything on hold until the government unveils the list of what they want to re-nationalize, he said.

"If this situation continues for a long time, Ukraine's economy will be hit hard," Bogolubov said, adding that the government should act fast and fair.

Privat Group is not the only holding that stands to be affected by the government's plans. Viktor Pinchuk, the son-in-law of former President Leonid Kuchma, and Donetsk-based tycoon Rinat Akhmetov both head multi-billion dollar business groups with diversified holdings ranging from heavy industry to media. The extent of the damage that will be done to these companies will only be known once the list of re-privatizations is published.

Assets in limbo

Bogolubov said two acquisitions his group made last year are in jeopardy: the privileged sale of shares in the Pivden Ore Enrichment Plant and in Sukha Balka, another ore plant. The sales were outlined in a law passed by parliament that authorized the State Property Fund (SPF) to sell the state's remaining shares in the ore plants to existing private shareholders. The sales were controversial because they gave a handful of business groups complete control over Ukraine's ore industry at prices that were considered very low.

"We don't think this will be a huge blow for us," Bogolubov said, adding that his group owns many other assets, many of which were acquired on the secondary market and through other means. "It will likely hit other Ukrainian business groups harder," he said, especially those that have acquired more such state-owned assets.

For example, Akhmetov and Pinchuk picked up significantly more state assets last year. The Kryvorizhstal steel mill, which was obtained by a consortium backed by the two tycoons in 2004, is almost certain to return to state hands. Yushchenko's government claims the tender was rigged in their favor and last week a Ukrainian court overturned the sale.

Serhiy Vlasenko, a partner at the Kyiv-based Pravis law firm that is representing the interests of Pinchuk and Akhmetov in this case, claims the complex litigation process has been anything but fair.

Vlasenko, who was one of the lawyers that represented Yushchenko in the Supreme Court during the Orange

Revolution, insists the handling of the Kryvorizhstal deal has been full of violations and questionable court decisions and could set a "negative precedent."

"I do not see that the rule of law reigns in Ukraine," he said.

"There are political and legal aspects to this process. I do not want to comment on the political aspects, as I am not a politician, but I must say that as a lawyer I do not see the legal grounds on which to review this sale."

Others on the block

Aside from Kryvorizhstal, other reversals of big sales are underway.

One such case involves the privatization in 2003 of the Nikopol Ferroalloy Plant, the second largest producer of manganese ferroalloys in the world. Prydniprovya, a consortium controlled by Pinchuk, purchased a controlling share in the plant in a privatization sale in 2003. The plant's own management board filed a lawsuit in Kyiv's Pechersky District Court this month asking for the sale to be reversed on the grounds that other bidders were ousted from the tender process unfairly, giving preference to Prydniprovya. Socialist Party of Ukraine deputy Valentyna Semenyuk filed a similar lawsuit in the same court on Feb. 18.

The SPF sold a 25 percent share in the Nikopol plant to Prydniprovya for Hr 205 million in May 2003 and sold another 25 percent plus 1 share in August of that

year for Hr 205.5 million.

The Privat Group was disqualified during the bidding, prompting claims by Bogolubov that the sale was unfair.

The blame game

Bogolubov didn't deny that troubles occurred during other recent "unfair" privatizations, but blamed them on the acting head of the SPF, Mykhailo Chechetov.

"Most privatizations occurred in the past two or three years, while Chechetov was head of the SPF. Before Chechetov, privatization was more or less fair," Bogolubov said. The Privat Group businessman wonders why Yushchenko's government has not yet replaced Chechetov.

On the 1+1 TV channel late on Feb. 22, Semenyuk said that all the controversy surrounding the previous privatizations and moneys that will be returned to the state is irrelevant. She insisted that all past illegal sales should be reversed in accordance with the law.

Semenyuk, who chairs parliament's privatization oversight committee, is seen as a likely candidate to replace Chechetov as head of the SPF under the country's new leadership. She and other socialists were close allies of Yushchenko and Tymoshenko during the so-called Orange Revolution.

Peter Byrne contributed to this article.



"I do not see that the rule of law reigns in Ukraine," says Serhiy Vlasenko, a lawyer who represents the interests of Pinchuk and Akhmetov. (Post photo by Yulia Pobedinskaya)

Accounting is practical, but also fun

ELLIS continued from page 14

make a lot of money, but you have to really like it and really enjoy what you are doing. If you are just pursuing this field for the money you can make, you are going to get tired of it very quickly, [and] you probably won't last very long.

There are students who have a knack for accounting, and they will make a career of it.

KP: Can you say what makes Ukrainian students different from American ones?

KE: I can make one general statement: Many of the students in America have parents who are bankers, auditors, managers, etc. They have been brought up knowing what the real world looks like.

I find a number of students here to whom university subjects are something that they study, cram and forget, as they say. I find part of my job is to correct that idea, to show its practicality.

KP: When you teach, do you tell your students about keeping two journals, about the shady side of accounting?

KE: I don't have direct experience with Ukrainian business, but I do show how you can play with your records, according to the international accounting standards. A lot of accounting is not as precise as people think. I also show them the implications of playing with the numbers in terms of their responsibility, first of all, before the stockholders.

Quality counts, and so does the law

GROEN, continued from page 14

That has happened, and usually that doesn't create good relationships with the clients.

KP: How often are the auditors being pressured to overlook something, or to give a false auditing report?

MG: I think it is very incidental that there is real pressure. But what I would call a negotiation between auditors and clients on how something should be interpreted, shown or not shown is happening all the time.

As for real pressure, it very seldom [occurs], as our clients understand that pressure doesn't work. There have been two or three cases when our auditors experienced pressure through threats, but we didn't believe it was that serious.

If there is a really hard threat, then we would resign from the job, so that the client won't get [an] opinion, simple as that. But they need our reports, so to put it bluntly, we respond to threats with threats.

KP: How expensive are your services?

MG: In Ukraine, the price for our work is relatively low compared to Russia, Kazakhstan, or even Georgia. Our rate per hour varies, from \$60 to \$450, depending on the project.

KP: Which auditing jobs do you take personally?

MG: Usually [I take] higher-risk jobs, meaning not only the type of client, but the type of job itself. If an audit needs to be done because a company wants to issue Eurobonds, then you are working

in a high-risk environment, because Eurobonds will be issued abroad. If there is something wrong with the company and it cannot repay Eurobonds, then the creditors will come to the auditor. Because the risk here is so high, there needs to be very high partner involvement, so that we are not exposed to any troubles in the future.

"THE PROBLEM ISN'T A LACK OF WORK; THE PROBLEM IS FINDING THE RIGHT PEOPLE TO DO IT."

KP: What are the recent growth figures for this market?

MG: Both of the last two years we have grown 20 percent, which is a lot. The problem isn't [a lack of] work; the problem is finding the right people to do it.

KP: What is your opinion of Ukrainian auditing firms? Can they compete with the Big Four? How trustworthy, in your opinion, are their conclusions?

MG: The time when an opinion of a Ukrainian auditing firm can be recognized globally is very far away. It is not only about the quality of the work...but also a question of whether the auditing firm can easily be sued. So for foreign investors the list of well-known names will still be the preferred route.

I think that a lot of Ukrainian auditing firms are doing good work. On some projects we work in consortiums with Ukrainian auditing groups.

But again, I wouldn't always trust

the opinion of a Ukrainian auditing group. This is more a matter of approach or a lack of training or experience, and does not necessarily have to do with their being dishonest. I would sooner be inclined to trust them if [the work was] on a purely Ukrainian issue, rather than [an] international [one].

KP: Does each Big Four auditing firm have its own strengths and weaknesses, or are they more or less equal?

MG: It is an interesting question, because in more developed environments for auditing companies, you will hardly find any difference in quality. In Ukraine, I think, there is still quite a substantial difference in quality of their services.

KP: Why do you like being an auditor?

MG: The challenge is the paradox that you have a client who is paying you to do the work for him. But at the same time you have to be independent from that client. You have to be very objective in forming your opinions, because what you are saying as an auditor is going to be relied upon by all kinds of third parties. Sometimes, this makes your position very difficult, because, especially with Ukrainian companies, the principle of "who pays orders the music" is what those companies still have.

We have to explain to them that we have to do what we think is right. So, yes, you are paying us, but you are paying us for being independent and objective, but not for playing the music that you like. It's an interesting paradox that I like.

New mobile operator to start in UK

LONDON (Reuters) – German-based mobile phone group T-Mobile has signed its third wholesale network agreement in Britain, selling airtime to IDT Corp. to help bring the ToucanMobile brand to the UK.

U.S.-based telecoms group IDT said on its website it would launch the latest mobile phone brand in Britain this year after signing an MVNO (Mobile Virtual Network Operator) agreement to use Deutsche Telekom-owned T-Mobile's network.

Toucan, which prides itself on simple, transparent and good value for money services, is already a fixed-line telecoms and Internet brand in the UK.

"ToucanMobile is a significant step forward for IDT Europe," Marc Bodner, managing director of IDT Europe, was quoted as saying on the company's website. "Adding the mobile element to our consumer proposition will strengthen us as the convergence continues in the telecoms market from fixed line to mobile."

The entry of another potentially aggressive rival into the already highly competitive British mobile phone market, which has already been dubbed a "zoo" by mobile phone group mm02 Plc's Chief Executive Peter Erskine, could trigger the start of a fresh battle for lower-spending customers.

T-Mobile already provides network capacity for Virgin Mobile Holdings (UK) Plc and Danish carrier TDC.

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EXECUTIVE'S ASSISTANT with Evgenia Aleksandrova

Yuri Bovsunovsky,
Group Creative Director,
Visage Publicis

Age: 39
Birthplace: Kyiv
Education: Kyiv Linguistic University (formerly the Teacher's Training College)
First job: Tour guide at Sputnik Youth Travel Bureau, Kyiv
Favorite designer/brand: AIGLE
Favorite way to spend free time: Fishing
Favorite book or publication: Kurt Vonnegut's "Cat's Cradle"
Favorite movie: Anything with Jackie Chan
Favorite drink: Beer

How did you spend your winter holidays? In Kyiv...mostly seeing my relatives and friends

Favorite restaurant: Kraj Raj – please let me call it a restaurant

Biggest fear: To become a victim of circumstances

What's one goal that you hope to achieve in the future? To stop working for my daily bread and do things that are really creative, even if they aren't profitable

If you could change one thing about yourself, what it would be? I totally lack curiosity. I study and learn things only through conscious effort, which makes it kinda boring

If you could travel through time, where would you go? Back to my childhood; I don't even have to change much



(Courtesy photo)

Seva,
Yuri's son

Age: almost 6
Birthplace: Kyiv
Education: Chunga-Changa Kids Art School
Career plans: First to work like dad for a while to earn money and become a policeman
Favorite designer/brand: Waikiki
Favorite way to spend free time: Going places with my parents
Favorite book, publication or web site: Harry Potter
Favorite movie: Currently "The Lord of the Rings"

Favorite restaurant: Kraj Raj
Biggest fear: I'm afraid of nothing except the dark

What would you do with \$1 million? Nothing in particular except buy things I need and stay a millionaire

How did you spend your winter holidays? Doing all kinds of things with my parents and grandparents

What's one goal that you hope to achieve in the future? To actually become a millionaire

What do you like most about yourself? I'm strong

If you could travel through time, where would you go? To the time of the dinosaurs

Not getting out much



Mikhail Khodorkovsky, former CEO of Russian oil giant Yukos, sits behind bars in a Moscow court, Feb. 18. Khodorkovsky, once Russia's richest man according to *Forbes* magazine, remains jailed as his criminal trial, centering on the privatization of a fertilizer component maker in the mid-1990s, continues. (AP)

India mulls Russian oil investments

MOSCOW (AP) – Russia's Industry and Energy Ministry said Feb. 22 that Russia is interested in working with Indian businesses to develop its oil fields, amid speculation that Indian state oil company ONGC might buy into the former core subsidiary of the former Yukos oil giant.

At a meeting late Feb. 21, Russian Industry and Energy Minister Viktor Khristenko told his Indian counterpart Mani Shankar Aiyar that fields in the Far East, eastern Siberia, the Barents Sea and the oil-rich Timan Pechora region could offer opportunities for Indian investment, the ministry said in a statement.

Russia open to offers

"Russia is open to considering offers by the Indian side to participate in projects with Gazprom, Rosneft and Transneft," the statement cited Khristenko as saying, referring to Russia's natural gas monopoly, its main state-owned oil company and the state-controlled pipeline operator.

"We are happy with the level and the character of Indian-Russian relations," Khristenko said. "They must be maintained and developed."

Aiyar said Feb. 21 that ONGC was unburdened by debts and could borrow as much as \$25 billion, some of which could go into Russian deals. India is one of the largest energy consumers in Asia.

"The Indian company is ready to invest a significant part of this sum in energy projects in Russia," Interfax cited an unidentified source in Russia's Industry and Energy Ministry as saying Feb. 22.

Yukos subsidiary named

Interfax's source said Aiyar had expressed interest in acquiring part of the former Yukos subsidiary Yuganskneftegaz during a meeting late Feb. 21 with Khristenko, Interfax said.

The West Siberian unit, which pumps 1 million barrels of crude a day, was sold in a disputed auction in December as part of what is seen as a politically charged clampdown on Yukos and its

jailed founder Mikhail Khodorkovsky. The unit was later bought by Rosneft.

Rosneft spokesman Vladimir Voevoda confirmed that Aiyar met with Rosneft head Sergei Bogdanchikov on Feb. 22, but declined to comment further on their discussions.

India is ready to import up to 50 million tons of oil per year over the next 10 to 15 years and was looking to Russia for a large portion of this, according to Interfax's source. The Indian Embassy couldn't immediately comment on the details of Aiyar's meetings.

India had suggested holding a meeting in New Delhi in 2005 attended by Asia's biggest energy producers – Russia, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan – and its biggest consumers – India, China, Japan and South Korea, the ministry statement said.

Meanwhile, on Feb. 22, Dow Jones Newswires reported that the former head of Yuganskneftegaz, Sergei Kudryashov, was named senior vice president at Rosneft in charge of production.

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COMPANY BRIEFS

Agriculture & Food

Kyiv's Court of Appeals issued a ruling on Feb. 1 overturning the Kyiv Economic Court's decision to declare the **Ukrainski Makarony** company's "Ukrainian Producer Taya" trademark illegal. Singer Taisia Povalii asked the Antimonopoly Committee in January 2004 to declare the company's use of her stage name Taya illegal. In January 2001, the company applied for registration of the trademark and was issued a certificate authorizing use of the Taya trademark. Prior to submission, the Khmelnytskyi pasta factory's former director Taisia Bukhtiyarova confirmed that she authorized the use of her name in the trademark.

Banking & Finance

Prominvestbank has launched a project to pay salaries to plastic card accounts of employees at the Dokuchaievsk flux dolomite plant in Donetsk oblast. PIB has issued 300,000 cards in Donetsk region, where it operates 134 ATMs. According to the Ukrainian Interbank Association of Members of Europay Int., PIB had issued 1.12 million cards and had a network of 741 ATMs by Feb. 1. The Dokuchaievsk flux dolomite plant extracts and produces limestone and dolomite for the metal industry. As of Jan. 1, PIB's net assets of were Hr 10.6 billion. The bank reported a net profit of Hr 122 billion in 2004.

Pravex Bank plans to become a savings bank. As of Jan. 1, 2005 the net assets of Pravex Bank were valued at Hr 1.6 billion. The bank ended the year 2004 with a net profit of Hr 7.8 million. The bank completed the process of increasing its statutory capital by Hr 20 million to Hr 108.96 million in early 2005. The procedure for categorizing banks as saving banks took effect Jan. 1, 2005.

Azhio bank plans to create two companies to deal with leasing and asset management. The bank's shareholders would also like to found a life insurance company. The Lithuanian bank Vilniaus Bankas, a part of the SEB international finance group, acquired 95.02% of Azhio Bank in January 2005. In addition to banking services, SEB also deals with life insurance. The group has a network of 750 affiliates and bank branches in Sweden, Germany, the United States, Great Britain, France and the Baltic States, among other countries.

The Pecherskiy district court of Kyiv adjourned on Jan. 16 without considering the complaint of individual non-resident Sukho Ivo. Ivo is appealing a **Ukrainian National Bank** resolution that regulates the procedures for investing in Ukraine. The resolution covers fulfillment of foreign investments in money form, the procedure for return of investments to investor, as well as repatriation of profit, incomes and other funds received from investment activity in Ukraine. \$8.35 billion worth of foreign investment was poured into Ukraine last year, an increase of 23 percent over 2003.

Aval Bank plans add a large foreign investor to its list of shareholders in order to reflect Ukraine's present political situation and to keep the bank's development dynamics in good condition. Aval owns the largest network of regional departments, which it hopes will be sufficient to attract a large foreign investor. The Aval bank intends to open up to 150 self-service departments in 2005. The bank's structural network presently has over 1,400 units throughout Ukraine. The bank ended 2004 with net profit of UAH 18.2 million. The net assets of the Aval bank were valued at Hr 12.4 billion as of Oct. 1, 2004.

Consumer Goods

The **Kyiv-Enerho-Polis** insurance company intends to open an affiliate in Izmail, Odessa oblast soon. The affiliate may officially start operation this quarter. The company presently has affiliates in Rivne, Zaporizhia, and Odessa. Kyiv-Enerho-Polis received Hr 8.62 million in

insurance premiums and paid out Hr 5.12 million in claims in 2004. The company's insurance reserves were Hr 1.64 million as of Jan. 1, 2005. The shareholders of Kyiv-Enerho-Polis are the companies Trukhanov and Kyivenergo.

Poland's largest insurance company **PZU** has acquired all shares in the **Skide West** and **Skide West** life insurance companies. The main goals of PZU on the Ukrainian market are the development of automobile insurance, life insurance, and corporate insurance. The Skide West insurance company was founded in 1993 and has a network of 37 affiliates and representative offices throughout Ukraine. According to preliminary data, the net profits of the PZU group amounted to about \$700 million in 2004, while its assets are valued at about \$13 billion.

The **State Commission of Market Regulation of Financial Services (SCRMFS)** has licensed the **ARMA** insurance company to provide mandatory insurance to automobile owners' in case of civil and legal liabilities. The license was granted for a 3-year term. SCRMFS started to issue licenses for third-party liability insurance on Jan. 11. 50 companies have already received the licenses. The law on mandatory insurance of the legal and civil liabilities of vehicle owners came into force on Jan. 1, 2005. On Apr. 1, traffic police will start to demand proof from drivers.

Krymskiy Tytan in Armiansk, Crimea, refuses to disclose information relating to the unlawful disposal of property belonging to the Irshansk ore mining and enrichment plant. The property was transferred into the ownership of Krymskiy Tytan. The prosecutor's office in Zhytomyr oblast opened a criminal investigation into the matter. The prosecutor's office established that the Irshansk OMEP was not eligible for privatization and had strategic significance for the economy and security of the state, but that the property complex was nevertheless disposed of and transferred into private ownership.

The **Fozzy Group** trade and industrial corporation has absorbed the chain **Yes! Market**. In all, Yes! Market includes 10 stores – 7 in Kyiv and 3 in Vinnytsia. Yes! Market discount cards will be converted into cards that work at Silpo and Fora. The details of the transactions were not made public. The Silpo chain of supermarkets is the strongest network of food supermarket stores in Ukraine.

Energy

Lukoil Ukraine increased the number of its gasoline filling stations by 4.9% to 170 in Q4 of this year, after reducing them to 162 in Q3. Lukoil Ukraine, the regional production and commercial arm of Russia's Lukoil Company, includes the commodity trader Litasko Ukraine, an oil refinery in Odessa, and a regional marketing enterprise.

Palace Engineering Service, a South African company, intends to invest \$250 million in the construction of a steam-and-gas power station in Izmail, a district center in Odessa oblast. Two-thirds of the electricity generated at the power station is expected to be used for the needs of the Odessa region and one-third sold. The investment is expected to be recouped in about 7 years. A lack of reliable energy sources in the region prompted the decision to build a power station, which will have a capacity of 260 megawatts.

The **Zaporizhia nuclear power plant** restarted its fourth 1,000-megawatt reactor on Feb. 19 after completing repairs. A day later, Zaporizhia NPP pulled its sixth 1,000-megawatt reactor off the grids. At present, 13 of the 15 reactors at the four Ukrainian nuclear power plants are in operation, as the fourth reactor at Rivne NPP is also under repair. Enerhoatom is Ukraine's largest producer of electricity, and controls Ukraine's four nuclear power plants: Rivne, Khmelnytskyi, Southern Ukrainian and Zaporizhia.

Leonid Melnyk announced that there



Dmytro Drahun, financial director of Ukrproduct Group, Serhiy Yevlanchyk, general executive director of Ukrproduct, and Iryna Yevets, president of Ukrproduct Group, announced their company's successful initial public offering (IPO) on London's Alternative Investment Market. The company raised about \$9 million. The IPO is the first ever by a Ukrainian company. (UNIAN)

Software leads to hard money



Ihor Mikryukov, department head, Oleksandr Voroshnin, technical director, and Yuri Lysetskiy, the general director of S&T Soft-Tronic, one of Ukraine's leading IT companies, held a news conference on Feb. 22 to announce profits from 2004. In 2004, Soft-Tronic opened an IT consulting department and designed programs for a telecommunications network administration for UMC and Kyivstar GSM. The company's profits in 2004 were \$27.7 million. (Post photo by Serhiy Zavalnyuk)

is no chance the ownership of his company, **Lvivoblenergo**, will be transferred to the Lviv municipality. Melnyk finds it very strange that the decision on the transfer was favored by almost all deputies of the city council during the vote. The Lviv city council sent a request to Yushchenko, Tymoshenko and the NERC on Feb. 10, asking them to give Lvivoblenerho to the city. Lviv mayor Liubomyr Buniak said on Feb. 9 that he intended to raise the issue of restoring municipal ownership of the Lviv electricity network, which is presently owned by Lvivoblenerho, when he returns from vacation. Lvivoblenerho is one of 13 privatized regional power distribution companies in Ukraine.

Legal Services

On Feb. 20, the Law Faculty at **Kyiv National Shevchenko University** was declared the 2005 Ukrainian National Champion of the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition. The team will now represent Ukraine at the International Rounds in Washington D.C. For the third year in a row, **Magister & Partners**, Attorneys-at-Law, served as the National Administrator of the Jessup in Ukraine. The 2005 Ukrainian National Championship involved seven teams from law schools across Ukraine. The Jessup is a public international law advocacy competition in which teams of law students present oral and written pleadings before

a simulated International Court of Justice.

Manufacturing

The Kryvyi Rih-based turbine works **Constar** signed a contract with the Tsentralnyi ore mining and enrichment plant, Kryvyi Rih, Dnipropetrovsk oblast, in February to supply 25 PBM-PP-120/300 magnetic separators by July. The plant did not make public the cost of the contract. Constar won a tender in April 2004 to supply the Pivdennyi ore mining plant with 20 PBM-PP-120/300 magnetic separators, valued at nearly Hr 2.5 million. Constar increased output by 93.8% in 2004. Constar specializes in the production of gas turbine equipment, magnetic separators, and spare parts for technological equipment, as well as oil-control and stop valves.

Technology

The **Association of Ukrainian Banks** and **Microsoft Ukraine** have agreed to start a three-year program aimed at licensing of Microsoft software products. The program provides offers licensing conditions better than traditional corporate licensing standards. The program covers basic software products used by Ukrainian banks, including Windows operating systems, the Office Suite/Pro application package and server applications. Microsoft Corporation increased its software sales in Ukraine by 38% in the 2004 fiscal year. Microsoft opened its rep-

resentative office – Microsoft Ukraine – in Kyiv in June 2003.

Telecommunications

Ukrainian Mobile Communications has introduced roaming services in Gambia through an agreement with AFRICELL. UMC has also introduced its GPRS roaming services in Macedonia through MOBIMAK. MOBIMAK provides mobile cellular communication services in the GSM 900 standard. In January, UMC also expanded roaming services to Cambodia. As of January, the number of UMC subscribers was 7.72 million. UMC finished 2003 with net profits of \$80 million. All shares in UMC, a closed joint-stock company, are owned by the Russian Mobile TeleSystems company.

Jeans has introduced a new mobile plan, Jeans Fun, oriented at active users of the SMS service. Under the plan, text messages to Jeans subscribers cost Hr 0.05. Jeans Fun starting packages can be purchased and activated until Mar. 31. Subscribers to Jeans, Jeans-Winter, and Jeans-SMS can change their plans to Jeans-Fun in this period for Hr 20.

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Jeff Gordon wins third Daytona 500

DAYTONA BEACH, Florida (AP) — The last person Jeff Gordon expected to see ahead of him in a furious finish to the Daytona 500 was Dale Earnhardt Jr. When he did, "I thought it was over, done," Gordon said.

As it turned out, Earnhardt found just enough speed to scare Gordon, not to beat him.

Gordon grabbed the lead from Earnhardt three laps from the scheduled end and then held off Kurt Busch and Earnhardt in extra laps on Feb. 20 to become only the fifth driver to win three Daytonas.

It was one of the wildest finishes in the 47-year history of NASCAR's biggest race. There were four lead changes in the last nine laps and two crashes involving a total of 17 cars in the last 20 laps.

Earnhardt, the defending champion, came from 30th with less than 160 kilometers to go to grab a late lead, only to see Gordon pass him seconds before a caution flag waved on the 198th of the scheduled 200 laps.

The race went three extra laps to finish under a green flag, and Gordon hung on to beat Busch by two car lengths.

"Oh, my goodness, what an amazing day," a jubilant Gordon said. "Three, baby!"

Gordon, a four-time NASCAR champion, joins Richard Petty (7), Cale Yarborough (4) and Bobby Allison and Dale Jarrett (3) with three or more Daytona victories.

Gordon first won it in 1997 and again in 1999.

"This one's sweeter than the other two," he said. "It was an amazing finish."

Tony Stewart dominated the race for a second straight year, leading 107 laps, and was well on the way to his first 500 win before a rash of late caution flags set up the dramatic ending.



Daytona 500 pole sitter Dale Jarrett, right, leads the pack of 43 cars through the tri-oval at the start of the Daytona 500 at the Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Fla., on Feb. 20. Jeff Gordon went on to take the checkered flag for his third career win at Daytona. (AP)

Earnhardt, who struggled with handling through most of the race and had not led a lap, suddenly dove to the outside, just in front of Gordon and charged past Stewart to grab the top spot on the 197th lap.

"I was real, real happy," Earnhardt said. "I'm telling you, man, the car was way, way off. It was hard. It was amazing the difference between the car (at the end) and maybe 50 laps before then. I mean, it was really fast."

When Earnhardt charged to the lead, Gordon thought the race was over.

"I thought maybe Junior was having engine or maybe handling problems,"

Gordon said. "Then he just flipped a switch or something and there he was.

"I didn't even think we could get up beside him, let alone pass him."

Gordon finally pulled alongside Earnhardt and nosed ahead just moments before the 10th yellow flag of the race froze the field.

On the restart on lap 202, Busch, the defending Nextel Cup champion, drove his Ford past Earnhardt and bore down on Gordon, but he couldn't get by him.

Behind those three, things got really wild, with three- and four-wide racing and cars banging and bumping off each other to the finish.

Scott Riggs wound up fourth, followed by Jimmie Johnson, Mark Martin in his last Daytona 500 and the frustrated Stewart.

Unlike other races at Daytona since NASCAR began requiring the horsepower-sapping carburetor restrictor plates to slow the cars, most of the race was run with the field stretched out around the oval.

The Chevrolet Monte Carlos of Stewart, Gordon and two-time Daytona winner Michael Waltrip, Earnhardt's teammate, led most of the laps and spent much of the day in single file.

But things began heating up on lap

183 when Greg Biffle and Riggs bumped in the middle of a pack and ignited a nine-car crash that sent Scott Wimmer barrel-rolling and then spinning several times on the nose of his car before landing on his wheels. Wimmer was not injured.

The race restarted on lap 188, but several cars banged together before even passing the flagstand, sparking an eight-car crash on the main straightaway.

NASCAR managed to get that mess cleared in time for a restart on lap 196, but there was yet another caution waving on lap 198 because of debris on the track.

Bonds ducks steroid questions and fires back at reporters

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona (AP) — Barry Bonds sidestepped a peppering of steroids questions in the very way teams avoid pitching to him — and did it with the same prickly demeanor that has defined him for years.

Bonds angrily avoided inquiries about his role in baseball's steroid scandal upon his arrival at spring training on Feb. 22, pronouncing himself weary but ready to resume his pursuit of Hank Aaron's home run record.

He called reporters liars, and pointed to problems in the world he considers much more important than steroids, such as alcoholism and drug abuse.

Bonds was entertaining as usual. Asked directly whether he'd ever used illegal substances, he said:

"I'm not a child. You repeat those things to children and then eventually they tell you. I don't."

In Bonds' first public comments since his grand jury testimony was leaked to the *San Francisco Chronicle* and reported in December, he had nothing to say about it, citing legal constrictions. But he had harsh words for the media and fans still consumed by the circumstances of his record-setting home run binge.

"You guys are like re-running stories," Bonds said to more than 100 reporters in attendance. "This is old stuff. It's almost comical, basically. Are you guys jealous, upset, disappointed, what?"

The San Francisco Giants slugger has 703 homers, trailing only Hank Aaron (755) and Babe Ruth (714) on the career list.

Bonds, dressed casually in a black shirt and jeans, was asked whether he thinks using steroids is cheating.

"I don't know what cheating is," he said. "I don't believe steroids can help your eye-hand coordination, technically hit a baseball. I just don't believe it. That's my opinion."

Bonds said the key to his continued success and strength, even in the later years of his career, has been "hard work, that's about it."

According to the *Chronicle*, Bonds testified to the grand jury in December 2003 that he used a clear substance and a cream given to him by a trainer who was indicted in a steroid-distribution ring, but said he didn't know if they were steroids. Prosecutors believe the substances were two steroids at the center of the BALCO scandal.

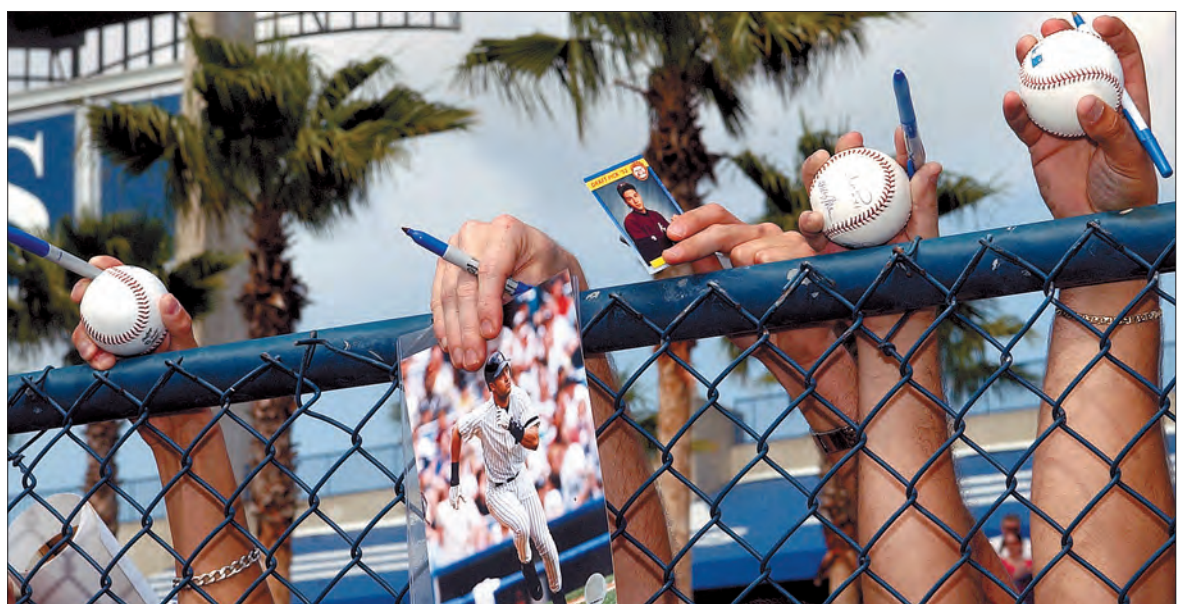
He isn't convinced any of this will affect his legacy.

"All of you guys have lied," he said. "Should you have an asterisk behind your name? ... Yeah, I lied to my parents when I was growing up. Lied to my friends. Have I lied about baseball? Yeah, I told a couple of stories that I hit a couple of balls places that I really didn't."

He acknowledged that the controversy has been painful for his children and that he worries most about them.

"I'm an adult and I take responsibility for what I do, but I'm not going to allow you guys to ruin my joy," Bonds said.

He refused to speak directly about BALCO, but he castigated everyone from the media to Jose Canseco, whose



New York Yankees fans hold baseballs, markers and a photo of Derek Jeter as they wait for a chance at an autograph from Jeter following the first day of full squad workouts at spring training on Feb. 22 in Tampa, Fla. (AP)

recently released book described a rampant culture of steroid abuse in baseball. Canseco has said he used steroids with several teammates, including Mark McGwire. And Canseco said he suspects that Bonds has used banned substances.

"I don't know Canseco, besides hello and goodbye. I don't put any weight into what he says," Bonds said. "Mark McGwire was a big boy in college. To me, Canseco, you've got to come with a whole lot more. ... It's to make a buck, that's all it is."

"I don't know Jose. I was better than Jose then, and I've been better than him

his whole career. If he wants to go make money, go ahead. ... For somebody who brags about what he did, I don't see any of your records."

Bonds rolled into the Giants' training complex on the day position players were due to report. After he hopped out of his car and made his way into the stadium, he waved twice at the 50 or so fans there to greet him. Later, on his way out, Bonds signed autographs for about 10 minutes. He has been appreciative of the fans' and their support this off-season.

Bonds believes he's being scrutinized more since he's closing in on Ruth.

"Because Babe Ruth is one of the greatest baseball players ever, and Babe Ruth ain't black, either," he said. "I'm black. Blacks, we go through a little more. ... I'm not a racist though, but I live in the real world. I'm fine with that."

The seven-time National League Most Valuable Player is entering his 20th major league season. Bonds drew 232 walks last season, 34 more than the record he set in 2002 and more than 100 better than anyone in baseball. His 120 intentional walks shattered the mark of 68 that he set in 2002.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE ROUND-UP

Real Madrid, Bayern, Liverpool and PSV win

LONDON (AP) — Ivan Helguera scored to lead Real Madrid over Juventus 1-0 in the Champions League knockout round on Feb. 22 as Europe's elite club competition resumed in freezing conditions after a two-month break.

Helguera scored in the 31st minute off an inswinging David Beckham free kick as the nine-time champion claimed the advantage ahead of the return leg in Turin in two weeks.

German and English clubs split their two head-to-head encounters. Claudio Pizarro scored in each half as Bayern Munich trounced Arsenal 3-1, while Liverpool beat Bayer Leverkusen 3-1 with goals from Luis Garcia, John Arne Riise and Dietmar Hamann.

PSV Eindhoven beat last season's runner-up Monaco 1-0.

At the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium, Madrid twice hit the post but still gave coach Vanderlei Luxemburgo a victory in his Champions League debut. Luxemburgo, Madrid's third coach this season, took charge of the team in December.

"We played a good game. We would have liked a second goal. The opponent was very good, very strong defensively," Madrid midfielder Zinedine Zidane said.

Both sides sustained injuries. Michel Salgado limped off for Madrid in the ninth minute with a knee injury after a collision with Juventus midfielder Pavel Nedved, who was carried off 26 minutes later after a colliding heads with Salgado's replacement, Raul Bravo.

The match, a replay of the 1998 Champions League final, was attended by Spain's King Juan Carlos and King Abdullah II of Jordan.

In Munich, Pizarro scored in the fourth and 58th minutes, while Hasan Salihamidzic added another in the 51st. A



Real Madrid's Ivan Helguera celebrates his goal during a first leg Champions League soccer match against Juventus in Madrid on Feb. 22, which Real Madrid won 1-0. (AP)

late Arsenal goal from Kolo Toure gave the London club some hope of advancing to the quarterfinals.

The match was billed as a fight between Germany's top two goalkeepers — current No. 1 Oliver Kahn of Bayern Munich, and his rival Jens Lehmann at Arsenal.

"It would have been impossible to go through at 3-0 but with the goal we still have chances," Lehmann said. "Everything is possible and at least there will be a chance in two weeks. I just know the goals were very easy against us. In my time here we have never conceded three easy goals like that, but sometimes it happens."

Toure's goal couldn't offset two costly defensive mistakes, as Arsenal missed the presence of its injured England defender Sol Campbell.

Toure was at fault for allowing Pizarro to volley past Lehmann for his first goal

and was left stranded as the Peruvian headed in his second from a Mehmet Scholl cross.

Lehmann thwarted Roy Makaay with a reflex save, but Salihamidzic scored on the rebound. Toure scored off a rebound from a Patrick Vieira shot that hit the post.

"We had a very good result and it's a pity we conceded a goal so late in the match. But still it's better than a draw," Bayern defender Bixente Lizarazu said.

Four-time champion Liverpool coped with the absence of influential midfielder Steven Gerrard with a 3-1 win at Anfield.

Franca scored in injury time for Leverkusen, which hasn't won in England in six attempts.

"Shame about the end, but the problem is when you are winning 3-0 in the last minute and you concede a goal, it's a pity, but other than that it's good," Liverpool manager Rafa Benitez said.

In Eindhoven, PSV defender Alex scored after eight minutes. The Brazilian rose up unmarked near the middle of the box to meet captain Mark van Bommel's corner kick, sending it into the goal off the hand of the leaping Monaco keeper Flavio Roma.

On Feb. 23, Spanish league leader FC Barcelona hosted English front-runner Chelsea in the match of the round. A former assistant at Barcelona, Chelsea coach Jose Mourinho won the Champions League last season with FC Porto.

Two-time champion Manchester United faced five-time winner AC Milan, Porto was at Inter Milan and Werder Bremen hosted Lyon.

The return legs will be held March 8-9. Inter Milan will host Porto on March 15 because AC Milan will be at the San Siro on March 8 and UEFA rules don't allow for two games in the same stadium on consecutive days.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Shevchenko undergoes surgery to fix cheekbone fracture

MILAN, Italy — AC Milan striker Andriy Shevchenko underwent surgery in a local clinic on Feb. 21 to fix a cheekbone fracture.

The Milan club said the operation was successful but doctors did not immediately say how long the Ukraine international would be sidelined.

The club suggested the 28-year-old striker could be idle for two to four weeks at a crucial period for the Milan soccer powerhouse.

The surgery forced him to miss a Champions League match on Feb. 23 against Manchester United. He will also sit out the Feb. 27 derby with crosstown rival Inter Milan.

Shevchenko, recently named Europe's best player of 2004, was injured during the first half of Milan's Serie A match against Cagliari, which Milan won 1-0.

"Sheva," who has scored 14 goals this season, was butted in the face by a Cagliari defender as they were trying to head the ball.

Kournikova's accused stalker pleads innocent to battery

MIAMI — A homeless man accused of stalking tennis star Anna Kournikova pleaded innocent on Feb. 22 to battery and other charges stemming from his arrest on her neighbor's pool patio.

William Lipeska, 40, has been jailed in a psychiatric unit on \$250,000 bond. He could face 30 years in state prison if convicted of two counts of battery on police officers, resisting arrest and burglary, all felonies. He also faces misdemeanor charges of stalking, indecent exposure and criminal mischief.

Circuit Judge Diane Ward set a trial date for May 2 for Lipeska, who sat in court with his arms handcuffed behind his back.

Lipeska is accused of swimming nude across Biscayne Bay, bound for Kournikova's \$5 million Sunset Island estate Jan. 30. He was arrested when he turned up at the wrong house and started yelling, "Anna! Save me!"

Lipeska, who has the name Anna tattooed on his right arm, has served a prison term in Wisconsin for stabbing a man sleeping in a university coffee house. In the Milwaukee case, he cited Old Testament sacrifice and told police that he needed to sacrifice his victim "to appease the power of evil."

Dumars, Wilkins finalists for Hall of Fame

SPRINGFIELD, Massachusetts — Former NBA stars Joe Dumars and Dominique Wilkins, and Italian coach Sandro Gamba and Brazilian player Hortencia Marcari, are finalists for election into the Basketball Hall of Fame.

Dumars played his entire professional career for the Detroit Pistons, and helped them win back-to-back NBA championships (1989, 1990). He is now president of basketball operations for the Pistons, credited for assembling the team that won the 2004 NBA title.

Dumars was a six-time NBA All-Star and MVP of the 1989 NBA Finals.

Wilkins' above-the-rim acrobatics earned him the nickname "The Human Highlight Film."

A prolific scorer, Wilkins played most of his NBA career for the Atlanta Hawks (1982-93), who retired his jersey. He also played for the Los Angeles Clippers, Boston Celtics, San Antonio Spurs and Orlando Magic. Wilkins was a nine-time NBA All-Star, and a two-time NBA Slam Dunk champion.

Among the other 12 nominees announced on Feb. 20 are: Jim Boeheim, Jim Calhoun, Hubie Brown, Bernard King, Maurice Cheeks and John Kerr.

Induction requires 18 of 24 votes from the Hall of Fame's Honors Committee.

— The Associated Press

NBA ALL-STAR GAME ROUND-UP

Shaq plays the clown as East dumps West 125-115

DENVER (AP) — The Shaq Shoe Phone was not the most outrageous thing displayed at the NBA All-Star game.

That distinction belonged to The Big Entertainer himself.

For the second straight year, Shaquille O'Neal made people laugh, applaud and appreciate his oversized way of doing everything, infusing the otherwise nondescript All-Star game on Feb. 20 with just the right amount of precociousness.

He danced as he was introduced, struck a pose before missing a foul shot and goofed with the rap stars and hip-hop artists who lined the front-row seats across from the Eastern Conference bench.

All that showmanship didn't win O'Neal MVP honors — that award went to Allen Iverson, who had 15 points, nine assists and five steals as the East beat the West 125-115. But if MVP stood for Most Vibrant Personality, this one was a runaway decided squarely in favor of the 360-pound (162-kilogram), 7-foot (2.13-meter) behemoth who was making his 12th appearance in an NBA all-star game.

"When I was young I was on punishment a lot and I used to watch a lot of TV, and I asked myself a question: 'How come people like Mike? How come they like Magic? How come they like Bird? How come they don't like the big guys?'" O'Neal said, referring to former stars Michael Jordan, Magic Johnson and Larry Bird.

"So I just throw a little bit of what they were doing. You smile, you act crazy and silly. And I think people like me because I'm different. I've always been a class clown type of guy. It comes natural."

O'Neal finished with 12 points, six rebounds, three blocked shots and three steals.

His showmanship displays came after he unveiled his size-22 red and white shoe phone in the locker room before the game. An actual working telephone mechanism is built into the sneaker, and an antenna pops out near the toes.

"It's big, you can take it anywhere, make people look at you," O'Neal said. "And it prevents muggers. Kick them right in the (behind) with that Shaq shoe phone."

"There's an addition at the top where you can pull out the strings and make it a Shaq-shoe handbag and phone all-in-one."

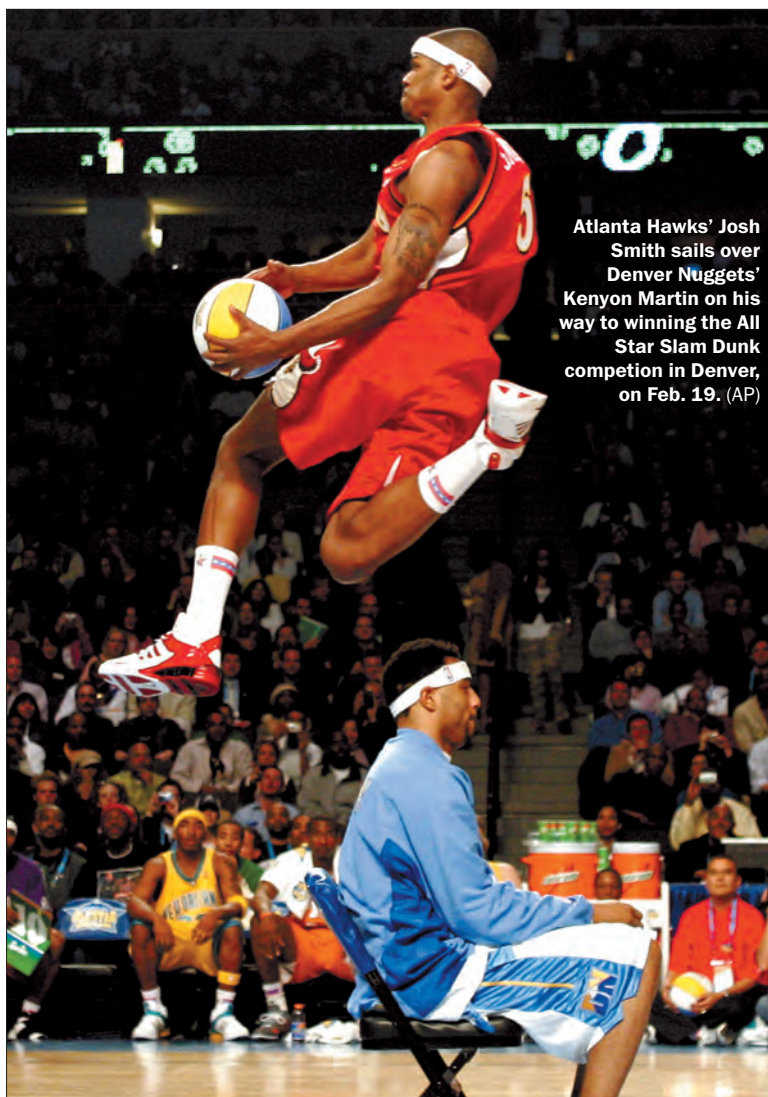
O'Neal, Iverson and Vince Carter received the loudest ovations during the pre-game introductions, and O'Neal played to the crowd by strutting down the runway wearing a huge smile.

"Leave it to Shaq to do something like that," Miami Heat teammate Dwyane Wade said. "He's always doing something to keep fans involved."

LeBron James and Iverson teamed up on the prettiest play of the first quarter, an alley-oop dunk by the 20-year-old Cleveland guard who became the second-youngest All-Star starter in NBA history.

But the best dunk of the first half came when Carter drove the middle and tossed the ball hard off the backboard before catching and jamming it with two hands.

"That's what this game is about, it's for the fans," Ben Wallace said. "Just relax and enjoy yourself, give the fans something to cheer about, and that's what he did."



Atlanta Hawks' Josh Smith sails over Denver Nuggets' Kenyon Martin on his way to winning the All-Star Slam Dunk competition in Denver, on Feb. 19. (AP)

NHL will allow players to take part in Worlds

NEW YORK (AP) — The National Hockey League will allow league personnel to take part in the upcoming World Championship even if the lockout that canceled the season is still ongoing.

"After due consideration to all of the relevant and sometimes competing concerns, we have decided that NHL management personnel (including NHL head and assistant coaches) will be entirely free to participate in the upcoming IIHF World Championship in the same manner and in the same or similar capacities as in prior years," NHL chief legal officer Bill Daly said on Feb. 22 in a statement. That leaves the door open for Wayne Gretzky to lead Canada at the April 30-May 15 tournament should he choose to. Gretzky, the Phoenix Coyotes' managing partner, was the executive director of the two-time defending champions.

It is expected that more NHL players will take part in the tournament that will be held in Austria.

Usually, a handful of players join their national teams once their NHL teams are eliminated from the Stanley Cup playoffs. But now that many have missed a whole season due to the lockout, they probably will be looking for competitive games to play in.

With the cancellation of the season last week, and a failed last-ditch effort to resurrect it over the weekend, there will be a break from talks between the NHL and the players' association.

The league will hold a meeting with the board of governors in New York on Feb. 22. The players' association will gather its rank-and-file members for dinner next Feb. 21 and a meeting the following day in Toronto.

Out on the pond



Spectators circle the rink for the final at the World Pond Hockey Tournament on Roulston Pond in Plaster Rock, N.B., on Feb. 20. Defending champions the Boston Dangles beat the Fallen Leafs, 13-7, to win their second consecutive title. (AP)

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

First Knockout Round

First Leg
Feb. 22
Bayern Munich (Germany) 3, Arsenal (England) 1
Liverpool (England) 3, B. Leverkusen (Germany) 1
PSV Eindhoven (Netherlands) 1, AS Monaco (France) 0
Real Madrid (Spain) 1, Juventus (Italy) 0
Feb. 23
FC Porto (Portugal) vs. Inter Milan (Italy)
FC Barcelona (Spain) vs. Chelsea (England)
Werder Bremen (Germany) vs. Lyon (France)
Manchester United (England) vs. AC Milan (Italy)

Second Leg
Tuesday, March 8
Chelsea vs. FC Barcelona
Lyon vs. Werder Bremen
AC Milan vs. Manchester United
Wednesday, March 9
Arsenal vs. Bayern Munich
Juventus vs. Real Madrid
Bayer Leverkusen vs. Liverpool
AS Monaco vs. PSV Eindhoven
Tuesday, March 15
Inter Milan vs. Porto

UEFA CUP

(Second legs to be played Feb. 24)
(Home teams listed first):

Feb. 16
Parma (Italy) 0, Stuttgart (Germany) 0
Sporting Lisbon (Portugal) 2, Feyenoord Rotterdam (Netherlands) 1
Partizan Belgrade (Serbia-Montenegro) 2, Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk (Ukraine) 2
Valencia (Spain) 2, Steaua Bucharest (Romania) 0
Ajax Amsterdam (Neth.) 1, Auxerre (France) 0
Panathinaikos (Greece) 1, Sevilla (Spain) 0
Shakhtar Donetsk (Ukr.) 1, Schalke 04 (Germany) 0
Olympiakos (Gre.) 1, Sochaux (Fra.) 0
Dynamo Kyiv (Ukr.) 0, Villarreal (Spa.) 0
GAK (Belgium) 2, Middlesbrough (England) 2
SC Heerenveen (Neth.) 1, Newcastle (Eng.) 2
Basel (Switzerland) 0, Lille (Fra.) 0
CSKA Moskva (Russia) 2, Benfica (Por.) 0
Fenerbahce (Turkey) 0, Zaragoza (Spa.) 1
Aachen (Bel.) 0, AZ Alkmaar (Neth.) 0
Austria Vienna (Austria) vs. Athletic de Bilbao (Spa.) (ppd.: 1st and 2nd legs will be played Feb. 24 and Feb. 27)

ATHLETICS

Results Feb. 20 from the IAAF Athens indoor athletics meet (race distances in meters):

Men
60-1. Olusoji Fasuba, NGR, 6.55 seconds; 2. Dwight Phillips, USA, 6.59; 3. Freddy Mayola, CUB, 6.64.
200-1. Uchena Emedolou, NGR, 21.13; 2. Panayiotis Sarris, GRE, 21.17; 3. Matic Osonvnik, SLO, 21.35.
400-1. Santa Carlos, DOM, 46.43; 2. James Davis, USA, 46.85; 3. Lloyd Chris, DOM, 46.99.
800-1. Ivan Heshko, UKR, 1:46.49; 2. Wilfred Bungei, KEN, 1:46.90; 3. Amine Laalou, MAR, 1:47.11.

3,000-1. Daniel Komen Chipchirchir, KEN, 7:53.89; 2. Mark Bett, KEN, 7:55.03; 3. Abderahim Goumri, MAR, 7:55.29.
60 HURDLES-1. Anier Garcia, CUB, 7.57; 2. Charles Allen, CAN, 7.61; 3. Dudley Dorival, HAI, 7.65.
HIGH JUMP-1. Alexei Dmitrik, RUS, 2.30 meters; 2. Dragutin Topic, YUG, 2.28; 3. Stefan Vasilache, ROM, 2.26.
LONG JUMP-1. Louis Tsatoumas, GRE, 8.03; 2. Bogdan Tarus, ROM, 8.00; 3. Gaspar Araujo, POR, 7.85.
SHOT PUT-1. Christian Cantwell, USA, 20.31; 2. Guset Gheorghie, ROM, 20.25; 3. Dan Taylor, USA, 19.95.

EUROPEAN SOCCER LEAGUES

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE
Feb. 19
Chelsea 68, Manchester United 59, Arsenal 57, Everton 48, Liverpool 43, Middlesbrough 41, Bolton 40, Charlton 38, Tottenham 36, Aston Villa 35, Manchester City 33, Birmingham 32, Newcastle 31, Portsmouth 30, Fulham 29, Blackburn 28, Crystal Palace 22, Southampton 20, Norwich 20, West Bromwich Albion 18

Feb. 20
FA Cup
Fifth Round
Burnley 0, Blackburn 0
Chelsea 0, Newcastle 1
Tottenham 1, Notts. Forest 1

Feb. 22
West Brom. 0, S'hampton 0

Saturday, Feb. 26
S'hampton vs. Arsenal
Tottenham vs. Fulham
Villa vs. Everton
Palace vs. B'ham
Man. U. vs. P'mouth

Sunday, Feb. 27
Newcastle vs. Bolton
M'borough vs. Charlton

Monday, Feb. 28
Norwich vs. Man. City

ITALIAN SERIE A
AC Milan 54, Juventus 54, Inter Milan 43, Udinese 41, Sampdoria 41, Palermo 39, AS Roma 38, Cagliari 33, Bologna 32, Lecce 32, Reggina 32, S.S. Lazio 30, Livorno 30, Messina 29, Chievo Verona 28, Fiorentina 26, Parma 26, Siena 25, Brescia 23, Atalanta 17

Feb. 19
Messina 0, Juventus 0
Milan 1, Cagliari 0
Udinese 1, Inter 1

Feb. 20
Atalanta 2, Bologna 0
Chievo 0, Lazio 1
Palermo 3, Lecce 2
Parma 2, Brescia 1
AS Roma 3, Livorno 0
Sampdoria 3, Reggina 2
Siena 1, Fiorentina 0

Saturday, Feb. 26
Brescia vs. Sampdoria
Fiorentina vs. Udinese

Sunday, Feb. 27
Bologna vs. Livorno
Cagliari vs. Atalanta
Juventus vs. Siena
Lazio vs. Parma
Lecce vs. Messina
Palermo vs. AS Roma
Reggina vs. Chievo
Inter vs. Milan

SPANISH FIRST DIVISION
FC Barcelona 57, Real Madrid 50, Real Betis 41, Sevilla 41, Villarreal 40, Valencia 38, Espanyol 38, Athletic de Bilbao 35, Atletico de Madrid 33, Deportivo de La Coruna 32, Osasuna 30, Real Sociedad 29, Zaragoza 29, Malaga 28, Getafe 27, Levante 27, Racing de Santander 24, Albacete 23, Mallorca 21, Numancia 17

Feb. 19
Barcelona 2, Mallorca 0
R. Madrid 0, Athletic 2
R. Sociedad 1, Sevilla 0

Feb. 20
R. Betis 2, Deportivo 0

Getafe 0, Osasuna 0
Malaga 3, Espanyol 2
Albacete 1, Numancia 2
Levante 0, Zaragoza 0
Racing 1, Valencia 0
Villar. 3, Atletico 2

Sunday, Feb. 27
Zaragoza vs. Villar.
Atletico vs. R. Sociedad
Sevilla vs. Racing
Valencia vs. R. Betis
Deportivo vs. R. Madrid
Athletic vs. Getafe
Osasuna vs. Malaga
Espanyol vs. Albacete
Numancia vs. Barcelona
Mallorca vs. Levante

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA
Bayern Munich 44, Schalke 04 44, Werder Bremen 40, Bayer Leverkusen 38, VfB Stuttgart 38, Hamburger SV 37, Hertha Berlin 36, VfL Wolfsburg 33, Hannover 96 32, FC Kaiserslautern 31, Arminia Bielefeld 29, Borussia Dortmund 28, FC Nuremberg 24, Borussia Moenchengladbach 24, Mainz 05 23, VfL Bochum 19, SC Freiburg 16, Hansa Rostock 13

Feb. 19
Hamburger 2, K'lautern 1
Bochum 3, Freiburg 1
Bayern 5, Dortmund 0
Mainz 0, Arminia 0
Nuremberg 2, Leverkusen 4
Wolfsburg 4, Hansa 0
Hannover 1, Werder 4

Feb. 20
Stuttgart 1, Hertha 0
Bo. M'bach 1, Schalke 3

Saturday, Feb. 26
Dortmund vs. Mainz

Freiburg vs. Bayern
Werder vs. Bochum
Hansa vs. Bo. M'bach
K'lautern vs. Wolfsburg
Hertha vs. Hamburger
Arminia vs. Nuremberg

Sunday, Feb. 27
Schalke vs. Hannover
Leverkusen vs. Stuttgart

DUTCH FIRST DIVISION
PSV Eindhoven 55, AZ Alkmaar 51, Ajax Amsterdam 47, Feyenoord Rotterdam 41, FC Utrecht 35, SC Heerenveen 35, Vitesse Arnhem 34, FC Twente Enschede 31, Roda JC Kerkrade 30, RKC Waalwijk 30, NAC Breda 27, FC Groningen 26, Willem II Tilburg 25, ADO Den Haag 23, NEC Nijmegen 20, De Graafschap Doetinchem 17, RBC Roosendaal 14, FC Den Bosch 9

Feb. 18
Roosendaal 2, Willem II 0

Feb. 19
PSV 4, Nijmegen 1

Feb. 20
Utrecht 0, Feyenoord 2
Ajax 2, Bosch 0
Alkmaar 1, Kerkrade 1
De Graafs. 2, Heerenveen 1
Groningen 0, FC Twente 1
Waalwijk 1, Breda 0
Vitesse 3, Den Haag 4

Friday, Feb. 25
Nijmegen vs. Waalwijk

Saturday, Feb. 26
Breda vs. Groningen
FC Twente vs. De Graafs.

Sunday, Feb. 27

Den Haag vs. Utrecht
Bosch vs. Vitesse
Feyenoord vs. Roosendaal
Heerenveen vs. PSV
Kerkrade vs. Ajax
Willem II vs. Alkmaar

FRENCH FIRST DIVISION
Lyon 53, Marseille 47, Lille 46, AS Monaco 44, Auxerre 42, Toulouse 38, Sochaux 35, Rennes 35, Saint-Etienne 34, Lens 34, Bordeaux 32, Metz 31, Paris Saint Germain 30, Nice 29, Strasbourg 27, Nantes 27, Caen 25, Ajaccio 24, Bastia 23, Istres 21

Feb. 18
Monaco 1, Lyon 1

Feb. 19
Strasbourg 3, PSG 1
Caen 2, Ajaccio 2
Toulouse 1, Bordeaux 0
Rennes 4, Nice 1
Bastia 0, Marseille 1
Lens 2, Nantes 0

Feb. 20
Metz 1, Lille 1
Istres 1, Auxerre 0
St.-Etienne 1, Sochaux 0

Saturday, Feb. 26
Lyon vs. St.-Etienne
PSG vs. Bastia
Bordeaux vs. Caen
Ajaccio vs. Lens
Nice vs. Monaco
Nantes vs. Strasbourg

Sunday, Feb. 27
Lille vs. Rennes
Sochaux vs. Metz
Auxerre vs. Toulouse
Marseille vs. Istres

Dashing through the snow



Georg Bocskai on Encanto, far left, is on his way to win the Grand Prix Corporate Event horse race during the White Surf on a frozen lake in St. Moritz, Switzerland, on Feb. 20. (AP)

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	27	27	.500	-
Philadelphia	26	27	.491	1/2
New Jersey	23	31	.426	4
Toronto	22	32	.407	5
New York	21	33	.389	6

Southwest Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	41	12	.774	-
Dallas	35	16	.686	5
Houston	32	22	.593	9 1/2
Memphis	30	23	.566	11
New Orleans	11	42	.208	30

Northwest Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	36	15	.706	-
Minnesota	27	27	.500	10 1/2
Denver	24	29	.453	13
Portland	21	30	.412	15
Utah	17	35	.327	19 1/2

Central Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	33	19	.635	-
Cleveland	30	21	.588	2 1/2
Chicago	27	23	.540	5
Indiana	26	26	.500	7
Milwaukee	21	30	.412	11 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	41	12	.774	-
Dallas	35	16	.686	5
Houston	32	22	.593	9 1/2
Memphis	30	23	.566	11
New Orleans	11	42	.208	30

Northwest Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	36	15	.706	-
Minnesota	27	27	.500	10 1/2
Denver	24	29	.453	13
Portland	21	30	.412	15
Utah	17	35	.327	19 1/2

Pacific Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Phoenix	41	13	.759	-
Sacramento	34	20	.630	7
L.A. Lakers	27	24	.529	12 1/2
L.A. Clippers	23	30	.434	17 1/2
Golden State	15	38	.283	25 1/2

Feb. 20
East All-Stars 125, West All-Stars 115

Feb. 21
No games scheduled

Feb. 22
Indiana 108, Orlando 84

Milwaukee 112, Charlotte 102
Detroit 97, New York 88
Toronto 100, New Jersey 82
Chicago 105, Miami 101 (OT)
Seattle 87, Houston 85
Sacramento 114, Atlanta 104
L.A. Lakers 104, Boston 95

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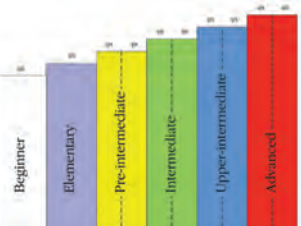
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PROJECTS ASSISTANT (Temporary for 1 year)



The British Embassy is seeking to recruit a full-time Projects Assistant to support the work of the Embassy's Projects Officer in managing a portfolio of projects under the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Global Opportunities Fund. These focus on promoting democracy and European integration in Ukraine. Main duties will include compilation and maintenance of the Embassy's project files and databases (including monitoring of payments) and liaising with project implementers and donors to ensure the smooth running of the Embassy's projects programme. The Projects Assistant will also contribute to the formation of the Embassy's project portfolio and to the final evaluation of projects. There will also be some administrative tasks.

The successful applicant will have excellent oral and written English, experience of project cycle management, work with international donors, good communication skills and excellent organisational skills. Knowledge of Ukrainian legislation on Non-Governmental Organisations is desirable.

The position is offered for one year until the end of March 2006.

Further details of duties and responsibilities, as well as the application form, are available from www.britemb-ukraine.net/Vacancies/. This should be completed in English and submitted to vacancy.kiev@fco.gov.uk or by fax to (44) 490 3662. The deadline for applications is 16:00 on 4 March 2005.

SD SHEVCHENKO DIDKOVSKIY & PARTNERS ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW

One of the leading Ukrainian law firms representing primarily large foreign companies, is pleased to announce an immediate opening for the following positions:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Tax Lawyer | - 2+ years of specialized legal practice experience
- Excellent command of English
- Strong academic background (western LL.M. is an advantage) |
| Banking/Finance Lawyer | - Superb legal writing and research skills, superior analytical abilities.
The successful applicants will be working on high profile transactions. |
| Antitrust Lawyer | |
| HR Manager | - 2+ years of relevant experience
- Fluent English
- Higher education |

We offer very competitive salary, fringe benefits & congenial atmosphere.

Please send your resume to e-mail: hr@shevdid.com, or via fax at: 38(044)230-6001. For details on our firm and employment opportunities, please, visit our website www.shevdid.com



CHILDREN OF CHORNOBYL RELIEF FUND

Invites applications for the position of:

SECRETARY/ADMINISTRATOR

University degree, past experience as a secretary, excellent communication skills, native Ukrainian and conversational English, knowledge of Microsoft Word, Excel, Access, and Outlook.

Please submit your resume and cover letter via email to: crcf@volicable.com.

SALES EXECUTIVE



Amadeus is a world's leading provider of IT services for Travel Industry, connecting Travel Agencies with Airlines, Hotels, Rent-a-Car and other Providers. We are doing consultative selling, technical support and training for our customers.

Your responsibility as a **Sales Executive** will be maintaining relationships and promoting our products to partners, located in Ukraine & Moldova.

Requirements: university degree (preferable in Economics/Marketing), fluent command of English, good PC skills (Excel, PowerPoint, Word), effective communication and interpersonal skills, team-oriented, creativity, experience in sales and account management is a plus, age up to 35 years.

Please send your resume to e-mail: info@ua.amadeus.net or by fax: 38044-4677568. Closing date for applications is 20 March 2005.

An international company is looking for

RECEPTIONIST

Requirements:

- fluency in English, Russian and Ukrainian
- strong time-management skills
- good interpersonal skills
- ability to work under pressure

please send your SV to jobnew@bigmir.net

deadline is March 3, 2005

THE JAPANESE TRADING COMPANY

Is looking for:

SALES MANAGER

Requirements:

- ◆ between 25 - 30 years old
- ◆ 3-year experience in sales at the leading foreign company
- ◆ University degree
- ◆ Fluent English, Ukrainian, Russian
- ◆ Computer literate
- ◆ Strong communication, analytical, negotiation and presentation skills
- ◆ Proven ability to work independently

Please send your resume to fax: +380 44 253 98 03

Regional Sales Manager

Brand Leading Agricultural Equipment

Based in Kyiv. Attractive package & benefits inc. car.

With \$5bn sales, AGCO is a world leader in the design, development and manufacture of agricultural equipment and related replacement parts. This new appointment offers an outstanding opportunity to join us and drive profitable growth of Challenger and Massey Ferguson brands in Ukraine.

Based in Kyiv and reporting to the head of representation, you will meet demanding business targets by sustaining high levels of customer service and building enduring relationships with distributors and dealers selling and servicing Challenger and Massey Ferguson agricultural equipment. You will co-ordinate all aspects of the sales process, liaising with the Regional Head Office and providing high level sales information and reports, as required.

To be successful in this challenging role, you will need to have a proven track record of success in agricultural equipment sales and an in depth knowledge of the farm machinery industry and Ukrainian agricultural markets. You must be able to devise winning sales strategies, assist distributors and dealers with the on-going development of their businesses and promote our products and their capabilities with customers and

at shows. First class technical, communication and interpersonal skills will be combined with strong commercial acumen, a determined and self-motivated operating style and excellent presentation/negotiating skills. PC literate, you will have high levels of drive and enthusiasm and be prepared for extensive travel both in Ukraine and abroad. Native Ukrainian and/or Russian speaking, with fluent written and spoken English are required.

Please write with full CV, including current salary details and quoting reference 05/10 to:

Tony Holden, HR Manager, AGCO Limited, PO Box 62, Banner Lane, Coventry, CV4 9GF, United Kingdom.

Email: tonyholden@uk.agcocorp.com

www.agcocorp.com



ING BANK Ukraine is announcing the following openings:

Financial Market Sales Officer Macroeconomic / Fixed Income Researcher Head of Fixed Income Trading / Local Bond Origination / Structured Products

Requirements:

- University degree in Finance or Economics
- Good knowledge of financial products
- Responsible and organized individual
- Team-worker
- Advanced level of English
- Experience in a multinational environment would be an advantage

Special required qualification for positions:

Financial Market Sales Officer

1+ year experience in a related field, excellent communication and selling skills

Macroeconomic/Fixed Income Researcher

Minimum 2 years working experience in macroeconomic and /or fixed income research, excellent analytical skills, CFA would be an advantage

Head of Fixed Income Trading / Local Bond Origination / Structured Products

3+ years working experience in fixed income trading and local bonds origination, good interpersonal and presentation skills

Please send your CV with a cover letter to ingkiev@ingbank.com by 12 March 2005

BRAIN SOURCE INTERNATIONAL



The Leading Telecommunication company looking for

PR SPECIALISTS IN KIEV AND REGIONS (LTV AND ODESA)

- ◆ Higher education;
- ◆ Relevant work experience 2+;
- ◆ Special trainings passed.

Please, apply with Your CV ts@brain-source.com

PROJECT MANAGER

- ◆ Higher education;
- ◆ Experience in project management and marketing analysis.

Please, apply with Your CV: om@brain-source.com

ANALYTICAL SPECIALIST

- ◆ Higher education;
- ◆ Experience in analysis of business process at least 2 years.

Please, apply with Your CV: om@brain-source.com

PROCESS ANALYST

- ◆ University degree in Business, Finance, IT (MBA preferred);
- ◆ 2+ years' of relevant successful experience;
- ◆ Strong problem analysis and resolution skills.

Please, apply with Your CV: ov@brain-source.com

CORPORATE WEB-SITE MAINTAINING SPECIALIST

- ◆ Ability to create and edit HTML-code;
- ◆ Working skills with Macromedia Flash;
- ◆ Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator working usage.

Please, apply with Your CV ts@brain-source.com

Brain Source International Ltd.
Tel/Fax: (044) 501-0670; 531-9884
E-mail: info.ukraine@brain-source.com
www.brain-source.com

The Multinational company looking for

KEY ACCOUNT MANAGER

- ◆ Higher education;
- ◆ Experience of work with distributor nets;
- ◆ Knowledge of tender business.

Please, apply with Your CV: om@brain-source.com

Car-building Company looking for

AREA MANAGER

- ◆ Experience once similar position in automobile company;
- ◆ Driving experience.

Please, apply with Your CV: lr@brain-source.com

The Leading International Bank looking for

DEALER OF TREASURY DEPARTMENT

- ◆ Experience in security trading for fixed income instruments and equities;
- ◆ 2-3 years of banking experience;
- ◆ 1-2 years of Treasury/Dealing Room experience;
- ◆ Knowledge of Reuters Dealer System.

Please, apply with Your CV aa@brain-source.com

Big Foreign Retail structure looking for

MANAGER ON WORK WITH SUBDEALERS

- ◆ Development of dealer's network;
- ◆ Promotion of the goods;
- ◆ Negotiating, team management skills.

Please, apply with Your CV kr@brain-source.com

PROJECT MANAGER

- ◆ University degree in Business, Finance (MBA preferred);
- ◆ 3+ years' of relevant successful experience;
- ◆ Perfect analytical and management skills.

Please, apply with Your CV: es@brain-source.com

LOGISTICS MANAGER (HEAD OF LOGISTICS UNIT)

- ◆ University Degree;
- ◆ 5+ years' of relevant successful experience;
- ◆ Perfect analytical and management skills.

Please, apply with Your CV: es@brain-source.com

HEAD OF PROCUREMENT (PURCHASING)

- ◆ University degree in International Business, Logistics (MBA preferred);
- ◆ 5+ years' of successful experience in procurement / related fields in a top level position;
- ◆ Professional trainings on supply chain management issues.

Please, apply with Your CV es@brain-source.com

HEAD OF LEGAL DEPARTMENT

- ◆ University Degree in Jurisprudence;
- ◆ 3+ years' experience as a Lawyer with international or local company;
- ◆ Managerial experience.

Please, apply with Your CV es@brain-source.com

For all vacancies English is a plus

ADDFORCE

Leading European Production Company

HEAD OF SALES DEPARTMENT

Main requirements:

Knowledge of the industrial/automobile/chemical market, experience in direct sales and dealers network development, 2+ year's experience of managing people in foreign company, strong communication, analytical, negotiation and presentation skills, fluent English, higher education, up to 30.

Compensation: \$2000, compensation package plus bonuses, company car.
Please send your CV at stepanenko@addforce.com.ua, with reference "Head of Sales department"

Leader Russian Distribution Company

BRAND MANAGER

Main requirements:

2 years experience in marketing and industrial sales, excellent knowledge in marketing strategy, experience in new customers attracting process, able to study people, experience in logistics, up to 25, higher education (preferably also degree in Marketing/Economy).

Compensation: \$600+.
Please send your CV at stepanenko@addforce.com.ua with reference "Brand Manager".

International Oil/Lubricants Corporation

DISTRIBUTORS SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Main requirements:

Experience in international companies, experience in distributors network development (FMCG business), strong sales ability, good organization and communication skills, fluent English.

Please send your CV at davidyuk@addforce.com.ua

Representative of Western Company

SALES MANAGER

Main requirements:

2+ year's experience in Sales or Marketing, communicative, honest, punctual, flexible, active, fluent German or English, higher education, up to 35.

Compensation: 400-600 Euro depending on qualifications, compensation package plus bonuses.

Please send your CV at udalova@addforce.com.ua, with reference "Sales"

Please send your CV to E-mail:

office@addforce.com.ua

tel.: +38 (044) 2357514, 2475784, 2475785

BUSINESS LINK

Business skills through English

is looking for

talented people with fluent English and excellent communication skills to fill the below positions

DEPUTY SALES DIRECTOR

HR/OFFICE MANAGER

QUALIFIED TEACHERS OF ENGLISH with minimum 3 years teaching experience

please send your cv/resume to our e-mail: office@businesslink.kiev.ua

Johnson & Johnson Medical Ukraine is searching for:

ACCOUNTANT

Requirements:

- ◆ Higher education in Economics or Finance
- ◆ Good knowledge of statutory accounting with focus on cash and accounts payable
- ◆ Have an overview of management accounting
- ◆ 2+ years experience in accounting, experience as chief accountant is a plus
- ◆ Good English
- ◆ Age under 35.

We offer competitive salary and bonus, medical insurance
Please, send your CV to e-mail address: nsapun@jnjru.jnj.com

Aon Limited one of the world's leading International Insurance Brokers and Risk Consultants operating in over 120 countries with over 500 offices, working in Ukraine since 1992 is looking for a

FINANCIAL CONTROLLER.

Requirements:

- Fluent English, Ukrainian, Russian
- Working Experience with multinational Company in Finance Department
- GAAP and local accounting standards experience
- Good communication skills and ability to work in a team

Duties will include preparing budgets, monthly financial reports for local and Head office Management and controlling expenditures.

Please send your CV in full confidence to Lydia_Senkova@aon.nl

Fax (044) 490 59 13.

No agencies please.

LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Chemonics International, through the USAID-funded Local Economic Development project, seeks highly qualified candidates for the position of **Local Economic Development Advisor** to help lead strategic planning teams in select Ukrainian cities.

Key Qualifications:

- Experience working with local government officials and the business community
- Knowledge of municipal management practices, local government and business community relations, and business development best practices
- Experience in one or more of the following areas: business planning, marketing, and investment attraction.
- Minimum 3 years related professional experience, university degree, and ability to travel up to 2 weeks/month
- Fluent Ukrainian, Russian, and English
- Strong communication and inter-personal skills

Qualified candidates should submit resume, cover letter, and salary history to uled@uled.com.ua by March 10, 2005.

Please no telephone inquiries. Only strongest candidates will be contacted.

An International Oil & Gas Company based in Poltava region

seeks a

GEOLOGY ENGINEER

Requirements/Qualifications:

- Earth Science degree from recognized University
- Proficient in English, both written and spoken
- Familiarity with reservoir engineering and/or production engineering
- Experience in geology engineering software
- Computer literacy (MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, etc)
- Between 25-35 years old
- Willing to relocate to our office in Poltava region

Truly interested applicants only need to e-mail full English CV, photo (must be attached) and expected salary to:

epychr@yahoo.com
Shota Rustaveli St. 16,
4-th floor,
Kyiv, 01023
Tel/fax: (044) 230-35-39

A British technical assistance programme is looking for a

JUNIOR ADMINISTRATOR

The Junior Administrator will work in the Programme Management Unit based in Kyiv. Candidates should be English speaking, familiar with office procedures and office computer programmes, and have good communication and administrative skills.

Applications should be in English and should consist of curriculum vitae and a covering letter explaining the candidate's qualities for the advertised position. The applications are to be submitted by e-mail to pmu@urlp.org by 4 March 2005.

Sales Person WANTED

for a Medical Center operated by Foreign Company. Full command of the English language and PC-literate.

CV in hand-writing must be sent to fax # 253-72-27 or secretary@kl.kiev.ua

ITALIMPORT

High quality Italian food

SALES MANAGER

New trading company importing high quality west European foods (regional specialties) is looking for a skilled Sales manager for KIEV city.

Essential professional skills:

- Minimum 2 years of top management experience;
- Good experience in selling to supermarkets, restaurants, hotels;
- Strong will to achieve excellent results;
- Capability in managing high level relationship;
- Inventive mind;
- Fluent English and Ukrainian are mandatory;

Others:

- University Degree (appreciated a marketing-degree);
- PC literate (excel, word, power point, internet, e-mail);
- Integrity, leadership, communication skills, enthusiasm, responsibility, flexibility;
- Age not more than 40 y.o.

Emolument, proportioned to effective capability of the candidate, consists of a fix salary + interesting commission.

Pls. would you send your complete CV in English to: St_italimport@optima.com.ua

THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER IN UKRAINE (STCU) is an intergovernmental organization located in Kyiv, Ukraine, financially supported by Canada, the USA, the European Union and Ukraine. The STCU organizes, finances and monitors scientific projects that support scientists to redirect their expertise from former weapons work to technology development having beneficial civilian applications. The STCU is seeking to fill the following position:

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY GROUP MANAGER (#2005-06)

- **Requirements:** Must be a citizen of the United States, European Union member country, or Canada. Reports directly to the CFO (Chief Financial Officer), leads planning and implementation of the IT Strategic Plan.
- **Qualifications and experience:** B.S. or equivalent required (preferably in computer sciences); 3-5 years in a similar role, including both hands-on technology support and development and at least 3 years of management of information technology services in a professional setting; demonstrated leadership capabilities, including successful experience in strategic planning, complex project management, personnel management, and team leadership. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills; highly developed analytical skills and experience in preparing budgets for information systems; commitment to service, teaching and innovation. Familiarity with hardware and software applications in Windows, and Unix environments, including network operating systems; experience with LAN management; familiarity with telecommunications, and Web page development and implementation. Understanding of a wide range of computer hardware, software, and network applications for information delivery.

Application deadline - March 18, 2005.

Please submit resumes and quote file # 2005-06
Direct all inquiries to: Attn: Mr. David Cleave (CAO) EU
THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER IN UKRAINE
www.stcu.int

Tel: 380-44-490-7150 Fax: 380-44-490-7145
E-mail: david.cleave@stcu.int

The major Ukrainian corporation is looking for

NATIONAL SALES MANAGER

General Requirements

- University degree
- 3+ of solid successful sales experience
- Proven management skills with a record of results
- Strong sales, communication, negotiation and presentation skills
- Client oriented, result-oriented and motivated approach
- Responsibility, reliability, self-drive, self-organization, creativity
- Ready to travel 50% of time; Driving license
- Honest, punctual, flexible

BRAND MANAGER PHARMACEUTICAL & DERMOCOSMETIC FIELDS

General Requirements

- University degree in Medicine
- Working experience as a product manager
- Excellent organizational, communication and interpersonal skills
- Experience in relationship building with clients and partners
- Ability to lead and develop others
- Development and realization of marketing plan
- Fluent English

We offer an interesting work and attractive compensation. All candidates should be the strong team players and seek long-term employment with the company. All applications treated in confidence. References and recommendations letters from previous jobs will be considered. Please send your CV, a cover letter with a subject "National Sales Manager"/"Brand Manager"/"Financial Officer"/"Educational development manager" and stating your salary expectations.

e-mail: dnatasha@mp.com.ua, fax: 38044 490 23 74

FINANCIAL OFFICER (2 positions)

General Requirements

- University degree in Accounting, Finance or Economics
- Strong knowledge of Ukrainian/ international accounting, financial reporting
- 3+ professional experience
- Observant, pedant and hard-worker
- Good to excellent knowledge of English

EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

General Requirements

- Higher education
- Strong analytical skills with ability to gather, systematize and analyze the data
- Excellent writing and interpersonal, presentation, organizational skills
- Great desire to obtain new attainments and skills
- Relevant experience

Country Director Program Coordinator (HIV/AIDS) Kiev, Ukraine

The American International Health Alliance, Inc. (AIHA) is currently seeking to fill two key positions in its Kiev Office: (1) **Country Director** and (2) **HIV/AIDS Program Coordinator**. Both positions will play key roles in implementing significant HIV/AIDS related capacity building programs in Ukraine and in the region.

AIHA is a successful international U.S. non-profit health organization dedicated to addressing global health challenges through the creation of voluntary health twinning partnerships and other health related technical assistance and capacity building programs. Over the past 12 years, AIHA has managed more than 105 multi-year partnerships and dozens of other health related projects in 22 countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. With office headquartered in Washington DC, AIHA currently has representative offices in 11 countries including Ukraine. AIHA has had a continuing and significant presence in Ukraine since 1993 and is currently implementing a number of significant HIV/AIDS programs funded by multiple sources including USAID, WHO, GTZ, and others. The programmatic and financial base for the management of these programs is firmly established.

The **Country Director** will serve as the official representative of AIHA in Ukraine and will provide the oversight and direction for AIHA activities in Ukraine. S/he will report directly to AIHA's Executive Director.

The **Program Coordinator for HIV/AIDS** will work closely with Ukrainian, European and US partners in reference to the implementation of AIHA's PMTCT project activities and training activities on HIV/AIDS care and treatment. S/he will report directly to the AIHA Country Director.

More detailed information about AIHA's program in Ukraine, the duties of each position being recruited, the required qualifications for each position, and instructions for submitting your confidential application can be on AIHA's website www.aiha.com under "About AIHA", "Employment Opportunities".

Management

MINI RESUME
M, 39, University degree, 8 years experience in Western company as Plenipotentiary, fluent German, car owner, PC literate, result oriented, excellent planning, organizational and communication skills.
Mob. 8-066-199-97-87, Valerij

Business Strategy

MINI RESUME
M. 28. 2 Master's degrees from University of California at Berkeley: Business (Marketing Strategy) and Economics. Diverse experience. Diligent, charismatic, highly analytical.
Tel.: (067)445-0185,
alexkapinos@yahoo.com, Alexander

Construction Project Man.

MINI RESUME
Skills and experience of organizing all necessary components of successful projects management. New construction and reconstruction of industrial enterprises and civil buildings. Completed cycle.
Cell: +38 050 310 7781,
e-mail: slys@galaway.com Oleg

Guide/Translator

MINI RESUME
English speaking lady with University degree (Institute of International Relations) is looking for a part time or temporary job. Can support, be your guide and translator during your stay in Kiev. Call: 8-067-505-8327, e-mail: aristova@ukr.net

Business Management

MINI RESUME
UF, 29, degrees in finance management and foreign languages.
8 successful years of work experience in international companies, 4 years of top management experience.
Work experience in USA. Experience in Project Development, working out the strategy for company development; planning, organization and control of company activities, optimization of the organization structure in order to increase the effectiveness of company activities.
Strong managerial skills. Creation of solid team. Sales, marketing, PR experience. Cooperation with state authorities. Logistics. Fluent English, basic German. Advanced PC user. Travels are welcome. Driving license.
Valentina, e-mail: valen_bk@i.com.ua

Driver

MINI RESUME
M, 44. Fluent English, 19 years driving experience, USA and Ukrainian driving licenses. I'm an owner of the brand new car.
Contact 8-066-146-3185 Sergey

Business Management/Sale

MINI RESUME
M, 25, University degree. Fluent English. 3 years experience in direct sales, in a leading national company. Head of corporate department; Personnel management/coaching, network with dealers, key clients. PC-literate.
Contact: 8 067 908 07 97 / Vladimir.
E-mail: poddubny@ukr.net



MFK is one of the largest Ukrainian investment banks, focused exclusively on providing high-quality full-service brokerage and counseling in the Ukrainian market.

The address of our website is <http://www.mfkgroup.com>

HEAD OF RESEARCH

What we look for:

- Finance/Economic background, MBA, CFA charterholder required
- 5 years + of professional experience in investment business with deep understanding of Ukrainian equity market
- Western style managing experience of big analytical department
- Preferably native English speaker
- Excellent report writing skills

What we offer:

- Challenging task of managing analytical department of a leading investment company
- Stimulating working environment of motivated young professionals
- Competitive salary & bonus program (participation in the company's mutual fund for employees, bonus program based on company's year-end financial results)

SENIOR FINANCIAL ANALYST

What we look for:

- Experienced professional with a deep understanding of Ukrainian equity market
- Finance/Economic background
- CFA candidate (2-3 level) / CFA shareholder
- Fluency in spoken/written English is required
- Ability to work independently and dedication to work are essential

Responsibilities:

- Energy, Oil&Gas segments of our analytical department
- Creating a framework for valuation and monitoring of equity investments

What we offer:

- The challenging task of shaping a new research sector within the company
- Stimulating working environment of motivated young professionals
- Competitive salary & bonus program (participation in the company's mutual fund for employees, bonus program based on company's year-end financial results)

Please send your CV or contact for more details
Marina Dovbenko
m.dovbenko@mfk.kiev.ua

Translator/interpreter/PM

MINI RESUME
Ukrainian lady, 31, is looking for a position of translator/interpreter/PM administrative assistant in a respectable foreign/Western company. University degree in linguistics, 6 years of experience in big companies (WGI Inc., DAEWOOD etc.). Fluent English, excellent PC skills; hard-working, responsible, a good team-player, with strong interpersonal and presentation skills. Irina. Full resume upon request. Contact (097)434-3918. E-mail: chirina2003@ukr.net

Best Bargain!
Advertising in
the **Employment**
section

Российско-голландское предприятие, производитель офисных перегородок открывает вакансию -
Региональный представитель
в г. Киев.

Задачи и обязанности:

- Сбор и систематизация данных о проводимых и разрабатываемых в регионе строительных проектах;
- Анализ строительного рынка;
- Сбор информации о конкурентах и дилерах, реализующих их продукцию;
- Поиск потенциальных заказчиков;
- Привлечение клиентов к сотрудничеству с компанией;
- Проведение переговоров с заказчиками.

Требования к кандидату:

- Хорошее знание строительного рынка;
- Наличие опыта личных продаж (желательно, перегорожок);
- Желательно наличие связей;
- Высокая активность;
- Образование - высшее (желательно техническое);
- Пол - мужской;
- Возраст от 25 до 35 лет;
- Наличие домашнего компьютера обязательно;
- Наличие автомобиля - желательно.

Мы предлагаем:

- Интересную работу
- Возможность карьерного роста
- Обучение
- Достойную оплату труда

Контакты:

Тел./факс (812) 325-67-37
Марина Ковалевская
e-mail:
m.kovalevskaya@stroymoda.ru



HUAWEI TECHNOLOGIES CO., LTD
is looking for a

Customer Manager, Product Manager,
Engineer & Project Manager
(fixed, mobile and optical transmission networks)

Dear Sirs,

Today you have a great opportunity to join high-skilled team of Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd (Telecommunication Company) in Kiev Representative Office. We are one of the fast growing suppliers of telecommunications network solutions. We provide our service to customers in more than 40 countries and regions worldwide. We are looking for high qualified professionals to grow with us.

We offer competitive salary and opportunity to grow. All talented, energetic and creative persons are welcome!

Our main requirements:

**CUSTOMER MANAGER, PRODUCT MANAGER,
ENGINEER, PROJECT MANAGER
(MALE PREFERABLE):**

- Higher education (preferable in Telecommunication/IT technologies specialty);
- More than 1 year experience in telecommunication field;
- Smart, communicative, good learner, able to work under the pressure, understanding of "deadline" principle, etc;
- Good English or Chinese;
- Age: to 35 years old.

Resumes, english and russian variants, please send to:
ooananchenko@huawei.com
Contact telephone number:
490-22-16/17 (Olga - HR)
<http://www.huawei.com>



Program for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH), an international nonprofit organization with an office in Kyiv, is interested in hiring the following staff:

Position #1599: Program Assistant I, to support SUNRISE (Strengthening HIV/AIDS Information and Services in Ukraine) program recently funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Position #1601: Program Assistant, to support Increasing Women's Access to and Use of HIV Mother-to-Child Transmission Prevention Interventions in Ukraine program recently funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Position #1595: Finance Assistant, to support administrative / financial activities of PATH Ukraine Program.

To be considered for these positions, please carefully read and follow the instructions: **Employment** Section.

www.path.org

PATH is dedicated to diversity in staff and is an equal opportunity employer.



EmploymentFair
2005

Organizer:
KP PUBLICATIONS
Тел. +38 (044) 496-1111
volosevych@kyivpost.com



GENERAL INSURANCE FUND
ГЕНЕРАЛЬНИЙ СТРАХОВИЙ ФОНД



April 2, 2005

The Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
(33 Velyka Zhytomyrska vul.)
Tel.: (044) 496-1111

**ЯРМАРКА
ВАКАНСИЙ**

KYIV POST EMPLOYMENT FAIR 2005

www.kyivpost.com/fair

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KYIV POST **The Guide**

Our municipal dish:
How to make Chicken Kiev
and where to get it
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FEBRUARY 24TH, 2005

FIVE normal restaurants



No hookah
No mermaids
No belly dancers
No pet menu

**Lunch: Out of Dresden,
And into Goethe**
Page 30

**Hooray for Old Tallinn:
Estonian Potables**
Page 34

Yakaboo.com: DVD Rentals, In Just a Click



BY PAUL MIAZGA

When we did our online feature recently, we wrote that free medical advice and sushi are about all you can get online in Kyiv. Well, while getting sick to your stomach eating sushi in front of your computer at home, rent some DVDs from the Russian/English Web site www.yakaboo.com.

We received a tip about the too-good-to-be-true Yakaboo.com DVD rental service shortly after the aforementioned article appeared. It turns out Yakaboo.com is the first and only virtual DVD rental and sales company in Kyiv that offers fully licensed DVDs – they're 100 percent legit. They offer more than 1,200 titles from Hollywood blockbusters to old Soviet and new Russian flicks, to artsy French classics, to Japanese anime and more, and they deliver and pick up in most areas of the city seven days per week from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. for free.

Simple Steps

Go online (or call), fill out the registration form, and wait a few minutes to receive confirmation of your online registration. Once that happens, log in and click on movies to add them to your Wish List. Each movie is briefly (and literately) described, and language/subtitle information is included.

After selecting the movies, choose one of the four three-hour time-frames in which you want to have the DVDs delivered. Payment is in cash only.

Sign up in the "Movie Lover" category and pay Hr 125 per month to rent up to three DVDs at a time. If you're a "Flix Fanatic," pay Hr 175 per month and rent up to five DVDs at a time. You can keep a DVD for an unlimited amount of time as long as membership dues are kept current. Sign up for the "Pay Per View" option and pay Hr 15 for each rental. Best of all, there are no late fees.

Yakaboo.com even has a 24-hour service center for English, Ukrainian and Russian speakers.

Believe the hype. Now pass the microwave popcorn.

YAKABOO
www.yakaboo.com
Tel.: 537-5525.



(http://hallunda.net)

FRIDAY 25

CLUB PARTY DJ Benzina (Russia).

To see is to understand. A veritable *Playboy* Playmate with turntables, DJ Benzina of Arkangelsk, Russia, can certainly count on her looks to build her career, at least until she's known for her music. Hot funk, hot electro-house, and remixes of Russian pop stars such as Alla Pugacheva form the bulk of Benzina's musical repertoire. Go see if she can heat up the dancefloor as much with her music as with her sultry good looks.

Tchaikovsky (2 Bessarabska Square, 234-3149).
10 p.m. Ticket prices TBA.



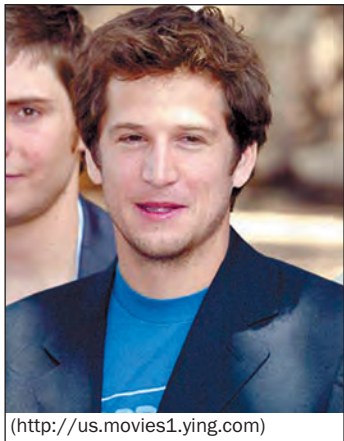
(AP)

FRIDAY 25

SPECIAL EVENT DJ Juice Rider's Night.

Like to ride but can't get out to the hill this weekend? Don't worry about it: Protasiv Yar will be open until 3 a.m. for this huge night dedicated to snowboarders. Free use of the two lifts, professional snowboarding demonstrations, the crowing of King and Queen Snowboarder, plus DJs and fireworks.

Protasiv Yar Ski Hill (23A Protasiv Yar, 268-9260).
10:30 p.m. Free admission.
See www.gora.com.ua for more details.



(http://us.movies1.ying.com)

SATURDAY 26

SHORT FILM FESTIVAL "Screenplays Against Substance Abuse."

Twenty-four short films about the risks and dangers of drug abuse will be screened back-to-back at this one-off event co-presented by Zhovten and the French Cultural Center. A range of international film directors, including Frenchman Guillaume Canet, contribute their works, some of which are tied to the relationship between IV drug use and the spread of the HIV/AIDS virus. Powerful stuff.

Zhovten cinema (26 Kostyantynivska, 425-8909).
6 p.m. Tickets Hr 12.



(www.jazzaction.co.uk)

MONDAY 28

JAZZ CONCERT John Surman.

British saxophonist/composer John Surman has worked with Kenny Walker, Dave Holland and other jazz luminaries of the 60s and 70s. He's composed for theater, TV, film and various other media. Most strikingly, Surman's mastery of the difficult baritone saxophone, playing which is like driving a double-decker bus through heavy snow, puts him in select company and makes this concert all the more worth checking out. Surman performs with accomplished bass player Chris Laurence.

National Philharmonic (2 Volodymyrsky Uzviz, 228-1697).
7 p.m. Tickets Hr 5 to Hr 20.

COMMUNITY LISTINGS

BUSINESS CLUBS

Financial Club 2004 unites young and experienced financial professionals and those interested in both corporate and personal finance. We meet each 2nd Thursday. For invitation please send an e-mail to finclub@wealthyworld.com.ua or call Ivan at 8-050-600-0188.

The Modern Economy and Finance English Discussion Club meets Saturdays at noon (33/34 B. Khmelnytskoho). The cost is Hr 30 per 2 hours. We discuss the most topical issues of business, economy and finance, and specially invited professionals often take part. To participate, call Yuriy at 8-067-502-8416, or visit www.teletrade.com.ua/English.

The Business Club "Kyiv - the Netherlands" (www.ukraine-holland.org.ua) invites you to our regular meetings every 1st Thursday of each month (except August). Together we meet guests, exchange information, create business network and go through trainings. Please contact us at info@ukraine-holland.org.ua.

The Canadian Business Club meets monthly at the Canadian Embassy, 31 Yaroslaviv Val. All active Canadian business people or visitors are welcome for coffee, networking and presentations. For further information contact the Commercial Section at 464-1144 or e-mail kyiv-td@dfait-maeci.gc.ca.

The Business-English Center meets at 6:30 p.m. on Fridays and at 2:00 p.m. on Sundays for a series of business English skills workshops. Discussions are led by experienced native teachers of English. Hr 15 for a two-hour session. For more information, call Alex at 234-0871, e-mail: business@etcentre.com.ua or visit www.etcentre.com.ua.

ENGLISH CLUBS

Phoenix Conversation Club meets daily at 6:15 p.m. Improve your communication skills with real live Americans. We discuss many different subjects relating to everyday life and work. Price: Hr 10 per session. For more info, phone 278-4798 or 8-067-496-6993.

The English Discussion Club at Kyiv National Economic University (54/1 Peremohy Prospect) welcomes new members to take part in semi-formal discussions on critical economic, social, cultural and political topics. EDC meets on Fridays in room 246 at 4 p.m. For more information contact Jane Krivonos at 201-3675 or e-mail EDC@ukr.net.

The Green Forest Speaking Club invites students learning English for intensive training in communicative English that's led by an American native speaker. Join us every Friday at 6:15 p.m. (2 Hospitalna, office #63). The cost is Hr 14 per visit. For more information, call 235-2672, 235-0641 or e-mail greenforestk@ukr.net.

The American Chamber of Commerce Toastmasters Club invites English speaking professionals to advance their communication and presentation skills in a friendly environment. The membership is open to employees of the ACC in Ukraine and meets Wednesdays at 7:30 at EERC (10 Voloska). For more information, please contact Alex Kobzev at akobzev@icf.org.

Top Talkers Toastmasters Club welcomes everybody who wants to learn strong public speaking, communication and leadership skills. Toastmasters: Friends helping Friends Succeed. We meet at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays at Kyiv Mohyla Business School, 8/5, Voloska.

Dnipro Hills Toastmasters Club invites all success-oriented people to develop public speaking and presentation skills. Join us every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the International Institute of Business located at 51 Dehtyaryivska. For more information, please contact Nadya Ostrovskaya at nadyaostrovskaya@yahoo.com.

The Kiev American Club meets Sundays from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. We discuss a wide range of subjects. Qualified U.S. English teachers conduct meetings. New location! Detski Mir department store, 4th floor banquet hall. Please enter at the back service entrance. Metro Darnytsya. Admission: 1 snack (Hr 7). New

English courses daily (business and conversational) for all levels. Phone 278-4798/8-067-496-6993 or e-mail: phoenix7kyiv@yahoo.com.

Toastmasters International helps everyone learn speaking, listening and thinking through effective oral communication - vital skills that promote self-actualization and enhance leadership potential. Kyiv Toastcrackers Club invites you to benefit from our meetings: Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at the House of Scientists, 45A Volodymyrskya. For more information see www.toastcrackers.kiev.ua or e-mail Lena Prokopenko: toastcrackers@mail.ru.

The Kids English Club meets at 1 p.m. on Saturdays for watching cartoons and films for Kids and practicing English with British native speaker. Hr 10 for a two-hour session. For more information call Alex at 234-0871, e-mail: Kids-English-Club@etcentre.com.ua or visit www.etcentre.com.ua.

The Leisure with Dignity Club offers English-language training in an intellectual setting and according to your personal interests. Meetings are held at School No. 128, 6 Raisy Okipnoi. For more information, e-mail Serhy Grebenyuk at sirgee@i.com.ua or visit www.leisure.ukrbiz.net.

The Acting Skills Club meets at 12 p.m. on Sundays for Acting Skills training session. The sessions are focused on perfecting English skills and are led by experienced native Trainers. Hr 15 for a 90 minutes session. For more information, call Eddie at 234-0871, e-mail: eddie_ch@ukr.net or visit www.pbase.com/alex_krit/howto.

The American Academy of Foreign Languages invites you to polish your English with native speakers. We are waiting for you every Saturday at noon. \$5 for a small-group and 90-minute session with video. For details please call 230-2608, 227-0728 or e-mail academy@carrier.kiev.ua.

The A.B.C. Center English Cinema Club welcomes cinema fans for screening and discussion led by a native speaker on Mondays and Saturdays. The cost is \$20 for four sessions or \$7 per visit. For more information please call 239-1091/92 or e-mail abc-info@iptelecom.net.ua.

Sunday English Club meets at 2 p.m. on Sundays for discussing various topics and practicing in TOEFL-test. Discussions are led by a qualified and experienced native English teacher. Hr 15 for a two-hour session. For more information contact Alex at 234-0871, happytoefl@etcentre.com.ua, or www.etcentre.com.ua.

OTHER LANGUAGE CLUBS

The Essential Russian Club meets at 4:30 p.m. on Sundays for a series of discussions on cultural differences, intercultural interaction and the particularities of doing business in Ukraine. Discussions are run by an English-Russian interpreter - Hr 15 for a 90-minute session. For more information call Alex at 234-0871, 8067 391-7662, or e-mail ess_russian@ukr.net.

The Kiev Brazilian Club is intended for Portuguese-speaking people of all ages and professions and led by Brazilian native speakers. We meet weekly to watch Brazilian films, listen to Brazilian music and discuss various subjects. Free admission. For more information, call the Brazilian Embassy at 290-6301, or e-mail admin@brasil.kiev.ua.

The Center of Spanish Language and Culture offers courses of Spanish language with native teachers, Spanish-language library and videotapes. For more information please call 239-2418, 7 Obolonska (Tarasa Shevchenka metro), e-mail info@chispa.com.ua, or see www.chispa.com.ua.

The Spanish Club offers Flamenco and Salsa dancing courses, a Saturday Spanish language conversation club and we also maintain a Spanish-language library with videotapes and CDs. Visit us at the Intercultural Center 28th Parallel, School No. 64, 32 Ushynskoho. Take marshrutka #8 from Ploshcha Lva Tolstoho. Call 243-1681, e-mail hispano@iptelecom.net.ua or see

www.spanish-center.kiev.ua.

The Plauderclub German-language Discussion Group, sponsored by the Goethe Institute, meets twice weekly to discuss topics ranging from politics and economy to culture - for those interested in wishing to improve their knowledge of German and communication skills. For details and to register, visit <http://plauderclub.narod.ru>.

The A.B.C. Center German and French Conversation Clubs meet Saturdays accordingly at 11 a.m. and noon - and are led by a native speaker. The cost is \$20 for four sessions or \$7 per visit. For more information please call 239-1091/92 or e-mail abc-info@iptelecom.net.ua.

ENVIRONMENTAL CLUBS

Learn about environmental and anti-nuclear issues from NIRS/WISE Ukraine by subscribing to our free newsletter in Ukrainian or by checking out our Web site (in English, Russian and Ukrainian) at www.atominfo.org.ua. For more information, contact Natasha Klyukina at klukin@rivne.com.

INTERNATIONAL CLUBS

The International Women's Club of Kyiv (IWCK) welcomes members from around the world to join our international support network and participate in our extensive charity programs. We offer members regular social events, more than 20 interest groups and networking opportunities. Call Tatiana at 234-3180 or e-mail iwck@ln.ua. Address: 39 Pushkinska, #51, entrance 5, door code 048.

The International Women Together Gathering holds its meetings on the first Saturday morning of every month. We gather for fellowship, friendship, and to discuss topics of interest to ladies. Please contact Jennifer Ragsdell at 8-050-352-4539. Please join us. **SUCCESS 3000-A friendship club** for visitors featuring extraordinary excursions to historic sites around Kyiv! Our tour includes social activities, samples of ethnic cuisine and visits to ancient places of interest. It's a cross-cultural experience you will never forget! For more information, call Max at 468-2082 (9 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays) or 8-067-769-0907.

Travelworld worldwide travelers club (www.travelworld.com.ua) invites everyone who likes to travel and share this experience, and who is eager to listen to other travelers' stories. Our meetings take place on the third Thursday of each month. For an invitation send an e-mail to info@travelworld.com.ua.

The International Amateur Musicians Club invites the public and amateur musicians with their instruments to its weekly jam sessions on Sundays from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. Location: Alisar Bar, 54 Volodymyrskya, across from Teacher's House. The atmosphere is friendly and admission is free. For details, contact Vladimir Sitkin at sitkinv@hotmail.com or 475-7879.

The Kyiv Lions Club is an international volunteer organization that raises funds and provides services to help those in need, including orphans, invalids and ill children. Meetings held on the 2nd Monday of the month in the Botny bar of Golden Gate Irish Pub at 6:30 p.m. until 7 p.m. For more information, please contact Alla Batsko at 537-7444, or e-mail: Kyivlions@i.com.ua.

The Kyiv Rotary Club meets on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. at the Stoned Baboon (39 B. Khmelnytskoho). For more information please contact Katerina Zasna at 213-7028, or Viktoria Gaponenko at 8-067-420-0305, or email victoria.e@mail.ru.

The Kyiv Rotary Club meets on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at Mykhailivsky restaurant hall at 12 Hospitalna. For more information, e-mail Igor Dubinskyi at dubinskyi@yahoo.com or fax 514-3032.

BOOK EXCHANGE

Stoned Baboon bar is also operating as an English-language bookstore and book and video exchange. Swap your used books and videos for other used ones. 39 B.

Khmelnytskoho. For more information, call 234-1503, e-mail book@baboon.kiev.ua or see www.fruktopia.com.

MUSIC/ARTS CLUBS

The Fidelio Dance Club invites you to dance lessons in the very center of Kyiv: Latin-American (salsa, samba, etc.), European (tango, waltz, etc.), contemporary and Argentinean Tango. For more information please call 8-067-209-3569 or e-mail: fidelio_club@ukr.net.

Forbidden Art (underground) - An artist who refuses to take part in farce, which is performed by post-communist officials and so-called government galleries, invites you to visit his underground art exhibition on the Internet at www.kolyada.com.

Tango in Kyiv (lessons & milonga) - enjoy the fascination of Argentine tango! Argentine Tango Festival - Feb. 11-13. Aisha and Victor, maestros from Buenos Aires will present tango nights and lessons for all levels. E-mail: tangoinkyiv@yahoo.com, see www.milonga.kiev.ua, or call: 8-067-266-0031, 261-1621.

The Open Door Theatre starts its new musical project! For details call Joe Bearden 410-1791 or Nikolay Karpan 578-2375, e-mail opendoortheatre2003@yahoo.com or nick1955@bigmir.net or visit www.opendoor.kiev.ua.

Swing Dance Club at Step-by-Step Club (14 Khreshchatyky). The entrance fee is Hr 10. Dance lessons are on Sundays. For more information call 467-6039, e-mail info@swingdance.kiev.ua or check out www.swingdance.kiev.ua.

RELIGION

The Evangelic Presbyterian Church of the Holy Trinity invites you to our worship service, held in Ukrainian and Russian with simultaneous English translation. We meet each Sunday at 50/52 T. Shevchenko, #402 (4th floor). Worship begins at 9:45 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Sunday School for begins at 11:20 a.m. Pastor Ivan Bepalov (tel. 246-7576). E-mail: ibespalov@mail.ru.

Islamic Social Cultural Center
We have a Mosque, Islamic library, free Sunday school for study of Arabic and Islam, Halal cafe-restaurant and more. Friday prayers are at 1:30 p.m. For more information, call 490-9900/97. Address: 25A Deytyarivska (take marshrutka #14 from Lukyanivka to "Nursery Hospital" tram stop). Contact us via e-mail at office@arraid.org, or visit www.islamUA.net or www.araidd.org.

International Christian Assembly

All are invited for English-language services on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. at Evangel Theological Seminary (57 Holosiyivska - across from the Mir Hotel, 1st flr.) For more information, contact Pastor Tom Ragsdell at 560-6511 or e-mail ica_kiev@yahoo.com, or see www.ica-kiev.com.

Word of God Church

Word of God Church invites you to visit our services. Address: 6 Raisy Okipnoi (Livoberezhna metro) beginning at 2 p.m. We have nursery and Sunday school for children. English and Bible study program - Wednesday 6 p.m. For more information, please call 516-8205.

Union for Progressive Jewish Congregations of Ukraine

All are welcomed to "Kabbalat Shabbat" service every Friday at 7 p.m., at the communal center at 10V Pirohova. Services are held in Hebrew and Russian with English commentaries. Shabbat morning service (11 a.m.). Torah reading and commentaries for the weekly Torah portion (Saturdays at 2 p.m.). Call 531-9197/98, e-mail kcpi@hatikva.kiev.ua, or visit www.judaism.org.ua.

St. Catherine's German Evangelical Lutheran Parish
All are invited to services Sundays at 10 a.m. and Monday-Saturday at 6 p.m. at 22 Luteranska. The children's choir meets Saturdays at 2:30 p.m. with the chil-

dren's service following at 4 p.m. All activities (including the choir, women's group, Bible discussion and children's dance group) are in German and Russian. For more information, call 253-6319.

Christ Church (Evangelical Anglican)
Join our international gathering for services in English. Services are held Sundays at 3 p.m. at St Catherine's Church, 22 Luteranska (the rising cobblestone street behind Khreshchatyky metro). Call Rev. Jonathan Frai at 279-7458 for more information.

St. Alexander's Catholic Parish
Holy mass in English is held every Sunday at 8:30 a.m. and Sacred Scripture every Friday at 7 p.m. Bible study held every Sunday of the month except the last at 9:30 a.m. English-speaking priest available. Tel. 295-0947.

International Church
All are invited to English language worship each Sunday at 2 p.m. Services are located on at 2/8 Shekhevytska (1st floor), near Kontraktova Ploshcha. ESL classes are held every Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. and followed by devotional hour at 6:45 p.m. All children are invited to Sunday school at 1 p.m. in Room #48A. For more information, call 417-3695.

The Presbyterian Church of the Holy Trinity
All are invited to our service held in Ukrainian and Russian with simultaneous English translation every Sunday at 2 p.m. at 36 Popudrenko (Darnytsya metro). For more information, call 234-3571, 234-0794 or e-mail ibespalov@mail.ru.

Embassy of the Blessed Kingdom of God Church for All Nations
We invite English speakers to a weekly morning service at the Tourist Hotel conference hall, 2 Raisa Okipnoi, 1st flr., Metro Livoberezhna. Counseling and prayer available for the needy. Every Sunday, 10:30 a.m. (except the first Sunday of each month). Tel: 553-8904, 550-6017.

Kharkivska Church of Christ
All are invited to Bible study Sundays at 1:30 p.m. and worship at 2:30 p.m. Sermons are generally given in English and translated into Russian. 11 Verbitskoho, #430. For more information, call 562-2211 or visit <http://harkivska.tut.ru>.

SIGHTSEEING, TOURS

Funny Sightseeing Group
A group of outgoing Ukrainians (15-16 years of age) will conduct sightseeing trips in Pechersko or the city center for groups of English-speakers, preferably (but not necessarily!) of the same age. FREE OF CHARGE. Please contact Michael at 269-4875.

SOCIAL, SPORT AND HEALTH CLUBS

Warhammer Club Kiev invites you to the world of exciting table-top strategic games. We use Fantasy, Lord of the Rings and Faraway future miniatures. Practice your strategic and tactic skills on the board. For more information call Iman at 8-067-930-7346, 456-7671, or see www.warhammer-club.kiev.ua.

The Active Rest recreation group presents recreation tours in nature: active tours, boating tours, back-to-nature weekends, hunting tours, seminars on self-improvement, and Tai Chi at Hydropark. Why wait for your holidays? Rest next weekend! For more information call Dmitri at 558-4984, mob. 8-066-726-8997, or Email Recreation2004@mail.ru.

Kiev Hash House Harriers (KH3) meets at our winter time of 1 p.m. every other Sunday at Eric's Bierstube, 20A Chervonoarmiska. Inquire about the upcoming ski trip to Drahobrat in March! Contact Grandmaster Ulrike Straka (e-mail: ulrike@vsnl.com) or go to <http://h3.kiev.ua> for the run schedule.

SUPPORT GROUPS

English-speaking meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous meets on Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. at 17 Kostyolna, (the small house behind #15). For more information call John at 8-067-503-4068.

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(Post photos by Serhiy Zavainyuk)

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Goethe Institute Book Baroness Wibke Weigand



(Post photos by Serhiy Zavalnyuk)

BY OLGA CHALA

For Wibke Weigand, the head of the library and information center at the Goethe Institute Kyiv, -15 Celsius is just the right winter-time temperature. "It feels much better than the summer heat," she says over lunch at Baboon, just down the street from the National Opera Theater.

Sipping hot bergamot tea (Hr 8), Weigand recalls that in her native Dresden, Germany, it typically rains throughout February. On a sopping day, it's pleasant to escape into a beautiful spot in the old town, like the Gemaeldegalerie (Picture Gallery) by the Elbe River. Weigand doesn't miss Germany much, though. Having been in Kyiv for three and a half years, she knows how to survive the slushiest of the slush, and enjoys wearing her thick fur cap.

"I really like it that Ukrainians are a little bit different than us Germans. They have their own ways. That makes me think about what is important to me, makes me question my identity," Weigand says, taking a gulp of Perrier spring water (Hr 16 for 330 ml). Kyiv is the first place outside Germany in which Weigand has worked. Trained as a librarian at the University of Applied

Sciences in Frankfurt, Weigand initially worked for a university library in Giessen. Later on, in Mannheim, where she was a staffer in a medical library, she got an offer from the German cultural center, the Goethe Institute, to come to Kyiv.

"It was the first time I went to Eastern Europe for a long time," Weigand says. "My hometown is quite close to the Czech border and to Poland, but I didn't go there in the 1990s."

Her preferred travel destinations lay west of Germany, in Europe and North America, where she's explored Mexico and the United States.

After ordering green borsch with spinach (Hr 13), Weigand says she now feels at home in Ukraine. Back in 2001, however, the transition proved a challenge to her. Her Ukrainian colleagues aren't trained librarians, and needed some work before they got up to speed. Apart from the Kyiv information center, the Goethe Institute now supports four other reading rooms in Ukraine, in Lviv, Odesa, Kharkiv and Donetsk.

"Not only do we offer German books, print and audio-visual media, but we also have the management and information services of a German library," Weigand points out. "And you have to get used to that."

Learning from the Locals

What Weigand appreciates about working with Ukrainians is their energy and how they know how to take things rather easily.

"Being spontaneous at work can stress me out big time," she says as she tries her stroganoff veal liver (Hr 30). A playful smile appears on her face. "Yet it's amazing to see, given Ukrainians' spontaneity, how everything works out in the end."

"One of my colleagues says anything can have meaning. Things may not always work out as you want, but eventually you see why it was the right way, the way it had to be," she says.

This year the Goethe Institute Kyiv is moving house, and Weigand is looking forward to her new office in Podil, in premises shared with the British Council. Of all the areas in Kyiv, Weigand likes Podil the most – she's lived in the low-slung riverside neighborhood for most of her time here and finds it has everything she needs. Picking a fried mozzarella piece (Hr 16) from her plate, she speaks of an Italian restaurant in Podil that she and her husband have recently discovered.

"In Germany," Weigand explains, "there is the idea of 'the Italian [restaurant] on the corner,' and we finally

found ours in Kyiv. They have an Italian chef, and their customers are Italian families, with *bambini* fooling around and lots of noise. It's just beautiful."

Another thing Weigand likes about Podil is the Zhovten cinema, where she often watches comedies. It helps her Russian; she doesn't mind at all that the films are dubbed.

Weigand studied Russian at school, but she didn't learn any useful words or phrases until she came to Kyiv. Now her Russian is moving right along, and she's even picking up a good deal of Ukrainian through her work with local libraries and publishing houses.

Speaking of her work, last year the Goethe Institute, together with the Soros Foundation, worked together to have two dozen German books translated into Ukrainian and published in Kyiv and Lviv. Weigand wants to make contemporary German fiction and science books available to Ukrainians, so she stays up to date on the book market, which leaves her little time to read for fun. Still, she has had time to appreciate life here.

"Ukrainians don't adhere to rules as much as Germans do," Weigand observes. "If you're a German, you never cross the street at a red light. You aren't happy to let unexpected guests in. In

Germany, an invitation to someone's place is something serious. Here people invite you to drop by from one day to another, and are glad whenever you knock on their door."

Kyiv's vibrant street life, especially on weekends, differs much from Dresden, and has helped make Weigand feel comfortable here.

"When I take a walk along Khreshchatyk on Sunday, I do it for fun, the Ukrainian way," Weigand says. "I don't care where I'm going, and I don't hurry back home once my business is done. That's something I would have found odd before. But I love doing things like that these days."

With her time in Ukraine dwindling away (Goethe Institute employees normally stay for no more than five years in any particular country), Weigand is starting to think of where to move next. It could be Bratislava, Warsaw or Riga, but she can't yet say for sure.

"Time will tell," she smiles. "Not everything should be carefully planned."

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Chicken Kiev, At Home, Splash Guard at the Ready

BY VIKTORIA BARCHENKO

When I was eight, melted butter burst from inside a Chicken Kiev cutlet and made a huge stain on my favorite silk dress. For a while, I hated the dish. Now it's time to reevaluate my attitudes toward the capital's signature poultry preparation – this ultimate annihilator of silk dresses.

Mysterious bird

The history of Chicken Kiev is ambiguous. Some say that a dish named *cotelettes de volaille* (fowl cutlets) was invented by French restaurateur Nikola Appertaeu in the 18th century. The dish became the prototype for our Chicken Kiev. Peter the First's daughter Elizabeth, a gourmet, sent Russian youngsters off to Paris to study the intricacies of French cuisine. One of them brought *cotelettes de volaille* home, and these turned, over time, into Chicken Kiev, with its core of melted butter wrapped inside a chicken pocket.

Another version has it that a Kyivan chef invented our buttery dish in 1947, to honor a Soviet delegation returning from high-level meetings in Paris.

The post-war era is when Chicken Kiev seems to have become widely-known. Americans claim the name of the dish developed because Russian emigres in New York ordered chicken cutlets in New York City restaurants like the legendary Russian Tea Room.

Anyway, besides being a dish that can ruin your tie or dress, Chicken Kiev is served all over Ukraine's capital. A number of Kyiv's high-end Ukrainian restaurants make it. It's also quite easy to make yourself.



You'll shoot your eye out: Chicken Kiev as presented at Kyiv restaurant Za Dvoma Zaitsyamy. (Post photo by Andriy Porokhnenko)

How to Make the Bird Fly

Kyiv chefs seem to agree that the funky bone that sticks out of the meat, complete with a little paper ruffle, is an important part of the dish. The chefs take a whole chicken and cut out the breast filet, together with a wing bone. They leave the bone on the filet and then cut a smaller layer off. That makes a smaller filet of the same shape.

When we made the dish at home, we didn't bother messing with the bone, but just made the process simpler: We went to Furshet and bought a pack of thin chicken filets, off the shelf. They're already cut in layers and are of relative-

ly the same shape, so they seem to work well.

The meat should be softened with a meat tenderizing mallet and sprinkled with salt and pepper.

Buttery Rivers

Every chef has his unique vision of what to put inside chicken. At Tsarske Selo they mix mildly softened butter with dill; Vyacheslav Kozachuk of Kozak Mamai whips up butter with salt, pepper and some garlic, then cools it all down in the fridge; Za Dvoma Zaitsyamy's

chef adds dill, parsley and some lemon juice to the butter.

We chose some chopped scallion, salt, pepper, lemon juice and two cloves of garlic, which we crushed into the butter. Some other recipes suggest adding egg yoke to the butter in order to thicken it and keep it from leaking. But we decided to risk it and do without the egg.

Now the annoying part comes. A pine-cone-shaped butter chunk has to be wrapped in a small filet; then that wrapped-up object has to be wrapped in a big one, creating a cocoon without holes. If you have holes, all is lost. My struggles in wrapping the butter took about 15 minutes, and resulted in a creation that looked like a submarine torpedo. In a restaurant version, the patty would have a bone with a bow that looks like a propeller, sticking up.

To "glue" it all together, dip your Torpedo Kiev twice into raw eggs and bread crumbs. To guard against it becoming too crisp, some chefs add milk to the eggs.

Cooking is the simplest part of the process. You deep-fry the cocoon in oil until it looks golden (about eight minutes), and then make it crispier by taking it out and placing into the oven for four minutes, at high heat. That's it.

Homemade Chicken Kiev is surprisingly easy to make, and good. Even I, after years of distrusting this treacherous dish, found it, well, quite delightful. The white chicken meat maintained all its flavor and juiciness thanks to the crust, and then was enriched with the butter sauce that flowed forth from inside.



Chicken Kiev is perfect if you're hungry. One torpedo made this girl full. Two plus a garnish would probably satisfy Gargantua.

Some advice: don't cut the torpedo completely. Rather, first make a small incision and let some butter out. Otherwise, you could destroy your silk dress.

To make Chicken Kiev (3 cutlets), follow the above directions after you acquire the ingredients below. Garnish with rice and some sauteed vegetables.

- 6 chicken filets
- 150 grams of butter
- Scallions, dill, and parsley
- Salt and white pepper
- 2 garlic cloves
- 2 eggs
- 5 tablespoons of breadcrumbs
- Oil for frying
- (1 silk dress or tie optional)

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Do you want to know what Ukrainian Maslennitsa* is? Come to Razgulyaevu.



There's a belief in Ukrainian folklore that there's a certain point when winter meets spring. It's called *stritennya*. And 15 minutes from Kiev there's a place where natural cleanliness and urban comfort meet. It's called Razgulyaevu.

Bidding farewell to the long winter, our ancestors played under the first rays of the spring sun. It meant that spring was about to come, and that the best and most entertaining days on the calendar were on the way.

Come out to the Razgulyaevu complex, 15 minutes from Kiev. Guests will see a picturesque estate among the pines, with cordial holiday entertainment – pancakes prepared in open air and served with jam, caviar, poppy seeds, nuts, salmon and many other delicious things.

The interior wraps you up in its spring mood. The Navy Hall, on the second floor and with a separate entrance, is an ideal place for festive holiday meals and banquets.

Around the estate are arranged small cottages, calculated to hold 8-10 people. The more capacious Uzbek house, ideal for closed celebrations, is located some distance farther away.

New head chef George Hachaturyan has enriched the Razgulyaevu menu with juicy shashlik of more than 20 types, fish delicacies and other culinary surprises, combining the best things about Russian, Ukrainian and Armenian cuisine. According to guests, the *lyulya-kebab*, presented in five variations, is the best in Kiev.

For children, Razgulyaevu specially organizes shows and educational games under the observation of thoughtful nurses. There is a big play room full of toys, while for adults there are beloved performed live by VIA.

In the renovated Razgulyaevu, there is a hotel with luxury two-room apartments and a spectrum of European-quality services.

Three European-style saunas will invigorate you with energy and strength. Razgulyaevu revives the traditions of domestic tea-drinking, and offers the best desserts from the chef: baked fruits, dumplings with berries, eclairs and jams.

Even if you don't believe in fairytales, come celebrate Maslennitsa in Razgulyaevu! ©

* (end of February – beginning of March)

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Finally, Some Normal Kyiv Restaurants

Independent Ukraine is almost 14 years old, which means Kyiv's restaurant culture is a bit younger than that. And like early teens, lots of Kyiv restaurants show off and make a scene. That's why

when diners go out to eat, they often find mermaids, dancing girls, waiters in costumes, pretentiously expensive wines, too much decoration, dancing boys, too-deep chairs, hard wooden stools, hookah pipes,

really loud dance music, 20,000 unnecessary menu items and television screens. Maybe it's a Slavic thing, going back to when princes feasted in front of gypsy choruses and dancing bears.

Back West, however, the everyday dining ideal means a simple interior, acceptable prices, pleasant but not over-attentive service, and generally an unpretentious, quiet good time. The

stress is on simple, good food, not gimmicks or bells or whistles.

We scoped out some restaurants in Kyiv where that Western ideal is put into practice, or comes close to it.

El Asador

BY PAUL MIAZGA

Podil's Argentine steakhouse El Asador is somewhere between modest and flashy. And inside the restaurant with the red neon sign atop it, you'll find the painstaking hospitality of owner Antonio Ruiz.

This warm, snug place has a reputation for serving tender steaks and grilled meats – beef (naturally), pork, chicken, seafood and more. Tapas (Spanish-style appetizers) are also available. The menu includes descriptions of all the dishes, in particular the meats. Ruiz himself has earned a reputation for frequently engaging his guests, smiling whenever someone speaks Spanish with him (watch how his eyes light up).

The warm, stone-walled interior at El Asador is accented by lots of wood, and the sounds of the crackling grill drift from the open kitchen. You'll feel a heightened sense of privacy here, as the seating has

been neatly divided to facilitate quiet, unharassed dining. The wait staff tends to be withdrawn.

Parking in this area is quite limited. Call for a taxi to get there instead, or arrange other transportation (the restaurant is located right near the Kontraktova Ploshcha metro). Mosquitoes and aggressive neighborhood cats are minor disturbances on the outdoor deck in summer.

Start with tapas, then continue with a light mixed green salad and finish with steaks – the "El Asador" or "Toreador" varieties are two good ones. Order a Chilean or Argentine cabernet sauvignon off the wine list. Dinner for two, including drinks, should cost no more than Hr 350.

EL ASADOR

29 Nizhnyi Val, 416-4402.

Open daily from 11 a.m. to 12 a.m.

English menu: Yes.

English-speaking staff: No.

At right, El Asador owner Antonio Ruiz of Argentina. (Post file photo)



D.A. Semadeni

BY VIKTORIA BARCHENKO

At the end of 19th century, if you were looking for D.A. Semadeni's confectionery, a Kyiv bourgeois would point you toward the elegant place across the street from the Duma (the city council), between Instyutaska and Nikolaevska (what's now Horodetskoho), next to the Exchange House. Politicians and Kyiv merchants turned it into their favorite place for talking business. Refined ladies taking a ride down Kreshchatyk loved Semadeni's for its Swiss chocolates.

Some contemporary restaurateurs decided to resurrect that old Kyiv cafe, starting a new D.A. Semadeni near the Respublikansky Stadion metro station. They've gone to some lengths to revive the old confectionery's spirit. Everything is warm colors and chocolately shades, and there are mirrors and noble wooden tables surrounded by soft chairs. On the first floor, you eat chocolates. In the basement, how-

ever, there is a restaurant section that's good without being pretentious and overdone in that Kyivan way. There's a decent selection of European dishes: we like the veal carpaccio, the asparagus soup, and the chicken cutlet, which we order with a side of nicely spiced rice. Moreover, you get what you expect, without any Slavic perversions of authentic recipes. When you order a simple chicken cutlet, you get a good, simple chicken cutlet. Portions are rather girlishly frugal, though.

Waiters are quiet and courteous. The lounge music and the inevitable Fashion TV bring a slight Kyivan touch. You can't have it all. Dinner for two with drinks might cost about Hr 250.

D.A. SEMADENI

68 Chervonoarmiyska, 220-6380.

Open daily from 9 a.m. till midnight.

English menu: Yes.

English-speaking staff: No.



The warm lights and snug seating downstairs at D.A. Semadeni are only surpassed by the food. (Post photo by Andriy Porokhnenko)

Svitlytsya

BY VIKTORIA BARCHENKO

Some things look better in the dark. Loud and touristy by daylight, the Andriivsky Uzviz carefully discloses its bewitched secrets to those who wander its steep, serpentine path at night. The baroque silhouette of Andriivska Church above, and the dark windows on the ancient houses – plus the brooding bushy hills all around – remind you of the devilish old stories about the place (not to mention of Bulgakov's "Master and Margarita"). Your feet start moving faster; your eyes search for some down-to-earth place where you can calm down.

Then you might find yourself at Svitlytsya.

The restaurant's located in a restored old wooden house that belonged to Bulgakov's family. You open the door and step into a tiny, cozy space that resembles a provincial restaurant in France. Marine images, pepper-boxes in the shape of lighthouses, and wooden walls modestly decorated with seaside accoutrements make you think you're in Brittany.

That's quite a good thing. Swiftly you realize that there's none of the gimmicks that mar one's experience like in so many Kyiv restaurants. You feel even more content when realize that the atmosphere didn't play a trick with you and that Svitlytsya's French chef Christian Matisse is worth what they pay him. The salads are light, fresh and well balanced, the fish dishes are simple and delicious, and the pancakes taste simple and wholesome. The prices are provincial as well: for dinner for two with drinks expect to pay no more than Hr 250.

Make sure you call in advance before you go, however. Sometimes you get there at night and find a sign on the door: "Reserved for corporate party." It's a steep walk back up the Uzviz.

SVITLYTSYA

13B Andriivsky Uzviz, 425-3186.

Open daily from 11 a.m. till 11 p.m.

English menu: Yes.

English-speaking staff: Yes.

Svitlytsya on the Andriivsky Uzviz is understated and quiet, and they even have a French chef. (Post file photo)



Places that Are Simple, Not Salacious Food Notes

Limoncello Grill

BY PAUL MIAZGA

Limoncello Grill, on a fairly quiet stretch of Moskovska a short walk from the Arsenalna metro stop, exists during the day and early evening as a subdued Italian restaurant with a fabulous menu of Italian classics.

There's typically no need to make reservations in this spacious, (yet not cavernous) establishment, managed by American chef Michael McDermott. Despite the great food, it's rarely busy. A fairly modest interior design, off-white linens and polished silverware and stemware go a long way toward making Limoncello Grill feel elegant and refined without taking attention away from the real purpose for going there: the food.

McDermott serves great antipasti, soups, pastas and rich meat dishes, and has inherited a proper wood-fired oven imported from Italy, for making what are arguably the city's best pizzas.

McDermott has recently made some additions to Limoncello, such as a new cigar humidor together with a wine room in a corner

of the dining hall. Live music typically plays from 8 p.m. till 11 p.m.

If there's a major fault at Limoncello Grill, it's that the loud music from the Shooters nightclub downstairs cannot be avoided once it begins, usually after 8 or 9 p.m. on weekends. Huge amplifiers pounding out dance hits ten feet below you are bad for your relaxation.

Make a reservation if only to secure a seat by the windows, order any of the antipasti to share, try either the minestrone or pasta e fagioli soups, then go for either pizza (at lunch) or a pasta or any meat dish (at dinner). Finish with a gelato, and ask your server to recommend a wine. They're not shy about helping out. Dinner for two, including drinks and dessert, should not exceed Hr 400.

LIMONCELLO GRILL
22 Moskovska, 254-2024.
Open daily from 10 a.m. till the last client.
English menu: Yes.
English-speaking staff: Yes.



Hardcore chef style in the kitchen at Italian restaurant Limoncello Grill on Moskovska. (Post file photo)

Basilic Cafe

BY PAUL MIAZGA

A lot can be said of Kyiv's newest French restaurant, Basilic. The food is delightful, the service considerate, the music well-matched to the ethnicity of the cuisine.

A flip through the menu at Basilic, quietly tucked away just below street level near the Japanese restaurant Hokkaido on Saksahanskoho, is the first sign that the place is atypical. Thought it includes some bad English ("mixed greens" has been rendered "green-stuff"), it's relatively small, not like the phone book-sized post-Soviet menus elsewhere.

Basilic serves a great French cheese platter for two, the green salads are fresh and light without mayonnaise or any other horrifyingly Ukrainian ingredients to spoil them, the soups (especially the French pea soup and consomme)

are attractive in presentation and taste, and no one should miss the veal with spinach and mushrooms or the sea bass sauteed in almond oil and served with broccoli croquettes. Nothing is especially pricey save for the "sibaise" – that's sea bass – priced at Hr 140. Not to be forgotten, Basilic bakes its own bread and it's free. Newer vintages of French and Italian wines lead the adequate wine list.

Backing up the food, the service and atmosphere at Basilic leave little to be desired. Servers remain hidden until precisely that moment when plates and cutlery need to be cleared. French ballads wander from carefully hidden speakers – there's no stereo sitting in the corner playing Radio Luxe or something just as distracting. They haven't put placards on the tables advertising other establishments.

Basilic's only real drawback is the decor. The dining room has that

grandmotherly look and feel of never having been occupied, at least not for long. It's not so distracting, but it's not comforting and relaxing, either. It's just not French.

Taken together, however, Basilic is worth checking out. Muse at the decor, but revel in the food. Start with the light mixed green salad with Swiss cheese and Parma ham, then move to the consomme. The food is not overly rich, but the portions are ample enough to demand restraint. For dessert, opt for the ice cream with caramel and peaches.

Dinner for two, including drinks, should not exceed Hr 400.

BASILIC
38 Saksahanskoho, 227-4166.
Open daily from 11 a.m. to midnight.
English menu: Yes.
English-speaking staff: No.



Basilic Cafe goes a little over the top with the decor, but the French food and superb service are worth it. (Post file photo)

– Paul Miazga

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Old Baltic Bliss, but No 'Terrible Sex'

BY RUSLAN TRACZ

Far away in the suburbs of Kyiv, in a gastronomie just outside the Dorohozhychi metro stop, a trio of Estonian liquors called out our names from the shelf. Our eyes and ears being what they are, we're always on the look-out for different pick-me-ups. Given the randomness of the situation, the obscurity of the products and the relative difficulty of finding Vana (Old) Tallinn and Liviko Gin in Kyiv, we had no choice but to heed their call.

The gin and the Vana Tallinn are made and bottled by Liviko, Estonian's largest hard-alcohol producer. While more famous for its vodka, Liviko offers a tolerable gin for a much lower price compared with British imports.

About the gin (Hr 47 for 500ml): While at first the aroma is full of juniper, your euphoria crashes as the vile smell of ethanol takes over. Liviko is more abrasive than Bombay Sapphire or Tanqueray, but once mixed with tonic or sprite it suffices as a decent alternative. You'll have to buy the more expensive brands if you want to serve a gin martini of proper quality.

Old City Pleasures

While the gin failed to please, the Vana Tallinn more than compensated with its velvety taste. The dark brown liqueur, considered a national drink in this tiny Baltic country, hits the pallet with a mild rum taste and would taste rather good in coffee. But it stands up strong on the rocks, too. Complementing the rummy taste, it has hidden flavors including vanilla, cinnamon and an undetermined citrus hint.

For those who don't like strong liqueurs, try the Vana Tallinn cream, which tastes like Amaretto crossed with Baileys. The mocha-colored cream envelops your mouth with a pleasant taste of rum and hints of vanilla and cinnamon. The Tallinn

cream (16 percent alcohol content) is definitely a drink to have on the rocks or with vanilla ice cream.

Here are a few suggestions for cocktails with Vana Tallinn:

HAMMER 'N' SICKLE

20 ml Vana Tallinn
8-10 ml dry sparkling wine

Pour the ingredients, chilled, together into a Champagne flute and decorate with a cocktail cherry.

FAT MARGARET

40 ml Vana Tallinn
20 ml whipped cream or ice cream (preferably vanilla)

Pour liqueur into a sling glass and top with whipped cream or ice cream. Sprinkle some coffee grounds on top, if desired.

Some gin drinks for occasions when a gin and tonic won't do:

BAZOOKA JOE

10 ml brandy
20 ml cherry brandy
20 ml gin

Shake all ingredients together with ice and strain into a cocktail glass. Garnish with pineapple or another miscellaneous, visually pleasing fruit.

ORANGE BLOSSOM SPECIAL

Equal parts gin and orange juice
Splash of grenadine

Combine ingredients in a strainer, shake well with ice, then pour into a sling glass.

Terviseks! (To your health!)



Estonia's Vana (Old) Tallinn cream liqueur and Liviko Gin are two reasons to learn how to say "To your health!" in Estonian: "Terviseks!" The gin's not so great, though. (Post photo by Natalia Kravchuk)

WINTER CITY GUIDE

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Fire: 01.

Police: 02.

AMBULANCE SERVICES

Medicom: 0-55; 234-0303;
432-8888; 488-0303.
Boris: 238-0000.
City Ambulance: 03.

Natural gas emergency service: 04.

Rescue service: 295-2447/290-9442.

Water, electric, and sewage systems emergency service: 057.

Elevator emergency service: 086.

Water supply networks emergency service: 081.

Kyivenergo emergency service: 088.

SPORTS

BOWLING

Maximum
12/37 Dekabrystiv.
Tel. 562-6282.

Mirage

37/41 Artema.
Tel. 461-9087.

Strike Bowling Club

84 Peremohy Prospect.
Tel. 442-6464.

Ultramarine

1A Uritskoho.
Tel. 206-0350/60/70.

Vitamin

4 Heroyiv Kosmosu.
Tel. 247-1925.

BASKETBALL

3/9 Turgenivska.
Every Sat. at 11:30 a.m.
Contact: Mark Senyk at 246-4472 or msenyk@agl-media.com.

Kyiv International School

3A Syatoshynsky Provalok.
Every 2nd Sunday evening from 6-8 p.m.
You must be on the list in order to enter.
Contact Tom at 8-050-352-4539.

HASH HOUSE HARRIERS

Eric's Bierstube
20A Chervonoarmiyska.
Every other Sun. at 1 p.m.
Contact: Hash Master Ulrike Straka at ulrike@vsnl.com.

GO-KARTING

Utugi
18 Metalistiv.
Tel. 446-1248.

ICE RINKS

Atek
20 Chystyakovska (Svyatoshyn metro).
Tel. 442-7117.

Open skating hours:
Tue., Thu., Fri.: 7 p.m., 8:15 p.m.
Wed.: 7 p.m.

Sat.-Sun.: 12:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Entrance: Hr 7 (Tue.-Thu.); Hr 9 (Fri.-Sun.).
Skate rental: Hr 9 (Hr 10 on weekends)
plus security deposit of Hr 450 or passport/driver's license.

Kryzhynka rink at Olympic Sports Complex
55A Chervonoarmiyska (located behind Olympic stadium, 100 m. from Asahi restaurant).
Tel. 246-7425.

Open skating: Sun. only (Times vary; call to confirm).
Entrance: Hr 20 per hour.
Skate rental: Hr 5 (plus security deposit).
Open pick-up hockey available most evenings starting at 11 p.m.
Youth leagues: Call or ask rink manager German Germanovych for details.

Kryzhynka rink on Left Bank

7 Zhmachenko (Darnytsya metro).
Tel. 543-9849.

Open skating hours:
Fri.: 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Sat.: 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Sun.: 1:15 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Entrance: Hr 7 (per hour)
Skate rental: Hr 3.
Private event rental. Prices from Hr 100 per hour. Call to reserve.

Sokol Ice Palace.

46 Melnykova.
Tel. 213-1141.
No free skating.
Sokol Kyiv home games open to spectators; call for schedule.
Pick-up hockey possible some evenings.

ICESURFING

Mistral Windsurfing Club
Kyiv Sea (stretch of the Dnipro near Vyshgorod, north of Kyiv, known as the Kyiv Sea).
Tel. 578-0578.

PAINTBALL

Pushcha Vodytsa
9 Horodetskoho.
Tel. 564-9928.

Nauka

9 Vernadskoho.
Tel. 269-7776, 251-7744.

SHOOTING

Dynamo Kyiv Shooting Range
4 Kurska.
Tel. 276-8174.

ULTIMATE FRISBEE (Indoor)

Institute of Physical Culture
(Shares entrance with Express Pizza near Olympic Stadium).
Tue.: 9:30 p.m.
Contact: Misha Babenko
(mbabenko@usa.gov).

SKIING

Protasiv Yar ski hill
23A Protasiv Yar.

SKI SUPPLY SHOPS

Altima
19A Khreshchatyk.
Tel. 490-2913.

Protoka

5 Entuziastiv.
Tel. 555-1672.

Sport and Tourism

28 Lesi Ukrainky.
Tel. 296-6818.

Borodyanka

Parkova 1A, Borodyanka.
Tel. (277) 5-25-73, 5-27-69, 5-12-86.

SWIMMING POOLS (Indoor)

Center of Physical Education and Sport
38/1 Polyova.
Tel. 241-7276.

Delfin

120 40-Richya Zhovtnya Prosp.
Tel. 261-3256.

Olymp

10 Demitrova.
Tel. 227-6149.

Pershotravnevy

17 Kurska.
Tel. 243-0124.

Spartak

105 Frunze.
Tel. 468-6961.

Yunist

7 Bastyona.
Tel. 295-2122.

SQUASH

Aquarium Fitness Center
45 Heroyiv Stalinhradu.
Tel. 239-2222.
Hr 75 per hour.
Equipment available for purchase or rental.
Call to reserve court.

TENNIS (Indoor)

Nauka Tennis Club
32 Akademiy Vernadskoho (Svyatoshyn metro).

3 clay courts, 3 Terraflex hard courts.
Hr 65, Hr 100 daytime.
Hr 80, Hr 120 evenings; Hr 110 weekends (Terraflex only).
Reservations: 444-3581.

Central Tennis Courts

Behind Olympic Stadium
(55 Chervonoarmiyska).
3 parquet courts.
Hr 50 to Hr 100 per hour.
Reservations: 268-7203.

Antei Tennis Club

8B Vitruka (Svyatoshyn metro, near Temp Stadium).
1 indoor hard court.
Hr 100 per hour.
Reservations: 444-7309.

Meridian

1V Heroyiv Sevastopolya.
3 parquet courts.
Hr 80 to Hr 100 per hour.
Reservations: 457-8843.

Olymp

11 Kulibina (Nyvky metro).
1 parquet court.
Hr 70 per hour.
Reservations: 442-8102

WALL-CLIMBING

Vertical Club Climbing Wall Gym
Institute of Civil Aviation.
1 Kosmonata Komarova.
http://vertical.kiev.ua.

Bouldering Gym

32/2 Stroyteley (Darnytsya metro).

PUBLIC SAUNAS

Aroma Sauna

21 Artema
Tel. 212-0993.

Manhattan Sauna Complex

12 Hospitalna.
Tel. 294-3058.

Nadia Sauna

15 Reitarska.
Tel. 462-0788.

Nika Sauna

16 Dovzhenka.
Tel. 455-5645.

Solomenka Banya and Sauna Complex

38 Urytskoho.
Tel. 244-0198.

Telbin

3 Shumskoho Yuriya.
Tel. 550-8155.

Troytski Banyas

66 Velyka Vasylykivska.
Tel. 227-4068.

Tsentralni Banya and Sauna Complex

3 Mala Zhytomyrska.
Tel. 228-0102.

KID PARKS, AMUSEMENT PARKS AND ZOOS

Botanical Garden

1 Kominternu.
Tel. 224-6056.

Central Botanical Garden

1 Tymyrazivska.
Tel. 294-9517.

Central Park

2 Volodymyrska.
Tel. 228-3092.

Holosiyivsky Recreation Park

87 40-Richya Zhovtnya Prospect.
Tel. 263-7070.

Hydropark

Hydropark metro.
Tel. 517-1492.

Kurenivsky Recreation Park

134 Frunze.
Tel. 468-3026.

Nyvky Park

82 Peremohy Prosp.
Tel. 456-4331.

Peremohy Park

2 Parova.
Tel. 559-9962.

Zoo

32 Peremohy Prosp.
Tel. 274-6054.

FITNESS CLUBS

Aquarium Fitness Center

45 Heroyiv Stalinhradu.
Tel. 239-2222.

Argo

9 Predslavinska.
Tel. 252-8784.

Cyber Gym

50B Bohdana Khmelnytskoho.
Tel. 223-7071.

Favorite

6 Muzeyny.
Tel. 228-3338.

Kodokan

3 Hrushevskeho.
Tel. 229-0101.

Kyiv Sports Club

5 Druzhby Narodiv.
Tel. 252-8866.

Miss Fitness

15A Baseyna.
Tel. 235-9339.

Nefertiti

89A Saksahashkoho.
220-8296.

Olymp

10 Dniprova.
Tel. 227-6149.

Planeta Fitness

10 Kropyvnytskoho.
Tel. 254-6200/1.

Premier Palace Fitness Center

5-7/29 T. Shevchenka.
Tel. 244-1239.

Vasyl Gym

48 Melnykova.
Tel. 213-0800.

Viktoria

2 Heorhiyivsky.
Tel. 228-7144.

Wellness Center (Dnipro Hotel)

1/2 Khreshchatyk.
Tel. 291-8450, 229-8591.

BOOKS

Bukva

11/61 Lva Tolstoho.
Tel. 230-2574, 224-7508.

Dinternal Books

2B Muzeyny.
Tel. 228-1362.

Eurobook Service

4/8 Komandarma Kamenyeva.
Tel. 295-6306.

Folio

35 Politekhnichna, #9.
Tel. 241-8412.

Globe

Metrograd Shopping Center
Tel. 247-5518.

International House book center

7 Vandy Vasilevsky, 2nd floor, #10.
Tel. 238-0669.

Knygclub

31 Ivana Kudri.
Tel. 269-1051.

Knyharnya

PREMIERES

WHITE NOISE

101 min.
Mystery-thriller, USA (2005).
Directed by Geoffrey Sax.
Starring Michael Keaton, Chandra West, Deborah Kara Unger and Ian McNeice.
"White Noise" refers to a phenomenon known as EVP (Electronic Voice Phenomena). In amidst the white noise of a detuned radio you might hear voices...and in amidst the white noise of a detuned television, you might see faces. These are the voices and faces of the dead. This could be campy.

NOCHNOY PRODAVETS

(The Night Clerk)
87 min.
Comedy-action, Russia (2005).
Directed by Valeriy Rozhnov.
Starring Ingeborga Dapkunaite, Viktor Sukhorukov, Andrey Krasko and Pavel Barshak.

TURETSKIY GAMBIT

(The Turkish Gambit)
135 min.
Historical adventure, Russia (2004).
Directed by Dzhanik Faiziyev.
Starring Yegor Beroyev, Vladimir Il'in, Olga Krasko and Marat Basharov.

MODIGLIANI

128 min.
Drama, USA/France/Italy/UK (2004).
Directed by Mick Davis.
Starring Andy Garcia, Elsa Zylberstein, Hippolyte Girardot and Eva Herzigova.
The story of Italian portrait artist Amedeo Modigliani's bitter rivalry with Pablo Picasso, and his tragic romance with Jeanne Hebuterne. The film would be more aptly titled "Jeanne," as the film focuses far more on Modigliani's relationship with her and a famous portrait he did of her than anything else, and it certainly provides no insights into Modigliani's artistic mind.

ONGOING

ALFIE

103 min.
Comedic drama, USA/UK (2004).
Directed by Charles Shyer.
Starring Jude Law, Marisa Tomei and Susan Sarandon.
A cockney womanizer learns the hard way about the dangers of his actions. The movie is a remake of the 1966 classic starring Michael Caine. Check it out in English at Odesa cinema this week.

FINDING NEVERLAND

106 min.
Drama, USA/UK (2004).
Directed by Marc Forster.
Starring Johnny Depp, Kate Winslet, Dustin Hoffman and Radha Mitchell.

This drama tells the story of how James M. Barrie (Depp) came up with the play Peter Pan. After numerous failures, Barrie finds himself in a park playing with his dog when he meets the inspiration for his next play: four small boys and their widowed mother, who seems to be growing weaker by the day. Soon, the whole town is talking about Barrie and the Davies family, which puts stress on his marriage, but "Peter Pan" is born.

SPANGLISH

130 min.
Romantic comedy, USA (2004).
Directed by James L. Brooks.
Starring Adam Sandler, Tea Leoni, Paz Vega and Cloris Leachman.

A beautiful native Mexican woman becomes the housekeeper for the affluent, yet troubled Clasky family (Sandler and Leoni). The result is a collision of cultures and values, and an honest look at such life-altering commitments as marriage, parenting and devotion to family.

SHI MIAN MAI FU

(The House of Flying Daggers)
119 min.
Action-drama, China/Hong Kong (2004)
Directed by Yimou Zhang.

Starring Takeshi Kaneshiro, Andy Lau and Ziyi Zhang.
Near the end of the T'ang Dynasty, police deputies Jin and Leo tangle with Mei, a dancer suspected of having ties to a revolutionary faction known as the House of Flying Daggers. Enchanted by her, the deputies concoct a plan to save her from capture, and Jin leads her north in what becomes a perilous journey into the unknown.

A TON IMAGE (In Your Image)

95 min.
Drama, France (2004).
Directed by Aruna Villiers.
Starring Nastasha Kinski, Christopher Lambert and Audrey DeWilder.

OLDBOY

120 min.
Action-thriller, South Korea (2003).
Directed by Chan-wook Park.
Starring Min-sik Choi, Ji-tae Yu and Hye-jeong Kang.
An average man is kidnapped and imprisoned in a hotel room for 15 years without explanation. He then is released, equipped with money, a cellphone and expensive clothes. As he strives to explain his imprisonment and get his revenge, he soon finds out that not only does his kidnapper still have plans for him, but that those plans will serve as an even worse end to his 15 years' imprisonment.

BLADE: TRINITY

113 min.
Action-thriller, USA (2004).
Directed by David S. Goyer.
Starring Wesley Snipes, Kris Kristofferson and Dominic Purcell.

As an apocalyptic event takes place that could leave Earth in the control of evil vampires, the Daywalker Blade (Snipes) is the only person who can turn the tide. To make things harder for Blade, the vampire leadership launches a public relations "smear campaign" against him. The police begin to hunt him down, thinking him to be some sort of horrible monster.

LIEGEN LERNEN

(Learning to Lie)
87 min.
Romantic comedy, Germany (2003).
Directed by Hendrik Handloegten.
Starring Fabian Busch, Susanne Bormann, Fritz Haberlandt and Sophie Rois.

In 1980s Berlin, a young man is growing up, learning to love. In the beginning he is a romantic lover, only interested in Britta. When she splits with him, he grows cynical and learns to use women for his sexual satisfaction. By chance he meets Britta again and sees how she has changed. He tries different relationships looking for a woman he might grow old with. After a major failed relationship, he runs away to Berlin and meets Britta again and vengeful instincts take over.

*Note: All movie reviews have been adapted from www.imdb.com.

BRATISLAVA CINEMA

5 Mate Zalky
Tel. 419-9758/7882.
www.bratislava.kiev.ua

Listings unavailable.

BUTTERFLY

6 Chervonykh Kazakiv (Petrivka metro).
Tel. 531-3977, 536-0484.
www.kino-butterfly.com.ua

Turetskiy Gambit
Daily at 9:45 a.m., 4:45 p.m., 7:15 p.m., 11:55

White Noise
Daily at 10 a.m., 2 p.m., 8:10 p.m., 10:10 p.m.

Alfie
Daily at 10 a.m., 2:30 p.m., 7 p.m., 9 p.m.

Spanglish
Daily noon, 4:30 p.m., 11 p.m. (late show on weekend only.)

Finding Neverland
Daily at noon, 6:10 p.m.

Shi mian mai fu
Daily at 12:15 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 9:45 p.m.

Blade: Trinity
Daily at 4 p.m.

BUTTERFLY DELUXE

50 Gorkoho (Respublikanskiy Stadion metro).
Tel. 206-1320/22/24.
www.kino-butterfly.com.ua

Turetskiy Gambit
Daily at noon, 4:30 p.m., 7 p.m., 9:30 p.m., 11:55 p.m. (late show on weekend only.)



Michael Keaton plays Jonathan Rivers, a man experimenting with Electronic Voice Phenomenon (EVP) – so-called “white noise” – in the aptly titled thriller “White Noise.” (www.kino.ural.ru)

Alfie
Daily at 10 a.m., 2:10 p.m., 6:20 p.m., 8:20 p.m., 10:20 p.m.

Finding Neverland
Daily at 10 a.m., 2:30 p.m.

Spanglish
Daily at 12:15 p.m., 5 p.m., 9:45 p.m.

Shi mian mai fu
Daily at 10 a.m., 2:45 p.m., 7:30 p.m.

Blade: Trinity
Daily at noon, 4:10 p.m.

BUTTERFLY ULTRAMARINE

1A Uritskoho (Vokzalna metro).
Tel. 206-0350/60/70.
www.kino-butterfly.com.ua

Turetskiy Gambit
Daily at 9:45 a.m., 2:30 p.m., 7:15 p.m., 11:55 p.m. (late show on weekend only.)

Nochnoy Prodavets
Daily at 10 a.m., 11:45 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 3:15 p.m., 7:15 p.m., 11:15 p.m. (late show on weekend only.)

White Noise
Daily at 10 a.m., 2:30 p.m., 7 p.m., 11:30 p.m. (late show on weekend only.)

Alfie
Daily at 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m., 5 p.m., 7 p.m., 9 p.m., 11 p.m. (late show on weekend only.)

Finding Neverland
Daily at 10 a.m., 6:10 p.m.

Spanglish
Daily at noon, 4:30 p.m., 9 p.m.

Oldboy
Daily at 4 p.m., 8:10 p.m., 10:25 p.m.

Shi mian mai fu
Daily at 12:15 p.m., 5 p.m., 9:45 p.m.

Blade: Trinity
Daily at noon, 4 p.m., 8:10 p.m.

A ton image
Daily at 2:10 p.m., 10:15 p.m., 11:55 p.m. (late show on weekend only.)

Coffee and Cigarettes
Daily at 6:15 p.m.

KINO PALACE

1 Instytutska (Maidan Nezalezhnosti metro).
Tel. 228-7223, 490-7060.
www.kino.kiev.ua

Turetskiy Gambit
Daily at 9:40 a.m., 2 p.m., 6:25 p.m., 10:50 p.m.

Alfie
Daily at noon, 4:25 p.m., 8:50 p.m.

KINOPANORAMA

19 Shota Rustaveli (Palats Sporta metro).
Tel. 287-1135/3041.
www.kinopanorama.com.ua

Assault on Precinct 13
Daily at noon, 3:50 p.m., 7:40 p.m.

Blade: Trinity
Daily at 10 a.m., 1:50 p.m., 5:40 p.m., 9:30 p.m.

KYIV CINEMA

19 Chervonoarmiyska (Lva Tolstoho metro).
Tel. 234-7381, 234-3380, 251-2199.
www.kievkino.com.ua

Turetskiy Gambit
Daily at 10 a.m., 2:40 p.m., 7:30 p.m., 10 p.m.

Nochnoy Prodavets
Daily at 2:20 p.m., 10:10 p.m.

Finding Neverland
Daily at 10:10 a.m., 4 p.m., 8:10 p.m.

Oldboy
Daily at 5:10 p.m.

Shi mian mai fu
Daily at 12:10 p.m., 6 p.m.

Blade: Trinity
Daily at 12:30 p.m.

KYIVSKA RUS

93 Artema (Lukyanivska metro).
Tel. 216-7474/8273, 461-8061.
www.kievrus.com.ua

Turetskiy Gambit
Daily at 9:30 a.m., 2:10 p.m., 7:10 p.m., 10 p.m.

Nochnoy Prodavets
Daily at 9 a.m., 10:10 p.m.

Alfie
Daily at noon, 4:50 p.m.

Spanglish
Daily at 12:40 p.m., 7:30 p.m.

A ton image
Daily at 3:20 p.m.

Liegen Lernen
Daily at 10:50 a.m., 5:20 p.m.

LINIYA KINO 1
Magellan Shopping Center (13B Akad. Hlushkova).
Tel. 496-1314.
http://www.liniakino.com/

Turetskiy Gambit
Daily at 10 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 3 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 8 p.m., 10:30 p.m.

Nochnoy Prodavets
Daily at 10:30 a.m., 2:40 p.m., 6:50 p.m., 11 p.m. (late show on weekend only.)

Finding Neverland
Daily at 12:50 p.m., 5:20 p.m., 7:20 p.m.

Spanglish
Daily at 10:20 a.m., 2:50 p.m., 9:20 p.m.

Blade: Trinity
Daily at 12:20 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 8:40 p.m.

LINIYA KINO 2
Metropolis Shopping Center (12 Malynovskoho).
Tel. 585-1404/05.
http://www.liniakino.com/

Turetskiy Gambit
Daily at 10:40 a.m., 1:10 p.m., 3:40 p.m., 8:30 p.m., 11 p.m. (late show on weekend only.)

Nochnoy Prodavets
Daily at 10:30 a.m., 2:40 p.m., 6:50 p.m., 11 p.m. (late show on weekend only.)

Finding Neverland
Daily at 12:50 p.m., 5:20 p.m., 7:20 p.m.

Oldboy
Daily at 6:10 p.m.

Spanglish
Daily at 10:20 a.m., 2:50 p.m., 9:20 p.m.

Blade: Trinity
Daily at 12:20 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 8:40 p.m.

ODESA CINEMA

Ukraina Shopping Mall (3 Peremohy Prospect).
Tel. 496-1551/11.
http://kinoodessa.com
NOTE: Theater reserves right to cancel screenings based on low turnout (min. 4 persons)

ENGLISH MOVIE OF THE WEEK

Alfie
Showtimes unavailable.

Turetskiy Gambit
From Feb. 24.

White Noise
From Feb. 24.

Spanglish
Through March 2.

Alfie
Through March 2.

Shi mian mai fu
Through March 2.

Oldboy
Through March 2.

Blade: Trinity
Through March 2.

UKRAINE CINEMA

5 Horodetskoho (Khreshchatky metro).
Tel. 229-6301/02, 229-6750.
www.kino-ukraina.com.ua

Turetskiy Gambit
Daily at 10 a.m., 2:30 p.m., 7 p.m., 11:30 p.m.

White Noise
Daily at 5 p.m., 9:30 p.m., 11:30 p.m.

Nochnoy Prodavets
Daily at 10 a.m., 3:50 p.m.

Finding Neverland
Daily at 2 p.m., 5:30 p.m.

Alfie
Daily at 12:30 p.m., 7:20 p.m., 9:20 p.m.

Spanglish
Daily at 11:40 a.m.

ZHOVTEN

26 Kostyantynivska (Kontraktova Ploshcha metro).
Tel. 425-8909, 417-3004/2702.
www.zhovten-kino.kiev.ua

Turetskiy Gambit
Fri 25: 1 p.m., 3:10 p.m., 7:10 p.m., 9:30 p.m., midnight.

Nochnoy Prodavets
Fri 25: 11:30 a.m., 3:10 p.m., 6:50 p.m., 4:10 a.m.

Modigliani
Fri 25: 9:30 a.m., 8:30 p.m., 2:10 a.m.

Finding Neverland
Fri 25: 11:10 a.m., 5:20 p.m.

Shi mian mai fu
Fri 25: 1:10 p.m., 4:50 p.m.

Screenplays Against Substance Abuse.
Sat 26: 6 p.m. (Short-film montage by various directors.)



Johnny Depp and Kate Winslet star in “Finding Neverland,” the story of how author James M. Barrie came up with the idea for the children’s fantasy tale “Peter Pan.” (www.kino.ural.ru)



The Mirovaya Karta restaurant group and *With Taste* magazine presented their annual awards honoring 50 Kyiv socialites deemed as having great taste at Marrakesh restaurant in Podil on Feb. 17. Among the award winners were Claudia Mejia of Alpha-Now Ukraine (1), at right, and Sergio Martes (4) of the Italian embassy. (2): Benni Golani, one of the two men behind the restaurant group, beamed at the event, as did Martes' friends (3). (Post photos by Serhiy Zavalnyuk)



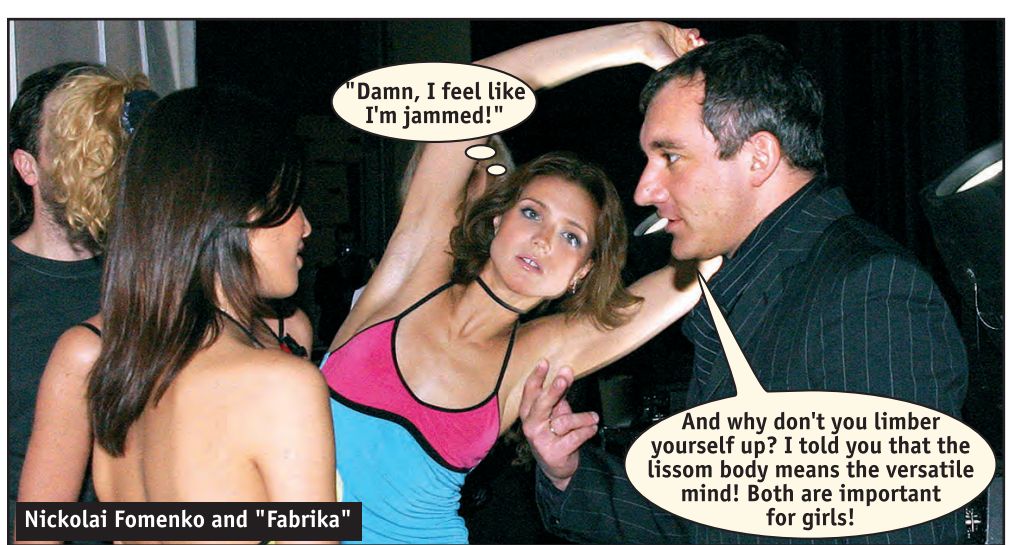
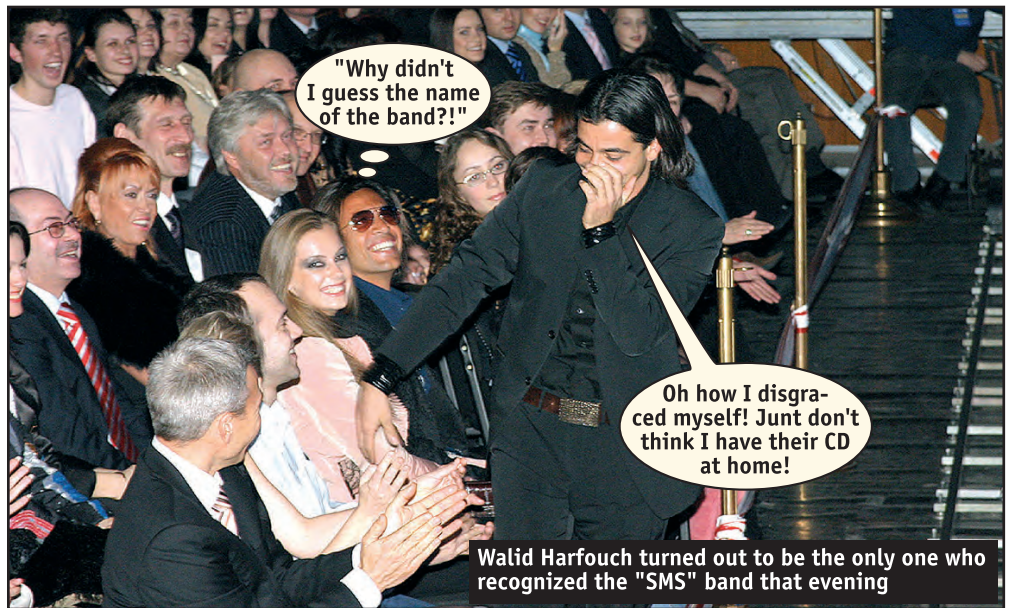
During the same Mirovaya Karta event on Feb. 17, the OSCE's Cordula Wohlmutter (5) engaged in a sit-down chat with a friend, while Avis Rent-a-Car's Bjorn Markstedt (6), at right, proved more of a stand-up guy. (7): Designer Anna Bublik and TV show host Masha Efrosinina can only help but listen as Walid Harfouche of Supernova Radio speaks at the launch of Byblik's new fashion collection on Feb. 17. (8): At right, Radioaktiv Film's Darko Skulsky at Arena on Feb. 17. (Post photos by Serhiy Zavalnyuk, Oleksiy Boyko and Pavel Terekhov)



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Prorizna	Excellent	2	60	80		SHOTA RUSTAVELI	EXCELLENT	4	145	2700	
Lysenka	Excellent	3	75	110		SHEVCHENKA LANE	EXCELLENT	6	170	3000	
B. Khmel'nyts'koho	Excellent	4	130	120		SHEVCHENKA LANE	EXCELLENT	5	250	4800	

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HORYVA	NEEDS RENOVATION	2	55	65		CHEKOVONARMIYS'KA	EXCELLENT	3	70	18/m2	
HONCHARA	NEEDS RENOVATION	2	52	75		KHRESCHATYK	EXCELLENT	3	100	21/m2	
SAKSAHANS'KOHO	NEEDS RENOVATION	3	111	135		B. KHMEI'NYTS'KOHO	EXCELLENT	5	112	23/m2	
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Please note: If you did not receive a discount that you were entitled to as a cardholder, you must obtain a written refusal from the company.

Ukrainochka

Water Delivery
Tel.: 543-2289, 570-6839
10% off up to 10 bottles (18,9 l);
20% off more than 10 bottles (18,9 l)

Nasoloda

Sex-Shop
10 Mezhyhirska
Tel.: 416-0370
Druzhby Narodiv,
Kvadrat TC
10% off all goods

Natalize

Boutique of Exclusive clothes
90/92/1 Gonchara
Tel.: 238-7202
10% off all goods

Olesya

Metrograd Trading Center,
Bessarabska square,
Tel.: 247-5574
Pechersk Trading Center, 2nd flr.
4 Suvorova vul.,
Roksolana Trading Center, -1st flr.
3B B.Khmelnyskoho vul.
Olesya Shop
55 Artema.
Stock shop
Olesya Shop for Men
6 Sahaydachnoho.
17 Chervonoarmyska
12% discount on all goods

Ronkato

Bags, suitcases, briefcases, rucksacks
Globus Trading Center, 2nd line
Tel.: 238-5976
Metrograd Trading Center,
boutiques block
under Besarabsky Market,
Tel.: 247-5581
Gorodok Trading Center,
3 Oksamytova
5% discount on all goods

Sportmaster

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5% for the whole goods
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4 Seasons (Dr. Martens)

15 Mykhaylivska
Tel.: 228-5496
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235-41-61
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6 Strutynskoho, 602 of.
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494-34-86,
494-34-87
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Young Ethno

27A Kreschatyk vul.
Tel.: 234-4140
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Diesel & Gas

Maydan Nezalezhnosti,
Globus Trading Center
(upper level)
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Tel./Fax: 238-5901
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Globus Trading Center,
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Maydan Nezalezhnosti
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Tel.: 443-9823
1A Khoryva,
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Tel.: 229-4548
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Mobile Communication Shops
20 Chokolivsky Blvd.,
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6 Tolstoho,
Tel.: 244-9754

3 Malyska

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26 Lesi Ukrainky,
Tel.: 295-0106
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Tel.: 227-7167

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46 Khreshchatyk,
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Tel.: 269-2364
Maydan Nezalezhnosti,
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12/1 Baseyna,
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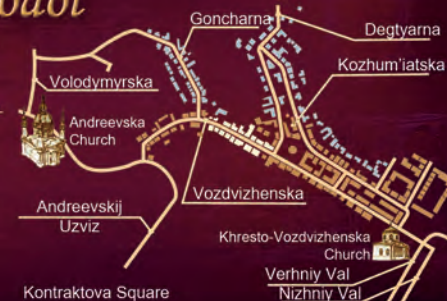
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