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Ukrainian sailors, based with the Russian Black Sea fleet in Sevastopol, take a break. Many in the port city don't believe conflict is looming between Russia and Ukraine over Crimea. Residents also dispel fears that war will break out, like in Georgia. (Boris Belkin)

Calm sea in Sevastopol

By YULIYA POPOVA
popova@kpmmedia.ua

SEVASTOPOL, UKRAINE – Red Army style cafes, plastic chairs and music from the 80's fill Sevastopol, proud home of the Russian Black Sea fleet in Crimea, with nostalgia for old

Related coverage inside

- Putin denies Russia wants Crimea, page 3
- Opinions on conflict, page 6
- Sevastopol can thrive without the Black Sea fleet, page 14

glories. Yet despite its Soviet mood, city residents of all backgrounds live in peace, contrary to the alarmist scenarios imagined by outsiders in the wake of the Caucasus war.

Dotted with small tour boats, the port is framed by three black navy ships pressed against the skyline. A friendly Ukrainian tour boat captain in his early 30s, wearing a New York City T-shirt, explains that every ship in the country's territorial waters must sail under the Ukrainian blue-and-yellow flag in addition to its home colors. Yet, white Soviet navy banners with a hammer and sickle, a red star and a blue stripe dominate most bows in this bay.

"Oh, these are just beautiful," explains the captain, when asked why the Soviet flag is five times larger than the nation's blue-and-yellow rectangular cloth hardly visible above his cabin.

Even though the summer season is barely over, remarkably few sailors – one of the city's biggest attractions – are walking the streets.

"You won't find them here now," says former admiral Vladimir Komoedov who was in charge of the Russian part of the fleet right after the breakup of the Soviet Union. "They are at war."

see **FLEET** page 14

Pro-Western coalition crumbles as president warns of political coup

By STEPHEN BANDERA
bandera@kpmmedia.ua

Fighting among the country's top politicians got uglier this week, as the pro-Western coalition all but collapsed and President Victor Yushchenko threatened to dismiss parliament for the second time in two years – all on the eve of crucial international talks on Ukraine's place in Europe and NATO.

NEWS ANALYSIS

reconciliation appeared to rest on Yushchenko's response to a demand from the Tymoshenko side that, if the president gets rid of Baloha and apologizes, the coalition might be saved.

If not, a strange parliamentary majority could form composed of Tymoshenko's eponymous bloc known as BYuT, the Communists and her Orange Revolution foes, the Party of Regions.

The fragile marriage between Orange Revolution leaders President Victor Yushchenko and Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko has been in poor shape for several months.

But both – expected to spar for the presidential job in the 2010 election – have effectively served divorce papers on each other. Apparently, it's a done deal this time, ending the governing coalition and parliamentary majority they created eight months ago.

The acrimony comes days ahead of key international meetings concerning Ukraine's future, including a Sept. 4-5 visit from U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney and a Sept. 9 European Union-Ukraine meeting in Evian, France, to discuss ways to strengthen ties.

The breaking point in the Yushchenko-Tymoshenko partnership appeared to have come over accusations from Victor Baloha, the president's chief of staff, that the prime minister is a traitor for not denouncing the Aug. 8 Russian invasion of Georgia. In a recent letter to Ukraine's State Security Service, Baloha also accused Tymoshenko of trying to kill him.

On Sept. 3, the scant chance of

The troika joined forces in parliament on the Verkhovna Rada's first day back from the summer holidays on Sept. 2, providing the 300-plus votes in a 450-seat legislature to override a presidential veto, adopt legislation on impeachment and increase powers for the legislature at the expense of presidential rights.

Yushchenko said the nation is witnessing "the beginning of a political and constitutional coup" and that these laws impose the "dictatorship of the prime minister."

"All these anti-constitutional laws will be vetoed," he said in a televised address to the nation on Sept. 3.

Yushchenko said the events in the Rada ended the existence of the democratic coalition, and that "de facto, a new parliamentary coalition has been created." He then went on to threaten an early election if a new alliance is not formalized within 30 days after the breakup of the previous coalition, the deadline allowed by the Constitution.

"If a coalition of deputies' factions is not created in the time period allotted by Ukraine's fundamental law, I will use my right to dismiss the Supreme Rada and announce pre-term elections," he said.

see **RADA**, page 15

Critics cry foul over latest land deal

By MARK RACHKEVYCH
rachkevych@kpmmedia.ua

The Kyiv City Council is back in the dirty business of doling out land plots, evidently for far less than what the properties are worth.

In an Aug. 28 session, the council took three actions that were denounced by critics. First, it voted to sell 24 parcels for \$74.2 million, at least \$100 million less than the properties are worth, according to one reliable estimate.

Secondly, the council also gave away four hectares of public green space in the city center – valued at \$150 million – to a group of individuals. And finally, at the same meeting, the council

paved the way for the sale of city shares in lucrative monopolies, including two utilities and the bread factory.

The decisions were made with little debate and no advance public notice, with 90 out of 120 City Council members voting in favor.

"IT [AUG. 28] WAS A DAY OF POLITICAL CORRUPTION."

– Valeriy Karpuntsov, a Kyiv City Council member with Vitaliy Klitschko's bloc

The latest land sales are reminiscent of last year's shadowy deal, when the City Council sold roughly \$10 billion

worth of land for only \$200 million. That notorious one-day land grab was championed by Kyiv Mayor Leonid Chernovetsky. Challenges to nullify the 2007 decision in court failed.

The entire roster of property beneficiaries in the Aug. 28 vote is unclear, beyond generally non-descriptive names of companies. But whoever they may be, and few doubt that they are well-connected insiders, they are getting sweet deals.

According to estimates given to the Kyiv Post from a real estate expert, the land could have easily sold for more than double the amount – \$190 million or more – if the sales had been conducted in a competitive and transparent manner on the open market.

see **LAND**, page 13



Ukrainian President Victor Yushchenko, left, threatened on Sept. 3 to dissolve parliament and call new elections after the powerful parliamentary factions led by former Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich and Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, right, voted on Sept. 2 to weaken the president's powers. (Courtesy photos)



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SEPTEMBER 4TH, 2008

Putin offers Ukraine reassuring words

By ALINA PASTUKHOVA
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After weeks of speculation about the possibility of Moscow targeting Ukraine following its military standoff with Georgia, Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin has dubbed such fears as a "provocation."

While many in Ukraine remain suspicious, Putin insisted his country respects Ukraine's borders and has no plans to invade Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula.

"Crimea isn't a disputed territory... Russia has recognized the present-day borders of Ukraine long ago," Putin said on Aug. 29 in an interview with Germany's ARD radio.

Yet many remained alarmed about the possibility of a military confrontation between Kyiv and its northern neighbor.

For one, many point to Russian President Dmitry Medvedev's pledge to protect Russian citizens across the globe. With its strategic location as base for Russia's Black Sea Fleet, and its large Russian population, Crimea stands out in the minds of many as a possible hotspot where Russia could

move in under the pretext of protecting its citizens, as it did in Georgia.

Experts in Ukraine immediately said Putin may not be saying the whole truth because other Russian politicians have made threatening statements about Ukraine's renewed vigor in seeking closer ties with NATO in the wake of the Georgian war.

In addition, Putin himself has been quoted doubting the cohesiveness of Ukrainian statehood during an overheard conversation at a NATO summit in Bucharest in April this year.

"You understand George, Ukraine isn't even a state! What is Ukraine? One part of its territory is in Eastern Europe, and the other part, the significant portion, was a gift from us," Putin apparently told U.S. President George Bush in an off-the-cuff conversation.

This embarrassing exchange was overheard and reported by the daily Russian newspaper Kommersant, and is often repeated by Western media, despite having been debunked by Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and other officials.

Kommersant also quoted Putin hinting that should Ukraine join NATO, it would split apart along its Ukrainian

and Russian-speaking populations, and lose Crimea.

Ukraine's hopes of being accepted for a NATO Membership Action Plan were delayed at the April summit in Romania largely because a handful of European members didn't want to upset Russia.

Ukraine's main champion for speedy Western integration, President Victor Yushchenko, will try to revive chances of kick starting NATO membership during U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney's visit to Ukraine on Sept. 4-5. Newly emerging risks in light of the Georgia conflict will also be high up on the agenda during their talks. And next week - at a Ukraine-Europe summit on Sept. 9 in Evian, France - Yushchenko will push to finalize a closer partnership agreement with Brussels.

Experts predict that if these negotiations go well - under question considering news this week that Kyiv's pro-western coalition was on the verge of collapse - relations with Russia might soon take a nasty turn.

What would be the first signs of trouble?

Some Russian officials have called for the cancellation of "friendship" agreements signed in the 1990s between Kyiv

and Moscow. Through the agreements, both countries mutually agreed to respect each other's territorial integrity and avoid military conflicts at all costs.

But relations have soured nevertheless.

Seventeen years after the Soviet Union's breakup, both countries have yet to demarcate some 2,295 kilometers of joint borders. Ukrainian officials have accused Russia of dragging its feet on this issue.

Speedy demarcation of the Azov Sea, home to sizable hydrocarbon reserves and fish populations, is a top priority for Ukraine.

"Russia will continue to drag out the demarcation process in any case, simply out of spite," said Viktor Chumak, director of political programs of the International Center for Policy Studies.

A remote possibility is a conflict escalating between Russia and Ukraine along an entirely different border. Russia has a 2,000-strong peacekeeping contingent in Transdnier, a breakaway Moldovan territory with a population of 500,000 along Ukraine's southwest border.

Political analyst Oleksandr Paliy said it is possible Russia will move to "start



Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin

some action" by flaring up separatism in Ukraine, or challenging its borders in some fashion.

"But Russia would have to understand that such a move would be the beginning of a full-scale war with Ukraine, not a regional conflict" as seen in Georgia.

"I hope Russia is not ready for a war like that," he added.

More Ukrainian women become surrogate mothers for couples



Both for financial rewards and to help infertile couples in Ukraine and abroad, many Ukrainian women are becoming surrogate mothers. (Ukrinform)

BY IRYNA PRYMACHYK
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Even as its own population is declining - partly because women are unable or unwilling to have enough babies - Ukraine is becoming known internationally as the mecca of surrogate mothers.

Besides the satisfaction of helping infertile and other couples achieve the miracle of birth, Ukrainian women say they are attracted by the considerable financial rewards. But risks also come with rewards in these largely unregulated transactions and Ukrainian law offers little protection for either side.

Three years ago, 31-year-old Kyivite Natalia decided to help an English couple have a baby. The mother of three

children, Natalia - who did not want her last name used - needed the money. And she got it, \$45,000 in all.

"First, I was afraid and for hesitated almost a year, but my doctor told me there is nothing bad if, for some money, I give birth to a child for other people," Natalia said. "My first pregnancy did not let me even finish school. When I was pregnant for the third time my husband left me. I did not know what to do and the money that the government gives us is not enough to pay for even the flat."

Today, there are more than 30 clinics of reproductive medicine in Ukraine, eight of which are in Kyiv. One local clinic said 60 women this year alone have become surrogate mothers there. And providing services for them is a ris-

ing part of the business, doctors say.

"Out of 10 Ukrainian couples, two cannot have a baby themselves," said Tetyana Vinnyk, a Kyiv maternity welfare center employee. "The infertility problem is increasing because of bad habits like smoking, drinking alcohol and taking drugs at an early age. Many women come to us for fertility tests, but it is often too late. Also, so-called business ladies want to have a baby after the age of 40, which may be difficult. And for some couples, it is an issue of genetic incompatibility."

According to the Ukrainian Association of Reproductive Medicine, female infertility has increased by 18 percent since 2001 - and reached 43,715 documented cases, while male see **CHILD**, page 15

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EDITORIAL

Historical hogwash

Ukraine suffered plenty under the authoritarian rule of Leonid Kuchma, whose scandal-plagued presidency lasted more than a decade from 1994 until 2005, before Victor Yushchenko came to power on the wave of the Orange Revolution.

The nation shouldn't have to put up with any attempts to gloss over the hideous Kuchma legacy through cynical manipulation of facts. One such attempt appeared in an Aug. 28 opinion piece published by the daily English-language newspaper Moscow Times.

The article was written by Anders Aslund, a Swedish economist who worked as an economic adviser to Kuchma during the 1990s. Today, he's a senior research fellow of the Peter G. Peterson Institute for International Economics based in Washington, D.C. The think tank's board of directors includes Victor Pinchuk – Kuchma's son-in-law and Ukraine's No. 2 tycoon – who describes himself as a supporter of the Institute's Eastern European and Ukrainian Program. These ties help explain the ludicrous "Leonid Kuchma Built a Prosperous Ukraine" headline above Aslund's opinion piece, which praised the ex-president's so-called economic achievements.

Yes, the Kuchma era was certainly prosperous for the president's friends, relatives and other insiders who got rich quick by acquiring state-owned businesses cheaply and unfairly. The shamefully opaque privatizations of the 1990s essentially looted the rest of the population, which should have benefited much more from the sale of state assets. Far from prosperous, the Kuchma years meant destitution and desperation for most Ukrainians. But far more damaging is that the country's business elite continues to run post-Kuchma Ukraine with their wealth and influence today. Aslund's fairytale portrays Kuchma as a human rights champion. "He allowed democracy and all its freedoms to be secured," Aslund wrote. "Few people have done so much for their country."

Let's deconstruct the Aslund myths by starting with the tapes of Mykola Melnychenko, the former presidential bodyguard who claimed to have secretly recorded more than 700 hours of conversations involving Kuchma in 1999 and 2000. If the events described in the recordings are true, Ukraine was essentially a criminal state with Kuchma as its mafia godfather. The foul-mouthed Kuchma and his associates, according to the tapes, brazenly talked about bribery, tax evasion, rigging elections and punishing enemies. Georgiy Gongadze, the muckraking journalist murdered in Sept. 2000, was a major irritant to Kuchma, according to the tapes.

While we may never know whether Kuchma deserved to spend his 70th birthday last month in prison or enjoying retirement, the Melnychenko tapes certainly have a ring of authenticity. Because the recordings implicated so many in the Kuchma power structure, including some still in public office, it is easy to guess why a credible investigation has never been launched.

It remains Ukraine's sad circumstance not to be any closer to the truth years later, even with the tarnished heroes of the Orange Revolution holding the two most powerful posts in government. The maddening injustice of it all raises suspicions that a secret deal was made to turn the page and hope that people will forget over time.

The ability to stifle investigations or manipulate them to inconclusive ends, to muzzle the news media and treat one's own people with disdain, hardly qualifies someone as a champion of freedom and democracy. To the contrary, the despotic excesses of the Kuchma era fueled the Orange Revolution, no matter what sullied "scholars" such as Aslund write.

Smelly land deals

It has happened again. Dozens of valuable land plots were sold by the Kyiv City Council on Aug. 28, allegedly through inside deals and at fire-sale prices.

The decision took the public by surprise, just like the land grab of 2007 that saw 300 plots worth billions of dollars doled out for a fraction of their truth worth. All of a sudden, four percent of the city's land changed hands in a blink of an eye.

Once again, establishing who the new landlords are and whether they paid market price is difficult. Conveniently, the Kyiv City Council approved a resolution in 2004 that only allows release of such information with the permission of those involved. The latest land sale came as the Supreme Court passed judgments that legitimized the October sale.

The city's power brokers are free to do whatever they please. More controversial land decisions should be expected unless the public demands transparent sales. In a city where corruption is widespread, public land scarce and property disputes sometimes bloody, public tenders, meetings and records will ensure clear and fair transfer of ownership. City coffers, not private pockets, need to be filled.

KYIV POST

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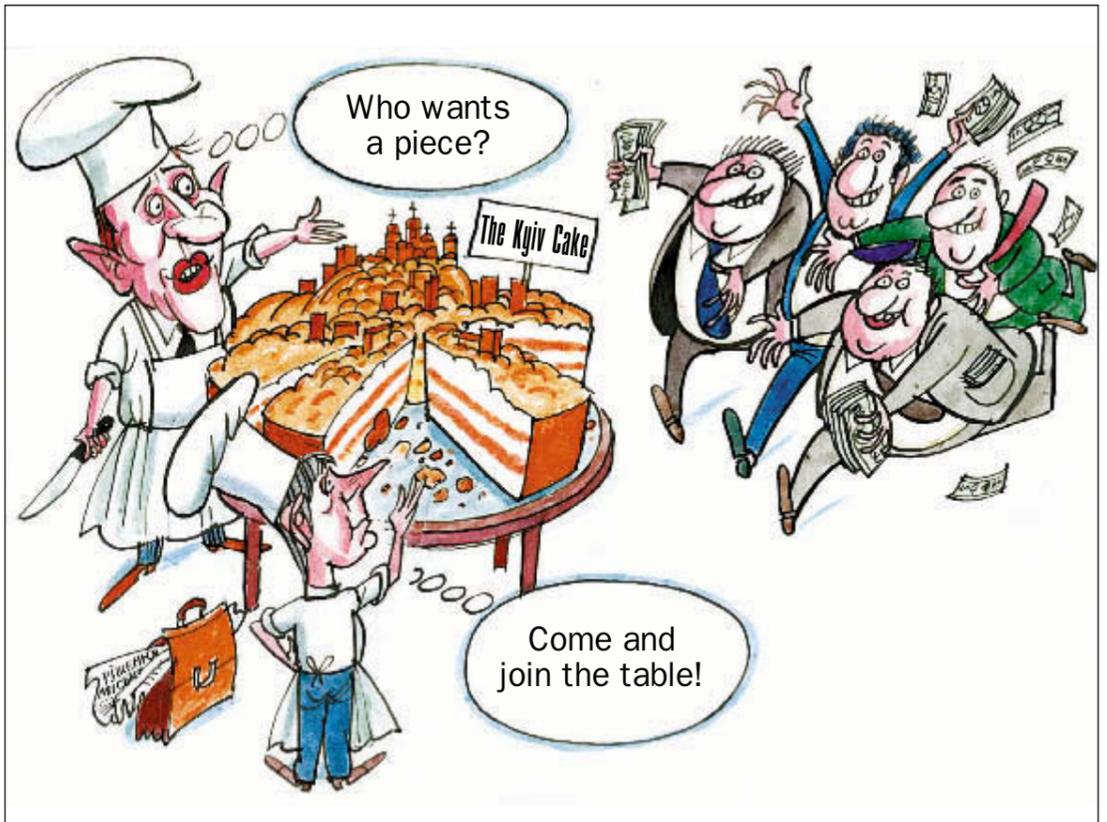
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Nation's top partner: European Union

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to the inaccuracy of the [Aug. 28] letter [NATO is not Ukraine's best option], which served as a rebuttal to the pro-NATO editorial [Aug. 14, NATO now!] In fact, the European Union is Ukraine's largest trading partner and largest investor as well. To depend on Russia for

anything, except for gas, of course, is ludicrous. This outdated view of Russia as the provider and protector has been a source of argument for Ukrainians for a long time. Besides, as a sovereign nation, Ukraine must take into account its interests first, not Russia's or America's.

I was surprised that the anti-NATO

sentiment came from an American. However, if the media did its job and checked the facts before publishing Soviet-era propaganda, people would be able to make a choice based on facts, not emotions, which were the basis of the [Aug.28] letter.

Andrey Drozd
Chicago

The real fight is over values, ideas

Dear Editor,

In response to Jeff Luebbe's [Aug. 28] letter [NATO is not Ukraine's best option], I concur that "non-military" intimidation is a serious threat. Should Ukraine choose to join NATO, [non-military intimidation] is most likely to occur. While Ukraine moves towards democratic standards, I also agree that it and the West should be wary of aggravating Russia. However, when West Berlin had barely emerged the last war and its citizens were struggling to survive, it was not threatened by invasion, but by starvation due to Kremlin pressure. The West responded with a giant airlift and Moscow adjusted its position. NATO

was formed entirely because of such brutal "diplomacy." Mr. Luebbe points out that Russia is Ukraine's most important trading partner. Yes, up till now, Russia has been successful in maintaining that dominant relationship. Small firms in Chicago in the 1920s had similar relations with Al Capone. It was not a basis for a civil society under the rule of law then, nor is it now. In the recent past, Poland and others faced a similar choice, but they have not suffered unduly from disobedience to Russia. Much is made of NATO's supposed helplessness. To side with "might over right" is an old and easy argument. OK, let's for a moment go with this logic. Russia is supreme and

NATO is pathetic. How does Ukraine's capitulation to the threat help? If NATO and European Union values are those to which Ukraine aspires, then I agree that is a hard choice for it to make and a long road to travel. It is not for anyone else to make and certainly not for Russia to intimidate, not even if it can win a trade or a hot war.

The real fight now is one of values and ideas. Incredible as it may seem, I maintain that the military-civil alliance that runs Russia is more frightened of such abstract things than you are of Russia, Mr. Luebbe.

Jonathan Bradbury
London England

Advice to Ukraine: Find new leaders

Dear Editor,

The article by Jeff Luebbe – NATO is not Ukraine's best option – is one of the few pragmatic articles I've read. When considering Russia, Ukraine, the EU and NATO, the only misfit among the parties in this group is the U.S. in NATO. The U.S. needs to keep the world afraid of war or else it will become irrelevant. As soon as the European Union, Ukraine and others figure out that Russia is not trying to recapture the Soviet empire and Japan, Korea and Taiwan figure out

that China does not intend to conquer them, the U.S. becomes simply a nation with more debt than all the world combined and no way to pay it back. With approval ratings of 20 percent and a bankrupt country, the Bush administration is not the best example to follow.

Ukraine is in the enviable position to become one of the BRICs (Brazil, Russia, India, and China). That is the future. They will replace the U.S. as leaders of world economy and power, just as the U.S. replaced "Old Europe."

Why is it necessary to chose sides? Ukraine can reap the benefits of the West and Russia. But first, Ukraine needs to clean up its own house and stop looking to the outside. The Ukrainian people are quite capable of competing on the world stage if they are given a fair opportunity, as demonstrated in the Olympics. A real Ukrainian national needs to rise up and fill the void of the present batch of politicians.

Randall Murphy
Tyler, Texas, USA

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A taxing way to run a business



Katya Gorchinskaya

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Some of the things I do in my business are very silly. For example, my bar does not accept credit cards. It seems obvious that it should. It seems illogical that it doesn't, and very Ukrainian. But business in Ukraine is often not what it seems.

Everybody has heard that business is over-regulated. Few people who aren't in it realize just how bad the situation is. If you are starting a business here, absurdly the first person you would have to hire would be a bookkeeper to sail you through the seas of bureaucracy and regulations. You simply wouldn't do that anywhere west of Ukraine.

It takes any bar or restaurant in town about two months of visits to various inspecting authorities to renew its annual licenses every time. Private entrepreneurs cannot even hire employees officially for a few hours of labor

without spending another two weeks doing the paperwork. The so-called single flat tax (10 percent of gross revenue) is not actually single or flat. We pay six different types of duties and taxes on top of the single one.

These are just a few isolated examples that illustrate why businesses need defense mechanisms to be able to survive in a hostile, over-regulated and over-taxed environment. The reason we do not accept credit cards, for example, is because we do not want to pay an extra bank charge on every transaction that goes through the cards.

But there could be other reasons. Other retailers and restaurant owners have told me that they do not want to accept credit cards because they want to have a tight grip on what percentage of their money goes through the bank. They want to keep a part of their earnings in cash just in case one of the various inspectors comes in. Others need the cash to pay rent because official rent agreements often have a figure that is several times lower than the actual one.

Defense mechanisms are usually bad business practices. But not all bad business practices are defense mechanisms. I often come across bad business prac-

tices because that's just the way business is done in this country. It's even more annoying when they are adopted by foreign companies who opt for Ukrainian malpractice over their own international standards.

One such practice is paying people on the basis of market, rather than merit. It is still very common that a Ukrainian passport is a reason for pay discrimination. This was true 10 years ago, and is still true today, even in international companies. It's difficult to imagine that somewhere in Canada or France an international company would underpay a local citizen. The absurdity of it brings a smile to my face every time.

One foreign developer has told me about another practice. He said several international real estate agents recommended not to outfit the business and trade center he is building right now and to leave it as a shell, because it would make no difference in rent charges. On top of that, they recommended to charge rent 1.5 times higher than what his business plan had predicted. He said this would drive his project profitability sky high, to a level unheard of in Europe these days.

The developer was quite shocked by the outfitting recommendations, and

decided that he would rent out a fully finished building anyway. I would do that, too. Just because the whole world has gone mad, it doesn't mean you have to lose your head. Just because everyone has abandoned the common standard, it doesn't mean you have to do the same – especially if you can afford it.

Another common Ukrainian practice eagerly adopted by foreigners seems to be disregard of rent agreements. It does not matter if the agreement says what the rent will cost for the next three or five years. You can be sure they will be back much sooner, demanding more money.

This has happened to my business several times. In theory, you can go to court and fight. But in practice, a small business has very limited resources. On top of that, the Ukrainian law favors the property owner and the fight might just be too hard for you to win.

If your business is the kind that highly depends on location, you have very little choice but to accept what is essentially blackmail. So, as a result, you are left in even tougher conditions to survive. And sometimes you end up using Ukrainian defense mechanisms.

Katya Gorchinskaya is an editor at the Kyiv Post.



Was it hard to prepare your kids for the new school year? How much did it cost?



Antonina Mostovaya
Architect

"Actually, I haven't prepared my kid yet. I, like every 'proper' parent, save school preparations for the last day. However, I think this year it'll cost no less than \$300, taking into consideration that my child will be in the 10th grade already."



Mykola Chagovskiy
Journalist

"I am here on a business trip from western Ukraine, which is still dealing with flood damage. That's why this year it has been more difficult to prepare my third grader for the new school year. However, I think I've managed to cover all expenses with Hr 1,000."



Vadym Mushinksiy

"My wife is taking care of all the preparations. I heard with half an ear last night they had bought a suit for Hr 350, some other supplies... Prices are pretty decent and I think \$300-\$400 will be enough to prepare our kid for his eighth year of school."



Yaroslav Sheiko
Eighth-grader

"No, it wasn't a problem for my parents to prepare me ready for eighth grade. Of course, compared to last year, prices went up. But it didn't cause any difficulties in my preparations for school."



Nataliya Kolomiets
Housewife

"Certainly, it is hard. It cost around Hr 2,000 to send my child to school [to the first grade], taking into consideration the fact I have a second child, who is ready to start his 10th year of school. Compared to last year, it took at least \$200 more to prepare my children for school."

Pro-Kuchma revisionism raises its ugly head



Taras Kuzio

Swedish economist Anders Aslund's praise of former President Leonid Kuchma [Moscow Times, Aug. 28, "Leonid Kuchma Built a Prosperous Ukraine"] came as a shock to most observers of Ukraine. Yet it is a logical outcome from his often contradictory views of Ukraine's post-communist development. It is perhaps the start of a new revisionism towards Kuchma's decade-long legacy.

Revisionism is both ideological and very pragmatic. In a profile of Victor Pinchuk, Kuchma's billionaire son-in-law, The New York Times on Aug. 8 reported: "To sustain his quixotic dream of securing Ukraine's entry into the European Union, he has financed programs in Washington at the Brookings Institution and the Peterson Institute [of International Economics]."

It has long been discussed in Washington's Ukraine-watching circles that Pinchuk made donations to two think tanks where Aslund [the Peterson Institute] and former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Carlos Pascual [the Brookings Institution] are resident fellows.

Aslund and Pascual regularly travel to the annual Yalta European Strategy (YES) summit in the Crimea. YES is a worthy non-governmental organization financed by Pinchuk that lobbies for Ukraine's EU membership.

Its two negative aspects are that YES has a well known Russophile as the editor of its newsletter – Alexander Rahr – who has staunchly supported the Russian position on Georgia. The YES NGO and Pinchuk do not support Ukraine's membership in NATO. On both of these questions, Aslund and Pascual's positions are diametrically at odds with those of YES's editor and Pinchuk.

Ideologically, it is more difficult to find a basis for Aslund's pro-Kuchma revisionism.

Aslund credits Kuchma with creating a market economy in Ukraine. This is a curious claim as Aslund, a well-known proponent of shock therapy economics for post-communist transitions, has severely criticized the evolutionary, drawn-out reforms adopted under Kuchma. Of the six prime ministers during Kuchma's decade in office, Aslund has only ever described one (Victor Yushchenko) as a reformer committed to constructing a market economy.

Aslund does admit that Kuchma's "darkest period was from 1997-1999" (he means 1996-1999), when Pavlo Lazarenko and Valery Pustovoitenko were prime ministers. This was a very long "dark period" as it covered four of the five years of Kuchma's first term in office. Both Lazarenko and Pustovoitenko were close associates of Kuchma from Dnipropetrovsk, and the latter had the full confidence of the president to launch the NDP (People's Democratic Party) that he led as Ukraine's first party of power.

To give credit to Kuchma for having stabilized Ukraine's hyperinflation is curious. After all, it was Prime Minister Kuchma's government which unleashed hyperinflation in 1993.

Giving Kuchma credit for introducing the national currency (hryvna) in 1996 is also a new revisionism. Until now, Yushchenko as National Bank of Ukraine chairman has been credited with this success story.

Pro-Kuchma revisionism surprisingly ignores the rise of Ukraine's oligarchs under Kuchma. And yet, Aslund has been a strong critic of the fact that Ukraine's hijacked transition led to the entrenchment of an oligarchic class greater in proportion than that in Russia (see his article in Aslund and Michael McFaul's edited book "Revolution in Orange," published by Carnegie in 2006). Today, we can witness the outcome of the growth of oligarchs in Rinat Akhmetov being Europe and Eurasia's wealthiest individual (with \$31.5 billion in estimated

wealth), despite Ukraine having little of the raw material wealth that Russia possesses.

Aslund largely glosses over the Kuchmagate crisis and the 2004 elections, two of the blackest stains on Kuchma's record, which supersede Lazarenko and Pustovoitenko. Law enforcement officials "were never able to identify those who ordered the killing" of muckraking journalist Georgiy Gongadze in 2000 because they never tried to investigate them under either Kuchma or Yushchenko.

"TO GIVE CREDIT TO KUCHMA FOR HAVING STABILIZED UKRAINE'S HYPERINFLATION IS CURIOUS."

Kuchma may not have ordered Gongadze's murder, but the Melnychenko tapes – if a true account of events – make clear that the ex-president wanted the journalist silenced. Had there been a real and independent investigation, Kuchma could have been criminally charged – as Yushchenko promised to do – or even impeached.

The most absurd revisionism rests on the argument that Kuchma "allowed democracy and all its freedoms to be secured." Kuchma's second term saw a drift towards autocracy and the entrenchment of the oligarchs, the introduction of illegal "temnyky" (instructions to the media on censorship), the illegal use of law enforcement pressure and violence against the opposition, and an attempt at securing the Donetsk clan (in the person of Victor Yanukovich) as Kuchma's successor.

Would Aslund's revisionism still claim Kuchma as the father of Ukraine's democracy if Yanukovich had been elected four years ago?

As president of Ukraine and guarantor of the constitution, Kuchma is ultimately responsible for Ukraine experiencing its worst election fraud

in 2004. The climate of violence, fraud, media lies and violent threats led directly to creating the conditions conducive to Yushchenko's poisoning. Election fraud in the runoff election is suspected to have been managed by the presidential administration headed by Viktor Medvedchuk working with Prime Minister Yanukovich's shadow campaign headed by Andriy Kluyev. Both the presidential administration and government constitutionally became presidential responsibilities under Kuchma. Since Kuchma was a good micromanager, as Aslund confirms, he arguably knew and gave his authorization for the election fraud to take place.

That no special forces descended on protestors on the night of Nov. 28, 2004, and there was no bloodshed in the Orange Revolution is due to three factors: Kuchma's desire to save his skin, the refusal of Security Service officials, police and the army to intervene, and Western diplomacy. Aslund's revisionism is at odds with his support at the time of the Orange Revolution and his criticism of fraud committed while Kuchma was president.

Aslund seems to believe that the end justifies the means. Because Kuchma's second term was allegedly the "most productive in terms of both legislation and economic growth," he can supposedly escape condemnation and responsibility for the Gongadze murder and mass election fraud in 2004.

It was not Kuchma who "created a functioning democracy," as Aslund's revisionism claims. The triumph of democracy in Ukraine in late 2004 was ensured by the one in five Ukrainians who participated in the Orange Revolution, a brave and poisoned presidential candidate (Yushchenko) and his orange ally Yulia Tymoshenko.

Dr. Taras Kuzio is editor of the Ukrainian Analyst and adjunct professor in the Institute of European, Russian and Eurasian Studies at Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada, where he lectures on post-communist transitions and democratic revolution. He can be reached at tkuzio@rogers.com.

Ukraine can avoid Georgia's missteps



Roman Kupchinsky

As the August drums of war beat in the Caucasus and the western alliance watched haplessly as columns of Russian tanks lumbered into a tiny mountainous country, politicians in Kyiv were busy devising a haphazard response to this act of Russian aggression.

The Russian-Georgian war became the perfect opportunity for Ukraine's embattled president, Viktor Yushchenko, to kill two birds with one stone. The first was to draw attention to what he believed was the West's historical error during the NATO summit in Bucharest by not granting Ukraine and Georgia the Membership Action Plan they needed for a future place in NATO. The second was to continue his full-court press on discrediting the government of Yulia Tymoshenko. Which goal took priority is difficult to say with any certainty.

The Ukrainian leadership knew full well that its options were severely limited. To dispatch Ukrainian armed forces to fight alongside its unofficial Georgian allies was immediately ruled out of the question. A hasty statement threatening to prevent warships from the Russian Black Sea Fleet to return to their base in Sevastopol until the conflict was settled was seen as a bad joke by the Russian military command. It was so bad that two weeks later the Ukrainian side was forced to admit that it "had no conflict with Russia" and rescinded its "threat."

Ukrainian support for Georgia was symbolized by Yushchenko grandstanding in Tbilisi, alongside Georgia's President Mikheil Saakashvili, while his administration issued statements that Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, by keeping silent on the Georgian

issue, was nothing less than a traitor. Tymoshenko, according to the dubious Yushchenko scenario, was selling herself to Moscow allegedly to win the Kremlin's support in her future bid for president.

Yushchenko's main show of support for Georgia, once boiled down to its essence, was to declare war on Yulia Tymoshenko.

Only poorly informed optimists expected Western armed forces to come to Georgia's aid in its war with Russia. And while most Western governments properly condemned Russian behavior, nobody in his or her right mind could understand why Saakashvili chose to knowingly subject his country to such punishment by sending Georgian tanks into South Ossetia. The Russian response was evident and most likely premeditated. A wiser leader would have taken measures to prevent such a tragedy.

Instead of moderation, the Georgians opted for confrontation and lost. Their Ukrainian "allies" proved to be fair weather friends – big on words but incapable of deeds.

And while the Georgians might have been provoked by Moscow to go to war, this does not absolve them of irrational behavior. National suicide is not the best method of defending a country's independence.

Many observers were quick to point out that had Georgia been a member of NATO, the alliance would have been obligated to come to the country's defense and, by doing so, precipitating a war with Russia. Others, however, believe that membership in NATO would have prevented a Russian invasion. This debate will, no doubt, continue for years to come. Ukrainian political analysts should follow this debate carefully.

Will Ukraine become the next victim of Russian aggression?

The prevalent speculation in Ukraine and in the West is that "liberating" the Crimean Peninsula's Russian popula-



The Russian Moskva guided missile cruiser, Slava class (NATO reporting name: Krasina), seen during a naval parade to mark the 225th anniversary of Russia's Black Sea fleet at the Crimean Peninsula port of Sevastopol on May 11. (AP)

tion will be the next pretext for Russia to expand its grip on the post-Soviet space and gobble up Ukraine.

It is a scenario which needs to be carefully examined since it is feasible, but not probable, in the short run. The factors that should be considered are:

- Ukraine will not become a member of NATO in the foreseeable future and therefore cannot count on Western military support.
- Ukraine is not Georgia and any provocation aimed against Ukraine will be seen as a direct threat to the West. By the same token, the West will be hard-pressed to prevent any Russian move aimed at limiting Ukraine's independence. Western security guarantees for Ukrainian territorial integrity are not likely to be concluded and will remain merely soothing phrases.
- Ukraine might be forced to cut off Russian gas supplies to Europe as a weapon of last resort to force the Europeans to come to their assistance. This, in turn, would most likely evoke a harsh Russian response and could lead to an all-out war.

The Ukrainian military is not prepared or equipped to win a war against Russia.

If Russia were to "play the Crimean card," it would require an occupation of the peninsula to be successful. The prospects of this succeeding are slim at best, given that Crimea depends on Ukraine almost totally for its fresh water supplies. By turning off the spigots, the Crimeans could be brought to their knees within days.

Ukrainian leaders must remain pragmatic and concentrate their efforts on consolidating the economic and diplomatic gains they have made over the past 17 years. Kyiv's pro-Georgian and anti-Russian flag waving is not likely to produce any meaningful results. Offers to lease radar stations to NATO members on Ukrainian territory is no guarantee that, in case of war, NATO will rush in to defend the owners of the lease.

The era of romantic Ukrainian nationalism should be remembered and revered, but past heroism cannot be the basis for a modern foreign policy. The days of the Ukrainian Partisan Army

(UPA) are over. The tragedy of the Great Famine should be solemnly commemorated and not used to provoke endless fights with Russia.

Ukraine should abandon its futile tactic of trying to equate the famine – holodomor, or murder by famine – with the Jewish holocaust by outlawing "holod deniers," getting the United Nations to pass resolutions declaring the famine "genocide," and other such impractical initiatives. They will not generate public sympathy for Ukraine, which will somehow translate into support for Ukrainian policy goals or speed up Ukraine's Atlantic integration.

Last but not least, the president of Ukraine should abandon his closest policy advisers and come to grips with reality. If the prime minister is indeed a "traitor," she should be fired on the spot. If a "kitchen cabinet" is whispering in Yushchenko's ear to make virulent nationalism state policy, then this lobby should be dispersed.

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Divided nation is its own worst enemy in countering Russia



David Marples

Russia's recognition of South Ossetia and Abkhazia as independent nations may signal the demise of Georgia. It also raises serious questions about future relations with Ukraine.

That threat cannot be dismissed as fanciful or far-fetched as in the past. Russia's foreign policy in what it calls its "near abroad" has changed dramatically in the past month. Borders are no longer sacrosanct, and Russia has not hesitated to use its monopoly of gas supplies to Ukraine as a political weapon in the past. Ukraine is not blind to the new situation, but it is, in many respects, unprepared for the different forms of potential conflict.

The critical area is Crimea and, in particular, the port of Sevastopol. When Ukrainian president Viktor Yushchenko refused to extend the lease on the port to the Russian Black Sea fleet beyond 2017, he ignited a new conflict with the northern neighbor. Yushchenko has also demanded that the annual rent Russia pays for its two bases, \$98 million, be increased significantly.

Last month in Sevastopol, there was a substantial protest of ethnic Russian members of the Russian Bloc, the most powerful political party on the peninsula. Led by Vladimir Tyunin, they were demanding that Crimea become part of the Russian Federation.

That demand is hardly new. In the early 1990s, former Crimean president Yuri Meshkov ignited a similar movement and promised a referendum on the issue. The Ukrainian government acted firmly to quell the separatists and abolished the post of Crimean president.

Rumors abound that Russia is issuing passports to the majority group of ethnic Russians, just as it did to South Ossetians and Abkhazians in Georgia. Prominent Russian statespersons, including Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov, frequently visit Sevastopol and demand that it be returned to Russia.

Added to the mix are the Crimean Tatars, deported by Josef Stalin in 1944-45, but permitted to return under Gorbachev and now comprising about one-sixth of the population. The relationship between the Tatars and the government in Kyiv is amicable, but relations with Russians who own most of the former Tatar lands and property are volatile.

In 2004, when the Orange Revolution took place, eventually bringing Yushchenko into office, two regions

of Ukraine – Donetsk and Luhansk – threatened to leave Ukraine with support from Russia. The two regions, centers of the coal, steel and chemicals industries, provided overwhelming support to the candidacy of former prime minister Viktor Yanukovich. They have large populations of ethnic Russians comprising majorities in the major cities.

Since the population as a whole is Russian speaking, there is no ethnic tension. But the Regions Party, which dominates eastern Ukraine, has a radically different perception of the country than the Orange parties currently in office. It is backed by Ukraine's richest and most powerful oligarch, Rinat Akhmetov, and supports warm relations with Russia and close ties with the European Union, while strongly opposing Ukraine's request to join NATO and Yushchenko's support for Georgia.

After Russia's brutal defeat of Georgian forces, both Yushchenko and Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko visited the Donbas (to Donetsk and Luhansk respectively). They were not co-ordinated visits, but the timing seemed notable. Both leaders wished to ensure that they have a voice in a formerly hostile voting area.

Today, the key issue is the territorial integrity of Ukraine. Prime Minister Vladimir Putin and President Dmitry

Medvedev have indicated that they are prepared to revise formerly recognized borders. The Russian government is willing to support and sow disaffection in eastern Ukraine and Crimea, as well as in the Prydnistrova region of Moldova.

"YUSHCHENKO CANNOT LEAD UKRAINE WITHOUT PUBLIC SUPPORT AS THE COUNTRY ENTERS ITS 18TH AND MOST CRITICAL YEAR OF INDEPENDENCE."

However, Ukraine tends to be its own worst enemy. Though its government has requested NATO membership, most residents oppose it. The Regions Party insists that no membership can take place without a referendum, the result of which hitherto has been a foregone conclusion.

Despite two recent elections, the Ukrainian parliament is so badly divided that it could not even pass the 2008 budget before the summer recess. Yushchenko has undermined every reform initiative of Tymoshenko.

In turn, the ruling Orange coalition's majority is down to two seats.

Perhaps most revealing of Ukraine's predicament is the low standing in the polls of the president and his party. A poll conducted between Aug. 8 and 24 found that, had a parliamentary election been held at that time, 23.4 percent of respondents would have backed the Tymoshenko Bloc and 20.3 percent the Regions Party. Yushchenko's Our Ukraine and People's Self-Defense Coalition and the Communists had 4.6 percent.

In terms of the popularity of the potential presidential candidates for the 2010 election, Tymoshenko leads with 24 per cent, followed by Yanukovich with 20. Yushchenko's 7 percent makes him the least popular leader in Europe at a time when Ukraine's economy is as strong as it has ever been.

Ukraine's politicians need to focus on priorities. A coalition government to ensure internal unity seems to be a logical first step. Yushchenko cannot lead Ukraine without public support as the country enters its 18th and most critical year of independence.

David Marples, who can be reached at drmarples@gmail.com, is a professor of Russian and East European history at the University of Alberta in Canada. This article is republished with the permission of the Edmonton Journal, Canada.

Fire ravages Kharkiv market – again



Vendors salvaged their wares after a fire at one of Ukraine's largest markets – Barabashovo in Kharkiv on Aug. 27. The fire began around 3:30 a.m. By the time firefighters arrived at the scene, about 2,000 square meters of market were ablaze. The fire was controlled by 7:38 a.m., but not before it destroyed about 90 shops. Officials from AVEC Concern, the company that controls Barabashovo market, claim the fire was an act of premeditated terrorism. Kharkiv police have begun a criminal investigation. This is the second time the market has burned this year. The first took place on April 16. Over 60,000 people work at Barabashovo, which has about 200,000 customers daily. (UNIAN)

Kyiv to sell shares in major utilities



The Kyiv City Council Secretary Oles Dovhyi speaks at the Aug. 28 session at which the sale of shares in four city-owned enterprises – Kyivvodokanal, Kyivgas, Kyivspectrans and Khib Kyeve – was approved. (Ukrinform)

ON THE MOVE



Laura Garbenciute was promoted to director for PricewaterhouseCoopers Ukraine's assurance and advisory services practice. She has more than 10 years of experience in providing audit, advisory and accounting-related services to both private and public multinational companies. For the last two years, she has been permanently based in Kyiv managing assurance. Prior to joining the PwC Kyiv office, Garbenciute spent six years in San Jose, California, USA, managing assurance engagements in the technology industry. She is a member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants and holds a master of business administration from Vilnius Gediminas Technical University in Lithuania.



Oleg Shudra was promoted to director in PricewaterhouseCoopers Ukraine's assurance practice. He has more than 10 years of experience in providing assurance and advisory services to both Ukrainian and multinational clients. For the last three years, Shudra has been focusing on servicing clients in the metallurgy sector in Ukraine. He is a fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants and holds a master's in production management from the Kyiv National University of Economics. Shudra is also a Ukrainian certified auditor.



Dmytro Korbut was appointed consultant at the SAYENKO KHARENKO law firm. Korbut has more than 10 years of experience in law. Prior to joining SAYENKO KHARENKO, Korbut ran the Kyiv office of a large Cyprus-based law firm, served as the head of the legal department at a major Ukrainian development company, and worked for international and local law firms, including B.C. Toms & Co. and Magisters. Korbut advises on mergers and acquisitions transactions, corporate restructuring, real estate and tax issues. Korbut graduated from the law school at Kyiv National University of Economics. He also received a master's in law from the University of Nottingham in the United Kingdom.



Sergiy Krishchuk was appointed managing director of leasing at IMMORENT Ukraine, which specializes in providing a wide range of leasing and commercial real estate services. Together with Mikhail Merkulov, managing director of project development and acquisitions, Krishchuk will handle and develop the group's leasing services business in Ukraine. Krishchuk will focus on the development of real estate and equipment leasing. Prior to joining the company, he worked as a senior manager at Deloitte. He also has three years of experience in banking. He holds degrees from Kyiv National Economic University and Indiana University, USA.

Send On the Move news to pastukhova@kpmmedia.ua, or contact Alina Pastukhova at 496-4563. Send business photos and press releases to: kp-news@kpmmedia.ua, or contact the newsroom at 496-4563.

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Few nations make more honey

By IRYNA PRYMACHYK

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The last several years haven't been very sweet for Ukraine's vast honey business.

Beekeeping is a hobby for many, including President Victor Yushchenko, who has generated publicity for the craft since becoming president in 2005. But honey production is a serious business for those who run commercial bee farms.

Combined, the output has put Ukraine in the top five worldwide in honey production, along with China, the U.S. and Argentina.

Ukraine has been producing over 70,000 tons of honey in recent years, rebounding from 50,000 ton per year levels that followed the collapse of the Soviet Union. With prices for some types of honey starting at \$1,500 per ton, one can value Ukraine's honey business at more than \$100 million per year.

The country is a sizeable world supplier competing with China, where busy bees churn out more than 200,000 tons annually, or 40 percent of the world market.

But even as the hobby is once again gaining the popularity it had in Soviet days, beekeepers are complaining about production oozing downwards because of pollution and other environmental factors.

In mid-August, hundreds of Ukrainian, Russian and Belarusian beekeeper enthusiasts swarmed to Kyiv for a honey exhibition, more than the event drew five years ago.

Beekeepers – including the 100,000 amateurs who run three million honeybee hives in Ukraine – talked about challenges facing the business. Some report the number of hives is on the decline because bees are sensitive to environmental pollution.

In Rivne Oblast alone, the number of honeybee families dropped from 15,000 in the 1970s to the current 9,000. "Several years ago we had 50 kilos of honey from each hive per year, now we get only 10. When the environment is healthy, a bee can produce one teaspoon of honey a day," said Father Apollos, a priest from Zaporizhzhya oblast.



Father Mykola of St. Assumption monastery (Iryna Prymachyk)

Beekeepers in the country hope Yushchenko, who has three apiaries of his own scattered around the country, will rise as a fellow enthusiast to help improve things.

"Yushchenko has more influence than anyone to save beekeeping in Ukraine," said Olesya Osypenko, the sister of a beekeeping enthusiast worried about how pollution is affecting productivity levels.

"His interest in beekeeping offers hope honey production will significantly increase in Ukraine. When he became president, many of my friends came to my brother and me asking for beekeeping instruction, saying they want to try what the president enjoys doing. They are, of course, amateurs in beekeeping, but the fact that Yushchenko is still keeping bees after becoming president is an inspiration," she added.

Besides their worries over what's happening to production, people this

deep in honey also have advice to customers about what honey to buy to achieve a desired effect.

"[YUSHCHENKO'S] INTEREST
IN BEEKEEPING OFFERS
HOPE FOR THE PROSPECT OF
SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASING
HONEY PRODUCTION IN
UKRAINE."

– Olesya Osypenko

"The majority of men buy buckwheat honey because they believe it increases sexual potency. Women prefer acacia honey, which is used for beauty treatment," Osypenko added. As it turns out, beekeeping is a

popular vocation among priests in Ukraine.

Father Mykola of St. Assumption monastery in Zaporizhzhya oblast keeps 20 hives. He claims that his honey is special.

"Monastery honey differs from the ordinary. We have special beekeeping prayers to pray for healthy bee families and strong honey harvests," he said.

Some of the visitors buying his honey, offered at Kyiv's honey exhibition held in August, agree.

"The main thing for us is to buy consecrated honey. I have bought four liters for my family to add to tea and stewed fruit instead of sugar," said Maryna Birkovych, a Kyiv customer.

The honey sold at the exhibition begins at Hr 20 per liter – a reasonable price compared to local shops, where the cheapest herb honey costs Hr 25 per liter and the most expensive – buckwheat honey – is Hr 35.

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SEPTEMBER 25 ISSUE
Poland in Ukraine

Starting with this issue, the Kyiv Post is renaming its weekly Top List feature. It will now be call Business Focus, but will continue to be the newspaper's weekly spotlight on various countries, companies, industries and services doing business in Ukraine.

Economic growth boosts training firms

By NATALIYA BUGAYOVA
bugayova@kpmedia.ua

As Ukrainian markets become more competitive and human resources more expensive, companies are increasingly forced to work on their performance. This need has been a boon for one particular industry: businesses that train employees. Their number has grown fivefold in the last three years.

The number of such companies stood at less than 100 three years ago, and now the estimate is more than 500. Training companies that come in to equip your workforce for 21st century demands are starting to get very specialized.

An employer can order from a menu of custom training options. Need to know the international trade rules required by Ukraine's entry into the

World Trade Organization? Looking for clever accounting tips for your particular industry? Or, maybe, you need to improve personal time management? Would it be useful to acquire leadership tactics for women? Or, perhaps, you need advice on how to legally get around the agricultural land sale ban?

These are just some of the questions that business trainers can answer in specialized courses.

For those interested in learning more about the Ukrainian training market and seminars on offer, there is a portal designated for just such information: www.training.com.ua.

Prices vary hugely. You can pay 1,000 euros for a four-day course on how to be a business woman, or Hr 50 for a short one-day course for teenagers on how to use your speech effectively. Parents can come for free.

Despite all the change and advancements, however, nothing has yet replaced the old-fashioned, meet-and-greet at conventions, where people can collect new business cards and new business strategies. Many such events occur each year for human resource professionals and others, and every chamber of commerce in Ukraine has scores of its own events.

One of the next big ones will take place on Sept. 11 in Kyiv. It is called "HR-Budget" and is organized by HR FORUM, formerly Petrenko & Partners. It kicks off a new business season and is expected to be well-attended by human-resource managers and consulting groups.

The event will be held at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 33 Velyka Zhytomyrska street. It is free of charge. Organizer HR FORUM expects 2,000

human resource managers to show up for the 21 presentations, four demonstration trainings and 5 master classes. All participants need to preregister at <http://www.hrexpo.com.ua/info/registration.html> to gain admittance.

With the business season starting, the business training schedule is getting quite full. Among the more unusual seminars that are open to the public and are coming up in early September are: the Personal Growth group, scheduled for Sept. 5-7 and designed for people who seek personal and professional development; PR in B2B (business to business) – working with opinion leaders and PR experts, scheduled for Sept 6; negotiation superstar – how to achieve rather than persuade, scheduled for Sept 8-9; and breakthrough strategies on Sept. 9-10.

However, industry participants warn

that you have to choose your coach or training company carefully. "There is a huge supply, but you don't always get a quality product. The market is full of charlatans," said Yevhen Hlibovytsky, founder of Promova, communications consultancy.

He said in his particular sector plenty of companies offer media relations trainings, but most of them have no effective new technologies for media communications, and some of the companies use non-adapted Western courses for a very special Ukrainian market.

The best way to check the effectiveness of a particular seminar is to ask the people who have done it what changed in their lives after the course.

"If people enjoy their work more after the trainings, then it was a success," said Ludmila, a discussion forum member on www.training.com.ua.

Business school entry flat as degree demand falls

By YULIA GOLUB
golub@kpmedia.ua

The influx of Western business, including multinational companies, to Ukraine was expected to stimulate demand for high quality business education. Yet after an initial spike, education in Ukraine overall is said to be weak, and enrollment in MBA programs stalled in 2007. They are likely to remain flat in 2008, experts said.

Rising incomes and the country's expanding economy has raised mil-

lions of Ukrainians out of poverty, but few are achieving their full potential because of a lack of education.

According to Industrial Power, a recruiting agency, many Ukrainians do not believe they need higher education or an MBA to succeed in business.

There are several reasons for this trend. First of all, finding a high-quality MBA program, particularly programs tailored to specific business spheres, remains difficult in Ukraine.

"There are a lot of MBA programs out there, but not all of them are very

good," said Reno Domenico, president and executive director of the Ukraine-based Sterling Business School that specializes in MBAs as well as short business courses.

Businesses are searching for job candidates with tangible skills that will help improve their profit margin, but most Ukrainian business schools do not have programs that deliver those skills, he added.

Ukrainian business schools continue to operate with obsolete Soviet-era teaching methods. Therefore, much of

the expertise in the traditional university setting in Ukraine is "outdated." And many schools have not made an effort to upgrade their personnel or provide extensive professional development, Domenico added.

Few successful Ukrainian business schools offer Western market-oriented programs. But they usually establish partnerships with European or American universities.

"Our partnership with Rowan University in New Jersey gives us direct see **ENROLLMENT** page 10



Reno Domenico

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Business school accreditation and costs keep students away

ENROLLMENT, cont'd from page 9

access to instructors and content at the same level as available in the [United] States," said Domenico.

Kyiv Mohyla Business School, considered an elite Ukrainian business school, has close ties with the Northern University Center for Technology Innovation Management. Meanwhile, the Institute of International Business Relations, another Ukrainian business school, is partners with Steinbeis University in Berlin.

Experts in the field say that there are many unaccredited schools in Ukraine which offer MBAs that are not internationally recognized.

"Some schools in Ukraine using American or Western European sounding names have no connection to the United States other than a post office box address," explained Domenico.

Today, none of Ukraine's business schools are accredited by the world's most prestigious accreditation organizations, the European Foundation for Management Development or the U.S.-based Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.

"There are only two international-recognized organizations accred-

iting schools in Ukraine: the Central and Eastern European Management Development Association (CEEMAN) and the Associations of MBAs," said Svitlana Chenyshova, Kyiv Mohyla Business School's Diploma and Corporate Programs Director.

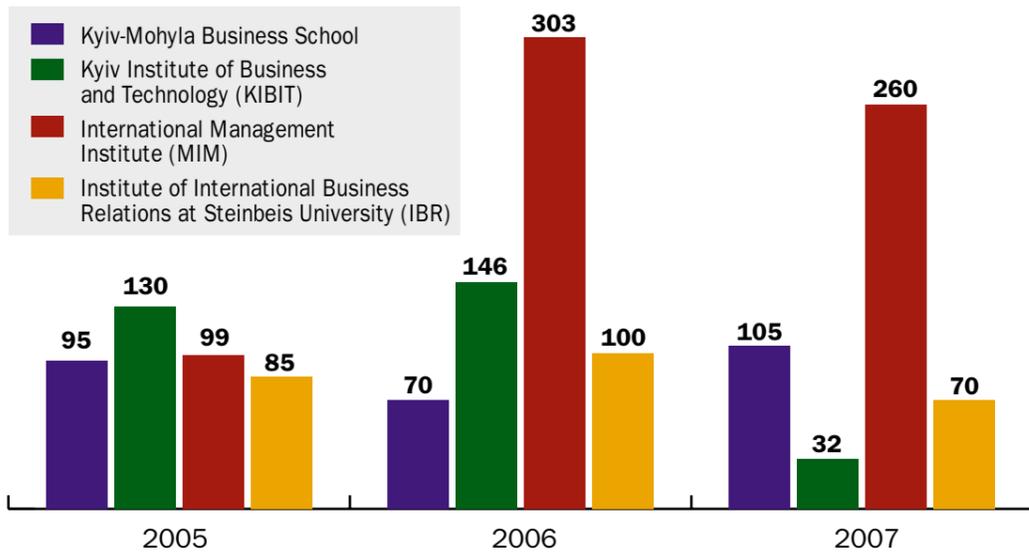
"We received our accreditation from CEEMAN," she added.

Ukrainians also shy away from MBA programs because of the expense. The cost of studying in an internationally recognized MBA program in Ukraine is between \$20,000 and \$30,000. Without tuition subsidies from their employers, MBAs are simply out of reach for most Ukrainians.

At the same time, Ukrainians are noticing that fewer companies take education into consideration when hiring staff, but experience remains a must. A person with international work experience stands a good chance at finding a high paying job without post graduate business education.

"A smart employer does not consider a diploma from some prestigious universities while hiring a person. But personal motivation and work ethic are the things that matter," said Vasyl Vyshnyakov, Business Development

Business School Enrollment (2005 - 2007)



Source: Kyiv Post archive

Manager at Industrial Power Recruiting agency.

Still, business school executives expect positive growth dynamics for

those schools that get the basic ingredients right.

"I think the time has passed for institutions that peddle worn out tradition-

al business education or are actually fraudulently representing their accreditation," said Domenico, "Ukrainians are becoming very discerning."

Companies turn to business trainers to improve bottom line

By YULIA GOLUB

golub@kpmmedia.ua

Areta Beliakova is the director of DOOR Ukraine, a member of the internationally-renowned DOOR Training & Consulting group. The company provides staff training on sales, management and com-



Areta Beliakova

munications. Beliakova has more than 10 years of training experience. She started her career with the U.S. Peace Corps in Ukraine as a training director in 1997, moving on as training manager at Coca-Cola Ukraine in 2003. In 2005, she joined Pulse, a full-cycle advertising agency, heading the training department, which merged with the DOOR network in 2007.

In her interview with the Kyiv Post, Beliakova said her main challenge often lies in convincing companies that business training can help improve their bottom-line.

KP: What are the major trends in Ukraine's business training market today?

AB: It has been growing rapidly. The number of companies operating on the market doubled in two years and the range of instruction has diversified.

KP: Has the business training market expanded out from Kyiv to the regions?

AB: Yes, compared to five years ago, we see many companies have opened representative offices in cities other than Kyiv. Today, every big city in Ukraine has its own business training company.

KP: How does business training ben-

efit local companies? Do you have an example?

AB: We had a client from a national retail chain. Their top management came to us with a problem. Sales were down. They believed the reason was poor customer service skills by shop assistants and wanted us to train them. First, we went to the client's outlets and analyzed the problem areas using the undercover "mystery shopper" technique (a market research tool which shows the true level of service quality). We also had a close look at the shops' management structure.

We discovered that focusing the training on the shop assistants, as the client initially wanted, wouldn't be the most effective solution in the long run. Instead we suggested training the line managers of the shop assistants. The line managers supervised the work of the shop assistants, and would ensure that the proper customer service standard was met on a day-to-day basis. The client agreed with our assessment. We tailored the training program to his particular needs, delivered the training and the sales shot up again.

KP: What is the most difficult part of your work?

AB: I would say convincing companies that business training is effective

– that it helps solve their problems and improves their bottom line.

KP: How well is the training market regulated in Ukraine?

AB: In Ukraine, the business training market is chaotic. The government does not [regulate it appropriately] or get involved. To operate in other countries, even Russia, training companies need to be certified by the government.

KP: So basically, Ukraine does not have training standards.

AB: Right. Each company that enters the market works out its own methodology and standards. Often, people who open up new companies come from established market players. So, basically, they use internationally-recognized standards adapted to Ukraine's environment.

KP: Do clients stick with one training company or do they shop around?

AB: There is a period of time in each company when they experiment with different training firms. But I have noticed that big companies prefer to have one or two training providers. Global companies want to have one worldwide training provider. Our company can offer that, as we have offices in 60 countries. It benefits the client in many ways. They get the same philosophy and training services worldwide.

Most popular training programs

- 1 Time-management
- 2 Presentation skills
- 3 Communication skills
- 4 Sales
- 5 Customer service
- 6 Negotiation skills
- 7 Employee motivation
- 8 Marketing
- 9 Merchandising
- 10 Leadership

Source: DOOR Ukraine

KP: What is your forecast for the near future?

AB: A forecast always depends on a country's economic situation. When the situation is unstable, the first thing companies cut out of their budgets are training expenses. With our unstable economy, I would say that more and more companies will start their own internal training programs and market growth will slow. Over the next couple of years, few new companies will enter the market, while established companies will strengthen their market positions.

BUSINESS SCHOOLS

Companies listed by year of establishment

PHONE FAX	TOP EXECUTIVE	YEAR ESTABLISHED IN UKRAINE	OWNERSHIP: UKRAINIAN / FOREIGN (%)	TEACHING STAFF	STUDENTS IN 2007-2008	# OF STUDENTS IN GROUP	SPECIALIZATION	LENGTH	COST PER YEAR	PARTNERS	LANGUAGES
International Management Institute MIM , 03055 Kyiv, 10/12-V Shulyavska, info@mim.kiev.ua, www.mim.kiev.ua											
(044)585-0260 (044)585-0268	Iryna Tikhomirova	1989	WND	31	260	WND	MBA, senior executive MBA	1.5 year	WND	International Institute for Management Development (IMD-Lausanne), Harvard Business School Institute for Strategy and Competitiveness (USA)	Ukrainian, Russian, English
Business School of Lviv Institute of Management , 79015 Lviv, 16 Liska, mba@lim.lviv.ua, www.mba.lviv.ua											
(032)241-9146 (032)241-9150	Olha Babichuk	1990	100 / 0	30	80	16	MBA	2 years	\$8,255	EBA, IFC (International Finance Corporation), British Council Ukraine, ELEKS Software	Ukrainian

Business Focus is Kyiv Post's weekly spotlight on various countries, companies, industries and services doing business in Ukraine.

The newspaper gathers data from individual companies, public information and the Kyiv Business Directory, among other sources. The list is not meant to be all-inclusive.

For more information about including your company in our list, please contact golub@kpmmedia.ua

Key to abbreviations: WND – would not disclose.

BUSINESS SCHOOLS

Companies listed by year of establishment

PHONE FAX	TOP EXECUTIVE	YEAR ESTABLISHED IN UKRAINE	OWNERSHIP, UKRAINIAN / FOREIGN (%)	TEACHING STAFF	STUDENTS IN 2007-2008	# OF STUDENTS IN GROUP	SPECIALIZATION	LENGTH	COST PER YEAR	PARTNERS	LANGUAGES
National Academy of Management , 03151 Kyiv, 10 Vinnytska, WND, www.nam.kiev.ua											
(044)280-8056 (044)246-2446	Serhiy Yerokhin	1992	100 / 0	15	20	10-12	General MBA	1 year	\$12,000	University of Central Lancashire (UK)	English
International Institute of Business (IIB) , 03113 Kyiv, 51 Dehtiarivska, info@iib.com.ua, www.iib.com.ua											
(044)456-3700 (044)590-0848	Alexander Mertens	1993	WND	20	269	35	Executive, international MBA	2 years	Up to \$24,820	WND	Ukrainian, Russian, English
Regional Center , 04119 Kyiv, 8 Yakira, rckiev@rckiev.com.ua, www.rckiev.com.ua											
(044)238-6345 (044)230-8445	Elena Sorokina	1995	100 / 0	9	420	20	MBA program of Open University of Great Britain	Up to 3.5 years	Up to \$20,440	The Open University of Great Britain	Russian English
Institute of International Business Relations at Steinbeis University (IBR) , 01054 Kyiv, 18 Pavlovska, office #2, info-ua@ibr-network.com, www.ukraine.ibr-network.com											
(044)390-7435 (044)390-7436	Andreas Kelling	1996	0 / 100	24	70	WND	MBA	2 years	WND	Steinbeis University, Berlin	English
Kyiv School of Economics , 03113 Kyiv, 51 Dehtiarivska, kse@eerc.kiev.ua, www.kse.org.ua											
(044)492-8012 (044)492-8011	Tom Coupe	1996	WND	27	100	WND	MBA in economics	1.5 year	WND	Victor Pinchuk fund, EERC, World Bank, Dragon Capital, ING Bank	English
Wisconsin International University (USA) Ukraine , 01030 Kyiv, 9 Pyrohova, wiuu@wiuu.kiev.ua, www.wiuu.edu.ua											
(044)236-1916 (044)486-0666	O. Romanoskiy	1997	WND	45	300	35	International Business Administration	1.5-4 years	From \$3,715 to \$4,750	Wisconsin International University (USA), Schiller International University, London City College (UK)	English, Ukrainian
Kyiv Mohyla Business School , 01001 Kyiv, 8/5 Voloska, building #4, 4th floor, team@kmbms.com.ua, WND											
(044)490-6635	Pavlo Sheremeta	1999	100 / 0	43	105	25	MBA, executive MBA	1.5 year	Up to \$37,225	BMDA (Baltic Management Development Association), Northwestern University Center for Technology Innovation Management	Ukrainian, English
Kyiv National University of Trade and Economics , 02156 Kyiv, 8 Milyutenko, mba@knteu.kiev.ua, www.knteu.kiev.ua											
(044)531-4898 (044)519-0570	Kateryna Shklyaruk	2000	100 / 0	170	542	15	MBA, retraining, qualification improvement, seminars	2 years	\$3,055	McGill University (Montreal, Canada), European School of Management (Berlin, Germany), University of Louisiana (USA)	Ukrainian, Russian, German
Kyiv Institute of Business and Technology KIBIT , 01004 Kyiv, 4 Shevchenko Blvd., office #513, 514, info@kibit.com.ua, www.kibit.com.ua											
(044)279-7864 (044)279-7580	Olena Romanenko	2004	100 / 0	26	32	WND	General MBA, special MBA	1.5 years	From \$5,160 to \$6,810	CEEMAN (Central and East European Management Development Association)	Ukrainian, Russian
Sterling Business School , 04053 Kyiv, 37-41 Artema, larysa@sbs-ua.com, www.sbs-ua.com											
(044)362-0253	Reno Domenico	2007	0 / 100	12	103	20	SIX SIGMA and Lean Management, hotel management and hospitality, MBA, professional team leadership	WND	From \$350 a day	Rowan University (USA), Kyiv Post, Donetsk Chamber of Commerce and Industry	English
Graduate School of Business and Management (GSBM) , 01004 Kyiv, 4/6 Horkoho, 1st floor, info@gsbm.com.ua, www.gsbm.com.ua											
(044)221-7101 (044)221-7121	Yuriy Mykhaylenko	2008	60 / 40	70	120	17	Entrepreneurship, Investment projects management	from 6 to 21 months	\$4,335 - \$12,380	N / A	Russian, English, Ukrainian

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TRAINING CENTERS

Companies listed by year of establishment

PHONE FAX	TOP EXECUTIVE	YEAR ESTABLISHED IN UKRAINE	OWNERSHIP, UKRAINIAN / FOREIGN (%)	# OF FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES	# OF TRAINERS	TRAINING PROGRAMS AREAS	OTHER SERVICES	LANGUAGES	MAJOR CLIENTS
NAU Consulting group , 01025 Kyiv, 38 Andriyivskiy Uzviz, nu@nu.kiev.ua, www.nu.kiev.ua									
(044)278-3146 (044)278-0976	Oleh Homyak	1990	100 / 0	26	7	Management, sales, leadership	HR consulting, recruitment	Ukrainian, Russian	Mary Kay Ukraine, Golden Telecom, Nestle, METRO Cash & Carry Ukraine, Renault Ukraine, Leo Burnett
Business Psychology Consulting Agency , 01001 Kyiv, 12/3 Horodetskoho, 4th floor, office #60, mailer@kapb.com.ua, www.kapb.com.ua									
(044)279-7855 (044)228-9714	Elena Kramareva	1994	100 / 0	18	10	Management, sales, marketing, branding, communication	Recruitment, HR consulting, marketing consulting	Ukrainian, Russian	MTI, Autocenter, Metrograd, Komod, Roycastle Ukraine
A.B.C. Training Center , 01001 Kyiv, 6/8 Tverskyi Tupik, building #240/A, 1st floor, mprokipets@abccenter.kiev.ua, www.abctraining.kiev.ua									
(044)529-4199 (044)239-1092	Irina Khakhuda	1995	100 / 0	10	6	Business, communication, leadership, management	WND	Russian, Ukrainian, English	Kurcher Ukraine, Beiersdorf, PZU, Imperial Tobacco, Equipment Leasing Ukraine
Corporate Training Company, CTC , 01001 Kyiv, 39-41 Khoreva, butenko@ctc-co.kiev.ua, www.ctc-co.kiev.ua									
(044)545-6585 (044)545-6225	Yaroslava Butenko	2000	WND	WND	5	Leadership, personnel estimation, communication	WND	Russian, Ukrainian, English	TNK Ukraine, Coca-Cola, British American Tobacco Ukraine, Incom, Fozzy
Baltic Training Group , 01001 Kyiv, 7-B Molodohvardiyska, pr@btg.com.ua, www.btg.com.ua									
(044)496-0892	Ilna Lubenetsa	2000	WND	WND	WND	Marketing, sales, communication	WND	Russian, Ukrainian, English	Ukrsibbank, Ernst&Young, METRO Cash & Carry Ukraine, Microsoft Ukraine
Business Development Center , 02094 Kyiv, P.O. Box #55, turbo@sinergy.kiev.ua, www.ravzitie.biznesa.org									
(044)559-7489	Sergey Kuchinsky	1999	100 / 0	5	2	Business, marketing, branding, banking	MBA, Corporate University	Russian, Ukrainian, English	WND
Business System , 03040 Kyiv, 1 Vasylkivska, info@businessystem.com, www.businessystem.com									
(044)258-6943 (044)258-7370	Oleh Atanasev	2001	100 / 0	WND	6	Business, top management training	WND	Russian	Privatbank, Dongorbank, Orantra, Raiffasen Bank Aval, Kvazar Micro, Chumak, Obolon, Kyiv Konti
Staff Service , 04080 Kyiv, 1-3 Frunze, 4th floor, info@staffservice.com.ua, www.staffservice.com.ua									
(044)467-6849 (044)467-6804	Yuliya Kyrlyuk	2001	100 / 0	483	5	Sales, management, communication	Recruiting, out staffing, HR consulting, salary survey	Ukrainian, Russian	WND
Tomalogy Center , 04209 Kyiv, 35 Heroyiv Dnipra, i.konchenko@tomalogy.com, www.tomalogy.com									
(044)501-5051 (044)331-1766	Vadim Arsh	2002	100 / 0	25	9	Management, sales, negotiation, time management, self-organization, training of trainers	HR consulting, recruitment, personnel diagnostics, assessment center, business coaching	Russian, Ukrainian, English	Billa-Ukraine, Intalev-Ukraine, Laboratoire Innotech International, LG Electronics, METRO Cash & Carry, Mironovsky Hleboprodukt
HOCK Accountancy Training , 01001 Kyiv, 12 Hospitalna, office #209, kyiv@hocktraining.com, www.hocktraining.com									
(044)234-0377 (044)234-0377	Yanina Morgunova	2003	0 / 100	47	13	Management, accounting, financial analysis, International Financial Reporting Standards	Corporate training	English, Russian	Avon, American Express, Baker and McKenzie, Coca-Cola, Danone, Deloitte, Metro Cash & Carry, Microsoft
8 Line , 02002 Kyiv, 8 R. Okipnoi, office #127, cbs@8line.com.ua, www.8line.com.ua									
(044)219-0808	Yulia Golubeva	2003	WND	WND	WND	Management, motivation, Core Business Community	HR, training, development	Russian, Ukrainian, English	Kyivstar, BBH Ukraine, Incom, Ukraexbank, Interpipe
Innovation Business-Psychology Center , 01001 Kyiv, 17/12 Lesi Ukrainky, office #12, info@innovation.net.ua, www.innovation.net.ua									
(044)286-6792 (044)221-5553	Pshenichnaya Inessa	2005	100 / 0	10	4	Leadership, management, sales, distribution, merchandising	Personal coaching, event	Russian, Ukrainian, English, German	Henkel Bautechnik Ukraine, Farlep Invest, Novo Nordisk, Metinvest Holding, BBH, Cruciani, Castangia, Zilli, Dali Club, Autolife
Gennadiy Tkachenko Retail Training (GTRT) , 01001 Kyiv, 6 Fedorova, office #2, info@retail-trainer.com.ua, www.retail-training.com.ua									
(044)587-9424 (044)227-0824	Gennadiy Tkachenko	2006	WND	WND	9	Sales, retail	N / A	Ukrainian, Russian, English	Brocard, AirStep, Lea Foscati, Monarh
DOOR Ukraine , 04107 Kyiv, 17/21 Bahhovutivska, a.beliakova@doortraining.com, www.doortraining.com									
(044)537-7444 (044)537-7445	Areta Beliakova	2007	0 / 100	10	5	Sales, management, communication	HR consulting, recruitment	Ukrainian, Russian, English	DHL, Philip Morris International, Telegraaf Media Group, Colin's
BusinessSystem , 03040 Kyiv, 1 Vasylkivska, office #310, Kempa Center, office@businessystem.com, www.businessystem.com									
(044)258-7370 (044)258-6943	Elena Martsenyk	WND	WND	WND	7	Management, consulting	WND	Ukrainian, Russian, English	Raiffasen Bank Aval, Ukrsotsbank, Privat bank, Market consulting
KIY , 04074 Kyiv, 14 Popova, office #64-65, office@kiy.net.ua, www.kiy.net.ua									
(044)468-9178 (044)430-1425	Oksana Velychko	WND	WND	11	8	Corporate training, personnel development	N / A	Ukrainian, Russian, English	UTEL, MTC, Yares, Kyivstar, Rodovid bank
National Training Agency , 01001 Kyiv, 32 Ponomareva, Kotsubynske, nta@nta.com.ua, www.nta.com.ua									
(044)390-4085	Maksym Holubev	WND	WND	WND	WND	Management, corporate training	N / A	Ukrainian, Russian, English	WND
Business Education Alliance , 02002 Kyiv, 10-A R. Okipnoi, bea@bea.com.ua, www.bea.com.ua									
(044)220-1039 (044)407-3920	Alla Savchenko	WND	WND	WND	WND	Accounting and audit training, sales	WND	Ukrainian, Russian, English	USAID, IBTCI, TACIS, Kemonics, PWC
Speaker , 01001 Kyiv, 57/3 Chervonoarmiyiska, 1st floor, office #5, mail@speaker.com.ua, www.speaker.com.ua									
(044)247-0668 (044)229-1506	Natalia Loziychuk	WND	WND	WND	11	Rhetoric, communication	N / A	Ukrainian, Russian	Analytec, Avon, Berlin-Chemie, Caleva Ukraine Ltd, Counterpart Ukraine, Mary Kay, Merten Ukraine
European Centre for Competence Development , 04073 Kyiv, 6 Moskovskiy Prosp., office #1207, eccd@eccd.com.ua, www.eccd.com.ua									
(044)587-6054 (044)468-1565	Anton Babohlo	WND	WND	WND	WND	Marketing, management, communication	N / A	Ukrainian, Russian, English	1+1, Oriflame, Brocard, Philips, Foxmart

Council lifts utility privatization ban

LAND, continued from page 1

If this estimate is correct, then the city's politicians financially cheated the citizens and the public treasury of more than \$115 million.

The secretary of the Kyiv City Council, Oles Dovhiy, who chaired the Aug. 28 session, could not be reached for comment.

"This is a continuation of Soviet-style governance, in which decisions are made behind closed doors in a non-transparent fashion and in clear violation of democratic principles," said Ihor Shevlyakov, an economist at Kyiv's International Center for Policy Studies. "I'm pessimistic about the city's future in this respect because we can expect more shady land transfers to private structures."

The only City Council faction to cry foul was the essentially powerless one led by heavyweight boxing champion Vitaliy Klitschko, which holds only 15 of 120 seats on the council.

"It [Aug. 28] was a day of political corruption," said Valeriy Karpuntsov, a Klitschko bloc member. "Prior arrangements were made before Aug. 28 that consciously ignored the public interest. A large chunk of land was practically given away."

The session reversed a privatization ban on the city's natural gas, bread making and waterworks utilities: Kyivgaz (Kyiv Gas), Kyivvodokanal (Kyiv water) and Khib Kyevea (Kyiv Bread). The three lucrative monopolies are considered prized assets.

City officials justified the privatization vote by saying that the new owners will be chosen by tenders and will be required to improve management, increase investment, boost salaries and improve the overall quality of the enterprises.

The operations of Kyivgaz and Kyivvodokanal are coordinated by Kyivenergoholding, which also owns shares in Kyivenergo, the capital's electricity utility. The holding company was created in April 2006 as a joint closed stock company by the Kyiv

City Council and two companies registered in Cyprus. Those companies are reportedly controlled by billionaire Vasyl Khmelnytsky and his slightly less-wealthy partner, Andriy Ivanov, according to Ekonomichna Pravda online news source.

Khmelnytsky is a member of parliament from the Party of Regions. Kyivenergoholding owns 60 percent plus 1 share in Kyivgaz, 12.7 percent of Kyivenergo and 67 percent of Kyivvodokanal, according to Ukrainian News.

The City Council decision to reverse the privatization ban "was rushed," complained Klyus. "One must auction [these properties] to the highest bidder. The city should augment the city budget, instead of supporting these utility monopolies [owned by private individuals] with subsidies."

The Aug. 28 transactions were "a strategic mistake, very negative for society," Klyus said. "The city completely lost control of these crucial enterprises. Utilities should belong to the cities."

The Kyiv city administration said it will hire a foreign audit company to value all the companies which it plans to privatize. Last year, the city approved a list of over 250 companies for privatization by 2010. According to Kyiv's 2008 annual budget, the city plans to raise some \$300 million from the sale of land and other assets.

Despite the plan to audit and auction the properties, suspicions are high that Khmelnytsky and Ivanov will be the ultimate recipients of the gas, water and bread monopoly.

Khmelnytsky could not be reached for comment. Neither could Ivanov, but one of his aides said: "I suggest you look at publicly available documents and arrive at your own conclusion" about whether Khmelnytsky and Ivanov control Kyivenergoholding. "It's difficult to say whether [Ivanov] is the future natural gas and water supply monopolist."

But others are certain the City Council's action will ultimately lead to greater control by Khmelnytsky and Ivanov. "Khmelnytsky and Ivanov control them through Kyivenergoholding," Klyus said.

Strengthening the pair's control will not be in the public's interest, critics said.

In the Aug. 28 giveaway of the four-hectare plot worth \$150 million, a dozen of the 32 new owners of the plots are apparently related, a Delo newspaper investigation reported, with two or more owners sharing the surnames Mamedov, Kruhlykov, Novyk, Chytakh, Kordonets and Konovalenko.

Kyiv City Council member Oleksandr Bryhynets of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, which has 32 seats, abstained from voting. He said the entire process breached established procedures.

"I can't even tell you how other deputies voted, because those records are unavailable," said Bryhynets, adding that members of BYuT, as the bloc is known, were not instructed to vote one way or another.

As in last year's massive land sell-off, it appears that little can be done to stop the transactions, given the current political realities and makeup of the courts.

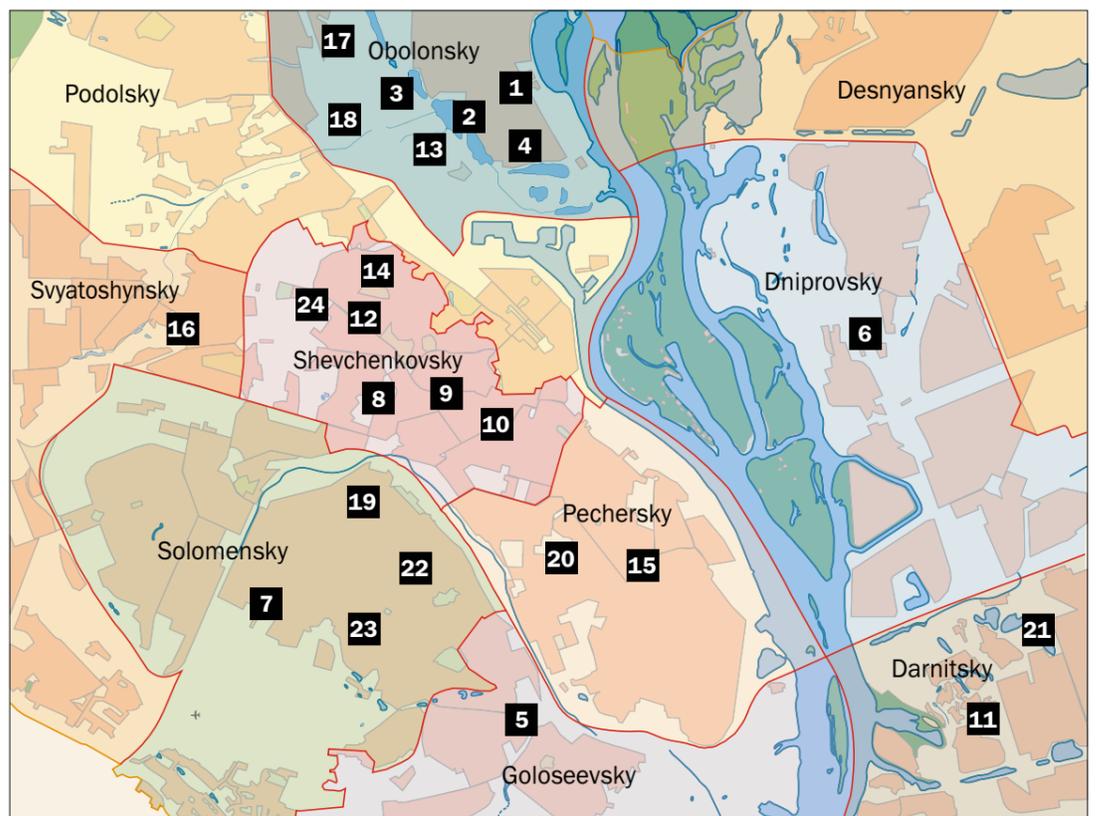
Only an official complaint from the

prosecutor's office can lead to a court order preventing the City Council's decision from taking effect.

On Oct. 1, 2007, the Kyiv City Council doled out nearly 300 land plots worth an estimated \$10 billion in a single day, which was roughly 3 to 4 percent of Kyiv's territory.

Opposition forces challenged the council's votes in the courts, claiming that orders and procedures were violated during the rubber-stamp session. The case made it all the way to Supreme Court. Ukrainian media reported last week that the Supreme Court rejected the legal challenges, leaving all of the decisions in force.

SOLD LAND PLOTS



City for sale: Who got what in Kyiv's land grab

Buyer	District	Address	Plan for property	Area in hectares	Sale price in \$*	Price per square meter in \$*	Estimated market worth per square meter in \$	Estimated market worth of plot in \$
1 Kyivmiskbud-1	Obolon	"Natalka" Dell	sport-health	5.71	18,986,777	332.5	1000	57,106,000
2 Mr. Valentyn Isak	Obolon	Tymoshenko, 29	office-entertainment	0.14	640,083	473.4	1000	1,352,000
3 Kyivmiskbud-1	Obolon	Hamarnyka, 50	sport-entertainment	0.67	2,826,653	420.8	420.8	2,826,653
4 Linkorn	Obolon	Moskovsky Prosp., 28-A	commerce-office	0.75	3,865,702	516.5	1000	7,484,000
5 Aver-Tech	Holosiyev	Novopyrhovskaya, 64-A	warehouse	1.73	7,154,545	414.3	414.3	7,154,545
6 Vasha Velychist	Dnipro	Pavla Tychyny, 18	cafe	0.04	145,248	355.1	355.1	145,248
7 Delikates	Solomenky	Kirovohradska, 188	restaurant	0.12	578,512	497.4	497.4	578,512
8 Ekstream	Shevchenko	Artema, 75	commerce-office	0.06	357,025	622.0	2000	1,148,000
9 Kalina	Shevchenko	M. Zhytomyrska, 9	office-residential	0.04	554,339	1319.9	2000	840,000
10 PAN Ukraine	Shevchenko	O. Honchara, 69	hotel	0.14	989,876	719.9	3000	4,125,000
11 Optima-bud-servis	Darnytsia	Revutsky & Vyshniakov intersection	commerce-office	2.37	6,625,000	279.5	500	11,850,500
12 AB Invest.	Shevchenko	Khreshchatyk, 40/1	commerce-office	0.15	1,686,777	1144.4	5000	7,370,000
13 Visak	Obolon	Tymoshenko, 29-B	office	0.30	1,440,909	473.4	1000	3,044,000
14 Int. Bus. Center	Shevchenko	Shevchenko Boul., 28-30	hotel-office	0.47	4,395,661	932.3	5000	23,575,000
15 Naftanaya Company	Pechersk	Moskovskaya, 8	warehouse	1.36	10,914,463	800.6	3000	40,899,000
16 SKTB Complex	Sviatoshin	Sviatoshynska, 34	industrial-warehouse	0.25	949,174	374.1	374.1	949,174
17 Buran	Obolon	Marka Vovchka, 6	automotive	0.15	492,149	321.0	321.0	492,149
18 Aktyv	Obolon	Verbova, 4	warehouse	0.48	1,504,545	311.4	311.4	1,504,545
19 Komun-shliakh-bud	Solomenky	Chokolovsky, 39	restaurant	0.11	475,413	442.7	442.7	475,413
20 Telegraph Publishing	Pechersk	Pechersk spusk, 2/12	administrative	0.24	2,418,595	999.0	2000	4,842,000
21 Bud-invest-8	Darnytsia	Remontna, 8	industrial-warehouse	0.89	1,911,777	214.9	214.9	1,911,777
22 Avanpost-Prim Publ.	Solomenky	Surykova, 3	industrial-office	0.36	2,088,017	581.0	581.0	2,088,017
23 E-1 Invest	Solomenky	Polova, 12	office	0.50	2,324,174	463.2	1500	7,527,000
24 Kyiv-reconstructsiya	Shevchenko	Pestelya, 11	commerce-office	0.11	955,579	854.7	854.7	955,579
				Total	17.15	74,280,992	market value	190,244,112

* based on a 4.84 exchange rate

Sailors integral part of Sevastopol life

FLEET, continued from page 1

Watching the tour boats circling the bay, the commander denies speculation that there is a conflict simmering in the Crimea in light of the Russian-Georgian conflict in South Ossetia and Abkhazia.

Pointing to the monument of the sunken ships rising from the water, Komoev says that every stone in Sevastopol is covered in blood.

"This city has been founded by the fleet and for the fleet. During the 225 years since its inception, English, French, Turkish, and German navy [vessels] among others waged wars here. We don't want it to happen again."

"RUSSIA IS PREPARED TO WITHDRAW THE FLEET ON TIME WITHOUT DISPUTING THE INTEGRITY OF THE CRIMEA..."

— *Volodymyr Komoev, former admiral of the Russian Black Sea fleet and Russian State Duma deputy*

But there's still tension.

Now a deputy in the Russian State Duma, the lower house of parliament, Komoev describes Kyiv's attempts to promote Ukrainian language and NATO membership as "genocide against its own people in the Crimea."

Even the deputy head of city administration, Dmytro Bazev, who represents President Victor Yushchenko in Sevastopol, speaks Russian as his first language. He says that Ukrainian language is mandatory only for official state documentation and certain school lessons.

"If residents petition in Russian, I answer them in Russian. In line with the latest ruling of the Constitutional

Court, even courts must accommodate Russian speakers. I think it's the Ukrainian language that needs help here, not Russian."

Bazev says that Sevastopol cannot be compared to Georgian breakaway republics. "Only a handful of pro-Russian NGOs [non-governmental organizations], wives of serving sailors and some veterans breed separatist moods here. We know them by names. They are financed by Russia and even compete among themselves for more funding."

People's sentiments lie with the Crimea, not their passports. The majority of Russian navy officers, he says, adopt Ukrainian citizenship upon retirement to stay with their families on the peninsula.

Rossiyskaya Obshchina (Russian Community) NGO is one of those "separatist" groups that Bazev once took to court on allegations of spreading chauvinism in Sevastopol. He says that the case was toned down, and its leaders walked away with a warning.

This NGO is working in the House of Officers, a Soviet-style building that also hosts a handful of hobby clubs.

Raisa Telyatnykova, who founded Russian Community at the breakup of the Soviet Union, runs her office above a dancing club next to an acting school.

Surrounded by Russian flags, she claims more than 97 per cent of people of Sevastopol supported Russia's actions in Georgia.

"The situation in the Crimea will depend on President Yushchenko. But I don't think we'll be shooting each other."

She rules out a repeat of the Caucasus scenario in the Crimea because in the breakaway republics "their Presidents, the governments and the people were united in breaking apart from Georgia. No such unity here."

However, she thinks that it will be difficult to contain the people in Sevastopol in case Ukraine signs the Membership Action Plan with NATO. She predicts civil unrest.

Telyatnykova denies receiving any financial aid from Russia except sub-



Raisa Telyatnykova, who founded the non-governmental organization Russian Community in Sevastopol, wants the Crimea to be returned to Russia. But not even Telyatnykova expects violence over the conflict. "The situation in the Crimea will depend on President [Victor] Yushchenko. But I don't think we'll be shooting each other." (Boris Belkin)

sidies to her publication, and says she lives on her pension.

"The city of Moscow only helps us to print a newspaper twice a month."

She explains the presence of Yedinaya Rossiya (United Russia) party flag in her office as a sign of friendship and cooperation between her community and the largest party in the State Duma. Rossiyskaya Obshchina is often blamed by other local political players for exploiting patriotic feelings of the fleet veterans and turning them against the state of Ukraine.

"[Yuriy] Luzhkov (mayor of Moscow) is a good businessman. He invests

plenty of money into real estate here and various social projects under the pretense of friendly ties," says Valery Vasunyn from Byut, Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko's bloc.

Russia's helping hand is very visible in Sevastopol. The fleet employs more than 20,000 Ukrainian citizens at its ship repair factory, the hospital, and the bakery among others. The people in town make no secret that Russian companies pay twice as much as the Ukrainian employers.

The northern neighbor renovated derelict navy barracks and turned them into the Black Sea branch of

the Moscow State Humanitarian University. Tour guides sailing through the southern tip of the bay, home to Russia's Black Sea Fleet, mention that the current mayor of Moscow is Yuriy Luzhkov, failing to explain his relevance to the tour of the Crimean coast.

Luzhkov has publicly questioned Ukraine's territorial rights to Crimea, arguing it has historically been a part of Russia. Despite the overwhelming Russian presence in Sevastopol, the city council does not question Ukraine's territorial rights over the city and the Crimean peninsula. Nevertheless, the Party of Regions, which has a crushing majority in the city assembly, speculates that conflicts may occur if Western leaders encourage Ukraine's closer ties with NATO.

"Propagating Ukraine's accession into NATO, [German] Chancellor [Angela] Merkel is stirring up a civil war in Ukraine," said Valery Saratov, head of the Party of Regions in Sevastopol, referring to the latest statements by the German leader calling on NATO members to sign MAP with Ukraine and Germany.

It seems that the politicians are more paranoid about war than the town residents. Russian and Ukrainian sailors live side by side with each other, parade together, and, over hearty evenings with beer, they say they would never strike against each other.

"We are not going to kill our brothers. If anything happens here, mercenaries will be involved, not the locals," says Oleksandr Gnopovskiy, an air defense forces officer.

Former admiral Komoev says Sevastopol is like a small map of the Soviet Union. Russian, Georgian, Armenian sailors – the city face has mixed ethnicity.

And his prediction of events leans toward the optimistic.

"Russia is prepared to withdraw the fleet on time without disputing the integrity of the Crimea as long as the Ukrainian leaders keep the gunpowder dry," says Komoev, referring to the rights of ethnic Russians on the peninsula.

FLEET NOT ESSENTIAL FOR SEVASTOPOL'S PROSPERITY

SEVASTOPOL, UKRAINE – A tour of the Russian navy in Sevastopol is very much like a trip to a museum. Most ships that were built in the 70's and 80's are now looking worn out and obsolete. Ukraine banned its neighbor from bringing in new war vessels as a part of a 20-year lease agreement that allows the Black Sea Fleet to use Crimean bays.

Despite its rusty look, the fleet still enjoys a reputation as a major employer and taxpayer in Sevastopol. The withdrawal of the Russian ships scheduled for 2017 is feared by many because it may bring economic and social decay of the town.

The city administration, however, dispels these fears. "Taxes the fleet pays make up 12 to 15 percent of the city budget. And over the next five years, this figure will slump down to five percent," says deputy head Dmitry Bazev. In his opinion, the fleet's departure will open up new doors for the unique non-freezing Sevastopol bay.



Sailors guard a Russian anti-submarine ship. "The fleet is like an old military map rather than a fighting machine," says Myhailo Samus from the Center of Army Studies and Disarmament. (Boris Belkin)

At the moment, the Russian military occupies the best territories which could be used for cargo shipping and passenger transportation, he says. "Take Rinat Ahmetov's company Avlita, which operates metal and grain terminals in the port. It's a complex infrastructure employing thousands of people. By freeing more space in the bay, we'll be able to build car and coal terminals."

The Communist Party, which mostly represents Sevastopol pensioners and veterans, argues that demilitarizing the region will undo the social, economic and political fabric of the city. "The Russian fleet provides security for us. Ukraine has one outdated ship and no naval potential in the foreseeable future," says Vasily Parhomenko, city council deputy from the Communist Party. He is convinced that 5,000 people working for the fleet's ship-repair plant will be left overboard when Russia pulls out of Sevastopol.

"But there'll be nothing to fix at this plant by 2017," assures navy expert Myhailo Samus from the Center of Army Studies and Disarmament in Kyiv. "The ships will turn into rust buckets. There will be nothing to withdraw." Like city government officials, he also insists that the bay's favorable geographical location in the middle of the Black Sea and its natural qualities should be used for civil purposes.

Chances of reviving Ukraine's navy seem very slim indeed.

However, construction of new type of corvettes able to patrol areas as large as the Mediterranean is under way. The European Union is expected to supply nearly forty percent of components, mainly ammunition, to complete the first ship by 2012.

"The fleet is like an old military map rather than a fighting machine. It's a myth that it's a backbone of the city," Samus says. He explains that Russia's other Black Sea base in Novorossiysk, where the fleet could be moved, is located on the edge of the sea, making it less effective than in the Sevastopol harbor.

It seems that economic repercussions of the fleet's departure may not be as dreadful as they are made to appear by some pro-Russian political forces.

Port infrastructure together with agriculture, wine-making, industry and tourism sectors of the local economy are able to make Sevastopol prosper. But as all sides concur, to be effective by the time of fleet withdrawal, these industries have to take off now.

— YULIA POPOVA

Rada returns to work in fighting mood

RADA, continued from page 1

Escalating the conflict even further, 11 ministers loyal to the president out of 24 did not attend the cabinet's weekly meeting on Sept. 3, including those for defense, justice and foreign affairs. The health, youth and sports, emergencies, cultural and education ministers did not show up. But Tymoshenko still had a quorum to run the meeting.

In a televised address to Ukrainians late on Sept. 3, Tymoshenko accused Yushchenko of sabotaging the coalition and her government for the purpose of scoring political points in his re-election campaign.

She said the president went "to the edge" to get a boost in his ratings.

"Even though there is practically no chance, [the president's advisers] are lost in their mindless fight," she added.

Recent polls show that Tymoshenko is the top contender for the next presidential contest with just more than 20 percent support, followed closely by Yanukovich. Yushchenko trails far behind with less than 10 percent support.

Tymoshenko also refuted claims that she was soft in her support for Georgia, saying: "My position on Georgia is in line with the European Union, and it is not to drag Ukraine into conflicts."

Tymoshenko also pledged her party would push – supposedly with the votes of Regions, Communists and possibly other parties, to reshape Ukraine's Constitution. The purpose, she said, is to clearly divide authority among the president, premier and parliament.

This, what seems to be the real divorce of Ukraine's two Orange Revolution heroes before they start to spar for the presidential seat, follows years of backstabbing. Both onetime allies appear to have completely turned into bitter rivals and are preparing for the cut-throat presidential contest ahead.

More mess and fighting

After the latest chopping at presidential powers, Baloha accused the troika led by Tymoshenko of usurping power and preparing a constitutional coup, whose goals are a two-party system and the elimination of the executive



Ukrainian lawmakers sing the national anthem during the opening of the parliament's session on Sept. 2. They quickly got down to the business of political infighting, with President Viktor Yushchenko on the defensive against an alliance between the Party of Regions, led by former Prime Minister Victor Yanukovich and the Bloc of Yulia Tymoshenko, led by the prime minister. (AP)

branch. Their "conductors are their ideologues and patrons in Moscow who seek revenge for the events of 2004 and make Ukraine a controlled country ... a useful tool in Russia's geopolitical and geo-economic interests," he said in a statement released by the Secretariat.

Baloha accused Tymoshenko of teaming up with Victor Medvedchuk – the man who headed ex-president Leonid Kuchma's presidential administration earlier this decade – to create a crisis situation in Ukraine. Baloha, himself an ex-ally of Medvedchuk, also accused Tymoshenko of "constantly and systematically blocking the performance of the coalition agreement" between her party and the president's grouping.

In the midst of the turmoil, some members of the dying coalition called for it to be preserved. A small grouping of lawmakers from the pro-presidential bloc urged Yushchenko to dismiss

Baloha, whom they view as a troublemaker.

There were no signs that the president's office would act on the ultimatum by the time the Kyiv Post went to print.

"MY POSITION ON GEORGIA... IS NOT TO DRAG UKRAINE INTO CONFLICTS."

– Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko

Experts say if the Regions-BYuT tandem is formalized in parliament, it would be unstable, leading to yet another snap election. Yet both camps could stick with a situational partnership to contain Yushchenko, keeping him in

check with the threat of impeachment.

If, on the other hand, no official parliamentary majority is formed in the next month, the legal grounds for dismissing the Rada and holding repeat elections to the national legislature will arise.

Anti-presidential legislation

The turmoil erupted late on Sept. 2, when Tymoshenko's faction and Regions combined their 331 votes in the 450-member chamber to finally elect the Rada's two deputy speakers from among their own ranks. The key Rada posts have been vacant since Rada elections nearly one year ago. Regions' Oleksandr Lavrynovych and BYuT's Mykola Tomenko took flanking seats on the presidium, adjacent to Speaker Arseniy Yatseniuk, a staunch Yushchenko ally.

Yatseniuk and most pro-presidential

lawmakers stormed out of the Rada after the newly formed alliance rushed – and within one hour – adopted legislation undercutting presidential authority.

Experts said the Regions Party, Yulia Tymoshenko bloc and Communists had varying motives for joining forces against Yushchenko. Some of them find him personally objectionable; others consider him a weak politician, or just wanted to weaken the presidency, regardless of who holds the office.

Whatever the motives, in just two votes, the freshly-baked majority clearly spelled out the presidential impeachment process. They established an ad hoc parliament investigative commission that would swiftly be able to handle an impeachment process.

According to the new procedure, the deputies have to vote by a simple majority to create this new special commission to investigate "state treason or other crime committed by the president." After two months of investigation, the commission would have to have its results approved by parliament and then send them on to the Constitutional and the Supreme Courts. If the courts rule the commission's claims legitimate, the Rada could drive the final nail into the head of state's political coffin.

The bill's author, BYuT's Andriy Portnov, also penned amendments to the Law on Cabinet of Ministers that eliminates six presidential rights and powers over executive branch appointments, governmental orders and agreements with foreign governments.

Portnov said the changes will be "yet another step towards building Ukraine as a democratic state" and fully abide by the Constitution.

The powers of the presidency were curtailed by the changes made to the Constitution in the heat of the 2004 Orange Revolution, when Yushchenko agreed to a compromise deal that paved the way for him to the presidency.

After a decade of presidential rule under Leonid Kuchma, many politicians are calling for a weaker chief of state, a move that would turn Ukraine into a full-fledged parliamentary system.

Largely unregulated surrogate mother business is flourishing

CHILD, continued from page 3

infertility has increased 134 percent, with nearly 10,000 cases documented.

Natalia is surrogate mother for the second time now. This time, she accepted a Ukrainian couple's offer and hopes to receive nearly \$45,000 from them.

"First I did not trust our people because very often they cheat. But when I saw them, I understood I should help them. Besides, the money I get will help me to bring up my own children and give them education I was not able to have."

Natalia, however, would prefer to help a foreign couple again. "It is psychologically easier to understand you can not reach the baby you gave birth to if it is somewhere abroad. Now I am getting used to the thought that somehow a baby I am pregnant with can meet me in the street and never recognize me. It is very difficult, so I prefer foreign clients," she said.

There are also practical benefits to working with foreigners. "They pay more," Natalia said, estimating that some foreign couples will pay double

what some Ukrainians pay. Plus she considers foreigners more reliable.

But it is the relative inexpensiveness of Ukrainian surrogate mothers that attracts foreigners, along with the lack of legal restrictions.

"THE NUMBER OF FOREIGN COUPLES WHO COME TO UKRAINE FOR SURROGATE MOTHERS' SERVICE HAS INCREASED UP TO 50 PERCENT..."

– Oleksandr Feskov

"The number of foreign couples who come to Ukraine for surrogate mothers' service has increased up to 50 percent and now equals the number of Ukrainian clients," said Oleksandr Feskov, head of the Kharkiv Center of

Reproductive Medicine. "Each year 40 to 50 couples from different countries try to solve barrenness problem in Ukraine."

In many European Union nations, surrogate motherhood is forbidden or – in the case of Great Britain, Finland, Holland and others – prohibitively expensive for many people. In the United States, a surrogate mother would charge from \$20,000, plus expenses, monthly compensation and other fees. On top of that, agencies would charge roughly the same. Moreover, couples have to pay for various insurances, health and psychological screening, and whatever extra costs may occur.

By comparison, the costs of services in Feskov's Kharkiv clinic range up to \$3,700, while a Kyiv clinic can charge more than \$6,000 for fertilization and obligatory first 12 weeks of pregnancy supervision.

Surrogate mothers in Ukraine are paid separately by the couples involved for their role in being inseminated and/or donating the embryo for transfer

to the woman's uterus or carrying the fetus to term.

But risks also come with the relatively low prices. Couples can be cheated by surrogate mothers, or vice versa, and Ukrainian law offers little protection.

Olena, a 38-year-old Kyivan, said she fell victim twice.

"The first surrogate mother simulated her pregnancy, took the money and escaped," says Olena, who wanted to be identified only by her first name. "It was a very hard experience for me. I felt I was unworthy being a mother at all."

Her second nightmare experience came two years later.

"The girl gave birth to a healthy child. I gave her all the money she needed but she decided to keep the baby for herself and quickly made all necessary [legal] documents, because I just trusted her and we made no contracts," Olena said.

For both fruitless tries, Olena spent \$25,000.

"Money is nothing compared with the sorrow emptiness I feel inside. I and my husband are broken now. Maybe, in some time, when Ukrainian law will be

suitable for surrogate motherhood we will try again."

In spite of stories like Olena's, many Ukrainian lawyers say the absence of a standard state contract on surrogate motherhood is advantageous. "A free-form document confirmed by the lawyer allows description of each point of the contract," said Tamara Ivanova, a Kyiv lawyer.

Besides, under Ukrainian law, the status of biological parents goes to the couple that hired the surrogate mother, not to the woman who carried their child. According to the Family Code of Ukraine, the parents have a right to get an official birth certificate with the Ukrainian Registry Office.

This applies to foreigners as well. "According to the law, they have the same rights as the Ukrainians," Ivanov said. However, anyone considering finding a surrogate mother for their child should still do their research very thoroughly. "If a surrogate mother knows the law better than biological parents it is only the parents' problem if they become cheated."

Outbreak of food poisoning hits Kyiv

By DARIYA ORLOVA

orlova@kpmedia.ua

Traditional Middle Eastern kebabs and shawarmas have gained in popularity among Ukrainians as fast street food. But a recent outbreak of poisoning has raised questions about the way the food is prepared, the quality of its ingredients and the hygiene of its cooks.

Nearly two dozen people, including two children, were hospitalized with food poisoning in Kyiv's Desnyansky district last week. Ten were diagnosed with salmonellosis, a dangerous bacterial infection that affects the digestive tract and occasionally other parts of the body. Eleven others were diagnosed with gastroenterocolitis, or stomach inflammation. All of them ate poor-quality shawarma purchased from the same kiosk outside Kyiv's Lisova metro station, according to an Emergencies Ministry report.

"People came in over the course of three days. They all complained of vomiting and sudden fever onsets. Most of the poisoned are in intensive care, but some have started recovering," the duty nurse at Kyiv's Hospital #9 told 15 Minutes daily, a Russian-language sister publication of the Kyiv Post.

Poor food storage conditions, undercooked food and breach of basic health standards caused the infection outbreak, according to the results of an epidemiologic investigation.

Nataliya Udovenko, one of the victims, told Segodnya daily newspaper that she bought shawarma and eventually fell ill.

"On Monday I ate shawarma with cheese ... the next day with meat. I got sick the same day. My head, kidneys and heart were aching. The emergency workers said it was acute poisoning and prescribed pills for me. My kidneys are still ailing. I can't eat anything," a tearful Udovenko told journalists.

The kiosk where people bought the infected food, has since been disman-



A street vendor at one of Kyiv's many kebab and shawarma stands prepares a meal for the next customer on Sept. 2. An outbreak of food poisoning has health authorities warning people about the hazards of buying food on the street, citing poor food storage, undercooked food and poor sanitary standards. (Yaroslav Debelyi)

tled and its owners fined Hr 282 (a little more than \$50), said Iryna Kozlova, Kyiv's chief health inspector.

Kozlova also said that the local health service banned the kiosk from selling shawarma two weeks before the incident, but the owners ignored the order.

"We urge Kyivans not to buy shawarma, hot dogs and other food in kiosks," Kozlova said.

"In July and August this year, the

health service inspected 710 kiosks. Almost half were found with no operational permits from the health service. And we also discovered violations of public health codes," the inspector added.

The poisoning case was covered widely by local media, but shawarma vendors are unlikely to abandon their simple culinary trade. Kyivans will keep buying street food because it's cheap and fast.

At Kharkivskiy market on Kyiv's left bank, two shawarma kiosks were open as usual, with clients standing in line for their shawarma sandwich.

The sellers said they had heard nothing about the poisoning case and that business was not affected.

"We have as many customers as ever. I can't complain," said a middle-aged shawarma salesman who declined to give his name.

"Our kiosk has been selling shawar-

ma on the same spot for five years," he added. Two men waiting to buy shawarma said "It's a good and tasty snack with beer."

Meanwhile, those who claim to have had experiences with street food, are turning away.

"I bought a hot dog on Kontraktova Square, but when I began eating it I almost choked on a piece of glass hidden in the hot dog dressing," said Nazar, a Kyiv resident.

Kyiv Post launches new website starting Sept. 7

KP Media, the leading publisher in Ukraine, is launching a redesigned Kyiv Post website at its same address - www.kyivpost.com - starting Sept. 7. The new site will incorporate the best elements of online news resources, in addition to including the entire content of the soon-to-be expanded newspaper.

World, national and local news will be continuously updated to keep readers abreast of the latest developments in the fast-paced world. The site will include archives of the Kyiv Post newspaper, Ukraine's No. 1 source of English-language news since 1995.

"We are making these investments to better serve our advertisers and our readers, both in Ukraine and abroad," said Jed Sunden, owner of KP Media, which publishes the Kyiv Post. "We are committed to keeping the Kyiv Post and its online version the best in the news business."

Yulia McGuffie, chief editor of KP Media online publications, said: "The new design and structure of the website will not only pleasantly surprise with its trendy outlook, but will allow easy navigation of the site and up-to-the-

minute access to information. We will have a photo gallery that is updated regularly. The addition of blogs and readers' forum will create the perfect changes to express your stance on the burning issues of the day."

Brian Bonner, chief editor of the Kyiv Post, said that the enhanced online version allows the newspaper to give readers much more news and content than is possible in the printed version.

"On the new www.kyivpost.com site, we also plan to translate into English and include the best coverage from our sister publications in KP Media, such as Korrespondent which, for instance, annually ranks the richest and most influential Ukrainians. We don't have enough space in the printed newspaper to include this great journalism. But cyberspace offers us unlimited possibilities."

Bonner said that Kyiv Post readers can expect a redesigned print copy of the newspaper this month as well as more pages for news and entertainment coverage, plus a separate employment section with the latest information on the job market and tips for both employees and employers.

Investors not panicked by conflict

(Reuters) - You might think war next door would make your average Western executive take his money and run, but foreign business in Ukraine is still as concerned with red tape and inflation as a looming Russia.

France's Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner said on Sept. 3 that Ukraine could be Russia's next target, after Moscow recognized the independence of Georgia's breakaway regions South Ossetia and Abkhazia, populated mostly by Russians.

Investors, indeed, have responded to the regional crisis by driving Ukraine's credit default swaps - one assessment of risk - to four-year highs and withdrawing cash from its currency and equities markets.

But while businesses say they are monitoring events in Georgia, they remain more concerned by stalled reforms under the divided government of President Victor Yushchenko and Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, and inflation of close to 30 percent.

"For companies that are here, this is nothing new. It's business as usual," said Trond Moe, president of the European Business Association, which represents dozens of large foreign companies.

"Ukraine has to deal with Russia. In Ukraine there are sensible politicians who can deal with this, who are not hotheaded or irrational."

Some observers said Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili was rash to send in troops to Russian-dominated South Ossetia, providing Moscow with just the excuse to intervene militarily and reduce Georgia's chances of NATO membership.

They draw parallels with Ukraine's clashes with Gazprom over gas supplies, its aspirations to join NATO, which Moscow opposes, and the existence of the Crimea region, populated by mostly ethnic Russians.

"That's reverberating down to new investors who are not yet here and don't fully understand that this is part of a complicated relationship," said Jorge Zukoski, president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Kiev representing U.S. business.

"If you have done your homework, you're in the market, have the relationships, you'd know this is part of the game but you will of course continue to watch it unfold closely."

International rating agencies warn that Ukraine's economy could quickly be thrown off track by any slowdown

in the flow of foreign cash, which has helped the country pay for steep rises in the price of Russian gas imports.

FDI jumped to \$6.9 billion in the first half of this year from \$2.6 billion a year earlier. Overall last year it rose to \$7.9 billion from \$4.3 billion in 2006.

Zukoski said "the jury is out" amongst investors drawing up budgets for next year. But he says many are more cautious.

"It's a superstar market -- company boards were deciding to put money back into the country, to solidify their market positions, while their competitors are looking at entrance opportunities," he said. "Now they're a little bit more conservative."

"What is harming business now is inflation, which is partly due I think to the inability of the authorities to work in a united way -- the conflict between the president and the prime minister is contributing to that," Telenor's Moe said.

He said businesses have raised wages twice this year, the second time by as much as 15-20 percent, which harms profit margins, and if price rises continue they could cause a deeper economic crisis that would wipe out people's purchasing power.



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- Partner Account Manager (OEM) (code ANG 3683)**
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A worldwide leader in the sphere of mobile and telecommunication technologies
- Account Manager (Telecom Operators) (code ANG 3693)**
Requirements: University Degree (IT/ Telecom preferred); 2+ years of working experience in Account Sales (sales to large corporate accounts, preferably Telecom operators (MTS, Kyivstar, Astelit, Beeline) within a large telecommunication vendor or system integration company; existing connections with Mobile Operators would be considered as an advantage; broad understanding of Telecom industry: Mobile, Fixed, Broadband, Convergence; knowledge of peculiarities of different telecommunication equipment; excellent presentation, negotiation, customer relationship management skills; can-do-approach.
A large multinational company, the world's leader in the sphere of development and production of computer systems, software, storage systems, complex customer tailored solutions, business and IT consulting
- Software Sales Manager (code AGR 3668)**
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Requirements: University Degree (preferably in Engineering); 3+ years of previous working experience in production (preferably automotive direction or production of electrical and electronic components) on a position of Quality Manager or Deputy Quality Manager; knowledge of quality systems and standards (ISO-TS); results-oriented, able to multi-task; strong leadership, communication and problem solving skills; ready to relocate.
One of the world's largest telecommunications companies
- Service Channel Manager (code VT 3686)**
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- Good command of English is a must

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A qualified professional is required to have:

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- At least 2 years of experience in the area of macroeconomic and financial sector analysis; work in a reputable research institution, research department of a bank or financial institution, or a leading consulting firm in the respective area will be an advantage
- Deep knowledge of Ukraine's macroeconomic and financial sectors
- Working experience in a commercial bank and knowledge of the key banking operations is a plus
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Asset Management Assistant

Tasks:

- Receiving and inspecting of all goods in line with the OSCE procedures for Receiving and Inspection;
- Maintenance of bar-coding system ensuring proper recording and identification of assets in the Material Management Database;
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- Insurance of proper storage of goods in line with their respective storage requirements;
- Monitoring of expiration dates per lot and taking measures for revolving and replacement of the stock;
- Organization of timely and efficient distributing of all goods to their respective end-users in the Office and projects;
- Maintaining files and documentation related to assigned duties and providing reports pertaining to asset locations if and when required by the supervisor;
- Performance of other related work as assigned.

Requirements:

- University education supplemented by commercial studies;
- Minimum of 2 years of relevant experience in stock inventory, acquisition, preferably in international environment;
- Computer literate with practical experience in Microsoft packages, knowledge of the OSCE computer systems (ORACLE, IRMA) would be an asset;
- Professional fluency (oral and written) in English, Russian and Ukrainian languages;
- Ability to work with people of different nationalities, religions and cultural backgrounds.

The position will commence from **October 2008**. In order to apply for the position, please use the **OSCE Application Form** which can be found on the OSCE PCU site www.oscepcu.org. You can send your Application Forms via email to Lyubov.Kravchenko@osce.org or by fax: + 380 44 492 03 83 to the attention of Ms. Lyubov Kravchenko or send it to the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, Striletska 16, 01034 Kyiv as soon as possible, but not later than

21 September, 2008. Please indicate the title of the position in your application.
No additional information will be provided by phone. Only short listed candidates will be contacted.

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- Strong attention to details
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 - Experience in IT/High-Tech companies is a plus

Marketing Analyst

- Required for Leading Ultracapacitor Company:
- BS or MS degree in engineering or sciences
 - Degree in marketing, general management
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 - Strong analytic skills
 - Mature, creative, proactive, highly motivated, resistant to stress, flexible, and decisive
 - Tact, good judgment, and exceptional ability to establish and maintain effective personal relationships with customers, direct reports and other employees
 - Fluent English is a must

Associate Director

- Required for HQ of TechInvest Group:
- Higher education (Finances, Economics or Technical)
 - 5+ years managerial experience
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 - Fluent English is a must

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- Required for Leading Ultracapacitor Company:
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 - Experience in product/process design in related product field
 - AutoCAD and/or Solidworks experience
 - Knowledge of corresponding industry standards
 - Fluent English

Investment Manager (High-Tech)

- Required for HQ of TechInvest Group:
- Higher education (Finances, Economics and Technical). MBA is a strong plus
 - 5+ years investment management experience
 - Strong analytic skills
 - Experience in IT/High-Tech companies
 - Proactive with excellent negotiation and presentation skills
 - Fluent English

Process Engineer / Chief Technologist

- Required for Leading Ultracapacitor Company:
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Responsibilities:

- With oversight by the Country Director and Deputy Country Director, work independently to develop, implement and monitor all project activities under the Human Trafficking Program;
- Liaise with governmental institutions, expert committees, international organizations, NGOs and key partners to ensure effective coordination and communication on all project activities;
- Work closely with international and Ukrainian experts in the preparation of training programs and materials;
- Provide technical, logistical, coordination and related assistance to relevant partners and experts on all project activities;
- Assist in organizing conferences, roundtables, training workshops and meetings, as required for project implementation;
- Work with technical personnel contracted for the project to ensure timely completion of tasks: translators, editors, interpreters, etc.;
- Represent the project in working groups, seminars, conferences and other events in the context of counter human trafficking, when appropriate;
- Prepare legal research, legislative analysis, narrative reports, progress memos, correspondence and related documentation for Country Director, funder and governmental partners, as needed.

Qualifications:

- Law degree from a Ukrainian law school required – L.L.M., Ph.D., or relevant experience in the field of criminal law or counter human trafficking is a plus;
- Professional legal experience of a minimum of 3 years;
- Previous work with an international organization or NGO is preferred;
- Professional fluency in English, Ukrainian and Russian is required;
- Strong ability to simultaneously manage several projects, including administrative, program implementation and financial responsibilities.

Qualified candidates should submit their CV, a cover letter and list of references in English by fax or e-mail to: Shelley R. Wieck, Country Director, at SWieck@staff.abanet.org or Fax Number (38-044) 459-0157, on or before September 19, 2008. Please indicate the position you are applying for in the subject line of your message.

Law Enforcement Reform Program Coordinator

Responsibilities:

- Within the framework of the Criminal Law Reform Program portfolio under the management of the Country Director and Deputy Country Director, work independently to develop, implement and monitor all aspects of Law Enforcement Reform Program;
- Work with government institutions, expert committees, international organizations and NGO partners to develop criminal justice and law enforcement reform initiatives on legislative, institutional and operational levels;
- Provide technical assistance, expert analysis and coordination to relevant partners on criminal justice and law enforcement reform initiatives;
- Organize Working Group meetings, roundtables and related activities in support of program initiatives;
- Prepare legal and statistical analysis, research, narrative reports, work plans, and memos, as required for the programs;
- Represent the project in working groups, seminars, conferences and other events in the context of criminal justice and law enforcement reform, as appropriate;
- Liaise and promote information exchange and program cooperation with donors, government institutions, counterparts, national and international organizations, and partners on criminal justice and law enforcement reform issues.

Qualifications:

- Law degree from a Ukrainian law school – L.L.M. or Ph.D. is a plus;
- Professional legal experience of at least 5 years;
- Prior experience working in criminal law and/or law enforcement agency preferred, such as the Ministry of Interior or General Prosecutor's Office;
- Previous work with an international organization or NGO preferred;
- Professional fluency in English, Ukrainian and Russian;
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Subject CHIEF ACCOUNTANT



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- Representation of the Bank's interests during enforcement and legal proceedings, with governmental authorities and other institutions regarding various legal issues
- Correspondence with clients, official institutions on legal issues



USAID-funded project, working to improve family planning/reproductive health (FP/RH) in Ukraine, is recruiting for a

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Major Responsibilities:

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- Prepare regular M&E reports for various audiences;
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- Experience with quantitative and qualitative research;
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- Understanding of FP/RH and/or maternal and child health programs;
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- Ability to work in English, Ukrainian and Russian.

Position requires frequent travel in Ukraine.

CV and cover letter in English to: E-mail: info@fprh-isi.org.ua or Fax: (044) 581-1521

Deadline: September 19, 2008

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(Subject «SENIOR ACCOUNTANT»)



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World Bank Group

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Please write how you learnt about the vacancy in a cover letter.

KP Media

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**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine**

The office of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine is seeking a qualified and motivated person to fill the position of:

Project Assistant Anti-Trafficking Unit

Duties and responsibilities:

- Work as an Assistant for the Human Rights and Rule of Law Section/ Human Dimension Division;
- Manage internal documentation and correspondence;
- Financial administration of various projects;
- Organize, coordinate and plan meetings, trainings and workshops, together with other relevant actors;
- Assist in monitoring the project implementation;
- Maintain and update projects files under supervision of the project officers;
- Contact, or draft correspondence to relevant stakeholders with regard to relevant projects;
- Prepare tables, graphs and other outputs for reporting and presentation of various data;
- Translate documents and correspondence;
- Perform other administrative duties as assigned.

Competencies:

- Higher education or relevant work experience;
- Fluency in written and spoken Ukrainian, Russian and English;
- Experience in organizing seminars/workshops and in office administration;
- Ability to write in a clear and concise manner and to communicate effectively orally;
- Proficiency in computerized spreadsheet, database and word processor;
- Demonstrated organizational skills and ability to establish priorities and to plan and implement own work plan;
- Commitment to continuous learning;
- Good interpersonal and team working skills.

The position will commence from **October 2008**. In order to apply for the position, please use the **OSCE Application Form** which can be found on the OSCE PCU site www.oscepcu.org. You can send your Application Forms via email to Lyubov.Kravchenko@osce.org or by fax: + 380 44 492 03 83 to the attention of Mrs. Lyubov Kravchenko or send it to the OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine, Striletska 16, 01034 Kyiv as soon as possible, but not later than **21 September, 2008**. Please indicate the title of the position in your application. No additional information will be provided by phone. Only short listed candidates will be contacted.



Please, send your CV: cv@exon.com.ua
Contact phone: +38 044 4928008

On behalf of our client – a big international company providing professional communication services starting its operations in Ukraine **Exon Recruiters** is currently searching for an outstanding candidate for the position of

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- Provide company with necessary support, granting explanations concerning correct registration of operations carried out by them according to the requirements of the accounting and tax accounting
- Be point of contact with tax authorities, interact with external auditors and consultants

The job requires: 3+ years in Accounting, financial and tax reporting principles knowledge, good English

On behalf of our client – a big international company providing professional communication services starting its operations in Ukraine **Exon Recruiters** is currently searching for an outstanding candidate for the position of

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Main responsibilities:

- Pursuit and follow-up all personnel affairs effectively, anticipate all changes in labor law and practices, alarm management about these changes and to adapt necessary actions to SAP HR system
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EMBASSY OF FINLAND
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Policy & Commodities Specialist

Responsibilities:

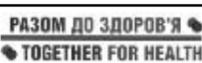
- Support implementation of the State Program "RH of the Nation" in project oblasts;
- Work with the Government counterparts to facilitate importation of humanitarian assistance shipments;
- Support the MOH and oblast health departments on forecasting contraceptive needs, and adopting international procurement procedures;
- Design and implement a Logistics Management Information System for distribution and reporting of free commodities for "RH of the Nation" Program populations;
- Prepare correspondence, workplans, reports and other documents;

Other tasks

- Degree in health, medicine, pharmacy or a related field;
- Understanding of FP/RH/MCH policy issues;
- Experience with public or private sector procurements and/or humanitarian assistance donations of pharmaceuticals helpful;
- Ability to work with Government officials at national and oblast levels;
- Minimum of two years relevant work experience;
- Fluency in Ukrainian and Russian; English skills desirable.

Position requires frequent travel in Ukraine.

CV and cover letter in English to: E-mail: info@fprh-jsi.org.ua or Fax: (044) 581-1521
Deadline: September 19, 2008



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BRITISH COUNCIL

The British Council presents
A two-day
Master Class in Human Resources Management
3-4 October 2008 at the British Council, 4/12 Hryhorya Skovorody Street, Kyiv

This master class will be led by Dave Doughty of Nottingham Business School, UK*.
The course is designed for practising and aspiring Human Resources personnel and will focus on:

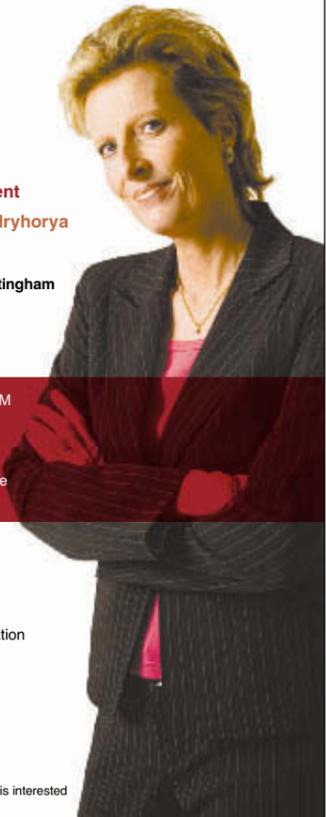
- current international/global practices in the area of HRM
- increasing the credibility of the HR function in organisations operating in Ukraine
- understanding of the impact of effective Human Resource management on Organisational Performance
- HRM across cultures

Cost per participant: 3,000 UAH (Ukrainian hryvna), which includes lunch and coffee.

In order to register please go to our web site www.britishcouncil.org/ukraine to download an application form. Places are limited.

For further information, please call 490 5601 or write to HR@britishcouncil.org.ua

*Nottingham Business School runs courses leading to internationally recognised qualifications such as those offered by the UK *Chartered Institute of Personnel & Development*. The School is interested in offering such courses in Ukraine.



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Konstatin Gribov, senior associate in CMS Cameron McKenna and Victoria Kaplan, senior associate at CMS Cameron McKenna.

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UAH 2000 (+VAT)

Training 26/09/2008 **Measuring and Managing Value of Companies**

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Register and get more on <http://www.kyivpost.com/events>
For more information call (044) 496-4563 or e-mail events@kyivpost.com

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Send a fax including number of boxes, number of issues and form of payment to 496-1111 or send email: kyivpost-adv@kpmmedia.ua

DEADLINE

The deadline for Thursday's Education & Training advertisements in the Post is Monday at 6 p.m.

PAYMENT

Pre-payment is required in all cases.



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IN THE
SEPTEMBER 25
ISSUE

KYIV POST The Guide

SEPTEMBER 4TH, 2008

Picture perfect

Casual pizzeria Paparazzi proves to be a cool joint with tasty inexpensive food

Page 32



Skryabin song ban in media

A song by the band Skryabin and its music video were banned from Ukrainian television and radio. The national Commission on Protection of Public Morals, a government watchdog, said the lyrics of the Skryabin song "Mumitrol" violated ethical norms and incited violence. The song goes: "If you betray me, my love, I'll tear out all of your hair, I'll bite your hand hard, like a rabid dog..." According to the Law on Television and Broadcasting, a song that receives such a verdict may be removed from air. Skryabin frontman Andriy Kuzma took it calmly, though. "I'm just sorry for these people who cannot find anything more damaging on the Ukrainian culture scene than our song," he said.



Harry Potter outlawed in Donetsk schools

The Donetsk city council issued a recommendation on Aug. 27 that schools in Voroshylovskiy district, the central region of the city, should remove all Harry Potter books from their foreign literature reading list for the 5th grade. This was initiated by Voroshylovskiy district deputy Oleksandr Adamov, who labeled J.K. Rowling's book's "fast-food literature," and urged to guard school kids from the effects of its occultism, mystique, and black magic. Schools were recommended to replace "Harry Potter" with "Pippi Longstocking" by Astrid Lindgren.

Queen + Paul Rogers live!



By ALEXANDRA MATOSHKO
matoshko@kpmmedia.ua

Rock legends Queen + Paul Rogers are going to play a free open-air concert to support the ANTI/AIDS campaign in Ukraine in Kharkiv's Ploshcha Svobody (Freedom Square) – Europe's second-largest city-center square. Queen will perform just a week after the birthday of their legendary frontman Freddy Mercury, who died of AIDS in 1991. The gig is expected to attract more than 100,000. Supported by Queen's own HIV/AIDS charity, The Mercury Phoenix Trust, the free concert is being organized by the Elena Franchuk ANTI/AIDS Foundation and is being devoted to the fight against AIDS. The show will be a prelude to the official release of the new five-year public awareness

ANTI/AIDS campaign "On the Edge" the following day.

For Queen members Brian May and Roger Taylor, now joined by rock vocalist Paul Rodgers, the concert is one of many the band has played to address the issue of HIV/AIDS. In June, the band performed amongst international stars in London's Hyde Park to celebrate Nelson Mandela's 90th birthday and raise awareness of the work being done by his HIV/AIDS organization.

Many might be surprised at the choice of location for the event – Kharkiv, as opposed to the capital, Kyiv, where the previous ANTI/AIDS concert by Elton John took place last year. Elena Franchuk, founder of the ANTI/AIDS Foundation said: "We've chosen Kharkiv for this concert – it is our country's biggest city after Kyiv, with a population of 1.5 million [and]

at its heart, a student city. After the great success of the Elton John concert we organized in Kyiv in 2007, we decided to take the message of our HIV/AIDS campaign not only to the capital cities but to our youth all over Ukraine."

But, of course, many will travel to Kharkiv not only to hear the musicians address the audience on the issue of AIDS, but to use a rare chance to see legends live in Ukraine.

Some dedicated Queen fans (and I count myself among the latter) consider the reunion of the band with Paul Rogers as vocalist a mistake – at least under the name of Queen, while others recall Queen's main quote "The Show Must Go On" as an excuse for the band to carry on playing.

The original Queen as we knew it ended in 1991 with Freddy Mercury's death, and then officially ended with

the release of "Made in Heaven" – a genius tribute album of Queen's previously unheard songs.

Still the two original members of Queen, Brian May and Roger Taylor, continued performing, and started collaborating with Paul Rogers (formerly Bad Company, Free, The Firm) in late 2004. Brian May had performed with Rogers on several previous occasions, and invited him to perform with Queen at their induction into the UK Music Hall of Fame. The three performed several songs together and in 2005 announced their common tour. After touring worldwide, the new band released its first single, "Say It's Not True," the live album "Return of the Champions," and the studio album "Cosmos Rocks" in 2008.

Kharkiv, Ploshcha Svobody,
Sept. 12. 7 p.m.



CITY
LIFE
with
Alexandra
Matoshko

The new TV season is one of the many things that signify the coming of fall in Kyiv. Whether you watch television or not, you can't help noticing all those posters in the metro and all over town, announcing new attractions: singer Natalia Mohylevska in "Star Factory 2" on Noviy, Savik Shuster in his new political show on Ukraina, and the TV hosts of Inter announcing "Your Decisive Autumn." For the channels, fall is the best time to try and win over a bigger part of the audience, promising lots of great entertainment. But is it really so great?

Before I used to laugh at people who said they don't watch TV because it's not worth it. I thought they were just showing off... But now I can agree with them.

I mostly have time to turn on the television in the evenings or on weekends, and I seldom find anything to watch there, apart from the news. Most Ukrainian channels dedicate evenings to sitcoms, soap operas and other types of TV series, mostly of Russian/Ukrainian production and belonging to one of two categories – dumb and dumber. The production of soap operas in Ukraine seems to be flourishing, offering stale plots about the rich, poor and criminals.

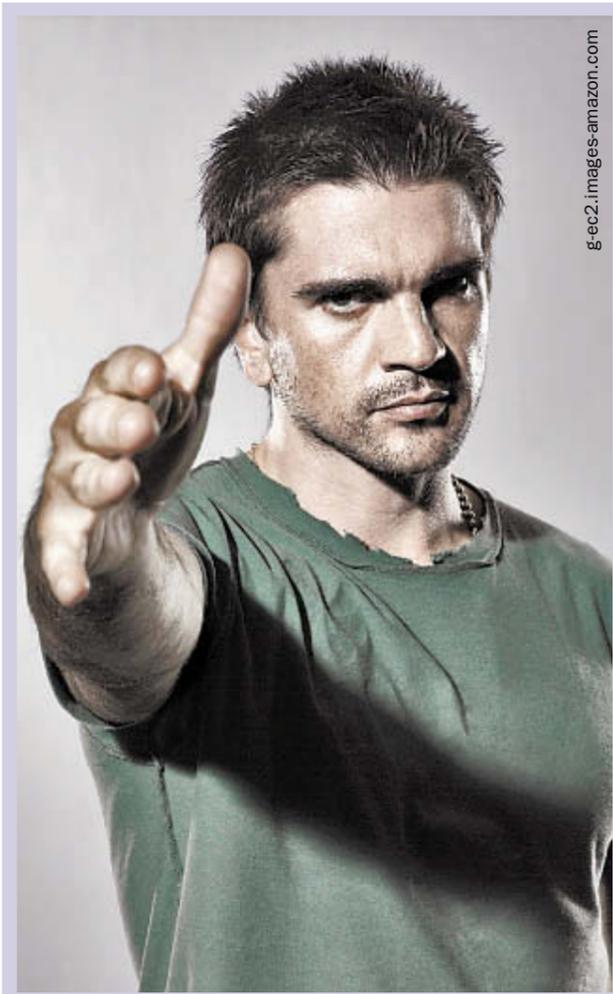
Other frequently seen programs include reality shows – from "star factory" types to the idiotic "Dom 2" from Russia; concerts of Russian and Ukrainian pop stars; stand-up comedy – Soviet era comedians and "Comedy Club Ukraine" – both not my kind of humor; culinary programs, programs on the supernatural, and programs on history, nature and travel – the most watchable of all.

Available only on cable, MTV Ukraine plays some cool videos as well as lots of silly shows, and Enter Music is probably the highest quality Ukrainian music channel, but you can hardly watch it all the time. I used to search the TV guide for good movies, but there is seldom anything new – just the same old comedies, thrillers and action films that I've seen 50 times before.

Considering all this, I stick to the Internet and DVDs now, watching what I want when I want it, instead of hopelessly switching through channels.

Have some ideas you'd like to share? Want to promote your next big event?

Contact Editor Alexandra Matoshko at matoshko@kpmmedia.ua, or call 496-4563!



g-rec2.images-amazon.com

Juanes

Mass media calls him Latin America's hottest singer-songwriter (with 12 Latin Grammy Awards), a soulful poet with an electric guitar and one of Latin America's most politically conscious musicians.

As a teenager, Juanes had his own metallic rock band Ekymosis and released five studio albums. But as the band "couldn't get out of Colombia," he dispersed the group in 1998 and started a solo career. The debut album "Fijate Bien" ("Take a Good Look") earned him three Latin Grammys at once. The follow-up, "Un Dia Normal" ("A Normal Day"), spent 92 weeks in the top 10 of Billboard's Top Latin Albums chart, setting a new record. The album featured the song "Fotografia" ("Photograph"), a duet with Portuguese Canadian pop singer Nelly Furtado. "Mi Sangre" ("My Blood") was released in 2004 and debuted at number one on the Billboard Top Latin Albums.

In 2006, Juanes performed before the European Parliament as part of a campaign to increase awareness of the harm in using land mines around the world, including his native Colombia. He was the first singer to perform in the hemicycle where the European Parliament holds its plenary sessions.

Juanes' concert in Kyiv will be a part of the "La Vida World Tour" in support of his new album "La Vida... Es un Ratico" ("Life Is a Moment").

— Oksana Faryna

PALATS SPORTU
Palats Sportu, 246-7406
Sept. 10. 7 p.m.
Tickets Hr 200 to Hr 500.

Rock Sich

Another musical event initiated by restless musician and cultural activist Oleh Skrypka, the Rock Sich festival is coming to Kyiv's Trukhaniv Island this weekend. The first Rock Sich took place in 2006. Last year, the event was cancelled due to organizational problems, but it's back to please all Ukrainian rock fans. The headliners of the first day of the festival, Sept. 6, will be rock icons from Lviv – Plach Yermiyi, Canadian rockers with Ukrainian origins – Klooch, and industrial nationalists Komu Vnyz from Kyiv. The rest of the program will feature Nazad Shlyakhu Nemaye, Zoryaniy Korsar, Zhandarmy, Horta, Abzdolts, Holodne Sontse, and deejays O'Skrypka, Derbastler, Les Nouveaux DJ's and others. The stars of the next day's line-up will be Vopli Vidoplyasova (VV) fronted by Skrypka himself, romantic folk rockers Mandry, Svoboda from Saint-Petersburg and @TRAKTOR, the new project of Oleksandr Pipa (another VV member). Also the line-up lists Propala Hramota, Koralli, Verhovna Zrada, Domination, White, Stelsi and others.

TRUKHANIV ISLAND
Poshtova Ploshcha metro,
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Sept. 6-7. 4 p.m.
Free Admission.

— Alexandra Matoshko



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Rare works of Salvador Dali, Mark Shagal and Andre Lot

Five rare works of legendary artists – Spanish surrealist Salvador Dali, Belorussian-born cubist Marc Chagall and French cubist Andre Lot – are to be displayed in Kyiv for the first time as part of Big Antique Salon's 2008 exhibition, taking place at Ukrayinskiy Dim. The works include two graphic works of Salvador Dali – "Florence. A Landscape" and "Corrida," the lithography "Mexican Landscape," the ink painting "Couple" by Mark Shagal, and "Portrait" by Andre Lot. The exhibits are being presented by antique gallery Bosko, and were borrowed from private collections of two Ukrainians, whose identities are kept secret. While five artworks can hardly be called an exhibition, they are undoubtedly worth seeing.

— Alexandra Matoshko

UKRAYINKIY DIM
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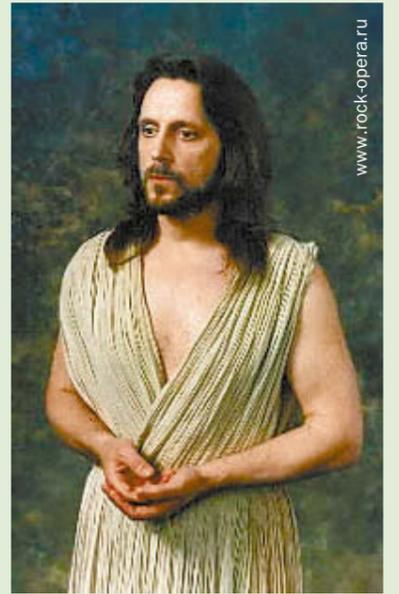
"Jesus Christ Superstar"

For the first time in the last 10 years, the legendary St. Petersburg Rock Opera State Theater will perform its best stagings on tour in Kyiv. The theater was founded in 1975 by the well-known Singing Guitars band. It was created as an antipode of classical opera theater and used unusual – for traditional opera – music, such as rock, swing and rap. On the first evening, it will perform the touching love story "Juno & Avos," the group's most successful opera. On the second, it will be the world famous "Jesus Christ Superstar." The tour will finish with the first Soviet rock-opera "Orpheus & Eurydice," first staged in 1975 as a "song opera" because the world "rock" was restricted by state policy as foreign culture. In 2003, this opera was included in the Guinness Book of World Records as a musical performed by one troupe the most times (2350 times in that year).

"Jesus Christ Superstar" became the first Russian version of a scandalous rock-opera of the same name, written by Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber and first released as a double-album in 1970, starring Deep Purple vocalist Ian Gillan. Many religious groups protested outside the theater during the first Broadway production. They found the character of Judas too sympathetic and some of his criticisms of Jesus offensive. Tim Rice was criticized for his words: "It happens that we don't see Christ as God, but simply the right man at the right time at the right place." The play was banned in South Africa for being "irreligious."

The staging of the St. Petersburg Theater stands closer to the Bible, in part because the show was blessed by the Russian Orthodox Church, and in part because of the specific Russian translation which includes many direct quotes from the Bible. Hopefully, it doesn't rid the opera of its special charm, satire, and allusions to show biz, which portray Herod calling Jesus a "hit" and religious leaders alluding to "Jesus mania."

— Oksana Faryna



www.rock-opera.ru

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1 Instytutska, 278-7492, 279-1582.
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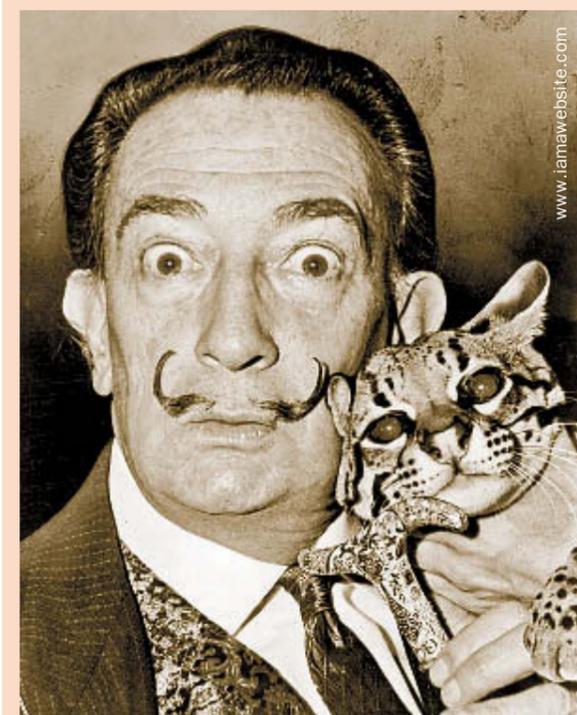
Movie in English: "The Riddle"

"The Riddle" is the first work directed by British journalist, screen writer and producer Brendan Foley. The film premiered in the UK in Sept. 2007. The country's highest circulation Sunday newspaper, The Mail, bought U.K. DVD rights and issued 2.6 million promotional copies, raising their usual circulation in the process by more than 300,000. Brendan Foley came up with the idea of the "world's first national newspaper premiere" in order to promote film more effectively. "We are just little people, struggling to make the best of our film, which we are very proud of, but which is battling against the force of the mighty average \$100+ million budget of the Hollywood film, plus prints and advertising, which is unmatched by any other film, company or country in the world," said film's producer Lars Hermann. Finally "The Riddle" became one of the most widely distributed indie movies ever in the UK.

Critics called it a "smart contemporary London mystery thriller with a Dickensian twist." In the story a journalist played by Vinnie Jones – the star of Guy Ritchie's criminal comedies "Lock, Stock, and Two Smoking Barrels" and "The Snatch" – investigates a series of murders that follows the discovery of an unpublished novel by Charles Dickens in the cellar of an old Thames-side-pub. Gradually, he becomes obsessed with a century-old murder in the pages of the manuscript.

— Oksana Faryna

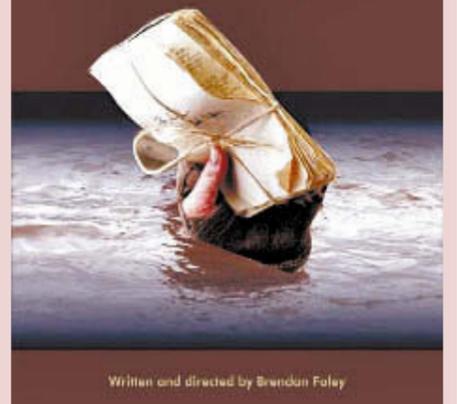
ZHOVTEN
26 Konstyantynivska, 205-5951.
From Sept. 4.
See Movies for more information



www.iamawebste.com

Vinnie Jones Derek Jacobi Julie Cox Vanessa Redgrave

THE RIDDLE



lised.com.ar

Written and directed by Brendan Foley

LIVE MUSIC

ART CLUB 44
44 Khreshchatyk, 279-4137
Thu 4 Natural Studio
Fri 5 Rosemary
Sat 6 Chill Out
Sun 7 Bluse Band (Jam)
Mon 8 Silvery Tone
Tue 9 Red Rocks

DOCKER'S ABC
15 Khreshchatyk, 278-1717
Thu 4 Angie Nears
Fri 5 Mad Heads XL, Tres Deseos
Sat 6 Tex-Mex, Red Rocks
Sun 7 Crossfire
Mon 8 Merry Weather Hunters
Tue 9 Tres Deseos

DOCKER PUB
25 Bohatyrska, 451-8528
Thu 4 Tex Mex
Fri 5 Ot Vinta, Mr. Och & his Root

Boys
Sat 6 Bratya Karamazovy, Mr. Och & his Root Boys
Sun 7 Foxtrot Music Band
Mon 8 Angie Nears
Tue 9 More Huana

ROUTE 66
87/30 Zhylanska, 239-3865
Thu 4 More Huana
Fri 5 Chill Out
Sat 6 Second Breath
Sun 7 Universal Pictures
Mon 8 Animals' Session
Tue 9 Angie Nears

DAKOTA
14 Heroiv Stalingradu, 468-7410
Thu 4 Bolshoi Kush
Fri 5 King XL, Karnavalnaya Zhara
Sat 6 Bells, Trust Deseos
Sun 7 Kontrabanda

Mon 8 Chill Out
Tue 9 Dandy

PORTER PUB
10 Rybalko, 483-7150
Thu 4 Red Rocks
Fri 5 Southern Hot Guys
Sat 6 Mr. Och & his Root Boys
Sun 7 Max Tavrichesky

PIVARIUM
31 Peremohy, 391-5285
Thu 4 The Second Breath
Fri 5 Vytivky
Sat 6 Dandy

U KRUZHKI
12/37 Dekabrystiv, 562-6262
Thu 4 True Colors
Fri 5 Red Rocks
Sat 6 CD Band

DISCO

ARENA DANCE CLUB
2A Baseyna, 492-0000
Thu 4 Show Girls party: D-Jane Milan, DJ Rocket
Fri 5 Natalia Mohilevska concert, Juke Box party: DJs Rocket, Ya DJ, Lutique
Sat 6 Comedy Club UA
Sun 7 PJ Battle, DJs Lady kate, Rocket

SHOOTERS
22 Moskovska, 254-2024
Thu 4 DJ Badrove & Vova Black's, MC Sergei
Fri 5 Love party: DJs Roma Rio,
Sat 6 Party time: DJ Roma Rio, Alex Small, MC Jumper

Sun 7 Independence Day of Brazil party: DJ Roma Rio, MC Belkin

XLIB CLUB
12 Frunze
Thu 4 iPOD battle: Tuta, Boyz Not Toyz, Zhar Mishel Zhar, Groovy Loser, Cyril Bacardi, Mishukof, Porox
Fri 5 Hummerman znyshchue Virusy (live)
Sat 6 Audiojack

ALTA EXPO
11A Moskovsky
Fri 5 Therapy Sessions Ukraine: TeeBee, The panacea, Current value, Donny, Taplosky, Zloy

MOST OPEN AIR
Moskovsky Bridge, Druzhby Narodiv Park
Sat 6 Techno closing of the season: FL-X (Germany), Versus Live (Hungary), Belkin, Damaskin, Qlectr, Nique Unique, SweetBeat, Kollad, Sleeper, Alex Henker, Pozitive, Bratus

TSAR PROJECT
1V Hrushevskoho, 278-6246
Fri 5 Autumn Begins, party doesn't stop!: DJs Toni Key (Russia), Bumer show-ballet Tsar Project Ladies
Sat 6 Epatage Saturday party: Andriy Dzhedzhula Show, DJs Mishukoff, Gerbut, show-ballet Tsar Project Ladies

BOOKS IN ORIGINAL

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6 Chervonoarmiyska, 224-5045
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2/7 Bulvar Davidova, 555-1609

FAST FRIEND

Mark Antushka of New World Grain Ukraine



Place you call home? Australia aka Down Under.
Time in Ukraine? Almost one year.
What do you do for a living? I work as deputy general manager in the agriculture industry for a joint venture company formed between Australia's ABB Grain and France's Soufflet Group. We buy millions of tons of wheat, barley and corn for export to Middle Eastern, North African and European countries. On behalf of ABB Grain, I am also working on the shipment of live cattle, both dairy and beef breeding stock, for the first time from Australia to Ukraine.
What brought you to Ukraine? Well, Ukraine is the second largest exporter of barley after Australia, so for ABB Grain it was a natural expansion in order to keep supply to our customers after several droughts in Australia. My parents are Ukrainian so I can also catch up with family and friends in Western Ukraine at the same time.
Your first impression of Ukraine? I visited in 1996, but the rapid pace of change since then has been amazing! Cars, shops, restaurants, mobile phones!
Your funniest moment in Ukraine? There are many, but a recent one was seeing a naked man walk casually across a bridge, while I was picking up my

mother from the airport and driving her to my right bank apartment. It was her first impression of Ukraine!
Your favorite places (ways) to spend free time in Kyiv? First of all, it's watching my beloved Dynamo Kyiv play, and second would be to eat on the Dnipro at Khutorok or Koleso.
What's your idea of a perfect weekend? Swimming in the sea in Crimea and later dining at a restaurant watching the sunset.
What's the key to success in life? Respect people from the cleaner to the oligarch and work hard on your passions – luck and success will come.
Your biggest pet peeve? Traffic in Kyiv – it's a disaster.
How would your friends describe you? Trustworthy and loyal. Never serious. Cheeky.
What was your childhood dream? To play football for Dynamo Kyiv...or Manchester United
Favorite movie? "American Beauty," "Jaws," "Deer Hunter," "Pulp Fiction."
Favorite author? Steven King.
What's your favorite music? Bon Jovi, Aerosmith, Ani Lorak.
What is the best place you've traveled to? Saigon, Budapest, Yalta.
You may contact Mark at Mark.Antushka@nwg.com.ua

MOVIES

MEDEE MIRACLE
Drama, France/ Italy (2007)
Directed by Tonino De Bernardi
Starring Isabelle Huppert, Maria de Medeiros and Lou Castel
Language: French
The movie is the latest work of Italian movie director Tonino De Bernardi. The script is an adaptation of a mythological story about Medea, the princess and sorceress of Colchis who helped Jason obtain the Golden Fleece, left with him but killed their children as revenge for his infidelity. In the movie a singer Irene (Isabelle Huppert) moves to another city with her husband and two children. Their life seems to pass sweetly and happily, yet the woman's jealousy brings an end to the family idyll.

LA LUNA EN BOTELLA
Comedy, Spain (2007)
Directed by Grojo
Starring Eduard Soto, Dominique Pinon and Leigh Zimmerman
Language: Spanish
"La Luna en Botella" ("Moon in a Bottle") is a synonym for everything impossible in the world. A company of friends who often hang out together in a cafe search for happiness. One of them has to finish a novel in a month and seeks inspiration, another falls in love with a girl, who totally ignores him. Inimitable French actor Domini Pinon ("Ameli," "The City of Lost Children") plays the cafe owner.

THE ROLLING STONES: SHINE A LIGHT
Documentary, UK (2008)
Directed by Martin Scorsese
Starring Mick Jagger, Keith Richards and Charlie Watts
Language: English
"Shine a Light" was directed by one of America's renowned directors Martin Scorsese, who documented two Stones performances from their Bigger Bang Tour. Scorsese filmed the Stones over a two-day period at the intimate Beacon Theater in New York City in the fall of 2006 when the Stones performed a benefit for Bill Clinton's charity foundation. Filling the hall with lights and cameras, Scorsese captures their set with a stunning, often unforgiving clarity. Particularly blown up to gargantuan size on the screen, you're going to see every wrinkle on Mick Jagger and Keith Richards' craggy faces.

PARANOID PARK
Drama, France/ USA (2007)
Directed by Gus Van Sant

Starring Gabe Nevins, Taylor Momsen and Daniel Liu
Language: English
The newest film by Gus Van Sant, "Paranoid Park," tells the story of a teenage skateboarder who gets ensnared in the accidental death of a security guard. As it often happens with Van Sant movies, the reaction to it was dubious – some considered it a wonderful work, while the others slammed it for its pointless plot and long tedious shots. However, if you're a fan of Van Sant or art house cinema in general, see it and judge for yourself.

DU LEVANDE
Comedy/ Drama, Sweden/ Germany/ France (2007)
Directed by Roy Andersson
Starring Jessika Lundberg, Elisabeth Helander and Leif Larsson
Language: Swedish
"Du Levande" ("You, the Living") is a last work of 65-year-old Swedish director Roy Andersson. According to him, "You, the Living" is a film about humankind, its greatness and its baseness, joy and sorrow, its self-confidence and anxiety, its desire to love and be loved. The movie has already won Silver Hugo at the Chicago International Film Festival and three Golden Beetles, as well as awards of the Swedish Film Institute for "best direction", "best film" and "best screenplay".

ZHOVTEN
26 Kostiantynivska (Kontraktova Ploscha metro), 2055951, 4173004, www.zhovten-kino.kiev.ua
The Riddle – From Sep 4
La Masseria delle Allodole – From Sep 4
The Rolling Stones – Ongoing
La Luna en Botella – Ongoing

KYIV
19 Chervonoarmiyska (Lva Tolstoho metro), 234 7381, 251 2199. www.kievkino.com.ua
Medee Miracle – Daily at 3.40 p.m., 7.10 p.m.
La Masseria delle Allodole – Daily at 7 p.m., 9.20 p.m.

KINOPANORAMA
19 Shota Rustaveli, 287 3041, 2871135
Du Levande – Ongoing
Paranoid Park – Daily at 1 p.m., 3 p.m., 5 p.m., 7 p.m., 9 p.m., 11 p.m.

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Khodosivka Paradróm, 472-1618, 493-4217, 495-2463

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Lights.
Reservations: 228-0531

Harmony
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Reservations: call Boris Alekseyevych at 8-067-941-4375.

Nauka Tennis Club
32 Akademy Vernadskoho (Svyatoshyn district).
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Reservations: 444-3381/481581.

Olymp
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Courts: several outdoor, 1 indoor parquet
Reservations: 442-8102

Tennis Club
55 Chyhorina, 269-4245

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2 Mezhyhirska, 425-4280

Kyiv Academic Puppet Theater
1 Myropilska, 513-1500

Childrens Amusement Center Igloland
12 Luhova, shopping center Karavan, 206-4330

State Toy Museum
8 Klovskiy Uzviz, 253-5400

Kyiv Planetarium
57/3 Chervonoarmiyska, 287-7508

Water Info Center (Water Museum)
1V Hrushevskoho, Tel. 279-5333



Kozak Night annual charitable fund raising event organized by the Kyiv Lions Club, and for the second year in a row sponsored by Stoletov, was held on Aug. 30. The guests enjoyed lots of fun entertainment (1, 2), Uwe Kramer (3, left) looked like a real cossack, Myron Spolsky (4) smoked to warm up on the cold day and so did other guests (5). (Yaroslav Debelyi)

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A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

SEPTEMBER 4TH, 2008



Robert Reed (1, left) played a game of hide-n-seek at the EBA (European Business Association) EuroDrink Party Ukrainian Night at the Museum of Hetmanate on Aug. 26, while Kamen Zahariev (2, right) looked pensive and other guests socialized (3). Electronic acts Tomato Jaws (4), Gorchitza Live Project (5) and The Maneken (6) entertained the audience at the LSD (Last Summer Day) Party at Chabany restaurant and hotel complex on Aug. 31. (Oleksiy Boyko and Yaroslav Debelyi)



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Fall-winter 2008/2009: Style tips for new fashion season

By MARIA LEONTIEVA
leontieva@kpmmedia.ua

For true fashionistas, fall first of all means the arrival of a new fashion season, which requires an urgent renewal of the wardrobe based on the ideas and creations of world famous designers, who pretty much decide what we all wear. Even if you don't shop at high fashion boutiques, the mid-range brands borrow designs from them anyway.

Another good reason to go shopping is the change of weather – you can no longer wear those strap dresses and sandals, and need to make sure you're ready for a sudden change of weather (which is normal for Ukraine) and to meet it in style. And let the international runway trends be your inspiration. This season, designers offer lots of color, graphic prints, vintage cuts, controlled volumes, oversized knits and massive accessories. All you need to do is add a personal touch to the chosen look.

70's: The 70's are back as the hippie style becomes more glamorous, rave more bridled and glam-rock more casual: A-shaped silhouettes and elegant geometry of lines, bright waistcoats and striped sweaters, roll-neck sweaters, platforms and bell-bottomed trousers, trousers suits and capes.

Eco-Style: Fashion designers continue to draw their inspiration from nature. Benetton's collection once again offers warm and fuzzy knit sweaters of bright natural colors. Organic fabrics, nature-inspired prints, green colors, leather and fur are emphasized. This season knee-length pencil-skirts, casual dresses that emphasize waist, gauzy blouses, tailored jackets are must-haves.

Ethnic Mix: Bohemian style is refreshed, by getting new ethnic accents and a more precious touch. As the top colors, designers are proposing intense red, royal blue and brilliant orange. An evening dress that is red as fire, an orange cape, a sapphire colored gauzy blouse will be must-have items for fall and winter. This fashion is crossing Eastern Europe, but also India, Peru and Mexico. The colors are merged and the cultures combined, while imagination is blossoming. You can proudly mix Ukrainian traditional items with ethnic elements from other cultures. Russian short-fur coats and sheepskin coats, Cossack shirts and boots, Icelandic ornaments, Scottish chequered, English raincoats, Mexican ponchos, and American Indian national clothes are the hottest items of this season.

Ethnic style from Gucci took a neo-hippie turn with chiffon blouses and dresses with ethnic ornaments, chain-like belts, scarves worn around hips, vests of fur and clanging accessories. Other ethnic visions are to be found in the autumn-winter collections of Dolce & Gabbana, Tsumori Chisato, Pollini, Kenzo, Hermes and Dries Van Noten.

Back to Black: In autumn we often long for reflection, therefore fashion is always more dramatic, with a lot of black and grey. Victorian, gothic, classic black are the basic trends in the cold season. After a short period of respite, it is coming back strong. Goths, witches, Spanish widows make the catwalk and invite you to join their army of darkness. You can wear it as the Givenchy collection is proposing – accessorizing with tons of golden chains and pendants or the embodied form of a little black dress with a bold cut as in Balenciaga's col-



In its autumn-winter 2008/2009 collection Gucci brought back hippie chick, Victor & Rolf suggested a rough look with bold statements, and Louis Vuitton offered a romantic woman-of-the-future image. (daylife.com, monstersandcritics.com)

lection. Costume National and Calvin Klein are offering an ascetic look, and Chanel – classically elegant. But the real gothic show was demonstrated by Comme des Garcons.

Good girl gone bad: Agyness Deyn and Amy Winehouse have brought the "bad girl" style back to fashion. Choose Alexander McQueen's biker jacket or leather dress, clutch with thorns from Disquared2, and a coat from Viktor & Rolf, that says "NO" with two giant letters out front. Must haves are accessories with British symbols, buttons, epaulettes, badges, and medals. To get an original military look, mix a jacket with tight patent leather pants or leggings. And black willies with Celtic medals from Burberry's new fall-winter collection look extra original. Wearing those, you won't have to worry about rainy weather.

Shapes: Clear lines, architectonic and sculpted shapes assure you an ultra-modern look in an instant. Metallic accents point out the daring cuts. If you're bold

enough to pull this look off, get yourself a coat with a square layered collar from Jil Sander, or a jacket or sweater from Maison Martin Margiela. Junya Watanabe as always offers unusually cut dresses, jackets and coats, Marc Jacobs – straight and round-shaped coats, and jackets from Balenciaga will visually deform your figure. If you're bold enough, add a tube-shaped hat from Louis Vuitton and you're sure to become the center of attention, even at a hottest fashion party.

Lady Chic: Many of the collections propose more exquisite looks with elaborate embroideries, precious lace, alluring prints, origami details, volumes of delicate colors as pale-pinks, beige and bright grey. The Prada collection shows a beautiful example of combining romantic and sensual with tender lace dresses. If you want to look extra sexy, put on black stockings and a shining metallic knee-length slim cut dress. The look a la Greta Garbo is more relevant than ever. There is variety of "masculine" looks: white suit with a superb

cut like the one in Salvatore Ferragamo collection, a playful look inspired by Sonia Rykiel or a more masculine, sober approach, just like Karl Lagerfeld is suggesting. And don't forget about luxurious fur – mink, rabbit, lamb, chinchilla or sable. And this time fur is no longer just for coats – fur dresses and vests are among the hottest trends. Even if you can't afford expensive fur, you can always use cheaper options like collars, trimmings or fur cuffs. Get inspired by Pollini, Fendi, and Giambattista Valli.

Neo-romantics: If you want to be open about your feminine side and show it to the world, forget rough shapes and gloomy colors. Try on long flowing dresses from Blumarine or Ralph Lauren, flowery overalls from Emanuel Ungaro, and elegant ladylike silhouettes from Diane von Furstenberg. Become an exotic bird with brightly-colored dresses and Turkish pants from John Galiano, or a real princess in a royal dress with hoop skirt from Alexander McQueen. All you need now is to choose your prince.

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Salvatore Ferragamo (15 Khreschatyk, Passage)	MID-RANGE SHOPS	
Gucci (15 Khreschatyk, Passage)	Benetton (42 Khreschatyk, 235-6744)	
Bottega Veneta (15/4 Khreschatyk, Passage)	Zara (23 Khreschatyk)	
Passage 15 (15 Khreschatyk, Passage, 390-3315)	Mango (13 Khreschatyk, 279-3860)	
Disquared2	Mexx (23A Chervonoarmyska, 287-6610, Maidan Nezaleznosti, Globus, 12 Luhova, Karavan)	
	Oasis (Maidan Nezaleznosti, Globus)	

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INTRODUCTIONS

Behind the scenes – exploring small original theaters of Kyiv

By **OLGA KOVALENKO**

kovalenko.olga@kpmmedia.ua

Once autumn arrives in the city, beachgoers and sunbathers will have already returned from the seaside and are be starving for fresh emotions. The new theater season will hopefully satisfy their intellectual desires. The big theaters like Ivan Franko National Academic Drama Theater, Lesya Ukrainka Russian Drama Theater and Left Bank Drama Theater as always will be the most popular. However, Kyiv can offer a much wider array of theaters. In fact, some smaller theaters boast brilliant actors, a wider repertoire and a full house. Moreover, these small stages are becoming a promising alternative to old, traditional theaters. I've asked my friends Alyona and Danil, real theater aficionados, to guide me around Kyiv's small original theaters.

New Theater on Pechersk aka Kryzhovnik (Gooseberry), according to Alyona, was founded by pupils of Nikolai Rushkovskiy, an actor of Lesi Ukrainki Russian Drama Theater and renowned

teacher at the Karpenko-Karyi Theater Institute, straight after finishing their studies. The former students not only play, but stage performances by themselves. The theater is very small but the size evokes a cozy atmosphere. While waiting for the third bell (calling you to the play), you can gaze at old music instruments exhibited in the hall or have a cup of tea sitting among antique furniture. To buy drinks and sweets you should help yourself at the table and deposit money into a special box nearby – Kryzhovnik trusts its audience. Visiting Kryzhovnik for the first time, check out the plays "Zakon Tango" ("The Law of Tango"), "Sluga Dvuh Gospod" ("Two Masters' Servant") or "Pyat Rasskazov Pelevina" ("Five Stories by Pelevin") based on humorous stories by modern Russian author Viktor Pelevin. Although in Kryzhovnik they try to find room for everybody, it's better to buy tickets (Hr 25-30) in advance.

Drama Theater on Podil is located at Hostiny Dvir, on the site of the former market. In the middle of the performance during my first visit to the theatre, I was stunned by a strange rumbling under my feet. As Alena whispered into my ear, it was the sound of a passing tram. Surprisingly, it didn't ruin the atmosphere in the hall – so much I was gripped by the action onstage. Most actors of the theatre are likewise former pupils of Nikolai Rushkovskiy. Among the leading actors is the couple Sofia Pisman and Sergiy Sipliv, who teach stage speech at Karpenko-Karyi institute. The repertoire's main plus is that it combines Russian and Ukrainian performances. By the way, among the biggest achievements of the theater is the Zolota

Pektoral 2004 Award granted for the best performance – their version of Chehov's "Dyadya Vanya" ("Uncle Vanya"). While the seats and even steps usually sell out during performances (choose "V Steph Ukrainy" ("In Ukrainian Steppes") or "Faraony" ("Pharaohs"), you might manage to get tickets (Hr 25 to Hr 30) at the last moment.

Koleso is among those few theaters that stage performances in Ukrainian. Moreover it bears traditional Ukrainian motifs based on the theories of Ukrainian theater director Les Kurbas, who lived and worked in the beginning of the 20th century. Buying tickets, which are more expensive in comparison with other small stages – around Hr 35-50, choose the play "Heneral u Spidnytsyakh" ("Generals in Skirts") or "Udaviany Hvoriy" ("Pretended Invalid"). The spicy part of these performances, according to Alena, is a combination of music, dancing and singing, all mixed with brisk humor.

Lots of useful information about **Suzirya** (Constellation) theater I learned from enthusiast Danil. He appeared to be its adherent frequenter and from the very beginning recommended me to see the performances "Parnas Dybom" ("Parnassus on End"), "V Malomu Koli Kohannya" ("In a Small Circle of Love"), "Zanoza" ("Splinter"), and "Zhenshina v Peskah" ("Woman of the Dunes"). The location of Suzirya is a story in itself. It actually wasn't designed as a theater, but as a house. Thus, listening to music streaming from the white piano in the hall, recall that you are standing in the former library and when taking your seats



Dakh Center of Modern Art delivers unusual plays to the folk tunes of Dakha-Brakha. (Oleksiy Boyko)

to watch the play, try to imagine a New Year tree that was standing in the middle of the room some hundred years ago. During renovation of one of the rooms, theater posters covering the walls were discovered under wooden panels. Now the rarities are hanging in one of the halls. If you get interested, you will find even more interesting facts during the excursion held before the performance. Suzirya is in fact on its way to become a truly academic theater, meaning a salon, where the intellectual and artistic elite of the city will gather regularly.

I can't avoid including in this list the **Dakh Center of Modern Art**, which is either praised as the center of alternative art in Kyiv or dismissed as a gathering of amateurs. The main attraction and heart of the performances is ethno-rock music band Dakha-Brakha. The classical plots, including Shakespeare unfold before your eyes to the beat of drums and national Ukrainian vocals. From time to time Dakh conducts exhibitions and organizes social events, for example it invites children to paint pictures on a chosen theme.

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The British Business Club in Ukraine meets every Saturday for Business Discussion and once every month for networking membership of the BBCU by invitation only and is open to individuals and companies. Please email: brbay@bbcub.com.ua

Swedish Ukrainian Business Club (www.subc.org.ua <http://www.subc.org.ua>) strives to unite businessmen and entrepreneurs in Sweden and Ukraine, who are interested in developing business activity between the two countries.

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CONVERSATION PRACTICE

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I'm looking for English conversation practice with a native speaker in exchange for Russian. Elena: prehelend@bigmir.net

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Free English conversation practice in exchange for Russian language. I am also interested in business contacts & Ukrainian culture. Please contact Nikunj 80632300187, nikunjgupta1@gmail.com

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PUBLIC SPEAKING

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ArtTalkers Toastmasters International Club invites those interested in improving public speaking, communicating skills and creative abilities to join its meetings on Saturdays at 11 a.m. at the British Council (Library room), 4/12 Hryhoriya Skovorody (metro "Kontraktova ploscha"). Call +38 067 934 2899 or email at info@arttalkers.com or http://arttalkers.wordpress.com

Dnipro Hills Toastmasters Club would like to invite successful people to learn and develop public speaking, presentation and leadership skills. Join us Sundays from 10 to 11 a.m. at the International Institute of Business at Dehtyarskaya, 51. For detailed information, please contact Andriy Yaroshenko at andrey.yaroshenko@gmail.com or call +380 (95) 846 9999.

Kyiv Toastcrackers Club, a part of Toastmasters International, is a worldwide organization that helps men and women learn the arts of speaking, listening and thinking through effective oral communication. We invite new people to benefit from the meetings on Wednesdays, at 7 p.m. at the House of Scientists, 45a Volodymyrska St. For more information see www.toastcrackers.kiev.ua or email Olga Poporolova at toastcrackers@mail.ru.

Those interested in improving their public speaking, communication skills and creative abilities are invited to the ArtTalkers Toastmasters Club on Saturdays, at 12 a.m. at the British Council, 4/12 Hryhoriya Skovorody (Kontraktova ploscha). Call +38 067 934 2899 or email at info@arttalkers.com or http://arttalkers.wordpress.com

The American Chamber of Commerce Toastmasters Club invites English speaking professionals to advance their presentation and communication skills in friendly and supportive environment. The membership is opened for employees of companies/members of American Chamber of Commerce. We meet every Wednesday at 7.30 p.m., at the Chamber Conference Facility (Horizon Office Towers, 42/44, Shovkovychna ul., LL2). For further detailed information, please contact VP PR Marina Seredkina at marina.seredkina@novartis.com

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The Rotaract Club KyivCenter meets on Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at the Ivana Franko str. 16/2 in the Library of Adama Mitkevycha. For more information please contact Olga Oleksiyuk +38 067 332 30 39 or email: olgawow@ukr.net.Website www.rotaract.kiev.ua

The Rotary Club KyivCenter meets on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. at the Tretyyavitskaya in the Premiere Cafe. For more information, please contact either Momiina Hoque +38 096 959 6610 or email: rc.kyivcenter@yahoo.com, or Kosilinsky Peter +38 044 234 2091, +38 044 234 0352, +38 050 310 8374.

Amnesty International English Speaking Group. Meetings are being held every other Tuesday of the month at 7pm. Become informed, get involved and brush up on your English. Meetings are held at the German Lutheran Church, Vul. Luteranska 22. Call/email for more details. 8066 247 4099. amnestykyiv@yahoo.com

Democrats Abroad Ukraine is the official organization of the Democratic Party in Ukraine; connecting Americans with U.S. politics and the Democratic Party; registering, informing, and motivating voters; supporting U.S. candidates, holding events, and fundraising. To join, email info@democratsabroad.org.ua.

The Kyiv Multinational Rotary Club welcomes all Rotarians who in Kyiv and new potential Rotarians. Our meetings are held in English at take place every Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. at the Bukovyna Restaurant located at 107 Zhylyanska Street. For more information please email us at Kyiv.MultinationalRC@gmail.com

The International Women's Club of Kyiv (IWCK) welcomes women from around the world to join our support network and participate in our extensive social and charitable programs. For more information, look at our website www.iwck.org, call or email the IWCK office to Vita Gusevna who is IWCK Program Coordinator: 2343180, office@iwck.org. Address: 39 Pushkinska, #51, entrance 5, door code 38.

The Kyiv Lions Club is one of 45,000 Lions Clubs around the world, we raise funds and provide services to help those most in need in our community by supporting charities in our chosen sectors of giving, Children, the Disabled, and the elderly. We meet on the second Monday of every month in the downstairs bar of the Golden Gate Irish Pub at 19:00. For more information contact Paul Niland on +380 44 531 9193 or paul.niland@primersfunds.com

The Kyiv Rotaract Club meets at 7 p.m. on Wednesdays at the Stoned Baboon, 39 B. Khmelnytskoho. For more information, please contact Oleg Lukashik at 80506428202, or email victoria.e@mail.ru, or lucas41@mail.ru.

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RELIGION

You are invited to the St. Paul's Evangelical Church. Roger McMurrin is its founding pastor. Music for worship is provided by the Kyiv Symphony Orchestra and Chorus. Worship services are held every Sunday at 2:30 pm at the House of Artistic Collectives (Verovka Choir Hall, 4th floor) at 50/52 Shevchenko Blvd. Telephone: 235 45 03 or 235 69 80.

INTERNATIONAL BAPTIST CHURCH, KYIV. English and Spanish Bible Study Classes. We invite you to weekly services at 10.30 a.m. Saturdays at 13A Miropolskaya str. (m. Chernigovskaya, 2nd stop by a tram Boichenka. Central entrance of twostory building). Tel.: 80937576848, 80445423194.

Word of God Church offers Bible Studies every Sunday & Wednesday at 7 p.m. Sunday school, nursery for children. For more information call: 5175193.

Science of Kabbalah teaches methods to find the answer to question about sense of life. Lessons for beginners are held every Thursday at 7 p.m. at City Center of Health, 29 Vladimirska, St. www.kabbalahportal.org, tel. 310361. (065) 8558218.

International Baptist Church invites you to our English language worship services (Sundays 10 am.) We are located near Vyritsa Metro in the downstairs hall of Transfiguration Church, Verbitskovo Street 30B. http://livingchurch.googlepages.com/

CHRIST CHURCH, KYIV. We are an Anglican/Episcopal Church serving the English speaking community in Kyiv. Home groups, video library, Sunday school and nursery. We meet at 3pm every Sunday at the German Lutheran Church, 22 Luteranska Street. 5 minutes walk up from Kreschatyk. Contact 2341447 angkyiv@yahoo.com uk web: acny.org.uk/8592

Bible study Tuesday evening. Do come and join us, visitors welcome. We meet at 3 pm every Sunday, at the German Lutheran Church, 22 Luteranska Street, 5 minute walk up the hill from Khreshchak metro. Contact 2341447

angkyiv@yahoo.com uk acny.org.uk/8592

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 I. Shevchenko, #402 (4th floor). Worship begins at 9:45 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Sunday school begins at 11:20 a.m. Pastor Ivan Bepalov (tel. 2467576). Email: ibepalov@mail.ru.

Kiev International Bible Church, an Englishlanguage evangelical non-denominational church meeting at 10:30 am Sundays at 34A Popudrinka, between Darynitsya and Chernihivska metro stops, is a Biblecentered "church for the nations" and place of joy for people wanting growth, and fellowship. Contact: 5018082 or kievIBC@gmail.com.

Embassy Of God (Fountain Of God Church) meets all to weekly services, Wednesdays at 7 p.m. and Sundays at 10 a.m. (except the first Sunday of each month) in Kyiv, 15/7, Chernovoznyy Avenue, Zhek Building. Call: 80673161708 Alina (Russian/English), 8067296639 Pastor George (English).

International Christian Assembly meets on Sundays at Holosivskaya 57 near the MIR hotel on the first floor. English Fellowship gathers at 10:30 a.m. and Korean Fellowship gathers at 6 p.m. at 22 Luteranska. The children's choir meets Saturdays at 2:30 p.m. with the children's service following at 4 p.m. All activities are in German and Russian. Call 2536319.

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. Englishspeaking priest available. Tel: 2950947.

Word of God Church. Time of Sunday Morning Sermon is changed to 11am since May 6.2007. Sermon is in English and Russian. Sunday School for children Bible Study Class every Sunday 7pm and every Wednesday 7pm. Every Saturday we have regular group for singles 6pm. For more information call: 5175193

Union for Progressive Jewish Congregations of Ukraine (10V Porohova str.) invites all to Kabbalat Shabbat (Fridays at 7 p.m.), Shabbat morning service (Saturdays at 11 a.m.), Weekly Torah reading and commentaries (2 p.m.). Services are held in Hebrew and Russian with English commentaries. Call 50125177/1, email kpci@hatikva.kiev.ua, or visit www.judaism.org.ua

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Kiev Hash House Harriers club meets every second Sunday at 2 p.m. at the Bierstube, 20 Chernovoznyy Avenue, (in the courtyard, under the church, near L'va Tolstoho metro station). For more details visit www.h3.kiev.ua.

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To Paparazzi for pictures, tasty food and beer



Lots of wood, bricks, old photo cameras and action shots of film legends create a suitably casual ambience at Paparazzi. (Serhiy Zavalnyuk)

By ALEXANDRA MATOSHKO

Once out of the metro at Palats Sportu, I was prepared to take a short walk up to Shota Rustaveli in search of the new Paparazzi pizzeria, but as I casually turned my head, I saw it immediately. An example of the way that street numbers get dreadfully mixed up in Kyiv sometimes, Paparazzi turned out to be located just a few steps from the entrance to the metro.

The newly opened joint pizza parlor appears to be quite small at first glance as you see it squeezed into the corner of the busy street in front of Palats Sportu. There is a small terrace in front, a small room on the first floor, but once you walk down the steps and descend into the smoking area, you find a considerably spacious underground area, that looks like a bit of a labyrinth. It's filled with rough wooden tables and chairs, and walls plastered with mostly black-and-white photos of Marilyn Monroe, Bridget Bardot, Sean Connery and other

screen legends. Many photos aren't framed. Some are even hung with clothing clips attached to stretched ropes, which creates the vision of casualness – paparazzi-style. In fact many pictures are not the iconic images you've seen many times before, so take some time to walk around several underground halls, studying the pics as well as a collection of legendary photo cameras.

Taking our seats in the quiet corner underground, where my friends and I were surrounded solely by depictions of film stars, we feared that we might have problems with service, as it wasn't easy to find us there. But we had none – a pleasant girl appeared to lay three menus on the table minutes after we sat down.

The latter offered a nice selection of dishes for still nicer prices. There was Caesar salad for Hr 29, tuna salad with cheese, apple and mayonnaise for the same price, several soups, including mushroom, solianka and gazpacho for Hr 23, and a pasta menu – Hr 30 for

Carbonara. The pizza section features "Vegetarian," "Mexican," "Bavarian," "Greek" and "Capriciosa" among others – from Hr 27 to Hr 56. Hot dishes included grilled salmon (Hr 58) and fried pork with mushrooms.

The bar menu listed only beer: house beer Paparazzi – light and unfiltered for Hr 12 per 0,5 liter, Leffe Brown and Dark Krusovice – just the choice of beers that's perfect for me. However I decided to skip my favorite Leffe Brown to check out unfiltered Paparazzi and wasn't disappointed. When we were half through with our beers, our gazpachos came to the table. The soup was served without a plate of croutons, tomatoes or boiled eggs to add in, but instead came with toasts of Ukrainian bread fried in oil, which made us all recall our childhoods, as our mothers used to make those. On the whole the soup was of proper consistency, well spiced-up and served in a good-sized portion – nearly perfect for the modest price of Hr 23.

The fried chicken wings went well with

beer, and again we appraised the generous serving – eight pieces for Hr 27.

My main dish – lasagna with salmon and spinach (Hr 49) was perhaps not the best lasagna I've ever had, yet it was well done – tasty, juicy and hot. Spaghetti "Italiano" (Hr 34) with ham, tomatoes, mushrooms, onions, parmesan, basil and cream sauce was nothing special, but spaghetti with tuna, parmesan, tomatoes and cream sauce (Hr 37) was a success.

By the time our dinner was over, Paparazzi clearly became a new favorite for all reasons cited above. Yet, remembering sour experiences with formerly favorite joints gone bad, I only hoped it will manage to keep up the good work.

PAPARAZZI
15 B Shota Rustaveli
(Palats Sportu), 235-3065
Open 10 a.m. till the last customer
English menu: No
English-speaking staff: Some

RESTAURANT NEWS

City Cafe on Basseyna is serving a special melon and watermelon menu of 10 dishes. Those are: a salad of jamon, melon, cheese and sesame-and-grapefruit sauce (Hr 65); salad of watermelon, melon and grilled veal (Hr 52); salad of asparagus, tiger shrimp, avocado and bits of melon (Hr 60); pork medallions served with melon garnish (Hr 65); risotto with melon served with chicken marinated Japanese-style (Hr 90); melon soup-puree with cream parfait (Hr 25); pear boiled in port wine with cold watermelon and melon mousse with nectarine layering.

CITY CAFE ON BASSEYNA
15 Basseyna, 287-4434
Open 9 a.m. till 11 p.m.

A so-called "pancake station" was introduced at Confectionary Cafe at Parus center. Now you can try a selection of pancakes as well as watch them being made right before your eyes. One pancake costs Hr 5, and fillings are to be chosen additionally: tomatoes (Hr 3), mozzarella (Hr 14), cheese (Hr 6), ham (Hr 8), chicken (Hr 8), apple (Hr 12) and champignons (Hr 6). There are also sweet fillings – condensed milk (Hr 6), honey (Hr 9), black or milk chocolate (Hr 8).

CONFECTIONARY CAFE
Parus restaurant complex
2 Mechnikova, 593-3710
Open 9 a.m. till midnight

Karavella is offering a grill-menu including: "Poseidon's Dinner" of giant shrimp, dorado and scallops (Hr 550); royal shrimp Jumbo with wild rice and vegetables (Hr 280); scallops shashlik (Hr 154); "Mermaid" – tiger shrimp shashlik in bacon (Hr 120). Also the summer salad menu is still available, offering "Aphrodite" – a mix of various kinds of lettuce with fennel, arugula and basil seasoned with wine sauce (Hr 62); "Hawaii" concasse of tomatoes, artichokes, mango, lettuce mix and parmesan (Hr 51).

KARAVELLA
2 Dniprovska Naberezhna (Patona Bridge), 553-6892
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Please send your restaurant news to
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Kyiv Tea Club: chosen for cultivating authentic tea traditions

By **OLGA KOVALENKO**
kovalenko.olga@kpmedia.ua

The Kyiv Tea Club is one of these special places you're not very likely to walk into from the street, both because it is tricky to find and because it is designed for tea connoisseurs. It specializes in authentic tea ceremonies, featuring the most exquisite types of tea. It is not a cafe, it serves tea, and nothing but tea.

Strangely enough, the aim of my first visit to the Kyiv Tea Club wasn't tea. I was going to take part in qigong, a section of traditional Chinese medicine that specializes in coordination of different breathing patterns with various physical postures and motions of the body. The seminar was held at the Club.

Finding place wasn't easy. If you are going by metro, it's best to get out at Lybidska. When you get to 7 Druzhby Narodiv, just turn into the arch that leads into the yard of the building, and walk to the fourth porch on your left. The apartment you need is on the ground floor – there is an indication on it. You have to ring the door bell, and an assistant in Chinese dragon-embroidered clothes will come to meet you at the door.

When you start to go down the steps, smelling sandalwood and feeling the atmosphere, you cannot help but start to relax to a peaceful state of mind.

After a cup of tea following the seminar I was as fit as a fiddle and ready to face the rest of the day, whatever it brings. So, I discovered the best way to come to my senses after any sort of stress – all I have to do is pay a visit to the Tea Club for a cuppa.

To secure yourself and your friends a cosy spot at the Tea Club, you should make a call ahead of time, give the number of visitors, your estimated time of arrival, and whether you would like to just drink tea, or have a full tea ceremony. If you plan to bring a big company, make sure you book a place because on weekends and in the evenings it gets quite busy. You can choose from a large stand of Chinese tea starting from cheaper types for every day drinking (Hr 17 to Hr 25 for 10 grams, on average) to rare species costing up to Hr 60 per cup.

If you are new in the world of tea, you should know that teas offered at the Club have only natural flavors – none of those "Strawberry Fields" and "Cherry Blossoms" so popular in regular cafes are to be found there. No sugar, honey or milk, either.

It is recommended to start from the basic types of tea – green, yellow, oolong, or "blue-green tea," that stands in between green and black, then white, black and red. They all differ in age, growth area and lots of other criteria the consultants will tell you about.

There are several types of tea with names that indicate the presence of flowers, for example, jasmine tea. The trick is that the tea doesn't necessarily contain any jasmine, but instead it gets its flavor due to special processing technologies. Another peculiarity of their tea list is the presence of teas with herbs – rose, cinnamon tree, special tea chrysanthemum, and plum tree flowers.

As you can understand, making a choice there isn't easy, but you can get all the assistance you need, just don't hesitate to ask questions. Besides, the



Get cozy on the soft cushions in the dimly lit Tea Club, and forget all your troubles with a cup of exquisite tea in hand. (Vitaliy Pavlenko)

Tea House offers only tea, there's no food on the menu, so it would be better to have a snack beforehand. The reason they don't serve food is that you need to keep your receptors fresh to be able to taste and smell all the nuances of the drink. That's why, if you're a smoker, you should also refrain from smoking for 20 minutes before tea tasting. Naturally, smoking is prohibited at the club.

If you like the tea ceremony, in addition to the actual leaves you can buy all ceremonial equipment for Hr 320, as well as exquisite, delicate tea sets (Hr 540 and 810), adorned containers for storing tea (Hr 118), and tea pots (up to Hr 900).

To make a present for your tea loving friends you can buy a gift certificate (Hr 100 and 200), which is valid for a year and can be redeemed for tea drinking, tea ceremonies, massage, concerts, and lessons on how to conduct a tea ceremony.

However, the Tea Club is not just about quiet private tea ceremonies – it offers lots of events throughout the year. There you can practice qigong, yoga, attend classes on psychology based on Eastern philosophy, get massage. In addition, you can watch movies and animations every week and take part in Eastern holidays.

Finally, a few more things to know before setting off to the Tea Club – you will need to switch off your mobile before entering, take your shoes off and change into slippers (if you wish) in a special room. It's also recommended that children stay at home because they can get too active in the club due to the rich energetic of the place, making it hard to relax for you and your friends.

TEA CLUB
7 Bulvar Druzhby Narodiv, entrance from the yard, 4th porch, apartment No. 60, 451-4283

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CLOSED, KOMOD, 4, Lunacharskogo str., 25/12, Horevaya str.

*Participants of action are all, who make subscription from in the editorial office from September 3rd till September 30th inclusively. Certificate for 500 hrv. can be used in boutiques of stylish clothes CLOSED, which are located on addresses: trading-entertainment center KOMOD, 4, Lunacharskogo str., 25/12, Horevaya str. Details on sight www.afisha.ua



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This is the surest sign of fall in Ukraine: Crowds of children dressed in new school uniforms, girls with big white bows in their hair, thousands of asters, peonies and sounds of the national anthem heard from school yards.

It's all part of traditional ceremonies for the First of September, or Knowledge Day, in Ukraine.

This year about 4.6 million students went to school after summer vacation, most to continue their studies in the more than 20,000 schools all over Ukraine. Yet, for 380,000 kids, this year's Sept. 1 was indeed their first experience at school, with the traditional "first bell" ringing for them.

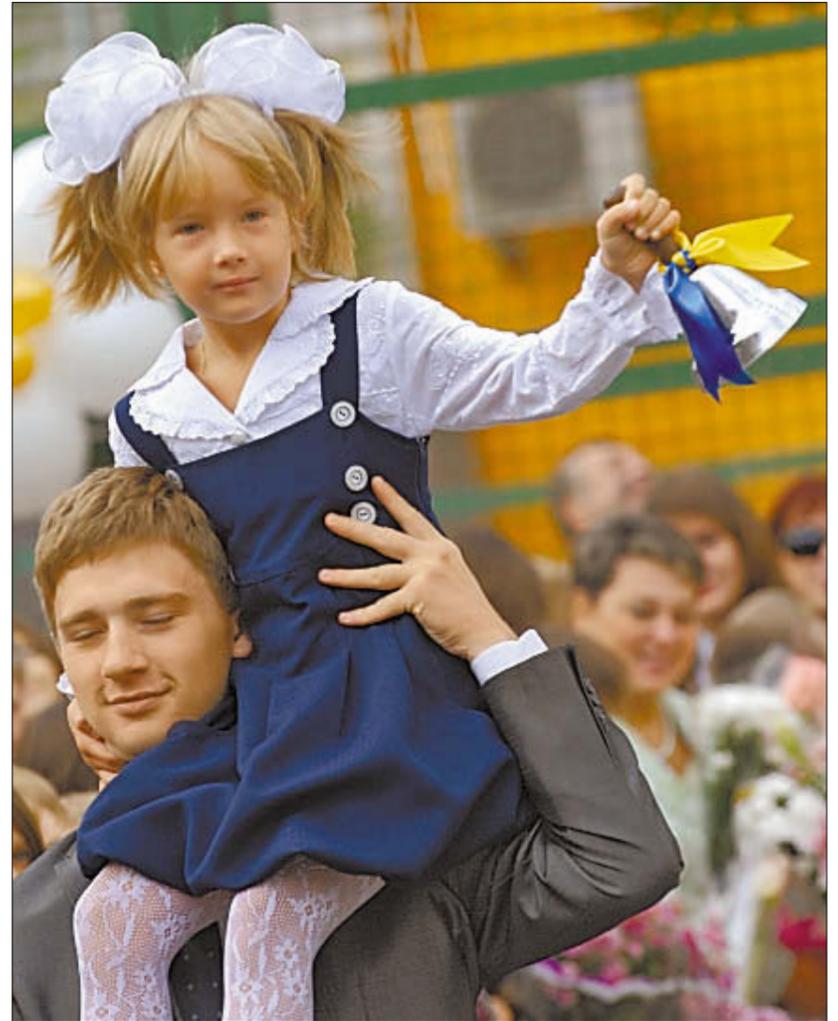
Ukrainians like Knowledge Day, so do Ukraine's politicians.

At least, they are usual guests at opening ceremonies in all kinds of schools. For example, President Victor Yushchenko participated in the opening of a new gymnasium in Kyiv Oblast's Khotiv this year. Meanwhile, Parliament Speaker Arseniy Yatsenyuk went to the specialized boarding school for children suffering from after-effects of cerebral spastic infantile paralysis and poliomyelitis in Kyiv.

Visiting statesmen like to repeat an old saying that children are the country's future, promising better conditions for studying and high-quality education. Yet, many Ukrainians feel less enthusiastic, pointing at the educational system as one of the most corrupt spheres in the country.

Lack of professional teachers, outdated curriculum and poor technical equipment are just a few out of many manifestations showing the country is in need of educational reform.

— Dariya Orlova
— Photos by Oleksiy Boyko and Yaroslav Debelyi



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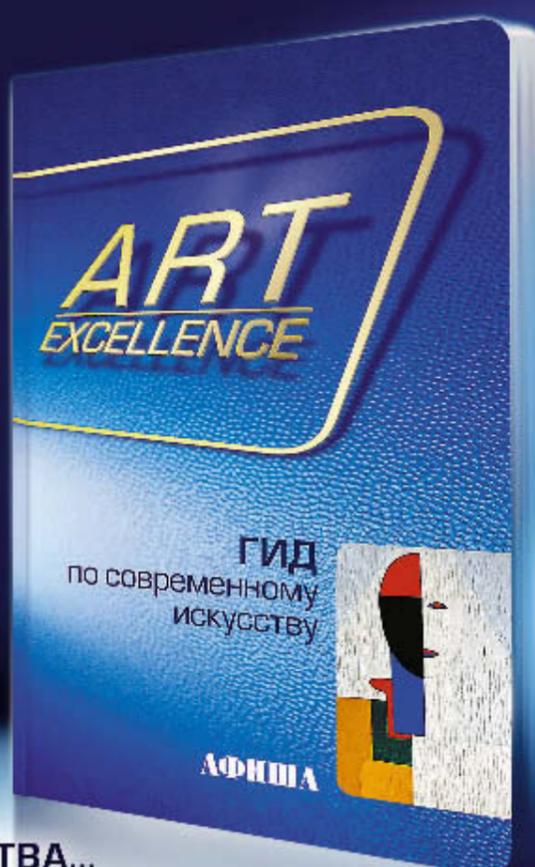


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