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KYIV POST

World financial crisis expected to hurt nation

(Kyiv Post staff) – Make no mistake about it: the deepening world credit and financial crisis spells trouble for Ukraine's economy.

Economists warn that the country's economy is overheating after eight years of resilient growth, driven by high prices for steel, the country's main export, as well as record foreign investment inflows and heavy foreign borrowing.

But now, with an emerging world financial crisis on the horizon, steel prices falling and the prospects of yet another sharp hike in natural gas

"PEOPLE ARE UNDERESTIMATING THE VULNERABILITY OF UKRAINE.."

– *Edilberto Segura, economist*

prices, the country is bracing to be hit simultaneously on several fronts.

According to state figures, industrial production declined for the first time in more than two years, by 0.5 percent in August.

Meanwhile, imports are flooding the market in a trend that moderates inflation, but has widened the trade deficit. The expectation for next year is that the price Ukraine pays for natural gas imports from Russia will at least double. All this and other factors could send the national currency tumbling.

"For Ukraine's economy, this crisis, which has been unfolding since August 2007, means a sizeable slowdown of economic growth, if not a recession," said Alexander Valchysheh, head

of research at Investment Capital Ukraine, a private asset management and investment banking firm.

Edilberto Segura, chief economist at Kyiv-based private equity firm SigmaBleyzer, warned Ukraine's government, investors and the business community not to underestimate the shock ahead for Ukraine.

"People are underestimating the vulnerability of Ukraine in the present financial crisis. The primary concerns are: Ukraine will find it difficult to renew its short-term debt, and to finance its current account deficit," he added.

So far this year, foreign direct investment inflows have been high, at \$7 billion, and the growth rate of gross domestic product has been high at some 7 per cent in the first half. Yet alarm over the upcoming world economic slowdown and domestic troubles facing Ukraine has already taken a huge bite out of the country's small but budding stock market.

With all the bad news piling up, investors have pulled out equity markets across the globe. There was a particularly sharp panic of selloffs on the PFTS, Ukraine's main stock trading platform. The market's management intervened several times in recent weeks, halting trades to cool things down. But the damage was already done.

A bullish four-year run that commenced with the Orange Revolution of 2004 has been largely wiped out. More than two years of share price growth on Ukrainian-listed blue chip stocks has eroded. Prices for Ukrainian shares listed on the London Stock Exchange were also hit hard. True, Ukraine's

see **ECONOMY**, page 15

Eight years of shame

By **STEPHEN BANDERA**
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Eight years after the murder that helped spark a popular uprising against Ukraine's entrenched and corrupt elite, justice has not arrived.

Those who ordered and organized Georgiy Gongadze's killing have never been punished, while three men convicted of the actual murder in 2000 are in prison and a fourth is missing.

The massive crowds are long gone from the 2004 democratic Orange Revolution that sought to rid the nation of a rigged presidential election and other abuses of ex-President Leonid Kuchma's era. In their place, on the Sept. 16 anniversary of Gongadze's disappearance, a relative trickle of mourners kept the memories – and pursuit of justice – alive.

Ukraine's leaders were noticeably absent from the Independence Square memorial services, despite their repeated promises that "bandits will be behind bars" and "justice is worth fighting for." And the country's journalists uttered barely a peep in solidarity with Gongadze and other slain comrades.

Gongadze's mother, Lesia, refused to attend any public services for her son this year. "I never saw my son dead... what I saw [the decomposing headless body] does not belong to my son. No death certificate has been issued," she told Deutsche Welle radio.

Lesia Gongadze requested that Sept. 16 be recognized as a day of mourning for all Ukrainian journalists who died unnatural deaths. At a requiem service held at Kyiv's Independence Square, the memories of 63 journalists who "died prematurely" since independence were honored with eight minutes of silence.

see **GONGADZE**, page 14



A Ukrainian woman holds a candle in remembrance of Georgiy Gongadze, the crusading Kyiv journalist abducted and murdered on Sept. 16, 2000. Several hundred people gathered on Independence Square to demand justice in one of Ukraine's most sensational crimes. (Yaroslav Debelyi)

Officials confident Ukraine will be ready to host Euro 2012



Ukrainian President Victor Yushchenko kicks off ceremonies on Sept. 14 to open the renovated Dnipro Stadium in Dnipropetrovsk. (Courtesy photo)

By **STEPHEN BANDERA**
bandera@kpmedia.ua

After a celebration on Sept. 14 in Dnipropetrovsk to mark the renovation of a soccer stadium that will host matches for the Euro 2012 championship, Ukrainian officials are upbeat that their country is on track to co-host the major tournament with Poland.

The stadium is owned and was reconstructed with the financial backing of billionaire Ihor Kolomoisky, one of several rich and soccer-crazed businessmen who are pumping money into new stadiums and other preparations.

Co-hosting the major tournament is expected to cost Ukraine \$32 billion, with roughly two-thirds coming from private sources such as Kolomoisky.

Ukraine has high hopes that the popular, weeks-long spectacle will pay off big – in infrastructure improvements, such

"IN FACT, EURO 2012 WILL SET THE POLITICAL CLIMATE, NOT VICE VERSA...IT WILL BE A SOURCE OF STABILITY."

– *Ivan Vasiunyk, deputy vice premi*

as better hotels, roads and airports, as well as increased tourism.

However, significant challenges are still ahead, including the massive task

of building a brand new stadium in Lviv within three years and reconstructing airports in five cities earmarked to host the games.

A Sept. 16 Reuters report suggested the Union of European Football Associations, Europe's soccer governing body also known as UEFA, will rebuke both Ukraine and Poland again next week over slow progress. But the organization, at its Sept. 25 meeting, is expected to stop short of withdrawing the two nations' designation to stage the event.

Earlier this year speculation was rife in domestic and foreign media that Ukraine may lose the opportunity to co-host the 2012 European football finals. The bad press resulted in a host of other

see **EURO 2012**, page 14

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Ukraine Abroad



Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin and
Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko.

Putin shut off gas to undermine Yushchenko

C. J. Chivers, Moscow bureau chief for The New York Times, crafts a compelling profile of Russia's prime minister in the October edition of Esquire. Entitled "Power: The Vladimir Putin story," Chivers gives one of the most succinct accounts of how Putin used natural gas to compromise Yushchenko and the Orange Revolution.

Here is the key passage:
"There are many essential moments in Putin's consolidation of power. Most publicly, it began with the arrest of oil oligarch Mikhail Khodorkovsky, an act that propelled his long climb to what he is now. But his handling of Ukraine, at first bungled, proved to be another.

"Putin's Ukraine policy had courted disaster. In the elections of 2004, he publicly backed a pro-Russian candidate, Viktor Yanukovich, who had been convicted of robbery but had the support of the sordid political machine built by Leonid Kuchma, the much-hated departing president. Putin jumped in as if the race were a domestic affair. He presided over a Soviet-style military parade in Kyiv and committed Russia to an energy deal that pledged to sell natural gas to Ukraine at a deep discount through 2009. Natural gas is the lubricant of the Ukrainian economy. It heats Ukrainian cities and powers electrical plants and factories. Putin's deal to sell gas for less than a quarter of the market rate through Yanukovich's first presidential term was a subsidy-for-loyalty exchange, and promised

Ukraine's elite ample opportunity for graft. (Reselling subsidized Russian gas at high profits is a common insiders' swindle.)

"There was only one problem: Yanukovich was not elected. His rival, Viktor Yushchenko, survived dioxin poisoning and emerged from the hospital as a potent symbol against the enduring nastiness of post-Soviet rule. Kuchma's government falsified an election victory for Yanukovich, but it was not enough. Hundreds of thousands of demonstrators, and then the Ukrainian court, demanded a new vote. Putin was scrambling for credibility.

"His retaliation was precise. Russia announced that the gas deal with Ukraine was off, and that Ukraine would have to pay market rates, now more than five times the previous offer. Gazprom, Russia's state gas monopoly, set a deadline for late 2005. The threat's timing was carefully chosen and the irony inescapable. Ukraine faced the prospect of gas shortages in winter. And Putin, the KGB man who had given a Soviet-style energy subsidy to a nation to buy its loyalty, was now lecturing Europe about the need for market rates.

"As Yushchenko resisted through the deadline, Russia escalated again, reducing pressure in pipelines feeding Ukraine. Pressure quickly began to fall in Europe, which receives much of its gas on lines that pass through Ukraine. In his anger that Ukraine overturned a falsified election, Putin was cutting off gas to the West. European officials

seethed. Could he be such a neophyte? Was he not getting any better advice? Had Putin lost his mind?

"With the din rising, Yushchenko capitulated in a deal to buy gas through a mysterious company, Rosukrenergo, at a compromise price. It was an utterly nontransparent arrangement, and raised immediate suspicion that insiders were profiting. After seeming cornered only months before, Putin had won, and been successful in three ways. He had forced Ukraine to accept his terms, he had pulled Yushchenko into an agreement that sullied his government and image as a reformer, and he had shown Europe that he could stand up to it as Yeltsin never did."

Economist: EU missed big chance to help Ukraine

In a Sept. 13 editorial, the Economist magazine said the European Union "foolishly ducked a chance to throw [Ukraine] a political and economic lifeline" by not offering the nation "a clear offer of eventual membership."

Foreign ministries engage in diplomatic war of words

Diplomats for the Russian and Ukrainian foreign ministries have been working overtime trading insults in the recent disputes over President Viktor Yushchenko's decision to back Georgia over Russia in the Caucasus war. Moscow also strongly objects to Yushchenko's push for Ukraine to join NATO and the European Union.

"Ukrainian authorities have recently been pursuing policies that cannot be seen as anything other than unfriendly towards Russia," a Russian Foreign Ministry statement said on Sept. 11.

Two days later, Ukraine's Foreign Ministry rejected the accusations, as well as Russian President Dmitry Medvedev's claim on Sept. 7 that his nation has "privileged interests" in Ukraine and in other nations.

"Ukraine has been an independent state for 17 years and in no way will it be included into the sphere of "exclusive interests" of any country, the Ukrainian foreign ministry statement said. "Ukraine's choice to join the EU and NATO is irreversible."

Actress praises parents who sacrificed for her

Mila Kunis, a 25-year-old Kyiv native who has become an American TV and movie actress, gives credit to her hard-working parents – and lying about her age – in an interview published by CosmoGIRL in the magazine's Oct. 1 edition. According to the magazine: "Her parents worked long hours and earned minimum wage, but when 9-year-old Mila's after-school program got cut, they spent half their savings to enroll her in the acting lessons she'd asked for. A manager spotted Mila's talent at the acting school and booked her small jobs over the next five years. Determined to make it in Hollywood, 14-year-old Mila told producers of "That '70s Show" that she was "turning 18" to snag the role of Jackie.



Mila Kunis

Tymoshenko wise to say yes to EU, no to NATO

Dmitri Trenin, a senior associate of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, writes in the Sept. 15 edition of Newsweek magazine that Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko is acting in a more cool-headed fashion than President Viktor Yushchenko in relations with Moscow:

"More than two thirds of the [Ukrainian] electorate – east, west or center, whatever their international preferences – want to be in the European Union and at the same time maintain good and close relations with Russia. Membership in NATO would destroy any chance at the latter. Tymoshenko senses this, and basically shares the position...she is, if anything, a pragmatist who recognizes the complexities of her own country and its international environment."

Ukraine Abroad, a weekly column about how Ukraine is portrayed internationally,
is compiled by Kyiv Post chief editor Brian Bonner, who can be reached at bonner@kpmmedia.ua.

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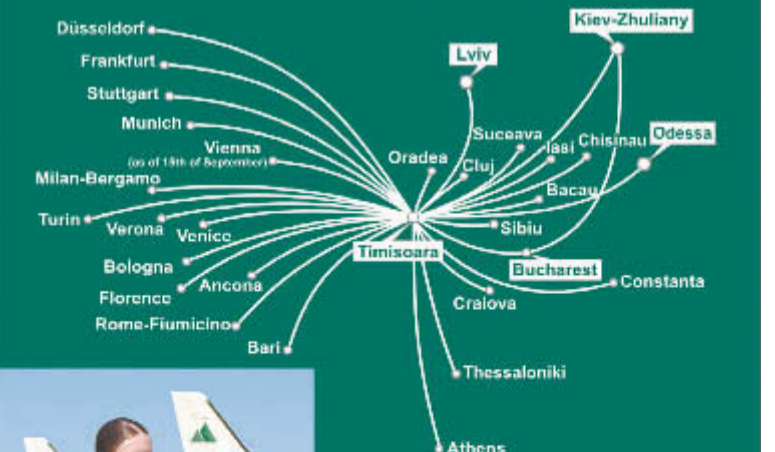
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SEPTEMBER 18TH, 2008

Yushchenko, Tymoshenko split bitterly

By ALINA PASTUKHOVA
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When the end came for Ukraine's pro-Western coalition, it came with little suspense but big ramifications for a country that has struggled endlessly to break free of poisonous politics.

The ruling coalition of President Victor Yushchenko and Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko finally and formally collapsed this week at an extremely inopportune time for Ukraine.

**"THIS IS ONE MORE
CHALLENGE TO DEMOCRACY."**

— *Verkhovna Rada Speaker Arseniy Yatsenyuk*

The nation's seesaw battle for power has diplomats the world over wondering if Kyiv can operate effectively and make progress as a democratic nation. The instability is clearly harming Ukraine's desire for Western integration, including membership in the European Union and NATO military alliance.

The resulting chaos is unlikely to pass easily or quickly.

The 30-day legal countdown for a new coalition to form began on Sept. 16, when Verkhovna Rada Speaker Arseniy Yatsenyuk made the formal announcement in parliament.

If no working majority can be cobbled together by then, the president has the option — but not the requirement — to dissolve parliament and call new elections.

"Today is the day when we turn over one page of Ukraine's political history and open a new one," Yatsenyuk said, announcing the end of the Orange Revolution alliance. "This is one more challenge to democracy, but I hope we'll overcome this challenge together."

Dissolving parliament could prove suicidal for the once-popular pro-presidential Our Ukraine bloc. Yushchenko's camp would only receive 3.8 percent

if elections were held this month, according to a recent poll by the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology.

Such support would put Yushchenko's force on par with the marginalized Communists, and barely carry the presidential allies over the three percent barrier required to get into the Rada.

On the other hand, Tymoshenko's bloc could gain strength from a new election, with 24.1 percent according to the same poll. But that wouldn't put the prime minister's forces much ahead of the Party of Regions, with 23.3 percent, according to a poll of 2,036 respondents from Sept. 1-7.

However, experts say that Tymoshenko doesn't want new elections if she can get the same benefits by forming a coalition with the Party of Regions, led by ex-Prime Minister Victor Yanukovich, her Orange Revolution enemy.

"Tymoshenko will play the scenario of convincing society that pre-term elections will make things even messier to receive public approval for a coalition with the Regions," said Our Ukraine member of parliament Andriy Parubiy.

Speculation about a long-term alliance between Tymoshenko and Yanukovich's blocs has lingered ever since they combined votes and decided to curb presidential powers and simplify impeachment procedures.

Our Ukraine deputies even went as far as saying the Bloc of Yulia Tymoshenko, known as BYuT, and the Party of Regions have already divided positions in a new government among themselves. According to Parubiy, if they form a coalition, Tymoshenko will remain prime minister, Regions leader Yanukovich will become parliament's speaker, while Regions members will take over the ministries currently in the hands of Our Ukraine.

"The coalition will depend on whether BYuT and the Party of Regions can reach an agreement on constitutional reform issues," said Serhiy Taran, director of Sotsiovmir Center for Sociology and Political Research.

Each one of the parties has proposed its own changes to the Constitution that would further curb presidential powers. The only major differences in the drafts



Verkhovna Rada Speaker Arseniy Yatsenyuk announces the end of the ruling democratic coalition of President Victor Yushchenko and Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko on Sept. 16. Yatsenyuk later resigned himself. If talks to form a new ruling majority are not successful within 30 days, a new election is possible. (AP)

are that Tymoshenko doesn't support the Regions' calls to make Russian a second state language and to declare Ukraine a neutral state, experts said.

There is also plenty of opposition to a coalition with BYuT, at least among the ranks of Regions members, amid fears that their party could become a minority stakeholder.

"The Party of Regions shouldn't be mineral fertilizers for Tymoshenko to blossom," said Anna Herman, a Regions member of parliament. Herman said Tymoshenko has already betrayed the president and could just as easily betray the Party of Regions.

A frustrated Yushchenko also continued to make nasty accusations against Tymoshenko and her situational allies, saying they want to create a two-party system in parliament. The two blocs joined forces in drafting and register-

ing a new law in parliament on Sept. 17 that would introduce a two-round election system, essentially ensuring that no other political force, apart from BYuT and Regions, lands in parliament in the next election.

"This law will lead to the usurpation of power by one political force and this violates democracy," Parubiy, the Our Ukraine parliamentarian, said.

Regardless of the mutual accusations, analysts said there is still a slim chance that an Orange coalition can be salvaged, perhaps topped up with deputies from former speaker Volodymyr Lytvyn's faction.

"I talked to the president, and he said he is ready to re-launch the coalition dialogue, but the initiative has to come from Tymoshenko," Lytvyn said in an interview to Channel 5 on Sept. 17.

This three-way majority would

require mutual concessions from Yushchenko and Tymoshenko, but neither has demonstrated any will to cooperate so far, said Volodymyr Fesenko, director for the Penta Center for Applied Policy Studies.

While Yatsenyuk resigned from the speaker's chair, as required by the original coalition agreement between BYuT and Our Ukraine, Tymoshenko has declined to resign.

Amidst this political chaos, the most likely mid-term political development is the preservation of a situational alliance in parliament, but without the official creation of a new ruling coalition, leaving the current government in place.

"If lawmakers don't vote for reducing presidential powers, a parliament without a formal majority will work until presidential elections," Taran said.

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EDITORIAL

The party is over

These are tough times, as the deepening financial woes this week showed. And only time will tell to what extent the global financial crisis will dent Ukraine's impressive, eight-year growth spurt.

One thing is for sure, the blow – however severe – will not be cushioned by a long list of reforms Ukraine's leaders have repeatedly failed to implement during the rosy economic ride of recent years.

The meltdown that escalated this week on the heels of an enduring credit squeeze claimed as its victims some of the world's largest financial institutions: Lehman Brothers and AIG. If these international debt and insurance giants are vulnerable, one has to wonder how hard Ukraine's economy – resilient despite longstanding political paralysis – will be hit.

As a Kyiv Post article this week points out, the country's budding banking market, construction and real estate sectors will no longer have access to the easy foreign loans that have driven their growth in recent years. Less cash will be injected into the system, meaning fewer loans for Ukrainians, a reduction in fresh real estate space and less cash for car and consumer good purchases. Consumption-driven growth has picked up in recent years gaining ground on steel and raw material exports. But with less easy cash in the system, it will probably taper off.

Some of Ukraine's 150-plus banks could go bust. And if their millionaire owners manage to sell them first, they won't get the premium prices they have been asking from buyers in 2007. The bottom line: there will be less money coming in and less money for growth.

It is an unfortunate turn of events for Ukraine, which is struggling to modernize, adjust to higher gas prices and prepare for the Euro 2012 soccer tournament. And it's troubling that Kyiv's leadership is once again at loggerheads for political power. They should be working hard to prepare their country's economy for the tough adjustments ahead.

We hope for the best, yet clearly recognize how much time was lost during the wrestling matches for power that grappled Ukraine's leadership in recent years. Had they attended more to cutting down red tape and improved the business climate, Ukraine would be better positioned to sustain what many see as an emerging world recession. Had Ukraine raised the billions of dollars planned for this year in privatization revenues, it wouldn't find itself begging a cash-strapped banking market for a short-term lease on badly-needed cash.

Its time they finally put politics aside, forget about early elections, scoring political points ahead of a presidential contest, and get down to work. It's late, but cutting red tape and liberalizing business could in the little time left help bring in badly-needed investment inflows that will counter the slowdown. It could also help prop up small- to medium-sized business, giving a Ukrainian economy far too dependent on billionaire-owned industrial giants a fresh lease on life in the challenging times ahead.

Europe's missed chance

Contrary to the European Union's opinion, Ukraine would be a perfect candidate to become a member nation. Both entities are governed by dysfunctional elites, divided over foreign policy and unable to confront major challenges.

Ukraine's ongoing domestic political crisis provides a slew of handy excuses and scapegoats, both inside and outside the country. It also allows the perpetuation of an unsatisfactory status quo.

Europeans can keep the Russians happy by blaming Ukraine for being not the breadbasket, but the basket case of Europe. And the business people who know how to navigate Ukraine's murky business waters are happy because, while government remains gridlocked, they can basically do what they please – continue to buy land, favorable court rulings and favors from government officials. This way, the economy remains in the shadows and in the grip of ruling elites who don't have to answer to the rule of law.

Despite Ukraine's massive shortcomings, however, the nation is still one of the most democratic of all the former Soviet republics. Ukraine now has relatively free elections and an increasingly vibrant news media. Its leaders have demonstrated their commitment to developing a market economy by joining the World Trade Organization.

The European Union should have used the Sept. 9 annual summit with Ukraine to strengthen the nation's democratic orientation with a clear signal that membership is possibly if it meets all the requirements. That also would have been the best way to strike a blow against a resurgent and autocratic Kremlin.

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Reader criticizes "one-sided" article

Dear Editor,

In the Sept. 11 Kyiv Post article "Foreign investors endure harassment," the author quotes a source that "only Kazakhstan and some African countries rank worse" in terms of investment climate. If I had not been living and "surviving" already for 13 years in Ukraine, I would, after reading this and some other recent articles of the Kyiv Post, perhaps flee from this country. Or, as a potential new investor, I probably would never enter here and invest my money in Venezuela or North Korea.

Many things in Ukraine need improvement. However, this country is developing. It has come closer to European rules of civilization. Of course, everybody who decides to start a business in this country should be aware that he can not yet expect European stability and a European legal system in Ukraine. He should also be aware that he is a guest and he should be ready for compromises.

The conflict between the Swiss farmer Maurits Stamm and Petro Yevich from RosAgro was presented in the article as evidence that the investment climate in Ukraine has declined to a central African level. By chance, I was able to observe personally how this dispute has developed and escalated since July. I was not present at the alleged incident. I do not know what really

happened, and I am neither investigator nor judge.

I became very concerned when I asked some friends why they took sides spontaneously, without first listening to both parties, and I received comments such as: "Why should we have doubts? We know that this is common practice here, it's not the first time..." In other words, if there is a dispute between a Ukrainian and a foreigner, of course the foreigner is always right!?

Why did the author only hear one side, and not give the other a chance to defend itself? Statements such as, so-and-so "could not be reached for comment" are difficult to verify and not easy for me to believe.

Some weeks ago, a German investor who had no idea what had happened felt obliged to send an open letter where he asked all German colleagues to boycott the company of Mr. Yevich. Nobody knows what happened, but everybody calls for action... and as a result, the reputation and business of a person is destroyed.

I have no reasons to doubt the personal integrity of Mr. Stamm, but I have also known Mr. Yevich for more than 10 years. In order to avoid misunderstandings, I confirm that he is my customer. But the share of RosAgro in our sales is less than 2 percent. I can confirm that his personal and business behavior has

always been very educated and correct, and I have never heard before that he is somebody with "broad-shouldered assistants."

According Yevich, the dispute is not because Mr. Stamm became a "victim of his own success," but simply because it is the land of his own grandfathers. I have recommended to Yevich and Stamm to either find an amicable compromise or go the legal route through courts. Knowing Ukraine, I have recommended to both that I personally would prefer the first option.

This one-sided and superficial article is a bad example of investigative journalism. Articles of this quality can even harm the investment climate by contributing to polarization and mutual hate between Ukrainian and foreign entrepreneurs.

We have the European Business Association and the American Chamber of Commerce, two very strong organizations, lobbying [foreign investor] interests in Ukraine. Improving the investment climate is their key mission. The more members we have, the more we can influence. The EBA can not resolve all individual problems, but can certainly help in many cases with advice and networking.

Dirk Rackow
German investor
Kherson Oblast, Ukraine

Provoking Russia doesn't help nation

Dear editor,

The Eurasian home website quoted a quasi-official source on Aug. 19 stating "Ukraine is ready to cooperate on missile defense." If true – and I suppose the statement referred to installations planned by the USA and Poland – it would probably only provoke Russia rather than defend Ukraine against anything.

My own opinion, sadly, may not be typical of what prevails among Ukrainian-American diaspora. The diaspora community tends to agree with almost anything President George

W. Bush says or does. For instance, the Ukrainian-American diaspora doesn't realize that Russia's intervention in Georgia means another crash of U.S. foreign policy. The U.S. spends 20 times more than Russia on its military, but is unable to help its ally Georgia thwart aggression from Russia.

The Ukrainian Weekly, a leading Ukrainian publication in the USA, headlined its editorial on Aug. 17: "We are all Georgians." This was direct emulation of Republican Party presidential candidate John McCain's phraseology which, in the radical right-wing, makes

him look heroically engaged.

The Ukrainian Weekly did not claim "We are all Iraqis" when the U.S. invaded Iraq five years ago and are still there, wrecking that country and our own economy and fiscal sanity.

No doubt, The Ukrainian Weekly is genuinely concerned with Kyiv politics and what's good for Ukraine. Maybe too much so. It almost totally shuts out anything that should concern American citizens, notably the socio-economic and civil liberty issues in the USA.

Boris Danik
North Caldwell, New Jersey, USA

Feel strongly about an issue? Agree or disagree with editorial positions in this newspaper? The Kyiv Post welcomes letters to the editors and opinion pieces, usually 800 to 1,000 words in length. Please e-mail all correspondence to Brian Bonner, chief editor, at bonner@kpmmedia.ua or kpletters@kpmmedia.ua and include email address and phone number for verification.

Kuchma does not deserve peace



Taras Kuzio

tkuzio@rogers.com

Peru and Ukraine are separated by thousands of kilometers, but have two factors in common. First, the New York-based Freedom House ranks them both as “free” because their political and civil liberties are graded between 2 and 3 on a scale of 7, with 1 being the best score. Secondly, both had tape scandals eight years ago. But the similarities end there.

The anniversary of journalist Georgiy Gongadze’s abduction on Sept. 16 led to Ukraine’s tape scandal two months later, when Socialist Party leader Oleksandr Moroz revealed tape recordings to a stunned Ukrainian parliament. The recordings implicated President Leonid Kuchma in Gongadze’s disappearance.

The significance of the ensuing Kuchmagate crisis for Ukrainian politics cannot be underestimated. Without Kuchmagate, there would have been no Orange Revolution four years later. Without Kuchmagate, Victor Yushchenko would not have been pushed into the opposition from where he launched his candidacy and was elected president.

Yushchenko, therefore, to a certain extent owes his presidency to Gongadze. Though you would not think this was the case after the president broke his solemn promise to investigate the organizers of Gongadze’s murder.

But where Ukraine failed, Peru came out a victor. Unlike Ukraine, Peru has faced its past and, as a consequence, has consolidated its democracy. Ukraine has dodged its past and has had period-

ic crises since Yushchenko was elected, the current one still unfolding.

Tapes made by the chairman of Peru’s Servicio de Inteligencia Nacional (SIN) Vladimiro Montesinos, and by presidential guard Mykola Melnychenko were leaked and led to similar political crises. President Alberto Fujimoro fled abroad in 2001 and did not finish his term in office. Meanwhile, Kuchma completed his presidential term and remained in Ukraine after having been given, most likely, verbal immunity during the December 2004 roundtables. The tape recordings in the Fujimoro scandal were used in court, whereas in Ukraine, the prosecutor’s office has refused to use the Melnychenko tapes.

Working for President Fujimoro, SIN chairman Montesinos secretly videotaped the numerous bribes he gave to politicians, businessmen, journalists and judges. Montesinos was himself very corrupt with an unexplainable \$600,000 annual salary and \$48 million in Swiss bank accounts. Kuchma’s assets are unknown but allegedly huge after a decade in office.

Peru’s “tapegate” began after video footage of a \$15,000 bribe to a Peruvian congressman was leaked to Channel N television. The broadcast of the video on television led to mass protests, similar to what unfurled in Ukraine following the public revelation of the Melnychenko tapes in parliament.

Fujimoro escaped justice by fleeing to Japan. A public trial in his absence charged him with 67 counts of embezzlement, human rights abuses, organizing a death squad and drug smuggling. Twenty-one congressmen, ministers, businessmen, journalists and military officers were jailed and indicted for corruption and abuse of office. By these actions, interim President Valentin Paniagua, who succeeded Fujimoro, restored democracy in Peru.

Fujimoro spent five years in exile in Japan. Montesinos fled to Venezuela,

but it extradited him to Peru where he stood trial and was convicted. Fujimoro attempted a political comeback in Peru and landed in Chile in November 2005. Peru requested his extradition on 12 charges, including ordering violence against opponents, illegal telephone tapping, diverting state funds, bribing officials for their loyalty, corrupting and controlling the judiciary and the media.

In September 2007, the Chilean Supreme Court upheld the decision to extradite Fujimoro to Peru. His Peruvian trial was broadcast live on television and in December 2007 he was sentenced to six years imprisonment for some of the charges. His trial on other charges is pending.

Accusations of involvement in the same six counts of abuse of office made against Fujimoro have been also made at different times against Kuchma. But – unlike in Peru – no criminal charges have ever been made against Kuchma and he has not gone on trial. SIN chairman Montesinos was convicted. Former State Security Service chairman Leonid Derkach peacefully lives out his retirement, Interior Minister Yuriy Kravchenko committed ‘suicide’ before he could give evidence and General Oleksandr Pukach, a key player in the scandal, mysteriously disappeared.

Yushchenko failed to follow up on his promises of bringing the organizers of Gongadze’s murder to justice. Yushchenko also never raised other cases of abuse of office under President Kuchma, even though the Melnychenko tapes and many other pieces of evidence point to multiple cases of abuse committed by senior officials during Kuchma’s decade in office.

Yushchenko did not follow in President Paniagua’s footsteps in bringing justice to his country by cleaning up Peru’s elites and justice system. Not a single senior official involved in

abuses of office has ever been convicted in Ukraine, unlike in Peru.

Under both the 1996 and 2006 constitutions, Yushchenko’s choice of prosecutors, whether Sviatoslav Piskun, one of the three prosecutors who had covered up the organizers of the Gongadze murder during the Kuchma era, or Oleksandr Medvedko, showed no commitment to finding the ‘organizers’ of Gongadze’s murder or improving the rule of law. Prosecutor Mykhailo Potebenko, who covered up Kuchma’s involvement the most, was given a state medal by the president in February of last year.

In the first months after being elected, Yushchenko gave grounds for optimism that the Gongadze murder would be laid to rest. A week after he was elected, Yushchenko promised to bring to trial the organizers of the murder by May 2005. “In Ukraine, we will uncover those who shot journalists and murdered politicians. And these will be very big figures. It is important to get at the truth,” Yushchenko said. For Yushchenko, it was a matter of honor that the organizers be brought to justice and, “without a doubt, this was a high-ranking official.”

Yushchenko broke his word made to Ukrainian voters and to the Council of Europe. Not a single organizer of Gongadze’s murder (nor of other numerous abuses of office under Kuchma) have been convicted. Yushchenko has continued the practice of his two predecessors of not putting any member of the elite on trial. Ukraine’s elites can continue to fear prosecution abroad, but not at home.

Peru’s democracy stood the test of its tape scandal far better and Fujimoro and many other officials were imprisoned. In marked contrast, Kuchma continues to sit in his foundation, only a five minute walk from parliament and Bankova, writing books, giving interviews and fearing nothing for his deeds in the past.



VOX POPULI

with Nataliya Bugayova

How has your attitude toward the Orange Revolution changed over the last four years?



Tetyana Dmytrenko, student

“I was there on Maidan [Nezalezhnosti] in the cold in December 2004. I believed in the Orange Revolution. I believed it would bring prosperity. These past four years have turned me into a politically indifferent person.”



Dmytro Mihalyov, sailor

“The Orange Revolution was an unnecessary step for Ukraine to start with. Enormous sums of money have been taken away from the nation to establish the Orange rule. However, the situation has only become worse.”



Borys Aniskov, pensioner

“I supported the Orange Revolution in 2004. Pathetically, it turned out to be a simple maneuver which brought Yushchenko to power. They [political authorities] fooled the nation again. And now they’ve lost our trust and gained massive indifference. It’s just sad that people put so much time, effort and belief into nothing.”



Olena Kuznetsova, pensioner

“I was against the revolution from the very beginning. After four years, I have become contemptuous of those who started it. Simple facts: In 2004, I could still buy meat for Hr 18 per kilogram, when now it’s already 70. My pension back then was Hr 284, now it’s Hr 625. But does the increase in my pension match up with the speed of inflation? Of course, not.”



Ruslan Kraevsky, manager

“I did not support the Maidan [movement] in 2004 and still can’t understand what it was done for. Where has it brought us? Simply nowhere. Things never changed and won’t in the next few years.”

Georgia’s Stalin shrine belongs in Putin’s Moscow



Lubomyr Luciuk

Despite my genuine sympathy for the many innocent Georgians now falling victim to resurgent Russian revanchism, the gutting of Gori was long overdue.

It is a cursed site, not so much because it’s where Iosif Dzhughashvili (better known by his pseudonym of Stalin) was born on Dec. 21, 1879, but because of its post-Soviet transgressions.

Inexplicably, the government of Georgian president Mikheil Saakashvili and Gori’s city fathers permitted it to remain a center for the whitewashing of Stalin’s brutal legacy, allowing for the veneration of the greatest mass-murderer in 20th Century Europe.

Not only did its Stalin Square frame what is, quite probably, the last original Stalin statue standing in Europe, but even the hovel in which he first stole breath was enshrined in a colonnaded building, part of a museum complex that once attracted thousands.

The most recent tourists were Russian soldiers, who began infiltrating Gori around August 13, although they have since decamped.

Just before they rolled in, the shrine’s

intrepid director, a Stalin apologist named Robert Maglakelidze, spirited various unique artifacts away to safety, including the dictator’s military great-coat, boots, pen, glasses, a used shaving brush, an open pack of cigarettes with 10 left untouched inside, and even one of his trademark pipes.

Now secured in the Tbilisi state museum, these items will be repatriated and put back on display when the museum re-opens.

Remarkably, given the firestorm Gori sustained under air and artillery bombardment and its subsequent looting by Ossetian irregulars, the Stalin museum was left unscathed, albeit dustier for all the shelling nearby.

It seems Georgia’s violators knew where they were going and what they were shelling.

Some troopers even erected a sign outside the city announcing: “J Stalin’s Home Country – Gori.” This begs the question - why would combat soldiers pause to do that? Was it out of admiration? That might seem preposterous, but not if one reads Sarah Mendelson and Theodore Gerber’s article “Failing the Stalin Test,” published in the Jan.-Feb. 2006 issue of the prestigious journal, Foreign Affairs.

Their extensive survey research confirmed how “a majority of young Russians ... do not view Stalin – a man responsible for millions of deaths and enormous suffering – with the revulsion he deserves.”

They began their commentary with a provocative statement: “Imagine that a scientific survey revealed that most Germans under 30 today viewed Hitler with ambivalence and that a majority thought he had done more good than bad. Imagine that about 20 percent said they would vote for him if he ran for president tomorrow. Now try to envision the horrified international response that would follow.”

Yet, when their results were revealed about Stalin, no significant outcry was heard. The crimes of communism, as personified by “Uncle Joe,” just do not excite us as much as Adolf’s evil-doing.

Only a month or so before Georgia’s dismemberment, other interesting, if preliminary, poll results were released.

Sponsored by the state-funded Rossiya TV channel, online respondents identified the most popular Russian. A commanding majority selected Stalin, even though his father was Ossetian and his mother Georgian. Meanwhile his “comrade” Lenin scored a distant third.

Stalin’s rehabilitation began around the centenary of his birth in 1979. It is yet again being promoted from the Kremlin, as plans for incorporating South Ossetia and Abkhazia into the Russian Federation were announced, international protests be damned.

How these minorities will fare inside a Russian-dominated imperium, whose masters have never shown any patience for regional autonomy or human rights – just go ask the Chechens - remains to be seen.

Of course, there are Georgians who know what Stalin was. They are not nostalgic for an imagined past when they were supposedly much better off under Moscow’s rule. These Georgians appreciate that their culture and historical experience give them a right, and good reason, to want to reconnect with the Western civilization of which they are part.

Their way back to where they, and for that matter, Ukraine, also belongs, can come only through membership in the European Union and NATO.

Lado Vardzelashvili, the Georgian governor whose office overlooks Stalin’s monument, gets that.

Pointing out that both Vladimir Putin and Dmitry Medvedev “think exactly the same way as Stalin,” he tried to cut a deal with the Russian general commanding troops around Gori, asking that they take the Stalin statue with them and “never come back.”

His offer was not accepted. That’s a pity.

Europe’s last statue of Stalin would be far more appropriately located in today’s Moscow than in tomorrow’s Gori.

Lubomyr Luciuk is a professor of political geography at The Royal Military College of Canada. This article is reprinted with the author’s permission and was originally published in the Kingston Whig-Standard in Ontario, Canada. He can be reached at luciukl@rmc.ca.

Bookworms



Interior Minister Yuriy Lutsenko browses children's books at the 15th National Book Trade Exhibition "Forum of Publishers in Lviv" on Sept. 11. More than 150 writers from 15 countries took part in the four-day exhibition. (UNIAN)

Speaker visits Ukraine's "Motown"



Verkhovna Rada Speaker Arseniy Yatsenyuk (right) toured the ZAZ automobile factory on Sept. 12 in Zaporizhzhya. According to official reports, the production of automobiles is up nearly 35 percent from the same period last year. Domestic car makers are expecting increased foreign competition once Ukraine fully complies with WTO trade regulations. (UNIAN)

ON THE MOVE



Piotr Lysak was appointed managing director of McCann-Erickson agency, founded in 2006 as part of marketing communications group ADV. Lysak began his advertising career in 1996. Prior to his appointment, Lysak was the managing director of McCann-Erickson in Belgrade, Serbia. He also worked for McCann-Erickson in Poland and Romania, and South Africa. Lysak has a bachelor's degree in philosophy and drama from the University of Alberta, Canada, a certificate in marketing and advertising from New York University and an M.B.A. degree from the University of Calgary.



Dieter Knoll, a graduate of the Vienna University of Economics, has been named the new president of Henkel Ukraine, whose products include detergents. He coordinates the business operations of the fast-growing subsidiary of German-based Henkel CEE. Previously, Dieter Knoll served as general manager of Henkel Ukraine for three years, with responsibility for the detergents and cleansers segment. Knoll started his career at Henkel in 1989 as a brand manager and subsequently served in various local and international management positions in Austria, the Czech Republic, Poland and Ukraine.



Volodymyr Bandura was appointed to lead the land department for DTZ, a leading global real estate adviser. Previously, Bandura worked for the company as a land agent. Prior to joining DTZ, Bandura was the head of the development department for a domestic design and construction company, and as a lawyer and deputy head of the legal department for the Ukrainian National Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce. Bandura holds a master's degree in law from Chernivtsi National University.



Nataliya Kuchmistaya was appointed legal assistant to the legal and finance deputy managing director of the full service property consultancy NAI Pickard. She is responsible for assisting in contract preparation, agreements and other documents related to the foundation of new legal entities for NAI Pickard clients. Prior to joining NAI Pickard, Kuchmistaya worked for Vulver LLC for a year as an English-language interpreter. Kuchmistaya graduated from Kyiv International University with a master's degree in international law.

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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Experts: Nation's energy dependence on Russia harms economy, security

By YULIYA MELNYK

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Ukraine's economy and national security remain vulnerable to energy imports from a hostile northern neighbor, experts warned at a Sept. 15 press conference in America's capital city. Unfortunately, energy specialists said, Ukraine's leaders have repeatedly squandered opportunities to break free from Moscow's grip.

Currently, Ukraine depends on Russia for roughly 80 percent of its energy supplies - mainly oil, natural gas and nuclear fuel. However, experts said that if Ukraine's leaders would take the right steps, renewable energy sources - such as solar power - could supply up to 30 percent of the nation's needs.

While the nation's politicians have missed many opportunities, experts at the "Energy Options for Ukraine" conference said it's not too late. They urged the country's leaders to lure fresh investments to boost domestic hydrocarbon production, cut wasteful consumption and increase the usage of alternative power.

There is little time to waste, according to the event's organizers, who said the five-day war between Russia and Georgia in August underscores the need for Ukraine to swiftly "slash reliance on imports of Russian energy."

Organizers of the event held at John Hopkins University included a diaspora advocacy called the Washington Group, the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation, the U.S.-Ukraine Business Council, and the Ukrainian American Environmental Association.

One place for Ukraine's leaders to start, according to panel speaker and U.S. energy consultant Edward Chow, is to boost domestic production of conventional fuels.

Chow, a 20-year veteran of Chevron Corporation who has also advised Ukraine's government on energy strategy, reminded the audience that Ukraine used to export natural gas to Russia in Soviet days. Significant investments could boost domestic production once again to help fill the nation's demand, Chow said.

"Domestic gas production can easily be increased," he said, adding that Ukraine's unique geographic location gives it leverage in future price talks

with Russia. An estimated 80 percent of Russia's Europe-bound gas goes through Ukraine, and its vast natural gas pipeline system remains the largest transit channel for supplies to European markets.

Unfortunately, Ukraine did not use the momentum of the Orange Revolution to bargain tough on gas prices with Russia. "Some current polit-

EXPERTS SAY UKRAINE'S LEADERS HAVE SQUANDERED OPPORTUNITIES TO BECOME LESS DEPENDENT ON RUSSIAN ENERGY SUPPLIES.

ical leaders are still trying to convince the public that [subsidized] gas prices instead of modern market prices are the goal," Chow said, explaining that such a policy makes the country less attractive for hydrocarbon exploration and production ventures.

Another priority, experts said, should be nuclear power.

Ukraine inherited a vast nuclear power generation capacity built in Soviet days. It currently satisfies about half of the country's electricity needs and there are plans to build new nuclear blocs. But it is highly dependent on Russia to import fresh and process spent nuclear fuel. The country pays Russian companies some \$100 million per year to process spent nuclear fuel, and much more to purchase fresh supplies used in generating nuclear power.

Hence the importance of a project led by U.S.-based Holtec International, which is building a spent nuclear fuel storage facility for Ukraine at the closed Chernobyl atomic power plant, home to the worst nuclear disaster. The first storage capacity is expected to be completed in 2011. Facilities to process spent nuclear fuel, making it reusable, could follow.

William Woodward, vice president of Holtec International, described his company's project in Ukraine as a "key to independence." But some panel par-

ticipants underlined the necessity for Ukraine to be cautious with its massive nuclear power expansion plans, pointing to potential terrorist threats and a water deficit.

Brian Castelli, executive vice president of the Alliance to Save Energy, a non-partisan non-governmental organization, said Ukraine is gradually improving its energy efficiency at a rate of 4 to 6 percent per year, but remains very wasteful.

The lack of simple technologies such as power meters, basic building insulation, erratic payments by consumers and poor service provided to them remain large challenges to be tackled by the country in future years. To speed up the process, the Alliance urged Ukraine to introduce meter-based billing, privatize energy companies and increase tariffs to levels that would allow energy companies to generate enough profits to modernize.

Castelli pointed to carbon finance, repair and maintenance funds, vendor credits and housing renovation loans among possible solutions. The Alliance boasts successful experience in helping to pass a district heating law in Lithuania, introducing bill collection software in Kyiv and carbon financing in Ivano-Frankivsk, among other projects. Castelli also underlined the importance of launching a nationwide energy efficiency project for schools in order to create awareness among children and bring up a new generation of responsible energy consumers.

So for Ukraine to become more energy independent, it will have to also boost the production of alternative, renewable energy. Current figures show the country lags far behind, with renewable power sources accounting for 2 percent, a fraction of the 7 percent in the United States, 12 percent in Germany and 70 percent in some regions of Spain, according to Ken Bossong, co-director of the Ukrainian-American Environmental Association.

"Ukraine was the center of solar thermal research in the former Soviet Union and it has arguably better potential than Germany, which is a solar power leader," he said, adding that it is reasonable for Ukraine to get some 17-31 percent of its energy needs from renewable sources by 2030.

Tymoshenko: Yushchenko to blame

By RON POPESKI

(Reuters) - Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko accused Ukraine's president on Sept. 17 of destroying the gains of the 2004 "Orange Revolution" in a stunning attack that virtually sank any chances of them rebuilding their coalition.

Politicians began talks to revive the "Orange" partnership in parliament that was dissolved on Sept. 16 or find another combination able to command a majority. Failure to reach agreement would force Ukraine into its third parliamentary election in as many years.

The coalition unraveled when President Victor Yushchenko's Our Ukraine party abandoned its alliance with Tymoshenko's bloc.

Tymoshenko used her firebrand oratory to shore up Yushchenko in the 2004 pro-Western street protests against electoral fraud.

But on Sept. 17 she turned the force of her rhetoric on him with a blistering

attack that all but did away with any hope of a quick reconciliation.

"Since 2004, this president has managed to destroy everything: people's faith in the ideals of the revolution and faith in the president himself - only 5 percent still support him," she told reporters after a cabinet meeting.

"Unfortunately, this president will leave a legacy of shattered remnants of the 'orange' promises and democratic coalitions, of his own team and even of his friends and his own political standing."

The premier said she was unafraid of an election, pointing to her bloc's lead in many opinion polls. But holding a poll in the current world financial crisis, she said, was ill advised.

"In such conditions, it is irresponsible to plunge the country into an early election, though should that situation occur, we have no reservations," Tymoshenko said.

Our Ukraine quit the coalition after denouncing Tymoshenko's voting alliance in parliament with opposition

leader Victor Yanukovich, the main adversary of "orange" forces in 2004.

The president also accused her of going soft on Russia's intervention in Georgia and hurting a bid to join NATO. Tymoshenko says the president has spoiled relations with Moscow.

Named prime minister within days of the president taking office, Tymoshenko was dismissed seven months later amid mutual accusations of corruption. She became premier a second time late last year, but the two have since sniped continually.

On Sept. 16, the president again said that Tymoshenko's alliance with Yanukovich hurt the national interest.

Should it prove impossible to piece together the "Orange" coalition, several alternative combinations have been mooted, among them a formal deal between the Yanukovich-led Regions Party and Tymoshenko's bloc - the two largest groups in the chamber.

Polls show Tymoshenko's bloc and the Regions Party vying for the lead in a parliamentary election.

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Visa restrictions thwart trips abroad

By YULIYA POPOVA
and IRYNA PRYMACHYK

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Many Ukrainians traveling to Europe have a tale of visa queue woe. They are submitting a prodigious amount of paperwork to go on holiday, visit friends or family, study or work abroad – opportunities which are taken for granted by most people in the European Union.

While EU citizens travel visa-free to Kyiv for up to 90 days, some Ukrainians need the same amount of time just for the application to go abroad.

A crew of the historic Cossack boat Chaika waited for two months to sail out of Ukraine to the International Maritime Festival in France this summer. To showcase their vessel among

“I CANNOT THINK OF ANOTHER NAME FOR THIS PROCESS OTHER THAN STUPIDITY.”

– Roman Ros, frustrated visa applicant

2,000 other heritage ships from all over the world, President Victor Yushchenko ordered the Cabinet to smooth their journey abroad. But even his word was not enough to override the intricacies of a visa procedure.

“Every week the Foreign Ministry was asking for more paperwork from us. I don’t know if the French Consulate or the ministry is to blame but we received our passes when the competition was over!” a complaining captain Roman Ros said of his visa ordeal.

“I cannot think of another name for this process other than stupidity. We were building this Cossack boat for three and a half years to represent Ukraine at the international level but failed the French mission because of messy traveling rules,” Ros added.

When Ukrainians spend longer wait-

ing for a visa than they would on a ship to France, something has gone wrong.

To reciprocate Ukraine’s policy of open borders to the citizens of the EU, European officials ratified a visa facilitation agreement with Ukraine at the start of 2008.

Businessmen, journalists, students, sportsmen and close relatives of people living abroad expected preferential treatment as a part of this agreement. Yet half a year into the new deal, people continue complaining to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of long queues in the consulates, excessive documents required for a visa and treatment from Foreign Service personnel.

“Despite common procedures envisaged by a new visa agreement, the German consulate is required to explain reasons of a visa rejection whereas in French and Czech consulates it is not a rule,” said expert Iryna Sushko from the Center of Peace, Conversion and Foreign Politics, describing confusion among Ukrainians. She explained that member states apply their own laws to the issues not covered by the agreement discouraging many visa seekers from applying.

German Consul Christiane Hullman said that it is difficult to make all 24 member states issue visas like a well-oiled machine. Nevertheless, she praised the new agreement for reducing fees to 35 euros while other countries still pay twice the amount. “Every third visa is given for free and we are issuing more long-term visas than before,” she commented on the benefits of the simplified procedures.

The German consulate rejected over 5,000 applicants out of 65,000 from the beginning of the year. Falsified documents and insufficient means of travel were among the main reasons for rejection. “It’s always best to tell us your real story...There are fears of illegal migration in the Western Europe,” explained Hullman about the difficulties with entering Germany.

The Foreign Ministry estimated that two million Ukrainians are working illegally abroad.

And with the help of “Iryna” their number is rising monthly.

Her late husband, a former diplomat, left his business of forging travel documents to her. With the help of spe-



People gather near the Spanish Embassy in Kyiv. Ukrainians complain that Spain is among one of the most difficult European Union nations to obtain a visa from. (Natalia Kravchuk)

cial chemicals she is wiping out rejection stamps off the passport pages and replaces them with valid visas.

“In summer I help up to 20 people each month through my connections in the embassies. But it’s getting more difficult each year.”

Iryna charges from \$5,000 per visa depending on the difficulty of each inquiry. She is a small link in the chain of illegal migration but her activity helps to understand the prejudice against Ukrainians in foreign consulates.

Yet tarring everyone with the same brush may result in cultural isolation. Facing a storm of complaints, the Foreign Ministry of Ukraine offered to hold a joint visa committee with the EU to discuss issues with the Schengen visas in October.

“We have handed the EU a special document, in which we listed specific cases of violations during the implementation of the agreement on the sim-

plified visa procedure,” Deputy Foreign Minister Kostyantun Yeliseyev told wire services.

“Most people who traveled abroad from Ukraine experienced blunt disrespect, unsubstantiated demands and humiliating treatment from foreign embassies and consulates,” said brothers Vitaly and Dymtro Kapranov, popular Ukrainian writers who have launched a public campaign calling on everyone to vote against foreign brutality on their website www.cultura.net.ua

So far Spain is ahead of everyone else in the poll to get the Golden Muzzle award for causing the most resentment to its applicants. Apart from the usual hassle with paperwork, the Spanish consulate requires its visa seekers to report back to the consulate upon their return to Ukraine. Tetyana Kaminska, editor of the interior design magazine Ideas for Your Home, said she was shocked to learn of this “absurd” practice.

Kaminska said that she wasted two days to give the consulate a photocopy of her passport page with a customs’ stamp proving that she was back from Spain.

“When I came on the first day, a guard told me to come at 8am the next day... When I arrived the following morning, there was a queue of 50 people all standing on the other side of the road because apparently a pavement in front of the consulate is a taboo zone,” she described the beginning of her ordeal. By five o’clock in the evening she said that she was finally invited to come in. “At the door, however, they told me that I can’t proceed further with my female purse. So I was forced to leave it across the road in a luggage room for Hr 5.”

When Kaminskaya reached a clerk’s window after eight hours of waiting, a visa section official asked her if she liked Spain. “No, I didn’t,” she said thinking of the chaos with visas in Ukraine.

Popular rock star, Orange Revolution hero resigns from Rada



Svyatoslav Vakarchuk, popular rock star of Okean Elzy, resigned his seat in parliament on Sept. 11 in disgust. (Natalia Kravchuk)

By DARIYA ORLOVA
orlova@kpmmedia.ua

The never-ending absurdity of Ukrainian politics is becoming too exhausting and frustrating not only for common Ukrainians, but for the show participants themselves. Svyatoslav Vakarchuk, a famous rock musician and member of pro-presidential Our Ukraine-People’s Self-Defense faction in parliament, resigned as a deputy on Sept. 11.

“Political life in the state has narrowed down to the ruthless fight for power. Not only moral principles, but national interests, to which politicians of all colors and camps frequently appeal, have become victims of this clash,” Vakarchuk said in a statement. “Under such circumstances, the only way to be yourself is to leave. To stay means escape for me, escape from accountability before the people, and to break my oath of faithfulness to the people.”

Vakarchuk’s statement came soon

after a new round of tag-of-war within the ruling coalition, and then its collapse.

The 33-year-old Vakarchuk said his decision to resign the parliament was a conscious and considered, but difficult step. “In my opinion, the Verkhovna Rada’s current format has not fulfilled

“POLITICAL LIFE IN THE STATE HAS NARROWED DOWN TO THE RUTHLESS FIGHT FOR POWER.”

– Rock star Svyatoslav Vakarchuk

its major role – to create a face of Ukraine as a modern European state,” he explained.

The front man of Ukraine’s top rock band Okean Elzy, Vakarchuk was one of the faces of the Orange Revolution in 2004, when he regularly gave perfor-

mances on the country’s main stage in the cold, snowy days. As a result, he ran for parliament on the pro-presidential Our Ukraine list under number 15 during last year’s parliamentary election.

A year on, Vakarchuk has quit his political career. “I was ready to accept rules of political struggle for achieving certain aims. But when you see that struggle becomes a self-sufficient game where players do not need anyone, everything that takes place there just loses any sense,” the musician said.

Rada Speaker Arseniy Yatsenyuk, who has to announce Vakarchuk’s statement during the session, said he understands his ex-colleague. “I told him frankly that I share his position,” Yatsenyuk told the press.

Vakarchuk said he is not going to stay out of sight. “I am returning to an active public life. I am returning with faith that there are many of us,” he said.

While musician Vakarchuk has quit the parliament, his father, 61-year old Ivan Vakarchuk, is still working as Minister for Education.

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IN 3 WEEKS
OCTOBER 2 ISSUE

Casino and
Gambling Business

Ukraine is becoming a top software outsourcing destination

By ELENA PLEKHANOVA
plekhanova@kpmedia.ua

Well-known for a relatively inexpensive yet professional work force, Ukraine's software development business is steamrolling ahead, posting double-digit growth and cashing in on lucrative contracts from both foreign and domestic customers.

However, some software developers are beginning to complain about the deteriorating professional level of information technology graduates and predict industry growth will slow unless the education system improves.

Currently, there are more than 300 companies working in Ukraine's software development field and growth has been impressive.

According to SoftServe, a Lviv-based software development company, the software market in terms of sales grew by 75 percent, from \$175 million in 2005 to \$310 million in 2006.

By the end of last year, the industry had increased to more than \$350 million, SoftServe said, but other estimates put it at much higher. While growing fast, Ukraine's software development potential in dollar terms is tiny com-

pared to world leader India, which earns more than \$17 billion annually. Yet it competes with Russia, where developers handle some \$1.75 billion in contracts.

"IN THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS, THE UKRAINIAN BRAND HAS BECOME INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED."

— Taras Vervega,
SoftServe

While Russia has more information technology labor resources, and Western Europe leads in the level of information technology education and infrastructure, Ukraine wins a significant share of international software development contracts because its labor rates are comparatively low.

"The demand for Ukrainian soft-

ware development services is growing steadily in the West. Our main customers are the United States and Western Europe. In the last several years, the Ukrainian brand has become internationally recognized and there is no doubt that Ukraine is in the top ten software development countries of the world," said SoftServe's executive vice president Taras Vervega.

Since independence in 1991, Ukrainian developers have focused much of their effort on landing lucrative foreign contracts. But domestic demand is picking up, as is competition.

"The time of hyper-profits is over and competition in the local market is rapidly growing. In order to keep their market positions, local companies need high-quality software, for example, cost control programs and other IT (information technology) products to solve different economic issues," Vervega added.

Ukrainian programmers commonly produce information technology solutions for health care, industrial and commercial niches. One of the most promising sectors today is project management and consulting software, according to experts.

Today, seven percent of Ukrainian

commercial enterprises have introduced automated business processes designed specifically for them, says Lana Chabakha, business development director at Terrasoft, a customer relationship management software solutions provider.

"The potential in this area is very big. We do not expect the market to reach a saturation point for several years. The interest in customer relations management technology is growing both in small and medium enterprises and in the major Ukrainian companies," she said.

Despite the Ukrainian software development industry's cost competitiveness, a new weakness – poor education levels – may dent growth.

"Today about 30,000 young information technology professionals graduate from Ukrainian universities annually, but the skill level is far from the demands of the outsourcing market," Vervega said. He believes increasing the education budget to 6.5 percent of GDP would solve the problem and brighten long-term prospects.

Liudmila Kuzmenko, the head of human resources at NetCracker, a software company that provides solutions to the industry, believes the weak edu-



Taras Vervega, Executive Vice President of Softserve

cation standards are already curtailing growth.

"The information technology education system in Ukraine is in need of investment from the government and private enterprise. It should be a top priority in Ukraine's national strategy, because information technology outsourcing is one of the country's international successful niches," she added.




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Franke: Ukraine could be a second India

By JONATHAN HOLMBERG
holmberg@kpmmedia.ua

Eric Franke has been the general director of Microsoft Ukraine since December 2007. The Dutch national has more than 20 years of information technology industry experience. No stranger to Ukraine, Franke led the development of UMC, now MTS, from a mobile phone subscriber base of 400,000 to more than 11 million between 2001 and 2005. During his interview with the Kyiv Post, Franke said that Ukraine has the potential to become a second India in software development outsourcing.

KP: What is the situation in Ukraine's software development industry today?

EF: Ukraine is a unique country when it comes to software development. There are 30,000 to 40,000 individual software developers in Ukraine. It has huge potential and is well-placed, close to Russia and Europe. Infrastructure is relatively OK. It could be better, but it is OK. And there is a lot of intellectual potential. From our point of view – from a sales and marketing perspective – we see the potential as we're selling them the developmental tools. A number of these developers are actually working on products for Microsoft. We have identified at least 400 developers working on Microsoft products actually writing code, integrating, supporting, localizing and adapting software. Ukraine is in an exceptional position because when Microsoft looks for

developers they look to the huge countries like India, Russia, China and, of course, the United States. Compared to these countries, Ukraine is relatively small, but there are a lot of good programmers here.

KP: The universities are producing highly qualified programmers?

EF: Yes, they are producing high quality programmers. When [Microsoft CEO] Steve Ballmer was here, he was surprised by a question a student asked about robotics and parallel processing. He was astonished that the student asked a question that usually only gets asked at Microsoft labs. We have formed partnerships with the 10 core universities in Ukraine. We also opened the Microsoft Innovation Center at National Taras Shevchenko University. We supply them with development tools and provide free training to help incubate talent.

KP: How mature is the software development market in Ukraine?

EF: About 85 percent of the IT (information technology) business is in hardware. Software is still a small slice. This shows Ukraine is at the beginning of the developmental cycle. If you look at Europe, the ratio is 50-60 percent hardware the remainder in software. The IT (information technology) business is growing at about 40 percent each year. We are growing even faster. Microsoft Ukraine started with four employees in 2003, and now we have 150. The growth will not slow for at least three years.

KP: Your growth is coming from which segments?

EF: The biggest growth is from solutions sales and partners. Our main target is to increase the reach of the company by working with partners. At the moment we have over 1,000 partners.

KP: What are the outsourcing trends? Is Ukraine attracting clients?

EF: Outsourcing represents about 80 percent of software development work in Ukraine. That can be anything from integration jobs, quality assurance and conversion projects. They come because the high quality work is less expensive than it would be in the U.S. or Western Europe. Ukrainians are hard working people who know how to work towards targets. They know how to dig into the earth. They know how to do things with their own hands and, in this case, their brains.

KP: Is there a "brain drain" problem?

EF: The IT (information technology) job market is overheated at the moment. It is no longer an employers' market. It is a job candidate's market. We see that in our company as well. Talented people with Microsoft on their resume can get any job they like.

KP: How is the piracy situation today?

EF: It is a problem. No company would dream about launching a product here because the next day it will be pirated. The piracy rate in Ukraine is 83 percent of the installed base. Last year it was 84 percent, so it is a huge



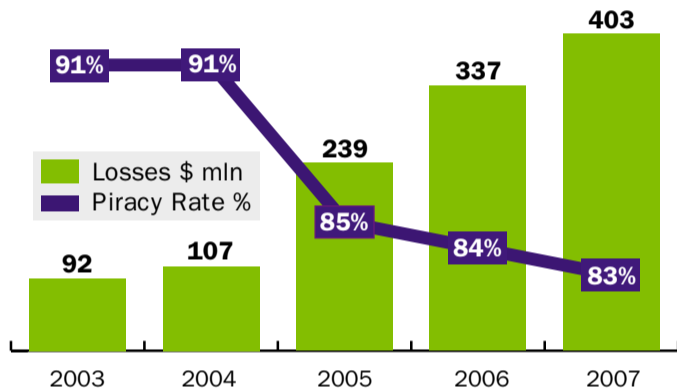
Eric Franke, General Director of Microsoft Ukraine

problem that is not improving quickly. We do see improvement with the big companies, but small and medium sized companies, companies with five to 50 computers, are a challenge.

KP: Where do you see the software development market in five to 10 years?

EF: While Ukraine isn't as big as India, I think it can play a big role in outsourcing and development. Looking at the potential, looking at the 40 percent annual growth, I think Ukraine could be a second India. It has all the ingredients: huge intellectual capital and proximity to the West.

Ukraine Software Piracy Rates and Industry Losses



Source: Fifth Annual BSA and IDC global software piracy study

SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT

Companies listed by year of establishment

| PHONE FAX | TOP EXECUTIVE | YEAR ESTABLISHED IN UKRAINE | OWNERSHIP, UKRAINIAN / FOREIGN (%) | #OF FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES IN UKRAINE | HEADQUARTERS | SPECIALIZATION | MOST SUCCESSFUL SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS | # OF PROJ-ECTS IN 2007 | # OF CLIENTS IN 2007 | PARTNERS | REVENUES IN 2007 |
|---|---------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------|---|---|------------------------|----------------------|--|------------------|
| Miratech , 03028 Kyiv, 41 Nauky, info@miratechgroup.com, www.miratechgroup.com | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (044)206-4090 (044)206-4091 | Valeriy Kutsyy | 1989 | 39.9 / 60.1 | 250 | Kyiv, Ukraine | CRM and contact center solutions, IT security solutions, vertical banking and finance solutions, business automation solutions, applications development and maintenance services, enterprise IT consulting services, offshore outsourcing services | Computer telephony integration, peripheral devices software, enterprise network management, groupware applications, enterprise security, finance applications, document imaging, business process automation | 50 | 25 | Alcatel-Lucent, Genesys, IBM, McAfee, Microsoft | WND |
| Atlas , 01021 Kyiv, 30/1 Hrushevskoho, office@atlas.ua, www.atlas.ua | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (044)253-2173 (044)253-3436 | Roman Koval | 1990 | 100 / 0 | 160 | Kyiv, Ukraine | Systems integration (telecommunication infrastructure, networks and communications, multimedia systems, dispatching and automation systems of buildings, custom development of software) | Ukraine Pension Fund, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, State Commission on financial services regulation, Pension Standard company, Ukrainian Funds, Magister, SZI-Ukraine, Concord Capital, Sayenko, Kharenko and partners law firm, Bukovets tourist complex, Elite Ukraine, Zeptr Ukraine | 190 | 159 | Cisco Systems, Ericsson, Alcatel-Lucent, Net.com, Nortel Networks, Sagem, Siemens, Wailan Communication, Panduit, Reichle&De-Massari, AECT Украина, Microsoft, Microsoft Business Solutions, Oracle Corporation, SCO Group, IBM, Hummingbird, Avalon Net, Crystal Decisions, RiTLabs, MRO Software, Citect, ABBYY, Network Associates, Symantec, | \$ 22.5 million |
| Kvazar-Micro , 04136 Kyiv, 1 Severo-Syretska, forinfo@kvazar-micro.com, www.kvazar-micro.com | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (044)239-9999 | Volodymyr Yasynskiy | 1990 | WND | 1300 | Kyiv, Ukraine | Information Technologies, technical consulting, system integration | | WND | WND | Oracle, IBM, SUN Microsystems, Hewlett-Packard, Cisco, AlcatelLucent, INTEL Microelectronics, Microsoft | \$ 766.4 million |
| Visicom , 01025 Kyiv, 25/2 Velyka Zhytomyrskya, www.visicom.ua | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (044)201-0026 | Volodymyr Kolynko | 1991 | 100 \ 0 | 80 | Kyiv, Ukraine | Communications, GPS, on-line cards | | WND | WND | Motorola, Kyivstar, Kar-Tell, Siemens, MTS, KCell, Ericsson, Beeline, MTS Belarus, Nokia, Golden Telecom, VoxTel, ZTE, Ukrainian Tiesystems, MoldCell, Huawei, Astelit, AzerCell | WND |
| Infopulse Ukraine , 03056 Kyiv, 24 Poleva, info@infopulse.com.ua, www.infopulse.com.ua | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (044)457-8468 (044)457-8856 | Alexey Sigov | 1992 | 0 / 100 | Around 500 | Kyiv, Ukraine | Software development and system integration, IT infrastructure management, software packaging, business analysis, IT consulting, quality control and management, Information security systems development and audit, independent testing | Agilic a Customer Life Cycle Management and Self Service software for mobile operators; CLM Automated Self-Service. U2 a Cash & Treasury management system. | Around 50 | Around 30 | EDR | \$10.4 million |

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.

SEPTEMBER 18TH, 2008

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|--|--|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|--|---|-----------------------|----------------------|---|--------------------|
| SoftServe , 79053 Lviv, 52 V. Velykoho, info@softserve.com, http://www.softserve.com | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (032)2409-090 (0322)409-080 | Taras Kytsmey | 1993 | WND | 1100 | Lviv, Ukraine | Software development and consulting | SalesWorks, a proprietary solution for the retail industry, won Microsoft Partner of the Year Contest 2008 (Mobility Solutions) | over 600 | 90 | Microsoft Corp., Cisco Systems Inc., IBM, Citrix, HP | WND |
| ABBY Ukraine , 03680 Kyiv, 10/14 Radishcheva, pr@abby.ua, www.abby.ua | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (044)490-9999 (044)490-9461 | Vitaliy Tyshchenko | 1995 | 0 / 100 | 140 | Moscow, Russia | OCR, linguistic, 1C localization | ABBY FineReader, ABBYY Lingvo, ABBYY FormReader, ABBYY FineReader SDK | 110 | 280 | WND | WND |
| SAP Ukraine LLC , 03150 Kyiv, 5 Dimitrova, info.Ukraine@sap.com, www.sap.ua | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (044)490-3391 (044)490-3394 | Alexander Melnikov | 1995 | 0 / 100 | 50 | Walldorf, Germany | Business solutions software | WND | 72 | Over 120 | Over 20 | Over \$ 22 million |
| ProFIX Co , 03005 Kyiv, 31/33 Smolenska, sale@profix.kiev.ua, www.profix.kiev.ua | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (044)538-1020 | Gennady Kublanovsky, Eugene Kochkin, Nikolay Bulava, Oleg Ustimovich, Sergey Burakov | 1996 | 100 / 0 | over 150 | Kyiv, Ukraine | Banking technology and payment systems development, consulting and servicing | "Single Window" the comprehensive tool for access to various number of money transfer systems | 26 | Over 150 | MoneyGram, S.W.I.F.T., SIDE, IBM, Microsoft, Unistream, Anelik, Contact | Over \$ 4 million |
| Soft Fund Ltd , 04119 Kyiv, 16/18 Yakira, building 2, apt 58, info@sfund.kiev.ua, www.stund.kiev.ua | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (044)599-3557 (044)468-6296 | Alex Feigin | 1996 | 100 / 0 | 3 | Kyiv, Ukraine | Software solutions | Air pollution dispersion modelling solution "EOL-2000", Loans management solution "Faust", Billing solution "Pulse", Ecological reporting solution "Ecozvit" | 3 | 90 | JSC Ukrntek | \$ 25,000 |
| Telesens LLC , 61125 Kharkiv, 1 Myasnyi Lane, info@telesens.ua, www.telesens.ua | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (057)719-9471 (057)756-3071 (057)719-9474 | Eduard Rubin | 1998 | ??? | 120 | Rosh Ha'ayin, Israel | Software product development and telecommunication services | Tinterconnect and T-Factura products | 45 | 20 | Microsoft Corporation, Eastwind, Kvarar-Micro Corporation, Oracle Corporation, Ukrainian Software Consortium, IBS, Bercut, Association of regional mobile operators, DISI | \$ 3.2 million |
| Infoservice , 04073 Kyiv, 21 Moskovskiyi prosp., info@svitonline.com, www.infoservis.kiev.ua | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (044)490-3556 (044)490-3540 | Oleksandr Nosyrev | 1999 | 100 / 0 | 10 | Kyiv, Ukraine | 1C, medical information systems, IT-consulting | Automatization services for Myronivskiy Khiboproduct, Romsat, Beeline, Stroymir, Ukrainian-Sweden Group, Financial Club of Ukraine | About 100 | Over 100 | WND | WND |
| Finport Technologies , 02099 Kyiv, 9 Boryspitska | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (044)369-5109 (044)369-5110 | Vladislav Baranov | 2000 | 100 / 0 | 78 | Kyiv, Ukraine | Intranet solutions, data processing systems, information security and distance learning systems, analytical and accounting systems, hosting, information and technical support of Internet sites | Manager KUA, Credit Union, Intranet-Extranet- Portals, projects for Raiffaisen Bank Aval, UniCredit Bank - risk management solution Smart Screen, Fraud Detection, Collection, projects for governmental and state structures | 32 | Over 150 | Oracle, Sun Microsystems, IBM, Cisco Systems, Microsoft | WND |
| Soft Industry Ltd , 14000 Chernihiv, 49A Kotsybinsky, office 217, info@soft-industry.com, www.soft-industry.com | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (0462) 651-415, (0462) 675-244 | Dmitry Voychenko | 2000 | 100 / 0 | 35 | Chernihiv, Ukraine | Software development, Internet technologies, Hi-Tech solutions | Z - phone, Cloncom, Nod32 | 10 | 5 | 2 | WND |
| WinMix Soft Ltd , 02660 Kyiv, 3 Murmanska, office 308, info@winmixsoft.com, www.winmixsoft.com | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (044)502-8819 (044)331-5651 | Sergiy Kalinchyk | 2000 | 100 / 0 | 12 | Kyiv, Ukraine | Software development, IT-consulting, software sales, 1C, web design | WinMix - project for Vitamex NV compny, www.newpathlearning.com web-project for Creative Education Institute, EBM for EBM-papst, PigFarm, Agroforum, WMS content management system for ProCreditBank | 11 | Over 200 | Vitamex, Biochem, Bivit, EBM papst, Agrovita, Ratterlow Seghers, ProCreditBank, Plati-Source, InfoService Belgium, Kentucky Equine Research, Pricor Iberica, Farma S.A, Golden Telecom, TouchLink Mobile, Prime Line Nutrition, Miprim, Nutrico, Cehave, Mironovskiy Hleboproduct, Creative Education Institute | WND |



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|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|---|---|-----------------------|----------------------|---|------------------|
| Celena Software Ukraine, 04050 Kyiv, 13 Pimonenko, building 6-A, 6th floor, Business city Forum, sales@celena.com, www.celena.com | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (044)494-0940 (044)494-0942 | Henadiy Martyniuk | 2001 | 0 / 100 | Over 300 | Aalborg, Denmark | Partner services and add-on products for Microsoft Dynamics partners | Microsoft Dynamics systems | WND | over 300 | Microsoft | WND |
| JV Evalica, 03150 Kyiv, 47/49 Bozhenko, office #16, enquiry@evalica.com, www.evalica.com | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (044)528-0403 (044)521-6897 | Valerii Verbovetskyi | 2001 | 79 / 21 | 23 | Kyiv, Ukraine | Web design, rich media, search engine optimisation, content management systems, web spider software, custom CRM software | Fortis, UA, Insurance: website design & CMS C&M, UK, Travel Recruitment: Search Engine Optimisation, web design and CMS GlobalRiskJobs, USA, Job Board: Search Engine Optimisation, CMS Onsite, UK, | 73 | 47 | Attract HR, UK HireSuite, USA | WND |
| Ciklum, 03680 Kyiv, 172 Antonovycha, ciklum@ciklum.net, www.ciklum.net | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (044)545-7745 (044)220-1177 | Torben Majgaard | 2002 | 0 / 100 | Over 700 | Kyiv, Ukraine | Software Development Outsourcing | CoComment, 2MBA, Qualiware | WND | Over 80 | Hi-Tech Initiative, Microsoft, IBM, Agile Group, IT Branchen, ITEK, Danske Industri | \$ 11.5 million |
| GlobalLogic Ukraine, 03150 Kyiv, 86D Bozhenko, prmarketing@globallogic.com, www.globallogic.com.ua | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (044)492-9693 (044)492-9694 | Roman Khmil | 2002 | 0 / 100 | 1000 | Vienna, USA | Outsourced Software Product Engineering | Whole suite of OSS systems for Telcordia, best in class BPMS system for Lombardi, Medtronic embedded software for medical applications available in all major airports | 850 | 150 | Yahoo, Microsoft, Telcordia, Avid, Lombardi, Medtronic, Roamware | \$ 15 million |
| Running Code, 01025 Kyiv, 8-B Velyka Zhytomyrska, info@running-code.com, www.running-code.com | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (044)390-7289 | Mark Halaway | 2002 | 0 / 100 | 40 | Kyiv, Ukraine | Outsourcing custom software, web design and development | WND | WND | WND | WND | WND |
| Terrasoft, 03037 Kyiv, 54 Krasnozvezdnyy ave, info@tscrm.com, www.terrasoft.ua | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (044)496-2450 | Katerina Kostereva | 2002 | 100 / 0 | 120 | Kyiv, Ukraine | Customer Relationships Management (CRM) Software | Terrasoft CRM (version 3.2), Terrasoft Service Desk, Terrasoft CRM Bank, Terrasoft Loyalty, Terrasoft Tourism, Terrasoft Motors, Terrasoft Real Estate, Terrasoft Training | 150 | 2000 | 150 | \$ 10 million |
| AwwSoft, 65005 Odesa, 120/2 Balkovska,k office #413, info@awwsoft.com, www.awwsoft.com | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (482)379-429 | Dmitry Yakovenko | 2003 | 100 / 0 | 24 | Odesa, Ukraine | Web 2.0 | WND | 18 | 12 | Odessavinprom, Transship | WND |
| Business-Intellect Ltd, 65026 Odesa, 18 Kateryninska, contact@intellect.biz.ua, www.intellect.biz.ua | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (0482) 357-685 (0482) 357-691 | Alexei Bugai | 2003 | 100 / 0 | WND | Odesa, Ukraine | Software development using IBM modern technologies and platforms | Zekter Transport Company, complex system with Business-Intellect program modules. Factorial Bank, automated system of consumers credits registration. Mandarin Plaza J.S.C., complex docflow and financial control system, Kviza Trade Ltd., complex system for corporate structure and stocks control, integrated with document archive. | 9 | 21 | IBM | WND |
| Microsoft Ukraine, 01032 Kyiv, PO Box 13, www.microsoft.ua | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (044)496-0310 (044)496-0317 | Eric Franke | 2003 | 0 / 100 | 130 | Redmond, USA | Microsoft Ukraine is part of Microsoft's Sales, Marketing and Services group | Windows Vista and 2007 Office System localized into Ukrainian language, Windows Server 2008, SQL Server 2008, Exchange Server 2007 and 100+ other products | Over 400 | WND | Over 1000 | WND |
| It-Lynx, 01001 Kyiv, 12 Druzhby Narodiv, office #35, company@it-lynx.com, www.it-lynx.com | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (044)592-3670 | Volodymyr Vatskel | 2004 | WND | 12 | Kyiv, Ukraine | GPS monitoring system development, production control and fuel control systems, logistic complexes and web oriented systems | "Inspector," a GPS monitoring system, AccessControl system, EPQS Workshop, System of e-commerce Tender.ua, internet reception program of state authority - Vikonkom | 6 | WND | WND | WND |
| Geonis, 50047 Kryvyi Rih, 6a Hrudneva, office 25, info@geonis.com.ua, http://geonis.com.ua | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (056)401-8280 | Vasyl Bilonojko | 2005 | 100 / 0 | 5 | Kryvyi Rih, Ukraine | Geoinformatics | eTabua.net | WND | WND | WND | WND |
| GORESH, 04128 Kyiv, 1/52 Sineozerna, office 2, pr@goresh.net, www.goresh.net | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (044)223-3233 | Igor Lariouov | 2005 | 100 / 0 | 10 | Kyiv, Ukraine | IT | Content management system | About 30 | WND | WND | WND |
| EMC² Ukraine, 01601 Kyiv, 42-44 Shovkovychna, www.emc.com.ua | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (044)490-1208 | Alexander Krasin | 2006 | 0 / 100 | 10 | Hopkinton, USA | Information infrastructure technology and solutions, data storage solutions | WND | WND | WND | Microsoft, S&T Softronik, Incom, MUK | WND |
| Intelligent System Design, 79053 Lviv, 197 Gorodocka St., office 25 intsysdesign@gmail.com www.intelsd.com | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (0322)384-226 | WND | 2006 | WND | WND | Lviv, Ukraine | Website design, entry level websites, portals, intranet and extranet, content management system | WND | WND | WND | WND | WND |
| Lemon Software Development Studio, 01103 Kyiv, 11 Kikvidze, info@lemon.ua, www.lemon.ua | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (044)223-8833 | Alexey Yuzefov | 2006 | 100 / 0 | 30 | Kyiv, Ukraine | Web-design, Custom software development, Internet advertizing | WND | 54 | 30 | WND | \$ 309,000 |
| Light Software, 03127 Kyiv, 58 Lomonosova, office 88, info@light.biz.ua, www.light.biz.ua | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (044)361-2021 (044)258-3195 | Adam Golovenko | 2008 | 100 / 0 | 6 | Kyiv, Ukraine | Small business automatization | Event Pro (software for event management companies), Fitness Pro (software for fitness clubs) | 7 | 5 | Diplomat Service, Wizardry | WND |
| NetCracker LTD, 01033 Kyiv, 69 Volodymyrska Street, Kievcareers@netcracker.com, www.netcracker.com | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (044)238-8727 (044)459-7501 | Vitaliy Terentyev | 2006 | 0 / 100 | Over 155 | Waltham, USA | Best-of-breed OSS and IT infrastructure management solutions to service providers, enterprises and government agencies | Telus, Sprint, TWTC, UPC | 13 | 8 | Microsoft, Oracle, IBM, HP, Weblogic, Baker McKenzie | \$ 1.6 million |
| Softheme LLC, 01034 Kyiv, 21L Yaroslaviv Val , info@softheme.com, www.softheme.com | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (067)407-9717 (044)461-9477 (044)461-9673 | Vadim Sharko, Irina Tsulaia | 2006 | 100 / 0 | 120 | Kyiv, Ukraine | Software Engineering; Web Development, Web Testing, Application Development and Maintenance | Development and maintenance of software products for Kyocera, Web Development for Facegroup, Financial Software for I-Flex Solutions, Oracle Financial Services Software Limited | Over 30 | 16 | compCastle, Kinergy, Lemon Studio | \$ 3.6 million |
| UCMS Group Ukraine, 03680 Kyiv, 86E Bozhenko, ucms.ukraine@ucmsgroup.eu , www.ucmsgroup.eu | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (044)521-6095 (044)521-6078 | Sergey Kessel | 2006 | 0 / 100 | 30 | Stockholm, Sweden | Software on Demand (workforce management solutions) | WND | WND | WND | WND | WND |

Saint Sofia gem gets restoration

By OKSANA FARYNA
faryna@kpmmedia.ua

The opening ceremony of a newly-restored baroque building in Kyiv turned into a high society event on Sept. 12 with the country's president, richest oligarch and many hangers-on participating.

"I AM CONTENT AND IT'S A BIG DIFFERENCE."

— Billionaire Rinat Akhmetov

Formally known as the Metropolitan's Residence, the building itself was an 18-century home for high priests. It is on the premises of St. Sofia Cathedral.

The ceremony was enhanced by bright flower arrangements, classical music and beautifully decorated white tables. The few selected visitors were tempted with crab salad and expensive cognac. Like the restoration work itself, the delicacies were paid for by Rinat Akhmetov, the country's richest man, who patiently walked about in the company of his high-ranking guests, waiting for the ever-late President Victor Yushchenko, who inaugurated the building. The cost of renovation was Hr 30 million (\$6.3 million) – a tiny share of Akhmetov's estimated \$31 billion fortune.

"It's such a great holiday," said Anna Herman, deputy from the Party of Regions, walking arm-in-arm with her husband in comfortable flat shoes. Neither she nor others wanted to talk politics, regardless of the fact that the ruling coalition was in ruins and the fate of parliament is to be decided within the next month.

When Yushchenko finally arrived, he thanked the event sponsor profusely. "I am wholeheartedly grateful to the Foundation for the Development of Ukraine, to its founder and patron



A view of the newly remodeled Metropolitan's Residence, restored with \$6.3 million from Rinat Akhmetov, Ukraine's richest citizen. Attending the ceremony, below from left, were Akhmetov, Ukrainian President Victor Yushchenko and Henri Loyrette, director of France's Louvre museum. (UNIAN and Natalia Kravchuk)



Rinat Akhmetov," he said in his speech.

Akhmetov himself, dressed in a crisp blue suit and matching dark blue shoes, stood modestly among the guests alongside Vitalina Yushchenko, the president's oldest daughter.

"I am content and it's a big difference," Akhmetov later said briefly to the Kyiv Post, meaning that the building looks much better after the



restoration.

The building that was home to 21 metropolitans, or Orthodox high priests since its construction three centuries ago, was seriously damaged by fire in 1978. It has been on UNESCO's world heritage list since 1990. Yushchenko decreed its restoration in 2005 and, at once, Akhmetov's fund took over.

This was the first architectural res-



toration project for his fund, which has a budget of roughly \$34 million.

Some of it was also spent this year on bringing a unique exhibition from the Louvre. It's called "Apollo in Vulcan's Forge" and has 17 bronze sculptures on display from King Louis XIV's collection. The artifacts are exhibited in the Metropolitan's Residence till Dec. 13, and tickets cost Hr 5.

Lawmakers in Crimea back Russia

SIMFEROPOL (Reuters) – Parliament in Ukraine's Crimea peninsula, defying the country's pro-Western leaders on Sept. 17, called on the national parliament to follow Russia's example and recognize Georgia's two separatist regions.

Crimea, a Ukrainian region with a degree of self-government, is populated mainly by ethnic Russians and Russian-speakers. Its local leaders have often adopted pro-Russian positions or even sought to rejoin Russia.

Some analysts suggested that Russia's conflict with Georgia over South Ossetia could rekindle pro-Moscow or even separatist sentiment in Crimea.

The local assembly voted 79 to 8 to urge Ukraine's national parliament to recognize the breakaway regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia. Only Russia and Nicaragua have done so, an action denounced by the United States and European Union.

The appeal said Crimea's parliament "expresses its backing for the peoples of Abkhazia and South Ossetia and their right to self-determination and supports the Russian Federation's actions in ensuring security in those republics."

Crimea's parliament is dominated by former Ukrainian prime minister Victor Yanukovich's Party of Regions, which has been friendlier to Russia than other political forces and has called for recognition of the two territories.

Ukraine's pro-Western leaders, committed to joining NATO, denounced Moscow's intervention in South Ossetia in support of what Moscow says are Russian nationals there.

Crimea became a part of Russia in the late 18th century and was formally handed to Soviet Ukraine in 1954, when the collapse of the Soviet Union was unthinkable.

The region remains autonomous, though Ukrainian authorities cracked down on separatism in the mid-1990s.

Russian nationalist politicians call periodically for the return of at least Sevastopol, the Crimean port where Russia's Black Sea fleet is based under a lease agreement.

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Justice denied in Gonggadze's murder

GONGADZE, cont'd from page 1

The 2000 kidnapping and murder of Gonggadze, who railed against the corruption of the Kuchma era, resonated throughout Ukraine and the rest of the world. The founder of the *Ukrainska Pravda* online newspaper, Gonggadze exposed fraud and corruption within ruling circles. He publicly posed hard-hitting questions to leading politicians, including Kuchma.

He disappeared late on Sept. 16, 2000, while on his way home and after formally complaining to Ukraine's general prosecutor about being harassed and shadowed by police. His beheaded corpse was found 130 kilometers south of Kyiv in November.

That month, parliamentarian Oleksandr Moroz publicly disclosed the existence of taped conversations purportedly recorded by former Kuchma bodyguard Mykola Melnychenko. The bombshell tapes implicated the ex-president and numerous aides in a host of crimes, including the abduction of Gonggadze.

But just as the investigation petered out into whether the events described on the tapes actually happened, the Gonggadze investigation lost traction – or was thwarted – depending on one's perspective.

In March, a Kyiv court sentenced three former police services employees convicted of killing Gonggadze. They are to spend 12 to 13 years behind bars. But people suspected or accused of ordering and organizing the murder remain at large. Notable among them is police general Oleksiy Pukach, who has variously been reported to be in Israel, Ukraine and even India. Three other high-level police officials wanted as witnesses died under mysterious circumstances in a domino effect of deaths.

The general prosecutor's office is "doing nothing but imitating investigation" into who ordered and organized the killing of Gonggadze, said the lawyer of Gonggadze's widow, Myroslava, on Sept. 15.

Lawyer Valentyna Telychenko said that officials justify the lack of progress by claiming that Gonggadze case "belongs to the category of cases that will never be solved, like [the assassination of U.S. president John] Kennedy."

Melnychenko says that, on the recordings, Kuchma can be heard discussing Gonggadze 14 times over a four-month time period.

In August 2008, Moroz – the man who first blew the whistle on Gonggadze's murder – surprised journalists when he said that he does not think Kuchma ordered the death.

"Kuchma's [emotional] complexes were used: his hot temper and lack of restraint. His statements were twisted and used very well. I do not think he has anything to do with the journalist's death," Moroz said a few days before Kuchma's lavish 70th birthday celebrations.

Melnychenko, the former member of Kuchma's personal security detail who claims to have recorded the president's conversation in 2000, had a very different assessment of who is to blame for the stalled investigation.

He told the *Kyiv Post* that the current prosecutorial team working on the case has done everything possible to move the case forward and that the lack of progress is now the fault of the United States. In 2001, Melnychenko was granted asylum in the United States when he fled Ukraine in fear for his life.

Melnychenko showed a letter he received from Ukraine's general prosecutor's office in July. In the letter, the

senior investigator in the Gonggadze case provides a short history of year-long efforts to get the FBI to conduct a forensic investigation of Melnychenko's recording and equipment.

According to Melnychenko's letter, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe received confirmation from the U.S. government in September of last year that FBI experts will take part in the forensics examination. Then, in July of this year, when Ukrainian prosecutors met with U.S. representatives in Kyiv, the Americans "categorically declared that the government and law enforcement bodies of the USA... will not participate in the international examination, but do not oppose that the handing over [of recordings and equipment] take place in the United States, in the Embassy of Ukraine in the United States," according to the letter Melnychenko showed.

Melnychenko said the original recordings and equipment are safe and sound in the United States.

"If the recordings and equipment were fake, I would be criminally liable not only in Ukraine but in the U.S. as well," he said.

Melnychenko said that the FBI's refusal has political reasons. "Many Ukrainians hoped for U.S. support. Ukraine extended its hand, but the U.S. chopped it off," Melnychenko said.

"The recordings contain a conversation where [former SBU chief Leonid] Derkach tells Kuchma that Bush Junior will be the next president of the United States. This was in the summer of 2000, months before the election. Derkach told Kuchma that there is a person in Bush's entourage, an adviser, whom the Ukrainian secret services have influence over. The Ukrainian mafia has thrown a lot of money at Bush and now



People remember slain journalist Georgiy Gonggadze on Sept. 16, the eighth anniversary of a crime that helped spark 2004's Orange Revolution. (Yaroslav Debelyi)

America, like Pontius Pilate, is washing its hands," he said.

The U.S. government denied Melnychenko's allegations. "We have and will continue to respond to all requests from the government of Ukraine for assistance on a broad range of law enforcement issues. This is because we continue to support the rule of law in Ukraine. We do not comment on individual law enforcement cases," said Nancy B. Pettit, spokeswoman at the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv.

Meanwhile, Mykhailo Svystovych, a civic activist for the nongovernmental Maidan Alliance, keeps on organizing memorial services in Kyiv every Sept. 16. Despite the rain and cold, this year's requiem gathered more people than a year ago. "All 500 candles were given out," Svystovych said. More than 2,000 candles were used to spell out "Gia," the diminutive of Gonggadze's first name. The event was ignored by leading politicians, including the president and

prime minister, who built their political popularity on promises to solve the Gonggadze and other cases.

"They promised to solve the case to the end. They should be ashamed," Svystovych said.

Kyiv Mayor Leonid Chernovetsky attended the event. The next day, his *Khreshchatyk* newspaper ran a front page photo with the mayor holding a candle at the ceremony. Most newspapers in the capital city simply ignored the event.

"These events provide too much speculation on Gonggadze," said Roman Skrypyn, a veteran journalist and friend to Gonggadze.

"There were a lot of young people at the [Kyiv] service, 20 year olds that never knew Gonggadze," Svystovych said. He said that social networking sites were instrumental in generating interest among youth.

Requiems for Gonggadze were also held in Chernihiv, Lviv and Halych.

Nation will spend \$32 billion to host European soccer games

EURO 2012, cont'd from page 1

countries, including Scotland, Ireland, Italy and Germany, jumping at the prospect of taking Ukraine's place.

The rumors subsided after inspectors from UEFA visited Ukraine late last month and noted that significant progress had been made. For example, a shopping mall that was being built next to the championship game venue, Kyiv's Olympic stadium, is finally in the process of being demolished. And in recent weeks, the reconstruction of this massive stadium, capable of seating some 80,000 fans, kicked off.

Still, Euro 2012 skeptics argue that the current standoff between President Victor Yushchenko and Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko could influence a final verdict from UEFA's executive committee.

Deputy Vice Premier Ivan Vasiunyk and Fryhoriy Surkis, the president of the Football Federation of Ukraine, claim that this is nonsense.

Vasiunyk and Surkis gave a joint press conference on Sept. 15, three days before the Ukrainian delegation travels to Switzerland to present the government's progress report to UEFA. "In fact, Euro 2012 will set the political climate, not vice versa," Vasiunyk said. "It will be a source of stability...the governmental coalition and the opposition all speak in one voice when it comes to Euro 2012."

Before the football tournament is held, Ukraine is scheduled to undergo

parliamentary and presidential elections. "But the president of the football federation will remain the same for the next four years," Vasiunyk said, referring to Surkis.

Surkis pointed out that Euro 2008 went ahead in Austria despite a "politically stormy season" that resulted in the collapse of that country's governing coalition days after the championship ended.

"Work is being done and it needs to be accelerated," said Dirck Smits van Oyen, who developed the proposal for Ukraine and Poland to host the tournament.

Smits van Oyen, now running a Kyiv-based consultancy that aims to help foreigners navigate uncharted investment waters ahead of the football championship, was upbeat.

"There is no reason to fear a reverse decision," Smits van Oyen said. "The political situation does not help right now, but UEFA ultimately doesn't care if there are snap elections. What is important is that there is a functioning government in place, allocating the necessary budget. This is not happening sufficiently. Projects are not being implemented."

There are also fears that Ukraine may end up hosting only a quarter of the 32 matches in June 2012, a blow to tourism revenue. During Euro 2008, held earlier this summer, the average visitor spent more than three nights and 1,000 euros in Austria and Switzerland, according to UEFA.

Austria's hotels saw more than 8 million overnight stays during the month of Euro 2008.

A study conducted in Portugal two years after it hosted the Euro 2004 championship found that the number of tourists increased by 10 percent every year since then.

"Portugal was already a popular tourist destination," Smits van Oyen said. "With Euro 2012, many tourists will discover Ukraine and Poland for the first time, so the impact will be much bigger."

However, concerns about infrastructure and stadium readiness are expected to be on the agenda when UEFA's executive committee meets in Bordeaux, France on Sept. 25.

Prior to a UEFA inspection trip in July, Ukrainian soccer officials had said that Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk and Kharkiv were furthest ahead in preparations. Dnipropetrovsk has already opened a refurbished stadium and reconstruction of stadiums in Kharkiv and Donetsk are not far behind. Most problematic, according to experts, are the state of the stadiums in Kyiv and Lviv.

After a year of legal wrangling, the reconstruction of Kyiv's stadium has begun. A German company, GMP von Gerkan, Marg und Partner, and the Kyivmiskbud holding company are removing the unfinished shopping center beside the stadium that is scheduled to host the final match of the tournament. The plans also include reconstruction of the stadium's lower level to be complete by June 2010.

Another big concern is the lack of hotel space in Kyiv and other cities. But investors are making progress in developing brand new capacity.

UEFA expects 3,000 five-star rooms and 4,500 lesser-quality rooms in Kyiv. While Ukrainian officials admitted the shortcoming, they pointed out that the Fairmont and Intercontinental chains will together provide more than 500 five-star rooms, while 30 new hotels will be built and 20 existing ones will be renovated by 2012 – more than enough to fulfill the requirement.

There is also concern that Donetsk is 1,500 five-star rooms short. The situation in Lviv is even worse, because there is no stadium yet. There is an empty field where a 30,000 seat stadium should be by March 2010. The city decided it will finance construction with municipal bonds, instead of looking for outside money. In early August, the city council earmarked Hr 80 million for the stadium's construction.

In terms of stadiums, Ukraine is further ahead than Poland, but Smits van Oyen said that both countries will meet the requirement on time. Lviv's other headache is its tiny airport. The World Bank said it will pay for its overhaul. The business plan is being developed by an international consortium comprised of Corporate Solutions, ScanAvia A/S, the Ukrainian State Aviation Service and Lviv City Council.

The EBRD is looking to finance airports, bus terminal, roadways and railways. They are predominantly state-owned projects, and account for a significant share of the roughly \$25 billion investment needed to prepare for the tournament.

The EBRD is looking to finance airports, bus terminal, roadways and railways. They are predominantly state-owned projects, and account for a significant share of the roughly \$25 billion investment needed to prepare for the tournament.

SEPTEMBER 18TH, 2008

More attracted by Turkey's bargains

By IRYNA PRYMACHYK
prymachyk@kpmmedia.ua

In recent summers, Turkey has become one of the most popular tourist destinations for people from many nations, including Ukraine. It's easy to understand why: lots of fun and low prices.

"A one-week trip to one of the European countries like Britain or Italy will cost some \$3,000 per person. Turkish health resorts like Antalya, Alania and mountainous Kemer are twice as cheap," said Victoria Gayova, manager of "Galopom po Evropam" (Hurry-Scurry Around Europe) travel agency in Kyiv.

Turkey is especially popular among people from post-Soviet countries, who have become the main source of the Turkish tourist business.

Last year, more than 2 million Russians (according to Russian federal tourist agency) and 480,000 Ukrainians (according to the Ukrainian state service of tourism) visited Turkey.

Gayova said the majority of middle-class Ukrainians and Russians prefer to make their first trips abroad to Turkey in the summer or to Egypt in the winter. The hotel prices in Turkey are roughly 50 percent lower than in Crimea. "In this way, Ukraine loses big money," Gayova said.

Taking advice from our friends, my husband, Andrei Vinnyk, and I decided to make our first trip to Turkey because of low prices and good service recommendations. For a five-star hotel in Kemer in southern Turkey, we only paid \$3,000 per week for a double room and all-inclusive service. An additional bonus for Ukrainians accustomed to visa hassles when trying to travel abroad is the easy 60-day tourist visa stamps upon arrival.

But if you ever decide to go in August, the peak season, you are likely to run into a lot of other Russians and Ukrainians. And you may have trouble finding air tickets and hotel accommodations.

"A lot of people in Ukraine have the same idea," Gayova said, recommending that tickets get booked two weeks in advance at least.



Kyiv Post staff writer Iryna Prymachyk (facing camera, foreground) enjoyed an inexpensive vacation to Turkey. She also learned that some people in Turkey, citizens and other foreign tourists alike, have grown weary of Russian and Ukrainian visitors. Turkey's visa-upon-arrival policy is a big attraction for ex-Soviet citizens making their first trip abroad. (Andrei Vinnyk).

Turkey is just across the Black Sea from Ukraine. After two hours in a plane, you can be in southern Turkey surrounded by the Mediterranean Sea.

The mountainous region of Turkey differs from the mountains of Crimea. When traveling to Crimea, the pretty pictures of the hotel that your travel agent shows you or that you see on the Internet may have nothing to do with the actual place. The mountains may, in reality, be farther away from the hotel and the beautiful swimming pool in the photograph may not work at all.

In Turkey, what you see is what you get, and even more. Maybe that is why our hotel was overrun with Russian tourists and all the hotel staff could speak at least two foreign languages – English and Russian. Some even spoke a little Ukrainian. Turkish hotel employees say it is very easy to distinguish Russians from all other tourists.

"Only Russians leave hotel towels on the lounge chairs and beer cans near the sea to show the place is occupied,"

said Bayran Takyr, a Turkish employee in the Kemer hotel.

Takyr's favorite pastime during the work day is to watch Russians and Ukrainians eating. Our hotel offered three "all-inclusive" main restaurants and five specialized ones where, from \$30, you can order any fish, meat or any exotic dish on the menu. "Russian tourists never use other restaurants except the "all-inclusive" one, and eat there like it is the last day of their lives. If, for instance, a German tourist takes six pieces of meat, Russians would take half a kilo, Ukrainians maybe even more," Takyr said.

There is, of course, an explanation for this gluttony. "We cannot afford to eat such expensive food in such amounts at home," said Nadezhda Nikolaeva, a Moscow tourist. "We were economizing the whole year to come to Turkey now and, of course, we want to get the most out of our trip."

There are other signs, quite literally, that locals are disgusted by some of

the other Russian habits. One of the special smorgasbord tables is near one of the three hotel swimming pools. In English, Turkish, Russian and German, one of the signs warns: "It is forbidden to swim after 18:00."

But the second sign is only in Russian: "Do not pee in the swimming pool."

For foreign tourists who look upon Turkey as a nation of good service, cheap hotels and clean restrooms, Russian tourists have acquired a reputation for making other trouble – so much, in fact, that some people try to stay away from them.

Some Germans buy "Russian-free tours" that guarantee the exclusion of Russians and Ukrainians from hotels.

"There are mainly four- and five-star hotels in which the staff speaks only English and German," said Gayova, the Kyiv tourist agent. "The rooms in such hotels can be booked only in Europe. It is not very ethical, of course, but for Turkish tourist agen-

cies it becomes the the only chance to keep "old" clients."

For Turkish tourism employees, it's a tradeoff: European tourists tip better, but Russians are more amusing.

"I prefer working with Russian tourists," said Irkel Turkey of Turkey. "They may tell you different jokes and anecdotes for hours just to make you give a hotel discount. Europeans do not bargain, they spend more, but it seems boring to us."

Russians Nadezhda Nikolaeva and her husband, Andrei, spent two hours bargaining in one of the Turkish leather centers. They managed to buy a leather winter jacket, originally listed at \$900, for only \$300.

They aren't the only ones attracted by the bargains. Landing on the plane at Kyiv's Boryspil Airport, I noticed dozens of Ukrainians carrying huge bags that they did not have when they got on the plane a week ago. "We bought 20 leather jackets for sale in [Kyiv's] Petrivka market. I started this business two years ago and it is very profitable. In Kyiv, such jackets will cost three times more," said Uliana Dubravyna, a Kyivan.

Aside from the cultural peculiarities of all the different tourists, Turkey is a great place to make new friends, relax by the Mediterranean seaside and take excursions. My husband and I took a day trip to the most famous historical site in Turkey, Pamuccale. It is often called the seventh wonder of the world. In Turkish, it means a "cotton castle." It offers white terraces of calcium deposits that look like snow, swimming where the ancient Kleopatra swam, and mineral water that contains all the chemical elements on Mendeleev's table. We took a tour on a yacht and learned how to belly dance, Turkish style. Our next excursion was mountain river rafting, a sport that is extremely popular among Turks. Booked through a local travel agency, the rafting trip cost \$18 and the nearby hotel, only \$45 per person.

So, overall, a vacation in Turkey is highly recommended to anyone who is not afraid of Russians – or fellow Ukrainians. The nation has a lot of awesome things to offer.

Global financial shock expected to damage Ukraine economy

ECONOMY, cont'd from page 1

stock market is miniscule in terms of liquidity compared to peers such as the NYSE, the London Stock Exchange and Russia's RTS. Russia's market was also rattled hard with trading halted in recent days. But the downturn and other bad news specific to Ukraine serve as a signal of worsening investor confidence.

Speaking to journalists at a press conference on Sept. 16, Oleksandr Shlapak, deputy head of the presidential office, expressed hope that Ukraine's economy will sustain any world crisis.

"I hope that the Ukrainian economy is sufficiently strong today to withstand this crisis. It won't be critical for our banking system," he said.

But speaking on the condition of anonymity, representatives of leading Western banks visiting Ukraine said the world financial turmoil and Ukraine's bleak short-term economic forecast will make it very hard for companies in the country to tap into financing this and next year. Easy access to foreign lending has helped fuel growth. But now, with credit markets empty and growth slowing, many companies could struggle to refinance existing debt or pay it off.

Valchyshen said an economic "squeeze" would first hurt many Ukrainian banks, particularly cash-strapped domestically-owned ones, as well as real estate development and construction companies. Both have in past years been highly dependent on external sources of funding to drive projects with a long maturity.

"Generally, every business that used to borrow with such maturity mismatch is a likely victim of the current crisis," Valchyshen said.

Banks would, in turn, restrict lending to citizens who have in recent years engaged in a shopping spree thanks to a lending boom.

Investor caution turned into fear this summer after Russia's military standoff with Georgia. As a rare pro-Western ally on post-Soviet turf, along with Georgia, Ukraine was tagged as Russia's next target.

And this month, market fears triggered a panic on Ukraine's stock market following news that Ukraine was on the verge of sinking deeper into political paralysis with the collapse of a fragile pro-West coalition. The stock market selloff continued this week with news that the financial woes of Lehman

Brothers, a U.S. investment bank, could spread like a virus to other financial institutions.

Economists said Ukraine's GDP growth – while strong thus far this year – could slow noticeably in coming months as global demand for steel drops and other exports wane.

"Ukraine's largest single trade partner, the EU (European Union), is on the brink of recession. Another key trading partner, Russia, is too fragile because it depends on high oil prices. If crude prices tumble because of global recession fears, then Russia will be under the threat of recession as well. Together these two areas of vital importance to Ukraine's exports will drag Ukraine's economy. This means the period of price disinflation – on real estate, for instance – is coming," Valchyshen said.

Market alarm has also hit the share prices of some Ukrainian companies that broke ground in recent years by listing stock through initial public offerings on the London Stock Exchange.

Take, for example, leading Kyiv-based real estate developer XXI Century. Adopting a bullish growth strategy, the company raised some \$140 million through a 2005 listing on the London

exchange, and borrowed several hundred million dollars more through debt instruments, such as Eurobonds. The aim was to invest the lot in high-growth real estate projects in Ukraine. Their stock offered investors exposure to a hot property market exhibiting double-digit growth in recent years.

Yet analysts warn it all could come to an abrupt halt with simultaneous slowdown on Ukraine's property market, along with the worldwide credit and equity crashes.

XXI Century has a pipeline of promising projects, a portfolio valued by investment bank Troika Dialog at some \$2 billion. But the company has not yet been able to sell projects at strong prices to cover mounting debts. It could have difficulties refinancing this debt next year amid lasting credit woes, Troika said in a report this month.

Conscious of the trouble ahead, investors in London have dumped XXI Century's stock. Its share value dropped by more than 30 percent in recent days, and in total 57 percent since April. Majority-owned by Ukrainian businessman Lev Partskhaladze, XXI Century specializes in developing office, retail, hotel and residential property in

Ukraine. The company traces its roots to Partskhaladze's real estate projects implemented in the 1990s.

In a statement, XXI Century said top management was currently reviewing options to revive the company, including the sale of non-core real estate development projects. It has also expressed interest in teaming up with cash-rich partners capable of funding its pipeline of projects.

"As is the case with many real estate companies, the continued uncertainty and volatility in the worldwide markets has led us to review our strategy," XXI Century told the Post in a carefully worded statement.

The company suggested that the need for fresh investment has risen partly due to the credit squeeze, which has complicated the company's ability to single-handedly finance its large portfolio of projects. To cut costs, the company announced this month it would cut its workforce by some 20-30 percent.

"We are narrowing the breadth of our business to concentrate on those projects likely to offer the best returns in the current market," the company added.



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Pipa and his Tractor

Eccentric musician Oleksandr Pipa, Vopli Vidopliasova ex-guitarist and co-founder of Borshch band, started a new project to fulfill his original musical ideas. The name of the band @Traktor can be interpreted both as an actual tractor as well as "attractor." @Traktor debuted onstage at Rock Sich festival held in Kyiv at the beginning of September. Currently the musicians are planning to go on tour across Ukraine in the company of indie band Asleep in the Park and a trio from Ivano-Frankivsk, Pan Pupets.



Vitalina Yushchenko to model in Milan

President Victor Yushchenko's daughter, Vitalina, will appear in Milan as a model, showcasing an outfit created by Ukrainian designer Ayna Gase. Gase, whose major clients include Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, will present her new spring-summer 2009 collection at the Milan Fashion Week. Miss Yushchenko already walked the catwalk once at the Ukrainian Fashion Week in fall 2006, demonstrating garments from Ukrainian designer Olesia Telizhenko.

KYIV POST The Guide

SEPTEMBER 18TH, 2008

Antique shopping
Find out where to look for antique books, watches and more
Page 4



"Wild Life" German-style

By OKSANA FARYNA
faryna@kpmmedia.ua

This year's festival "New German Cinema" will be the biggest event dedicated to German movies ever held in Ukraine. It will showcase 13 films in all, including festival hits from previous years, documentary films, short films and high budget movies.

The festival will open with the comedy drama "Das Wilde Leben" (literal translation is "Wild Life" but official English title is "Eight Miles High") a biopic of Uschi Obermayer, the icon of the 1968 movement in Germany and groupie, a symbol of German sexual revolution. At the age of 16, Uschi gets bored with her job at a photo lab, and soon becomes the It Girl of Munich's club scene. When she gets to know Rainer Langhans, they move to Berlin and live in "Kommune 1," the first politically-motivated commune in Germany. Such people as John Lennon and Yoko Ono later followed their example. While the other occupants claim she isn't political enough, Uschi just wants to have fun, work as a fashion model and lead international music stars into temptation...

Uschi was a singer of the Amon Duul band, lover of Mick Jagger and one of first top models who appeared naked in a glossy magazine. She had been living according to the principle "Make Love, Not War" and celebrated her 50th birthday with a photo session for Playboy.

The film was shot by German director Achim Bornhak in 2007, based on Uschi's autobiographic novel "High Times." Uschi is played by Natalia Avelon, a very active 28-year-old Polish actress who now lives in Germany. You can hear her voice in the soundtrack to the film as she sings a remake of Lee Hazlewood and Nancy Sinatra's "Summer Wine" in a duet with Singer Ville Valo, lead singer of Finnish band HIM. Their song reached No.2 on the German charts. By the way, Natalia is friends with Uschi Obermaier who is already 62 years old and lives in Topagna Canyon, California, USA. The movie is shown in German and will be simultaneously translated into Ukrainian by an interpreter at a cinema hall.

KYIV
19 Chervonoarmiyska,
234-7381, 234-3380.
From Sept. 25
More info at www.kievkino.com.ua



outnow.ch



Autumn came so suddenly to Kyiv that Kyivans hardly had time to change into warmer clothes. I always find it amusing observing the kaleidoscope of outfits that belong to different seasons – girls still wearing sandals, and those wearing boots, men in coats, and boys in shirts, as if unwilling to let summer go. And truth is, it's not just about clothes – the cold season implies a whole different lifestyle. You no longer feel like hanging around outside so much, instead either curling up at home with a cup of tea in front of the TV, or going to a movie, or to a nice concert – just as long as it's indoors. So what is there to expect this autumn?

The main guest Kyiv is awaiting this fall, Christina Aguilera, recently rescheduled her concert one day later – Oct. 21, but she's still coming, which means we can be hopeful. However, many stars have cancelled their previously announced shows in Ukraine that, until she steps off the plane in Boryspil, I won't be sure her gig is actually taking place. Still, you need to get tickets in advance – after all, it's Palats Ukraina hosting the show, and not Palats Sportu.

The rest of the acts expected to visit the capital are unlikely to cause much excitement. Among them is Eros Ramazzotti, an Italian singer whose hits were once all over Ukrainian airwaves. But, as with many other foreign musicians, he only decided to come here after his golden times were over. Also for about the 50th time, we'd be treated to gigs by rock grandpa's Deep Purple and Nazareth. I imagine their audience decreases with every year, but apparently the veterans are too addicted to Ukraine to stop coming. The fans of dark heavy music can rejoice – they will have a whole collection of moody bands to choose from. There will be former Nightwish frontwoman, Finnish rock vocalist Tarja Turunen, and several German acts – symphonic metal project Haggard, which showcases an impressive number of musicians – from 16 to 21, U.D.O. (another ancient group) and Die Apokalytischen Reiter, this one playing folk death. The only concert that I'm really interested in is Glen Miller Orchestra that already played last autumn, and is coming again. Some classical jazz tunes well-played – you can't lose with that.

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!



Didier Marouani & Space

Electronic music pioneer Didier Marouani will once again perform his best hits in Ukraine. The French composer and musician has been popular in Ukraine since the early 1980s, when Soviet record company Melodia released his debut album "Magic Fly." In 1983, Marouani and his band Space were invited by the USSR Minister of Culture to tour the Soviet Union with 21 concerts. Some 300,000 fans showed up to the Olympic stadiums of Moscow, Leningrad and Kyiv to hear Marouani's music and see his laser show. The price of tickets to see one of the first Western artists who ever performed in the Soviet Union reached \$100 on the black market. Marouani was called the "Little Prince of Synthesizer" for playing "space" melodies very skillfully on his synthesizer. Astronauts even took his album "Space Opera" to the Mir space station for their stay. His popularity grew and, in 1992, Didier was allowed to perform on the Red Square in Moscow. It was a free concert attended by 360,000 people. Marouani continues occasionally visiting post-Soviet countries: he recorded his last album, "Symphonic Space Dream," with the St. Petersburg Symphonic Orchestra.

He will play in Kyiv right after a show in Odesa.

— Oksana Faryna

PALATS SPORTU
Palats Sportu metro station
Sept. 23. 7 p.m.
Tickets Hr 100 to Hr 550



Oktoberfest

VI Kyiv Oktoberfest provides you a great opportunity to enjoy an abundance of the best sorts of domestic and German beers that will be specially imported for the event. Apart from the beer, the weekend-long party will also feature performances by Ukrainian rock singer Oleh Skrypka on Saturday at 7 p.m. The fest will be hosted by MC Lapot, MC Saha Novytskyi and Dima Perepiolkin.

Oktoberfest in Kyiv, similar to other fests in other cities around the world, is modeled on the classic event in Munich. The first Oktoberfest was held in Munich, Bavaria, Germany, on Oct. 12, 1810 (old calendar) to commemorate the marriage of Crown Prince Ludwig and Princess Therese of Saxe-Hildburghausen. The holiday is still hugely popular. It is a 16-day festival held each year from late September to early October. This celebration of Bavarian culture is one of the most famous events in the world and the city's largest fair, with some six million people attending every year. Beginning in 1950, the official festival opening was marked with a 12-gun salute and the tapping of the first keg of Oktoberfest beer at noon by the Mayor of Munich who cries out "O'zapft is!" ("It's tapped!" in Austro-Bavarian). By 1960, Oktoberfest became an enormous and world-famous festival.

— Oksana Faryna

SPARTAK STADIUM
105 Frunze
Sept. 19 5 p.m.
Sept. 20 – 21 11 a.m. till 10 p.m.



Virtuosos of the Planet: classical music festival

Classical music lovers should make sure they have three free evenings this week to visit the National Philharmonic where the Third International festival "Virtuosos of the Planet" will be held. The festival is among the most prestigious classical music festivals in the world, on par with the International Harpist's Contest in the US, Paloma O'Shea Santander Contest for Pianists in Spain and the International Piano Competition Hamamatsu in Japan. However, Virtuosos of the Planet is not exactly a contest: all of its performers are the winners of the most prominent contests in the world. During this year's festival, you'll be able to hear young stars from Venezuela, Ukraine, Russia, France, Czech Republic and Japan who will play the most difficult academic musical compositions of Beethoven, Hindemith, Elgar, Zabel, Poulenc, Shostakovich and Tomasi. Musical accompaniment will be provided by the National Academic Symphonic Orchestra

conducted by Volodymyr Sirenko and the Symphonic Orchestra of National Philharmonic headed by Mykola Dyadyura.

— Oksana Faryna

NATIONAL PHILHARMONIC
2 Volodymyrskiy Uzviz, 278 16 97
Sept. 24-26. 7 p.m.



Movie in English: "Go-Go Tales"

Director Abel Ferrara ("King of New York," "Body Snatchers") invites you to the crazy world of a go-go dancing club in the comedy "Go-Go Tales." Paradise cabaret is a factory of dreams for young dancers until the day the club faces imminent closure because the landlady wants to kick them out. The dancing girls threaten to strike if they are not paid enough. Impresario and club owner Ray (Willem Dafoe) gets desperate as his silent partner/accountant Jay (Bob Hoskins) refuses to lend him money to keep the club going. Moreover, he's lost the winning lottery ticket that could save them all. Amidst this mess, sexy dancers, played by the likes of supermodel Bianca Balto, French actress Lou Doillon and irresistible vamp woman Asia Argento (who appears onstage in the company of a huge Rottweiler) all twist, turn and bend.

KINOPANORAMA
19 Shota Rustaveli, 287-3041.
From Sept. 18. See Movies for more information.

— Alexandra Matoshko



"Dress Code": Photos by Stephane Gizart

Stephane Gizart is known for his photos of famous stars, including American actor and director Christopher Walken, actor Peter Falk (a.k.a. Lieutenant Columbo), singers Lionel Richie and Alanis Morissette. But for his latest show, Gizart turned his eye to the bright and expressive strangers and crowds found among Paris' youth. The project formula is

simple: eight months were spent street casting in Paris to find the most fashionable styles, followed by five days of photographing 200 teenagers. The result is the "Dress Code" exhibition which consists of studio portraits of teenagers wearing their own clothing and styles. It's a portrait of a new generation of fashion and the new face of Paris. Ambiguity, mixture and diversity are this show's calling cards. "They walk and pretend nobody is watching them. But they know everybody is staring at them. In their manner of dress you can hear a hidden appeal: look at me," writer Philip Besson commented on the exhibition. "However don't think they are weak-willed. They can be disobedient and self-assertive. They are sexually uncertain, indifferent, emancipated. Girls have firmness in their look; boys freely demonstrate their feminine features. The future belongs to them."

FRENCH CULTURAL CENTER
104 Gorkogo, 529-2759
Through Oct. 18.

— Oksana Faryna

LIVE MUSIC



(Courtesy photo)

Apple Tea

Byelorussian team Apple Tea will play during the "Jazz in Kyiv 2008" festival. The history of the band started in 1970s, when future musicians listened to jazz on records illegally imported to the USSR or on Voice of America radio program. Now they are true professionals. The leader of the band Oleksander Sapaha even invented his own studying course "High Tea Drumming" and teaches students.

PICASSO
4 Baseyna, Mandarin Plaza,
5th floor, 230-9573.
Sept. 24, 8 p.m.

ART CLUB 44
44 Khreshchatyk, 279-4137
Thu 18 Mika Newton
Fri 19 parabellum
Sat 20 Chill Out
Sun 21 Bluse Band (jam)
Mon 22 Silvery Tone
Tue 23 Red Rocks

DOCKER'S ABC
15 Khreshchatyk, 278-1717
Thu 18 Angie Nears
Fri 19 Mad Heads XL, Tres Deseos
Sat 20 Tex-Mex, Red Rocks
Sun 21 Crossfire
Mon 22 Merry Weather Hunter
Tue 23 Tres Deseos

DOCKER PUB
25 Bohatyrska, 451-8528
Tue 18 Tex Mex
Fri 19 Mr. Och & his Root Boys, Ot

Vinta
Sat 20 Mr. Och & his Root Boys
Sun 21 Foxtrot Music Band
Mon 22 Angie Nears
Tue 23 More Huana

ROUTE 66
87/30 Zhylanska, 239-3865
Thu 18 Sergei Mavrin, More Huana
Fri 19 Chill Out
Sat 20 Second Breath
Sun 21 Universal Pictures
Mon 22 Animals Session
Tue 23 Angie Nears

BOCHKA PYVNA
17/1 Moskovsky, 461-8788
Thu 18 Brazil
Fri 19 Foxtrot Music Band
Sat 20 Gurt Yogurt
Sun 21 Proty Nochi
Tue 23 Jazz in City

BOCHKA KHMILNA
3B-1 Khmelnytskoho, 390-6106
Thu 18 Qarpa
Fri 19 Remont Vody
Sat 20 Arnika
Sun 21 Vykhod

PIVARIUM
31 Peremohy, 391-5285
Thu 18 Good Band Ivan
Fri 19 Jokers
Sat 20 Octoberfest: The Second Breath

PORTER PUB
10 Rybalko, 483-7150
Thu 18 Red Rocks
Fri 19 Southern Hot Guys
Sat 20 Mr. Och & his Root Boys
Sun 21 Max Tavrichesky

DISCO

Steve Lawler

Owner of the Viva Music label British deejay and producer Steve Lawler will play in Kyiv at the first in a series of parties of the legendary British house label Renaissance. He will also be accompanied by deejays Sasha, Hernan Cattaneo and John Digweed. As for Lawler, he will perform melodic tech house with minimalistic electric rhythms.

ALTA EXPO (11A Moscovskiy Prospect).
Sept. 19, 9 p.m.
Tickets Hr 150 and Hr 250.



(www.clashmusic.com)

ARENA DANCE CLUB
2A Baseyna, 492-0000
Thu 18 Show Monro: D-Jane Milan, DJ Rocket
Fri 19 R'N'B Awards 2008 after party: DJs Rocket, Andrew
Sat 20 Comedy Club UA, NYC party: Ultra Nate, DJs Bro, Rocket
Sun 21 PJ battle: D-Jane Milan, DJ Rocket

BARSKY
5 Chervonoarmiyska, 496-0606
Thu 18 Playboy party

Fri 19 Evaluation party: DJs Eva, Alfred
Sat 20 Chic'n'shine party: DJs Bro, Light

SHOOTERS
22 Moskovska, 254-2024
Thu 18 Strip day: DJ Vova Black's, MC Sapko
Fri 19 Explosion of Emotion: DJs Alex Small, Badrove, MC Jumper
Sat 20 DJs Roma Rio, Jumper, MC Burn
Sun 21 Day of the woodcutter: DJ

Roma Rio, MC Belkin
Mon 22 Punch party; DJ Badrove, MC Ruzhui
Tue 23 Shooters prodenka: DJ Jumper, MC Kuzia

XLIB CLUB
12 Frunze
Thu 18 Normal party: Alex Normal and Friends
Fri 19 Nagual (Bielorussia)
Sat 20 Khan of Finland (Germany)

GALLERIES&EXHIBITIONS

"BABY_DOLL_fragment": paintings by Oksana Chepelyk



(Courtesy photo)

A cycle of paintings "BABY_DOLL_fragment" showcases images of babies and baby dolls performed in a manner which created an impression of unfocused vision. The artist wanted to make her viewer feel anxiety about his "bad vision" and to think about the value of human's life. This exhibition is a logical continuation of Chepelyk's last project where she showed a naturalistic video of the actual childbirth.

KARAS GALLERY
22A Andriyivskiy Uzviz,
238-6531, 425-0247.
From Sept. 18 through Oct. 10.

BOTTEGA
22B Mikhaylivska, 279-5353
Mon-Fri 10 a.m. – 8 p.m., Sat, Sun 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Ihor Yaschenko. Paintings. Through September 12-25

DA VINCI
5 Chervonoarmiyska, Arena-Class, 1st floor, 499-1376
Daily 9 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Wood of sculptures. 100 best Ukrainian sculptors. Plastics. Through September 18

KIEV FINE ART
12 Velyka Zhytomyrska, 279-3960, 278-1359
Daily except Mon. 1 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Defragmentation. Alexey Romanenko. Through October 1

CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY ART NAUKMA
2 Skovorody, 425-7778
Daily except Mon. 1 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Knowingly, simply, appearance of alternative culture of things. German designers. Through September 30

TRIPTYCH
34 Andriyivsky Uzviz, 279-8385
Daily 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Sweet Home. Georgian artist David Sharashidze. Paintings, levkas. Through September 17

YA GALLERY
55/57 Voloshska, 537-3351
Daily 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Clay. Alexander Sukholit. Archeology

of Modern Sculptures. Through September 22

WHITE GALLERY
34B Andriyivsky Uzviz, 278-5421
Daily 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Shandon Zicherman. Paintings. Through September 20

SOVIART
22A Andriyivsky Uzviz, 425-2219
Daily except Mon. 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Exhibition of young artists – nominees and participants of the competition organized by Embassy of Spain in Ukraine. Through September 25

MUSEUM OF RECYCLABLE MATERIALS
112 Stepana Sagaydaka, 517-3963

CLASSICAL MUSIC, BALLET & OPERA

THE NATIONAL OPERA OF UKRAINE
50 Volodymyrska, 279-1169
Opening of 141th Season
Wed 10 Boris Godunov by M. Musorgsky. Opera
Thu 11 Daniela by M. Chemberzhi. Ballet
Fri 12 Zaporozhets Beyond the Danube by S. Hulak-Artemovsky. Opera
Sat 13 Premiere Ball-Masquerade by G. Verdi. Opera (in Italian)
Sun 14 Premiere Zorba The Greek by M. Theodorakis. Ballet
Tue 16 Swan Lake by P. Tchaikovsky. Ballet
Wed 17 Carmen by G. Bizet. Opera (in French)
Matinee performances begin at 12 a.m. Evening performances - at 7 p.m.

NATIONAL PHILHARMONIC
2 Volodymyrsky Uzviz, 278-1697
Opening of 144th Season
Tue 18 Works of Lysenko, Tchaikovsky, Dvorak. Symphonic Orchestra of the National Philharmonic of Ukraine
Sept 19 - 24 The International Musical Festival "Volodymyr Krainev Invites..."
Wed 19 L. van Beethoven- Violin Concert - Fantasy for Piano, Choir

and Orchestra- Piano Concert No. 4 Soloists: Volodymyr Krainev (piano), Oleg Krysa (violin), Hisako Kawamura (piano) National Academic Symphonic Orchestra of Ukraine, National Academic Choir of Ukraine "DUMKA"
Beginning of the concerts at 7 p.m.

HOUSE OF ORGAN AND CHAMBER MUSIC
77 Chervonoarmiyska, 268-3186
Fri 12 175th Anniversary of Johannes Brahms Birthday. Soloists: Viktor Tymets (clarinet), Kateryna Lebedeva (piano), Tetyana Yaralova-Stepanova (Israel), Honored Ensemble of Ukraine Quartet in the name of M. Lysenko
Sat 13 Works of Handel "Psalms of David 109," S. Monyushko – Cantata "Madonna," Petr Eben – "Missa Adventus" Ensemble of Classic Music in the name of B. Lyatoshynskoho
Tue 16 Works of Bach, Vienne, Reger, Bone, Willan. Soloists: Volodymyr Koshuba (organ)
Wed 17 Works of Albinoni, Bach, Haydn, Mozart, Rossini, Schubert, Brahms, Bloch. Soloists: Larysa Nazarenko (soprano), Vyacheslav Pyategorsky (violin), Maksym Sydorenko (organ) Chamber Choir "Kyiv"

MOVIES



(video.olympus.ru)

CALIFORNIA DREAMIN'
Comedy/ Drama, Romania (2007)
Directed by Cristian Nemescu
Starring Armand Assante, Jamie Elman and Maria Dinulescu
Language: Romanian, English
The film is claimed to be the treasure of the last-year's movie festival Molodist that was held in Kyiv. The interest to this dark comedy arose when it became known that the movie director and director of photography died in a car crash at the end of filming. The film was completed without them. The story evolves round a troupe of American soldiers crossing the Romanian border and local attitudes towards them.

12:08 EAST OF BUCHAREST
Comedy/ Drama, Romania (2006)
Directed by Corneliu Porumboiu
Starring Mircea Andreescu, Teodor Corban and Ion Sapdaru
Language: Romanian
Romanian cinema now has the status of avant-garde and the film "12:08 East of Bucharest"

that won Golden Camera award at Cannes Film Festival in 2006 only supports this fact. On Christmas Eve, the main heroes of the film - a retired man, a school teacher and the owner of a local television post look back at the revolution that happened 16 years ago and reevaluate their experiences.

TATT AV KVINNEN ("GONE WITH THE WOMAN")
Comedy/ Drama/ Romance, Norway (2007)
Directed by Petter Naess
Starring Trond Fausa Aurvaag, Anna Gutto and Marian Saastad Ottesen
Lethargic bachelor (Trond Fausa Aurvag) leads what he considers a harmonious existence: work from dusk until dawn followed by staring blankly into space in his apartment. For no apparent reason, red-haired Marianne (Marian Saastad Ottesen) suddenly begins showing up in his flat, chattering endlessly. A woman moves into a young man's home and starts to run his life - a process that makes him fall hopelessly in love with her.

LA MASSERIA DELLE ALLODOLE
Drama, Italy/ France/ Spain/ UK (2007)
Directed by Paolo Taviani and Vittorio Taviani
Starring Paz Vega, Moritz Bleibtreu and Tcheke Karyo
Language: Italian
"La Masseria delle Allodole" ("Lark Farm"), a highly soulful movie by two brother directors is based on the novel by Antonia Arslan takes us back to 1915. Two Armenian brothers haven't seen each other for twenty years and are going to meet in Italy. At the time of their meeting the

World War breaks in, Italian borders are closed and Turkish nationals receive the command to kill Armenians.

THE RIDDLE
Drama/ Thriller, UK (2007)
Directed by Brendan Foley
Starring Vinnie Jones, Vanessa Redgrave and Jason Flemyng
Language: English
"The Riddle" is the first work directed by British journalist, screen writer and producer Brendan Foley. In this 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 Thamesidepub. Gradually, he becomes obsessed with a century-old murder in the pages of the manuscript.

KYIV
19 Chervonoarmiyska (Lva Tolstoho metro), 234 7381, 251 2199. www.kiev.kino.com.ua
Gone With the Woman - Daily at 3.40 p.m., 7.15 p.m.
California Dreamin' - Daily at 9 p.m.
12:08 East of Bucharest - Daily at 5.30 p.m.

ZHOVTEN
26 Kostiantynivska (Kontraktova Ploscha metro), 2055951, 4173004. www.zhovten-kino.kiev.ua
Gone With the Woman - Ongoing
La Masseria delle Allodole - Ongoing
The Riddle - Ongoing

KINOPANORAMA
19 Shota Rustaveli, 287 3041, 2871135
Go Go Tales - Daily at 12.10 p.m., 1.50 p.m., 5.10 p.m., 8.30 p.m.

By **OLGA KOVALENKO**

kovalenko.olga@kpmmedia.ua

Recently, a great antique show was held at Ukrainian House, where most of Kyiv's antique shops showcased their exclusive collections. Although such big events come only once a year, the hunt for antiques never ceases. Once you've become an antique aficionado, you can hardly give up your passion.

As I have noticed, it's not only the experienced collectors that are ready to spend thousands of dollars for a piece of art. At the antique exhibition, I saw many people who looked like common art enthusiasts as well as eccentrics, with old pocket watches or cigarette cases, pushing the vintage style.

In Kyiv, there are a number of fairly well-organized spots that sell various rarities, including both cheap and expensive jewelry, household articles, books, paintings and so on. Sometimes one and the same item can differ in price, depending on whether you buy it at a second-hand market or in a posh antique shop. The latter are more trustworthy. Moreover, at an antique store, they should be able to inform you of the age, history and price of their ware.

Surfing the local markets

More trivial vintage articles can be found at the unavoidable **Andriyivsky Uzviz**. Especially during the weekend, the vendors offer pocket and stop-watches (Hr 700) from the World War I period, cheap jewelry that you can buy practically for nothing – some Hr 15 for a silver ring, more expensive brooches and cameos, that belonged to someone's grandmother, tableware (Hr 30 for a glass-holder), wooden and metal household gear and the like.

Another site where it is possible to dig up something vintage is **Kurenivskiy market**. There, for example, my friends have bought a working gramophone for Hr 200 and a pre-World War I saxophone for \$700. Such findings are rare and require luck, the rest is usually sheer trash, since the market is not at all touristy in comparison to Andriyivsky Uzviz. Of course, even rare articles such as these can't be called antique in the traditional meaning of the word. Usually all those rings and teapots are not made of precious stones or precious metals, yet there is a demand for all of them. They can even become a cheap and stylish accessory to your outfit or apartment, as well as a surprising gift.

A hunt for second-hand literature

Antique literature can sometimes be found in places selling second-hand books. Book worms can make some pleasant discoveries at two main shops or at Petrivka market. The first shop, **Bukinist** (second-hand literature vendor) is located on Lyuteranska street and is the oldest one of its kind. Once you descend the narrow stairs to the ground floor, you find yourself in a



Various Soviet rarities, papers and old books are to be found in the "bukinist" section of Petrivka market. (Oleksiy Boyko)

A search for hidden gems at antique markets and shops

tiny room filled with bookshelves towering up to the ceiling. There you can rummage through books on art, philosophy, culture, history, science and classic fiction. Most rare editions will be taken upon requests from even smaller back rooms. If the books you seek aren't available at the moment, the assistants will write down your telephone number and contact you as soon as the books arrive. The prices are actually not that steep – Hr 90 to Hr 150 for a high quality edition. The second shop is situated in the back room of the art cafe **Kupidon** on Pushkinska and is the younger brother of the shop on Lyuteranska. The assortment there is not that wide. But the prices are on the same scale. Its main advantage is that you can make yourself comfortable at a table at Kupidon and go through the book you've just bought, sipping a cup of tea. Moreover, Kupidon is a popular gathering place for Ukrainian writers, so the atmosphere is quite artsy and literature is practically flowing in the air.

Deciding to visit **Petrivka**, not the prettiest district of our capital, you should avoid the main part of the market and go straight to its farther end along the parking lot and recently built side rows of kiosks. At the very end you will see an area specially designated for second-hand literature. At several kiosks, they even offer small bronze busts of Lenin, tea cups, magnifying glasses, stamps, greeting cards, photos, and lithographies. But most of the space is devoted to books. The oldest and most valuable books offered are art and history classics in old editions. The prices may be as high as Hr 1,000. But here you can also easily bargain, as Petrivka is, after all, a market.

The hidden mystery of antique shops

Standing on the porch of any antiquity shop I always feel a slight inner tremor. It's the anticipation of something mysterious. The abundance of various precious items, sometimes heaped in the corners, sometimes neatly exposed on the shelves, resembles fairy-tale cave filled with treasures or a magician's chest. The greater part of antiquity shops is located in the central part of the city, near museums, art galleries and theaters. Take, for example, the small shop **Ducat** at the back of the National Opera Theater. You'll have to go up the narrow stairs to a small room occupied with a display of jewelry and household wear. As if especially for theater patrons, I found a yellowish opera glass, a silver evening bag already falling to pieces, and, of course, exquisite jewelry (Hr 2,000 on average). As you walk deeper inside the room, you'll spot china, silver glasses, tableware, and delicate silver caskets (Hr 3,000). One of the strongest points of Ducat is a collection of Orthodox Church icons.

If you're aiming to buy paintings and furniture, I would recommend you drop by **Starozhytnosti** (Antiquities) on Gorkogo street. There are paintings and lithographies on the walls of the salon costing up to Hr 10,000, mirrors in massive gilded frames and sideboards from the beginning of the 20th century (up to Hr 9,880), sculptured clocks of bronze and stone (Hr 30,000 – 60,000) as well as table lamps for Hr 700 – 25,000. One of the prime-class antique shops focusing on decorum is **Bosko** salon next to Ivan Franko Ukrainian Drama Theater. Red-colored walls and overall atmosphere make it resemble a museum. Posh furniture, paintings in classic style, chandeliers hanging from the ceiling – that's the place to look for

Flemish and French furniture dating back to the 17th century; Meissen china and silver tableware. By the way, during the antique exhibition at Ukrainian House, rare paintings by Salvadore Dali were presented by Bosko.

And again, one must mention books, this time those printed in the 17th-19th centuries. The shop **Zoloti Vorota** sells

liturgical literature of the Orthodox Church that includes rare etchings (Hr 3,000-5,000). The gallery **Koleksioner** (Collector) offers selections of books on art (Hr 2,000), encyclopaedias, city guides (Hr 2500), and classics (from Hr 1000 to 7000 for a selection of works) – items more fit for admiring than reading.



This exclusive clock and other precious items can be found at Bosko salon. (bosko.com.ua)

Kurenivsky Market

1 Frunze

Bukinist

4 Lyuteranska, 279-5731

Kupidon

1-3/5 Pushkinska, 279-7171

Petrivka Market

Petrivka metro station

Ducat

1 Lysenka, 462-0078

Starozhytnosti

4B Gorkogo, 287-2386

Bosko

2/1 Olhinska, 451-6195

Zoloti Vorota

4 Lysenko, 235-0348

Koleksioner

6 Sofiyivska, 362-8719

Take your swing: golf courses pop up all over Ukraine

By YULIYA POPOVA
and NATALIYA BUGAYOVA
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bugayova@kpmedia.ua

The saying that the grass is greener on the other side no longer works for Ukraine. Pampered evergreen lawns are starting to be groomed for golf lovers in this part of the world, too.

One of the projects under way is expected to end Ukraine's designation as the largest nation without an 18-hole regulation course in sight.

With a dearth of golfing options, and being a sport that is not rooted in the Ukrainian culture, the game has nowhere to go but up, enthusiasts say.

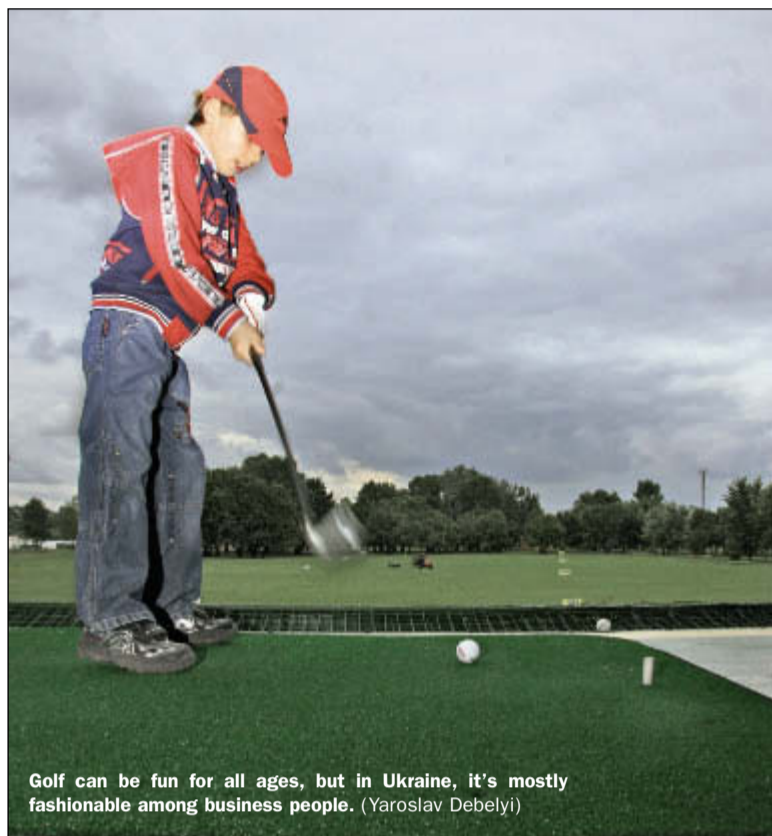
World class long drive hitter Josh Olson, calls himself "a mountain kid from Montana." He came to practice his swing the other weekend at the Kyiv Golf Center's new grounds.

"It's shocking to see how advanced this facility is," said Olson, hitting the ball as far as 350 yards and promoting the club and sport in the process.

He thinks golf will pick up in Ukraine as it did in China, where he spends a lot of time. "In 1986, there was only one course there," Olson said. "In 10 years, there were 30 and now there are over 300."

Golf enthusiasts like to say that anyone can play this sport – old and young, thin and plump. It is a lifetime activity and a mental game.

But for the novice, a couple of practice swings are all it takes to learn that it's not as easy as it looks. With your knees slightly bent forward, buttocks sticking out and your hands stretched with a club dangling somewhere above your shoulder, you still have to calcu-



Golf can be fun for all ages, but in Ukraine, it's mostly fashionable among business people. (Yaroslav Debelyi)

late the speed, the force and the direction of your club. In the beginning, you are happy just to hit the ball.

For a total novice, golf read backwards – flog – is your first practical experience with the game. You start off flogging and whacking a ball from a driving range, a training platform overlooking a large field.

Expect to pay Hr 180 for an hour of instruction plus Hr 100 for your first 50 balls. Located in the upper-scale city

district Obolon, the Kyiv Golf Center offers both a prime facility and a striking vista of the Dnipro River next to a six-hole golf course.

If you want to approach it on a grander scale, a 400 hectare golfing empire by the GolfStream project is advancing with seven-league strides about 30 kilometers outside Kyiv.

It will include Ukraine's first 18-hole golf course, to be called Chamberlain Course, and may be completed in 2009.

Martina Zatkova, director of Kyiv Golf Club and Norbert Zatkan, director of ENGO, a developer involved in the project, are betting the game will catch on.

"Golf is a lifestyle," Zatkan said. "It's about interaction with the world around you. I still can't figure out why Ukrainians with their incredibly social mentality haven't fallen for this sport yet. Golf brings people together and reveals the essence of people."

Besides recreation, Zatkan also touts golf as a place to do deals – something many a Western businessperson discovered long ago.

"You can be partnered up with a person absolutely new to you, but after five or six hours spent on the course, you will find out all the strengths and weaknesses of your partner," Zatkan said. "If you hesitate whether to start a business relationship with a person, take him to a golf course. By the end of the game you will be ready with the answer."

The complex is expected to have a lot more than just a golf course.

Riding schools, swimming pools, hotels and restaurants with wine cellars should be put into operation by 2012. But today, only a nine-hole course and a driving range are available for use and as a preview of the facilities.

Golf has a reputation as a sport for the rich and powerful. But, in America and in Europe, where courses are plentiful, the sport is cheap enough to be very affordable for middle-class families.

The same won't be true, for at least a while, in Ukraine. A full round of golf is expected to cost \$200 on the new 18 hole course, much more than the typical \$50 or less at many of America's

public courses. Zatkan said Kyiv's high land prices contribute to the expense.

But the promoters of the 18-hole course are hoping that a middle class that swings will develop in Ukraine as well.

"There is no greater pleasure for my kids than when I take them out to the course and play with them," Zatkan said. "Golf is able to strengthen or even save family ties."

Gregg Cobarr, a promoter of the Kyiv Golf Center, says that in Hollywood, most of the movie business is done on the course. People spend five hours playing. They are relaxed and in the mood to talk business without pressure. "Ukrainians have Maserati and Porsche but do not have golf. How's that possible?" said Cobarr, anticipating the imminence of golf culture in Ukraine.

And the country seems to be picking up quickly. Lugansk, Kharkiv and the Crimea are racing to build new courses and develop a fashion for golf in Ukraine. The American company Gary Player Design is developing a facility among grape and lavender fields on the Black Sea coast, vying to become one of the most gorgeous golf centers in Europe.

If growth in the popularity of golf in Ukraine will make the nation more European, as promoters hope, then it appears that the nation may be ready to tee off on the first hole, which about measures its stage of progress in joining the European Union.

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10D Heroyiv Stalinhradu,
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АФІША

*You can claim your prize starting September 26



Folk arts holiday "Vyshyvankas Bloom at Borshchevskiy Region" took place on Sept. 14 in Borshchevsk (Ternopil Oblast) (1). Ukraine's First Lady and the head of supervisory committee of charitable fund Ukraina 3000 Kateryna Yushchenko (2) cooked borscht while children played (3). (Mykhaylo Markiv)

Ambassador of Great Britain Lee Turner (4, right) received guests at the garden party at the British Embassy. Among the guests were Kamen Zahariev (5, left) and David Zhvaniya (5, right), Hryhoriy Nemyrya (7, left), Oleh Skrypka (8) and others. (Oleksiy Boyko)





TV hosts Max Nelipa (1), Andriy Dzhedzhula (2) and singer Natalia Valevska (3) demonstrated their vocal talents at the opening of Karaoke Days at Partizan club on Sept. 21. Singer Andriy Kravchuk (4, middle) was the host of the evening, while producer Yevhen Rybchinskiy (5), Olympic medalist Yana Klochkova (6, left), and artist Kiril Protsenko (6, right) appraised the singing of their friends and colleagues. (Oleksiy Boyko)



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Zer Gut: a feast of beer and sausages

By **ALEXANDRA MATOSHKO**
matoshko@kpmmedia.ua

I surely couldn't help noticing it: a plate with Zer Gut pub written on it. It was placed on top of one of those big green tubes that cover up the entrances to underground parking lots near office complexes, one of which houses the Kyiv Post. I've walked past it several times, wondering what it might turn out to be, and when the "Very Good" place finally opened up a while ago, I hurried to have lunch there with a couple of colleagues.

Behind the door to Zer Gut, you'll find a kind of a tunnel with a round roof of green plastic that creates a greenish glow, and makes you feel like you're entering a different dimension. But once you're past the tunnel, there is a traditional-looking pub that consists of one big room, separated by columns, with a bar and heavy wooden tables (there are 140 seats overall), castle-style high-back chairs and lamp shades of forged metal that also look slightly medieval. There is also a small stage where live music is apparently played in the evenings.

The menu is a nice combination of drinks and food to go with them. The focus is obviously on beer, mostly draught, and mostly famous European brands (you won't find any Chernihivske or Slavutych here) – Blanche de Bruxelles (Hr 25 for 0.5), Carlsberg, Krusovice light and dark (Hr 25), Murphys Red (Hr 30); Paulaner – light, dark, and unfiltered (Hr 26); Heineken, Leffe Blonde and Brown, as well as Corona and Desperados – in bottles.

Once you pick your suds, choose yourself a perfect beer snack – flambe sausages (Hr 28), fried cheese sticks, grilled sausages, pork leg German-style (Hr 120), tiger shrimp with garlic (Hr 67). In addition you can order a plate of assorted vegetables (Hr 25), pickles (Hr 45), cheese (Hr 60) or meat (Hr 50).

If you feel like a serious meal, though, check out the salad section that contains classics like Greek salad and Caesar – with turkey (Hr 47) or salmon (Hr 55), Mexican spicy salad with fried chicken seasoned with sauce called "mayonnaise-ketchup-chili" (Hr 38) or seafood cocktail (Hr 67). Hot snacks are represented by pancakes and several kinds of



Zer Gut is likely to become the popular drinking place in Kharkivskiy district. (Yaroslav Debelyi)

deruny (Hr 18 to Hr 37). Finally there are main dishes such as grilled chicken fillet, chicken shashlik (Hr 40), chicken with pineapple and cheese (Hr 52), French schnitzel with tomatoes, cheese and mushrooms (Hr 55), Zer Gut assortment of meats (Hr 180), and fish – teriyaki salmon (Hr 65), oil-fish under with cheese sauce (Hr 70), and four kinds of spaghetti – Hr 47 to Hr 65.

If you're not into beer, check out the extensive wine list, which includes bottles from France, Italy, Georgia and Chile, plus a selection of whisky, rum, tequila, vodka and other alcohols. The menu of cocktails is a long one too.

We made our choices rather quickly and the food started coming soon enough, but in an awkward order. I, who opted for cream of mushroom soup and Cesar salad with turkey (Hr 47), got the salad first. This could be somewhat understood – as salad is generally a cold dish, and the soup – hot. However, one of my companions who also ordered soup and a main dish had gotten nothing at all yet. The other received her pancakes with mushrooms and chicken (Hr 28) before her salad, which obviously should have been the other way around. Moreover they were cold (while listed among hot appetizers on the

menu) and the "cream sauce" turned out to be common sour cream. Apart from that, they were quite all right for homemade pancakes. My salad was fine, with bits of turkey fried in sesame seeds and seasoned mustard sauce, and the portion was generous. Our third friend helped herself to bread, as 15 minutes later her soup hadn't arrived.

In the meantime the friend who finished pancakes got her salad, dubbed on the menu as "Unagi Eel" (considering that unagi means "eel" in Japanese, it was quite funny) for Hr 70. What she got was pieces of eel topped with a heap of several kinds of lettuce mixed with

wakame seaweed. She finished the salad, but the two soups still hadn't arrived. I didn't care much as Caesar was enough for me, but my companion who didn't manage to get any food yet was starving. It was amazing. How could a soup take so long? Usually it's the easiest thing to order (it was also officially lunch time at the restaurant, with a special discount of 15 percent on all dishes). Alas, when I indignantly demanded from the waiter to tell me what was wrong, he calmly replied that it was almost ready. He certainly was being professional – keeping his composure despite his customers' irritated remarks. But this didn't cheer us up so much. When the two cream of mushroom soups (Hr 40) were finally placed on the table in small deep bowls, we found that at least there would be no complaints about the quality – the soup was of thick, creamy consistency with a distinct mushroom flavor, though it could use a little extra salt. Whether the chef had to cook it from scratch, or if there were any other reason it took so long, we never found out. The waiter refused to acknowledge there was any problem. So I guess we could have burst into the kitchen and demanded some answers. But I was already too full, and my starved companion was busy stuffing herself – first with the soup, and then the main course – salmon with mushroom sauce (Hr 70) and grilled vegetables (Hr 38). Both dishes turned out well done, though nothing extraordinary.

As we had our fresh juices – apple (Hr 25) and grapefruit (Hr 20), watching our third friend finish her meal, I observed that though it was good to have Zer Gut in the area – there are very few decent eateries around – the place had a few things to improve, like the timing and serving dishes in decent order. After all, the assortment of beer was certainly impressive, the menu looked fine, the TV sets showing sports could certainly be a hit during important games. A bit more serious attitude – and it will surely be all zer gut.

ZER GUT
10A Bazhana, 577-1976
Open Mon-Thur 11 a.m. till midnight, Fri-Sun 11 a.m. till 3 a.m.
English menu: No
English-speaking staff: Some
Average meal: Hr 150

RESTAURANT NEWS

Karavella is offering a grill-menu including: "Poseidon's Dinner" of giant shrimp, dorado and scallops (Hr 550); royal Jumbo shrimp with wild rice and vegetables (Hr 280); scallop shashlik (Hr 154); "Mermaid" – tiger shrimp shashlik with bacon (Hr 120).

KARAVELLA
2 Dniprovska Naberezhna (Patona Bridge), 553-6892
Open 11 a.m. till the last customer

New special from **Pizzeria Napule** includes: pizza Verde Ruspante with chicken and green peas (Hr 99); green pea soup with ground pasta bucatini (Hr 45); spaghetti with leek-and-anchovy sauce (Hr 69); tuna fillet with spicy herbs (Hr 85); lemon granite (Hr 25).

NAPULE
9 Mechnikova, 461-9263
Open noon till 11 p.m.

Marokana prepared a range of dishes for autumn: carpaccio of duck fillet and plums (Hr 75); Gravlaks salmon with lettuce leaves and warm goat cheese (Hr 86); warm eel fillet with figs and mousse of avocado, mascarpone and parmesan (Hr 120); duck leg stewed in wine-and-plum sauce with vegetables (Hr 130);

peach-and-plum pie with orange sorbet (Hr 55).

MAROKANA
24 Lesi Ukrayinky, 254-4999
Open 9 a.m. till 2 a.m.

Dorothy pub is offering a "Vacation menu" that features dishes taken from cuisines of popular tourist destinations: Crimean cheburecks (Hr 25 for one); Bulgarian salad with marinated mushrooms and veal tongue (Hr 49); Turkish shawarma (Hr 39); Egyptian-style fried shrimp (Hr 39); and "Chicken kebabs right off the fire" (Hr 36) for fans of hiking. A special offer on draught beer – it's served in 3-liter jars for discount prices: Chernihivske Light (Hr 69); Stella Artois (Hr 89); Leffe Blonde, Hoegaarden or Krusovice – Hr 149. Special offers available till the end of September.

DOROTHY
16/43 Chervonoarmiyska, 287-0530
Mon-Thur 10 a.m. till 11 p.m., Fri 11 a.m. till the last customer; Sat-Sun noon till the last customer

A new grill menu was introduced at **Varenichna No. 1**. The list of dishes features several kinds of shashlik

– pork neck (Hr 62), veal tenderloin (Hr 72), chicken brisket (Hr 42) and liver (Hr 36), as well as grilled shrimp (Hr 46) and salmon (Hr 84). The dishes are recommended with fried lavash of two kinds – stuffed with sulguni and tomatoes or salmon (Hr 28).

VARENICHNA NO. 1
28 Esplanadna, 287-1539
Open 24 hours

The special autumn menu at **Tequila House** Mexican restaurant features: Californian salad of sweet pepper, red onions, cheese, and vegetables dressed with balsamic sauce with coriander (Hr 57); pork with vegetables and shrimp (Hr 103); chicken in cherry sauce (Hr 127); berry sponge cake roll with cottage-cheese filling (Hr 45).

TEQUILA HOUSE
8A Spaska, 417-0358
Open 11 a.m. till midnight

Lipskiy Osobniak is offering a range of new dishes: Celery salad with walnuts and fruit (Hr 59); classic Olivier salad with bacon (Hr 69); Françoise salad of various vegetables with cheese (Hr 77); salad with duck breast and raspberry sauce with cedar nuts (Hr 159); seafood salad with avocado (Hr 189).

LIPSKIY OSOBNIAK
15 Lipska, 254-0090
Open 11 a.m. till midnight

Bierloga pub is already celebrating Oktoberfest, by offering its beers: Warsteiner (Hr 30), Hoegaarden (Hr 30), Krusovice (Hr 24), Grolsch (Hr 24), Blanche de Bruxelles (Hr 24), Leffe (Hr 24) with a 20 percent discount. Upon ordering a liter of Grolsch, you'll get an 0.3 glass or a bottle of the same beer as a gift.

BIERLOGA
14V Knyazhyi Zaton, 572-7208
Open 1 p.m. till 1 a.m.

The new oyster season has begun and **Doversole** seafood eatery is already offering a fresh supply, including some original kinds. Choose among Nacres des Abers (No.2, Hr 35; No.3, Hr 33), Paimpol (No.2, Hr 41); Arcachon Arginy (No.2, Hr 33), Bouzigues (No.1, Hr 33), Special Isigny (No.2, Hr 39), aristocratic Craise (No.2, Hr 33).

DOVERSOLE
81 Chervonoarmiyska, 531-1378
Open noon till midnight

Buy stylish handmade items or make your own at Veshchichka art boutique-workshop

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

Do you like original and quality hand-made accessories, but keep surfing through Andriyivskiy Uzviz in vain? Or maybe you've already made something cool with your own hands and want to sell it? Or, perhaps, you want to learn how to make small pieces of art to finish off your look or decorate your apartment? You'll be able to satisfy all those needs at the art boutique Veshchichka (Little Thing), also known as Azur, an absolutely unique place that combines a store and a workshop in one.

Its very location is something peculiar. When you arrive at Kontraktova Ploshcha, go down Nyzhnyi Val street, find house No. 23 and walk through the brightly painted arch. Go up the colorful stairs on your left to the second floor and behind the green door sits Veshchichka. Like a magician's chest, the shop unfolds its cache for you.

One room showcases an amazing assortment of artist's accessories and materials. The stands are filled with paint from the manufacturers Lefranc & Burgeois, Ferrario, Charbonnel and Tylip; pencils, pastel and chalk by Conte-a-Paris, Rotring, and Lyra; covering liquids by Deco Matt, Deco Gloss and Deco Effects; and brushes by Da Vinci. And, of course, canvas and paper, the basics for painting and drawing. In addition to Italian canvas by Pintura and paper from the noted French company Canson (various kinds of plain and colored paper for drawing, modeling, decorating, and all painting techniques) there is a wide choice of Indian hand-made Khadi paper. It's made of natural cotton, silk, herbs and exotic tree bark – the so-called Islamic and Japanese paper. When I saw the abundance of sheets with parts of pressed flower petals and stems, I just couldn't help buying some of them, though I didn't exactly need such paper for any-

thing. Lately, I've successfully used it as giftwrapping. Among rare materials, there are calligraphy and aerography sets, as well as decorating materials. And the most interesting part: materials for your hobbies that include plaster for modelling and origami, foil, mica, paints for glass and fabric, thermo stickers, mosaic sets, spangles, beads, contour scissors and what-not. Additionally, one of shop's many shelves displays something your child will admire for sure – paints for finger painting.

Another room is dedicated solely to works by teachers and students of the local studio. The rough blue and green shelves are lined with funny clay figures, beads, rings, brooches (Hr 75), glass, plastic and wooden earrings (Hr 25 to Hr 75), pendants in the form of insects made of electronic elements (Hr 120), and pieces of decorum like mirrors in stained glass frames, wooden and metal picture frames, toys, vases with artificial flowers and berries, and all kinds of strange things. In addition to accessories, there is a narrow choice of clothing – dresses and colorful Indian-style tunics, scarves, fabric bags and slippers. You might come across the work of a future Ukrainian design star. Once, for example, the shop carried clothes by the modern Ukrainian designer Tatyana Karambol, whose creations at Ukrainian Fashion Week in 2006 were adorned with accessories by Abra Kadabra (that's her nickname), also presented in the art boutique. You may also be lucky enough to spot an item by Vivienne Westwood for example, so be attentive.

While admiring all these hand-made art treasures, keep in mind that you can make all these cool things by yourselves at thematic workshops and courses. Right now, people without any art education can enroll in a "Basics of Painting and Drawing" course, which includes 12 painting classes (Hr 1280) and 10 drawing classes (Hr 1000), each three hours long. During the course, students can learn how to handle oils,



Find pretty dolls, handmade beads and other cool items to add color to your life at Veshchichka boutique. (Oleksiy Boyko)

watercolors, acrylic paint, pencils, and charcoal. The prices include all materials needed. The classes will take place not in Veshchichka art boutique, but in Azur studio at Sevastopilska Ploshcha, and you need to apply in advance.

Over the course of a year, Veshchichka holds different workshops dedicated to the making of souvenir dolls (Hr 150 for four lessons), stained glass pictures and toys (Hr 110 for the course), decorations (Hr 180 for the

course), and oil painting for children (Hr 60 for one lesson), as well as recreational painting classes (Hr 95 for one lesson), that claim to reduce stress and harmonize your consciousness. Every day (excluding weekends) from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Azur studio holds classes for kids from 5 to 10 years old in the art cafe Antresol on Shevchenko boulevard, during which they learn to work with stained glass. One lesson will cost you Hr 60 and includes all materials. Of

course, you need to contact the teacher at 8-066-229-7959 before coming.

VESHCHICHKA ART BOUTIQUE
23 Nyzhnyi Val, second floor,
through the arch, 417-2672

AZUR STUDIO
8/1 Sevastopilska Ploshcha,
223-6814

ANTRESOL
2 Shevchenka Boulevard



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Outfits by Comme des Garçons at Atelier 1

By **MARIA LEONTIEVA**
leontieva@kpmmedia.ua

It so happens that, about once a year, Atelier 1 boutique changes its location and you never know where to look for it next time. Recently, the Atelier 1 billboard appeared right in the city center, on Taras Shevchenko boulevard. However, the boutique itself is hidden in the back yard, located in basement of old building with original brickwork and dilapidated boiler, which you'll see in one of the halls of the store.

The store's primary assortment is represented by Comme des Garçons fashion brand, known for very unusual, even extreme, designs.

Rei Kawakubo, the designer behind the Comme des Garçons label, studied fine arts and philosophy at Keio University in her native Tokyo. She started her Japanese label in 1969 and founded the Comme des Garçons Company in 1973. When Kawakubo arrived in Paris in 1981 to show her first Comme des Garçons collection, it produced something of a shock. Critics branded her collection "Post-Atomic" and "Hiroshima Chic" for its use of jet black and dark colors, which were not so popular then as they are now. At the time Kawakubo's concept, according to which clothes should express something other than sexuality, seemed absurd. Her style is quite architectural, concentrating on structure rather than exterior. It doesn't obey regular notions of silhouette and bodyline, instead creating dramatic and inventive designs:

upside-down pockets, de-emphasized shoulders and extra-long sleeves, jackets turned inside-out and put together in new ways. Now Rei Kawakubo has become a hero of the avant-garde. She was honored by the Fashion Institute of Technology in 1987 as one of the leading women in 20th century design.

While the new fall-winter 2008/2009 collection is just about to arrive, the whole space of the boutique is taken by items from the spring-summer 2008 collection. Most autumn garments are well-suited for early autumn, even for the windy weather. The men's wear hall carries jumpers, shirts and jackets, as well as accessories: men's luggage bags by Fred Perry of squared-shape and short handles (Hr 1,467), fedora hats made of beige and black straw (Hr 2,500) and funny pink, bright green and turquoise cotton socks (Hr 152). Girls can try on Comme des Garçons jackets and dresses, which resemble origami. But it might be not so easy to figure out how to put on some of those dresses, like the electric reaped silk dress (Hr 16,000), which looks like one of those crazy Bjork outfits. Jackets by another Japanese designer, Junya Watanabe (Hr 9,000), also offer some very unusual styles. However, if eccentricity appeals to you, don't think too long because you may miss their 50 percent sale on all spring-summer collections.

One hall of the boutique is dedicated to CdeG's line of unisex fragrances, most of which are the true avant-garde of the perfume world, same as the garments themselves. Their first ever perfume "Odeur 53" smells like nothing



Eccentricity in essence: designs from Comme des Garçons brand are made for those who would dare to wear them.
(www.liveinternet.ru)

at first. You need to let it sit for a few hours to be able to perceive all 53 notes, which includes freshness of oxygen, fire energy, laundry drying in the wind, sand dunes, pure air of the high mountains, burnt rubber, flaming rocks etc. CdeG's "Incense" series are devoted to five world religions. The fragrances are named after cities that symbolize different religions: "Zagorsk" (Russia) – Orthodox Christianity, "Ouarzazate" (Morocco) – Islam, "Kyoto" (Japan) – Buddhism, "Jaisalmer" (India) – Judaism, "Avignon" (France) – Catholicism.

Exzremely bizarre CdeG's "Synthetic" series offers five scents: "Garage" – very "mechanical," with smells of petrol, oil and machinery; "Dry Clean" resembles the smell of dry-cleaned clothing; "Skai" is a mixture of scents of vinyl, burnt paper and rubber; "Soda" is citrus, sweet, and bubbly. Recently released new fragrances "The LUXE Champaca" and "The LUXE Patchouli" make you think of wild nature. Legend says one of the five arrows of Kamadeva, the Hindu god of love (known in the Western world as Cupid), was made of cham-

paca tree. The smell of patchouli will hit you over the head just like everything else Comme des Garçons produces. All these fragrances are sold exclusively at boutique Atelier 1. So if you dare to wear such perfume, look for it there. Currently a small cafe is planned to be opened on the premises of the boutique, where the customers will be treated to light salads and low-calorie desserts.

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*Participants are all, who subscribe between September 3 and September 30. Certificate for 500 hrv. can be used in stylish clothes boutique CLOSED. Shops are located at trading-entertainment center KOMOD, 4, Lunacharskogo str., 25/12, Horevaya str. Details on sight www.afisha.ua



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Eat Me Tiger rocks out in English

By **MARIA LEONTIEVA**
leontieva@kpmmedia.ua

A Ukrainian three-piece band has taken the sound of classic power pop/indie and coaxed it into the 21st century. Eat Me Tiger features Nicholas Timoshchuk on guitar and lead vocals, Max Gumennyi on drums and percussion and new bass player Serge Semyonov. Formed in 1999, their first band, called Pomaranch, participated in almost all major Ukrainian music festivals including Tavriyski Igrы (Tavriya Games) and Perlyny Sezonu, where they won the Best Rock Band title in 2003. Named "Discovery of the Year," Pomaranch toured stages all over Ukraine, having played in both small club scenes and open-air gigs. But they were not willing to drive themselves into the fixed commercial music formats of that time. In order to avoid any associations with Victor Yushchenko's Nasha Ukraina political bloc when the Orange Revolution burst out in late 2004 (the band's old name, Pomaranch, means "Orange"), they became Eat Me Tiger, with a completely different sound and English-language lyrics. Their hit single and video "From the Underground" rotated on radio stations and Ukrainian music TV channels. Heading to reach international acclaim, they released their next single, "Morning Sun," from their forthcoming debut album called "Global Warming."



(Yaroslav Debelyi)

KP: Whose idea was it to organize a band?

Nicholas: When we met with Max, he was already playing in a group, and I was looking to create my own band. However, it so happened that nothing came of Max's band. Later Sasha, our first bass player, joined us. We started out jamming in a small smoky room in a Kyiv suburb, Voskresenka. Our band was called Shlim-Brim and sounded like crazy punk rock. Initially, we played only English-language songs. We've got almost five songs in this style.

KP: Who writes the songs' lyrics?

Max: Nicholas is our ideological inspirer.

Nicholas: Sometimes, I come up with a completed tune. Other times I'll bring the guys an idea without a

precise melody or lyrics, and we figure it out together. Sometimes, a new song appears while we're just jamming at rehearsals. Every time it happens in an absolutely different way. Actually, we started playing English songs only because it turns out more natural. It's easier for me to write lyrics in English. It's more interesting and enjoyable. And music sounds better.

KP: How important was music for you growing up? What artists/bands have had the most influence on you?

Max: While I was in the 10th grade, my older brother got together his own rock band. They found all musicians except for a drummer. And I decided to try. While I studied to play drums, his band split and I had to look for another

band. As a child, I didn't intend to become a serious musician. I only wanted to play music. At first I listened to various dance music, then I listened to all of Metallica's albums. Eventually, I chose American alternative rock, such as Limp Bizkit, Linkin Park, Incubus, System of a Down, Muse. I still like to listen to Slipknot, but more for the drummer's technique.

Nicholas: I wanted to be an artist since I was a kid. When I was a teenager and my parents weren't at home, I often took screwdriver because it reminded me a microphone and sang along with music played on a tape recorder. Once I saw an electric guitar on TV and it got me. My first electric guitar was a chopped off hockey stick with a glittering iron ruler fas-

tened to it. I rocked out and imitated the stage image. Later, the very first song I learned to play on a guitar was "My Girl" by Nirvana. I also listened to Queen and Led Zeppelin, but it was more for education. What I really love now is U2; it's probably my number one. After that – the Police and Sting. They are fundamental. There are also newer bands that have already become classics. These are John Mayer for sure, Amy Winehouse, Simply Red and The Killers.

Serge: In my case, everything began quite strangely. When I was a kid, it was popular to take kids to piano lessons. In kindergarten, every little girl took piano lessons. I didn't. I thought, why can little girls play piano and I can't? I asked my parents and they sent me to

music school. After a while, I switched from piano to guitar. I realized that playing a guitar is the coolest thing ever. I was simply fascinated by how my uncle played guitar. My uncle gave me my first guitar and taught me. During that time, I listened to my dad's Beatles and Pink Floyd records. However I'm still mostly influenced by the Beatles, Garry Moor, and Sting.

KP: How would you define Eat Me Tiger's music?

Nicholas: Basically, Eat Me Tiger can be classified as Brit-pop indie. But now we are feeling like introducing something else in, too. Max is the most alternative. I can listen to anything – from Chemical Brothers to Ray Charles. Sergey prefers even older music. The only way to succeed is to mix styles.

KP: What kind of sound shall we expect from your debut album?

Max: Changes in the band's members influence the quality of sound. We had a period without rehearsals when we just thought and chose priorities for ourselves.

Nicholas: We've got a lot of material. But we don't want to rush. The debut Eat Me Tiger album should become a sensation. We released our first single, "Morning Sun," from the debut album and are now receiving feedback from our friends, fans and just people who have already listened to it.

KP: Describe the fans of Eat Me Tiger? Who's your audience?

Serge: It's people who are interested in good, quality music.

Nicholas: Those who filled Palats Sportu at Muse, Placebo, Brian Adams, Faithless and Black Eyed Peas concerts. Our aim as musicians is to play good music based on our music tastes, beliefs, feelings, emotions. If talking about the concept of Eat Me Tiger and attempts to make it more popular, we will not be led by only local consumers' musical preferences.

EAT ME TIGER
Sept 28, 9 p.m.
Pyvna Bochka
17/1 Moskovsky Prospect,
metro Petrovka, 461-8788

Queen + Paul Rodgers + 350,000 fans

Queen and Paul Rodgers sang to an impressive audience of 350,000 people on Sept. 12 to raise money for HIV-AIDS sufferers in Ukraine, as well as raise awareness of the problem. Fans from all over Ukraine filled the Freedom square in Kharkiv to listen to the iconic British rock band, which lost its legendary front man Freddie Mercury to an AIDS-related disease in 1991.

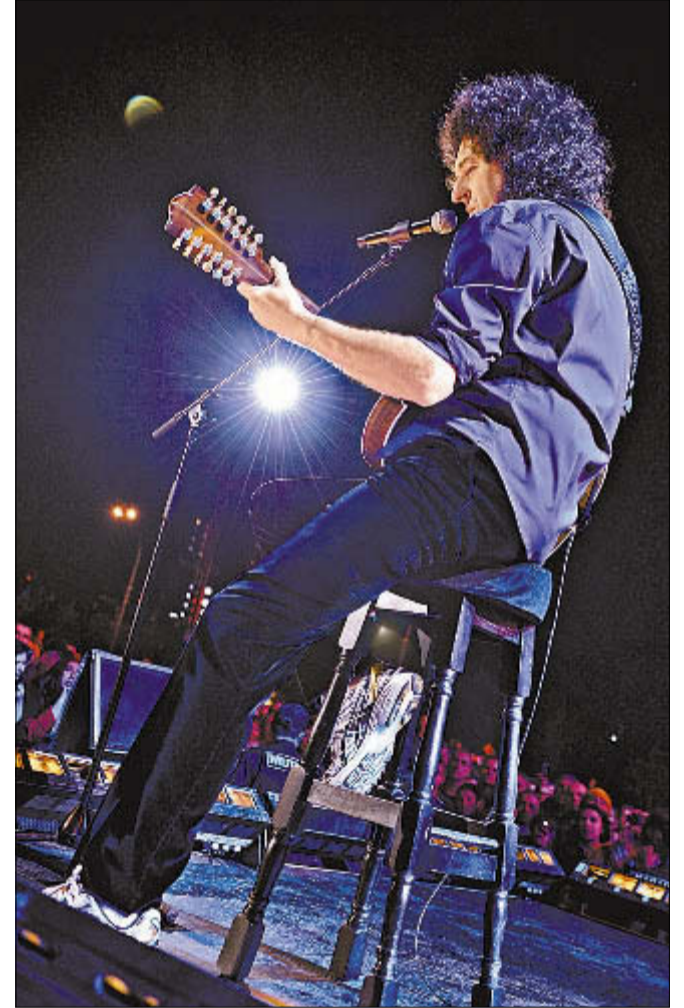
This was the band's second European tour after they teamed up with Paul Rodgers, who used to sing in Free and Bad Company bands. They played the first show of their tour in Ukraine.

The open-air charity concert named "Life Must Go On!" became one of the biggest concerts in the history of Ukraine and in the 40-years long history of Queen. The following day Brian May wrote in his blog (www.brianmay.com): "We just did our first show of the tour ... to 350,000 people in Kharkiv ... I can hardly believe it... More than a quarter of a million beautiful Kharkiv people gathered in the City Square and rocked!!! They shouted, screamed, laughed, cried ... and gave us the most incredible reception I can imagine. Thank you, Good Folks of Ukraine!!!"

The concert started at 19.30 and lasted for over two hours. Musicians performed 28 songs and two instrumental compositions, including their classics "One Vision," "The Show Must Go On," "Another One Bites the Dust," "I Want to Break Free," "It's a Kind of Magic," "Love of My Life," "39," "I'm in Love With My Car," "Crazy Little Thing Called Love," "Radio Ga-Ga," and other hits. The show was free for nearly everyone, except the VIP visitors who paid to get in the special fenced-out zone. Organizers said money raised by selling tickets to VIPs will be donated to the city orphanage for HIV-positive children.

— By Maria Leontieva

Photos: AP, www.lifemustgoon.net.



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