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KyivPost

vol. 13, issue 39 INDEPENDENCE. COMMUNITY. TRUST www.kyivpost.com September 25, 2008

The Great Giveaway Revisited

Ukraine is still paying a terrible price for the cheap '90s sell-off of the nation's most valuable assets.



Kryvorizhstal, the giant Kryvy Rih steel manufacturer, stands alone in the annals of Ukraine's shadowy privatizations. A competitive sale in 2005 netted the government \$4.8 billion, far more than \$800 million paid the previous year by top oligarchs Rinat Akhmetov and Victor Pinchuk. (Natalia Kravchuk)

BY MARK RACHKEVYCH
RACHKEVYCH@KPMEDIA.UA

"Behind every great fortune," wrote Honore de Balzac, "there lies a great crime."

If the 19th century French playwright's observation is not an accurate description of how the Ukrainian

government sold off the nation's most valuable assets following the collapse of the Soviet Union, it sure seems that way to many people.

"Scam." "Ripoff." "Unfair." These are some of the other words people use when talking about the way Ukraine transferred so much of the nation's wealth to a few insiders at such

fire-sale prices. The opaque deals gave rise to a super-billionaire class while many in the nation suffered poverty.

While the transactions may have been technically legal from the standpoint of the corrupt 1990s, the nation paid a dear price. Many argue that the distortions and damage to the nation continue to this day, through lack of

honest competition in the marketplace and the financial elite's co-opting of government.

Besides contributing to a profound sense of unfairness, Ukrainians missed out on considerable – but difficult to quantify – privatization revenues that would likely have come from open and competitive bids for state →14

Feminine Femen targets 'sexpats'

BY YULIYA POPOVA
POPOVA@KPMEDIA.UA

Pink may be the color of Ukraine's next revolution. Armed with high heels and wit, these rebels are quintessential Ukrainian women. Their crusade is not as weighty as the Orange political revolt, but their aims are lofty all the same.

The women's organization Femen – a derivative of feminine – wants to knock prostitution and sex tourism off its legs in Ukraine with the help of unconventional street shows.

In front of the Turkish embassy on Sept. 21, a dozen Femen members were dressed as sexy nurses. Their smudged makeup, high pink heels and infectious giggles washed away the blues of another rainy weekend in Kyiv.

The orchestrator behind this acting and playing is an entertainment event organizer from Khmelnytsky who graduated with a degree in economics. But the Femen leader, Anna Hutsol, who at 23 is several years older than most in the group, has more than fun and games in mind.

Hutsol wants to rid Ukraine of a virus she describes as sex tourism, an affliction that many foreigners – not just Turks – seem to catch when visiting the nation. And if sexiness can help drive home the protesters' point, so much the better.

Femen's Turkish embassy protest was the third erotically-flavored media event this year. Prior to it, the girls laid out their slogan "Ukraine is not a brothel" with their own bodies on the hill in front of the Cabinet of Ministers. At the end of July they stormed Independence Square, the place of the fateful Orange revolt in 2004 that overturned a rigged presidential election. Together with pop stars, they staged a play about how foreigners smell Ukrainian roses but fail to pick them – meaning that some expatriates seek out Ukraine for no other reason than to propose sex to women, hence the term "sexpats."

The unconventional methods of Femen raise questions about the group's effectiveness and how they expect to achieve their goals.

"If we dressed like cleaners, we would not attract as much attention to the issue," Hutsol said, defending the skimpy outfits and screaming lipstick of her fellow campaigners. →15

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Реєстраційне свідоцтво Кв № 11549-421ПР від 25.07.06.
Надруковано з готових оригінал-макетів ТОВ "МЕГА-Поліграф", 02090 м. Київ, вул. Алма-Атинська, 2/1, тел. 451-8670
замовлення №650 – 0330531
Аудиторське обслуговування ТОВ АФ "ОЛГА Аудит"

Mailing address: 02140 Ukraine, Kyiv,
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Ukraine Abroad



Kyiv's Arena City has become a top place to buy luxury jewelry brands.

Kyiv becomes booming place for fancy jewelry

The economy is sparkling for Kyiv's elite. Couture International Jeweler, a New York magazine that analyzes global jewelry trends, writes in its Sept. 22 edition that "since 2005, Ukrainian government support for small jewelry businesses has helped more than 4,300 local companies, and production is growing at 33 percent annually. But to really see the turnaround, look no further than Kyiv's sleek Arena City, a six-story shopping complex that houses more than 60 luxury brands."

Nazi collaborator loses American citizenship

An American appeals court affirmed that John (Ivan) Kalymon, 87, persecuted Jews while serving during World War II as a member of the Nazi-sponsored Ukrainian Auxiliary Police. The Troy, Michigan, man has been stripped of his U.S. citizenship.

A report from Pharma Investments, Ventures & Law Weekly notes that the Ukrainian Auxiliary Police served as local enforcers of Germany's anti-Jewish decrees. The Atlanta, Georgia-based journal said the evidence is based on Ukrainian Auxiliary Police documents, "including one signed by Kalymon himself, [which] proved that in 1942 he personally killed and wounded Jews in Lviv by shooting them."

The U.S. Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations hunts

down people who assisted in Nazi persecution.

"The Nazis and their collaborators killed more than 100,000 of Lviv's Jews – men, women and children whose only 'crime' was their religion," said Office of Special Investigations (OSI) Director Eli M. Rosenbaum. "John Kalymon was one of those collaborators, and this latest court decision is an important victory in the U.S. government's ongoing effort to secure a measure of justice on behalf of the victims of Nazi inhumanity."



Anatole Litvak, late Hollywood director

Anatole Litvak, Kyiv-born movie director, noted

The fall issue of Cineaste, an American magazine about the cinema industry, reviews Harlow Robinson's 2007 book entitled "Russians in Hollywood.

Hollywood's Russians." The title may upset Ukrainians, even those long-accustomed to Westerners misidentifying them as Russians. The book, which the reviewer calls "quite splendid," cites the achievements of Anatole Litvak, director of the 1956 hit film "Anastasia" that starred Ingrid Bergman, Yul Brynner and Helen Hayes.

Litvak was born in Kyiv to a Jewish family. He moved to Germany in his twenties, but fled to America in the 1930s after the rise of the Nazis. His Wikipedia biography says Litvak, who died in 1974, served in the United States Army during World War II. Because of his ability to speak Russian, German and French, he played a key role as the head of the army's photography division, the entry says.

Russian army no match for NATO, but still scary

The Economist magazine's Sept. 20 edition says Russia's army is no match for NATO, but good enough to scare such neighbors as Ukraine.

"Russian forces are not modern. Some of their weapons date back to the 1960s and 1970s. But that does not mean they cannot kill you," Pavel Felgenhauer, a Russian defense writer for Novaya Gazeta, told the London-based Economist. "The Russians may not be a match for even a medium-sized Western army, say experts, but they are good enough to scare the poor, post-Soviet states in the 'near abroad.'"

HIV infection rate tops in Europe, experts say

The U.S. medical journal Pharma Investments, Ventures & Law Weekly highlights alarming statistics this month, quoted Y.V. Kruglov of the Ukrainian Ministry of Health's AIDS Center: "At the end of 2007, an estimated 230,000 to 573,000 people aged 15-49 were living with HIV in Ukraine. Adult HIV prevalence was estimated at 1.63 percent, which represents the highest adult HIV prevalence of any country in Europe. The HIV epidemic in Ukraine continues to grow at a record pace, concentrated among most at-risk populations, the majority of whom are unaware of their HIV status."

Nation leading source of contraband cigarettes

With some of the lowest-taxed cigarettes in Europe and five factories producing

30 billion more of the cancer-causing products than are smoked on the domestic market, Ukraine has become a hotbed of cigarette smuggling.

Three of the most recent cases were reported by Hungarian news media on Sept. 18. A newswire story out of Budapest, Hungary, says that customs officials seized more than \$100,000 worth of contraband cigarettes in Szabolcs-Szatmar-Bereg County near the Ukrainian western border.

Public health advocates say raising taxes on Ukraine's cheapest-in-Europe smokes would help on three fronts: a higher cigarette price is the most effective way to get adults to quit smoking and to prevent children from starting; Ukraine's government would gain much-needed revenue from higher cigarette taxes; and the price incentives that encourage a flourishing smuggling trade would evaporate.



Actor Robert Englund

'Freddie Krueger' to remake Soviet classic

Robert Englund, better known as the long-nailed psychopath Freddie Krueger of the Nightmare on Elm Street films, will remake a Soviet horror classic next year, Moscow's RIA Novosti reported on Sept. 19.

But this time, the news agency reports, the movie will be filmed in Italy, not Ukraine, where the church from the original film burned down in 2006.

"Viy" is a 1967 Soviet film based on the short story of the same name by Nikolai Gogol (Mykola Hohol), in which a young man accidentally kills a witch and is then forced to spend three nights in a church with her coffin.

Ukraine Abroad, a 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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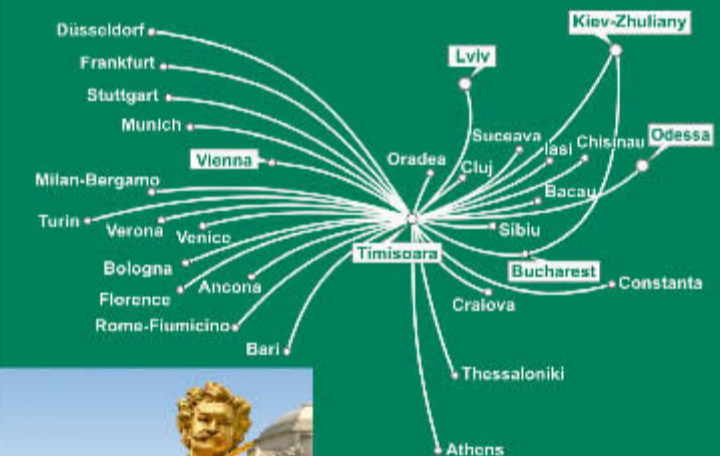
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Major parties lose support as voters want new faces

BY ALINA PASTUKHOVA
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Recent public opinion polls show that the heightened political crisis has dented the popularity of all major political parties and leaders. A demand for fresh new faces is on the rise.

With all the mayhem, it is no surprise that a growing number of Ukrainians want to see new parties and leaders in government, and less bickering between those in power.

"People are disillusioned with the monster parties" and want to see "fresh" parties as well as political leaders, said Iryna Bekeshkina, head of Democratic Initiatives Foundation, a Kyiv-based think tank.

According to a mid-September poll by the Sofia Center for Sociological Studies, 77.5 percent of Ukrainians think that the country's affairs are moving in the wrong direction.

Three recent polls show that the number of people who would vote "against all" if elections were to be held soon has increased since the 2007 parliamentary elections. Less than three percent voted against all political forces then, while now the figure is between five and 16 percent, depending on the poll.

The polls show that while Ukraine's largest political forces still appeal to a combined majority of voters, the parties and blocs have lost many potential voters since last September. In 2007 the Party of Regions snagged 34.4 percent, Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko's bloc received 30.7 percent and the pro-presidential Our Ukraine grouping scored 14.2 percent.

According to an early September poll by the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology, 24 percent of potential voters support Yulia Tymoshenko's bloc, another 23 percent will vote for the Regions and only 3.8 percent still have faith in President Victor Yushchenko's Our Ukraine.

Parties aside, key political figures have also lost public support. According to Sofia, 61 percent of voters are ready to vote "no confidence" in Yushchenko, while 56.5 percent negatively perceive the activities of Tymoshenko.

At the same time, the polls show a growing demand for new politicians and parties. For example, if parliamentary elections were held in September, a political force led by acting Speaker Arseniy Yatsenyuk would score 3.5 percent, according to a National Institute of Strategic Research poll. That's just enough for what would be a newly formed party led by Yatsenyuk to pass the three percent qualifying barrier for seats in parliament.

Yatsenyuk formally resigned as speaker after the BYuT-Our Ukraine grouping coalition collapsed, but continues to hold the post, as parliament

has not voted for a new speaker. After tendering his resignation, Yatsenyuk promptly announced he will lead a new political project.

"This is not the project of Arseniy Yatsenyuk alone, this is the project of an idea, the idea of a strong and democratic state," Yatsenyuk told Inter channel on Sept. 21.

The acting speaker discounted rumors that the new political project will be financed by Ukraine's richest individual, Rinat Akhmetov. He also denied rumors that his party would be led jointly with National Security and Defense Council Secretary Raisa Bohatryrova, an Akhmetov ally who was expelled from the Regions for her pro-NATO position.

Yatsenyuk's new political project is also rumored to include a former Yushchenko ally and defense minister, Anatoliy Hrytsenko. According to Sofia, 2.5 percent of voters would support a political force led by Hrytsenko.

The potential electorate of a Yatsenyuk party is middle class, and supports right-centrist ideology. It would grab voters from the traditional Tymoshenko bloc and Yushchenko electorate, Bekeshkina added.

Experts say any new political movement will only succeed if it is led by bright and popular leaders. "Our people won't vote for a party program, they seek a leader," Bekeshkina said.

"The danger to democracy [in this trend] is that disappointed people, who have spent a long time living in chaos, will support any authoritarian leader promising to restore order," Bekeshkina added.

Further evidence of disappointment can be found in the popular support for a coalition between BYuT and the Regions, Bekeshkina said. Such sentiment is a sign that if a new strong leader doesn't spring up, voters would at least seek constructive cooperation from the largest parties.

Some 31 percent of respondents support the BYuT-Regions coalition, according to the National Institute of Strategy Research. The Sofia poll indicates some 44.6 percent of voters support such an alliance.

Experts say there are other reasons that support for a union between two fierce political opponents – BYuT and Regions – is popular. Firstly, voters simply don't believe that Our Ukraine and BYuT can function as partners in a stable coalition due to Tymoshenko's and Yushchenko's presidential ambitions. Secondly, Ukrainians would prefer any coalition over the option of voting in a third parliamentary election in as many years.

Moreover, Sofia's poll results indicate that half of Ukraine's citizens feel that snap elections would not change the makeup of parliament.



Acting Speaker Arseniy Yatsenyuk (left) and former Defense Minister Anatoliy Hrytsenko are perceived as promising emerging leaders. Yatsenyuk announced plans to create a new party, but this month's polls showed it would barely make it over the three percent threshold to get to parliament, if elections were to be held soon. (Dmytro Nikonorov)

If elections were held in September...

Parties/blocs	KMIS	NISS	Sofia	2007 Vote
Regions	23	20	26	34
BYuT	24	17	25	30
Our Ukraine	4	8	7	14
Communists	4	6	6	5
Volodymyr Lytvyn	3	7	6	4
Undecided	11	15	9	-
Against all	10	16	5	3

KMIS Kyiv International Institute of Sociology, 2,036 respondents, Sept. 1-7, 1.4-3.3%
NISS National Institute for Strategic Studies, 2,011 respondents, Sept. 8-13, 2.3%
Sofia Center for Sociological Studies, 2,005 respondents, Sept. 9-17, 2.2%

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New, better Kyiv Post

Editorial

This edition of the Kyiv Post – the 39th issue of our 13th year of existence – is a special one. The newspaper has a new look that we hope our readers will find more appealing.

The new design is largely based on the creativity of KP Media's talented art director, Alexey Samovarov. We believe the changes allow us to make better use of color and graphics, as well as to highlight the most important stories with bigger headlines and splashier photographs.

The newspaper's new appearance is the most recent improvement designed to better serve our advertisers and readers.

This month, the newspaper – thanks to online editor Yulia McGuffie and her team -- launched a redesigned website at www.kyivpost.com that includes many state-of-the-art features.

We also expanded the newspaper from one section to three sections. We now have a 16-page main news section that can grow to 24 pages, an enlarged 16-page entertainment section that we call the Guide and a separate Employment section.

The Kyiv Post has always been Ukraine's No. 1 English-language newspaper and we will work hard to remain so.

In search of representation

Ukraine's ongoing political chaos has resulted in the possibility of new parliamentary elections. When the prospect of pre-term parliamentary elections surfaced last year, the Kyiv Post supported the move, arguing that elections and political battles were not a tragedy. They are a natural part of the democratic process. Today, with the prospect of early parliamentary and even presidential elections, we remain firm in our belief that, while costly and time-consuming, elections are still the best way to let people have their say in how the country is run.

But before rushing into an election campaign, Ukraine's parliament needs to reinstitute direct representation in parliament, pass deputy-recall legislation, lift parliamentary immunity from prosecution and stop the campaign to weaken the presidency. These steps would be the best gifts the "situational" coalition of the Party of Regions and the Bloc of Yulia Tymoshenko (BYuT) could give the nation.

In the last two "proportional" elections, Ukrainians voted for parties and electoral blocs only. The "mixed" system of 2002 saw voters choose a person to represent their district and also voted for their preferred party or bloc.

The proportional system was supposed to help strengthen political parties in Ukraine. Instead it led to a reduction of the role Ukrainians play in selecting who runs the country. Members of parliament, not bound to any district, are not accountable to anybody but the leaders of their political parties.

Who gets put on or taken off a party list is decided by a small group of individuals and the depth of the pockets of the want-to-be member of parliament. This is not democracy, but a travesty. Direct representation should be entrenched in electoral law once and for all. The Ukrainian voter, already disillusioned with democracy, should be able to vote for and know the name of the person that represents his community on the national level. The voter should also know that he or she can fire the lawmaker that was hired by way of elections. Towards this end, legislators should also adopt legislation that clearly spells out a recall mechanism.

Secondly, BYuT and Regions need to stop the campaign to weaken the presidential post. Ever since Leonid Kuchma unilaterally announced constitutional reforms in 2002, the public has never been consulted about what kind of president they want. But people need to be consulted. Putin was the most popular politician in eastern Ukraine at the height of his presidency. That represents a large segment of the population that likes the idea of a strong head of state who takes personal responsibility for instituting order in the country. Multiple polls have also shown that voters want to elect their president directly, not by parliament.

The "weak president" reforms have done nothing but provide opportunities to destabilize the Ukrainian state. The scenario is programmed to keep political chaos alive in Kyiv for as long as possible with internecine feuding among the political elite. The reforms are being imposed top-down, Soviet-style, with no feedback from the larger public. Only a grassroots movement of civic activism on the part of "strong president" proponents has the chance to drive home a message to the constantly-infighting elite: Don't touch the presidency, particularly at a time when separatism has reared its ugly head in Crimea.



U.S. women don't enjoy their femininity enough



LENA REDKO

Being Ukrainian, I grew up in a society where femininity was - and still is - praised. I am not talking about women wearing dresses and heels. In my viewpoint, there is much more to being feminine.

I consider Ukrainian women to be feminine because they are generally not attracted to jobs like firefighting or police service. More importantly, I consider them feminine because they encourage men to be gentlemen. A Ukrainian woman expects a man to open the door for her, pass her the coat, and give her a hand with a heavy suitcase. It does not make her feel patronized. Nor does it take away her right to pursue a doctorate in philosophy, be a CEO or lead the country as prime minister.

An American woman, on the other hand, might sue you for this, depending on the circumstances.

Despite general "ladylike" behaviors, I believe that Ukrainian society is in many ways woman-dominated. Even the Kyiv Independence Square has a statue of woman – it is a symbol of the Ukrainian nation. I believe that Tymoshenko's braid is loaded with the same message. Adult women in Ukraine always managed to maintain their femininity while getting a higher education, progressing in their career and rising to an influential position in the nation.

While I applaud the feminist movement's accomplishments in the United States today – gender discrimination is illegal – I have mixed feelings about some of the aspects of feminist behaviors. American women seem to feel threatened by the smallest deference to gender. They strive to look independent, not in need of open doors or of help with the coat. They prefer to pay for themselves when they are out and do their best to not look overly feminine when they want to be

taken seriously. Some women prefer to be called "Ms." instead of "Miss" or "Mrs" because they considering revealing marital status to be discriminatory. While all of these deserve respect, my biggest concern is that the fear of looking womanly may have its effects on family values. There are too many stories in the news about forgotten babies – in the car, in the store or elsewhere. Also, according to the National Center for Health Statistics, the divorce rate in the United States topped 50 percent in 2005.

So, ladies, my advice is: keep your femininity. It gives you a competitive advantage. There must be a serious reason why many American men are looking for wives in Ukraine. Also, it is unfortunate that there is no "Woman's Day" in the U.S. What's wrong with being a CEO and getting flowers and compliments all day? This is what I would call smart.

Lena Redko, a Kyiv native, lives in San Francisco and is studying for a master's in business administration at the University of San Francisco.

Letters to the editor

Article wrongly touted sex tourism

Dear editor,

The front page article of your Aug. 7 edition "Rising Sex Tourism Unwelcome" was a disgusting display of commercialism. Did the editor actually read this article before sending it to the press? "Good-looking women can be a country's greatest attraction and biggest problem – at the same time." Wow. Is that really why people are traveling here? Not because sex is easy to obtain and/or cheap? The article alludes to the very fact that it's both cheap and easy to obtain, especially when provided with a website and costs. I suppose convenience would have nothing to do with it. Or the fact that there are virtually no laws that prohibit it. Now, I suppose that's not entirely true. There is a law, but it's enforced as little as the laws are against corruption. Ray

McRobbie must have paid you all a lot of money for the huge advertisement you offered him in this article. Not only did you give prices, but the website to go along with it. Excellent work, because now prostituting young women will be easier for sleazy men to find and the Kyiv Post gets some of the profits for the increased business. Sounds like a great business model. Obviously the Kyiv Post gets paid in order to post the "massage ads," which do nothing but perpetuate this situation, but this article really hammers it in. The Kyiv Post's take on the issue couldn't be clearer and if I were a part of FEMEN [an organization protesting sex tourism], I would re-evaluate the approach to this issue in order to draw attention that would actually benefit the cause instead of damage it. But hey,

money is money, right? Where there's money, there are certainly no moral boundaries to what one is willing to do or willing to print – especially in a country like Ukraine where money can sometimes be hard to come by. True journalistic investigating would have compared the sex tourism industry to that of Asia, Latin America and parts of Africa, where the industry is just as pronounced as it is here. Further, it should have investigated areas where there is little sex tourism and what approaches the respective governments have taken to ensure its women grow up in healthy environments where the potential for a career and quality education isn't capped. That would have been a worthy article to have read.

*Sharon M. Lazich
Kyiv*

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Joining NATO will end close ties with Russia



DMITRI TRENIN

Four years ago, in the wake of the Orange Revolution, Ukraine captured the world's attention. The jubilation has long died down, to be replaced by frustration with the country's lively but exceedingly chaotic politics. Late last month, Kyiv's political theater struck a new low when the president's office formally accused Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko – the former Orange princess – of high treason, and asked the national security service to investigate allegations that she is an agent of the Kremlin. Result: havoc in parliament, collapse of the ruling coalition and the likelihood of a new parliamentary election, barely a year after the last one.

The most recent round of chaos reflects the vast schism that has long existed in Ukraine, but has been thrust onto center stage by Russia's incursion into Georgia. At the time of the Georgia crisis, according to the Sevodnya newspaper, 51 percent of the population of Ukraine's western regions sided with Tbilisi, while 56 percent in the east backed Moscow. On the parliamentary floor this month, while one faction proudly sat against the backdrop of the Georgian flag, another faction's leader moved to recognize Abkhazia's and South Ossetia's independence. Though such fault lines are nothing new in a diverse and fractious nation that counts no fewer than three Orthodox churches, plus a Greek Orthodox community that recognizes the pope's authority, the trouble in the Caucasus may this time create a political earthquake with enormous consequences.

More than two thirds of the 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. Although she once authored a piece in the U.S. journal Foreign Affairs calling for Russia's containment, and later signed a petition promoting Ukraine's membership in NATO, she is, if anything, a pragmatist who recognizes the complexities of her own country and its international environment. But while her parliamentary coalition has collapsed, the deeply unpopular incumbent president, Viktor Yushchenko, has vowed to press on with his bid for re-election in the early 2010 presidential elections, building his campaign around a promise to link Ukraine with the West, against Russia.

→ **Yushchenko should not be allowed to play Russian roulette with his nation**

Dmitri Trenin

On Ukrainian Independence Day, Aug. 24, he presided over a rare and controversial display of military hardware on Kyiv's main avenue, and said that neutrality was no option for his country. He has taken a tough line in Crimea as well, where the Russian navy shares its historic base in Sevastopol with Ukraine. The Russian warships that were ordered to Georgia's Black Sea coast are based there, and to prevent them from freely slipping in and out of the port in the future, Yushchenko has decreed that Russia must notify Ukraine in advance of their intentions, and declare the armaments they will be carrying when crossing the border at sea. The Russians can be expected to give symbolic concessions, but no one should imagine that they will accept that their destroyers will have to go through

customs. This is a particularly troublesome situation, especially if a small Ukrainian craft happens to be damaged by a Russian warship and sinks in the shared harbor.

There is more than enough combustible material onshore as well, with a dispute over the Black Sea Fleet's infrastructure unresolved, and Ukrainian nationalist vigilantes and Russian veterans (who chant that Sevastopol is a city of Russian sailors) facing off against one another in heated, but so far peaceful, shouting matches in the streets. There is also another element: Crimean Tatars, once owners of Crimea, then Russia's conquered subjects, and, more recently, Stalin's deportees to Central Asia, from where they have since returned, claiming land and heritage in a densely populated area. Should real clashes occur, Kyiv is likely to impose a state of emergency and send in troops, and the Russian irredentists could proclaim independence from Ukraine.

Given this mix, Georgia would be seen as a side-show compared to what could happen in Ukraine. For those in the West who have long pushed for Ukraine's membership in NATO, Georgia offers a perfect argument in favor of putting Kyiv on a fast track to join the alliance. They see a pro-Western Ukraine as an indispensable bulwark against a neo-imperial Russia. For the Kremlin, Georgia represents the danger of letting the United States use an unstable neighboring state in a proxy war to hurt and provoke Russia. Ukraine stands in the middle, and in addition to the intense domestic strife leading up the presidential elections, outside interference from both Russia and the West is a certainty.

This is a recipe for a crisis of European proportions. Yushchenko should not be allowed to play Russian roulette with his nation, and sensible leaders in America, Europe, Russia and, of course, Ukraine need to agree on ways of keeping Ukraine united and at peace. Georgia is a warning one can ill afford to ignore.

Dmitry Trenin is a senior associate of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and author of "Getting Russia Right." This article is reprinted with permission from the Washington Post Writers Group.



VOX
populi

WITH
ZOYA LYTUVYN

What's the best way to solve the political crisis – change the political system or have early elections?



Evgen Kozlovskiy,
travel agent
The idea of pre-term elections seems to be optimistic, but they should

be followed by an increase in the entry barrier [so that more than just a 3 percent vote is required]. The allocation of power between political parties is almost equal now. But for efficient work, there should be only one powerhouse in Verkhovna Rada.



Ivan Gorbatiyk,
retiree
There is no reason to waste taxpayers' money to bring the same politi-

cians to parliament. I also don't believe that any changes in the political system can really take effect. The government is dead-locked now and the best decision is for BYuT [Bloc of Yulia Tymoshenko] and [the pro-presidential] Our Ukraine to reconcile.



Ivan Torbenko,
architectural engineer
Pre-term elections, a new government system or a high passing

barrier – I consider all these measures to be senseless. The only solution is nationalism. We should bring up a new generation of patriotic children and, maybe, in 20 years we will manage to be prosperous.



Ganna Ivleva,
student
I am sure that the political situation in Ukraine can be improved only once the government

system is modified. Considering Europe's experience, I support the idea of a parliamentary-presidential government and the concept of a two-chamber parliament, like in Great Britain.



Petro Koval,
retiree
Neither new elections nor changes in the political system will have a result. First of

all, the Ukrainian mentality should be changed. People should stop being selfish. State officials don't give a hoot about Ukrainians, just as Ukrainians don't care to rise up against them.

NATO membership is a last chance for Yushchenko to salvage legacy

GEORGE WOLOSHYN
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Former Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma's legacy is one of corruption and political stability. Current President Viktor Yushchenko's legacy will be one of corruption and political instability. The hopes and dreams of so many millions of Ukrainians – here and abroad – engendered by the Orange Revolution lie shattered amidst the flotsam of a coalition swamped by tidal waves of personal ambition, incompetence and greed.

I was there that cold December night when Yushchenko promised the multitudes on Independence Square that "every cell" in his body would be committed to Ukraine's well-being. I believed him then and I believe him now.

The problem is not one of good intentions. The problem is one of follow-through. He, like Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, should have assembled the top oligarchs in the country and warned them – in no uncertain terms – to stay out of politics. He should have selected experienced professionals to head up his agencies. And he should have put into place a monitoring and reporting system to ensure that his eloquent words and prudent goals would take root.

Even now it is not too late for Yushchenko to salvage the centerpiece of his foreign policy and the only

viable guarantor of Ukraine's independence: NATO membership. As long as four out of five Ukrainians remain ignorant or misinformed on NATO, there is little hope that Europe will extend membership, or that Ukraine's future political leaders will replicate Yushchenko's principled stand on this issue.

In the last two years of the Kuchma administration, popular support for NATO membership was higher than popular opposition. Even Yanukovich, as prime minister, helped draft a strategic plan for Ukraine's entry into NATO concurrently with a broad-based public information campaign. Now, four years into the Yushchenko administration, even that support has eroded while NATO opponents (primarily Russia) control Ukraine's information "space," and pro-NATO civic groups have trouble being heard above the din of hecklers and protestors.

Although the government had budgeted several million dollars in the past for public information campaigns, and Western donors have contributed additional millions in support of NATO information centers, literature, public forums and similar projects, nothing has been done to monitor the use of these funds or their effectiveness. For example, in 2006 the State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting was allocated over one million dollars to inform citizens about Euro-Atlantic integration issues. Yet, as one long-time observer had noted: "One would have searched Ukrainian television in vain for a single information-commercial about NATO." In addition, claims have been made that public funding for NATO information programs had been diverted or left unspent.

The recently enacted budget contains \$6 million for a public information program spread over a four-year period with a stated goal of 55 percent support for NATO membership. The amount falls far short of what is needed to offset the vitriolic propaganda and threats emanating from the Kremlin. But even this amount may be largely wasted without careful monitoring and control at the presidential or National Security Council level.

The president needs to appoint a public-relations-savvy "NATO Information Czar" reporting directly to him and responsible for the preparation and implementation of a detailed, well-coordinated, far-reaching schedule and plan for raising public support of NATO to at least 55 percent of the population. Such a plan would include participation by civic groups, influential foreign policy experts, journalists, etc. and involve the full range of activities – from television ads and forums to local assemblies and information posters. The president should appeal directly to business groups in Ukraine to contribute to a private fund set up for this purpose, and invite NATO countries to assist in this effort.

Yushchenko has stated that there is "no greater challenge" for the country's elite than NATO and EU membership. He has stood almost alone against the host of opportunists and timid souls ready to trade the nation's security for profit and "good relations" with Russia. But unless and until he can show that he is prepared to support this position with time, money and political capital, Ukraine's aspirations for NATO membership will remain just words.

George Woloshyn, a native of Kupnovychi, Ukraine, is an American citizen living in Linden, Virginia.

More low-cost airlines expected in October



A passenger aircraft operated by Hungary's Wizz Air takes off in this photo provided by the company. Wizz Air is the first low-cost airline to launch operations in Ukraine, having commenced domestic flights in July. (Courtesy)

BY ALINA PASTUKHOVA
PASTUKHOVA@KPMEDIA.UA

Several low-cost passenger airlines hope to launch flights in Ukraine within weeks, offering less expensive direct flight tickets between Kyiv, European cities and Dubai.

Should Air Arabia of the United Arab Emirates and Germany's Germanwings receive all the necessary approvals in time, they will join Hungary's Wizz Air, the first low-cost airlines to enter the country, and Romania's Carpatair in October.

Wizz Air commenced domestic flights in July, covering six Ukrainian cities, and hopes to start flying to Europe soon. Carpatair launched low-cost flights to Kyiv and the western Ukrainian city of Lviv, with connections in Romanian cities.

Italy's Onair is looking to launch flights, connecting Kyiv and Lviv with Italy. What's more, transporta-

tion officials claim Britain's EasyJet and Germany's Germania are seeking to enter the Ukrainian market as well.

While most carriers are using Kyiv's major airport, Boryspil, as its hub in Ukraine, Carpatair opted for the smaller Kyiv Zhulyany airport. The incoming low-cost companies have not yet decided which airport to use. The Ministry of Transportation announced that it will reconstruct Zhulyany airport for low-cost companies' needs.

"We'll reconstruct Zhulyany's take-off runways for Airbuses used by low-cost airlines," said Oleksandr Davydov, head of Ukraine's State Aviation Administration at a Sept. 23 press-conference.

The influx of low-cost airlines will offer travelers less expensive tickets, ministry officials say. Ticket prices for low-cost airline flights are often promoted as bargains that save travelers 50 percent, but final costs increase depending on airport duties, fuel charges, booking and other fees.

The expected October arrival of Air Arabia was announced on Sept. 16 by Yosyp Vynskiy, Ukraine's Transportation Minister. The company will start flights between Kyiv and Sharjah, an airport 20 minutes from Dubai, he added.

"We will finish negotiations with the Arabic company before Oct. 1, and they will start flights on Oct. 1," Vynskiy said.

The cost of a one-way ticket on Air Arabia between Kyiv and Sharjah is expected to be \$200, transportation ministry officials said. Prices for this destination offered by other airlines range from \$400-\$800. But Kyiv-Dubai flights are just the tip of the iceberg for Air Arabia, which in a recent statement described Ukraine as "one of the fastest growing economies in Eastern Europe."

The company also plans to bring five Airbus 320 passenger aircrafts to Ukraine for domestic flights, according to Vynskiy.

Air Arabia said its move into

Ukraine is the next step in its Eastern Europe expansion plans. In addition to offering flights across the Middle East, South Asia and North Africa, the airline says it currently offers flights to two "Eastern Europe" destinations: Turkey's capital Istanbul and Yerevan, Armenia. The company had earlier entered and then pulled out of the Russian market.

Nevertheless, Transport Minister Vynskiy said the new October arrivals will "increase competition" on a market dominated by two domestic airlines - Aerosvit and Ukraine International Airlines. The new arrivals will also make flights "more affordable," he added.

In negotiations with airlines wanting in on the Ukrainian market, Vynskiy said the government seeks competitive ticket fares, new aircrafts and contemporary services such as online booking.

"If a passenger buys a ticket online two months ahead of the flight, under certain conditions, he or she can really

fly for 19 euros, including airport fees. If a ticket is bought several days before the flight, its price will amount to 60-70 euros," said Andreas Engel, a spokesman for Germanwings.

Like Air Arabia, Germanwings is currently awaiting approval from state regulators, including Ukraine's State Aviation Administration.

Wizz Air, already operating, claims to have big plans for Ukraine, including an aim to service some one million passengers in 2009. That is a bold expectation, considering that Ukraine's airports handled some five million flyers last year.

The Hungarian company thus far offers the following flights: Kyiv-Simferopol starting at \$40 one-way, Kyiv-Lviv, Lviv-Simferopol, Kyiv-Zaporizhzhya and Kyiv-Kharkiv. The company hopes to soon launch flights between Kyiv and three European cities: London, Dortmund and Milan.

The influx of fresh competition and its big expansion plans for Ukraine does not have the country's leading airlines in a panic. They claim to already be functioning as low-cost airlines.

"We are already working according to the low-cost model," said Richard Creagh, deputy president of Ukraine International Airlines. "Our company's prices are lower than Easyjet's," he added.

Some experts tend to criticize low-cost services, claiming they often falsely promote their flights as lower cost, offering nothing more than lower quality.

Traditional airlines include basic services such as a meal, drinks, a confirmed seat and baggage allowance in their ticket prices. Low-cost airlines charge extra for additional services, which can significantly increase the final price tag.

A Wizz Air flight from Kyiv to Lviv booked one day in advance can cost more than \$100 if the traveler checks in one baggage item. A bottle of water purchased during the flight costs some \$4; sandwiches are more. If ordered earlier, the ticket price can be below \$50.

In comparison, the same flight with baggage and a meal included on Aerosvit or Ukraine International Airlines can cost as low as \$60 for an economy class seat, and several hundred dollars for a business class seat.

Key laws adopted despite parliament turmoil

BY STEPHEN BANDERA
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Despite the political bedlam of recent weeks, Ukraine's parliament has managed to pass several laws that drew praise from the country's business community. Specifically, two laws introduced significant improvements to corporate governance and shareholder right protection, and make life tougher for corporate raiders, who have been the country's bane.

On Sept. 17 the Verkhovna Rada overwhelmingly approved the Law on Joint Stock Companies that has been in the works for nearly a decade. The law, still to be signed by the president, replaces the 1991 Law on Business Associations.

According to the American Chamber of Commerce (ACC) in Ukraine, the bill complies with European principles of corporate governance. "The current version of the law is not perfect but, at this point, it is the most comprehensive and well-thought through piece of legislation in the sphere of corporate governance in Ukraine," said Jorge Zukoski, ACC president.

The law was supported by all parliamentary factions, except for the president's own Our Ukraine - Peoples'

Self Defense bloc. The reasons for that were political rather than economic, pro-presidential deputies said.

"The law is good. We worked on it and would have voted for the law if it was not passed under a political pretext. The Law on Joint Stock Companies and other laws were passed that day without any discussion, some of which are designed to ruin the system of government," said Ksenia Liapina, an Our Ukraine parliament member.

The Law on Joint Stock Companies contains provisions addressing two problematic areas that have been unregulated so far and have caused many domestic and international scandals. These are the clauses that protect minority shareholder rights and prevent the blocking of shareholder meetings.

Essentially, the new law should prevent schemes when a company's minority shareholders take its majority shareholders to court, stall meetings, and exploit other loopholes in legislation to either blackmail the majority shareholder, or disrupt the work of the company to achieve their goal. One of the most publicized cases was that of Bunge, an American agricultural giant which claimed that corporate raiders had tried to paralyze its Ukrainian

sunflower oil production facility in Dnipropetrovsk.

The law "removes commonly-used mechanisms to an illegal raider attack by restricting the manipulation of the shareholder list and covert acquisition of controlling stock by a raider. It also restricts groundless appeals of

→ **New legislation to clear up rules for investors**

decisions made at general shareholder meetings, making illegal takeovers more difficult to execute," Zukoski said.

The law will come into force six months from the moment it is published, but companies have a two-year grace period to fully comply.

On Sept. 18 parliament approved changes to the Law on Police and the Criminal Code that stipulates court

decisions can only be enforced by Interior Ministry personnel, or the militia. The changes to the Criminal Code define the "illegal seizure of companies" as a crime, punishable by up to 10 years in prison. The changes make it illegal to use private security guards to enforce court decisions - the preferred technique of corporate raiders operating in Ukraine.

Again, one of the most publicized cases was at Ozerka open-air market in Dnipropetrovsk in 2006, when dozens of private guards attempted to take over an administrative building as a result of a long-lasting ownership dispute and a series of court rulings.

There is a debate whether Ukraine's president, Victor Yushchenko, is going to sign these laws into effect in the 15 days allowed to him by law. Yushchenko has twice vetoed previous versions of the law on Joint Stock Companies. The formal reason was that previous versions of this law reduced quorum requirements for shareholder meetings from 60 to 50 percent.

Experts said the requirement would strip Privat, one of Ukraine's biggest business groups, of control over the country's top oil producer, Uknafta. The government owns a hairline

majority stake with 50 percent plus one share, while Privat has a 42 percent stake in the prized and publicly-listed company.

Yet Privat controls management and has stalled shareholder meetings, fearing the government will take back control of the company.

The current version of the Law on Joint Stock Companies is a compromise because it keeps the quorum requirement for shareholder meetings at 60 percent. If the new version of the Joint Stock Companies law comes into effect, the current status-quo at Uknafta will be preserved, and the state will be unable to initiate shareholder meetings.

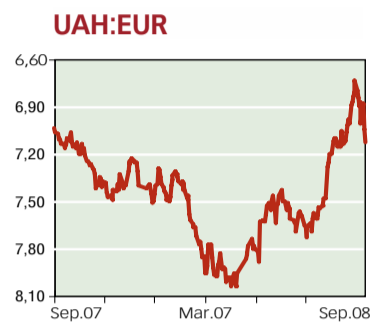
The same holds true for other majority shareholders in Ukrainian companies such as Norway's Telenor, which has a majority stake in leading mobile company Kyivstar, but short of 60 percent. Telenor will not be able to succeed in its long battle to hold a Kyivstar shareholder meeting if Russia's Alfa Group that owns some 43 percent will continue resisting.

Both of Kyivstar's shareholders have been locked in a bitter power struggle for years and have not been able to hold a shareholder meeting due to blocking by the Alfa Group.

Market Watch Dragon Capital

STOCK MARKET COMMENTARY

That fact that the PFTS, Ukraine's main stock trading platform, showed signs of life this week should offer encouragement to Ukraine investors, who have seen local equities battered in recent weeks and months. The KP-Dragon's 5.2 percent gain for the week through Sept. 23, though on overall turnover of \$15 million, suggests that some stocks have hit finally hit rock bottom, as local traders have moved in to snap up banking, metallurgy, machine-building and real estate stocks for pennies on the dollar. Despite turbulence in parliament, the new law on joint-stock companies, which received bipartisan support on final reading Sept. 17, should help boost investor confidence, while news that American billionaire Warren Buffet has bought shares in U.S. investment bank Goldman Sachs, and strong results in the first half of 2008 from Russia's VneshtorgBank should boost domestic banking stocks.



MACROECONOMICS

The government has approved the 2009 state budget draft with a deficit target of 1.4 percent of gross domestic product. Next year the government plans to collect Hr 285 billion in revenues (+28 percent year-on-year) and spend Hr 302 billion (+27 percent), implying a deficit of Hr 17.7 billion, or below the Hr 18.8 billion envisaged for 2008.

Sector-specific factors seem to be behind an abrupt and surprising drop in August industrial growth, in particular, weaker global demand for steel. Ukraine's industrial output was down 0.5 percent year-on-year in August, slowing from a 5.1 percent increase in July and bringing this year's eight-month growth to 6.3 percent, or one percent less than in 2007. The decline in industrial production was mostly due to the metallurgical and machine-building sectors, though performance in other industries, except utilities, deteriorated as well.

Agriculture helped real GDP surge by 10.9 percent in Aug. 2008, the sector continuing to expand, offsetting a slowdown in other sectors. The economy

grew from 7.3 percent year-on-year in July, bringing the growth figures to 7.1 percent since the beginning of the year. Valued-added growth in agriculture surged to 24 percent year-on-year in the first eight months of 2008, due to a good harvest and a lower comparison base. The processing sector slowed as did wholesale and retail trade. Construction continued to drop, hit by weaker demand for residential housing and a weaker lending market.

The National Bank has reported that the current account deficit stood at \$6.8 billion in the first half of this year, or 7.9 percent of GDP, just below earlier estimates. The merchandise trade deficit rose 152 percent year-on-year, to \$8.6 billion (10.1 percent of GDP), continuing to push the deficit balance into the red. Merchandise exports increased by 41 percent year-on-year over the period, but growth of merchandise imports was stronger (+55 percent), driven by higher prices for imported gas and oil and due to strong domestic demand for cars. Changes in other current account components were insignificant and produced no serious impact on the overall balance.

Dragon Capital Market Watch is a business feature of the Kyiv Post.



Business Sense

with GEOFFREY SMITH

Editor's Note: With this edition, the Kyiv Post launches Business Sense, a feature in which experts explain Ukraine's place in the world economy. To contribute, contact chief editor Brian Bonner at bonner@kpmmedia.ua

Trying to find a bright side of financial crisis

The events of last week in global financial markets were simply sensational. Mind-blowing. They will affect our lives for years to come and the effects will be overwhelmingly – though not exclusively – negative.

Financial crashes of this sort almost invariably lead to severe slowdowns in the real economy, hitting output and jobs. And a slowdown in the global economy is not going to spare Ukraine, although there are reasons to hope that the country might escape relatively lightly from it. It's still impossible to say with any confidence that the nightmare is over. At least, I wouldn't recommend you believe anyone who shows any such confidence, as the chances are that he or she was saying the same thing after Bear Stearns collapsed in March.

The prevailing picture is still one of fear and doubt, with brief and intermittent "relief rallies" when the latest in an ever-larger series of bailouts and rescue plans is announced. When – as it ultimately will do – the stock market bounces, it will be because people have started to convince themselves that the system can deal with the problem it is currently facing.

By definition, that conviction is impossible as long as the true scale of the problem is not known. Confidence, the lifeblood of markets and economies, has vanished: first from the U.S. subprime debt, then from those who had issued or bought it, then from their analogues in other economies such as Spain and the United Kingdom, then from the U.S. economy in general, and now from the emerging economies that depend to varying degrees on demand from the U.S. to keep themselves ticking over.

It seems that no one is immune. Even commodities such as oil and steel, which for a long time defied the bearish signals coming out of the States, have suffered sharp falls in prices since June on the perception that a stricken world economy will want less of the stuff in the foreseeable future.

So where does this leave Ukraine? Well, however many opportunities we see, the financial markets have already made their feelings about Ukraine clear. Ukraine's leading stock trading platform, the PFTS, has lost 67 percent so far in 2008, giving up all it had gained since January 2006.

The cost of insuring against a Ukrainian default has risen to nearly 600 basis points (although this may not be the best indicator as the sellers of such insurance are now driving up such premiums in an attempt to recoup some of what they lost in their ill-fated bets on subprime debt). Would-be Ukrainian borrowers in London are advised not to ask for credit, as a refusal can often offend.

The international debt markets have been effectively shut to all but the richest Ukrainian borrowers – such as Rinat Akhmetov's DTEK energy holding company – since the start of the year. The initial public offering market, which proudly outstripped Russia's in the first half of this year, is also now moribund. Businessmen who want to fund the construction of new sunflower seed-crushing plants or improve the efficiency of their metallurgical factories might have sold 25 percent of their company to fund

the investment, but will feel differently about selling 75 percent to raise the same amount of money. They may not even be free to do so, if they have pledged shares (now sharply devalued) as collateral for the loans they have already taken out.

Instead, many Ukrainian companies will be forced to make better use of what capital and cash they have. Sometimes this will take the form of a retreat from their more ambitious plans. Already, London-listed XXI Century, a leading Ukrainian real estate developer, is selling assets to raise money, and postponing projects it had hoped to develop in the near term. Insurer Universalna is putting off its plans to expand in Belarus and Moldova. Heavy truck manufacturer KrAZ is admitting that it can't afford a low-rate leasing incentive for truck buyers. The list goes on.

Others may face harder choices. Steel and chemicals companies with inefficient or depreciated facilities have to invest and modernize or die. If their owners can't – or don't want to – spend the money themselves, they will have to sell to someone who will.

Banks will have to scale back their growth plans: the London debt market will not lend to them as freely as it did, and Ukrainians fretting about their future will be leery of taking on big loans at high interest rates.

In short, things are going to get worse before they get better, but this in itself does not need to be a calamity. Adversity can enforce discipline, and crisis can generate the kind of change that Ukraine has failed to make in the last three years of easy money. The agriculture sector is visibly increasing its productivity and competitiveness. The banking sector has been largely taken over by well-capitalized European universal banks that have – fingers crossed – escaped the worst of the credit disaster this year and should avert the risk of systemic failure.

The passing of the joint stock company law has proved again that cross-party consensus is possible on truly important reforms (as it was with the entry to the World Trade Organization).

Moreover, the Union of European Football Associations looks likely, according to the most recent reports, to confirm Ukraine's right to co-host the Euro 2012 championships, which will provide a framework and focus for billions of dollars in investment to be invested in infrastructure.

None of these on its own will be enough to allow Ukraine's financial markets or its economy to escape the consequences of the credit crisis unscathed. But they are real and substantial reasons for optimism to sustain us through the slowdown that is almost certainly coming.

Geoffrey Smith is a consultant and strategist for Renaissance Capital, the Moscow-based investment bank. He moved to Kyiv this year from Moscow after serving for more than five years as bureau chief for Dow Jones Newswires covering the former Soviet Union.

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All the calls done from fixed-line phones throughout Ukraine are free, works on a twenty-four hours basis.





Hryvnia losing value

A pedestrian passes a currency exchange stand in Kyiv on Sept. 18. The national currency, or hryvnia, lost value relative to the U.S. dollar last week. Analysts predict the trend could continue. While the official National Bank of Ukraine exchange rate stands Hr 4.85 to the dollar, street prices are averaging Hr 5 or higher. (UNIAN)



Donetsk looks for partners

Systems Capital Management and Donetsk Shahktar soccer club president Rinat Akhmetov (left) and Czech Republic Prime Minister Mirek Topolaneck tour the construction site of the new Shahktar stadium on Sept. 17. Topolaneck led a delegation of Czech businessmen, who traveled to the eastern Ukrainian city to discuss cooperation and establish business contacts. (UNIAN)

→ On the move

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.



BAZ SHARIFF was appointed strategic communication manager for the ADV Group Ukraine media agency. Shariff will lead the group's media specialists in carrying out the strategic communications plan. He will be responsible for team development and the introduction of innovative international techniques. Shariff has more than 14 years of experience working in Britain's media market. From 2001 to 2007, he was the client services director for Walker Media. Shariff was trained at the Institute of Practitioners of Advertising (IPA), a leading United Kingdom advertising institute and graduated from Leeds University with a business and finance degree.



FRIEDRICH WEISS was promoted to chairman of Home Credit Bank's supervisory board. Previously he served as a supervisory board member. In his new position, Weiss will be responsible for the bank's strategy development and operations. He has more than 20 years of banking experience. From 1989 to 2008, Weiss worked for Erste Group in Central and Eastern Europe as chairman of the supervisory board, advisor to the board, the head of the retail business department and head of a bank branch. He graduated from Donauuniversitat, Austria, in partnership with the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), in 1998 with an MBA.



NATALIA KADIA was appointed head of the human resources department for Upras Capital, which has operated in Ukraine since 1993. The company provides investment and banking services, asset management and real estate project management. Prior to joining Upras Capital, she worked for Materialise. In her new position, Kadia will be responsible for formalizing business processes, creating an effective system for personnel training and strengthening the investment banking staff.



OLEKSIY KHRYSSTOFOROV was appointed head of the Kharkiv office for Ilyashev & Partners which has operated in Ukraine since 1997. Khrystoforov specializes in administrative and public law, and arbitration. He has significant experience working with state institutions, legal consulting and business organizations. Currently Khrystoforov provides legal support to insurance companies, banks and industrial companies. He graduated from Yaroslav Mudryi National Law Academy in Kharkiv. He is a member of the Kharkiv Regional Bar.

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Donetsk	\$276	Rome	\$453
Dubai	\$480	Shanghai	\$870
Dusseldorf	\$452	Simferopol	\$212
Frankfurt	\$450	Sofia	\$444
Hamburg	\$420	St Petersburg	\$308
Hanover	\$438	Stockholm	\$428
Helsinki	\$421	Tallinn	\$344
Istanbul	\$290	Tbilisi	\$411
Iv.-Frankivsk	\$72	Tei Aviv	\$526
Kharkiv	\$122	Tokyo	\$1095
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Larnaca	\$486	Vilnius	\$423
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Polish firms look eastward for fresh growth, profits

BY JONATHAN HOLMBERG
HOLMBERG@KPMEDIA.UA

As Poland's economy matures, the country's manufacturers and investors are looking next door to Ukraine and its 46 million potential consumers as a new source for high-growth rates.

Ukraine's largest European Union neighbor, Poland is using its advantages – a common border, history and experience in transition from communism to a market economy – to make significant inroads into the country's developing economy.

Poland's direct investment in Ukraine of \$730 million is dwarfed by a combined \$12 billion pouring in from Cyprus, the offshore haven, and Germany. But Poland still ranks a respectable 12th place in inflow. Poland has also made an impact, ranking third in the number of direct investment projects in Ukraine, trailing only Russia and Cyprus, according to the Polish Entrepreneur Association in Ukraine.

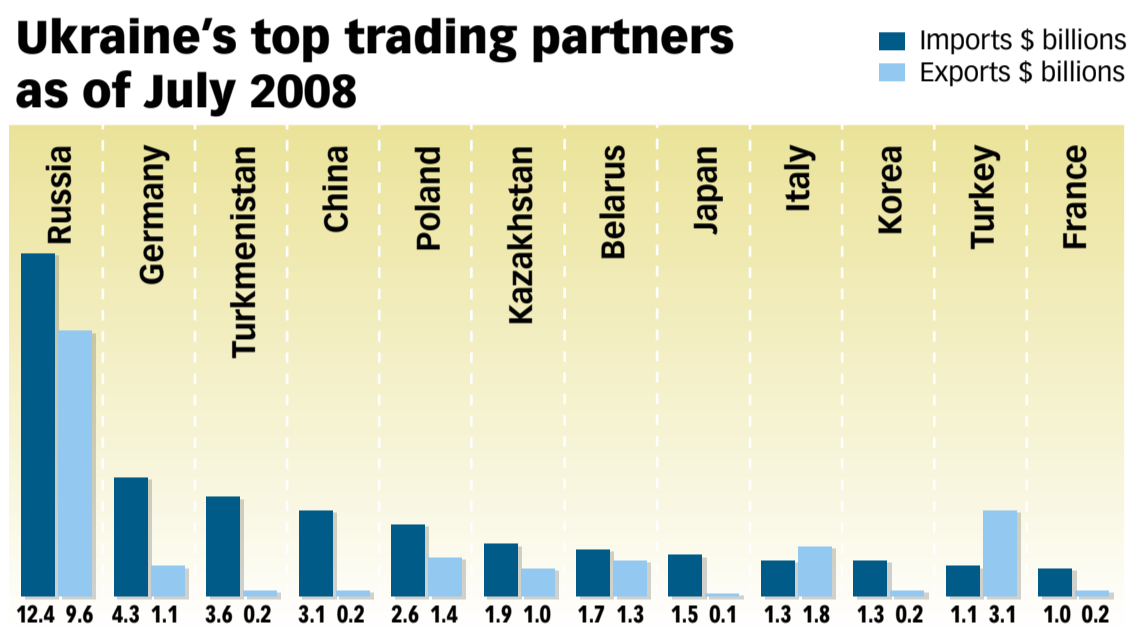
Mirroring overall trends of EU investment in Ukraine, the lion's share of Polish investment in Ukraine – 35 percent – is in the financial sector. The top four private sector Polish investors in Ukraine are financial institutions.

Where Poland is unique, however, is in the level of investment in manufacturing, particularly in the building materials sector. Polish-owned companies have captured a significant share of Ukraine's flooring, window and bathroom fixture market. The success of Barlinek, the market share leader in Ukraine's wood flooring market, is an example.

"Ukraine was the first foreign market that Barlinek invested in, it was a natural decision for us and we brought experience in transitioning Soviet-era plants into modern production facilities," says Bartłomiej Krupa, Barlinek Ukraine's general director.

Polish-Ukrainian bilateral trade is flourishing as well. → 10

Ukraine's top trading partners as of July 2008



Source: Ukraine's State Statistics Committee

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SPRING 2010

Poland bets high on nation's gains

BY JONATHAN HOLMBERG
HOLMBERG@KPMEDIA.UA

Stefan Perkowski is the president and CEO of Alfa Asset Management, the Ukrainian branch of Moscow's Alfa Group. The Polish native also serves as president of the Polish Entrepreneurs' Association in Ukraine and has nearly two decades of financial markets experience in developing economies. In this Kyiv Post interview, Perkowski says that while the economic potential of Ukraine is enormous, the chronic political instability restricts future investment and growth.

→ **Ukraine has vast potential as a market, says Stefan Perkowski**

KP: What makes Ukraine so attractive to Polish investors and business?

SP: Ukraine is attractive because it is a huge market with enormous potential and the competition isn't as great as it is in the West. Poland has three comparative advantages in Ukraine when developing business. First, we share a common border with Ukraine. This is a huge advantage vis-a-vis our competitors.

Secondly, we share a similar cultural heritage, particularly in western Ukraine, but it is transferable throughout the country.

And last, Polish companies, entrepreneurs and executives have experience working in developing post-Soviet economies.

KP: What areas are Polish investors focusing on in Ukraine?

SP: Poland has invested heavily in all aspects of the economy, particularly in the financial, manufacturing and food processing sectors. There are a number of Polish companies that have used the comparative advantages we talked about to build significant market share, for example, in building material production. We are talking about flooring, windows, bathroom fixtures and the like.

For domestic Polish producers, Ukraine is a huge market of 46 million people. As the Polish market nears saturation, these companies naturally look here for continued growth.

In terms of foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows to Ukraine, Poland is ranked 12th, but if you strip out the huge investments in Ukraine's financial sector by other European countries, Germany's investment [through a subsidiary of] Mittal Steel and the investments from Cyprus, which are really repatriated funds from Russia and Ukraine, Poland's \$700 million in FDI looks better. Moreover, if we take a look at the number of FDI projects launched in Ukraine, Poland is ranked among the top three countries.

KP: What is the Polish Entrepreneurs Association?

SP: The association was founded in 1998 and initially only for entrepreneurs, but now includes managers with Polish roots of international investments or business in Ukraine. The number of Poles in key management positions in all sectors of the economy – financial services, manufacturing, media, consumer products – is growing rapidly. Why? Poland began its transition from a planned economy much sooner than Ukraine and its managers gained experience in a developing economy. This isn't limited to Ukraine. Polish management personnel are being recruited to work throughout the post-Soviet, post Warsaw-pact nations. The association's main goal is to unite and support pol-

ish entities and the Polish business community in Ukraine.

KP: What are the main challenges for Polish firms doing business in Ukraine?

SP: There are three areas I hear consistent complaints about.

Firstly, the economy needs political stability. Without it, the economy will not develop as quickly as it could. Without it, the much-needed reforms in land use, VAT (tax) administration, commercial code, financial markets – including the regulation of investment and pension funds – cannot be enacted. Without political stability, corruption cannot be controlled. The

political situation sets the tone for all economic activity.

Secondly, Polish employers and managers complain about workforce stability. In Ukraine, it is not uncommon for young professionals to change jobs every seven to nine months. We call them job jumpers. In the West, if someone changed jobs three or four times in a two-year period, a human resources manager would be suspicious, and screen this person out. Here that is not the case. Part of the problem is retention incentives. But the other part is the lack of sophistication in human resources departments.

Finally, the border is a constant complaint. The line for entering and exiting



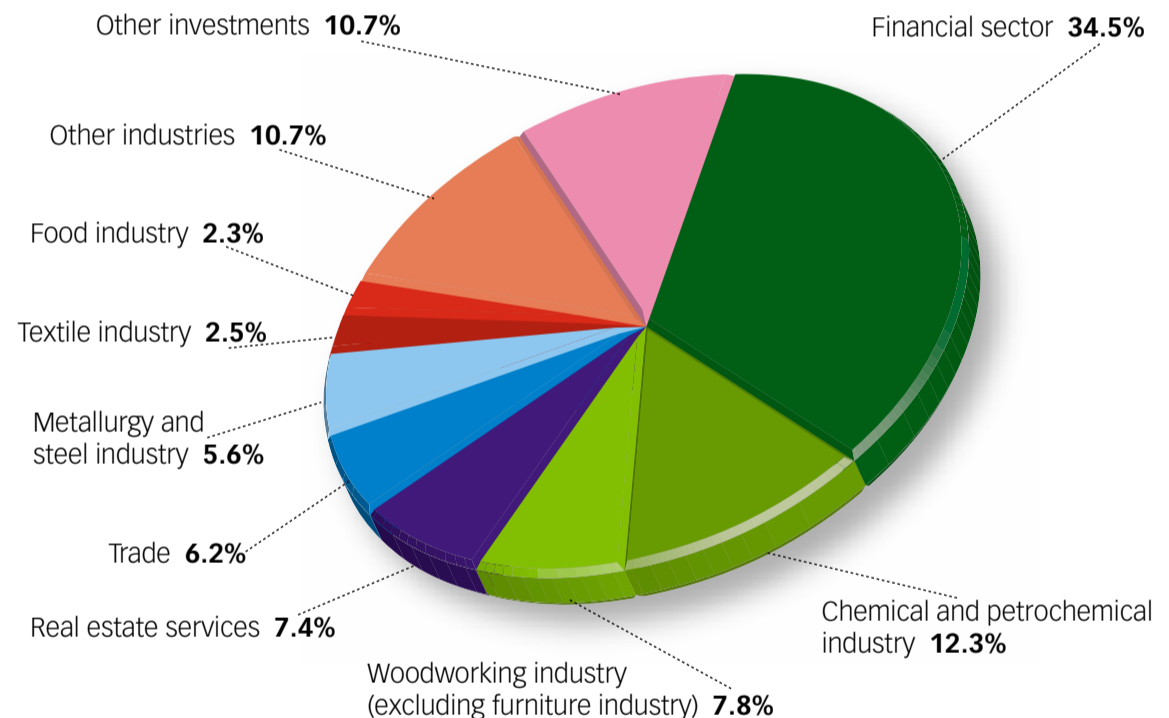
Stefan Perkowski, CEO of Alfa Asset Management

Ukraine [via Poland] is routinely six to ten kilometers long. The customs procedures for imports entering the country are antiquated and need to be reformed on the EU model.

KP: What is your forecast for Polish investments and businesses in the mid-term?

SP: In terms of Polish FDI inflows to Ukraine, I expect them to grow at 20 to 25 percent year-on-year.

Breakdown of Polish investment in Ukraine



Source: Polish Embassy, Kyiv



Janusz Janiec, general manager of Agora Ukraine

→ 9 Poland is ranked as Ukraine's fifth largest trading partner with some \$3.3 billion in annual exports of goods and services. Last year, Polish exports to Ukraine surged by 40 percent. Ukraine, in turn, exported \$1.2 billion in goods and services last year to Poland, representing an annual increase of nearly 40 percent, accord-

Kyiv's next-door neighbor seeks to capitalize on ties, experience

ing to Polish embassy representatives.

A post-Eastern bloc economic success story, Poland's economy has reached a level of maturity and market saturation that is driving businesses abroad in search of expansion and fresh growth opportunities. For Polish business, neighboring Ukraine is the natural place to look first.

"In our view, Ukraine is the land of opportunity, it is the biggest post-Soviet market, other than Russia, with huge potential and it is relatively underdeveloped," says Janusz Janiec, general manager of Agora Ukraine, LLC, a subsidiary of Poland's second largest media company of the same name.

Zelmer, the market leader in small domestic appliances in Poland, has a similar outlook. With a domes-

tic market share hovering between 60 and 80 percent in some segments, Zelmer needed to look across the border to boost growth. Zelmer evaluated Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine for future expansion opportunities.

"When the board reviewed the potential countries to expand into, Ukraine topped the list in terms of the business environment. The country has a large population with rising incomes and its consumers are focused on high-quality products," said Arkadiusz Teclaw, general director of Zelmer Ukraine.

"And so far we've been proven right. Admittedly we've only been in the market for about six months, but we are averaging a weekly growth rate of 20 percent," he added.

Polish capital and goods are not the only exports flocking to the Ukrainian market.

Poland's successful transition from a planned economy to a thriving free market economy has spawned a generation of highly-qualified business professionals who are aggressively recruited by Ukrainian companies and multi-national corporations operating in the nation.

"Poland has produced a high number of successful managers that have learned how to apply best business practices to the unique challenges of a developing market economy," said Jaroslaw Sarwa, vice president for the Allcass Direct recruitment agency.

On the whole, the economic environment is favorable for Polish businesses and investors, but there are

hurdles to doing business, Polish market experts said. Polish firms operating in the market share familiar laments with other investors. Ukraine's arbitrary laws, complicated customs and border crossing procedures, scant VAT tax refunds and corruption are common complaints. Having experienced challenges in their country's westward transition towards a free market economy, some Polish investors view Ukraine's paralyzing politics as the ultimate problem. They say chronic political turmoil has stalled reforms and kept investments at bay.

"The political instability is at the root of all the problems relating to doing business in Ukraine. Without stability, reforms are not adopted, and Ukraine's full economic potential cannot be reached," said Agora's Janiec.

POLISH COMPANIES IN UKRAINE
Companies listed by year of establishment

PHONE FAX	TOP EXECUTIVE	YEAR ESTABLISHED	YEAR ESTABLISHED IN UKRAINE	OWNERSHIP, UKRAINIAN / FOREIGN (%)	HQ	AMOUNT OF INVESTMENTS INTO UKRAINE IN 2007	SPECIALIZATION	MAJOR CLIENTS	STATUS	REVENUES IN 2007
LOT POLISH AIRLINES , 01030 Kyiv, 36 I.Franko, lot@isv.com.ua, lotiev@lot.pl, www.lot.com										
(044)288-1054 (044)288-1055 (044)288-1056	Grzegorz Proszczuk	1929	1992	0 / 100	Warsaw, Poland	WND	Passenger air traffic	WND	Representative office	WND
Raben Ukraine , 07442 Kyiv oblast, Brovary region, 150 Brovarska, ukraine.info@raben-group.com, www.raben-group.com										
(044)459-7200 (044)459-7201	Andrzej Kozlowski	1931	2003	0 / 100	Gadki, Poland	WND	Full logistics services: warehousing, international distribution and customs clearance, national distribution covering all of Ukraine	WND	LLC	WND
Hay Group Ukraine , 02002 Kyiv, 4 Lunacharskoho, www.haygroup.com										
(044)499-7100 (044)499-7101 (044)499-7102	Valeriy Martsynovych	1943	2006	0 / 100	Philadelphia, USA	WND	Consulting services	Coca Cola Beverages Ukraine, Gillette Ukraine, Kraft Foods Ukraine, Unilever Ukraine, Procter&Gamble, Philip Morris Ukraine, Nestle Ukraine LLC, Metro Cash&Carry Ukraine, 3M, MTC Ukraine, Kyivstar, Interpipe, Azovstal, Chumak Ukraine, First Ukrainian International Bank	LLC	WND
Zelmer Ukraina , 04080 Kyiv, 18/20 Turovska, zelmer@zelmer.ua, www.zelmer.ua										
(044)501-5626 (044)501-5636	Arkadiusz Teclaw	1951	2007	0 / 100	Rzeszow, Poland	WND	Vacuum cleaners, both classic and multi-functional, as well as small kitchen appliances such as: meat mincers, slicers, electric kettles, food processors, mixers and juice extractors	Foxmart, Domotekhnika, ABV Tekhnika, Megamax	LLC	WND
Kredobank , 79026 Lviv, 78 Sakharova, office@kredobank.com.ua, www.kredobank.com.ua										
(032)297-2320 (032)297-0837	Stepan Kubiv	1990	2004	1,82 / 98,18	Warsaw, Poland	\$35 million	Banking	WND	OJSC	\$358,000
PZU Ukraine Insurance Group , 04112 Kyiv, 62 Dehtiarivska, mail@pzu.com.ua, www.pzu.com.ua										
(044)238-6238 (044)581-0400	Jacek Austen	1993	1993	0 / 100	Warsaw, Poland	\$62 million	Non-life insurance	Metro Cash&Carry, McDonald's Ukraine, Volynk-holdyng, Kryvy Rih Tsement, Svitoch, Philip Morris Ukraine, Coca-Cola Beverages, US Embassy in Ukraine, Polish Embassy in Ukraine, Kraft Foods Ukraine, Procter&Gamble Manufacturing Ukraine, Intercar Ukraine, Kvazar Micro	OJSC	\$30.81 million

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

The newspaper gathers data from individual companies, public information and the Kyiv Business Directory. 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.

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EBS' 10th Anniversary – this is just the beginning!

On Sept. 18, EBS celebrated its 10th year of operation in the Ukrainian market at a Kyiv restaurant - the "Murakami." The event had an eastern atmosphere, where EBS's principles and soul were disclosed according to eastern philosophy and wisdom.

The guests at the celebration were clients of the company to whom the nuances of business mastery were revealed by EBS consultants. They also gained a better understanding of eastern traditions and received gifts as a token of EBS' appreciation for their trust in and partnership. Moreover, all invitees were able to demonstrate their charitable and compassionate side, by agreeing to donate funds to the "Nadiya" orphanage in Priluki, home to 145 children under the age of 4.

As Helen Volska, Managing Partner and Director of EBS, stated: "10 years is the first significant milestone. We have achieved much during this period and I sincerely believe that these 10 years are just the beginning, the first steps!"

There is a saying: "the office of the reputable doctor is always over-



crowded!" EBS offices have attracted over 300 large and small, foreign and Ukrainian companies since the company's existence. EBS has successfully completed more than 500 projects, including management reporting, company reorganizations,

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On Board PR-Ukraine , 03150 Kyiv, 5 Dimitrova, ukraine@onboard.pl, www.onboard.pl										
(044)583-5551	Dmytro Konyk	1996	2008	0 / 100	London, UK	WND	Public relations, strategic communication consulting	ARDO S.A., Galakton (Unimilk Group), Ukrainian Household Appliances	LLC	WND
S4 Ukraine , 01001 Kyiv, 24-B Mykhaylivska, office #27, info@S4ukraine.com.ua, www.S4ukraine.com.ua										
(044)279-1639	Michal Stanisiz	1998	2006	0 / 100	Krakow, Poland	WND	ATL, BTL, online advertising	Parkridge Development, Roca, Goodyear, BP, Ferrero	LLC	WND
Plastics Ukraine , 04080 Kyiv, 82-A Mezhyhirska, suite B, office1@plastics.com.ua, www.plastics.com.ua										
(044)201-1540 (044)201-1548	Ireneush Derek	1998	1998	0 / 100	Kyiv, Ukraine	WND	Distribution of polymer materials for outdoor advertising, packing, construction, production	Advertising agencies, production and construction companies in Ukraine	WND	WND
DELICIA , 08296 Kyiv oblast, Vorzel, 54 Velukoho Zhovtnya										
(044)974-6114 (044)974-7314	Robert Siekiera	1999	1999	0 / 100	Buczka, Ukraine	WND	Confectionary plant	WND	Private enterprise	WND
Wandalex Ukraine , 04128 Kyiv, 19 Tupoleva, ok@wandalex.com.ua, www.wandalex.com.ua										
(044)503-3385	Oleh Kotkov	1999	2000	0 / 100	Warsaw, Poland	WND	Warehousing and logistic services	Bella, Kenpak, Adidas, Biola, Biotrade, Erlan	LLC	WND
Wiko Ukraine , 92900 Luhansk oblast, Kremenna, 161 Kuybysheva, info@wiko.com.ua, www.wiko.com.ua										
(06454)247-27 (06454)244-84 (06454)244-85	A. Nagoryansky	2000	2000	0 / 100	Kremennaya, Ukraine	WND	Production and sale of trade equipment for shops and markets	Fokstrot, FoxMart, Pakko, Furshet, MKS, Rush, Bookva, SMYK, Ukrainsky Retail, MD-Retail, Prostor, MD-techno	LLC	WND
INFOS Debt Services Agency , 03151 Kyiv, 40 Ushynskoho, infos@infos.net.ua, www.infos.net.ua										
(044)390-1172	Ruslan Derenyuk, Adam Sychalski	2001	2006	0 / 100	Sopot, Poland	WND	Professional services from account receivables monitoring and business intelligence, amicable debt collection, as well as measures related to debt management, court proceedings, etc.	Financial sector, banking, insurance, construction sector (trade), IT	Branch	WND
Big 5X Ukraine , 01001 Kyiv, 13/21 Shevchenko, office #8, contact@big5x.com, www.big5x.com										
(044)278-6554 (044)278-2645	Slawomir Grochulski	2002	2006	0 / 100	Warsaw, Poland	WND	Delivering business and IT consulting services	Bank Pekao SA, Sygma Bank, PKO Bank Polski S.A., Fortis Bank, Lukas Bank, Netia SA, Ministerstwo Sprawiedliwosci RP, Dialog, TP SA, Polska Agencja Rozwoju Przedsiębiorczosci, UniCredit Bank, Kreditprombank, Kredobank, Renaissance Capital	LLC	WND
PZU Ukraine Life Insurance Company , 04112 Kyiv, 62 Dehtiarivska, mail@pzu.com.ua, www.pzu.com.ua										
(044)537-6041	Kamil Gorecki	2003	2003	0 / 100	Warsaw, Poland	\$6.4 million	Life insurance	WND	OJSC	\$3.1 million
Allcass Direct LTD , 79008 Lviv, 24/15-A Krakivska, lwow@allcassdirect.com, www.allcassdirect.com										
(032)235-4966	Jaroslav Sidorkiewicz	2005	2008	0 / 100	Sopot, Poland	WND	Recruitment, personnel consulting	WND	LLC	WND
Aray Ukraine , 08662 Kyiv oblast, Vasylkiv region, Hrebinky, 23 Chaikovskoho / 03039 Kyiv, 7 Holosiyivska, araj@ukr.net										
(044)717-1240 (044)717-1870 (044)525-4946	Olena Buchma	2004	2005	0 / 100	WND, Poland	WND	Assembly and sale of equipment for grain drying	WND	LLC	WND
STREIF Baulogistik Ukraina , 01054 Kyiv, 22-24 Hoholivska, office #312, Streif-Baulogistik@streif.kiev.ua, www.streif.kiev.ua										
(044)482-0687 (044)496-2502 (044)496-2503	Cheslav Legut	2005	2005	0 / 100	Warsaw, Poland	Around \$7.2 million	Lease, sale and technical support of tower cranes, auto cranes, office and domestic containers, sale of spare parts for tower and auto cranes	Avers, DK Agro, Altazhytlobud, Arkada LLC, Aerobud, Velton, Gorstroyinvest, Dobrobudinvest, Eurasia Transit Group Consulting, Kontur, Novobud, Novotechbud, Osnova-Solsif, Pilon, Progress-Partner, SVM-Yug, Soft-Service, Spetsvysotmontazh, Spetsstroyontazh, Ct-Budservice, Storygarant	LLC	Around \$3.43 million
European Center for Tax Consulting and Documentation , 04114 Kyiv, 12/61 Lesi Ukrayinky, pawel.mlodnicki@ecddp.pl, www.ecddp.com.ua										
(044)288-1551 (032)276-3968 (032)260-2478	Dominik Detsch	2005	2008	0 / 100	Lviv, Ukraine	WND	Legal, tax and accounting services	WND	LLC	WND
Leader Service UA , 79017 Lviv, 2 Vodohinna, waldemar.wojcieszzonek@leaderservice.com.pl, www.leaderservice.pl										
(0322)42-5464	Andrzej Kus	2007	2007	0 / 100	Kracow, Poland	WND	Recruitment of permanent and temporary workers, employee leasing, merchandising	WND	LLC	WND
Agora Ukraine , 02192 Kyiv, 2 Malyashka, 3 fl, office@agora.ua, www.agora.ua										
(044)229-4636 (044)543-8905	Janusz Janiec	2007	2007	0 / 100	Warsaw, Poland	WND	Internet and publishing activities	WND	LLC	WND
Ukrainian Insurance Company of Credit Unions , 03039 Kyiv, 7 Holosiyivska, building 1A, office #410-418										
(044)251-4729	Jacek Adrian Matusiak	2007	2007	WND	Kyiv, Ukraine	WND	Insurance	Ukrainian Credit Unions and their members		WND
FIDER GROUP , 04074 Kyiv, 18 Avtozavodska, office@fidergroup.com, www.fidergroup.com										
(044)221-1593	Sergey Derevianko	2007	2007	0 / 100	Kyiv, Ukraine	WND	Advertising	Empik, CMYK	LLC	WND
Perfect latex goods factory , 81053 Lviv oblast, Yavoriv region, Novoyarivsk, 24-A Zelena.										
(03259)70-140 (03259)70-130	Andzej Rogovsky	WND	2004	49 / 51	Novoyarivsk, Ukraine		Latex goods manufacturing ("PERFECT" condoms)	WND	LLC	WND

Official: EU needs stronger energy ties with Russia

BRUSSELS (Reuters) — The European Union should strengthen ties with Russia and bolster investment in Georgia to overcome recent tensions and ensure steady supplies of energy in the future, the EU's energy chief said on Sept. 24.

EU Energy Commissioner Andris Piebalgs said Russia's war with Georgia last month highlighted the need for progress on two proposed gas pipelines into the EU — Nabucco bringing Caspian gas from the southeast and Nord Stream bringing Russian gas from the northeast. When Russian armor entered Georgia, it came menacingly close to transit routes for Caspian oil and gas, highlighting the frailty of previous Western efforts to bypass Moscow.

"We need bridges with Russia not isolation," said Piebalgs, from the former Soviet republic of Latvia. "It was a shock for us, and it was a shock for Russia as well," he said of the Georgia conflict. "It is a shake-up, and we really can be more efficient in our cooperation in all areas."

His views contrast with those of politicians in the United States and in eastern Europe who say the EU should cut reliance on Russia in the light of the conflict and of past disputes between Moscow and gas transit states such as Ukraine.

Piebalgs said the war in Georgia had increased the urgency of developing the Nord Stream pipeline to carry Russian gas to Germany. Poland, Lithuania and Estonia have criticized this project for shutting them out of a key supply route.

"Politically, the importance even increases, not decreases," he said. "It is one of the major projects where Russia's Gazprom is working together with EU companies, and that is beneficial for both sides because we need more such cooperation, also upstream in Russia."

He also said it was crucial to remove roadblocks to building Nabucco — a \$12 billion pipeline intended to carry 30 billion cubic meters of Caspian gas a year to an Austrian hub via Georgia, Turkey, Bulgaria, Romania and Hungary.

Such hurdles include securing sufficient gas volumes from Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan to make the project viable; securing a deal with Turkey to pipe the gas through its networks, and improving the investment climate in Georgia.

"I don't question the ability of Turkmenistan to supply at least the 10 billion cubic meters annually that was indicated," said Piebalgs, contradicting analysts who say the central Asian state has sold all future gas volumes to Russia and China. "And I believe it is possible to have higher gas volumes as soon as we manage to have Nabucco in place."

He called for major investments in Georgia's power grid and its derelict hydroelectric power schemes to demonstrate to businesses that it was a safe place to invest their money.

But Piebalgs played down industry hopes that Iran will become a major supplier to Nabucco anytime soon, following remarks this week by a Hungarian oil executive that bringing Iran onboard would guarantee Nabucco's success.

Yushchenko pushes for NATO at United Nations

UNITED NATIONS (Reuters) — Ukrainian President Victor Yushchenko vowed on Sept. 24 his country would be undeterred in its bid for NATO membership despite Russian opposition.

Yushchenko reaffirmed his pro-Western government's NATO aspirations in a speech to the United Nations just weeks after Russia's military incursion in Georgia sparked international condemnation and stirred concerns in Ukraine and other former Soviet republics.

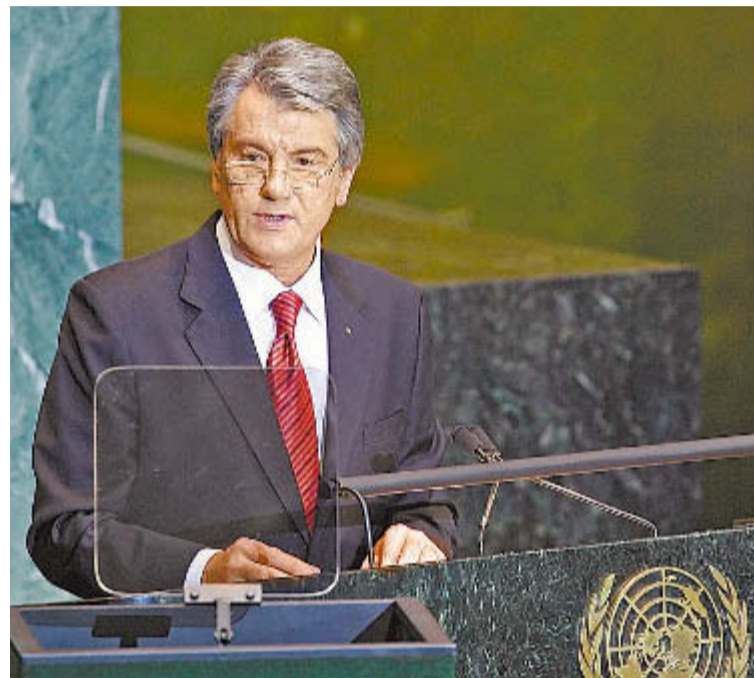
"Ukraine rejects pressure of any kind regarding ways to ensure its own security and to determine membership in collective security structures," he told the annual General Assembly gathering of world leaders. "Such attempts of infringement are short-sighted and counterproductive."

Yushchenko was referring to U.S.-backed efforts by Ukraine, along with Georgia, to join NATO, a drive that has incensed Moscow. He did not specifically name Russia.

NATO leaders at their April summit stopped short of putting Ukraine and Georgia immediately on the path to membership in the alliance but pledged the two ex-Soviet states would one day become members.

Russia and Georgia fought a brief war last month after Tbilisi sent in troops to try to seize back the rebel region of South Ossetia, drawing massive retaliation by Moscow and sending U.S.-Russia relations to a post-Cold War low.

The Kremlin's decision to deploy forces in defense of pro-Moscow separatists in South Ossetia also rattled nerves in Ukraine, which accuses



Speaking at the United Nations on Sept. 24, Ukrainian President Victor Yushchenko reaffirmed that his country will seek membership in NATO despite Russian opposition. (Courtesy)

Russia of stoking tensions in Crimea, a region populated mainly by ethnic Russians and Russian-speakers.

Yushchenko reiterated Ukraine's support for Georgian "territorial integrity" and opposition to independence for South Ossetia and another breakaway region, Abkhazia, which Moscow has recognized.

"Ukraine ... condemns the endeavor of the illegitimate and separatist affirmation of the statehood of any territories," he said.

"These processes create a poten-

tial threat both for the Ukrainian nation and other countries in our region."

While the United States has supported both Georgia and Ukraine's membership bids, allies including Germany, France and smaller NATO states have opposed it for fear of further provoking Russia.

Divisions over policy toward Russia contributed to the collapse last week of Ukraine's governing coalition, raising the prospect of a third parliamentary election in as many years.



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Nation suffered as a few became rich

→ 1 assets. Such a windfall might have lifted everyone's standard of living and helped create a stronger middle class.

Instead, a dozen or so business groups – led by super-billionaires such as Rinat Akhmetov and Victor Pinchuk – control Ukraine's main industries of ferrous and non-ferrous metals, coal, machinery and transport equipment, chemicals and food processing.

Ukraine has more billionaires per capita than Russia, a nation that Forbes magazine ranked as having the third-highest number after the United States and Germany.

All of this concentration of wealth and political power is inherently unhealthy to a society, many say.

Economists call this kind of high-wealth concentration a "capture economy," which the International Monetary Fund defines as "the efforts of firms to shape the laws, policies, and regulations of the state to their own advantage by providing illicit private gains to public officials."

"When you have a huge disparity between the 10 percent richest and 10 percent poorest in a country, this is an indicator that a country is unstable from the standpoint that society doesn't view those with money as being legitimate, that wealth was acquired dishonestly," said Mykhailo Mishchenko of the Razumkov Center, a Kyiv-based think tank.

Balazs Horvath, resident representative of the International Monetary Fund in Ukraine, said the non-competitive privatizations of the 1990s created "a significant buildup of inequality in wealth and income." Consequently, Horvath said, a large and strong mid-

dle class – considered the backbone of stable societies – has yet to form.

'Almost always rigged'

Some 400 enterprises of strategic importance for the national economy and security, according to the State Property Fund, were among those privatized. They were sold at nominal prices via emissions of shares that were scooped up by private hands. Or they simply sold at below-market prices.

Other public-private ownership transfers included rigged auctions conducted unfairly and non-transparently or closed auctions with preconditions that favored a select few investors often excluding stronger competitors or strategic investors.

"These auctions were almost always rigged intentionally to create an uneven and inequitable playing field to keep out higher bidders and was done with approval from the top on the national and regional levels," said Alex Frishberg, managing partner of Frishberg & Partners law firm, familiar with the privatization process in the 1990s.

Ownership rights to some state-owned enterprises were simply transferred to private hands. Land was leased to individuals who ran companies into the ground in order to later buy them at rock-bottom prices at the state's expense.

Privatization was lauded by Western experts for two principal reasons. Politically, it was a way of swiftly breaking with the Soviet socialist past. Economically, it was a key step in the transition to a market economy, which should have boosted productivity and efficiency.

"Importantly, the transparency of the privatization process, and efforts to



Kryvorizhstal's steel factory in Kryvy Rih is the nation's top steel producer. After a scandal involving its sale to Rinat Akhmetov and Victor Pinchuk for only \$800 million, the government resold the enterprise for \$4.8 billion in a rare public auction. (Natalia Kravchuk)

ensure competitive privatization that attracts strategic investors is a critical determinant of how much of these gains actually materialize," Horvath said. The long-term gains should have led to increased employment and salaries, thus raising the overall standard of living, said Horvath. Only in the past five years has Ukraine reaped the benefits of rising domestic consumption.

But the results are mixed. Some owners became good owners by investing in their companies, others less so, Horvath added.

Ukraine did not initiate "shock therapy" to quickly privatize, unlike many of its central and eastern European neighbors who are now snugly in the European Union and NATO. Privatization was much more of a dragged-out and shadowy affair for Ukraine, as much of the population struggled with poverty. Capital flight became and remains rampant. The offshore haven of Cyprus is still Ukraine's largest foreign direct investor.

Privatization, moreover, was never fully completed in Ukraine. It has now ground to a halt amid the current political chaos. And land privatization has not begun, due to Ukraine's socialist leanings on the issue.

Kryvorizhstal example

The poster boy of sloppy privatization is the way Ukraine's largest steel manufacturer, Kryvorizhstal, was first sold in June 2004, which critics at home and abroad cited as an example of corruption and state property mismanagement.

It was sold for a paltry \$800 million to a consortium made up of companies belonging to Akhmetov, who has a net worth estimated at \$31 billion, and Pinchuk, the son-in-law of former President Leonid Kuchma. Pinchuk is the second wealthiest Ukrainian, Korrespondent magazine says, with a fortune of \$9 billion.

The sale was made even though Mittal Steel offered nearly twice the amount – \$1.5 billion.

"Cash privatizations are always a little crooked and shady since the true value of assets is always difficult to ascertain and someone [the bidders] will always be dissatisfied," said Anders Aslund, senior fellow at the Peter G. Peterson Institute for International Economics in Washington D.C.

single bidder for \$60 million, Russian Transmashholding, the largest producer of heavy machinery in Russia and controlled by oligarch Iskander Makhmudov.

Major European companies eyeing Luhanskteplovoz, included German electronics giant Siemens, with some analysts estimating at the time that the state could fetch as much as \$200 million.

The state also expressed an interest in reprivatizing Ukraine's largest iron-ore mines that once made up the Ukrudprom state holding company. These include Southern, Northern, Central, Inguletsky and Kryvyi Rih ore companies, which together produce 70 percent of this raw material for the country's steel business and for export.

Their controlling stakes were sold in 2004 to Russian billionaire Vadim Novitsky, Akhmetov and Pinchuk.

The tender was deemed unfair since it was limited to buyers who had already existing stakes in ore companies.

The state's coffers received \$270 million after Ukrudprom's sale. In contrast, iron ore plants in Russia individually sold for much more ranging from \$600 million (Stoilenskiy Iron Dresser Complex) to \$1.7 billion (Ural Steel).

Other cases have been criticized for abuses.

Among them, the buyers of Chornomorsky shipyards and the Zaporizhzhya Aluminum Plant are accused of non-compliance with investment obligations, giving the state grounds for reprivatization.

One special case is the Mariupol-based Illich Metallurgical Plant. Its first brush with privatization came in 1996, when a 42 percent stake was transmitted through a privileged share transfer to the plant's 39,000 workforce.

Later, in 2000, parliament and then-President Kuchma approved the privileged sale of a majority stake of the plant for roughly \$82 million. Nominally, all the plant's employees have shares in the enterprise worth billions. Rumors abound that the stakes are controlled by the plant's top management, namely the plant's director, Volodymyr Boiko. The plant has a market capitalization of \$4.6 billion, according to Invest Gazeta.

Billions of dollars lost

It's not clear how many billions of dollars the state missed out on because of slipshod or corrupt privatization. Also unknown is how much better off Ukrainians would be if the sales of their nation's most valuable enterprises were conducted openly and competitively.

After Vladimir Putin came to power in Russia, he famously gathered the nation's major oligarchs in 2000 and, in a warning to stay clear of politics, lectured them about the crony privatizations that took place under Boris Yeltsin's rule.

"I only want to draw your attention straightaway to the fact that you have yourselves created this very state, to a large extent through political and quasi-political structures under your control. So perhaps what one should do least of all is blame the mirror," Putin said.

Many believe the same was true about Ukraine in the 1990s – and is even more so today.



Rinat Akhmetov and Victor Pinchuk emerged from Ukraine's opaque, shady privatizations as top billionaires. (Oleksiy Boiko and Natalya Kravchuk)

Nation's dirty laundry rarely aired, never washed from corrupt 1990s

Russia's Kommersant newspaper in 2005 reported that Ukraine's post-Orange Revolution leaders wanted to redress the unfairness of the shadowy 1990 privatizations. The plan, according to the newspaper, was for the government to renationalize and then re-sell nearly 30 companies, presumably at fairer prices. Of them, only the Kryvorizhstal steel plant – once owned by Rinat Akhmetov and Victor Pinchuk, Ukraine's two richest oligarchs – was re-sold. In an example that stands alone for its transparency and openness, Kryvorizhstal was auctioned competitively on television. The result was spectacular: The steel plant sold for \$4 billion more than the original sale price. Fierce opposition by investors and owners of other plants is cited as the reason why other re-privatizations never followed.

According to Kommersant, Ukrainian leaders wanted to reprivatize the following companies, controlled by Akhmetov, Pinchuk and other tycoons: Central Iron Ore Enrichment Plant, Northern Iron Ore Enrichment Plant, Inguletsky Iron Ore Enrichment Plant, Sukha Balka, Kryvorizhstal Iron Ore Plant, Novotroitske Ore, Dokuchayevsky Dolomitic Plant, Kryvyi Rih Ore Pit, Nikopol Ferroalloy Plant, Severodonetsk Azot, Zaporizhzhya Aluminum Plant, Mykolayiv Alumina Plant, Lukor, Rosava, Chornomorsky Shipyard, Halychyna Oil Refinery, Rivneazot, Dnipropetrovsk's Dzerzhynsky Metallurgical Plant, Nikopol Southern Pipe Company, Pure Metals, Azovmash, Kherson Shipyard, Rubizhansky Pasteboard Factory, Kherson Cotton Plant, Irshansky Iron Ore Enrichment Plant, Vilnohorskiy Iron Ore Enrichment Plant.

Army in high heels

→1 "Our (Ukrainian) girls are used to wearing short skirts," she said. "It's a part of our culture. But we are not for sale."

One method of stopping the growing trend, Hutsol suggests, is self-control. "Foreign men should simply stay out of Ukraine if they cannot restrain themselves," she said. Failing that, Hutsol thinks Femen can still make a difference.

How did this become her burning issue?

In high school, she dreamed of marrying a French man. But this dream faded with the reality that a foreign tongue does not always speak love or truth.

Later, Hutsol became attuned to the sad stories of girls duped by false promises from abroad. So she founded Femen and started the group's public theater – or protests with flair – this year.

Female university students between 18 and 20 years old form the backbone of her movement. Their exact number is hard to track because Femen has not been registered as a public organization yet. But Hutsol estimates that there are nearly one thousand of them communicating through social nets on the web.

The young women are racking their brains, trying to find the best ways to

wake up law-enforcement agencies, legislators and the public at large to the reality of the sex trade industry.

They are doing so without the luxury of an office or a budget.

They usually meet in a Soviet-style cafeteria next to Russian banyas in the center of Kyiv.

After the Turkish protest on Sept. 21, the rain drove the women into the nearest cheap pizza parlor to brainstorm their next event. Wet and happy, they tossed out ideas with the intensity of the raindrops outside.

"How about we campaign against fur?"

"In winter, we should make snowmen with anti-sex slogans and put them in front of all the embassies!"

"We should disrupt [Interior Minister Yuriy] Lutsenko's visit to the book fair and present him with our own book of sex centers in Ukraine," they said, referring to Lutsenko's recent visit to a book fair in Lviv.

They discussed whether the book should be pink and whether a girl dressed like an angel should present it to the minister. For these women, putting on a good show seems more important than having a plan for what comes next.

They are aware of their limitations.

"We are not going to become policemen or write laws for the politicians. We will shout, dance or sing about the problem and they should take action," said Viktor Svyatskiy, one of the few men in the movement.

"A woman in this country is born as a sex object," Svyatskiy said. "The mentality from the film 'Pretty Woman' prevails in our culture and I don't like it."

Femen leaders blame the economy as the ultimate cause for sidelining women and letting them slip into sexy high heels to make a living. They also blame foreigners who fail to learn that prostitution is illegal in Ukraine and arrive for sex services in large numbers.

Svyatskiy said that a couple of middle-range hotels in Kyiv regularly arrange viewings of girls from the sub-



Femen activists protested the influx of sex tourists outside the Turkish embassy on Sept. 21. The organization seeks to raise public awareness of sex tourism. (Yuriy Kryvenko)

urbs to groups of foreigners who arrive on business.

"A bus pulls in the backyard with high school girls. Turks that arrived for a textile exhibition make their choice and take them up to their rooms," Svyatskiy said, describing how the system of sex trade works in Ukraine. He says that girls usually hop on this bus to pay off a debt, to earn some cash or because they were fooled.

Together with the Institute of Political, Sociological and Marketing research, Femen polled 1,200 female

students in Kyiv. Their findings suggest that nearly 70 percent of those polled were proposed sex for money and most offers came from Turkish men.

With Euro 2012 approaching, Femen wants sex tourism defined and officially banned. Its leaders suggest imposing criminal responsibility on traveling "sexpats," the word that is used to describe expatriate tourists looking for sex.

Hutsol is adamantly opposed to legalizing prostitution in Ukraine.

"We live in a wild country. You can't do it here," she said. "More women will slip if we make it legal."

The teenagers surrounding her are nodding. They are young, naive, enthusiastic and hungry for action. But without funding and support, they are afraid they will fizzle out.

Masquerading on the streets of Kyiv keeps them going for now. But it will take more than a show from the pink brigade to shatter Ukraine's stereotype as a country of relatively cheap, readily available and no-strings-attached sex.



Anna Hutsol, leader of Femen, is taking aim at sex tourists.

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Entertainment & Culture section

September 25, 2008

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What to do in autumn



www.moskva.fm

BY OLGA KOVALENKO
KOVALENKO.OLGA@KPMEDIA.UA

Music

Autumn has arrived, and the city's cultural scene is getting busier by the week. Many of this season's events have already been confirmed, so you might as well start planning your leisure right now. Just check out our schedule for the next two months and start booking those tickets!

The Jazz In Kyiv festival will please local jazz lovers Oct. 18-19. The program includes master classes in the afternoon and evening concerts at Zhovtneviy Palats with world-class jazz musicians: New Tango Orchestra, base player and composer Dave Holland, drummer Aleks Fantaev, United Quintet, Avishai Cohen, guitarist Charlie Hunter, and holder of

seven Grammy awards, vocalist Al Jarreau.

The jazz musicians will barely have enough time to pack their stuff and leave before pop star Christina Aguilera will take the stage to sing for Kyivans on Oct. 21. With her outstanding voice and three albums already under her belt, as well as duos with opera singer Andrea Bocelli, jazz keyboard player Herbie

Hancock and rock star Mick Jagger, Christina clearly stands out among fellow female pop singers. Her live performances are praised for professionalism, they are magnificent and glamorous, and – best of all – you can check it out for yourself at Palats Ukraina, if you're willing to pay Hr 250 to Hr 9,500. But hurry – the cheapest tickets are, of course, the first ones to go. →4

→ "Music is the soundtrack of our lives." This saying is especially true for those of us who never go anywhere without an iPod and fill our computers with mp3s till there is no space left on the hard drive. Unfortunately, there are plenty of places in the city where you may be forced to listen to the wrong tune.

Among them are marshrutkas, and taxis, drivers of which play stupid pop radio or even worse CDs. Some taxi drivers have a "no-music" policy, but not all.

At parties or presentations, you can be ready for almost anything. But to me, the music factor is most important at restaurants, bars and cafes. Naturally, you don't sit there with your headphones. You go there to relax, have a tasty meal and drinks, along with a pleasant conversation. And all you need is a decent soundtrack playing in the background. Unfortunately it's not always the case. I agree that it's quite impossible to find music that would be admired by everybody. But hardly anyone will be seriously bothered by instrumental versions of, let's say, hits by Louis Armstrong or Frank Sinatra, or tunes from legendary movies. On the other hand, if you take Verka Serdyuchka, for example – some may like it, others would be annoyed. There could be different options, of course, but it doesn't include radio. Of course, if you're going to a lounge bar, jazz restaurant, or Ukrainian-themed eatery, you know what kind of music to expect. Still, even in this case, you can be unpleasantly surprised.

When you go to restaurants in places like Hydropark or Trukhaniv Island, you're sure to hear Russian shanson and other kinds of bad pop music. The last time I sat in an eatery at Trukhaniv, my friends made use of the jukebox standing there and played their own soundtrack of songs by Metallica, Marilyn Manson and Radiohead. The guys at the next table looked obviously upset at hearing the roaring vocals and heavy guitar riffs. But, hey, we didn't put that jukebox there.



Kraftwerk in Kyiv

World electronic music icons from Germany, Kraftwerk, is coming to play at the open air stage in Arena City on Sept. 27. The gig will open an exhibition at PinchukArtCentre called "Rhine on the Dnipro," collected by Julia Stoschek and Andreas Gursky. Kraftwerk is visiting Kyiv as part of a tour that also includes Poland and Ireland. However, only the lucky few who managed to obtain special invitations will be admitted to the Kyiv show.

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

Contact Guide Editor
Alexandra Matoshko at
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Jazz & Step Show

For the first time in Ukraine, world tap dance stars will come together for an exclusive show. Be ready to get energized with positive emotions. Tap – a “dance which you can hear” – will be performed by legendary American dancer Sam Weber, ballet master of jazz-tap band JTA. “The New York Times” called him “the equivalent of a virtuoso pianist.” On stage, he will be joined by a magnificent dancer, one of the best tap performers, Terry Brock from the United States. Soviet (and now Russian) legend of step, Vladimir Kirsanov and profes-

sor of the Russian Academy of Theatrical Art, will also demonstrate his skills. He choreographed hit Russian movies “Winter Night in Gagry” and “We Are From Jazz.” Another star performing is Konstantin Nevretdinov of Russia, who is the only performer of “tap on hands” in the world. Nevretdinov is the head of the Russian School of American Tap and president of the Moscow Tap Federation. Dancers will be accompanied by Ukrainian pianist, brilliant jazz performer and improviser Serhiy Horyunovych.

Tap dance is derived from the traditional clog dance of northern England, the jigs and reels of Ireland and Scotland, and possibly the rhythmic foot stamping of African dances. It was developed during the 19th century in the United States, where different cultures mixed together, and is presently popular in many parts of the world. The name comes from the tapping sound made when the small metal plates on the dancer’s shoes touch a hard surface. This lively, rhythmic tapping makes the performer not just a dancer, but also a percussionist.

KYIV ACADEMIC OPERETTA THEATER
53/3 Chervonoarmijska, 287-2630.
Sept. 27, 6 p.m.
Tickets Hr 200 to Hr 550.



New German Cinema festival

In the previous issue of the Kyiv Post, we wrote about the opening film of the “New German Cinema” festival, supported by Afisha magazine. Another significant movie not to be missed is the German-Turkish drama “Auf der Anderen Seite” (literal translation – “On the Other Side,” official English title – “The Edge of Heaven”), an award winner at the Cannes Film Festival for best screenplay and winner of four Golden Oranges at the Antalya Golden Orange Film Festival in 2007. The director of the film, Fatih Akin, who also made “In July” and “Head On,” is called “the Turkish hope of German cinema.” Akin was born in 1973 in Hamburg of Turkish parentage.

His movie has multiple story lines. Nejat seems to disapprove his widower father Ali’s choice of prostitute Yeter as a live-in girlfriend. But he grows fond of her when he discovers she sends money home to Turkey for her daughter’s university studies. Yeter’s sudden death distances father and son. Nejat travels to Istanbul to search for Yeter’s daughter Ayten, while political activist Ayten has fled the Turkish police and is already in Germany. She is befriended by a young woman, Lotte, who invites Ayten to stay in her home.

Other films showing at the festival include the historic drama “Strajk – Die Heldin von Danzig” (“Strike”) by world classic Volker Schlöndorff; Canne’s prize-winning scandalous movie about the love of old people – “Wolke 9” (“Cloud 9”) – by famous director Andreas Dresen; “Absurdistan,” an oriental fairy tale based on real facts by Veit Helmer; and comedy “Frei nach Plan” (“According to the Plan”) by debutant Franziska Meletzky.

The list of documentary films features a story of teenagers growing up, “Prinzessinnenbad” (“Pool for Princesses”), by Bettina Blumner; “Full Metal Village” about one of the biggest rock festivals; and a story about the band-master Otmar Suitner “Nach der Musik” (“A Father’s Music”), shot by his son Igor Heitzmann.

KYIV
19 Chervonoarmijska, 234-7381, 234-3380.
Sept. 26 till Oct. 1.
Tickets Hr 20.

See more info on www.kievkino.com.ua. Win tickets at <http://kiev.afisha.ua/quiz>.

Sculptures by Oleksandr Dyachenko

Have you seen the monument to Princess Olga on Mykhaylivska Square in Kyiv or the monument to the famous Ukrainian heart surgeon Mykola Amosov at Baykove Cemetery? Oleksandr Dyachenko participated in the restoration of the former and was the co-author of the latter. In Lviv he created the sculptural composition “Return of the Prodigal Son.” Unlike other recognized sculptors who merely manage brigades of workers, the 50-year-old artist does all the work by himself, spending days and nights next to his sculpture.

Art critics often compare Dyachenko with Paul Cezanne. He wears a beard as did the French painter and also uses pure shapes – cubes, spheres and cylinders. Dyachenko’s sculptures are exquisite and perfect, with flexible lines. They appear monolithic, as if they were created to last an eternity. Michelangelo once said that “good sculpture is the kind that can’t be broken even if thrown off a hill.” Dyachenko’s sculptures can’t be broken, affirms critic Olexiy Tytarenko. And one more interesting detail: Dyachenko’s works oddly resemble archaic idols left by nomads in the Ukrainian steppe. This authentic great-Ukrainian shape has revived in the works of the modern artist.

TRYPTYKH
34 Andriyivskiy Uzviz, 279-0759, 279-8385.
Through Oct. 1.



(Courtesy photo)



(denisclear.livejournal.com)

Propala Hramota & Inkunabula

Two ethno rock underground bands Propala Hramota from Kamyanets-Podilskiy and Inkunabula from Lviv have launched a joint project called “Audio Book.” The title of the concert refers to the band’s names. “Inkunabula” means an ancient printed edition and “hramota” is a document written by hand. Both bands belong to those very rare representatives of folk guitar music where lyrics have determinative value. The musicians came together and created an audio chronicle which combines great poetry with hard guitar riffs. Propala Hramota was formed in 1998 and works in an original genre, which combines folk, funk, rock, hop, and afro beats and is called by musicians

Podil fundamental. “We have as much folk as a modern city dweller can bear. And we have real native roots, not stolen ones,” Pavlo Nechytaylo, Propala Hramota leader remarked. Incunabula plays hard ethno alternative music. Since the band was founded in 2004, it has released one, but very successful, album – “Nevydane” (“Unreleased”).

KHMILNA BOCHKA
3B-1 Khmelnytskoho
Sept. 28, 9 p.m.
Tickets Hr 40.

movie in English

“Journey to the Center of the Earth”

“Journey to the Center of the Earth” presents yet another version of Jules Verne’s classic tale, but this one is definitely worth watching, since it’s made in 3D format. The first “Journey to the Center of the Earth” was shot in 1959. In the 1960s and 1970s, a TV series with the same title was shown, and in 1999 and 2001, two TV movies were released.

The latest version of the novel is a family adventure and fantasy thriller. It was made by master of visual and special effects Eric Brevig, who has already worked in almost 30 films. “Journey to the Center of the Earth” is his second director’s work after the famous TV-series “Xena: Warrior Princess” (1995).

A science professor, Trevor Anderson (Brendan Fraser), has completely tarnished his reputation with his radical theories. While backpacking across Iceland with his nephew Sean, he finds a cave that leads the two of them deep down into the bowels of the planet. As they go on a quest to find out what has happened to Anderson’s missing brother, the scientist, his nephew and their mountain guide discover a fantastic and dangerous lost world in the center of the Earth – a bizarre landscape filled with terrifying creatures.



(outnowch)

BUTTERFLY ULTRAMARIN
1 Urytskoho, 206-0370, 206-0350.
See Movies for more information.

Classical Music/Theater

THE NATIONAL OPERA OF UKRAINE
50 Volodymyrska, 279-1169
Fri 26 Madam Butterfly (Cio-Cio-San) by G.Puccini. Opera (in Italian).
Sat 27 Sleeping Beauty by P.Tchaikovsky. Ballet.
Sun 28 La Gioconda by A.Ponchielli. Opera (in Italian).
Tue 30 Le Nozze Di Figaro by W.A.Mozart. Ballet.
Matinee performances begin at 12 a.m.
Evening performances begin at 7 p.m.

NATIONAL PHILHARMONIC
2 Volodymyrsky Uzviz, 278-1697
Sept. 24-26 International Festival "Virtuosos of the Planet 2008"
Wed 24 Works of Beethoven, Tomaci. Symphonic Orchestra of the National Philharmonic of Ukraine. Soloists: Oleksiy Horlach (piano), Fabrice Millischer (trombone) France, Francisco Alberto Flores (trumpet) Venezuela.
Thu 25 Works of Hindemith, Elgar. National Academic Symphonic Orchestra of Ukraine. Soloists: Giun Murakani (viola) Japan, Sergey Antonov (cello) Russia.
Fri 26 Works of Zabel, Poulenc,

Shostakovitch. Symphonic Orchestra of the National Philharmonic of Ukraine. Soloists: Emmanuel Seysson (harp) France, Petr Czech (organ) Czech Republic, Fanny Clamagirand (violin) France.
Sept. 27-Oct. 4 International Festival "Kiev Music Fest"
Concerts begin at 7 p.m.

HOUSE OF ORGAN AND CHAMBER MUSIC
77 Chervonoarmiyska, 268-3186
Thu 25 Evening of Ukrainian Organ and Chamber Music. Works of Kolessa, Scorick, Kikta, Nazarov, Yanchenko. Soloists: Natalia Grebenchuk (soprano), Tetyana Voytek (piano), Iryna Kalinovska (organ).
Fri 26 Works of Debussy, Guillemant, Ravel, Poulenc. Ravisan Chamber Ensemble. Soloists: Victor Tymets (clarinet), Iryna Kharchenko (organ).
Sat 27 Works of Caccini, Stradella, A.Scarlatti, Bach, Pergolesi, Schubert, Bellini, Mendelssohn, Frank. Soloists: Olga Basystyuk (soprano), Hanna Bubnova (organ).
Tue 30 Concert - State Examination. Works of Guillemant, Gigout, Vidor, Mullier. Concerts begin at 7:30 p.m.



Movies



GO-GO TALES
Comedy/ Drama, Italy/USA (2007)
Directed by Abel Ferrara
Starring Willem Dafoe, Asia Argento and Bob Hoskins
Language: English
Director Abel Ferrara invites you to the crazy world of a go-go dancing club in the comedy "Go-Go Tales." Paradise cabaret, a factory of dreams for young dancers, faces imminent closure because the landlady wants to kick them out and the dancing girls threaten to strike.

CALIFORNIA DREAMIN'
Comedy/ Drama, Romania (2007)
Directed by Cristian Nemescu
Starring Armand Assante, Jamie Elman and Maria Dinulescu
Language: Romanian, English
The interest in this dark comedy rose when the film director and director of photography died in a

car crash at the end of filming. The story revolves around a troupe of American soldiers crossing the Romanian border and the attitude of locals towards them.

TATT AV KVINNEN ("GONE WITH THE WOMAN")
Comedy/ Drama/ Romance, Norway (2007)
Directed by Petter Naess
Starring Trond Fausa Aurvaag and Marian Saastad Ottesen
Language: Norwegian
Lethargic bachelor 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, redhaired Marianne suddenly begins showing up in his flat, soon moves in and starts running his life - a process that makes him fall hopelessly in love with her.

12:08 EAST OF BUCHAREST
Comedy/ Drama, Romania (2006)
Directed by Corneliu Porumboiu
Starring Mircea Andreescu, Teodor Corban and Ion Sapdaru
Language: Romanian
On Christmas Eve, a retired man, a school teacher and the owner of a local television station look back at the revolution that happened 16 years ago and reevaluate their experience.

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 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 First World War breaks out, 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
A journalist (Vinnie Jones) investigates a series of murders that follows the discovery of an unpublished novel by Charles Dickens in the cellar of an old Thames-side pub (www.imdb.com).

Advertisement for the Manhattan Short Film Festival, listing various films and showtimes at different venues like KYIV and ZHOVTEN.

Live Music

The C-Men

The C-Men is Kyiv's new punk rock band comprised of Mick Lake (Death Valley Screammers), Blair Sheridan and Irina Nalivaiko - both of Speeding Lisa and Dave Lee (formerly, The Ukrainians). Ukraine has a lot of great bands, but none of them seem to be playing classic punk, so The C-Men have decided to try and correct this mistake. At their upcoming gig, musicians will play The Ramones, The Sex Pistols, The Clash, Iggy Pop, as well as a bunch of pop classics such as ABBA in punk arrangements.
O'Brien's (17A Mykhaylivska, 279-1584). Sept. 27, 9:30 p.m. Free admission.



ART CLUB 44
44 Khreshchatyk, 279-4137
Thu 25 Natural Studio
Fri 26 Dymna Sumish
Sat 27 Sergei Dotsenko
Sun 28 Bluse Band (Jam)
Mon 29 Silvery Tone
Tue 30 Top Orchestra
BOCHKA PYVNA
17/1 Moskovsky, 461-8788
Thu 25 Wild Peoplez
Fri 26 Red Rocks
Sat 27 Tres Deseos

Sun 28 Eat Me Tiger
Tue 30 Level City
BOCHKA KHMILNA
3B-1 Khmelnytskoho, 390-6106
Thu 25 Kuka & Band, Tres Deseos
Fri 26 Mr. Och & his Root Boys, Chill Out
Sat 27 Korolivski Zaitsi, Red Rocks, Foxtrot Music Band
Sun 28 Propala Hramota, Bells
Mon 29 Bremstoker, Saharova & Band
Tue 30 Jazz in city

DOCKER PUB
25 Bohatyrska, 451-8528
Thu 25 TIK, Chill Out
Fri 26 Mad heads XL, Vostochny Express
Sat 27 Nicky Rubin, Mr. Och & his Root Boys
Sun 28 Nochnoi Kvartal
Mon 29 Merry Weather Hunters
Tue 30 Tres Deseos
DOCKER'S ABC
15 Khreshchatyk, 278-1717

Thu 25 Magma
Fri 26 Foxtrot Music Band, Mr. Och & his Root Boys
Sat 27 Second Breath, Tex-Mex
Sun 28 Vostochny Express
Mon 29 Animals Session
Tue 30 More Huana
PORTER PUB
10 Rybalko, 483-7150
Thu 25 Vytivky
Fri 26 Zeleniy Svet
Sat 27 Tex-Mex

Disco

COMMIX

The 24th Drum'n'bass session will gather eight of the best Ukrainian deejays and ShiftED Veejay-CREW. The headliner of the party will be a British duo from Cambridge, COMMIX. The two members of the group, Guy Brewer and George Leving, have been creating music under this nickname for six years. Their track "Satellite Song" gained the status of "the anthem of dance floors." Legendary label Metalheadz chose the hit for its releases "Winter Of Content" and "Drum & Bass Arena: The Classics" in 2005. Two years later Metalheadz released COMMIX's debut album "Call To Mind."
Cinema club (1 Entusiastiv, 295-5854). Sept. 26, 10 p.m. till 6 a.m.



ARENA DANCE CLUB
2A Baseyna, 492-0000
Thu 25 Show Monro, DJs Rocket, D-Jane Milan
Fri 26 DJs Romantic, Indigo
Sat 27 Comedy Club UA, DJs Anastasia, Bro
Sun 28 PJ Battle, DJs Rocket, Lady Kate
BARSKY
5 Chervonoarmiyska, 496-0606

Thu 25 KIMO party: DJ Key
Fri 26 Dance Euphoria: DJs Alfred, Bro
Sat 27 Supafly, DJ Eva
SHOOTERS
22 Moskovska, 254-2024
Thu 25 Strip day: DJ Vova Black's, MC Sapko
Fri 26 Beermania: DJs Alex Small, Badrove, MC Jumper
Sat 27 DJs Roma Rio, Jumper,

MC Burn
Sun 28 Ukrainian Urozhai party: DJ Roma Rio, MC Jumper
AZHUR
3 Leontovycha, 234-7494
Thu 25 R"N"B Gold party: DJ Vel & friends
Fri 26 Disco 80s party: Skriabin, dance-show Azhur, erotic show X-Zone
Sat 27 Mafia Night: Al Capone

Sun 28 Back to USSR party: DJ Vel & friends, show-ballet Azhur
TSAR PROJECT
1V Hrushevskoho, 278-6246
Fri 26 SCSI-9 live feat Katya Ryba, DJ Gerbut
Sat 27 DJ Bumer, Andrei Dzhdzhula show, PJ Viktoria, show-ballet Tsar Project Ladies

Galleries&Exhibitions

"Paris, I Love You."

The only gallery of custom-made dolls in Ukraine presents the works of its best puppet-makers. As the new exhibition is devoted to Paris, curators of the gallery asked the artists to create works depicting their own associations with French capital. Puppet-master Lesia Korol made a doll of Madame de Pompadour, a well-known courtesan and the famous mistress of King Louis XV of France. She was also the patron of arts and helped Denis Diderot print his encyclopedia. Svitlana Amosova created a doll of modern French singer and actress Mylene Farmer. Landscapes of different places in France by painter Eduard Belskiy perfectly match the exhibition.
Parsuna (43 Khoryva, 425-2415). Through Oct. 9.



CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY ART NAUKMA
2 Skovorody, 425-7778
Daily except Mon. 1 p.m. - 6 p.m.
The alternative culture of things. German designers. Through September 30
THE NATIONAL ART MUSEUM OF UKRAINE
6 Grushevskoho, 278-7454
Oleg Minko. Paintings. Wed-Thu 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Fri noon - 8 p.m., Sat 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Exhibition "From Venice to Dresden." Graphic arts of Baroque. Dresden cabinet of engravings. Through Sept. 19 - Oct. 19

KIEV FINE ART
12 Velyka Zhytomyrska, 279-3960, 278-1359
Daily except Mon. 1 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Defragmentation. Alexey Romanenko. Through Oct. 1.
YA GALLERY
55/57 Voloshka, 537-3351
Daily 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Clay. Alexander Sukholit. Archeology of Modern Sculptures. Through Sept. 22
SOVIART
22A Andrivsky Uzviz, 425-2219
Daily except Mon. 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Exhibition of nominees and par-

ticipants of the competition organized by the Embassy of Spain in Ukraine. Through Sept. 25
DA VINCI
5 Chervonoarmiyska, Arena-Class, 1st floor, 499-1376
Daily from 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Summer, Sea, Nu. Alina Maksimenko. Paintings. Through Oct. 4-23
PARSUNA
43 Khoryva, 425-2415
Mon-Fri 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sat 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Exhibition "Paris, je t'aime" E. Belskiy - paintings. Ten best doll-makers of Ukraine. Through Sept. 20

KOLO ZASPY
Koncha Zaspas, Damba, 1km, 520-8020
Tue-Sun noon - 8 p.m.
Fedir Zakharov. Paintings. Through Sept. 20
PINCHUKARTCENTRE
1-3/2 Basseyna, 590-0858
Tue-Sun Noon - 9 p.m.
Reign on the Dnipro: the Photography by Andreas Gursky. Through Sept. 28 - Oct 2.
ART CAPITAL AUCTION HOUSE
30 Borychiv Tik, 361-2905
Ukrainian artists of the 1950-80s from private collections. Paintings. Through Oct. 2

Where to go this fall

→1 Rock veteran Nazareth, whose members used to give smashing shows in the days of their youth, will play in Kyiv once again on Oct. 10. This time the group is visiting Ukraine as a part of their jubilee world tour to commemorate twenty years of their stage career. Five days later they will be followed by another hard-rock legend, Deep Purple. The latter will perform in Palats Sportu and then move further into the country to Odesa, Cherkasy and Dnipropetrovsk.

On Nov. 24 the German band Haggard will demonstrate their craft of combining classic, folk, renaissance, medieval and rock music into a style called "symphonic metal" at the Center for Culture and Arts of the National Aviation University. Haggard, in fact, started out as a death metal band in 1991, but altered its style after the first release. In Kyiv, the band will promote their fourth studio album with a Viking name "Tales of Ithiria."

The city's clubbers won't have to be bored either. On Oct. 11 Xlib Club is going to host deejay Tim Sweeney, author and creator of the New York radio program "Beats in Space," who is also an official deejay of the independent record label DFA Records. So, prepare for a hot disco-rock night.

Zhovtneviy Palats

1 Instytutska, 279-1582

Palats Ukraina

103 Chervonoarmiyiska, 268-9250

Center for Culture and Art of the National Aviation University

1 Kosmonavta Komarova, 425-1716

Xlib Club

12 Frunze

Dim Kultury KPI

37 Peremohy, 454-9203

Palats Sportu

1 Sportyvna, 246-7253

Movies

The biggest event on the Kyiv movie scene will be Molodist (Youth), an international annual film festival that has been around for 38 years. It starts on Oct. 18. It specializes in young directors' movies, but also spoils movie lovers with wonderful retrospectives and art-house hits. So film buffs won't have a minute to sleep for a whole week – films usually run non-stop in several cinemas from dawn till dusk and sometimes even at night.

The festival has competitive and non-competitive programs. This year the competition program includes student works, shorts and features from around the world. This year, the list of young directors presenting their work includes Vitaly Potrukh with his short "Zakon" ("Law"), Dmytro Sukholytsky-Sobchuk and Maryna Vroda with their student works "Otrstvo" ("Teenage") and "Doshch" ("Rain"), and Ihor Podolchak with a feature "Las Meninas."

The non-competition program includes "The Night of Short Movies," a retrospective made up of German, British, French and Italian short movies; and the "Molodist Against Totalitarianism" anthology, which is basically Ukrainian movies shot between 2007-2008, Polish films from Andrzej Wajda's school, and retrospectives of movies with Alain Delon and Joanna Moro. You can also see films by Andre Delvaux, the Serbian "New Wave," the New French Cinema, the "Oriental Express" program of Asian movies, a wide animation anthology, and documentaries on the Holodomor.

The most popular part of the program is called "The Festival of Festivals," showing the winners and nominees of world-famous film festivals. This year the program includes "Nightwatching" directed by Peter Greenaway, "Bumazhny Soldat" ("Paper



Agent 007 (Daniel Craig) is back to drinking his martinis, seducing women and fighting villains in the newest Bond movie "Quantum of Solace." (outnow.ch)

Soldier") by Aleksei German Jr., "The Palermo Shooting" by Wim Wenders, "Zhivi i Pomni" ("Live and Remember") by Aleksandr Proshkin, "O'Horten" by Bent Hamer, "Three Monkeys" by Nuri Bilge Ceylan, and "Lorna's Silence" by Luc and Jean-Pierre Dardenne.

Fortunately the ticket policy of Molodist has changed in the last two

years and now it is possible to attend all events by simply buying a ticket. For years, you needed special invitations to attend certain screenings.

In case you miss one of the movies you wanted to see, you will be able to catch it throughout the year – they are rotated in cinemas throughout the year until the next Molodist arrives.

Naturally, there are non-festival movies to expect this fall. Probably the most anticipated premiere is "Quantum of Solace," a new James Bond movie, scheduled to start on Nov. 6. Its main

star is Daniel Craig, dubbed "The Blond Bond". But it's not him that makes the film especially welcome in Ukraine. It's the new Bond Babe – Camille – played by Ukrainian actress and model Olga Kurylenko. She was also the one who dubbed Camille in Ukrainian.

Also look out for a new film by Joel and Ethan Coens "Burn After Reading," with a whole constellation of stars: George Clooney, Brad Pitt, and John Malkovich among others.

Theater

Theater aficionados and ballet lovers should get ready for mega-excitement, since their schedules will be stuffed. For a start, Katerina Tomas, the leading dancer of the Spanish Konotop Witch", scheduled to premier on the last days of September in the Kyiv Academic Youth Theater. "Richard the Third" is a Shakespeare play staged in the traditional style by young theater director Andriy Bilous. "The Witch" is a mixture of musical and burlesque performances by Mykola Yaremkyv and claims to be a witty composition of humor and mysticism.

in one general performance with an appropriate name, "For 4."

If you were to choose a play, make sure you visit the touring Roman Viktyuk Theater. It's going to show two plays – "Sluzhanki" ("The Maids") based on the play by Jean Genet and scheduled for show on Sept. 30 (Zhovtneviy Palats), and "Sestry" ("Sisters") based on the letters of Fyodor Dostoevsky's wife and excerpts from his novels. The latter is actually going to be a benefit performance by the actress Ekaterina Vasilieva and will take place on Oct. 21 in Tsentralniy Dim Ofitseriv.

If you want to see a premiere show in one of Kyiv's theatres, go for "Richard the Third" that will be on at the Left Bank Drama Theater in November, or "Konotopka Vidma" ("Konotop Witch"), scheduled to premier on the last days of September in the Kyiv Academic Youth Theater. "Richard the Third" is a Shakespeare play staged in the traditional style by young theater director Andriy Bilous. "The Witch" is a mixture of musical and burlesque performances by Mykola Yaremkyv and claims to be a witty composition of humor and mysticism.

National Opera and Ballet Theater

50 Volodymyrska, 234-7165

Tsentralniy Dim Ofitseriv

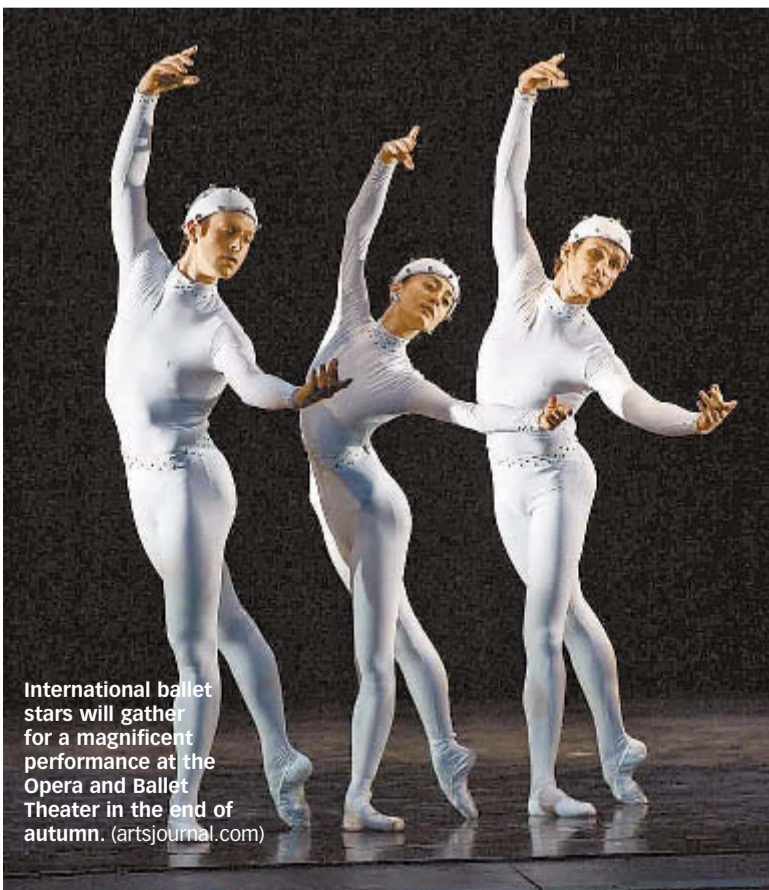
30/1 Hrushevskoho, 253-8072

Left Bank Drama and Comedy Theater

25 Brovarsky, 517-8980

Kyiv Academic Youth Theater

17 Prorizna, 224-6251



International ballet stars will gather for a magnificent performance at the Opera and Ballet Theater in the end of autumn. (artsjournal.com)

Kyiv

19 Chervonoarmiyiska, 234-3380

Zhovten

26 Konstantynivska, 417-3004

Kyivska Rus

93 Artema, 461-8061

Kinopanorama

19 Shota Rustaveli, 287-1135

Ukraina

5 Horodetskoho, 251-2199

Komod

4 Lunacharskoho, 593-3577

Cinema House

5 Saksahanskoho, 227-0438

Kyiv-Mohyla Academy

27 Naberezhno-Khreshchatytska, room 13

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First IMAX 3D theater opens at the new Blockbuster complex

BY MARIA LEONTIEVA
LEONTIEVA@KPMEDIA.UA

New entertainment and shopping center Blockbuster opened Sept. 20, bringing brand new entertainment to Kyiv and all of Ukraine – IMAX 3D theater. Three decades later than Americans and five years later than Russians, we can now fully assess the technology, which has generated the term “effect of presence.”

Imagine the difference between watching a film at home on video and the same film at a 35mm cinema. The film might be the same, but the experience couldn't be more different. The contrast between traditional cinema and the giant IMAX screen is even bigger. A standard IMAX screen is 22 meters wide and 16.1 meters high. The height of such a screen can be easily compared to a seven-story building. It is specifically designed to “include” a human's peripheral eyesight and, at the same time, big enough to demonstrate a whale in its real-life size. If you project a standard format film onto such a screen, you'd get a granular picture with grains the size of apples. Therefore IMAX dramatically increases the resolution of the image by using film stock with a resolution comparable to about 70 megapixels – the resolution eight times bigger than that of 2D cinema systems. The increased resolution allows the audience to be “much closer” to the screen.

The IMAX system has its roots in 1967, when a small group of Canadian filmmakers decided to design a new system using a single, powerful projector rather than the massive multiple projectors commonly in use at that time. Thus the IMAX motion picture projection system which would revolutionize giant screen cinema was created and presented in Osaka, Japan in 1970. Now there are about 300 IMAX theaters in almost 38 countries, 60 percent of these located in Canada and the U.S., seven in Poland and three in Russia.

Now many Hollywood films, including the two “Matrix” sequels, fifth

“Harry Potter” and the animated movie “The Polar Express” have been pre-mastered for IMAX in 3D. But the first ever action film that has been partially shot using IMAX cameras is Batman's sequel “The Dark Knight” which features six scenes, including Joker/Heath Ledger's monologue (total – 30 minutes) shot using IMAX technology. Now IMAX is extremely popular around the world because of 3D movies. To create an illusion of three-dimensional vision, the IMAX uses two camera lenses to represent the left and right eye

→ **IMAX system has its roots in 1967**

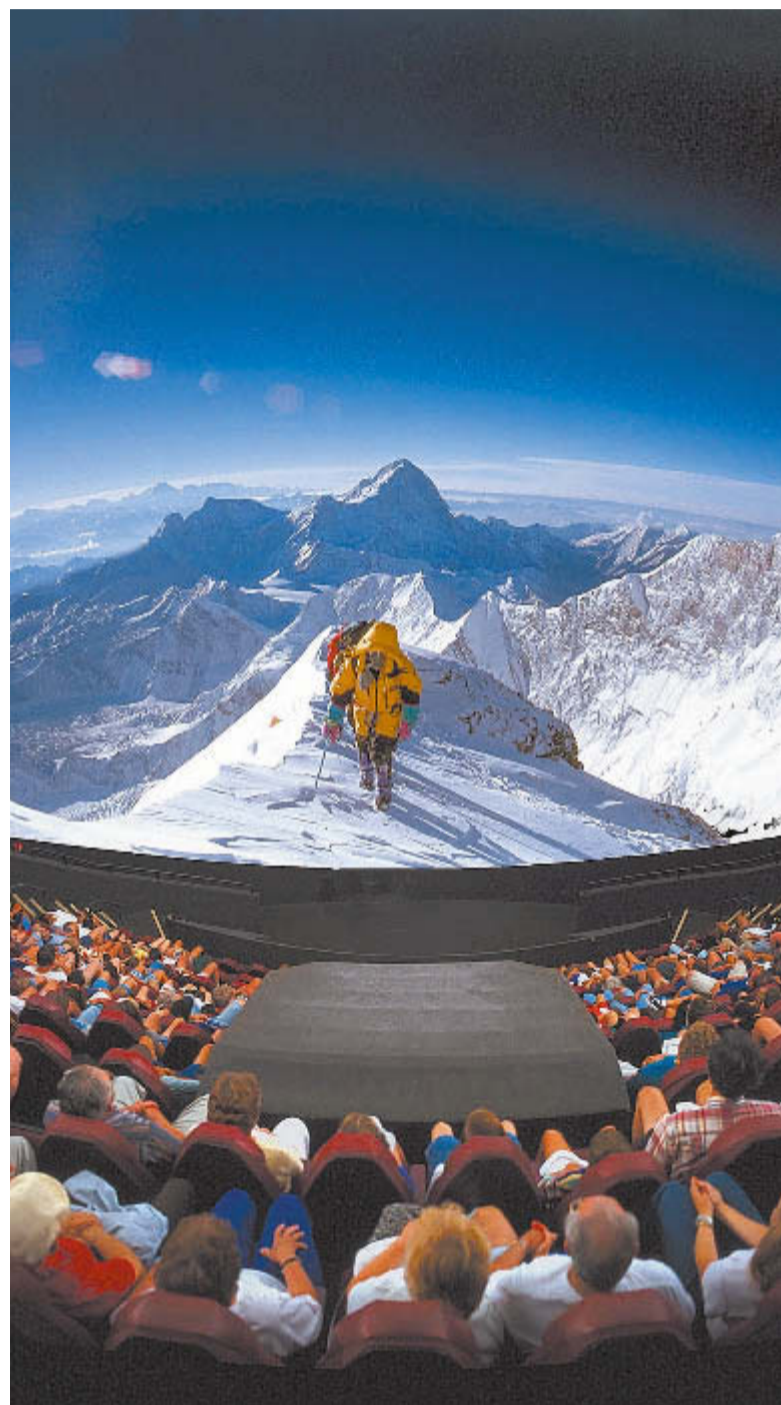
and projecting them simultaneously for seeing a 3D image on a 2D screen. To see a 3D image, you need to wear polarizing glasses, handed out to every viewer upon entrance to the cinema hall. IMAX is indeed an unforgettable experience, drawing pictures so real you want to touch them and so powerful you can almost feel them.

The first IMAX cinema with the biggest screen in Ukraine is part of the 12-hall multiplex cinema at the new Blockbuster shopping center on Moskovsky Prospect. For watching 2D format films, their hall can seat 326 spectators and, for 3D movies, this number is reduced to 278 because the first two rows are too close to the screen and it's impossible to perceive 3D images from such a distance. At the opening of the shopping center Blockbuster, Multiplex IMAX cinema broadcasted 3D trailers free to all guests, giving them the chance to experience the difference between the regular screen and 3D movies. Currently Multiplex cinema is showing films in the standard 2D format but soon they will start displaying three documen-

tary films “Deep Sea 3D” – the first film from their oceanic series, “Space Station 3D” – the first IMAX film ever filmed in space in co-operation with NASA and “U2 3D” – the first live-action 3D concert movie of Irish rock band U2, shot exclusively with both 3D and digital cinema technology during their “Vertigo Tour” in 2006. The quality of sound is even more important than the screen size. That's why the cinema is equipped with a six-channel sound system.

Among the films to be shown during the year (a new one will come out every month) are: “African Adventure: Okavango 3D,” “Dinosaurs 3D: Giants of Patagonia,” and award-winning film from National Geographic “Lions 3D.” The average price of the ticket for IMAX cinema might be 30 to 40 percent higher, but the organizers assure it won't go over Hr 50.

Apart from Multiplex movie theater, Blockbuster offers child and adult entertainment activities for every taste. Among them are: one of the biggest rollerdroms in the city, bowling, rock-climbing walls, fitness club, entertainment complexes Q-zar and TransForce, various modern game machines and computer club, as well as a rope city Sky Quest – to help inject some extra adrenaline in your blood. Between entertainments and action games you can take a bite at the one of the cafes and restaurants such as Coffee House, Double Coffee, Sushiya or Yapona Khata and of course there are numerous cinema cafes-bars with sandwiches and popcorn. Blockbuster's parking lot contains 1,100 parking places, plus adjoining hypermarkets Metro and Foxmart, offer 1,600 more places. To get to the complex, you can take free marshrutkas, going from Petrivka and Obolon metro stations to Blockbuster.



Kyivans should get ready for totally new cinematic experiences at the newly-opened IMAX theater. (imax-6_stiinta-it.net)

Multiplex cinema
Shopping center Blockbuster,
34V Moskovsky Prospect,
498-4832/33

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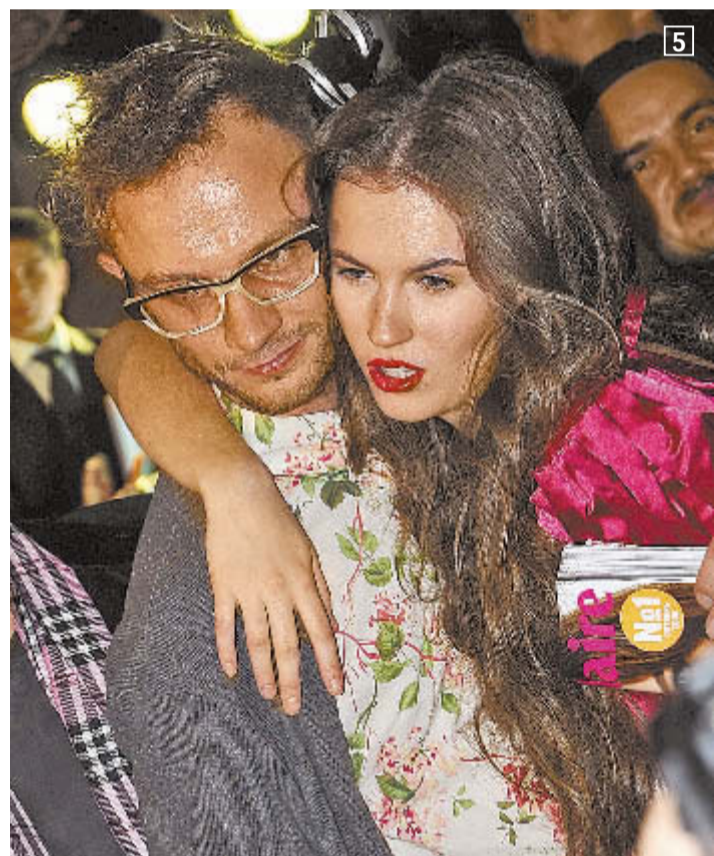
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** Приходьте за адресою вул. Саксаганського, 112



→ The launch of the Ukrainian edition of world-famous French women's magazine *Marie Claire* was celebrated at Monaco restaurant on Sept. 18. Musician Oleh Skrypka (1, left) shared a secret with publisher Walid Arfouch (1, right), TV host Masha Yefrosinina (2) flipped through the first issue of Ukrainian *Marie Claire*, and French singer Kelly Joyce (3) performed for the guests (4, 5). (Alina Rudya)

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Copenhagen	fr. 240	Helsinki	fr. 278
Oslo	fr. 226	Amsterdam	fr. 246
Stockholm	fr. 222	Düsseldorf	fr. 270
Gothenburg	fr. 226	Milan	fr. 280



Copenhagen Stockholm Oslo Helsinki Brussels Athens Dubai Beijing

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER



EBS company celebrated its 10th anniversary at Murakami restaurant on Sept. 18. Among the guests were plenty of chief financial officers – Steve Ringeling of IBM (1), Oleg Laska and deputy Olga Malyuk of Dragon Asset Management (2), Nataly Chaus of Horizon Capital (3, left) and Andrius Nemickas (3, right). Lev Partskhaladse, head of board of directors at XXI century company (4), Helen Volska, managing partner and director at EBS (5, left) and general manager at Microsoft Eric Franke (5, right) also joined. (Yaroslav Debelyi and courtesy photo)

Esthetic Education band members (6) took part in the project “Ukrainian Stars for Children with Down Syndrome” organized by the all-Ukrainian charitable organization Down Syndrome and the Victor Marushchenko School of Photography. The musicians held a photo session with Serhij Nesmashniy, a 7-year-old boy suffering from Down Syndrome on Sept. 9. (Oleksiy Boyko)

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The new LaLe combines Carte Blanche's high end service with some Eastern offerings. (Yaroslav Debelyi)

LaLe

14 Sofiyivska, 278-7566
Open noon till 11 p.m.
English menu: Yes
English-speaking staff: Some
Average meal: Hr 200

so I had no choice but Chenin Blanc from Argentina for Hr 57. Meanwhile, Andriy served us a complimentary olive "tapinad," a smashed olive dip with herbs, crusty bread sticks and a warm airy lavash. The soup and the salad, both very light, left just enough space for the main course.

You would struggle with the menu if looking for a Turkish dish specifically. I would recommend stretching your boundaries and remembering that the Ottoman Empire was at the center of interactions between the East and West for six centuries, hence the diversity of cuisine. We opted for a salmon on a bed of cuscus under a creamy sauce for Hr 69 and seafood in garlic dressing for Hr 229.

Having tried fish in Australia and shrimp in Mexico before, I rarely order them in Kyiv. Fish lovers would probably agree with me that Ukrainian chefs often make everything in their power, it seems, to spoil its natural taste with batter, too much oil and complex mayonnaise dressings. LaLe seemed to get it right – the less sauce, the better. The seafood was also served in a proper cast iron dish.

If you feel meaty, the restaurant offers stewed veal on a bed of cous-cous, Turkish Lulya kebab (roast minced lamb or chicken) and pilaf rice with various kinds of meat. Since this venue has a Turkish twist, there is no pork on the menu.

The restaurant floor is one long room with an open kitchen at one end and a lounge area with five imperial chairs in a circle at another. A simple layout, however, is compensated by the decor of lavish chandeliers, gilded mirrors and Turkish murals. I still found it not elegant enough to qualify for an evening eatery. With tables pulled close to each other and an open space plan, the restaurant appeals as a lunch place. Conveniently sitting on the corner of Sofiyivska street and Mykhaylivskiy lane, it has a potential to turn into an upscale cafe for business people working in the area. There are no business lunches on offer yet but I hope it is only a matter of time.

LaLe, which means a tulip in Turkish and is considered a symbol of Turkey, has reincarnated for the third time. Hopefully, there is no bad karma after it.

Turkish LaLe changes hands, design and menu

BY YULIYA POPOVA
POPOVA@KPMEDIA.UA

LaLe restaurant serving Turkish cuisine has recently changed hands again. It seems that an evil eye at the front entrance could not spare the eatery from the fickle nature of the restaurant business. We already wrote about LaLe as one of few restaurants trying to bring authentic Turkish cuisine to the capital. Later, the Ukrainian

Connoisseur Club, which held one of its meetings at LaLe, revealed the restaurant still had some issues to solve concerning service and organization.

When not so long ago advertisements started to appear, showing LaLe as a part of the Carte Blanche chain, it looked like a sign that all things were coming together at the restaurant to make it an ultimate Eastern experience.

Taking LaLe under its wing, the Carte

Blanche chain lived up to its traditional concept of a free rein. LaLe stands in a class of its own with an Eastern style interior and a European menu with a couple of Turkish dishes. Since Turkey is spanning over two continents, Europe and Asia, don't expect a strictly Turkish cuisine at LaLe. In fact, if you are hungry for a hearty kebab, yogurt mezze or a thin crust pide, go elsewhere.

On a Friday night, the place was so dead that waiter Andriy was more than

happy to host us. His courtesy, attention and good knowledge of the menu exceeded our expectations of a good waiter in a Ukrainian restaurant. A food map with some five entries for each course resembled of an a la carte menu. With a never-ending rain pouring outside the window, we ordered a lentil soup for Hr 42 and a Mediterranean salad for Hr 54 to start with.

The drinks menu regrettably had only one position for the wines by glass,

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 Dniprovskaya 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-anchoovy 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.

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

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

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.

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

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 Knyazhiy 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 Argiun (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

Please send your restaurant news to
Alexandra Matoshko at
matoshko@kpmmedia.ua

Taking a tour of Mala and Velyka Zhytomyrska streets

BY OLGA KOVALENKO
KOVALENKO.OLGA@KYIVPOST.UA

It's a common belief that sunny weather is most suitable for a pleasant walk in the city. While working on this article, I decided to take a stroll once again along Velyka (Big) and Mala (Small) Zhytomyrska streets – or more like wade through them.

The rain was pouring down hard. Drainpipes spewed water like crazy. My feet got soaked instantly and passing cars only completed the picture by splashing waterfalls upon me. Yet suddenly, I sensed a bitter smell of fallen chestnut leaves. I peeped from under my umbrella and was amazed by the whitish mist enveloping the city, the growing contrast of green, brown and yellow leaves, and the golden domes of St. Mykhaylivskiy and Sophiysky cathedrals looming above the trees. When Kyiv of 11th century was led by Yaroslav the Wise, it was this area, with Sophiysky cathedral, that formed the city center.

Zhytomyrska street initially connected Liadskiy, the place where Maidan Nezalezhnosti is presently located, and

Judaic city gates, present-day Lvivska Ploshcha, forming the city together with Velyka Volodymyrska street. At the beginning of the 19th century, Zhytomyrska split in two – Velyka and Mala Zhytomyrska streets and several dozens of years later was filled with multi-story buildings in neo-classic and modernist style.

The remnants of past beauty remained mainly on Mala Zhytomyrska. Its three- and four-story houses decorated with towers and bronze balconies still preserve the atmosphere of old Kyiv. Now they are occupied by stylish coffee houses, such as Kavyarnya na Maidani – Coffee House on Maidan, and restaurants, such as Res Top.

There are also small exotic places that remained since the Soviet-era – a Ukrainian wine club advertising Ukrainian barrel wine (“the best wine in the world,” as the poster in the window claims), and a grocery and a cheap eatery on the ground floor offering homemade food. House No. 11 houses the central office of Ukrayinske Reystrovo Kozatstvo (Ukrainian Registered Cossacks Society), an association trying to preserve ancient Cossack traditions.

The point where Mala Zhytomyrska passes a small square with a children's playground and bisects Volodymyrska street marks the beginning of Velyka Zhytomyrska.

The newly built five-star hotel Intercontinental heads the street, which stretches along Peyzazhna (Landscape) alley as far as Lvivska Ploshcha. Although Zhytomyrska is one of the main city streets, you won't find any posh clubs, shops or eateries.

All that awaits you there is a jewelry store Zarina, seafood restaurant Da Vinci Fish Club on the crossing with Volodymyrska, a Coffee House and Planeta Sushy. All are located on the same corner, and a Pink Floyd (though little there is left of Pink Floyd) cafe and The Wall grocery a considerable way down the street.

At the same time Velyka



Zhytomyrska contains plenty of charming unremarkable places, like bar Quinta, that once gathered non-conformists of the 80s, cafe Champagne, some cheap pizzeria, photo studio Sepia, beauty salon Kniazhna (old Slavic for “Princess”) luring you with a woodcut signboard hanging over the arch. The air of crumbling originality is generated by dusty windows of grocery stores and cafeterias closed long ago and for good.

Another dinosaur of the Soviet era is the tiny Chapayev cinema, currently occupied by cinema club Rakurs. The cinema is known for cheap tickets – around Hr 3 to Hr 10 and rich repertoire of classics as well as festival movies. The cinema building in Vienna Renaissance style is actually one of those few, including the nearby house No. 38, preserved with their original facades untouched.

One of the biggest advantages of Velyka Zhytomyrska is that numerous side streets connect it to Peyzazhna alley. If you have some extra free time for a leisured walk, take a turn and admire stunning views of the left river bank studded with skyscrapers and a reconstructed district, Vozdvizhensky, lying right under your feet.

The area around Velyka Zhytomyrska was once full of sacred places. The three-domed St. Ioan Zlatoust and Stritenska churches were situated on the street.

Unfortunately, little is left of either of them now. The former, built in 1631, was demolished at the end of the 19th century as “unprofitable.” Parishioners preferred donating to the churches in Podil.

Now, in its place, stands the Institute of Town Planning (building

No. 9). Stritenska church built on the corner of Stritenska street in 1934 was replaced by the Chamber of Commerce. Now near the Chamber stands a lone chapel awaiting its revival with the efforts of the local religious community. The cause for such activity is more than understandable. The church is rumoured to date 1,000 year back to the ruling years of Yaroslav the Wise. The archaeologists working on the restoration have found 300-year-old remnants of monks buried under the church altar.

Notwithstanding all these calamities, Velyka Zhytomyrska has its small talisman – a stone chimera gaping at passers-by from the facade of house No. 8.

According to legends the owner of the house was keen on spiritualism and held his spiritistic seances only in the room closest to the chimera.

Kaviarnia na Maidani

2 Mala Zhytomyrska
Res Top

3/4 Mala Zhytomyrska, 278-0636

Intercontinental

2A Velyka Zhytomyrska

Zarina

21 Velyka Zhytomyrska, 490-5445

Da Vinci Fish Club

12 Volodymyrska, 490-3434

Coffee-House

8/14 Velyka Zhytomyrska, 278-5984

Planet Sushi

8/14 Velyka Zhytomyrska, 592-2083

The Wall

25/2 Velyka Zhytomyrska, 272-2494

Quinta

8/14 Velyka Zhytomyrska, 279-127

Champagne

10 Velyka Zhytomyrska, 332-0205

Chapayev cinema

40/1 Velyka Zhytomyrska, 272-4100

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In Baldinini's shoes



Baldinini opened its doors for Kyiv fans of luxury footwear. (Alina Rudya)

BY MARIA LEONTIEVA
LEONTIEVA@KPMEDIA.UA

The famous Italian brand Baldinini started somewhere in the San Mauro Pascoli area on Italy's Adriatic coast in 1910. As it is with many shoemakers, their beginning was humble – a small family workshop that had an adjoining sales shoppe.

With each succeeding generation, the business flourished. Starting with making shoes for their neighbors, a flourishing small business later extended throughout Italy. During the 1970s, the family business was in the hands of grandson Gimmi Baldinini, who represented the family's third generation and who turned the name Baldinini into a brand famous worldwide in fashion footwear.

The Baldinini shoes are known to have very high quality standards

marked with original design. Baldinini boasts a solid reputation and is popular among respectable celebrities. Baldinini's footwear was worn by Princess Diana, Federico Fellini and Michelangelo Antonioni. By the way, Antonioni personally drew outlines for his shoe models. Baldinini's shoes are known for quality leather and handwork, producing 500 pairs of shoes per day. Some items from their latest collection can easily be found at the newly opened boutique Baldinini in the Caravan shopping center. The classic and more democratic Trend

Baldinini

12 Luhova, Caravan shopping center, 206-4387. Free marshrutka shuttles run between Karavan and Petrivka, Obolon and Minska metro stations

lines are presented there. The women's collections are very fashionable – embroidered, painted, tooled and rich with decorations and metalized finish. For instance, enameled leather shoes and boots will cost you from Hr 3,000 and higher. The men's footwear collection reflects the same concept as the women's, expressing Italian avant-garde style with traditional elegance. There is a selection of the most original hides – brushed calfskin, kid, kangaroo, reptile and deer which are painstakingly designed from lace-ups to formal chic and urban leisure styles, with moccasin-style mules and boots in a range from Hr 3,000 and more. Baldini's Trend line is an alternative for those, looking for more functional footwear for daily use or travel. In addition, you'll find all the necessary accessories from leather belts (from Hr 600) to hand bags (Hr 6,000).

Bellis

Europeans know Bellis for its elegantly stylish and reasonably priced jewelry. Company owners buy sketches of jeweler lines from well-known fashion designers such as Kenzo, Nina Ricci, Bulgary and Cartier. Bellis's designers try to convert all this high-priced beauty to a work of art more of us can afford. Instead of gold and platinum, there is silver and gilding. Instead of diamonds, topazes and sapphires – colored zircon, turquoise and artificial pearls. They offer plenty of jewelry with colored enamel and malachite, a black-and-white collection of rings and earrings with Swarovski crystals, which only a real professional could distinguish from diamonds. Their zircon's faceting is processed the same way as diamonds, so they sparkle like precious stones. New collections are

updated four times per year. And every collection is divided into twelve mini-collections. If you are tired of banal floristic and animals themes in jeweler's designs you definitely will find something dear to your heart at Bellis. The prices begin at Hr 150. You could purchase lovely earrings in the form of crystal drops for only Hr 180. Among the most expensive jewelry are rings with malachite for Hr 1610 and massive earrings with is gentle-lemon zircons for Hr 1,250. What's more, they've have a website, where you easily can explore all their latest collections and place an order on delivery.

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Ongoing attractions lure visitors to Yalta in off-season

BY MARK RACHKEVYCH

RACHKEVYCH@KPMEDIA.UA

YALTA, Ukraine – History is not lost on this 170-year-old holiday resort. Located on a deep bay on Crimea's southern coast, Yalta uses historic branding to its advantage to keep tourists coming during the non-peak period known as the "velvet season."

The Mediterranean climate from mid-September to mid-October is a time when the days are warm, the air is less humid, water temperatures are at their ideal levels and evenings cool enough so that ladies could once adorn velvet dresses. This was traditionally when older couples visited having left their children to start the school year, which is exactly what I saw including mother and daughter tandems strolling along the boardwalk.

"We're witnessing a renaissance, if you will, people are coming back during the velvet season," said Konstyantyn Zaporozhets, head of the Yalta department of tourism and resorts.

When in the 19th century Russian doctors started recommending their more upscale patients to visit Crimea to treat respiratory diseases like tuberculosis and asthma, Russian aristocrats flocked here. No wonder the residences of writers Lesya Ukrainka and Anton Chekhov stand as museums today. Both of them suffered from bouts of tuberculosis.

Even Czar Nicholas II caught on to build the Livadia Palace in 1911, the site of the future Yalta Conference where Winston Churchill, Franklin Roosevelt and Joseph Stalin carved up Europe as World War II was coming to a halt.

Yalta was also one of the few seaside resorts Soviet citizens could visit given that foreign travel was permitted to a handful. And it's here that Stalin enjoyed drinking wine from the nearby Massandra vineyard (not Georgian) and where he made his summer residence – the Massandra Palace built by Russian Czar Alexander III in 1889.

Today Yalta, the site of an ancient Greek colony founded by sailors look-

→ Mid-September thru mid-October is the best time to enjoy Crimea's Mediterranean climate, known as the velvet season

ing for a safe shore to land, has experienced an estimated 16 percent influx of visitors.

The city's mayor said the credit goes to organization of events such as concerts, two annual film festivals, the Chekhov theater festival, and other events to keep tourists coming. The weekend this *Kyiv Post* reporter was there, the three-day Yalta Rally was underway, an auto race along narrow mountainous roads between Yalta and Alushta.

"Visitors to our city are mixed, some stay at five star hotels all the way down to the \$10 and \$20 daily apartment rooms," said Yalta Mayor Serhiy Braiko. "We peak in August when it's very difficult to run the city, which is why we bring in an additional 3,500 police personnel and busloads of students to work here in exchange for stipends and the chance to enjoy their summer breaks."

Still, Yalta's hospitality infrastructure is lagging behind the demand, despite the number of hotels, resort centers and so-called dude ranches increasing. In peak summer season even the hotels that charge up to Hr 1,500 per person per day are booked up months in advance.

"We need more four and five star hotels, more entertainment centers like movie theaters, night clubs, things for people to do during their stay here," said Braiko.

With Ukraine's tourism market slated to grow 50 percent annually for the next several years, many Ukrainian tourists are opting for Turkey, Egypt and Thailand. According to *Invest Gazeta*, Turkey has spoiled tourists with their "all inclusive" tourism packages all the while Ukraine still offers poor quality service at higher prices.

Indeed the city has no golf clubs, tennis courts, amusement parks (although there is an aqua park with a dolphin show) and other attractions. Yet it still manages to lure visitors with the historical gems located nearby: Nikitin Botanical Gardens, numerous palaces, wineries, several mountain peaks accessible by cable cars and a newly built boardwalk lined with store fronts and boutiques.

An example of how Yalta is changing is its three star Bristol hotel, which was built 145 years ago to look like a boutique hotel for the Russian elite. It transformed and adapted, and now offers 106 rooms rather than the original 37, complete with a conference hall, a 22-meter swimming pool, sauna, massage parlor and an elevator which was no easy task to install given its landmark status.

Yalta is trying to find a narrow niche, knowing full well it can't cater to all market segments. And many are beginning to notice. "I heard Yalta is more expensive than other Crimean resorts," said a woman from Chelyabinsk, Russia. "It's about 10 percent more expensive than Yevpatoria, where I've stayed once but for me that doesn't make a huge difference maybe for others with tighter family budgets it does."

The city's strategy is paying off. As of Sept. 11, Yalta had 2.7 percent more visitors than the entire year 2007.

However, the high-end tourists with more disposable income who are free to travel often prefer places like Egypt and Turkey over Crimea because they get better value for their money. So the need to improve service and infrastructure is at its highest.

"We realize this, and we're noticing less Russian tourists annually since they're going elsewhere," said Braiko. "But we're not concerned, we know



The site of Yalta's post-modern depiction of a ship's mast, situated on the newly rebuilt boardwalk, is dedicated to 14 sister-resort-cities. (Christine Raczkiewicz)

they visit Turkey once to see for themselves but the next season they come back because Crimea is more familiar to them, the surroundings, the language," Braiko said.

Asked where Yalta residents vaca-

tion, Zaporozhets said that "most of us visit the 'Greater Yalta' area," referring to the southern Crimean coast spanning from Foros in the west to Gurzuf in the east and including multiple adjacent urban settlements.

fast friend



Courtesy photo

Tetyana Borysenko, head of international communications of UNIQUE lifestyle magazine

Where did you learn you're English? I learned English at school, but when I started working, I realized that my knowledge was not as good as necessary, so I had to attend English evening classes.

How did it help you in your career? As head of international communications, I interact with international partners of our magazine and so English language is mandatory for my job. I work eight hours a day and all this time I use only English.

Your favorite places (ways) to spend free time in Kyiv? I like to be surrounded by nature, so usually I spend free time in the parks or in the open-air restaurants out of town. My favorite ones are Maryinsky Park and

Mayachok restaurant. I also like walking down central streets and observing the architecture and Kyivans! Kyiv is an amazing city!

What's your idea of a perfect weekend? A perfect weekend is when I have nothing to do, so I stay at home, watch DVD's and eat lots of different sweets, especially chocolate and ice-cream.

What's the key to success in life? To have a person you love, an interesting job and true friends.

Your biggest pet peeve? I hate injustice.

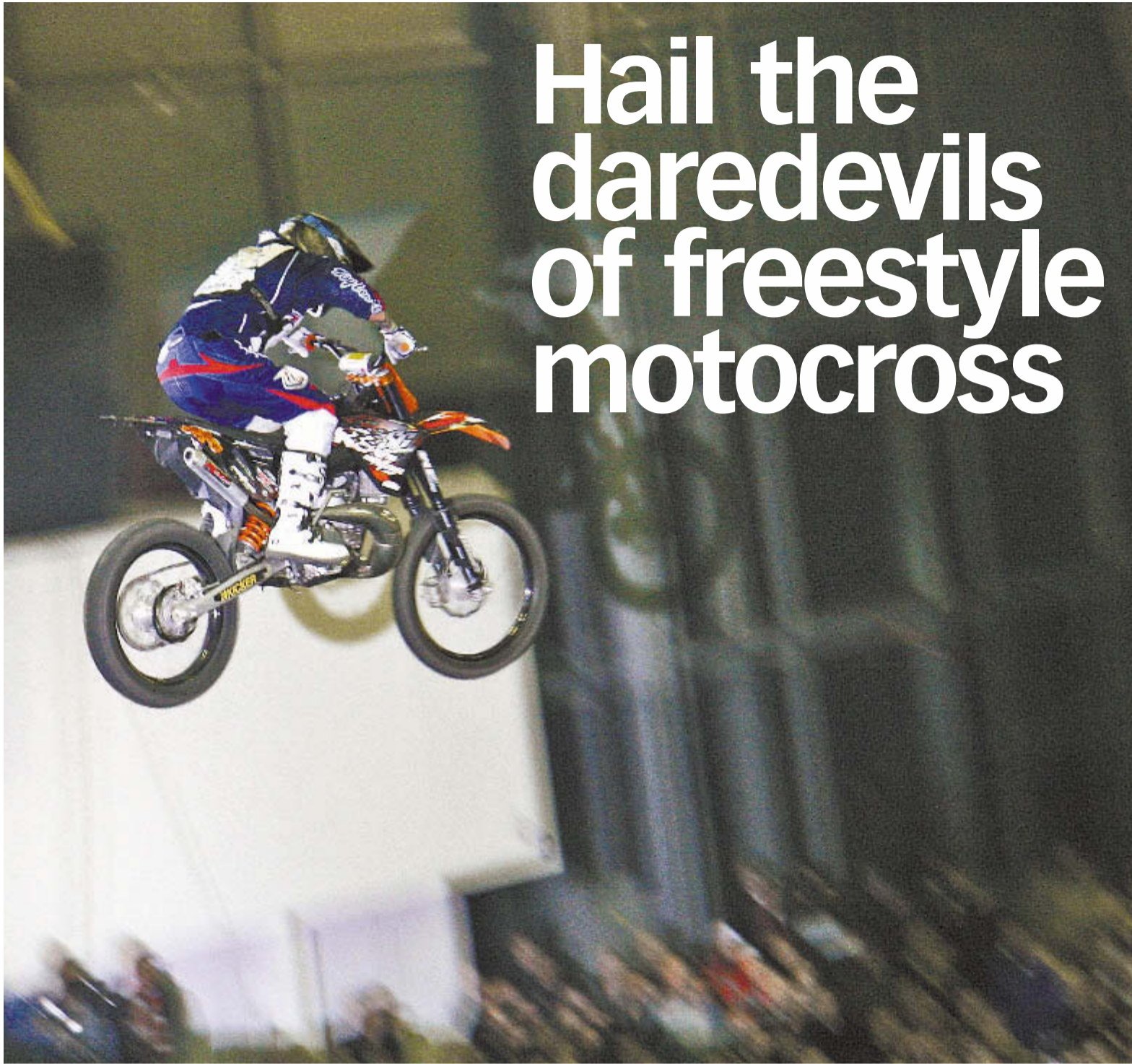
How would your friends describe you? They would say, I am humorous, very kind and always optimistic.

What was your childhood dream? To be the head of a profitable company, to earn a lot and give lots of presents to my friends and family.

Favorite movie? All the movies with Audrey Hepburn, Sophia Loren, Cameron Diaz and Angelina Jolie.

What's in your CD player at the moment? I like various music. It includes folk, R&B, pop and classical.

What is the best place you've traveled to? The best place for me is Brazil. I adore its exotic atmosphere, carnival, dances, Latin music, rich nature and ocean. It was my dream to visit this country and it finally came true.



Hail the daredevils of freestyle motocross

→ Twenty-meter-high jumps, back somersaults, flips and spins on motorcycles are only some of breathtaking tricks that could be seen at the International Red Bull X-fighters tour in freestyle motocross, which took place in Kyiv on Sept. 18-19.

Freestyle motocross (FMX) is one of the most dangerous, dramatic and – fans would say – spectacular sports. Derived in the 1990s from traditional motocross racing, today FMX is an extreme and competitive sport, thrilling both high-flying participant and shocked, but delighted, spectators. Artistic combinations of moto-freestyle and traditional bullfighting elements make each competition unique. "If the jump is well-done you will surely hear over 42,000 people applauding to you and you feel like Ozzie Osborne on the Wembley stadium," said participant Ronnie Renner.

In the mid-90s, some professional bikers decided to change motocross racing into freestyle jumps combined with various acrobatic feats, including a loop on the motorbikes. In 2001, the first such competition called Red Bull X-Fighters took place in Valencia, Spain, the historical motherland of passionate bullfighting. Red Bull X-Fighters immediately became cult-competitions and in 2007 were turned into worldwide international competition series. Those who want to follow the tour sites can log on to <http://www.redbullxfighters.com>. Participants from all over the world including England, Belgium, New Zealand and South Africa are taking part.

– Irina Prymachyk
Photos: Yaroslav Debelyi



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BORODYANKA
1A Parkova, Borodyanka,
(277) 5-25-73, 5-27-69, 5-12-86.

SWIMMING POOLS (INDOOR)
CENTER OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORT
38/1 Poliova,
241-7276

DELFIN
120 40-Richchia Zhovtnya

Prospect,
261-3256

OLYMP
10 Dymytrava,
227-6149

SPARTAK
105 Frunze,
468-6961

YUNIST
7 Bastyonna,
295-2122

TENNIS COURTS
ANTEI TENNIS CLUB
8B General Vitruka (Svyatoshyn metro),
8 clay courts (outdoors)
No lights.
Reservations: 424-7309, 450-6343

CENTRAL TENNIS COURTS
Behind Olympic Stadium (55 Chervonoarmyiska)
Courts: 3 parquet (indoors), 7 clay and 2 asphalt (outdoors)
Reservations: 246-7053 or 268-7203

COURTS IN PODIL
56/63A Mezhyhrska
Courts: 3 indoor, 6 outdoor (all clay)
Reservations: 451-5858

DARNYTSYA
6 Malyska (Left Bank)
Courts: 2 clay, 6 hard (outdoors)
No lights
Reservations: 513-7719

DYNAMO (KODOKAN)
3 Hrushevskoho.
Courts: 7 clay, 2 asphalt (outdoors)
Lights.
Reservations: 228-0531

HARMONY
13 Suvorova.
Courts: 2 clay, 1 asphalt (outdoors).
Lights.
Reservations: call Boris Alekseyevych at 8-067-941-4375.

MERIDIAN
1V Heroiv Sevastopolya.
Courts: 3 parquet (indoors).
Lights.
Reservations: 457-8843.

NAUKA TENNIS CLUB
32 Akademiy Vernadskoho (Svyatoshyn district).
Courts: 3 indoor terraflex, several outdoor clay and hard courts.
Lights.
Reservations: 444-3381/481/581.

OLYMP
11 Kulibina (Nivky metro).
Courts: several outdoor, 1 indoor parquet
Reservations: 442-8102

TENNIS CLUB
55 Chyhorina, 269-4245

SOCCER FIELDS (Call for reservation info)
ATEK Stadium
20 Chystyivskaya,
442-7117

AVANGARD
58 Khmelnytskoho, 224-9132

OLYMP
11 Kulybyna, 442-8112

OLYMPIC STADIUM
55 Chervonoarmyiska,
246-7007

SPARTAK
105 Frunze, 468-1096

GOLF
KYIV GOLF CENTER
10D Heroiv Stalinhradu,
230-9436

GOLF WORLD SPECIALIZED STORE
1-3/2 Baseyna, Arena-City, 3rd floor

PARKS
BOTANICAL GARDENS
1 Kominternu

CENTRAL BOTANICAL GARDENS
1 Tymyryazivska

CENTRAL PARK
2 Volodymyrska

HOLOSIVYVSKY PARK
87 40-Richchia Zhovtnya

HYDROPARK
Hydropark metro

KURENIVSKY PARK
134 Frunze

ZOO
32 Peremohy Square,
274-6054

NATIONAL CIRCUS
2 Peremohy Square,
486-3927

KYIV ACADEMIC OPERA AND BALLET THEATER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH
2 Mezhyhrska,
425-4280

KYIV ACADEMIC PUPPET THEATER
1 Myropilska,
513-1500

CHILDRENS AMUSEMENT CENTER IGRALAND
12 Luhova, shopping center Karavan,
206-4330

STATE TOY MUSEUM
8 Klovskiy Uzviz,
253-5400

KYIV PLANETARIUM
57/3 Chervonoarmyiska,
287-7508

WATER INFO CENTER (WATER MUSEUM)
1V Hrushevskoho,
Tel. 279-5333

CHILDRENS AMUSEMENT CENTER IGRALAND
12 Luhova, shopping center Karavan
Tel. 206-4330

BABY BAR
4A Lvivska Ploscha
Tel. 537-2223

Community listings

BUSINESS CLUBS

Free English Discussions on Canada's Temporary Foreign Worker Program will be held every Sunday throughout August and September. Reserve a seat by emailing jason@osrec.com No phone calls please.

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

ENGLISH CLUBS

The "Only English" Club organized by NAI Picard in Shooters (22 Movskovskaya) with native speakers. Thursdays, 19:00:22:00. For more details contact: lbogatenko@naipickard.com, tel: 8044-270-7345

Improve English speaking skills and have fun. Be prepared to speak in English most of the time with native speakers. Conversational club, thematic discussions on Saturdays and Sundays. For more information please contact Vadym. email: vadik_s@ukr.net 80667674407

Free International conversation club on Fridays at 7:00 p.m. at English Language Center. Interesting topics for discussion, studying the Bible sometimes. Join us at 2B Nikol'sko-Slobodskaya St. of 277 (m. Levoberezhnaya) and 76 Irpenskaya str. Off. 31(m. Akademgorodok). The ELCA LTD. Tel. 5811989 www.english.in.ua

Free speaking club every Saturday, starting 2 pm at Lan School at Kiev, Peremoga ave. 7A, http://www.blcis.com info@blcis.com

Are you a native English speaker? We are glad to invite you to make an English Speaking Club with us. Call 80676203120(Olga) email Olga.Bondar@atlantm.com.ua

Conversational club, thematic discussions on Saturdays. If you came to Ukraine this is possibility to meet other people, to study Ukrainian culture, get to know its customs, traditions. Please contact Elena mob. 8 067 661 51 06 email: lo_ahed@mail.ru

Native English speakers. Meet well-educated, ambitious, and talented young people. Share your English skills and make new friends. Every Sunday at 10 AM near Metro Station Berestska at the International Institute of Business Dehtyaryivskaya 51. Please contact Mark Taylor at jmt260@hotmail.com.

Free English Discussions about Internet-marketing. Bold Endeavours, a UK marketing and Web development company, welcomes senior marketing managers/directors to an English language discussion group about search engines and internet marketing at noon on the first Saturday of each month. Call 5361101, or register online at www.bold.com.ua

Daily English at PHOENIX CENTER. Improve your Business & Communication Skills in Free Conversation Classes. US & UK Native Speakers. Now by Pechersk Metro. Tel: 5996080 email: Phoenix7kiev@yahoo.com

Free conversation club on Sundays. bivr. Druzhbi Narodiv, 18/7. Everybody is welcome.

Free English/German conversation club on Sundays. bivr. Druzhbi Narodov, 18/7, of 3 everybody is welcome. 5297577

Australian English Conversation Club. Free group lessons every Tuesday at 7 pm.

CONVERSATION PRACTICE

Professional Russian language lessons in exchange for English practice Natalia +38-067-936-18-39

Ukrainian girl is looking for English practice with native speakers in return for Russian practice. Please contact Victoria 80676017319(leviktoria@mail.ru)

Spanish lessons / conversation practice

in exchange for French lessons (elementary level) or English conversation practice" write to eterno@inbox.ru or call 80683539359

Ukrainian girl looking for English-speaking friends. Kyiv sight-seeing on weekends. I think we'll find a lot of things to talk about. Please contact Yulia. cheary@narod.ru, 8 068 361 77 21

Ukrainian girl, 29 is looking for English, Italian, German, French, Spanish friends to exchange Russian/Ukrainian practice, also business ideas. tel.: 80633228956 Julia email: juliaitaly@gmail.com

FREE RUSSIAN conversation practice in exchange for ENGLISH practice(native speakers).Sasha.30. Help new expats to adjust to Ukraine. (sightseeing, socializing etc.) +380975763706 bakara2000@yandex.ru

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

Spanish guy (30 y.o.), new in Kyiv would like to practice Russian with Ukrainian native speakers , preferably females in exchange of English, Spanish or French. 809 8540 1655. bushpilot2001@hotmail.com

English guy, 32, living and working in Kyiv is looking for a Russian language tutor for flexible tuition, maybe including socializing etc. I need to turn basic conversation and comprehension skills into fluency! Happy to help with English language practice in return. Please email: lsepaul@gmail.com

Australian guy, 33, willing to provide English practice for Ukrainian practice during fun outings. Please send e-mail & photo, to kangaru75@gmail.com

Professional Russian classes in exchange for English classes. Need a native English speaker. Contact: Irina 8 067 402 87 04.

Free Russian/Ukrainian conversational practice in exchange for English conversational practice with native speakers. I am also interested in education in Europe, business contacts and interesting ideas. Please contact 8 093 921 60 50. Alex.

A native English speaker will exchange language practice for either Spanish, French, German or Italian with the relevant native speaker. Ask for Sophia 80637528141 or email: leballatedamour@gmail.com

Russian/English conversation practice in exchange for French and Italian conversational practice with native speakers, on weekends. Please, contact Irina by email at irinasn@ukr.net.

If you are interested in exchange of ideas and English/German / French for Russian conversation practice feel free to call 80976821709 or write me: emailbox@yandex.ru (Natasha, 23)

Ukrainian girl (27) is willing to communicate and spend free time with American native speakers. Feel free to write me to lexia2005@yandex.ru

Ukrainian girl, 25, looking for English, German or Spanish practice with native speakers in return for Russian practice. Call Svetlana 8 095 4352520, svetlanas54@mail.ru

Ukrainian girl is looking for English conversational practice with native speakers in exchange for Ukrainian/Russian conversational practice. Please contact Tatjana at stardom@ukr.net or 8 050 539 09 35

Ukrainian guy offers Russia/Ukrainian communication practice in exchange for English. Please contact Taras.8 066 395 28 77, email: sitar@ukr.net

Want to improve your French or get information about France? French guy would like to practice Russian and discover Kyiv in exchange. Contact Jeremie at jeremie.kiev@gmail.com

Ukrainian guy, 23, is looking for English friends to have conversation practice. Alex. 80667007140

I am looking for English conversation

practice.(Sightseeing or free Russian lessons are possible.) Natalia (34 y.o.) +380974697972 (10 a.m.7 p.m.)nataliak@ukr.net

Ukrainian guy, 29, engaged in finance, interested in socializing with colleagues, English/French practice. No limits for talks: from weather to establishing joint business. Serhij +380.67.7406820, kobserg@yahoo.com

Free Russian/Ukrainian conversational practice in exchange for Hebrew/English conversational practice with native speakers. I am also interested in ideas exchange and business contacts. Please, email at yael@bigmir.net

Ukrainian/Russian native speaker would like to help for English/Scandinavian new coming expats adjust to a new country (socializing, etc.). Please, email to Mila at mitiko@bigmir.net

PUBLIC SPEAKING

European Business Association Toastmasters Club invites enthusiastic, goal-oriented people to learn and improve their communication and leadership skills in friendly learning and supportive environment. We meet every Monday at 7.30 p.m. at American Councils at Melnykova, 63. For details please contact Irina Nikolaenko at Irina_n_s@ukr.net or call 80676059827

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

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

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

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

The American Chamber of Commerce Toastmasters Club invites English speaking professionals to advance their presentation and communication skills in friendly and supportive environment. The membership is opened for employees of companies/members of American Chamber of Commerce. We meet every Wednesday at 7.30 p.m., at the Chamber Conference Facility (Horizon Office Towers, 4244, Shovkovychyna vul., LL2). For further detailed information, please contact VP PR Marina Sereedkina at marina.sereedkina@novartis.com

FIND A ROOMMATE

Roommate for big nice Soviet 2 rm aptmt near Lbidiska Met; Furnished, telephone, huge cabinets + balcony in room. Metro 25 min walk, 5 trolley 380-93-7046998 806-639932172 mkham6@juno.com

I am looking for a room (rent) with reasonable price from October. Not far from METRO. Please you can reach me by mobile 9087765556, 80634591183 or

email: apartment.kiev@yahoo.com. Ivan.

Roommate for big 2 rm aptmt near Lbidiska Met Sept. Furnished, telephone, huge cabinets, balcony in room. 25 min walk to Metro. Russian speaking expat preferred. 380-63-9932172

F, 29 looking for native English Speaking professional to share a beautiful apartment in the centre of Kiev. Only for responsible, positive, non smoking roommate. Call Natalia +38-063-744-1080 or e-mail at: rusarian8@yahoo.ca

INTERNATIONAL CLUBS

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

10th Annual Meeting of the League of Professional Women! Saturday, October 27, 2007; "Opera" Hotel. 4.008.00 p.m., Kyiv. Registration fee (UAH 150 by Oct.19, UAH 200 after). Quiz with prizes <History and LPW activities during 10 years>; presentation, Pear Garden Theater performance. For more information see www.lpw.iatp.org.ua contact: lpw_network@i.ua, tel.cell 80681984377

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

The Rotary Club KyivCenter meets on Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. at the Trehsvyattelska in the Premier Cafe. For more information, please contact either Mominul Hoque +38 096 959 6610 or email: rc_kyiv_center@yahoo.com, or Koslinsky Peter +38 044 234 2091, +38 044 234 0352, +38 050 310 8374.

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

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

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

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

The Kyiv Rotaract Club meets at 7 p.m. on Wednesdays at the Stoned Baboon, 39 B. Khmelnytskoho. For more information, please contact Oleg Lukashik at 80506432802, or email victoria.e@mail.ru, or lucas41@mail.ru.

MUSIC/ARTS/DANCE CLUBS

VOLTA Dance Club invites you to a cosy

dance studio. Come and enjoy dancing with professionals. www.volta.kiev.ua tel: 8 066 716 7921

Looking to meet people interested in photography for meetings, and more. Photo competitions, field trips in and around Kiev are possible. Email: photo.mjs@gmail.com.

Looking for dancing partner. Ballroom dance: latin&standard. Group of beginners. Classes twice a week nearby Livoberezhna metro. Olga (30 y.o., 170 height). Please, write at dancdance1@bigmir.net

Amateur English Theatre invites people (25-40 years old) to try themselves on the stage. It is free of charge. If you are artistic, have a loud voice and can attend rehearsals each Saturday 14:00:17:00, call us 2235919

"Alma Latina" all Dance Studio invite you to share with us a joy and energy of Salsa, Chachacha, Merengue, Bachata, Reggaeton from Peruvian Maestro. Also, Strip and Bailly Dace with the professionals. Dance with Me! mail: www.almalatina.kiev.ua, 8 (067) 953 40 40, 8 (063) 377 80 50

The Scandinavian Choir in Kyiv welcomes new male and female Nordic singers! Rehearsals once per week, repertoire mainly Swedish. Requirements: choir experience/basic singing skills. please contact our choir leader 80672399484 or frida@voliacable.com

The Club studio "Cubano Boom" invites you to Latin dance classes. Our dance teacher from Cuba will present to you Salsa, Chachacha, Merenge, Bachata lessons. For more information call 80677983692. www.cubanoboom.com.ua

RELIGION

CHRIST CHURCH, KYIV. We are the Anglican/Episcopal Church, serving the English-speaking community in Kyiv. We meet Sundays at 3pm at St Catherine's German Lutheran Church, 22 Luteranska Street, 5 minutes walk from Khreshchatyk. Bible study is on Tuesdays at 7.30pm - please call Todd on 8 050 355 25 19 for more information. www.acny.org.uk/8592

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

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

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

Science of Kabbalah teaches methods to find the answer to question about sense of life. Lessons for beginners are held every Thursday at 7 p.m. at City Center of Health, 29 Vladimirska, St. www.kabbalahportal.org, tel. 3310361, (050) 8658218.

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

Bible study Tuesday evening.. Do come and join us, visitors welcome. We meet at 3 pm every Sunday, at the German Lutheran Church, 22 Luteranska Street, 5 minute walk up the hill from Khreshchatik metro. Contact 2341447 angkyiv@yahoo.co.uk acny.org.uk/8592

The Evangelic Presbyterian Church of the Holy Trinity invites you to our worship service, held in Ukrainian and Russian with simultaneous English translation. We meet each Sunday at 50/52 T. Shevchenko, #402 (4th floor). Worship begins at 9:45 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Sunday school begins at 11:20 a.m. Pastor Ivan Bespalov (tel. 2467576). Email: ibespalov@mail.ru.

Kiev International Bible Church, an English-language evangelical nondenominational church meeting at 10:30 am Sundays at 34A Popudrinka, between Darnytsya and Chernihivska metro stops, is a Bible-centered "church for the nations" and place of joy for people wanting growth, and fellowship. Contact: 5018082 or kie-vibc@gmail.com.

International Christian Assembly meets on Sundays at Holosivivska 57 near the MIR hotel on the first floor. English Fellowship gathers at 10:30 a.m. and Korean Fellowship gathers at 1 p.m. Please call Paul (80503822762) and Olga (80506959205), or go to www.icakiev.com.

SOCIAL, SPORT AND HEALTH CLUBS

KYIV RUNNERS' CLUB. Has one member now. Serious effort to meet with people who enjoy amateur running in order to build up a team of local runners. Please express your interest to pvassakos@gmail.com

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

"Fighter", the only English speaking Marshal Arts Academy We study Muai Thai boxing, Wing Chun, and meditation invites everyone interested in self defense and self development. For further info, please call 8(067) 503 83 39 Patrick.

Kyiv Cricket Club (KCC) invites you to play/learn cricket on every Saturday 10 AM at VASHOD Stadium, Privakzalnaya 6, Opposite to Darnitsa Vokzal. For further info, please call, Thamarai (Tom): 4902691 or 80674017077.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Individual consultations, psychological support in divorce, family relations, stress management, health issues, relaxation, self-esteem, personal development. Call Elena: +380972946781.

Alcoholics Anonymous English Speaking Group meets Sat 10.30 am at 17d Kostyolna St. Meets Sun, Tues, Thurs at various locations. akkyiv@ukr.net 8067 2348699 / 8050 3315028 (Jon)

Counseling

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 8(098)3362575

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 blonde with blue eyes.
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 Tel.: 491-5423

F, Masha, 23, 168/53 kg, blonde
 with grey eyes, want to meet the
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F, Natasha, 21, 170/52 kg, brun-
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 491-7198

F, Olga, 19, 165/50,
 blonde with grey eyes.
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 English-speaking.
 Tel.: 491-4692

F, Natali, 21 175/55
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 Model look,
 English speaking
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