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21st-Century Diaspora

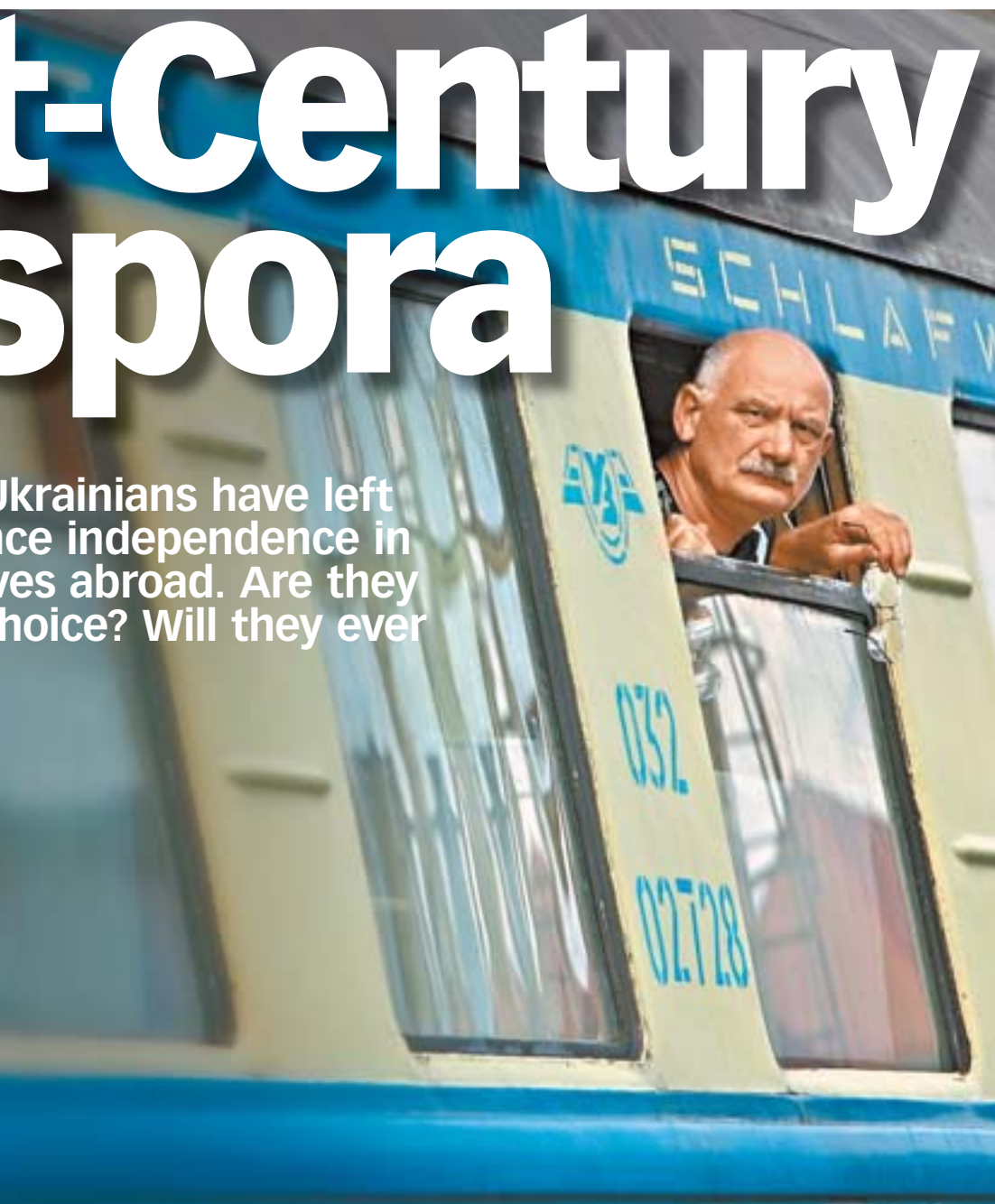
At least 3 million Ukrainians have left their homeland since independence in search of better lives abroad. Are they happy with their choice? Will they ever come back?

BY YULIYA POPOVA
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Trains take hundreds of people from Kyiv to Moscow nightly. Some are going for a visit, but many more for work. Following two wake-up calls at border control in the dead of the night, Ukrainian passengers get up to three months of visa-free stay in Russia.

For years, the flow of emigrants has waxed as the Ukrainian economy dragged its feet, prompting citizens to run for the train (or plane) in search of a better life – be it to Russia, Canada or Spain.

Some never come back. →15



An unidentified man waits at a border checkpoint aboard a train in Chop, on western Ukraine's border with Hungary. The neighboring nation is among the destinations for some three to four million Ukrainians who have left their homeland, many to start new lives abroad. (Natalia Kravchuk)

Nation's news media: Free or still captive to their owners?

BY JAMES MARSON
and DARIYA ORLOVA
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Ukrainian oligarchs are voracious collectors. They have gobbled up state assets, acquired contemporary art and turned themselves into media barons. While all of these may be good investments, media monopolization has special value – particularly ahead of elections.

"Very few owners treat media as business in Ukraine, though it does bring profit," said Otar Dovzhenko, deputy editor of Telekritika, a media watchdog magazine. "Instead, they force the media to serve their interests."

Media outlets owned by a handful of Ukraine's richest men reach roughly 80 percent of the national audience, Telekritika estimates. The upshot is that the nation's media are diverse, though still far from free. Self-censorship, implicit advertising and failure to cover the tough issues are just a few of the lingering ailments.

"There's less political censorship," said Nataliya Ligacheva, Telekritika's chief editor. "But it's difficult to say the media are free and democratic when there is monopolization of interests in the hands of politicized corporate groups."

Ukraine's three richest businessmen – Victor Pinchuk, Rinat Akhmetov and Ihor Kolomoisky – are, unsurprisingly, the country's three largest media owners.

Their outlets' next big chance to shape public opinion will come in the run-up to the early parliamentary election that President Victor Yushchenko has called for Dec. 7. →14

Economic forecasts gloomy all around

BY IVAN BACHYNSKIY
BACHYNSKIY@KPMEDIA.UA

The prospects for Ukraine's economy are looking dicier amid a ballooning global financial crisis and dire predictions about a looming worldwide recession. In the short run, the nation may find itself in a serious cash squeeze.

On Oct. 15, Economics Minister Bohdan Danylyshyn announced that an International Monetary Fund delegation was visiting Kyiv. The govern-

ment is expected to seek an emergency stabilization loan. Under a 2004 agreement, Ukraine is entitled to draw up to \$605 million in standby credits if needed, Reuters news service reported.

Danylyshyn insisted there is no reason for panic. "Altogether, Ukraine's macroeconomic situation is not dangerous, as many experts have insisted," Danylyshyn said. However, leading credit agencies have downgraded the credit-worthiness of the country itself and many of its banks.

Other nations may be seeking the

→ Nation's top export, steel, to be hit hard by global crisis, experts say

IMF's help in the wake of the global credit crunch. Hungary, Serbia and Iceland are likely to tap into emergency credits, according to Reuters. "We have about six or seven countries in the pipeline," a senior IMF official told the news service. "I wouldn't be surprised if there were about a dozen countries after a few months."

Governments worldwide have pumped more cash into money markets to restart interbank lending. The United States, for instance, outlined a plan to invest \$250 billion in its banks.

But there were still doubts whether it would revive confidence and avert a global recession.

The visiting IMF delegation to Kyiv arrived in a nation where the political leadership seems more engaged in feuds than in preparing the nation for the economic blows ahead. The debate is dominated by Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko's refusal to allocate \$85 million for a Dec. 7 pre-term parliamentary election called by President Victor Yushchenko following the collapse of the ruling coalition. →6

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Ukraine Abroad



Vitali Klitschko, a Kyiv City Council member, pounded Samuel Peter to reclaim the World Boxing Council heavyweight title when Peter did not answer the bell for the ninth round. A crowd of 12,000 people watched in Berlin. (AP)

Pundits got it all wrong: Klitschko can still fight

Victory must be even sweeter on the world stage when so many predicted your failure. That's a feeling that Vitali Klitschko, the pride of Ukraine, might have after defeating Samuel Peter on Oct. 11.

Klitschko, 37, known as "Dr. Ironfist," regained the World Boxing Council heavyweight championship in his bout against Nigerian Samuel Peter, 28, who lost the match by technical knockout after he couldn't return to the ring after the eighth round.

The Klitschkos – Vitali and younger brother Volodymyr – dominate the heavyweight boxing division. Volodymyr Klitschko holds two other major titles.

Many pundits predicted Vitali Klitschko's defeat by the younger rival.

An Africa News report was typical: "Most boxing experts feel that Klitschko will look good for a minimum of four to six rounds, and then quickly begin to fade badly. You can expect to see Peter rally at that point, and take the fight to the tired-looking Ukrainian fighter, and possibly stop him by the 9th or 10th ... [Vitali is] now 37 years old, and has been out of the sport for way too long to compete with a fighter with as much power and determination as Peter has."

Chornobyl shouldn't be shorthand for disaster

Americans and others have taken to substituting the word "Chornobyl" to mean "disaster," as in something is a "cultural Chornobyl" or "fashion Chornobyl." In an Oct. 13 letter to Newsweek magazine, Kirsten Giebutowski of Poltava, Ukraine, objects: "Is it really in good taste to appropriate another country's national tragedy and use it as shorthand to mean 'something terrible' in reference to just about anything? ... Chornobyl refers to a specific tragedy. Careless use of the word disrespects victims of that tragedy and also degrades the English language." Dozens of deaths and hundreds of cancer cases are blamed on the April 16, 1986 meltdown of the nuclear power plant near Chornobyl, just south of Ukraine's border with Belarus.

EU, Russia not happy with new elections

Not only Ukrainians are tired of Ukrainian elections.

The European Union sent its regrets about President Victor Yushchenko's decision to call a pre-term election on Dec. 7, the third parliamentary election in as many years.

Javier Solana, the European Union's foreign policy chief, said in a state-

ment, according to Interfax-Ukraine: "We regret that the effort that had taken place in building a coalition has failed at a time when Ukraine needs, in particular, political stability to respond to so many challenges. We follow the situation very closely."

The Russians didn't sound any happier. Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Andrei Nesterenko said: "Unfortunately, of course, the Ukrainian problems – I mean, first of all, socio-economic ones – are now on the back burner, because the country now needs to hold parliamentary elections, and only the new parliament will be able to make decisions on this category of issues."

Malevich painting worth \$60 million at auction

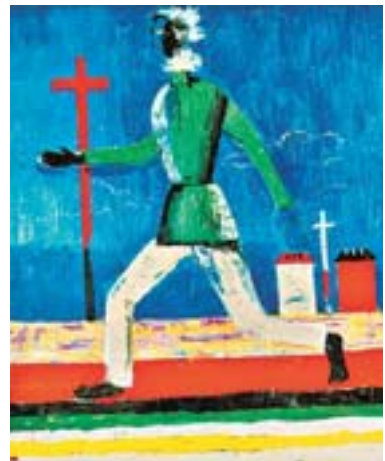
The artistic and financial strength of Kyiv-born Kazimir Malevich lives on, long after his death in 1935.

Sotheby's auction house expects the Russian avant-garde artist's 1916 painting "Suprematist Composition" will fetch at least \$60 million in a Nov. 3 auction in New York.

"Suprematist Composition' is a magnificent modern work of art of enormous art historical importance and cultural resonance," RIA Novosti of Moscow quoted Emmanuel Di-Donna, the auction house's vice chairman, as saying. "It ranks amongst the finest paintings of the 20th century."

Malevich reportedly left Ukraine for Moscow in 1904, but evidently Ukraine never left his thoughts.

One of his more haunting works, "The Running Man," was completed just before his death. It shows a peasant fleeing across a landscape with crucifixes in the background. Many consider the work to be an indictment of the 1932-1933 Great Famine, or



Malevich classic: "The Running Man"

Holodomor, in which Stalin starved seven to 10 million Ukrainians to death.



Is Femen behind altered euros?

Sex trade puts Ukraine back into the headlines

According to an Oct. 9 story in London's The Daily Telegraph newspaper, "altered euro banknotes embellished with images of prostitutes are being used to discourage Ukrainian women from getting caught up in the sex trade."

What makes the story strange is that the author, Matthew Moore, didn't identify the organization or people supposedly behind this campaign. But a Google search turned up an article in Polish newspaper Dziennik that attributes a similar campaign to the handiwork of Femen, the Kyiv organization led by Anna Hutsol. The goal of the group of mostly university students is to end sex tourism to Ukraine. Hutsol, reached for comment, said Femen created fake dollars bills at a protest last summer, but wasn't involved in the fake euro notes.

The bad bills "show underdressed women – obviously prostitutes – leaning against the grand examples of European architecture that have been printed on the currency's bills since its launch in 2002," the Daily Telegraph article said. "Messages warning about the real price of seeking black market employment abroad are printed across the top of the 'fake' notes."

The story cites International Organization for Migration estimates that 117,000 Ukrainians have been forced into prostitution or involuntary labor since independence, more than any other Eastern European country. The Daily Telegraph also writes: "Prostitution is widespread in Ukraine, which is home to more than 12,000 sex workers. The rise of sex tourism, fueled by wealthy visitors from the U.S. and the European Union, sparked demonstrations from students in the capital Kyiv this summer." Those were Femen-sponsored protests.

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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Krakow	\$550	Toronto	\$830
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President sinks as early vote challenged

BY ALINA PASTUKHOVA
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Canyon-deep disappointment with Ukrainian President Victor Yushchenko has people talking about whether his political career is over. Others, however, caution that Yushchenko – despite sinking to all-time lows in popularity polls – could still be a viable force.

The nation's beleaguered voters may decide soon enough whether to write Yushchenko's political obituary, after the president dissolved parliament and called for election of a new Verkhovna Rada on Dec. 7. As the week progressed, however, politicians couldn't even agree on whether to obey Yushchenko's decree on new elections.

→ Too early to write president's political obituary, some say

People on the streets make no effort to conceal their contempt for politicians in general and the president in particular. Yushchenko's split with Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, his former 2004 Orange Revolution ally, led to the collapse of the ruling coalition in parliament in September. The president dissolved parliament on Oct. 8.

Alla Alimova, a pensioner, voted for Yushchenko as president in 2004 and for his parliamentary bloc in 2006 and 2007. But she will never again. "Yushchenko should be thinking about how to deal with the economic crisis, but his only goal is to punish the girl

[Tymoshenko] who refused to act as he wants," Alimova said.

The president was reduced this week to scrambling for cash to finance the early election, after Tymoshenko flat-out refused to finance the poll by authorizing the expenditure of \$85 million (Hr 417 million) from the Cabinet's emergency fund.

"When every kopeck is accounted for, when every hryvnia is critical to act against the world financial crisis, spending half a billion hryvnias on a reckless election is nothing other than acting against the national interest," Tymoshenko said on Oct. 15. "An early election is a disaster for Ukraine and there is no logic in financing it. The reserve fund is intended to overcome natural disasters, not create them."

Tymoshenko was fighting legal battles trying to cancel – or at least to postpone – the election because she is given little chance of remaining prime minister after a new parliament is elected. A Kyiv judge suspended the presidential decree, which prompted Yushchenko to fire the judge and dismiss his court. A higher court reversed the Kyiv court's ruling. More hearings are due.

Olena Shustik, a lawmaker from the Bloc of Yulia Tymoshenko, known by the BYuT acronym, said that the Constitutional Court should rule on the presidential dissolution of parliament. "If the court decision is to hold elections, BYuT will agree with it," Shustik said.

Oleksandr Chernenko, an election expert with the non-governmental organization Committee of Voters of Ukraine, predicts that elections will be held in late December or early January. "Tymoshenko will finally agree to hold elections, but the bargaining process will take time," he said.

Amid all this chaos, some voices are calling for two simultaneous elections – one for president, the other for parliament. The next scheduled presidential



Still fighting World War II

Supporters of the Svoboda nationalist party unfurl the Ukrainian flag in Taras Shevchenko Park in Kyiv on Oct. 14 to mark the 66th anniversary of the creation of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army, known by the UPA acronym. Some 3,000 demonstrators – many based in from western Ukraine – demanded official recognition for veterans of the guerilla force that fought the Poles, Nazis and Soviets during the Second World War and into the 1950s. Earlier that day, a Kyiv court banned a pro-UPA march through the city center. Soviet army veterans and communists gathered to block the march, but the violence that has marred past UPA commemorations was avoided. (UNIAN)

vote is not supposed to take place until 2010.

Leonid Kravchuk, Ukraine's first president, said on Oct. 9 that voters should also be allowed to choose a new president along with the next parliament. Otherwise, the country can expect more of the same political bickering, Kravchuk said. Early presidential elections "will put an end to the cycle of repeat elections...it will help Ukraine save face in the world and help save parliamentarianism in Ukraine," he said.

As president, Kravchuk called for pre-term parliamentary and presidential elections in the fall of 1993, when the country was gripped by multiple crises of striking miners, hyperinflation and Crimean separatism. The elections were held just three months apart in 1994, when Kravchuk lost to the nation's second president, Leonid Kuchma, who stayed in power until 2005.

Yushchenko, the nation's third president, may repeat history if a presidential election is held soon. His popularity is at an all-time low, with only 6.8

percent of people willing to re-elect him as president in September, according to a poll by the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology.

His ratings keep plummeting as he remains locked in bitter fights with Tymoshenko, who also has presidential ambitions. Tymoshenko, by contrast, enjoys the support of 25 percent of voters, according to the same poll of 2,036 people across the country.

With poll numbers like that, it's no wonder that Tymoshenko fans are talking up the benefits of an early presidential poll. "Holding pre-term presidential elections makes sense as 75 percent don't trust Yushchenko," said Taras Berezovets, a political consultant who has worked on Tymoshenko campaigns.

But Yushchenko's advisers say an early presidential poll won't happen. "This is political speculation. Everybody knows that Ukrainian legislation doesn't allow two elections in one year," said Volodymyr Tsybulko, a Yushchenko consultant.

Contrary to opinion polls that suggest Yushchenko's political obituary

will soon be written, some analysts believe the president could be re-elected in 2010.

But the only path to staying in power may be for Yushchenko to ride the back of the Party of Regions, his bitter enemies from the days of the 2004 Orange Revolution.

This is how the situation could play out in Yushchenko's favor, according to analyst Serhiy Taran: The snap Dec. 7 parliamentary elections will result in a Yushchenko-loyal majority, combined with the Party of the Regions. Regions leader Victor Yanukovich was declared winner of the rigged 2004 election that sparked the Orange Revolution. Yanukovich's faction has the support of about 24 percent now. If this scenario plays out as the president might hope, Yanukovich would then be appointed prime minister by Yushchenko in exchange for a promise not to challenge the president's re-election in 2010.

"It's too early to call Yushchenko the pilot of a crashed plane," agreed Viktor Chumak, another political analyst.

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Editorial

Let's not panic

The world, it seems increasingly clear, is headed for a recession brought on by a binge of easy credit and lax regulation of the banking and financial sectors. But the downturn ahead can easily turn into a depression if leadership is lacking and politicians continue to make panicky proclamations.

Ukraine's political elite have not yet learned the art of statesmanship during crises.

While top officials should forewarn citizens of the dangers ahead, they should do everything possible to calm an already jittery population with a plan for how Ukraine will weather the economic storm. Let there be no doubt of the tough times ahead: Ukraine's hryvnia has been steadily losing value against the dollar and the production of the nation's main export – steel – has been slashed due to slumping demand.

Instead of seeking ways to avoid panic, the nation's top politicians show no aptitude for leadership, only an insatiable hunger for more childish fighting. President Victor Yushchenko called a Dec. 7 early election in a feeble attempt to punish his adversary, Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko. Poor timing, Mr. President.

For a change, the nation's politicians and oligarchs should rise above their selfishness and put national interests first. Some of Ukraine's 170 banks may be in danger of going bust, evidently because of the same cascading wave of bad loans made and the end to easy loans from abroad.

But instead of finding ways to restore confidence, some top officials have been stoking fears.

Petro Poroshenko, supervisory chairman of Ukraine's central bank, has appeared on TV this month telling Ukrainians that the world is about to be hit with the worst global economic crisis in 80 years. He suggested Ukraine could absorb shock, but also made alarmist comments that could fuel panic.

Referring to the global economic crisis, he said last week on ICTV television channel that the world has not even "at times of war" seen such falling production levels and after-effects. "The world is suffering from a crisis which it has not seen in maybe 80 years. And it took this country – the United States – almost ten years to climb out of this crisis," he added.

It may turn out to be true, but as Ukraine heads into an ill-advised early election, its cutthroat politicians should choose their words more carefully. It would be great if a Ukrainian Franklin Delano Roosevelt would emerge. However, seeing no Ukrainian FDR, we'd settle for less alarmist rhetoric and more admirable action.

Still a dictator

Europe's last dictator, Alexander Lukashenko, held another sham election. Regrettably, the West appears set on overlooking the sins of the Belarusian strongman in favor of thawing ties. The European Union on Oct. 12 lifted some sanctions on Belarus, including a six-month suspension of the travel bans imposed on Lukashenko and 40 other Belarusian officials.

The actions are a mistake and will not bring Belarus closer to democracy. Lukashenko is an unrepentant dictator who is beyond redemption. He routinely shows how much he deserves the free world's scorn. He is also contemptuous of the 10 million people he rules, showing his disdain by denying a basic human right: the right to change their government.

Pressure on the iron-fisted ruler should never let up for other reasons. He has always failed to account for – or to allow an independent investigation of – the disappearances (and probable murders) of high-ranking dissidents, including opposition politician Viktor Hanchar, former Interior Minister Yuri Zakharenka, journalist Dzmitry Zavadski and businessman Anatol Krasowski.

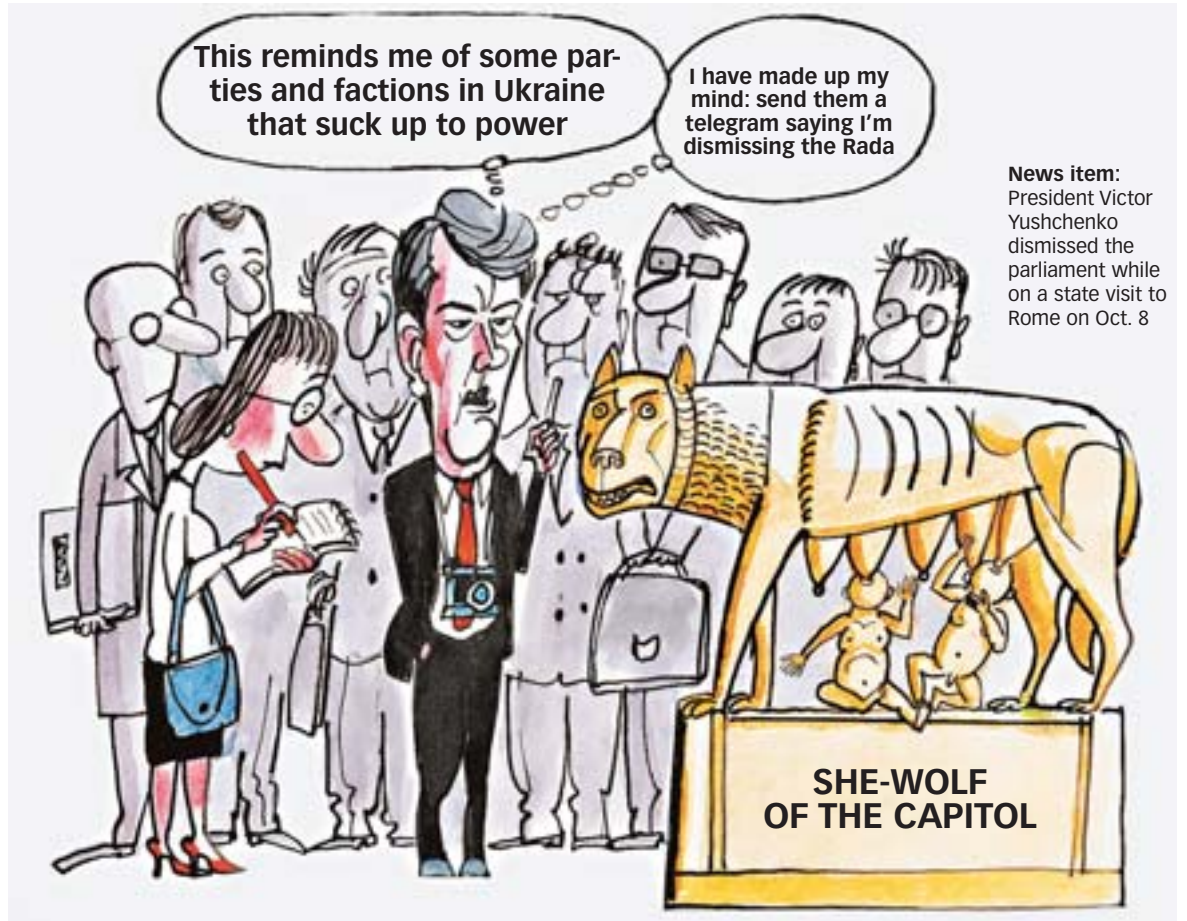
In the Sept. 28 vote, Lukashenko used the standard tricks to ensure that no opposition candidates got elected to the 110-seat, rubber-stamp parliament.

The state-run media favored his slate of candidates and curtailed debate. Five days of early voting provided fertile ground for vote-count fraud. The election commissions were stacked in Lukashenko's favor.

Even the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, legendary for bureaucratic understatement in describing rigged elections, called the contest undemocratic.

Lukashenko, like all dictators corrupted by absolute power, became even more belligerent after the election. "We have never bargained, and we will not bargain, our friendship with the Russians," Lukashenko said defiantly. He sees the global financial crisis as vindication of his economic policies, overlooking the fact that his Soviet-like economy has been propped up for years by cheap oil and gas from his friends in Russia.

Until Lukashenko changes his tune and supports democracy, the West should keep a tight lid on Belarus with higher tariffs, visa bans and other restrictions.



News item: President Victor Yushchenko dismissed the parliament while on a state visit to Rome on Oct. 8

Yushchenko's big mistake



TARAS KUZIO
TKUZIO@ROGERS.COM

Ukraine could have easily avoided a second pre-term election in two years. Zerkalo Nedeli's editor Yulia Mostovaya recently explained the reason why the president was so insistent on an election rather than a new coalition: "It is the only sure way to get rid of Yulia Tymoshenko as prime minister. Frankly speaking, that is what all the fuss is really about."

For the president, removing his former Orange Revolution ally from office is more important than responding to the global economic and financial tsunami that will hit Ukraine. It is more important than NATO membership (for which political stability is paramount). Last, but not least, the objective ignores Tymoshenko's popularity (which is six times that of the president's) and the lack of public support for a third election in three years.

The conflict between Tymoshenko and Victor Yushchenko is not ideological. It has nothing to do with different attitudes to the Georgian crisis and is not because of her alleged "treason." Yushchenko has, of late, frothed at the mouth in his dislike for her and, in the process, has dragged Ukraine's image to a low level. The president's attacks on Tymoshenko inside and especially outside Ukraine have, in Mostovaya's eyes, "not spared our self esteem, dignity and international reputation."

A larger Orange coalition could have easily been established during the 30-day deadline permitted by the Constitution. It would have had 248 deputies and therefore possessed a stable majority. All deputies in the Tymoshenko and Volodymyr Lytvyn blocs had signed up to the larger coalition, as had 34 out of 72 Our Ukraine-Peoples Self Defense (OU-PSD) deputies. The remaining OU-PSD 38 deputies had been cajoled, bribed or both to stay away. Only 39 (out of 72) deputies had initially voted for OU-PSD to withdraw from the Orange coalition on Sept. 3, a slim majority of two obtained after intense lobbying and threats.

The president and his secretariat blocked the formation of the enlarged Orange coalition. They controlled up to 50 percent of OU-PSD deputies. Vyacheslav Kyrylenko, head of the faction and leader of one of its nine parties, the pro-presidential Peoples Union-Our Ukraine, became a willing stooge of the president's strategy.

The day before the president disbanded parliament, he met with the OU-PSD faction. Instead of initiating a dialogue in an attempt to save the Orange coalition at all costs, the president, according to those present, gave a 20-minute monologue on how a coalition with the Tymoshenko bloc was impossible. He then got up and left the room.

Yushchenko refused to permit a vote to be held, as some deputies called for, to see where majority sentiment lay. Yushchenko insulted those deputies who supported a new Orange coalition as being without "parents and ancestors."

Under the 2006 Constitution, the only manner in which Tymoshenko can be removed is by the creation of a new coalition. The previous 1996-2005 Constitution gave the president the right to dismiss the government, which he used in September 2005, when he removed Tymoshenko. This is a

step that divided the Orange forces for the next 18 months. Yushchenko could also have supported an alternative coalition, rather than pre-term elections, but that would have forced an untenable alliance with the Party of Regions.

What then is the president's strategy?

Incredibly, he has been convinced that five pro-Yushchenko forces (Peoples Union-Our Ukraine, Viktor Baloha's United Center, Kyiv Mayor Leonid Chernovetskiy's bloc, and the new Arseniy Yatseniuk and Raisa Bohatyriova parties) will succeed in obtaining 5 percent each, thereby together obtaining a similar result to Our Ukraine in 2002, when it won 24 percent. Yushchenko has agreed to include his name on the Peoples Union-Our Ukraine bloc, hoping to repeat his 2002 victory when Our Ukraine came first.

This strategy assumes that a sizeable number of pro-Yushchenko deputies will want to establish a grand coalition with the Party of Regions. Yushchenko will demand that the grand coalition support his technocratic candidate for prime minister, Defense Minister Yuriy Yekhanurov or parliamentary speaker Yatsenyuk, and Yushchenko's candidacy in the January 2010 presidential elections.

There are two paradoxes. Firstly, Yushchenko has pushed for pre-term elections "so long and hard, he is the least of all prepared for it," Mostovaya believes. Pro-presidential forces are a motley crew. Secondly, the strategy's assumption that five political forces would each win 5 percent is whistling in the wind. Two of the five are not even created. The strategy of entering a grand coalition relies on double standards, treats Ukrainians as idiots and is full of contradictions. In aligning with the Regions, Yushchenko's re-election bid would destroy his support in western and central Ukraine. Also, it assumes that the Regions can cajole its voters to back Yushchenko, somebody they have always detested.

Thirdly, the strategy assumes pro-presidential political forces will retain their 2006 and 2007 result of 14 percent or improve them to 25 percent in a pre-term election.

Fourthly, it assumes that all pro-presidential forces will support a grand coalition. Kyrylenko, who heads the party of which the president is honorary chairman, repeatedly stated that his political force would never join a coalition with the Regions. Meanwhile, Yushchenko supports such a coalition.

Fifthly, the strategy fails to take into account that the only two political forces that are likely to improve their support are the Tymoshenko bloc and the Party of Regions, that could then establish their own coalitions and marginalize the president. The most dangerous threat could come from the Party of Regions joining the Lytvyn bloc and the Communists to create another "anti-crisis" coalition with Yanukovich as prime minister. In the disbanded parliament, these three forces are only four deputies short of a coalition (222), a handicap that could be easily overcome if any of the three improve their performance in pre-term elections.

The president's strategy will undermine Ukraine's ability to weather the global economic and financial crisis, and derail Ukraine's path to NATO. It will fail and backfire. The president's preference for elections over compromise will finish any ambitions that Yushchenko has for a second term.

Tymoshenko was the key to Yushchenko's victory in the Orange Revolution. It is now too late for him to reach this conclusion, one that most in Ukraine have long understood.

Taras Kuzio is president of Kuzio Associates, an independent consultancy based in Washington, D.C., and Kyiv.

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Disappointment keeps Soviet nostalgia alive



YURIY LUKANOV
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Recently the city council in Donetsk, a mining city in eastern Ukraine, flatly refused to get rid of a multitude of totalitarian symbols and signs in the streets. The removal was decreed by President Victor Yushchenko, who meant to get rid of the statues of Lenin and other communist activists, as well as communist street names.

This move would be logical because it was Lenin and his party who started concentration camps and murders of political opponents, which later multiplied immensely in scale during successor Josef Stalin's reign. Preserving monuments to the authors of the insatiable communist regime would be similar to keeping Hitler monuments in Germany.

Generally, Donetsk Mayor Oleksandr Lukianchenko spoke against street renaming for purely financial reasons. Apart from changing street signs, it requires changes in many official forms, as well as new registration stamps for their residents. The cost may go way over a few million hryvnias since the streets of Donetsk are full of communism.

There is a "50 Years of U.S.S.R." street and a "60 Years of U.S.S.R." street. Each Communist Party congress became a toponym and so did various communist leaders. There are some comical examples: there is a Lenin street and an Illich street named after the same person. Lenin was the Soviet leader's pseudonym, and Illich – his patronymic.

But other people in Donetsk have spiritual motives rather than financial. The inspiration for the movement to stop the removal of totalitarian symbols was a curious secretary of the city council, Mykola Levchenko, who drives a car with a personalized number plate that says "СССР," the U.S.S.R. acronym in Russian. He misses the U.S.S.R. greatly. He said: "Our city has historical names that some people link with totalitarianism. I link it to the fact that we were all born in that country."

Not only does the Donetsk city council refuse to ruin Soviet symbols, it creates new ones: one of the new streets in the city was called "Novaya Sovetskaya," or New Soviet street.

It's a paradox, but Ukrainians, of whom 91 percent voted at a referendum in December 1991 to exit the U.S.S.R., now have strong nostalgic sentiments toward it. They are not dominating, but are very serious, even though 17 years ago people had an ironic attitude towards the communist empire.

Here are some examples. In the old Soviet times there was a lot of propagandist emphasis on Lenin's participation in the worker's "subotniks," or unpaid voluntary work on weekends. On Saturdays, the citizens came out to clean communal spaces for free or do similar things. History textbooks contained a story of Lenin carrying logs with common workers. In other words, there was a whole cult built around the leader of the proletariat called Lenin. In the last years of the U.S.S.R.'s existence, the citizens laughed at it. They said ironically that the longer Lenin participated in the tradition of subotniks, the greater became the number of people wanting to carry logs with him, or be close to power. They also joked that the log was inflatable rather than real.

Not all of them continue to laugh. Recently, I got



Viktor Ivanov's photo of the painting "Lenin at Subotnik in Kremlin." (liveinternet.ru)

A man holds a Soviet flag near the Lenin monument in Donetsk in late 2007. City leaders refuse to obey a presidential decree to remove the statue. (UNIAN)



talking to a lady about 40 years old. She lived a part of her life in the Soviet Union and knows too well what it was like.

One thing after another, we got to talking about the past. That's when she surprised me. She reminisced that, in communist times, shops were full of pretty much everything we have now. She talked about how citizens could travel abroad as much as they wished, how fair the Soviet system of justice was, only punishing people if they deserved it.

These are obvious falsehoods. Soviet shops had one or two types of milk, bread and sausages, and only in the morning. If you came in the afternoon, all you could find was maybe jars of mayonnaise. There were queues for anything of quality, be it food or consumer goods. Simple mortal folks could not travel to the so-called capitalist countries. You had to be an athlete or a statesman to receive that privilege. Other citizens could only go touring the countries under Soviet control. But your wish was not enough to get you there. Potential tourists had to get recommendations from their workers' collective, as well as a positive assessment from the party or Komsomol, the youth wing of the Communist Party organization. And prisons awaited not just criminals, but government critics, too.

The Soviet people lived badly. So, why does my

friend and so many others like her twist the obvious facts?

When Ukrainians said farewell to communism in their country, they hoped to create a state that lived up to Western standards. But the dream has not come true. Although we have some fundamental basics of a democratic society – like freedom of speech – we have not yet learned to make good use of the opportunities that democracy has given us.

So far, we have built the kind of capitalism that was depicted by Soviet propaganda when it spoke of the West.

Yes, our shops are full, you can travel freely as long as other countries let you in, and you can criticize anyone, anytime. But the difference between the incomes of the rich and the poor are thousands-fold. Some people's incomes are so low they can only buy a minimum of food. There is no justice in courts. So, psychologically, people need to feel that there is an alternative. They turn to their past, painting it rosy colors in their memory. In practice, it manifests itself in an aggressive defense of Soviet symbols.

However, not everyone defends them so. Sometimes, the media report that someone, somewhere has urinated on a monument of Lenin.

Yuriy Lukanov is a freelance journalist and writer in Kyiv.

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WITH
NATALIYA BUGAYOVA



What do you think of the president's decision to dismiss parliament?



Tymofiy Ivanov
Builder
"I feel nothing but contempt. Everybody is sick and tired of these political games.

Elections will not change anything. It is time for our ruling clique to spend some time in the 'Gulag.'



Marharyta Dydenko
Student
"He went overboard with this decision. The health of the Ukrainian economy at the present

moment leaves much to be desired. The new elections, however, will destroy it completely."



Valentyna Ozyumenko
Pensioner
"It's hard to judge whether it was a right step to dismiss parliament. There

are two absolutely hostile forces of equal strength that are fighting for power in the Rada. There are no chances and no prerequisites for creating any decent coalition at the moment. New elections cannot lead the country out of this chaos and disorder."



Anton Mazai
Student
"I have the most negative attitude towards the president's decision. Unfortunately,

now that he has dismissed parliament, I think it will be more difficult than ever to impeach him.



Olha Zubchenko
Salesperson
"Yushchenko is our president and knows what he is doing. If he decided that we

need new elections, it means we need them. I understand that it may worsen the economic situation, but this is the decision of our president, who was elected by the majority of us."

Fears mount over economy

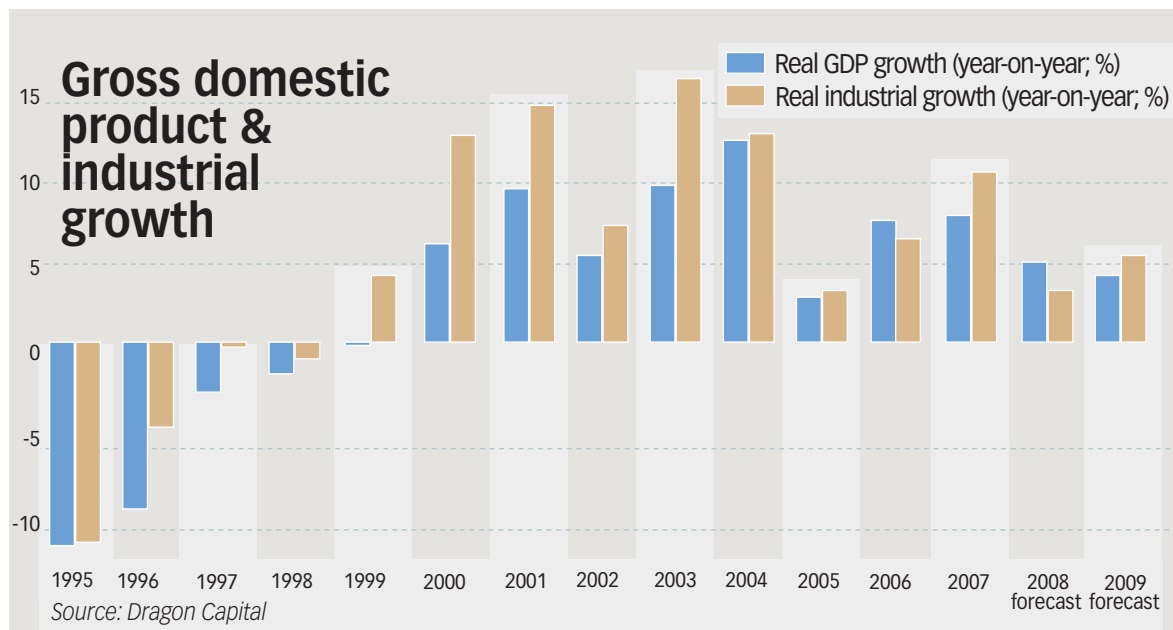
→1 So far, with Ukrainian politicians at loggerheads, the only state institution that has responded with concrete measures is the National Bank of Ukraine.

On Oct. 13, the central bank froze the early withdrawal of term savings accounts in an attempt to thwart what it viewed as a doomsday scenario – a panic-driven run on deposits that would threaten the solvency of the nation's banking sector. This drastic move, which last came during the chaos of the 2004 democratic Orange Revolution, happened after the central bank injected more than \$1 billion into the ailing banking sector. That move bailed out more than 20 banks. Some analysts praised the swift moves, saying they would prevent chaos in the country's financial system.

But a leading industrialist, Oleksandr Pylypenko, told Kommersant newspaper that the coming economic slowdown poses deeper challenges.

"This crisis is systemic ... and concerns everyone ... and is similar to what happened in the United States in 1929," said Pilipenko, vice president of Industrial Union of Donbas, a Donetsk-based group that operates steel mills in Hungary and Poland besides Ukraine. "I think every third person in Ukraine could become jobless soon."

Hundreds of thousands of blue-collar workers in the steel industry, which provides the nation's top export, appear to be at greatest risk of joblessness. Reportedly half of the 35 blast furnaces in Ukraine's metallurgical sector have been shut down because of slumping demand and prices. Ukraine's biggest



steel mill, ArcelorMittal, is working at half capacity. The nation is the world's eighth-largest steel maker.

All signs – including a stock market that has lost 70 percent of its value this year – are pointing to an end to nearly 10 years of robust economic growth. The growth made Ukraine's handful of mega-billionaires even richer and, helped by easy credit from Western banks, ignited a consumer spending binge that appears to be coming to an end.

"If the downward tendency persists in October, then industry [will be] technically in recession," Valeriy Lytvitsky, a top economic adviser at Ukraine's central bank, told journalists.

The anxiety about heavy industry has spread to the country's agriculture sector and retailers. Farmers, grain traders and the food industry are worried that the credit crunch could prevent a repeat of this year's record harvest of 47 million tons of grain.

"The crisis will affect the agricultural sector of Ukraine much more than in many other countries," said Andriy Yarmak, an agriculture consultant, who added that farmers are having trouble storing their immense surplus and selling it at high-enough prices.

"They can't get enough cash for new crop planting," Yarmak said. "In the past few weeks, it has been nearly impossible to get loans from Ukrainian banks,

which are needed for everything from planting and machine maintenance to grain processing and exports."

If the credit squeeze persists, Yarmak said, agricultural production could decrease next year and lead to higher food prices.

Meanwhile, domestic currency has plummeted. The hryvnia hit an all-time low on Oct. 8 of Hr 5.9 to the dollar, before gaining strength in the last week. Its weakness is bound to dent retailers.

Especially hard hit will be those who sell imports, such as electronics stores, if the hryvnia keeps sliding.

A handful of restaurants in Kyiv said they have not detected a downturn

in business and had no plans to cut prices. Yet a leading wholesale-retail operator in Ukraine, Germany's Metro Cash & Carry, announced on Oct. 13 that it would cut prices for a selection of its goods by 10 percent to stay competitive.

By "reducing the price on more than 1,000 goods which our customers need for their daily business, we want to help them to maintain their operations, which are under pressure due to the instability of financial markets and an accelerated declining trend of consumer confidence," said Axel Hluchy, managing director of Metro Cash & Carry Ukraine.

The company has a leading position on Ukraine's wholesale business and has plans to expand aggressively into the retail segment. In five years, this European giant has opened 20 wholesale stores across the country. It currently employs 7,000 Ukrainians.

Unitrade, a leading consumer electronic retailer, is expecting slower demand for its products because customers are having trouble borrowing money. Fozzy Group, which owns the Silpo supermarket chain among numerous others, also announced price cuts.

Moderation of Ukraine's high inflation may be the only silver lining in the dark economic clouds. Revised annual inflation forecasts range from 14 percent to the mid-20s.

Some weren't taking any chances and pulled money from banks on Oct. 15. As citizen Lyudmila Kudnikov told the Associated Press: "There is one crisis after another."

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Business Sense

WITH ANDREW WILSON AWILSON@EURASIA.KIEV.UA

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

Deepening financial crisis should not derail corporate social responsibility

News this week remains gloomy as the global economy heads toward a protracted recession. Just as corporate social responsibility was making strong headway in Ukraine, corporations and non-profit organizations alike are asking the same question: How can companies continue to embrace a strategy of giving back and being responsible while the economy tumbles? Indeed, when the dot.com sector collapsed earlier this decade, corporations and foundations had to tighten their belts. This earlier economic downturn badly affected non-governmental organizations across the U.S. and Europe, even though the corporate social responsibility movement there was more advanced than in emerging economies like Ukraine. If the Ukrainian economy falters, how will foundations and non-governmental organizations survive? How will they sustain their missions, especially considering that private donations and contributions from businesses account for more than 70 percent of NGO income in Ukraine? This figure, according to the Ukrainian Independent Center for Political Research, is more than six times higher than the share of private contributions to NGOs in the United Kingdom and more than twice as large as the seven other European countries examined in the study.

At a time when international aid agencies are shifting their priorities from Eastern Europe to the Middle East, Africa and economic bailouts at home, how will Ukraine's budding NGO sector survive the pending economic downturn? In response to these questions, I would like to offer a few thoughts.

First of all, companies and NGOs must understand that corporate social responsibility is no longer a luxury; it is an essential component of a thoughtful business strategy. At a time when customers and investors will be demanding increasing transparency and responsibility from corporations, it would be a critical mistake for corporations to eliminate their corporate social responsibility programs.

On the contrary, in order to survive an economic downturn, I would argue that corporations will need to sustain their efforts to ensure social responsibility. These efforts must include a commitment to good governance and financial transparency, a commitment to protect and educate their work forces, a commitment to protect the environment, and a commitment to strengthen the communities in which they work. It goes without saying that an economic downturn will mean tighter budgets and fewer resources for corporate social responsibility activities. However, non-

→ In order to survive, companies need to remain responsible

monetary community engagement, such as volunteer programs, board participation and education partnerships can make a modest corporate social responsibility budget go even further. And by engaging staff, businesses can ensure that corporate social responsibility becomes a part of their corporate culture, rather than just a token gesture.

The bottom line is that we are entering a critical time in Ukraine, and corporations, governments and communities need to find ways to continue supporting each other, working together to solve local challenges, and jointly investing in a stable society. If business and communities abandon these efforts, recent momentum

will be lost, NGOs will fail, and the economic strain will be exacerbated for everyone.

Secondly, it will be increasingly important for the national government to play a bigger role in supporting the non-profit sector. The corollary to the data I mention above is that, of 10 countries studied, the governments of Ukraine and Russia allocate far less funding to the NGO sector as a percentage of total NGO income (2 percent and 1 percent respectively). No other country in the study contributed less than 20 percent of total allocations to the NGO sector. This policy seems shortsighted, considering how important the NGO sector is to the economies of developed countries. In the U.S. in recent years, the non-profit sector, including NGOs, has accounted for about 10 percent of all economic activity – nearly \$1 trillion per year – and has been responsible for growing employment and growing wages.

The non-profit sector, which receives funding support from the government, corporations, foundations and individual donors, provides critical programs, including environmental, education, health, culture and other community services that the government either cannot provide or cannot efficiently deliver. This suggests that by joining the corporate sector in supporting NGO-provided services,

the government could actually stimulate communities, create jobs and provide services more cost-effectively than it is able to do on its own.

In order to survive a sustained recession, companies, communities and the government must work together. Although companies may not be able to sustain the same levels of corporate social responsibility spending in an economic downturn, it is critical for them to retain a healthy commitment to a corporate social responsibility strategy that includes community engagement. At the same time, NGOs, companies and communities must work together to continue building models of effective community service – the same kinds of models so many NGOs across the country have been building during the past 15 years.

And finally, the national government must pass legislation and establish a commitment and transparent mechanism for contracting social and community services to the NGOs of Ukraine.

Andrew Wilson is president of the East Europe Foundation, a Kyiv-based international charitable foundation that runs social, community and economic development programs. East Europe Foundation is a member of the Eurasia Foundation Network.

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Crisis management

President Victor Yushchenko shakes hands with Ukraine's central bank supervisory board chairman Petro Poroshenko during a meeting with bankers on Oct. 10 to discuss a developing banking crisis. Days after the meeting, Ukraine's central bank adopted emergency measures to stabilize the shaky sector. See related story on page 1. (Presidential press service)



Counting cash

An engineer from the Elcom company, Yevhen Nakonechnyi, demonstrates a new bill-counting machine to bank workers at the international Financial Ukraine forum which was held in Kyiv on Oct. 8. During the exhibition three presentations were made on how to solve technical banking problems and reduce financial risk. (Ukrinform)

→ 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.



ZEE BASSILA was appointed director of sales and marketing for the InterContinental Kyiv hotel due to open in Kyiv soon. Bassila joined the InterContinental Hotels Group in 1997. He has

extensive international experience in sales and marketing. In the past, Bassila has worked with Holiday Inn and Crowne Plaza brands, which are part of InterContinental Hotels Group. Ukraine is Bassila's 4th posting. Bassila is a graduate of LaSalle College in Quebec, Canada where he studied hotel management and service. The 5-star InterContinental Kyiv will be located at St. Michael's Square and will have 272 deluxe rooms.



OLENA TKACHENKO, attorney-at-law, was appointed senior associate with the corporate practice group at Arzinger & Partners Law Firm. Previously, Tkachenko special-

ized in privatization and investments issues at Interpipe Corporation, where she served as chief lawyer of special projects in their legal support department. Tkachenko represented the company in judicial proceedings, including the famous Kryvorizhstal and Nikopol Ferroalloy Plant re-privatization cases. Tkachenko is an expert in procurements support, tax consultations and corporate rights operations. Tkachenko has a master's degree in law from Donetsk State University and received an attorney-at-law certificate.



OLGA KUCHERUK was appointed associate at the Kyiv offices of Arzinger & Partners Law Firm. Previously, she served as a lawyer at TNK-BP in Ukraine. Prior to that, Kucheruk

worked as project specialist on legal issues at the Ukrincomlease leasing company and headed the human resources division in one of the branches of the Ukrainian Motorcar Corporation. Kucheruk holds a master's degree in international private law from the Institute of International Relations at Kyiv National Shevchenko University.



TARAS PROTS was appointed head of financial services for Deloitte Consulting. In his new position, Prots will be involved in providing advisory services to the leading players in the region's

banking industry. Prots has seven years of experience in the banking market. Prior to joining Deloitte Consulting, he served as chief financial officer at UniCredit Bank in Ukraine. Prots recently prepared a printed outlook on the Ukrainian banking business for Deloitte.

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IN 3 WEEKS
NOV. 6 ISSUE

Investment
business

Accountants unfazed by financial meltdown

BY ELENA PLEKHANOVA
PLEKHANOVA@KPMEDIA.UA

Over the past several years, Ukraine's dynamic economic development and growing business transparency, as well as the desire for foreign investment, has fueled a blistering growth rate in the accounting services market.

But the ongoing international financial meltdown and credit crunch are expected to bring growth rates back down to earth, according to market insiders.

"We see the market for audit and related services in Ukraine continuing to expand over the next five years at an average rate of around 30 percent per year," said Justin W. Bancroft, a partner at the Ukraine offices of Deloitte, one of the world's so-called Big Four accounting and audit firms, along with PricewaterhouseCoopers, Ernst & Young, and KPMG.

"This reflects the law of large numbers, where things will slow down compared to the previous five years, when firms grew 50 to 80 percent or more a year. But it is still phenomenal when you compare it with mature markets like the United Kingdom, Continental Europe and Central Europe," Bancroft added.

While exact figures are hard to come by, insiders say the accounting market has boomed, providing some \$100 million in services. A slowdown is, however, expected in the near term due to the onslaught of the world financial crisis. Lending to the country's largest industrial groups has dropped,

→ The long-term prospects for business in Ukraine are great.

Alexei Kredisov

and production levels are expected to also sink with falling prices on steel, Ukraine's top export. The economic downturn will delay expansion through acquisitions and integration into world capital markets via initial public offerings on foreign exchanges.

"Due to the global credit crunch and decline in capital markets, domestic firms are delaying their IPO [initial public offerings] and capital raising plans until the second half of 2009," Bancroft said.

As the financial crisis rocks international capital markets and Ukrainian companies prepare to ride out the storm, the wise and cash-rich ones will use this time to prepare themselves for the future. So accountants should still remain busy preparing top industrial groups for the scrutiny that comes from investors ahead of IPOs and other financial instruments.

Companies looking – in the long-term – to go public should thoroughly review and revise their corporate, financial, management and reporting systems. In the future, domestic companies hoping to attract international investors and capital are going to need squeaky clean records.

"This time is not wasted. Many of our clients are using this period to spend time improving their reporting systems and areas of business control. Because after the crisis is over, the demands on borrowers and issuers on the international capital markets will be much tougher than in the past," Bancroft added.

Despite the global financial troubles brewing, accountants are eager for work, and hope to land as much business as in the previous years of hot growth. Not all of the business has gone to the Big Four. Business has also been booming for smaller Ukrainian accounting firms.

"Our company, for example, doubled its turnover in 2007," said Tetyana Bernatovych, director of RSM APiK Audit Firm.

"[Our clients] are generally joint stock companies which are, [by law], obligated to conduct transparent audits. And they hope audits will also attract foreign investment," she added.

Alexei Kredisov, managing partner at another Big Four accountancy and auditing firm, Ernst & Young, said Ukraine will remain one of the most promising markets in Europe. So, business will remain strong in the long-term, he added.



Alexei Kredisov

"In these times, it is paramount to keep a longer-term vision for the Ukrainian market. In Ernst & Young's view, the Ukrainian market presents great opportunities. It has never really enjoyed high levels of FDI [foreign direct investment], its industry and infrastructure require substantial modernization, and Ukrainian companies have just started tapping into international capital markets," Kredisov said.

"But the Ukrainian consumer market itself is one of the largest in Europe. Thus, the long-term prospects for business in Ukraine are great," Kredisov added.

Big firms take long view on Ukraine's economic potential

BY ELENA PLEKHANOVA
PLEKHANOVA@KPMEDIA.UA

Urmars Kaarlep came to Ukraine this year to serve as a senior partner at the local offices of PricewaterhouseCoopers, where he will head assurance. He comes to Ukraine after 15 years with PricewaterhouseCoopers in his native Estonia. In this Kyiv Post interview, Kaarlep discussed early views on the Ukrainian market, and compared it to Estonia.

KP: What is your view of the Ukrainian accounting and auditing market?

UK: It is definitely growing for two reasons. For one, the economy and business in general are developing quickly. Secondly, Ukrainian businesses are becoming much more sophisticated.

The audit market will grow 30 percent per year for some time to come. Once the world recovers from the current credit crunch, more domestic companies will need services from the Big Four accounting and auditing companies.

KP: What's the overall business volume for this market now?

UK: The current estimate for assurance alone, is about \$100 million and growing fast. Of this, the Big Four controls some 60 percent.

KP: You've previously worked in another post-Soviet country, → 10

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Room to grow: Big Four firms train audit professionals as demand rises

→9 **Estonia, before coming to Kyiv. How does the Ukrainian market compare?**

UK: The one difference is that Estonia is a European Union member state. It is also much smaller, which makes transition easier.

From the other side, if you're thinking about the accounting or audit business, there are only a few big companies in Estonia. There are definitely more prospects for business in Ukraine.

KP: Many local audit companies complain there is a lack of qualified staff. Do you experience this problem, too?

UK: Yes, there is a resource con-

straint and this is a priority issue for us.

KP: So, how do you deal with it?

UK: When we hire a recent university graduate, we invest extensively in training, like getting them certified with the Association of Certified and Corporate Accountants.

Such training programs are a top priority for us, and a main motivator for our young professionals.

KP: Do you have significant staff turnover?

UK: I wouldn't say it is too extensive. Compared to other companies, yes, ours is higher, but I wouldn't say it is



Urmas Kaarlep

a big problem for us. We train and develop young professionals well and most of them stay with us.

KP: Are Ukrainian universities providing enough qualified graduates?

UK: There are many smart and well-educated university graduates and young professionals in Ukraine. They are hungry to learn more and get their ACCA qualification. We know that well. We recruit about 100 graduates each year.

KP: Who are your main clients?

UK: We are pretty strong in the banking sector. It makes a pretty big

part of our business. We are also very strong in the insurance and real estate sectors. Both are hot right now.

KP: What changes do you expect on the horizon of the Ukrainian audit and accounting market? How is it going to develop?

UK: Of course, Ukraine's market will continue to grow, and domestic companies will be searching for partners and investors from abroad. The number of Ukrainian companies that want to go international and list their shares on exchanges through initial public offerings will grow. The demand for the best accounting services will grow with it.

ACCOUNTING AND AUDIT Companies listed by number of full-time employees

PHONE FAX	TOP EXECUTIVE	YEAR ESTABLISHED IN UKRAINE	OWNERSHIP, UKRAINIAN / FOREIGN (%)	# OF FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES	# OF PROFESSIONAL AUDITORS IN KYIV	# OF ACCOUNTING STAFF	# OF ADVISORY MANAGEMENT STAFF	SPECIALIZATION	MAJOR CLIENTS	FOREIGN LANGUAGES	REVENUES IN 2007
Ernst & Young , 01001 Kyiv, 19-A Khreschatyk, kyiv@ua.ey.com, www.ey.com/ukraine											
(044)490-3000 (044)490-3030	Alexei Kredisov	1991	0 / 100	569	272	WND	87	Assurance, advisory business services (accounting, technology and security risk, business risk, real estate advisory), tax and legal services, transaction advisory (corporate finance and M&A, transaction support, valuation and business modeling), Academy of Business	WND	Russian, English, German, French, Spanish	\$21.1 billion
Deloitte , 01030 Kyiv, 17 / 52 B.Khmelnytskoho, kyiv@deloitte.com.ua, www.deloitte.com.ua											
(044)490-9000 (044)490-9001	Vladimir Vakht	1993	WND	550	WND	WND	WND	Audit, enterprise risk services, tax and legal services, consulting, financial advisory services, Deloitte Academy	MTS Ukraine, ArcelorMittal Kryviy Rih, Metinvest Holding, OTP Bank, Prominvestbank, Soyuz Viktan, Ukrzaliznytsya, Myronivsky Hliboproduct	English, German, Czech, Georgian, Spanish, Polish	WND
PricewaterhouseCoopers , 01032 Kyiv, 75 Zhylyanska, pwc.ukraine@ua.pwc.com, www.pwc.com/ua											
(044)490-6777 (044)490-6738	Boris Krasnyansky	1993	WDN	Over 400	WND	WND	WND	Accounting and audit, performance improvement, transaction services including due diligence and valuation services, tax and legal services, business restructuring, IT advisory and information security, public private partnerships	WND	English, French, German, Italian	\$25 billion worldwide
KPMG , 01001 Kyiv, 11 Mykhaylivska, info@kpmg.ua, Donetsk@kpmg.ua, www.kpmg.ua											
(044)490-5507 (044)490-5508	Mason Tokarz	1992	WND	300	151	WND	36	Audit, tax and legal advisory, corporate finance, transaction services, risk and advisory services, Information Technologies advisory services	Ukrtelecom, Ukrspetsbank, Energoatom, Metro Cash & Carry, Furshet, Zaporizhstal, Astarta, UniCredit Bank	English, German, Dutch	WND

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 Yulia Golub at golub@kpmedia.ua Key to abbreviations: WND – would not disclose.



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Baker Tilly Ukraine , 01033 Kyiv, 28 Fizkultury, info@bakertillyukraine.com, www.bakertillyukraine.com											
(044)284-1865 (044)284-1866	Alexander Pochkun	1999	100 / 0	201	119	14	30	Audit and assurance, business advisory services, tax and legal consulting, transaction advisory services, valuation, outsourcing	WND	English, French, German	WND
BDO Balance-Audit , 01133 Kyiv, 26 L.Ukrayinky, 1st floor, bdo@bdo.kiev.ua, www.bdo.com.ua											
(044)496-0587 (044)537-0631	Sergiy Balchenko	1997	100 / 0	145	108	8	6	Balance audit, audit, tax consulting	WND	Ukrainian, Russian, English, German	\$4.7 billion
BUREAU VERITAS Ukraine , 01032 Kyiv, 28 Kominterna, contact@bureauveritas.com.ua, www.bureauveritas.com.ua											
(044)490-2979	V. Yakubovskiy	1997	0 / 100	126	70	5	WND	Safety assurance and quality evaluation in: certification, industry, international trade, consumer goods, marine transport, construction	Motor Sich, Rogan, Lukoil, Roshen, AVK, Pozniaky-Zhyl-Bud, METRO Ukraine, Avto ZAZ, Metinvest Holding, Inerpipe, Leman	English, French	WND
EBS (Emergex Business Solutions) , 03110 Kyiv, 13-A Universytetska, info@ebskiev.com, www.ebskiev.com											
(044)249-7905 (044)249-7906	Helen Volska	1998	90 / 10	90	2	45	13	Financial management and accounting, outsourcing, management consulting, legal services, Information Technologies consulting	WND	English, German, French, Spanish, Italian	WND
MGI Consulting , 01011 Kyiv, 11 \ 11 Husovskoho, consulting@consulting.ua, www.consulting.ua											
(044)569-1562 (044)569-1563	Valeriy Bondar, Dmitriy Sushko	1992	100 / 0	More than 80	25	10	8	Audit of financial and tax reporting, audit of reporting according to the requirements of International Financing Reporting Standards, express-audit, legal support	Subaru Ukraine, Sumatra, MEDICOM, Kvazar, AVON Cosmetics Ukraine, York International RO, AEROFLOT Russian airlines	English	WND
Grant Thornton Ukraine , 01001 Kyiv, 19 Druzhby Narodiv, 5th floor, info@gtukraine.com, www.gtukraine.com											
(044)583-0366 (044)583-0365	Vitaliy Kazakov	1991	100 / 0	80	50	10	6	Audit of financial sector and financial institutions, accounting services, valuation, project finance, Information Technologies systems audit, due diligence, legal support	EBRD, Urkgazbank, Industrial Bank, Transbank, Ukraine insurance group, Citycom, Comfortbud, NIKO	English, Russian, German, French	WND
Sova , 01004 Kyiv, 11 Horkoho, office #2, www.sova.ua											
(044)501-0201	Ivankov Vladimir	2004	100 / 0	70	5	45	12	Audit, accounting, legal economic expertise, legal services, management consulting, due diligence, International Financing Reporting Standards reporting	WND	English, French, Turkish	WND
Guarantee-Audit , 01001 Kyiv, 8 / 14 V.Zhytomyrska, office #2, anna.m@bestaudit.com.ua, www.bestaudit.com.ua											
(044)230-8389 (044)230-8390	Aleksey Mechinskiy	2003	100 / 0	65	21	4	WND	Audit, consulting, outsourcing	Beeline, Metro Cash and Carry, A.E.S. Kyivoblenergo, Winner Imports, Boston Consulting group, Uniliver	English	\$1 million
RSM APIK , 03151 Kyiv, 37 / 19 Donetska, office@apik.com.ua, www.rsmapik.com.ua											
(044)501-5934	Tatyana Bernatovych	1993	100 / 0	55	11	25	1	Audit, consulting (management, accounting and tax consulting, internal audit), due diligence, accounting accompanying services	RaiffeisenBank Aval, OTP Bank, CitiBank, ProCredit Bank, Lactalys Ukraine, Grawe Ukraine	English, French	WND

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ACCOUNTING AND AUDIT
Companies listed by number of full-time employees

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Assistant , 01001 Kyiv, 3 Alyabeva, n.ershova@assistant-consulting.com.ua, n.krasnolitskaya@assistant-consulting.com.ua											
(044)501-5352	Oksana Kukurudza	2003	WND	45	9	3	5	Business, accounting and finance consulting	Kraft Foods Ukraine, IDS-Kiev, Dostavka, Euroventures Ukraine	English	WND
Inform Plus , 01001 Kyiv, 6 Sofiyivska, 2nd floor, strelbitskaya@informplus.com.ua www.informplus.com.ua											
(044)278-3640 (044)278-6418	Svetlana Domaschenko	2002	100 / 0	35	4	14	4	Audit, bookkeeping, law and recruiting services	WND	Italian, English	WND
EXPERT group of companies , 04053 Kyiv, 8-B Kudryavska, audit@expert-company.com, www.expert-company.com											
(044)272-5321 (044)272-3821	Dmytro Oleksienko	2003	100 / 0	31	15	4	2	Taxes and law audit, consulting	WND	English	\$660,200
OLGA AUDIT , 04071 Kyiv, 39-41 Khoryva, olga@audit.com.ua, www.audit.com.ua, www.audit.kiev.ua											
(044)545-6535 (044)545-6525	Artur Surmenko	1997	100 / 0	28	12	7	5	Assurance services, audit and consolidation of financial statements, Ukrainian tax declarations audit, advisory services and corporate consulting, mergers and acquisitions	Adidas Ukraine, Komplex Agromars, Edipresse Ukraine, KP Media, DHL International Ukraine, Publishing House UMH, ZARA Ukraine	English	WND
J&L Consulting , 79007 Lviv, 11 Sholom-Aleykhem, j-l@j-l.com.ua, www.J-L.com.ua											
(032)297-0597 (032)297-0595	Anders Johansen	2003	0 / 100	20	2	7	3	Payroll, financial and tax accounting, consultation and implementing on accounting software, tax planning, audit and internal audit	WND	English, German, Danish, Italian, Polish	\$1 million
Glavbuh-Audit , 02094 Kyiv, 18-B Krasnotkatska, office #8, glavbuh@i.kiev.ua, glavbuh_a@voliacable.com, www.glavbuh-audit.com											
(044)451-4491 (044)558-7466	Vladimir Nosov	2000	100 / 0	20	5	5	4	National and International standards' audit, accounting restoration, audit and legal services on purchase and sale of enterprises, accounting and outsourcing services	Knyazhiy Grad, Multiform, East Gate Logistic, Samsung Electronics Ukraine, Kodak, Noritsu	English	WND
Accace , 01054 Kyiv, 45-49 Turhenivska, jana.vasilenkova@accace.eu, www.accace.eu											
(044)569-3310 (044)569-3330	Jana Vasilenkova	2006	0 / 100	25	0	12	WND	Outsourcing of accounting and payroll agenda, tax advisory, finance process consulting, company establishment, changes in commercial register, communication with local state authorities and bank institutions	WND	English, Czech, Slovak	WND
UHY Prostrir , 04050 Kyiv, 71 Turhenivska, audit@prostrir.net.ua, www.prostrir.net.ua											
(044)492-8716 (044)492-8717	Alexander Koinov	2003	100 / 0	23	8	7	4	Audit, financial and tax consulting, accounting services, support of investment projects	Tchibo Ukraine, Sandoz, Reckitt Benckiser Household and Healthcare Ukraine, Ukrnafta, Schuko Ukraine	English	WND
CUPOL , 01004 Kyiv, 43-B Pushkinska											
(044)234-5158 (044)235-3078	Natalya Moskalets	2006	100 / 0	17	5	7	3	Overall audit, developing and setting up accounting processes, advisory on bookkeeping and financial control, accounting outsourcing	OSG Records Management, ALUMIL S.A., ROSUKRENERGO, AON LIMITED	English	WND
Konto-Consulting , 04210 Kyiv, P.O.Box #216, konto-c@voliacable.com, konto-c@i.kiev.ua, www.c-c.com.ua											
(044)501-2639 (044)501-2643	Valery Mazurenko	1997	100 / 0	15	7	2	0	Accounting, audit, tax and legal consulting, financial advisory services	Chio-Wolf Ukraine, Intersnack Affiliated Company, Mary Kay, Mitsui&Co, WestLB AG	English	WND

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Alt , 02002 Kyiv, 52-V M.Raskovoyi, office #164, igor.byeloyvan@alt.com.ua, www.alt.com.ua											
(044)541-0368 (044)541-0369	Igor Byeloyvan	1998	100 / 0	15	3	2	3	Audit, tax, transaction support, business consulting	UPS, Itla Kiev, Readers Digest, Panalpina, UIG, Penta Investments	English	WND
M.T.D. Audit , 01001 Kyiv, 10 Nizhynska, mtd_audit@ukr.net, www.mtd-audit.kiev.ua											
(044)453-0920	Viktoria Biriuchenko	2001	100 / 0	15	4	3	2	Audit, financial statements, record keeping, tax advice, management account	Seven Hills, Office Solutions, Raben Ukraine, Colliers International	English	WND
Ukraine Consulting , 01601 Kyiv, 42-44 Shovkovychna, Horizon Towers, info@ukraine-consulting.eu, www.ukraine-consulting.eu											
(044)490-5528 (044)490-5529	Ulf Schneider	2006	0 / 100	15	0	10	2	Accounting outsourcing, Information Technologies services	WND	English, German	WND
Aksyonova and Partners , 01001 Kyiv, 29-E Vorvskoho, o.makejeva@ap-center.com, www.ap-center.com											
(044)482-2788 (044)482-2858	Elena Makeeva	2003	100 / 0	15	6	5	11	Accounting outsourcing, tax accounting, consulting	WND	Ukrainian, German, English	\$245,300
A.M.A.- Audit , 03151 Kyiv, 2 Narodnoho Opolchennya, suite #37, ama-audit@voliacable.com											
(044)249-0482 (044)249-0482	Valentyna Melnychuk	1995	100 / 0	14	7	4	WND	Tax consulting, assurance services, accounting, financial advisory	WND	English	WND
InterComp , 01001 Kyiv, 4/6-B P.Lumumby, office #111, ukraine@intercomp-mjp.com, www.intercomp-mjp.com, www.intercomp.com.ua											
(044)200-0516 (044)200-0517	Dan Hill	2007	0 / 100	13	WND	8	WND	Payroll, accounting, HR administration, professional employer service	WND	English	WND
Kompas , 04071 Kyiv, 9 Mezhyhirska, office #11, info@kompas.com.ua, www.kompas.com.ua											
(044)467-6988 (044)467-6998	Natalia Naumenko	2001	100 / 0	12	9	4	26	Audit, consulting, business planning, due diligence	Irex, Land lease, Foods trading, Benning Pauer	English	WND
Business Solution , 01001 Kyiv, 13 / 2 Vitruka, www.ug.com.ua											
(044)502-5159 (044)233-8571	Irina Trukhanovskaya	2001	100 / 0	7	1	5	2	Audit, accounting	WND	German	WND
Roedl Audit , 04050 Kyiv, 40 Hlybochyska, audit@roedl.com.ua, www.roedl.de											
(044)586-2303	Valentina Novikova	2003	70 / 30	31	7	31	0	Audit, legal and tax consulting, due diligence	Burda, Stolichnyi, Leoni Vieing Systems	Russian, Polish, English, German	WND
Factor Audit , 61037 Kharkiv, 10 N.Homonenka, office@audit.factor.ua, www.audit.factor.ua											
(057)754-4891 (057)754-4892	Valentina Novikova	1994	100 / 0	26	7	26	0	Audit, legal and tax consulting, outsourcing, due diligence, training	Elkozyn, Eshko, Hamadey	Russian, Polish, English, German	WND
Audit Optim , audit_optim@ukr.net											
(044)425-7499	Tatiana Trushkevich	1994	100 / 0	10	5	3	1	Audit, accounting, consulting, express-audit	WND	German, English	\$350,000
FinInCom , 01135 Kyiv, 7 Hlibova, kbc@finin.com.ua, www.finin.com.ua											
(044)486-5251	Ihor Andreev	2004	100 / 0	8	1	7	1	Accounting and audit	WND	English	WND
De Cort & Steaman , Kyiv - 019, P.O.Box # 195											
(044)239-2366 (044)239-2367	Iryna Karpenko	1997	100 / 0	6	2	3	1	Audit	WND	English	\$181,800
Konsu Kyiv , 01133 Kyiv, 28 L.Ukrayinky, heimo.alatalo@konsu.com, www.konsu.com											
(044)285-9497 (044)284-8017	Heimo Alatalo	2008	0 / 100	6	0	2	2	Financial outsourcing, financial consulting and legal services	WND	English, German, Finnish, Swedish	WND
FinInCom , 01135 Kyiv, 7 Hlibova, acg@finin.com.ua, www.finin.com.ua											
(044)486-5251	Ihor Andreev	2008	100 / 0	4	1	2	1	Audit	Kohavinka, Autolider	English	WND
OnTime , 01030 Kyiv, 10-V Pirohova, office #8, svetlana.voinova@ontime.com.ua, www.ontime.com.ua											
(044)234-3733	Svetlana Voinova	2004	0 / 100	WND	WND	WND	WND	Payroll outsourcing, staff outsourcing, HR	Ernst&Young, EBRD, Holtec International, Empic, Alitalia, British Airways, Lufthanza	Ukrainian, English, Russian	WND
KUPALA-KYIV , 02166 Kyiv, 17-B Lisovyi Prosp., office #85, info@kupala.biz, www.kupala.biz											
(044)223-8775 (044)518-5838	Tetiana Kanatova	WND	100 / 0	WND	WND	WND	WND	WND	WND	WND	WND



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- Compilation of local Financial Statements into IFRS as well as into various Internal Statements (Management accounting);

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A handful of Ukraine's richest men have effectively monopolized the largest media outlets in the nation, raising questions about whether such concentrated ownership is serving the public's interest in getting free and robust investigative journalism in print and on the airwaves. (Dmytro Nikonorov)

Journalists admit to self-censorship

→1 Pinchuk, Ukraine's second richest man and son-in-law to former President Leonid Kuchma, owns a media empire of five TV channels, including ICTV, STB, Novy Kanal, M1 and M2. Together they accounted for more than 24 percent of total viewing audiences in the first nine months of 2008, according to data from GfK Ukraine, a market research company.

Pinchuk's portfolio also includes the Fakty i Kommentarii daily newspaper, whose declared daily print run of more than 780,000 is Ukraine's highest.

The media holdings belonging to Rinat Akhmetov, the country's richest man, include the Segodnya daily national newspaper. With a declared print run that tops 169,000 copies, Segodnya is one of the country's most popular dailies.

Akhmetov has also invested heavily in the TRK Ukraina television channel that has made the transition from regional channel in Donetsk to national player with studios in Kyiv.

Ukraine has hired foreign media managers, secured broadcasting rights for national football team matches and recently recruited TV star Savik Shuster to host a nightly political talk show. The Donetsk oligarch's bold moves are helping his station to gain ground on market leaders Inter and 1+1.

Ukraine's third richest man, Ihor Kolomoisky, also boasts television and print media assets.

He controls a 3 percent share of Central European Media Enterprises (CME), which owns 1+1, the second most popular channel so far in 2008.

The 1+1 channel is not the only medium where Kolomoisky can potentially exercise his influence. He also with partners has interests in TET TV, Glavred magazine, UNIAN news agency, Telekritika and Profile magazines, according to media reports.

But the biggest mystery remains the real ownership of UA InterMedia Group, the largest holding in the country. The group includes Inter, the leading national channel with more than 20 percent audience share, NTN, K1, K2, Megaspport, Enter Film, Enter Music TV channels,

→ Dangers seen in few owning so many media outlets

and the Ukrainian News agency.

While billionaire Valeriy Khoroshkovsky is the reported proprietor, observers name Dmytro Firtash, co-owner of RosUkrEnergo gas intermediary, as the person behind the scenes. "Obviously Firtash is involved there, but the exact extent is not known," Dovzhenko said.

The concentration of ownership is not unique to Ukraine, but the lack of transparency is a major problem, said Marta Dyczok, an associate professor of the University of Western Ontario who specializes in Ukrainian media. "It's a question of accountability. In the West, it's clear who owns what."

The primary interest in media is the enormous political influence it offers, Ligachova said, identifying a simple but effective chain: "Politicians talk to [media] owners, who influence station managers. Managers then tell journalists what to report."

Censorship is still prevalent, but it's not as straightforward as it used to be, she said. "They don't ban. They pay."

"Dzhinsa" is the industry buzz word for paid-for news. "Often a lot of money is paid for something not to be reported," Ligachova added.

This is a vast improvement over 2004, when direct political censorship still existed under president Kuchma. His chief of staff, Viktor Medvedchuk, maintained control over the media by sending editors and journalists daily instructions called "temnyky" – orders on what news to cover and how to cover it. "In the early gos, people were learning investigative journalism, but censorship got worse and worse under Kuchma," Dyczok, the Canadian pro-

fessor, said. She said the best journalists "either gave up or sold out."

Most national media during the 2004 election campaign was biased against opposition candidate Victor Yushchenko. Only Channel 5, owned by his friend Petro Poroshenko (now head of the central bank's supervisory council), offered support to Yushchenko.

But a breakthrough occurred when many journalists refused to report the fraudulent results that declared the Kuchma-backed candidate, Victor Yanukovych, the winner. The subsequent protests that started the Orange Revolution also marked a turning point in Ukraine's media history.

"Political censorship disappeared overnight," Dyczok said. "Speech became more or less free."

But not for long, journalists add. "During the recent Kyiv mayoral elections, politicians bought media loyalty wholesale," said Yegor Sobolev, an independent journalist. "And there is no one to resist this [political money]. Media owners and managers usually stand for it, while journalists don't find the will and conscience to unite and stand up against it."

Sobolev said large media owners do not spend too much time worrying about the reputations of their media assets, when their financial wellbeing depends on business and political interests. Such factors as viewer trust and quality of product pale in comparison, said Sobolev, who quit Channel 5 last spring, citing lack of freedom.

Protection and promotion of corporate interests are centerpieces of the agenda, agreed Dyczok. "Advertising is hidden in news reports. For example, a bank can be advertised through interviews and made to look like a news story. It can be subtle."

Reporting is often tailored to the interests of a media owners' support base, Ligachova said.

"There is certain pluralism, but there is a difference in emphasis." And the differences in emphases are often clear.

Akhmetov's Segodnya, for example,

Five businessmen who control the Ukrainian media market

	TRK Ukraina TV channel		302
	Daily Segodnya Daily		
	Cable TV channel Football		planned for launch in December
	Cable TV channel News		planned for launch in December
	ICTV TV channel		405
	STB TV channel		
	Novyi Kanal TV channel		412
	M1 TV channel		72
	M2 TV channel		
	Daily Fakty i Kommentarii		
	1+1 TV channel		822 3 percent stake at CME holding
	TET TV channel		
	Glavred magazine and website		
	UNIAN news agency		
	Telekritika magazine and website		
Profil' magazine			
	Inter TV channel		
	NTN TV channel		
	K1 TV channel		
	K2 TV channel		
	Megaspport TV channel		
	Enter Film TV channel		
	Enter Music TV channel		
	Ukrainian News agency		
	Channel 5 TV channel		83

Value estimated by Dragon Capital (\$ million)

Source: Korrespondent

promotes an anti-NATO, pro-Russian agenda that is popular in the Donetsk region, where his business empire is primarily based. A report about NATO in March ironically called Yushchenko "that great geo-politician of modernity." When NATO declined to grant Ukraine a membership action plan in April, the chief editor wrote a blog mockingly titled, "Well, sonny, did your NATO help you?"

But an alternative view on NATO was available because Pinchuk's STB channel took a more positive view of the summit in April. One report reiterated: "It's not a refusal. Ukraine will be in NATO."

There are signs of improvement. Huge potential advertising revenues are forcing more businesslike approaches. The All-Ukrainian Advertising Coalition estimated the total investment in media advertising for 2007 at slightly more than \$1 billion, a 25 percent increase from the previous year.

Dyczok said that market forces are starting to drive the sector, although the influence of owners remains strong.

Ukrainian reporters, speaking on condition of anonymity, confessed to practicing self-censorship. One journalist admitted refraining from interviewing anyone "who might say something negative on a subject you're not supposed to write anything negative about."

Another journalist, from Glavred Media holding, said: "There have been cases when some journalists offended owners, so then the stories were edited or not published, but journalists were not fired."

Market forces can also lead to the tabloidization of news by sacrificing serious analysis for sensational reporting.

"There's not one television channel where you can find out what is actually going on. And there are only a few good newspapers," Ligachova, the Telekritika chief editor, complained.

But Ukraine is not alone in this respect. "The sensationalization of news is happening everywhere," Canada's Dyczok said. "There's a focus on style over substance."

Millions leave homeland

→1 The best estimates are that at least 3 million Ukrainians are living abroad, legally and illegally, many of them lured by American and European dreams.

The exodus contributes to a population that continues to slip – down from 52 million people in the last decade to today's 46 million people. While high mortality rates and low birthrates are contributing factors, so is the robust emigration of Ukrainian citizens.

Natalya Polyanina, 30, is part of the modern-day diaspora.

She boarded an outbound train 10 years ago for reasons that will not surprise many Ukrainians. But they were still depressing, nonetheless.

"Nobody wanted me in Ukraine. I could not find a decent job and had to work as a nanny and a trolleybus conductor," said Polyanina, who was trained to be an accountant. As a street vendor in Moscow, she was making \$10 a day – twice as much as in Ukraine. Now she runs a small textile business.

Back in Cherkasy, a town in central Ukraine, she left her parents and a younger brother behind. With time, her mother has joined her in the suburbs of Moscow. Her brother, Oleksiy, settled in Canada.

She is happy with her choice. "We don't miss Ukraine that much, only salo [pig's lard – a staple national cuisine]," said Polyanina's mother, Galyna Shmatova, 61. "It was a rare happiness to eat chicken in Cherkasy. We got used to ready-made noodles there, but here (in Russia) we can buy whatever we want."

Their story is typical for millions in Ukraine. According to the Kyiv Institute of Sociology, some 16 percent of all families have at least one member working abroad. "This number is not catastrophic, but still very high," said migration expert Oleksiy Poznyak, comparing Ukraine to Moldova, where a third of the working population makes money abroad.

Official statistics show a moderate fivefold increase in labor migration from 12,000 people in 1996 to 62,000 two years ago. But, according to the International Organization for Migration, the United Nations watchdog, these figures do not even remotely mirror the actual number of people on the move.

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, analysts say that millions have gone abroad, although the exodus is believed to have slowed in recent years.

"Even if the economic situation in Ukraine suddenly improves, they won't come back immediately," Poznyak, of the Kyiv Institute of Sociology, said. "It's easier for them to find a job abroad where they know their sector."

→ "Nobody wanted me in Ukraine," said Natalya Polyanina, now living in Moscow. "I could not find a decent job."

Many don't go far. Neighboring Russia and Poland, and the nearby Czech Republic, attract the highest number of migrants. Italy, Portugal and Spain are among the favorites too.

Some of these countries are so welcoming that they loosen up immigration laws to encourage the imported labor force to stay.

Russia has recently made changes to its law on citizenship. Foreigners applying for a residency permit no longer need to live there for five consecutive years, show income statements or pass tests in the Russian language.

To make things even easier, "compatriots" who were born in Russia at the time of the Soviet Union are accorded a red-carpet reception. There are at least three million of them in Ukraine right now.

Polyanina's mother, Galina Shmatova, is one of them. She said that she was happy to go back.

"It was good there (in Ukraine) when we were a part of a big state (the Soviet Union). Now, a mess in politics is taking its toll on the people's lives," said Shmatova, babysitting her four-month-old granddaughter, already a Russian citizen.

In theory, people with a Soviet birth

certificate like hers can grab their rucksacks and board an evening train.

"This law is aimed at those workers who are already there, not the people who spent most of their lives in Ukraine," said former Foreign Minister Borys Tarasyuk. He is doubtful of a mass exodus. "However, they should remember that Russia is easing up rules not to satisfy these people's interests, but to achieve their political and military goals."

Whatever the agenda of an employer country, Ukrainians are happy to abide if they can provide better for their families back home.

An English writer born to Ukrainian parents had an experience of her own. Maryna Lewycka, 62, took note of westward migration in a fictional novel "The Short History of Tractors," which draws heavily on her life. A blend of comedy and desperation, it tells about two quarreling sisters who reconcile to save their father from a late marriage to "a fluffy pink grenade" from Ukraine called Valentyna.

"I used to be liberal about immigration," said one of the sisters, Nadia. "But now I imagine hordes of Valentynas barging their way...pouring off the boats, purposeful, single-minded, mad." Lewycka said that some British people may think of migrants as intruders. Others are usually welcoming because they provide cheap labor. Yet most do not even encounter them as they "tend to inhabit a separate world of work, and live with other migrants."

Ukrainians dissatisfied with their lot in life have reason to expect welcome mats abroad for the foreseeable future, thanks to demographic slides all around them.

By 2050, the European Union

nations are expected to need some 50 million migrants and Russia another 35 million to keep the biological clock ticking at the same level.

For some, leaving Ukraine helps them to put their homeland in a different – but not always better – light.

Such was the case with linguist Oleksandra Frolova, 26.

Frolova left Ukraine three years ago. She took a long bus ride to join a league of Ukrainian conquistadors in Spain. Her mother, formerly an assistant to the general manager of a champagne plant, was already there working as a babysitter. Frolova got a job as a shopkeeper.

In Saragossa, she started to understand Ukraine's shortcomings as never before.

"The contrast with Europe is huge. Prices are higher, the service industry died before it was born, the people are evil," Frolova said. "I have no moral right to bring my child into a country where the state experiments on its own people through (dubious) vaccinations and where environmental conditions are a threat to life."

It may be hard to induce families like the Frolovs to come back.

The head of the Lviv Oblast administration, Mykola Kmit, is in charge of the district in western Ukraine where migration is some of the heaviest. "We already have Chinese migrants working in the mines, gas and oil fields in Lviv. The minus is that, when they come, they don't leave and they don't die," he said, summarizing with exaggeration the consequence of a shortage in the local workforce.

Kmit hopes that preparations for the football championship Euro 2012 will bring at least the "shuttle" migrants back (people engaged in regular trade trips).

Kyiv head of the International Organization for Migration, Jeffrey Labovitz, also thinks that labor migration in Ukraine is starting to diminish. "With construction workers, for example, wages in Ukraine have become competitive to those in countries where they traditionally go," he said, sounding positive that blue collar workers will eventually come back.

British writer Lewycka has suggested that Ukraine should be made a part



Natalya Polyanina, 30, left Ukraine for Russia and has never looked back.

of the EU to let people move to work legally and return home freely to be with their families, like the Poles or the Czechs do.

"When I visited Ukraine, I could see that life was hard in the rural areas, but I could see that there was also a level of mutual support and kindness which enabled people to survive, which inevitably is missing in the U.K.," Lewycka said, commending both the spirit of Ukrainians and their attachment to the homeland.

When her books came out, she half expected her family to ask her for work opportunities in Britain. "Funnily enough, they did not," she said. "And no one from Ukraine has ever asked me for help."

While Russia and other nations have attempted to get their expatriates to return home, there is no cohesive plan in Ukraine. So, for the foreseeable future, the red warning billboards at the train station in Lviv are likely to stay in place. They announce simply: The country is short of labor hands.

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JEAN-PIERRE GARITTE has been an international internal audit trainer and consultant for a number of years. For over 20 years, he was the Director of Internal Audit at J. Van Breda & Co, a financial holding company based in Antwerp, Belgium. Jean-Pierre Garitte is currently a partner with Deloitte Enterprise Risk Services (ERS), where he leads the corporate governance, internal audit and risk management practice for Europe, the Middle East and Africa. He is specialized in the quality assessment of internal audit activities.

He is Professor in Corporate Governance, Internal and Information Systems Auditing at the UAMS Management School in Antwerp and at the Vlaamse Economische Hogeschool in Brussels. He was a visiting professor at the Erasmus University in Rotterdam and at the South Bank University in London. He has been advising boards of directors and audit committees in Belgium, Germany, Thailand, Malaysia, Romania, Slovenia and Turkey. He has been training and developing internal audit departments in Belgium, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Turkey, Malaysia, Thailand, Greece, Morocco and Tunisia, and has been a lecturer at several European, Middle East, Asian, North and Latin-American internal audit conferences. He is a European Union expert for restructuring projects in Eastern Europe and South East Asia.

He holds a University degree (licentiate) in Commercial and Financial Science and a Master's degree in Accounting. He is a Certified Internal Auditor (CIA), a Certified Accountant (CA), a Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA), a Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE) and holds a Certification in Control Self Assessment (CCSA).

Being native Flemish, he is fluent in French, English and German, and also feels comfortable with Spanish and Portuguese.

He is a former Chairman of the Board of the international Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA). His leadership theme, "Building Bridges," focused on increasing public awareness of corporate governance issues in internal auditing, generating ideas and opinions with regard to the profession, and supporting internal auditors worldwide from a proactive perspective.

At the European level, he has been the President of the European Confederation of Institutes of Internal Auditing (ECIIA) for six years. For three years, he was also the Chairman of the Asian Confederation of Institutes of Internal Auditing (ACIIA), representing the profession in the Asia-Pacific Region. Jean-Pierre is currently a global Ambassador for the Institute of Internal Auditors and a member of the Standards Board.



To know more about the event please contact us at: Tatyana.lebedynets@aval.ua, Svitlana.pinega@aval.ua



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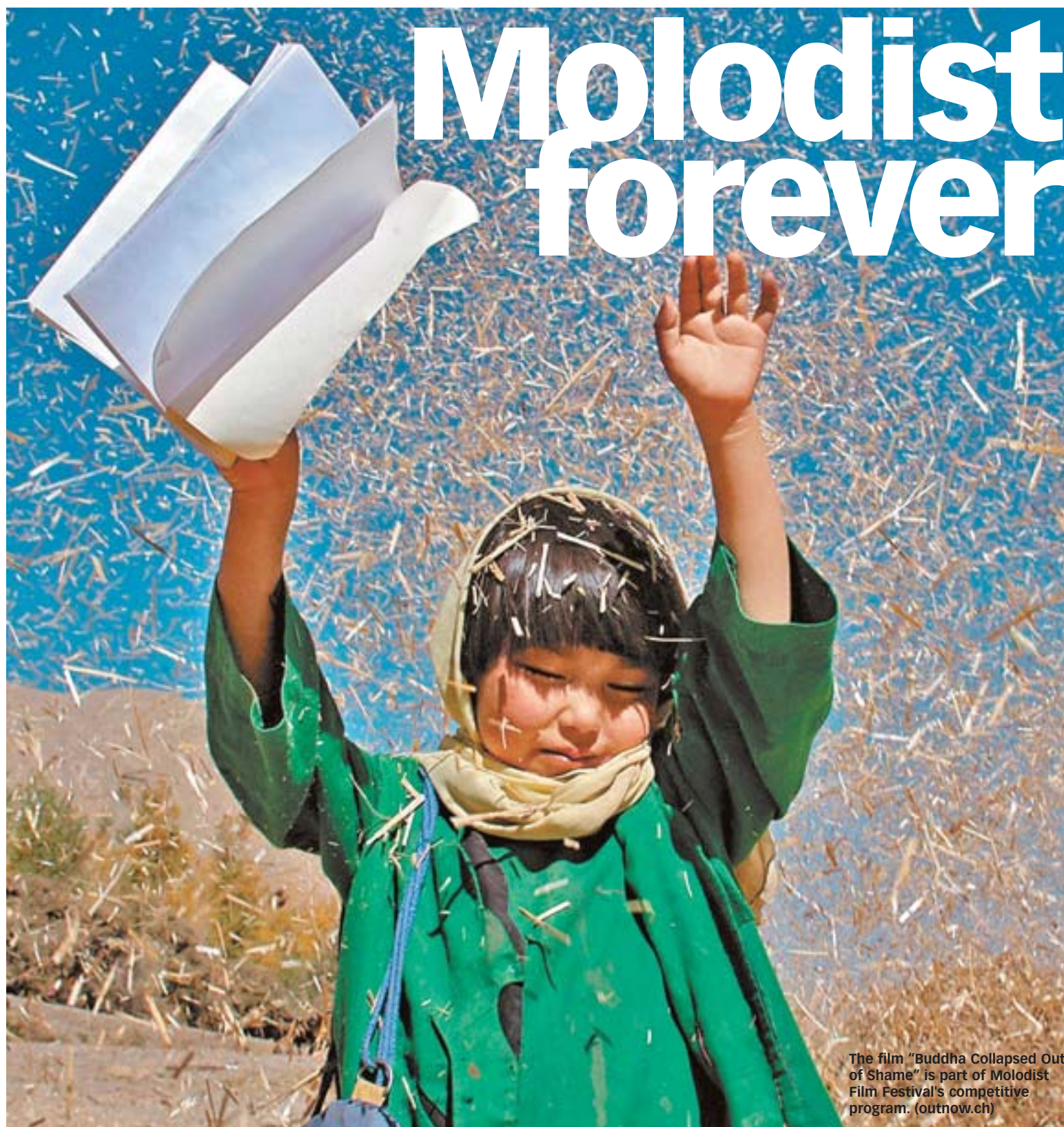
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Entertainment & Culture section

October 16, 2008

www.kyivpost.com



Molodist forever

The film "Buddha Collapsed Out of Shame" is part of Molodist Film Festival's competitive program. (outnow.ch)

BY ALEXANDRA MATOSHKO and MARIA LEONTIEVA

MATOSHKO@KPMEDIA.UA, LEONTIEVA@KPMEDIA.UA

Ukraine's main movie event of the year, Molodist (Youth) Film Festival, is going to take place in Kyiv Oct. 18-26. The festival presents works from the best young moviemakers, including feature films and short film debuts, as well as student movies.

Besides, plenty of great works will be demonstrated as a part of a non-competitive program, including special showings, shorts collections and

retrospectives of legendary actors and directors.

The honorable president of this year's Molodist is Ukrainian President Victor Yushchenko, and the co-heads of the board of trustees are actor Gerard Depardieu and Hares Youssef. As usual, the festival (www.molodist.com) expects many famous guests from the cinema world, but as it often happens, their names are kept secret until the last minute.

However, the composition of the 38th Molodist's international jury was already announced. The jury will be headed by American actor Armand

Assante ("Napoleon and Josephine: a Love Story," "The Mambo Kings" "Blind Justice," "The Odyssey"), who played the lead role in the Romanian movie "California Dreamin'," recently shown in local theaters as a part of the "Molodist Premonition" mini-fest.

Other members of the jury include Russian actress Alla Demidova, acting in film and the theater since the 1970s; Hungarian director Andras Fesos, mostly known for his short movies and documentaries such as "Tale in Sarajevo," "Want to Reach the Sun" and "Horse Race at New Year's Eve"; Ukrainian artist Serhiy Yakutovych,

the illustrator of numerous literature editions and art director of Ukrainian films "A Prayer for Hetman Mazepa" and "Taras Bulba" (still in production); Gaga Chkheyidze, head of the International Tbilisi Film Festival and Yuriy Makarov, Ukrainian TV host, journalist and writer.

The program of the festival is vast and exciting, featuring over 400 movies, with many films shown in original with subtitles or live translation. But because most films will be shown just once during the fest, it's best to plan your film program and get tickets in advance! →4

→ Once I heard an American acquaintance of mine call Kyiv "Disneyland."

I was, of course, amazed at such a definition, but as it turned out, he merely meant the contrast it makes with the rest of Ukraine. If you are a foreigner and you come and live right in the central area of the capital, moving between local clubs and restaurants, you will not be affected by the "brutish realities" of life in Eastern Europe much or at all.

With all these high-end establishments – restaurants offering dinners for \$100 apiece, shops selling garments by top designers and gold-plated mobile phones, Kyiv looks quite similar to what you'd find in many other Western European capitals. Indeed, it's hard to make someone believe Ukraine is "poor" while watching all Lexuses and Hummers park in front of the luxurious Mandarin Plaza.

Naturally, the percentage of rich in the population is very low, so who consumes all this ridiculously expensive stuff? Places like Louis Vuitton boutique stand empty for the most part, its shop assistants resembling mannequins with their stillness.

But, of course, how they keep their business going doesn't concern me. What concerns me and many of my fellow citizens, locals as well as expats, is an obvious lack of businesses catering to the needs of the middle class.

Each new nightclub opening in town seems to have one single goal – to exceed all others in terms of luxury and price level as well as face control. How else will you attract people to a new place, unless you tell them it's almost inaccessible?

Also, there are more and more restaurants appearing, where people like to go not because of amazing food and service (which is often not the case), but because they don't mind paying ridiculous prices for things that are actually worth 20 times less. That means they have really "made it." Decent low-priced hotels are also scarce. There are top-notch rooms for those who can afford it. If not, your best choice would be renting apartments by the day. Still, in general, renting in Kyiv is not a cheap enterprise and the city is fast approaching the world's most expensive cities in this respect. The thing is, even if it gets as pricy as Paris and London, it's not going to get any closer to becoming one of them. And the prices that keep going up may eventually start scaring people off, rather than attracting them. The fact that it's possible to drink and smoke almost everywhere in Kyiv makes it all seem very free, but the "freedom" it creates is outweighed by the negative impact it has on the general level of morale and culture.

In the meantime, yet another political turmoil already scared Italian singer Eros Ramazzotti into postponing his show until December due to the "unstable political situation." Is he scared to be run down by an angry mob in this "Disneyland"?

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

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

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(news.online.ua)

Christina Aguilera

Probably the biggest music event this fall, Christina Aguilera's first show in Kyiv is already close at hand. Her appearance in Ukraine's capital sparked some hysteria from the start. First of all, her show at Palats Ukraina was to become the most expensive concert in Ukraine's history. Despite impressively steep prices, most tickets were sold, but lots of Kyivans still weren't able to attend the show. Luckily, Christina agreed to give another one, a cheaper concert at Palats Sportu.

Skeptics don't believe Aguilera will perform in Kyiv at all, after she abolished her concert in Moscow scheduled for Oct. 16. Yet optimists believe the 27-year-old singer will come and present her greatest hits album, "Keeps Gettin' Better – A Decade of Hits," to be released Nov. 11. With this album, Aguilera will commemorate her 10 years in the music industry. It will include the hits "Genie In A Bottle," "What A Girl Wants," and "Come on Over" from her debut album "Christina Aguilera" (1999), two songs from her second full-length English album "Stripped", including "Dirrty" and "Beautiful." And, of course, the album couldn't be complete without "Ain't No Other Man," a lead single from the last "Back to Basics" album, which won Aguilera yet another Grammy.

– **Oksana Faryna**
PALATS SPORTU
Palats Sportu metro, 246-7406
Oct. 20, 7 p.m., Tickets Hr 200 – Hr 2,500.

PALATS UKRAINA
Palats Ukraina metro, 103 Chervonoarmiyska
Oct. 21, 7 p.m., Tickets Hr 250 – Hr 9,500



(Courtesy, Photo)

KievFotoCom

An international festival of photography, KievFotoCom, will last until Nov. 9. One of its first exhibitions is "Adventures in Cross-Casting" – photographs by Diana Blok. A project of the Dutch photographer, created in 1997, it includes 30 portraits of actors from the Theater Institute Netherlands. The creative artist asked them to play roles in front of the camera, roles which they have dreamt about during their entire lives onstage. But they couldn't play them, as they were meant for the opposite sex. The photographer and her camera became the only witnesses to how men transformed into women, and vice versa, and how people change their characters. Portrait is Diana Blok's favorite genre. It is a perfect method to capture a person's true self. She takes photo portraits of her friends and relatives and even of Dutch prisoners. Her photos are included in private collections in New York, Tokyo, Buenos Aires and Helsinki.

Diana is a true citizen of the world. She was born in Uruguay and spent her youth in Columbia, Guatemala and Mexico. She studied photography by herself and opened her first exhibition at 25 years old. Now at her 56, Diana is a lecturer at the prestigious Royal Art Academy in Hague.

– **Oksana Faryna**
SOVIART
22A Andriyivskiy Uzviz, 425-2219
Through Oct. 23
More information at www.kievfotocom.com

Jazz in Kyiv

The Jazz in Kyiv festival (www.jazzinkiev.com) is going to make Kyiv the European jazz capital for three days. The festival includes concerts and master classes held by world stars and the best Ukrainian jazzmen, jazz photo exhibitions and movies. Kyiv hasn't seen so much jazz before!

The goal of the project was to present all kinds of jazz music. The guests of the first day will be Swedish musicians New Tango Orchestra, who don't actually play jazz, but their appearance at the festival will be a commemoration to Argentinean music and creator of new tango, Astor Piazzollo. "New Argentinean tango is a kind of music which jazz musicians are fond of," explained Oleksiy Kohan, art director of Jazz in Kyiv. The first day finishes with British bassist Dave Holland, a representative of modern jazz and three-time Grammy winner. He will have great support from his band, each member of which is a star in his own right.

The best Ukrainian jazz musicians will start the second day of the festival as a part of Misha Tsyhanov's United Quintet and Alex Fantayev band. The day will finish with Ukrainian-Israeli bassist and vocalist, Avishai Cohen, with a new vocal project. He will perform ethnic music, his own compositions and improvisations.

The third day will start with unique American guitarist Charlie Hunter, whose guitar has five guitar strings and three bass strings on which he plays using his left thumb. The headliner of the fest will be inimitable master of vocals, Al Jarreau, the only singer in history who received Grammy awards in three categories at once – jazz, pop and R&B. It will be his first concert in Kyiv.



(Al Jarreau, www.amazon.com)

– **Oksana Faryna**
INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR CULTURE AND ARTS
1 Instytutska
Oct. 17, 7 p.m., tickets Hr 60 to Hr 500.
Oct. 18, 5 p.m., tickets Hr 80 to Hr 750.
Oct. 19, 6 p.m., tickets Hr 150 to Hr 950

For tickets, call 8095-111-5577 or buy them at www.jazzinkiev.com.



(www.flamencoworld.org)

Thomas de Madrid Flamenco Theater

As a part of its Europe tour, the Flamenco Theater of Thomas de Madrid will show its new program "That's All Flamenco." Kyiv audience have already seen such theater performances as "Love Story," "Passion" and "Roads of a Dance" in 2000, 2002 and 2007. Now it wis sure to be excited for a fresh portion of hot flamenco.

Thomas de Madrid is considered one of the most famous flamenco dancers in the world. He founded his cast in 1979 and went on a world tour, conquering audiences with great skill and a fiery temperament. He is not only a dancer, but an interesting choreographer as well. In 1997 at the opera festival in Edinburg, he created the choreography for the opera "Carmen" by Bizet, starring Placido Domingo and Teresa Berganza.

Flamenco dance appeared in southern Spain, in the region of Andalusia, in the 15th century. It is generally acknowledged that it grew out of the unique interplay of native Andalusian, Arabic, Sephardic and Gypsy cultures that co-existed on that territory. The so-called Golden Age of Flamenco took place between 1869 and 1910. During those years, flamenco music developed rapidly in music cafes and flamenco dancers became the major public attraction there. It was then that flamenco developed into the definitive form we know today. This dance genre is characterized by its expressive audible footwork and is associated with ardent love – "a clot of blood jammed in a throat," as Spaniards call it.

– **Oksana Faryna**
INTERNATIONAL CENTER OF CULTURE AND ARTS
1 Instytutska
Oct. 21, 7 p.m.
Tickets Hr 40 to Hr 700



(www.aolcdh.com)

Evening of pantomime

A second season of pantomime art starts in the House of Actors, where the best Ukrainian mimes, directed by Volodymyr Kryukov, will show their mastery. Ukrainian mimes, as all mimes in the world, considered themselves followers of France's Marcel Marceau. In turn, the famous Frenchman learned from Charlie Chaplin, who created the image of the "small man." Marcel Marceau's main image was a clown with a white face in an old hat and striped sweater called Bip. This image was born in 1947 and remained unchanged for over 60 years.

Marceau performed on the best stages of the world. He toured often and was one of the few actors invited to the Soviet Union in 1957. In 1978, Marceau established the International School of Mimodrame of Paris, where mimes from all over the world came to study. In 1996, he started a foundation to support pantomime in the United States. The French Government conferred its highest honor upon Marceau, making him an Officier de la Legion d'Honneur. In 1998, President Jacques Chirac named Marceau a Grand Officer of the Order of Merit.

At the age of 84, Marcel Marceau died in his home in Cahors, France, on Sept. 22, 2007. His burial ceremony was accompanied by Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 21 and the sarabanda dance of Bach's Cello Suite No. 5.

– **Oksana Faryna**
House of Actor
7 Yaroslaviv Val
Oct. 23, 7 p.m.
Tickets Hr 40 to Hr 90



A retrospective of films by great actress Jeanne Moreau will include "Eva," "Mr. Klein," "Dangeorus Liaisons" and other classics. (img148.imageshack.us)

Molodist festival begins!

→1 Competition

Feature films competing for the main prizes of the festival include "The Guitar" – a directing debut by Robert Redford's daughter Amy, showing a transformation of a woman after she is diagnosed with a terminal illness, fired from her thankless job and abandoned by her boyfriend. Given two months to live, she blows her savings and maxes out her credit cards to pursue her dreams, which include learning to play the electric guitar. The Russian film "Mukha" (Fly) by Vladimir Kott is about the cruel world of teenagers, that does not accept outsiders and does not spare insiders. A touching film about love, "A Simple Heart" ("Un Coeur Simple") by Marion Laine tells about Felicite, a simple and kind maid, who devotes herself completely to giving love to all those who surround her. But fate seems to always deny her any love in return. The drama "Versailles," directed by Pierre Schiller, tells a story of homeless young mother Nina, who drifted to Versailles with her 5-year old son Enzo. In the woods near the palace, they meet Damien, a man who lives in a hut, cut off from everything. After Nina suddenly disappears, the man and the child get acquainted, start to get along and grow fond of each other. The Canadian film "The Fight" (Le Ring), directed by Anais Barbeau-Lavalette is about thirty-year-old Rasha, who lives with his alcoholic father and tries to make ends meet by giving lessons and hosting a program on the local radio. The monotony of their lives is interrupted by the arrival of Igor. They all get together one

evening, and what begins as a cheerful high school reunion turns into an emotional roller coaster of reminiscing and grim soul-searching.

Other films on the program include: "Night Before Eyes" (Nacht vor Augen) by Brigitte Maria Bertele (Germany), "Shultes" (Shultes) by Bakur Bakuradze (Russia), "The Investigator" (Anyomozo) by Attila Gigor (Hungary), "Snow" (Snijeg) by Aida Begic (Bosnia and Herzegovina), "Salt of This Sea" (Milh Hadha Al-Bahr) by Annemarie Jacir (Switzerland, France), "Buddha Collapsed Out of Shame" by Hana Makhmalbaf (Iran) and "Huddersfield" (Hadersfeld) by Ivan Zivkovic (Serbia). Overall Molodist's competitive program consists of 12 feature films and 20 to 25 in both short and student film competition.

The program *Panorama of Ukrainian Cinema 2007-2008* offers over 20 films by young directors, including the most "awkward film of the year", as the media dubbed it already, "Las Meninas" by Ihor Podolchak – a psychological drama about a family living in the city suburbs in an old villa, which looks more like a stage setting than a real house. Among the actors starring in the film are Mykola Veresen, Lyubov Timoshevska, Dmitriy Chernyavsky and Hanna Yarovenko.

Non-competitive program

The 38th Molodist festival will be opened by a film from the non-competitive program, "Birds of Paradise," by Ukrainian director Roman Balayan, which premiered as part of the main program of Moscow International Film



Drama "Snow" (Snijeg) by Bosnian director Aida Begic will compete for the main prizes of Molodist film festival. (outnow.ch)



Martin Freeman (middle) portrays artist Rembrandt van Rijn in "Nightwatching" – British director Peter Greenaway's original look at the life of the genius. The film will be shown as a part of the Festival of Festivals program. (outnow.ch)

Festival last summer. The film is a psychological drama based on a novel by emigrant-writer Dmitriy Savvitskiy "Waltz for K" and "From Nowhere with Love," adapted for the wide screen by playwright Rustam Ibrahimbekov. The soundtrack was created by Svyatoslav Vakarchuk and Okean Elzy. The story takes place in the Soviet Union in the beginning of the 1980s. The characters, played by Andriy Kuzychov, Oksana Akinshyna, Oleh Yankovskiy and Serhiy Romanyuk, stand up against the inhuman government machine. The actors and film crew are expected to arrive in Kyiv to present the movie to Ukrainian viewers.

Retrospectives

Belgian film director *Andre Delvaux* was widely considered a founder of Belgian cinema, his films set between reality and fantasy. His retrospective will include the films "Benvenuta" (1983), "Appointment in Bray" (1971), "One Night, a Train" (1968) and others.

The *Jeanne Moreau Retrospective* features the best films of the legendary actress: "Eva" (1962) and "Mr. Klein" (1976) by Joseph Losey, "Dangerous Liaisons" (1959) by Roger Vadim, "Bay of Angels" (1963) by Jacques Demi and other works.

A *Century of The Great* retrospective will feature the ultimate classics of various countries: "All About Eve" by Joseph Mankiewicz (U.S., 1950), "Village Teacher" by Mark Donskoy (Russia, 1947), "Mama Roma" by Pier Paolo Pasolini (Italy, 1962), "The Test for Faithfulness" by Ivan Pyryev (Russia, 1954) and "Annychka" by Borys Ivchenko (Ukraine, 1968).

Modern films

Traditional *Festival of Festivals* will show a number of films that participated in recent international festivals: "Sita Sings the Blues" by American Nina Paley, "Nightwatching" by Peter Greenaway (Britain), "Rumba" by Dominique Abel and Fiona Gordon (Belgium), "Three Monkeys" by Turkish director Nuri Bilge Ceylan and other movies.

French Cinema Today features eight new French films: "Julia" by Erick Zonca, "Born in 1968" by Olivier Ducastel and Jacques Martineau, "Paris" by Cedric Klapisch and "Disco" by Fabien Onteniente among others.

Serbian New Wave will present new Serbian movies: "The Fourth Man" by Dejan Zecevic, "The Optimists" by Goran Paskaljevic, "Maradona by Kusturica" by Emir Kusturica and other films.

Special Showings of films by famous directors will include "Ashes of Time" (1994) by iconic Korean director Wong Kar Wai, "Her Name is Sabine" (2007) – debut film by French actress Sandrine Bonnaire, and "The Adventures of Baron Munchausen" by one of the most eccentric American directors Terry Gilliam among others.

Also, don't miss a collection of shorts *A Long Night of European Cinema, Cinema Against Totalitarianism, Movie Documents about Holodomor* and *Modern Experiment Program Signet de Nuit*.

Sunny Bunny

The Sunny Bunny program of the unique queer film competition in Eastern Europe will include two elements: special screenings of gay and

lesbian themed films, which will be based around Ukraine and the post-Soviet space, supplemented by a guest screening of Australian queer shorts and a parallel competition for the Sunny Bunny prize to be awarded to one of the films included in the Molodist festival program. The Sunny Bunny film contest was established as a parallel competition in the Molodist program in 2001 and gathered an international jury. From all films shown at Molodist, it selected the one that was most significant for the LGBT-community and awarded it a symbolic prize – a toy bunny with a little looking glass attached. In 2006 and 2007, queer films were presented as non-competitive program screenings, yet united into their own special programs, organized respectively in cooperation with the Paris Lesbian and Gay Film Festival and the Berlin International Film Festival. This year, the program will include both competitive and non-competitive elements, as well as several presentations and special events. The trashy, funny, thrilling, flamboyant, intensive and even shocking collection of best Australian queer short films this year will be presented by Australian queer cinema director and producer Bartholomew Sammut. Queer short films, which will first be presented respectively in student and short competition programs as well as in Long Nights of Short Films, will be screened in Zhovten as a separate program.

Various cinemas. See select showtimes and cinema locations in Movies (Page 3). For more information go to www.molodist.com.



BY OLGA KOVALENKO
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Fashion jewelry, first made popular by iconic designer Coco Chanel and then by fashion jewelry designer Kenneth Jay Lane, is no longer considered a cheap compensation for those who cannot afford gold and diamonds. Indeed, some of the most exquisite costume jewelry pieces can be considered just as precious.

If you don't have the opportunity to embellish yourself with expensive jewelry haute couture, there are plenty of shops in Kyiv where you can choose something to fit your purse and your wardrobe.

As a big fan of accessories, I frequently visit the city's costume jewelry shops, hoping to find something new every time. I cannot calmly pass all those glittery things, so for me even a small tour around a fashion jewelry

store becomes a real test of strong will – to try not to spend all my savings on all the pretty things. Of course, there is plenty of cheap trash on the market, but the chance to find something really precious and just for you among all those heaps of shiny trinkets, is what makes costume jewelry shopping so exciting.

Accessorize

Accessorize is without a question the busiest chain selling mid-range accessories and fashion jewelry. The focus there is put more on quantity and fashion trends than on exquisiteness. Each season, their assortment is supplied with new items, which can be bought during the sales as well. The shop, filled from floor to ceiling with bags, scarves, gloves, purses, tights, and, of course, fashion jewelry is always crowded, yet there is always an assistant to help you around. The latest

collection at Accessorize is Oriental, but it doesn't mean that the chain started using more natural materials than before. Thus, for example, a wide dark blue bracelet painted with flowers (Hr 98) is made of transparent plastic and not wood. Among my special findings, I loved flower-shaped brooches made of fabric and plastic for Hr 96 and enamelled beads for Hr 100 to Hr 200. The kids' collection is a top note of Accessorize – wearing all those glistening pink and white embellishments, little girls look like young ladies.

BoBiju

The broadest chain of fashion jewelry stores in Ukraine is probably BoBiju – only in Kyiv there are a dozen or so kiosks scattered around the city inside numerous shopping malls. To visit the largest BoBiju sites go to Ukraina or Metrograd – you won't miss the glass

showcases glistening with crystals and stones of all colors and hues. What I like about BoBiju is its wide assortment. I can find items there to accomplish practically every image I want to create. You need a tint of glamour, rock chic, gothic gloom, candy sweetness, natural charm or classic standard – you can always find something in one of these tiny shops. The prices may vary from Hr 40 to Hr 200 for a ring, but sometimes even cheaper items look more winning. Among original offerings, I've recently discovered a small cherry-shaped brooch for Hr 165 and wooden bracelets with metal installations for Hr 130. It's worth noting, that while in other costume jewelry shops the main material is plastic, at BoBiju there are also goods made of synthetic stones and crystals, and the metals used are covered with a smooth layer of silver or gold. The advantage of BoBiju is the kids' collection. Once

I bought a set of pretty hairpins for Hr 13 and bands for Hr 14 for my sister. In addition to jewelry, BoBiju sells hats, shawls, bags, belts with South Park and Sponge Bob buckles, and crystal statuettes as well.

Swatch

Though Swatch mainly specializes in watches, there is always a small stand with fashion jewelry in their stores. The assortment is narrowed to metal rings (Hr 300 to Hr 400) – massive, some rough, some delicate, with installations of fabric embroidered with cherry blossoms in the Japanese tradition and colorful enamel in pop-art style, as well as necklaces costing around Hr 500. A distinctive feature of the Swatch fashion jewelry collections is constrained originality and stylish minimalism – these qualities are enough to make you look stylish even while wearing jeans. →11

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→ British electronic act Groove Armada played at Palats Sportu Oct. 8. The band members Tom Findlay (1), Veba (2), Max Taylor (3) and Andy Cato (5) did their best to entertain Ukrainian fans, while Oleh "Fahot" Mikhaylyuta (4) with his band TNMK opened the show. (Yaroslav Debelyi)

See more photos at www.kyivpost.com/gallery



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A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER



Ukrainian actress Olga Kurylenko (right) with her mother Maryna Alyabusheva visit at Yushchenko's country house in Noviye Bezradichi, outside Kyiv, on Oct. 9. Kurylenko stars in the new James Bond film "Quantum of Solace," scheduled for release soon. (Courtesy photo)



At the Moët & Chandon party, held at Lavinia wine restaurant on Oct. 9, Denis Kholostenko from the Four Kings music group (2, middle), posed with the members of L'Amour girls band. Musician Dilya (3) looked thoughtful and Vasilisa Frolova (4) was the party hostess. (Alina Rudya)



The Kyiv International School soccer team made their coaches Daniel Zeegers (5, left) and Daniel Burke (5, right) proud after they won the Central Eastern European Association soccer championship tournament hosted by their school on Oct. 4. (Courtesy photo)

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Take a trip to Caucasus at Kunatskaya Tavern

BY ALEXANDRA MATOSHKO

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Kunatskaya Tavern, which recently opened in Holosiyivkiy district, invites all to appraise its Caucasian hospitality. In fact, "kuntatskaya" means "friendly" and is a common term for this type of eatery in the Caucasus. The owners of the tavern come from Dagestan and naturally decided to open a restaurant of their favorite kind.

Located on the first floor of a business center, the tavern has a patio, one moderately sized hall and a VIP room. The interior is designed to carry the authentic flavor with roughly carved wooden tables and chairs, walls decorated with statuettes, dishes, hand-woven bags and painted ornaments.

Only some dishes on the menu are actually Caucasian, yet many names allude to this culture. The menu is supplied with informative descriptions of some historical peculiarities of the region – the nationalities, Ubykhi and Narty, and national hero Kotsy Bega. Perhaps in this way the owners wish to acquaint the visitors with their national culture and history as well as cooking.

During the day, the place is an obvious lunch choice for employees of the business center – the business lunch for Hr 33 sounds very inviting, while in the evening it turns into a popular hangout for local residents and office workers looking for a relaxing evening.

I experienced it in full when I came to Kunatskaya Tavern on a Thursday night. By the time I had arrived the party was already in full swing. All of the tables, but for the one I had booked, were taken, a football game was showing on TV and a number of guests were watching it and discussing loudly. At the same time, a band was getting ready to play onstage. The VIP room was taken by a group of young men wearing "golden" medals around their necks – obviously athletes, maybe even football players, watching the game and cheering loudly.

As I was seated right by the window and just a step away from the stage,



Caucasian-style interior, simple menu and hearty atmosphere spiced with rock-n-roll tunes at Kunatskaya Tavern. (Serhiy Zavalnyuk)

I knew that the friend I was expecting would want to change tables. The music was fine, but we had a lot of things to discuss and it was so loud, we'd have to shout the whole time. Luckily it was one of those Indian summer nights and we soon moved to the terrace.

Dishes on the menu were for the most part quite simple but supplied with funny names, like a mushroom assortment (Hr 35) called "After Rain on Thursday" (a common Russian proverb, meaning something that is unlikely to happen). The salad section contained "Kunak

Abroad" (Hr 50) of eggs, tomatoes and shrimp served in avocado, several kinds of Cesar – classical (Hr 44.56), the "female" version (supposedly, especially mild) and with salmon, Hr 55. A mix of salmon and mushrooms was also advised as a "great option for ladies." Also,

Kunatskaya Taverna

7 Holosiyivska, 332-4560
Open 9 a.m. till the last customer
English menu: No
English-speaking staff: No
Average meal: Hr 150

there was Viennese liver (Hr 55), pancakes, shashlik, veal medallions, hachapuri Dagestan-style and other dishes.

I was tempted by the "Kremlin Diet" – cheese fried in breadcrumbs (Hr 37) and ordered them, but, given my sore throat, I decided to start my meal with a hot soup and pickled solianka (Hr 35). The solianka was a classical home-made style version of the popular soup with meat, pickles and a mix of vegetables. My friend had a cream of mushrooms soup (Hr 33), which she also enjoyed.

For the second course, my friend opted for fried cauliflower (Hr 24), a simple and healthy dish. I was then disappointed to hear that the "Kremlin Diet" wasn't available at the moment. I had planned to share it with my friend. But I still got my veal steak "Kunatskiy" (Hr 78) – a big piece of meat that should satisfy the hunger of a man – but I just felt carnivorous that night. There was indeed something wildly Caucasian about the steak, generously spiced with unusual herbs and somewhat at a pine flavor. Unfortunately, it was also not soft enough, so I felt like a real cave woman, digging into it with my teeth. The White Caucasian Sauce (Hr 11) served with it tasted like mayonnaise with generous bits of pickles mixed in.

I finished my dinner with a piece of Napoleon cake (Hr 36) – all right, but not outstanding, while my friend dared to have ice cream (Hr 30), even though we were seated outside. Something about the style of the place coupled with ridiculous names on the menu made Kunatskaya seem a bit like something from the classic Soviet 1960s comedy "Kidnapping Caucasian Style." However, the loud rock'n'roll tunes played inside distinctly pronounced that this was nothing but nostalgia.

Restaurant news

Grill Asia is holding a week of Australian cuisine till Oct. 19. A mix of culinary traditions, Australian cuisine is more about the style of cooking than unique products and dishes. The special menu includes: salted Petuna ocean trout with dill and crunchy bread (Hr 140); a cocktail of crab meat and avocado (Hr 180); oysters with black pepper dressing (Hr 38 to Hr 50). There is also a section of grilled dishes, featuring: barramundi (Hr 230); cod (Hr 210); veal fillet (Hr 200); Australian lamb with rosemary oil (Hr 160), and Black Angus (Hr 260 to Hr 300).

GRILL ASIA
Hyatt Regency Kiev, 5 Tarasovoyi, 581-1234
Open 6 a.m. till midnight

Chef of **Fratelli d'Italia** has prepared a new special: prosciutto with figs (Hr 69); stockfish with mussels, Conchiglie pasta and broccoli (Hr 75); risotto with white mushrooms and pumpkin (Hr 69); fried tuna with salad and balsamic sauce (Hr 65); pork fillet with mustard sauce wrapped in speck and served with caramelized apple (Hr 76); layered pastry cake with apples, chantingly cream and black chocolate (Hr 39).

FRATELLI D'ITALIA
38 Saksahanskoho, 287-4166
Noon till 11 p.m.

Soho restaurant introduced several new kinds of steaks to its menu. Now you can try Ukrainian, Australian and Japanese beef, ordering it separately or all three kinds together on a "tasting plate" for Hr 298. Also, the menu from new chef Oleksiy Chorniy offers: grilled shrimp and mussels served with a spicy ginger sauce (Hr 102); fricasse of rabbit and chanterelles stewed in white wine and cream with nutmeg (Hr 79); toothfish baked under potatoes and served with green asparagus, basil and spicy Saffron sauce (Hr 145).

SOHO
82 Arterna, 484-0351
Open 11 a.m. till the last customer

Draft restaurant has prepared a number of new dishes for its guests: pork in mustard-and-pepper crust (Hr 85); veal medallions with mustard sauce (Hr 75); chicken breast stuffed with cheese and vegetables (Hr 60); duck breast with apples seasoned with strawberry sauce (Hr 90).

DRAFT
1/2 Khoryva, 463-7330
Open 11 a.m. till last customer

Popular hot dishes at **Za Dvoma Zaytsyamy** returned to the menu after the summer break: blood sausage (Hr

80); holodets – meat jelly (Hr 50); hot schi (famous Russian soup) with pasties (Hr 45). Some new dishes appeared as well: duck breast with apples and orange sauce (Hr 140); veal on a bone with juniper sauce; carp baked with cheese and mushrooms (Hr 20 per 100 grams).

ZA DVOMA ZAYTSYAMY
34 Andriyivskiy Uzviv, 279-7972
Open 11 a.m. till 11 p.m.

Wolkonsky Kayzer bakery celebrates autumn by adding new kinds of bread to its assortment: "Mineral Palin" (Hr 12), made from a mix of buckwheat and wheat flour with bran; "Monzh" (Hr 12), made from a traditional recipe – hard wheat flour and corn flour; "Fitness" roll with ground carrots and sunflower, and pumpkin seeds (Hr 7).

WOLKONSKIY KAYZER
15 Khreshchatyk, 207-5996
7 Shevchenko Boulevard, Premier Palace hotel, 244-1361
Open 8 a.m. till midnight

A menu of Caucasian dishes arrived to country restaurant **Vytrybenky**. Try lavash-horovats (Hr 18) with sulguni cheese and herbs; a range of various kinds

of meat cooked on the open fire, including pork ribs (Hr 94), lamb ribs (Hr 98) and veal liver (Hr 82); kebabs of chicken (Hr 48), veal (Hr 79) and mutton (Hr 84). Guests who order a barbecue assortment (Hr 299) on Thursday can smoke hookah for free.

VYTRYBENKI
Kozyn village, 22 Starokyivska, Stolichne Shose, 26th kilometer, 251-5761
Open noon till last customer

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).

MAROKANA
24 LESI UKRAYINKY, 254-4999
OPEN 9 A.M. TILL 2 A.M.

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



At El Mate you can enjoy masterly brewed mate tea as well as shop for South American souvenirs. (Andriy Porokhnenko)



Enjoy South American tea at its best at El Mate cafe

BY MARK RACHKEVYCH
RACHKEVYCH@KPMEDIA.UA

Brewing and infusing mate tea is a carefully painstaking process. The Guarani Indians of South America cultivated the small 15-meter holly trees in what is today Argentina, eastern Paraguay, western Uruguay and southern Brazil. They brewed the twigs and dried evergreen leaves for an hour, picking them every three years, and drank it with cold water (calling it *tereré*) out of a cow's horn.

Knowing with what herbs and fruits to infuse the yerba mate takes a nuanced approach as some fruits – lemons and oranges – go better with the mild or suave type of yerba mate and must be steeped in hot, not boiling, water for the taste to be agreeable. This almost alchemical expertise comes only with experience, something only a brewing enthusiast can deliver regarding the tastes and aromas associated with the countless variations of infused mates.

El Mate on Shota Rustaveli is this rare exception of authenticity. This is especially true in a city boasting a variety

of ethnic eateries and outlets that, for the most part, fall short of even remotely resembling the taste they are supposed to duplicate in their countries of origin. The subterranean cafes accessible through a square archway, where a wooden carving hangs with engraved green letters, resembling the evergreen color of the holly leaves from which the tea derives its strongly vegetal taste.

The manager-owner is able to offer customers the best prices because he purchases the leaves (he adds herbs, fruits and flavorings himself) directly from Argentinean growers, cutting out the middlemen. The laid-back cafe serves mostly traditional and organic mate teas, many of which are infused with honey and fruits. It also offers up hookahs, green and black teas as well as coffee, not to mention alcoholic drinks. Empanada pies are the only food fare offered on the menu.

First, some background information: Yerba mate (holly) trees apparently can only grow in subtropical South America. Attempts to grow them in Europe and places with similar climates have evidently failed.

The Guarani Indians have been known to cultivate and drink this energetically stimulating tea for over seven thousand years. They sometimes drank it for days without any food intake. And Argentinean gauchos (cowboys) are known to drink it to improve the meat-eaters digestive tracts. The green mate leaves are also known to prevent certain cancer cells from forming, and unlike other caffeinated drinks, like coffee, stimulate the central nervous system without causing the usual heart palpitations, jitteriness, and has a calming effect on the body.

The cafe has three separate areas where one could lounge. Its thematic appearance has thatched ceilings framed with bamboo and palm leaves, along with bamboo frame chairs and tables, that resemble sitting in a hut. Glass display cases in the entrance offer a mishmash of everything Latin and Native American known to South and North America: maracas, pan flutes, a wide variety of gourds and metallic straws, wallets, leather Stetson hats, weaved colorful bracelets and canvas bags and for some reason, hookahs. Cuban salsa played in an

almost inaudible tone allows for pleasant conversation.

El Mate offers mate tea tasting Wednesdays and Thursdays from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. for Hr 40, featuring five different types of tea infused and blended with honey, bilberry, pear, chamomile and even ginseng. They are accompanied by the usual discussions about each kind of tea, how to prepare it and includes picture descriptions.

Black and white pictures of Fidel Castro playing baseball hang everywhere on the walls, along with those of a young Che Guevara. He never forgot his Argentinean roots and introduced his favorite pastime of drinking mate to Cuba.

The whole place is non-smoking, another welcome facet of the cafe, and its waiters are knowledgeable enough to recommend the right kind of tea. Having a father who lived in Venezuela for 16 years and who introduced me to this age-old ritual, I opted for the organic, especially strong "De Las Flores" mate (Hr 35), which is grassy with an imparted smoky flavor, probably from the way the leaves were dried over a wood fire from across the ocean. My

ever-loyal companion, my wife, tried a more mild tea called "Exclusive" (Hr 40) that had a blend of oranges and lemons in the water pot. Unlike other teas, mate doesn't become astringent when steeped for extended periods, so the gourds are served with separate pots of tea for sharing or imbibing at two to three portions.

Conceptually, mate is brewed and infused with leaves, twigs and powder and often have herbs, flavorings (like honey) and fruits infused. The leaves are either dried over a fire or toasted, the latter commonly drunk in Brazil and has a less bitter flavor and more of a spicy fragrance. The crowd here is urban and it is a perfect place to lounge, relax and savor this South American specialty.

The cafe is accessible either from Lva Tolstoho or Palats Sportu metro stops and sells mate tea making kits, gourds, and metallic straws. And by the end of the month, it will introduce 12 more tea varieties.

El Mate
29B Shota Rustaveli, 287-3211
Open 11 a.m. till 10 p.m.

RICHARD GERE DIANE LANE

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Closed boutique: open to all

BY MARYNA IRKLIYENKO
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From the first glance inside this store it's plain to see – it is easy to stand out wearing a bright yellow coat or pink dress from Closed. This Italian brand is selling sophisticated casual wear with an Italian touch made by designers who previously worked for Jil Sander, Prada, Costume National and Miu Miu.

In 1977, in a French province, a brand named Ca was started. Unfortunately, due to internal corporate issues, a criminal case was initiated against it. Instead of giving it all up, the witty brand owners started producing clothes under another brand name – 11342, taken from their criminal case number. In the end, the brand name changed to Closed – exactly what has happened to the criminal case.

The autumn-winter 2008 collection at Closed is presented in bright colors of yellow, purple and pink as well as some calmer shades, bell-bottomed jeans and wide belts, altogether representing the latest fashion trends. The boutique is designed correspondingly: black walls with side lighting, photographs of an advertising campaign on the walls, a football made of denim and other decorations. Closed boutique also has high-class dressing rooms with double mirrors and soft carpet for maximum comfort. Most clothes are presented in the shop as only one piece, but don't despair if the size is wrong – pleasant shop assistants will quickly find and fetch your size.

In contrast to the tradition of having sales only at a particular time of the year, discounted items (30-50 percent less) from previous collections are con-

stantly offered at Closed. As the latest Ukrainian trends of fall well behind European, the discounted garments may be just what you need.

Quality items at Closed are made from natural materials: silk, cashmere, wool and a minimum of additive materials. Cashmere sweaters will cost you Hr 1,000 on average, dresses – Hr 1,390, coats – Hr 4,000. Jeans from Closed are about Hr 1,200 and boast a particularly good fit with their X-Pocket technology of sewing them out of 27 pieces of denim instead of the regular 16. The good thing about the prices is that they are the same in all Closed shops in other counties. There is also a limited selection of boots, sneakers, belts, bags, scarves and hats. A big cashmere collection is expected together with the limited edition of evening clothing by New Year's time.

British conservators

The British brand Marks & Spencer was created by Michael Marks and Thomas Spencer in 1884 and, since then, the brand has gained a reputation for conservatism and good quality. Last year, the brand finally arrived in Kyiv by opening a shop at Komod shopping mall at Livoberezhna metro station and, later, at other locations in Kyiv.

Walking through the shop, I got the impression of shopping at a supermarket with its big spaces and racks with clothes that resemble food counters, and even

Closed

25/12 Khoryva, 531-8204
Komod shopping center,
4 Lunacharskoho
(Livoberezhna metro)



Original design makes Closed brand store look a bit like a sweing workshop. (Yulia Pobedinska)

shopping baskets at the entrance.

While Marks & Spencer prices are considered mid-range, prices for some items are a little over the medium. For example, jeans cost Hr 200 to Hr 400 for men and Hr 240 to Hr 554 for women, while jackets are Hr 640 to Hr 740 (for women) and Hr 1,450 (for men). Underwear is priced at Hr 119 to Hr 290 for a bra and Hr 85 to Hr 160 for panties. A set of three men's trunks go for Hr 150 to Hr 260. Among classic business clothes, a good selection of men's shirts for Hr 199 to Hr 400 can be also found there. The selection of shoes is not so big. It is represented by just a few models of men shoes for Hr 500, and rare for Ukraine. Soft Ugg

boots are present at Marks & Spencer in a sandy color for just Hr 290. For some special occasion, you can get a beautiful evening cocktail dress with gradient coloring, starting black at the top and gradually changing into red at the bottom for Hr 1,190.

Marks & Spencer is full of innovative ideas. For example, they have jeans made from bottle-processed materials; fresh-feet socks for your feet to breathe; men's shirts that don't need to be ironed; and jackets and ties that can be washed in a regular washing machine. As a result, you can save lots of money on expensive dry cleaning.

In November, Marks & Spencer is going to treat its clients to a limited edi-

tion collection designed by Patricia Field, a famous designer and stylist of "Sex and the City," "Ugly Betty" TV series and the movie "The Devil Wears Prada." The collection is all about New York styles and embodies the splashy lifestyle, focusing primarily on dresses as well as a capsule collection of tops, pants and accessories. In Kyiv, the collection will be available at Marks & Spencer from mid-November only at Karavan shopping center.

Marks & Spencer

Karavan, 12 Luhova, 499-8714
Komod, 4 Lunacharskoho, 593-3669
Promenada, 17-21 Bahhovutivska,
499-2886

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photo exhibition

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BekBekson considers staying in Kyiv a little longer before moving on to explore the western music scene. (Yaroslav Debelyi)

BY OLGA KOVALENKO
KOVALENKO.OLGA@KPMEDIA.UA

The Georgian musician experimenting with a hand-made guitar prefers to conceal his real name, and since 2005 has been known under his stage nickname – BekBekson. His guitar, which he has made with his own hands, also bears the name Bekson. Prior to our meeting, I listened to five songs of his on MySpace many times and watched a video on YouTube, but as it turned out, it only gave me a faint idea of what BekBekson really does on stage.

The visit to his live performance at the art club 44 last week made the picture more complete. Labeled by his fans a Georgian Jimi Hendrix, BekBekson did all kinds of tricks with his guitar

– he played it with a bow instrument, screwdriver, and even helped himself with his mouth – plugging the strings, breathing on them and whatnot.

Naturally the music he produced was not the regular guitar sounds we are used to hearing. One moment I heard violin, another – bagpipes, flute and even the whole orchestra, as well as the sounds of birds singing or dolphins “talking.” BekBekson’s style is a combination of academic, rock, psychedelic, ethno, avant-garde, and experimental trends mixed by improvisation. “Every concert is unique. The leitmotif remains the same, but the composition as a whole usually varies. It all depends on the audience,” BekBekson remarked, with his eyes shining. For him, a performance is a dialogue with

BekBekson – a musical talent from Georgia

the audience on an inner energy level and the Ukrainian audience, according to him, readily sends waves of his energy back to the stage.

An emotional audience and good – or at least better than in Georgia – conditions for music creativity made him stay in Ukraine for a year already and he is thinking of living here even longer. The first eight months Bek spent in Lviv, where he got acquainted with numerous musicians, among whom he highly praised jazz performer Yuriy Yaremchuk. Since both Georgia and Ukraine were parts of the Soviet Union once, there are many similarities in the mentalities and ways of living. Thus for Bek, it was not that difficult to adapt to local culture. Among the main difficulties, except colder weather conditions, he named the lack of native dishes in eateries, taking into account that it is not generally accepted in Georgia that men cook by themselves. Another problem is connected with finding lodging: “When I inquire about renting a flat and mention that I’m Georgian, the host puts down the receiver. It’s strange. If it had happened in Russia, I would have understood the reason,” Bek complained in bewilderment.

During the year spent in Ukraine, BekBekson has led an active artistic life. He took part in the Jazz Bezz festival in Lviv, wrote music for designer Oksana Karavanska’s show at the 22nd Ukrainian Fashion Week, performed at Dodge jazz festival in Donetsk and the Koktebel Jazz Festival in Crimea.

Koktebel itself, as Bek noted, reminded him of Batumi, where he was born, lived and studied in the Music Academy.

→ BekBekson’s style is a combination of rock, psychedelic, ethno, avant-garde and experimental music trends

Though, as he recalled with regret, the institution didn’t teach him what he really wanted – jazz or psychedelic music. He had to dig into everything by himself, creating his personal music style in the process: “the most important thing for an artist,” he emphasized. In addition to classic guitar – his main subject – Bek tried drums, the trumpet and harmonica. Besides arts, he also took interest in natural sciences and electronics, which I find quite unusual – musicians and artists are often more keen in the humanities. “I had a small laboratory of my own, where I conducted chemical and physics experiments; I always liked to make different electronic schemes, constructed toys and various devices,” Bek shared with enthusiasm.

Such interest towards electronics, as well as his father’s experience, who made his first a guitar as a teenager, inspired BekBekson. He created his own guitar, which would produce all possible and impossible sounds and noises.

According to Bek, his father heads the list of most vivid influences in his life. The rest is constituted by the music of Jimi Hendrix, Jimmy Page, John Zorn, the Beatles, Bach, Mozart, Vivaldi, Tom Waits, Marcus Miller, George Benson, Joe Satriani, Stive Vai, Radiohead, etc.

In Batumi, Bek performed with a set of underground music bands and after taking everything he possibly could from the city’s creative environment, left for Tbilisi, where he lived for three years to move farther – to Ukraine. “I like the active rhythm of Kyiv. In Georgia, there is a three-million population – the cities suit fine for writing music, but not performing it. Besides, Georgian people now are more interested in politics than in art,” noted Bek with a sigh of nostalgia. I was truly stunned when I learned that he liked the atmosphere of Moscow (usually people become depressed by its frantic rhythm on the fourth day already), but Bek needs everything to whirl around all the time.

Unfortunately, he doesn’t have any studio records. By now everything he recorded comprises four non-official albums: “Aura” (2006), “Kulinari” (2007), “Ultrasonic” (2007) and “Asea Sool” (2007), the latter recorded with his sister on vocals. “Many people inquire about my albums, so I’m already thinking about making an official release,” Bek shared. Among his plans is also a gradual integration to the Western music niche, where there are more musicians that perform experimental music and a wider audience that is interested in it.

Look for ‘gems’ at Kyiv’s costume jewelry shops

→5 Parfois

The semi-underground store on Khreshchatyk sells shoes, bags and other accessories, yet its assortment of fashion jewelry is wider than other similar shops like Promod, Benetton or Mexx. The main material they use for their jewelry is plastic and a part of collection – long colorful beads, bulky rings (Hr 19) and bracelets (Hr 79), aren’t even made to imitate crystals, wood or metal. The rest of the stands are filled with rings (Hr 49), wide massive ornate bracelets (Hr 79), and earrings (Hr 39 to Hr 59) imitating sil-

ver and designed in the current Asian fashion trend. I admit that some “silver” items looked stylish, but I cannot say the same about “gold,” which looked quite cheap. Another special feature of Parfois is a constant collection of simple wooden embellishments. Tastes may differ, but for me the jewelry at Parfois seems more original in comparison with pop-style adornments at Accessorize.

Wow Shop

Recently the assortment at Wow Shop chain was supplied with a department

selling products by the London fashion brand Storm. The company sells a wide range of items from clothes to fragrances, but in Kyiv it is known only for watches and fashion jewelry. “A wide range of styles from funky edginess to sleek sophistication” – that’s how Storm describes itself. I agree with such a slogan because I admired the simplicity and coolness of these London embellishments from the first glance. Rings (from Hr 300), bracelets (Hr 328 to Hr 650), necklaces (Hr 350), and ear rings (Hr 328) – everything is made out of metal and looks fashionably laconic.

Swarovski

Fashion jewelry by the Austrian company Swarovski, namely their crystals, really belongs to the world of high fashion. A tiny kiosk in Globus shopping center contains all these beauties. I couldn’t take my eyes off a brooch in the form of a caterpillar (Hr 803) – the color of the crystals was so pure that it resembled a drop of purple-blue water. Rings of pure crystals without any metallic details for Hr 1,500 also looked like a dream. The company also produces items for home design, but the assortment of the local Swarovski shop includes only earrings, necklaces, rings, brooches, hand watches, bracelets, and small statuettes.



Parfois specializes in fashion accessories, which include mid-priced fashion jewelry. (www.gns.kz)

Accessorize

Globus, Maidan Nezalezhnosti, 585-1101
Karavan shopping mall, 9 Luhova, 461-8258

Parfois

52 Khreshchatyk, 234-2503

BoBiju

Metrohrad, the area of Bessarabska Square
Ukraina shopping mall, 3 Prospect Peremohy, 568-2318
Gorodok shopping mall, Petrivka metro station
Metrohrad, Bessarabska Square

Swatch

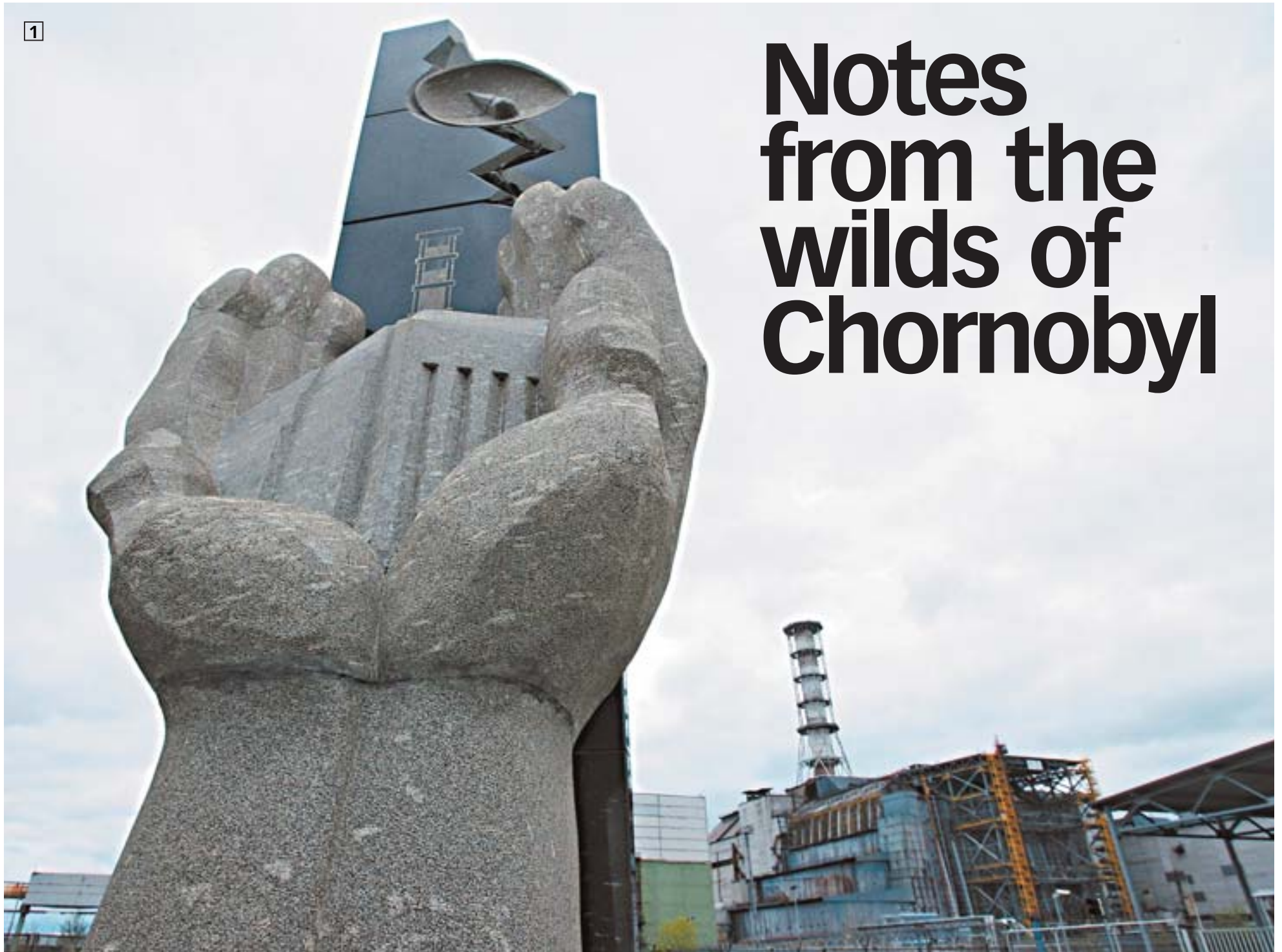
5 Lva Tolstoho, Globus, Maidan Nezalezhnosti, 585-1150

Wow Shop

72 Chervonoarmiyska, Olimpiysky shopping center, 593-2603
Ukraina shopping mall, 3 Prospect Peremohy, 229-1335
Metrohrad, Noviy Proyzid gallery, 537-0921

Swarovski

Globus, Maidan Nezalezhnosti



Notes from the wilds of Chernobyl



→ Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant in 2008 (1); Ukrainian scientist Serhiy Hashchak inspects great tit eggs in Red Forest, Chernobyl (2); Anders Moller and Tim Mousseau measuring a swallow (3); a resident of the Exclusion zone (4); farmers planting potatoes in the region last spring (5). (Timothy Mousseau (2-5), Natalia Kravchuk)



→ Ecologists Timothy Mousseau and Anders Pape Moller have been studying long-term effects of radioactive contamination on nature since 1999 in the closed area surrounding Chernobyl, the site of world's worst nuclear disaster on April 26, 1986. Their work is taking place in the exclusion zone, a 30-kilometer radius around the nuclear power plant. It provides a perfect ground for the study of biodiversity and survival of animals living in the conditions of irradiated environment. The team has documented many consequences of radiation, including dramatically increased rates of genetic mutation, lower life spans and lower reproduction rates of some species.

The ecologists' study has shown that some species are avoiding the Chernobyl exclusion zone, contrary to the more common view of the zone as a wildlife Eden. Although these studies have focused primarily on birds and insects, their results may have relevance for human populations living in these contaminated regions. Initially, all people were evacuated from the zone soon after the meltdown of the core of the fourth reactor. Some former residents have returned to their home villages, although their exact number is not known.

Mousseau, of America's University of South Carolina, and Moller, of the University of Pierre et Marie Curie in Paris, believe a new study is needed to assess risks for humans associated with prolonged exposure to low levels of radiation. Their work is conducted in partnership with scientists from the Taras Shevchenko University in Kyiv, The Chernobyl EcoCenter, The Ukrainian National Museum of Natural History, and scientists from Belarus. More information on their findings can be found at <http://cricket.biol.sc.edu/Chernobyl.htm>

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Malopodvalna	Excellent	2	65	2200
Mezhyhirska	Excellent	2	55	2500
Lesi Ukrainki	Excellent	2	60	1900
Mikhailivskiy Lane	Excellent	3	85	2800
Revtarska	Excellent	3	120	5000
Lyuteranska	Excellent	3	80	3500
Khornva	Excellent	3	85	3000
Lesi Ukrainki	Excellent	3	70	3000
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Observatorna	Excellent	6	190	6000

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INTRODUCTIONS

F, 25, 170/57 kg, blonde with blue eyes. Charming. English-speaking. Tel.: 8_066_341_0026

F, Natasha, 21, 170/52 kg, brunette with brown eyes, extreme sport. English-speaking. Tel.: 491-7198

F, Lena, 22, 165/50 kg, beauty blonde with green eyes, love dancing. English-speaking. Tel.: 491-4692

Tanya 19/175/55, blonde. Absolute Model look. English - speaking. 8(098)3362575

F, Olga, 19, 165/50, blonde with grey eyes. English-speaking, model appearance. Tel.: 491-5479

Hi, I am Vera. Hot student, with blue eyes. 21 y.o., 172 cm, 55 kg. English speaking! Tel.: 925-23-68

F, Marina, 21, 172/51 kg, blonde with blue eyes. Amazing figure. Love cinema. English-speaking. Tel.: 491-5423

Julia 18/170/54, brunette Absolute Model look. English - speaking. 8(097)462-8222

Natalia 18/170/54. Absolutely Model look. English - speaking. 8(093) 288-36-67

F, Masha, 23, 168/53 kg, blonde with grey eyes, want to meet the best adventure in my life. Highly confident and open minded student. English-speaking. Tel.: 491-4642

F, Nina, 20, 170/49 kg, blonde with grey eyes. Like sun and swimming. Tel.: 491-2782

High and young pretty intelligence Ukrainian girl. I have a perfect body and beautiful face. I speak English. 233_23_77 Marina

27/168/62, Lady, green eyes, long red hair 8 067 503 5069 Lyubov

Introduction

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