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October 8, 2010

The Most Successful Expats

The first-ever ranking of the
Richest
and
Most Influential
foreigners in Ukraine

Why expatriates matter

See page 8

Rankings

See page 9

About our partner



See page 9

Richest

See page 10

Most Influential

See page 16

Inside: News → 2, 24 | Business → 6, 7 | Top Expats → 8 – 19 | Employment/Real Estate/Classifieds → 30, 31
Opinion → 4, 5 | Lifestyle → 21 – 28, 32

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Editor's Note: The Most Successful Expats special edition has bumped the week's top stories inside, including "Constitutional Court nixes 2004 changes," (below); "Ukrainian prosecutors go after ArcelorMittal mill," (page 7); and "Police say they have broken up international cyber-crime gang," (page 20).

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Constitutional Court nixes 2004 changes

BY YURIY ONYSHKIV
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The Constitutional Court of Ukraine on Oct. 1 returned the country to the 1996 constitution, scuttling changes backed by President Viktor Yanukovich when he was on the losing end of the 2004 Orange Revolution.

The court, which has a reputation for rubber-stamping the desires of politicians in power, has now handed Yanukovich tremendous powers over naming the prime minister, the cabinet of ministers, canceling government decisions and disbanding parliament.

The ruling amounts to a major power grab for Yanukovich, who – after only eight months in power – now controls the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government in a way no president has since Leonid Kuchma ran the nation from 1994-2005.

Yet Yanukovich sought and received even more powers through a new law on the cabinet. Approved by the obedient pro-presidential majority in parliament after just an hour-long debate on Oct. 7, it gives the president control over government budgets as well as more say in appointing and dismissing the general prosecutor, top customs officials and regional governors.

When Yanukovich was out of office, he had opposed such monopolization of power. As part of an agreement to end the 2004 Orange Revolution, in which Yanukovich failed to seize power in a rigged election, he backed constitutional changes that diluted the powers of ex-President Viktor Yushchenko through most of his predecessor's five-year tenure that ended on Feb. 25.

Even as prime minister in 2007,



Judges of Ukraine's Constitutional Court attend a hearing on Sept. 23. The 18-member court, notorious for its servility to politicians, cancelled the 2004 constitutional changes that weakened presidential authority and gave more power to the prime minister and parliament. With the Oct. 1 decision, President Viktor Yanukovich assumes vast powers over the appointment and dismissal of the prime minister, Cabinet of Ministers and dissolution of parliament. (Ukrinform)

Yanukovich opposed reverting to a strong presidential system – calling such attempts "pointless" in an article written for the Dzerkalo Tyzhnia weekly. In the article, Yanukovich went further and said "the majority of our people would take measures to cancel this [2004] political reform as a return to totalitarian times and would reject them."

But now firmly in power, Yanukovich is justifying the changes as essential to leading the nation and enacting major legislative changes, especially economic reforms designed to make the nation more investor-friendly and less riddled with corruption and bureaucracy.

The Yanukovich-friendly court said the changes agreed to in 2004 were unconstitutional, even though many

think the Oct. 1 ruling may also be unconstitutional, since only the parliament – not the court – can amend the constitution.

Olena Lukash, the president's representative at the Constitutional Court, called the 2004 constitutional amendments a mistake and boasted that Ukraine has now returned to the constitution recognized as among the best in Europe.

Over the last four years, both Yushchenko and former Prime Minister Tymoshenko made abortive attempts to amend the constitution and return strong presidential powers. The 2004 amendments split power among the president, prime minister and parliament in such a way that contributed to the gridlock and infighting of the past five years.

Even though Tymoshenko was against the changes foisted on her in 2004, the opposition leader called the court's Oct. 1 decision a "usurpation of power" by Yanukovich aimed at "building a dictatorship in Ukraine."

"The court illegally appropriated the rights held by the people and the Verkhovna Rada," Tymoshenko said at a press conference in Kyiv on Oct. 1.

According to the 1996 constitution, a president can fire the entire cabinet of ministers. The president already has control of parliament through his Party of Regions, the largest faction in the ruling majority coalition. Also, according to a new law on the courts signed by the president on July 7, Yanukovich can control the judiciary through appointments to the pro-presidential 20-member High Council of Justice, which plays a decisive role in nominating and dismissing the country's 10,000 judges.

Thomas Markert, secretary of the Venice Commission, an advisory body on constitutional law to the Council of Europe, said the commission never considered 2004's amended constitution to be undemocratic. "It was surprising to learn that the constitution had been declared invalid after six years of being in operation. This is unusual," Markert said. "According to European practice, the scope of this kind of Constitutional Court control is normally rather limited."

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on Oct. 5 warned against the monopolization of power by one political group.

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Leaders Talk

Leaders Talk: Drago Kos

DRAGO KOS IS PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE'S 'GRECO' GROUP OF STATES AGAINST CORRUPTION AND UNTIL RECENTLY HE WAS PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION FOR THE PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION IN SLOVENIA. HE HAS A WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE IN BOTH LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PREVENTION AND HAS DISCUSSED CORRUPTION WITH THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE UKRAINIAN GOVERNMENT. HE WAS GUEST SPEAKER AT THE EBA ANTI-CORRUPTION MEETING THIS WEEK AND KINDLY TOOK TIME TO GIVE LEADERS TALK A SHORT INTERVIEW.

DRAGO Kos,
President of the Council of Europe's 'GRECO' Group of States Against Corruption



Could you give us a brief definition of corruption?

This is one of the main problems we have, at least in the 'Eastern World'. Here, corruption is perceived as bribery only. You will find different definitions of corruption but mainly sociological ones. The most accepted definition is the misuse of an official position for private gain, but corruption is much more than just giving and taking bribes. In countries based on ex-socialist legal systems we have had tremendous difficulty explaining to people, it is not only giving and taking money that is corruption but also other things are corruption. I think this is one of the major problems. In addition to this, we do not have any real definitions of corruption in international legal instruments.

This might sound like an obvious question, but why is corruption a problem?

Firstly, because it is ruining the principle of equality and it enables people who have money to do things which are impossible for others. This creates additional social problems, additional economic problems and additional legal problems because all modern legal systems are based on equality before the law. One of the biggest problems has always been how to explain to people in private companies, why corruption is bad, if they can earn or sign a contract if they pay some money. It is because it is harmful to business, harmful to their reputation and it increases the risk that they will be captured.

Why are some countries more corrupt or perceived to be more corrupt than others?

I think this has a lot to do with the history, with the character of the people, with the efforts with which the country has made against corruption. I usually translate this question into the following: Why does it exist in any country and why isn't it a problem in countries which have only 1/3rd of the legislation and institutions that we [Balkan and Eastern European Countries] have? It is simply because there, they have been preventing corruption and bribery for centuries, not years.

They managed to embed the view that corruption is bad deep into peoples mind. Of course, some corruption still happens there but to such a minor extent. If you want to talk about success you have to change people's attitude.

Do you think that people are starting to understand this? I ask because I studied in Hungary with students from Slovakia, Ukraine, Turkey and Russia and during our exam period almost all of them were happy to cheat. They didn't seem to have any problem with this.

You see, this underlines the statement I made at the beginning that people still do not understand what corruption is. They do not perceive this as corruption and for them this is normal. So, I would say that there is no general trend of improvement in this area. There are countries that are doing very good things, but it depends how much they are willing to invest in prevention and fighting corruption, but in general I would say no.

What can companies or individuals do to minimize the risk that they will be involved in bribery and corruption?

Firstly, they must not allow themselves to be brought in a situation when such discussions could start. Sometimes this works and sometimes this doesn't work but they have to show their position very clearly from the beginning. It is less likely that someone will demand a bribe from you if your position is very clear and very tough. Of course it may still happen and then you need to find a proper way to defend your position. Theoretically this sounds very easy, but in practice this is sometimes very difficult to do. But, it is always down to your individual decision. You will be the one who decides.

Isn't the corruption in Ukraine just a problem of enforcement?

Yes, if your legal system is working you can simply report the crime and turn the person in to the authorities. The problem is if this doesn't happen. If your legal system is not working then there are two things which countries should do. Firstly, improve the legal system and law enforcement agencies and secondly, start preventative activities which take away the permissions and authority which enable and facilitate the existence of corruption. The first part is easier; to make law enforcement agencies work better is easier than developing useful preventative measures. It takes a much shorter time and here it is very easy to see if any government in the world is interested in doing it. If the government takes care to make the law enforcement agencies professional, objective, non-corrupt, non-partisan, then this government is serious about corruption. If not, then it really doesn't care. Maybe it even likes it.

Are there any real anti-corruption success stories? Any Countries which we can look towards as examples of successful reform?

Yes, there are. Hong Kong and Singapore and these were followed in the EU by, for example Lithuania and Latvia. It depends on the decisions of the government and how much they are prepared to invest in it. All the countries I have mentioned introduced essentially the same systems: They created strong institutions which have preventative and oppressive powers. This means taking police powers away from the police and giving them to a separate institution. Ukraine has already prepared a draft law to create a special institution that tackles corruption, but this idea was stopped after the election. So, yes there are opportunities. Even within private companies. Siemens has turned itself from Black Sheep to the Flagship in this area. What Siemens is doing now is amazing and they are showing what can be achieved. They are also pulling other companies along and creating alliances. There are some success stories but unfortunately not enough, there should be more. Corruption will not fight itself.

In Focus:

Corruption Special

CORRUPTION is widely recognised as a problem in Ukraine. Ukraine is in 146th place on Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index meaning and this means that only 34 countries in the world are perceived as more corrupt.

The EBA have long understood the negative impact this has on the business environment in the country and, with Ukraine sitting at 142nd out of 183 countries on the 'Doing Business Index', the fight against corruption is the single most important issue on the EBA's Big 7 list of priorities.

The endemic nature of corruption in Ukraine means that it affects all sectors and companies of all sizes. It has been highlighted time and time again in EBA interviews with CEO's and business leaders and is often raised in discussions with EU Ambassadors. In light of the problems corruption causes and the damage it does to the economy of Ukraine, this week the EBA held a conference in Kyiv to bring the business community together with leading experts from Europe, Ukraine and the USA. In holding the conference, the EBA wanted to promote a wider discussion on the topic and to allow participants to discuss, learn and share ideas with each other.

also have some interesting proposals for upgrading the countries health system but these are on-hold because some Governors do not comply with the agreements that their predecessors made with German companies. I think it's important that Ukraine's Government moves quickly to ensure that that everybody on the ground sticks to these investment agreements."

Guest Speaker and President of the Council of Europe's GRECO Group of States Against Corruption, Drago Kos said that to start dealing with corruption Ukraine's top priority should be the adoption of an anticorruption package, introducing respective legislation and following European standards. He talked of the need for independent and powerful institutions to fight corruption and of the need for a change in mentality but he also pointed to the fact that little or no progress has been made in this area in the past five years. Of more than 28 proposals which have been made to the Ukrainian government by GRECO, not one has been adopted.

Speaking as the Governments Anti-Corruption representative, Andriy Bogdan said that the anti-corruption package that has been being developed for the last 6 years is due to come into force starting with January 1, 2011. He appealed to the business-



Guests and speakers discuss corruption during the EBA anti-corruption meeting, 5 October 2010, Kyiv

More than 100 representatives attended the event and a number of interesting points were raised around the following topics:

- The state of cooperation between International Organisations (GRECO, OECD) and Ukrainian Government;
- International anti-corruption policies and experiences of public administration reform. Prospects for reform in Ukraine;
- Company anti-corruption practices and business ethics rules;
- Possibilities for improving existing anticorruption legislation in Ukraine;
- Ways for combating corruption. Efficiency of anti-corruption actions.

Opening the conference, EBA Chairman Tronde Moe talked of the need for cooperation "To combat corruption we need all stakeholders to contribute, the government, experts and business circles" he explained. He also talked of the difficulties facing foreign companies who often have to make a 'take it or leave it' decision when considering operating in Ukraine by accepting the corruption and fighting

community to take part in the civil council attached to the Cabinet of Ministers. "Civil society should demand certain legislative changes and reforms", - says Mr. Bogdan. The fact that joint efforts and dialogue was necessary was also stressed by the Director of Governmental Anti-Corruption Bureau Ruslan Ryaboshapka. "Corruption is a two way street. In some countries it is accepted as a model used to benefit from in economic competition and some companies concede to it", - says Mr. Ryaboshapka.

Representatives of Mott MacDonald Group, Systems Capital Management and Siemens each presented their own fight against corruption within their companies and each presented a number of techniques which can be used to change the corporate culture and limit their exposure to corruption. In each case, strong Board level support, active promotion of company policy, staff training and auditing were raised as important tools. Maximilian Egger of Siemens talked of the need for both incentives and punishment but also of the need for CEO level responsibility.

With input from a number of other leading experts and a lively question and answer session, the con-

British Embassy opens consultation period on the proposed new UK Bribery Act

In July 2010, the British Government announced that the UK Bribery Act 2010 would enter into force in April 2011. The Act requires the Government to consult business and produce guidance on the principles and procedures companies might put in place to prevent persons associated with them from bribing in order to comply with the new legislation.

The British Embassy has advised that the consultation period is now underway and companies are invited

to provide feedback until 8 November 2010. The consultation is open to anyone with an interest in the guidance to be published under section 9 of the UK Bribery Act.

Full details of the consultation are available from the UK Ministry of Justice website at: <http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/briberyactconsultation.htm>.

Additional information on the UK Bribery Act is also available on the British Embassy website at: <http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/briberyactconsultation.htm>

it or by leaving the country. Sadly, many companies prefer to leave or to wait and hold their investments. Confirmation of this can be found in comments made recently by the German Ambassador to Ukraine Dr. Hans-Jürgen Heimsoeth:

"there are many more investments in waiting or on hold because so far investors are not convinced which direction the 'ship of Ukraine' is going. We

ference raised as many questions as it answered, however; the EBA hopes that its members and partners will continue to raise these issues and to continue to fight for an honest and transparent business environment and to search for solutions. We also call on the Government to support the business community and to act wherever and whenever possible to reduce corruption in Ukraine.

Things to know

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Editorials

In praise of expats

The Kyiv Post is happy to bring our readers more groundbreaking journalism, this time the first-ever list of richest and most influential foreigners in Ukraine. Expatriates -- especially those from the West -- form a tiny community here, too small for a nation that needs massive foreign investment and big changes.

Life is not always pleasant for expatriates here. To endure the nation's hardships, it helps to love Ukraine. Many foreigners do because, for all the problems, there is a lot to love about this nation.

The Kyiv Post picked 38 expats who we think are the richest and most influential. They are the elite of a foreign community (excluding many Russian citizens living in Ukraine) that might number only 100,000 individuals, including students.

In looking for trends and common denominators from the list, we found some: Many have ethnic, personal or linguistic ties to Ukraine. Many arrived long ago and remain committed to the nation. Many brought with them special skills or education. They, in other words, created wealth. They simply didn't acquire it from government in insider deals, the way that many Ukrainian tycoons did after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

There are unsavory characters among them -- political PR hacks and cigarette peddlers for instance -- but most created goods or services that made Ukraine a better place.

Another glaring fact sticks out: The scarcity of expats. It is attributable to the unfavorable investment climate, which seems to be getting even worse since President Viktor Yanukovich took power on Feb. 25. Investors who praised the false "stability" of Yanukovich's election are now worried about what's ahead, and justifiably so. This administration appears ready to stop at nothing to assert complete control over the nation, including its private businesses.

Take a look the situation with ArcelorMittal, which owns the nation's largest steel mill, in Kryviy Rih. We know why friends of Yanukovich covet the plant. Two of them, Rinat Akhmetov and Viktor Pinchuk, almost snagged the mill in a sham sale for a paltry \$800 million. Instead, in one of the few triumphs of ex-President Viktor Yushchenko and ex-Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, the steel mill was auctioned transparently and honestly to the highest bidder -- ArcelorMittal -- in 2005, netting the people of Ukraine \$4 billion more than the sleazy Akhmetov-Pinchuk lowball offer.

State prosecutors are claiming that ArcelorMittal didn't meet its investment commitments. This ruse could be how the government justifies taking back the plant and re-selling it to ruling Party of Regions cronies. If this happens, Ukraine can say goodbye to foreign investment -- and the expats who usually come with it -- for a long time.

Newspeak

In his 1946 essay "Politics and the English Language," British writer George Orwell, author of 1984, said: "Let the meaning choose the word, and not the other way around." Unfortunately, under Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich, words, sentences and entire statements express how top officials want to see things rather than the way things really are.

The most recent case in point is a statement by Ukraine's Foreign Ministry in response to an assessment of Ukrainian democracy by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

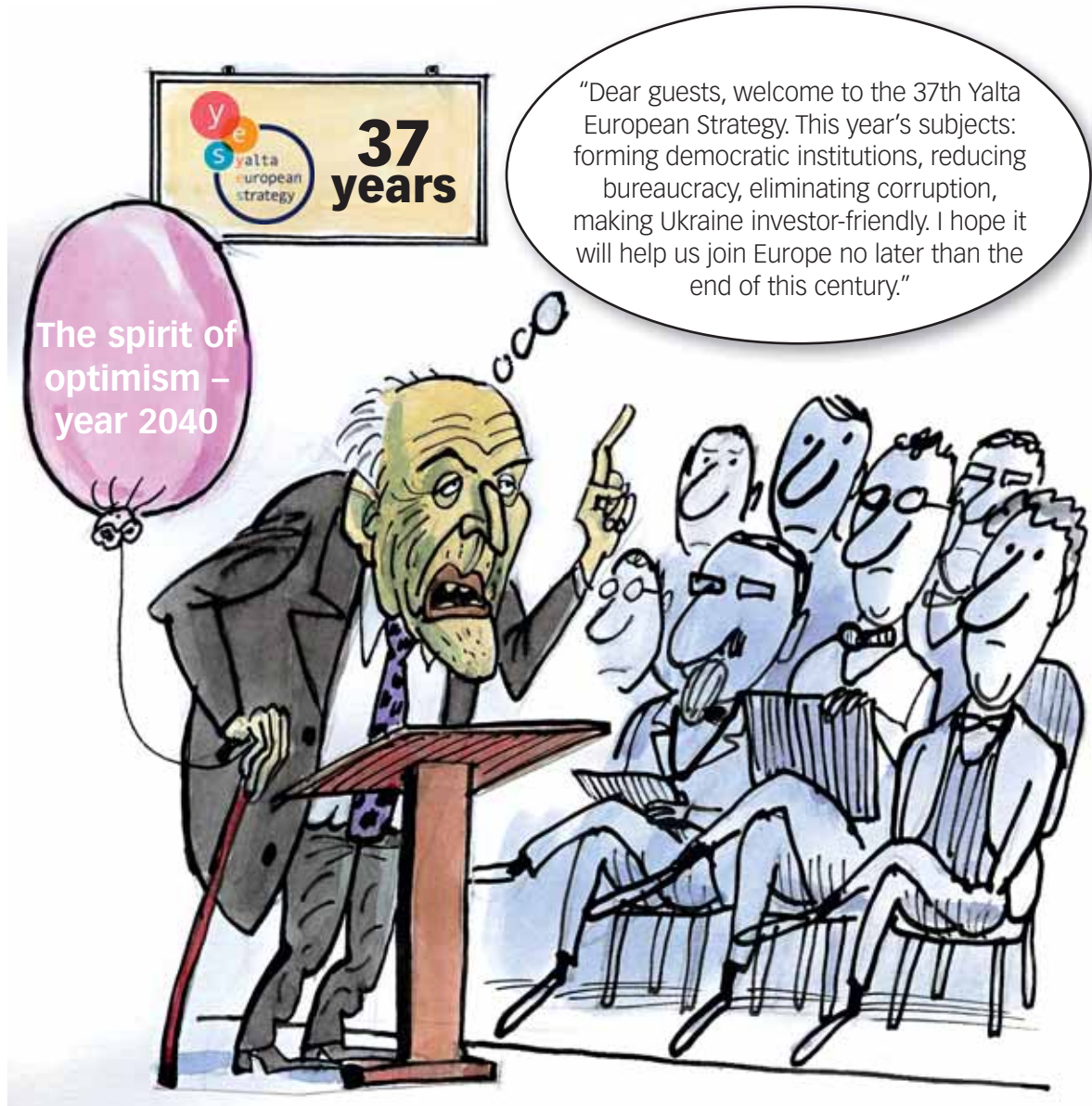
"This resolution provides full proof of the fact obvious to all: Democracy has taken deep root in Ukraine," Ukrainian Foreign Minister Kostiantyn Hryshchenko was quoted as saying by Interfax news agency.

In fact, however, the PACE resolution on the functioning of democratic institutions in Ukraine, which was supported by 102 out of 109 deputies on Oct. 5, is much harsher. The members expressed concern "that the hasty manner in which the authorities are implementing reforms could negatively affect respect for proper democratic principles and, ultimately, the quality of the reforms themselves." And they warned against consolidation of power will mean monopolization of power -- undermining "democratic development of the country."

But PACE and the West engage in their own newspeak about Ukraine and are experienced at looking the other way when it comes to the transgressions of Ukraine's business and political leaders.

Ex-U.S. President Bill Clinton, for instance, spent four days being chummy with Olena Franchuk, daughter of ex-President Leonid Kuchma, and her billionaire husband, Viktor Pinchuk. Is Clinton aware that Kuchma blames the United States under Clinton for the 2000 murder of journalist Georgiy Gongadze? It's a bogus claim, yet another in a string of lies from the old Kuchma tyrant to deflect attention from the credible evidence that implicates him in the crime.

Clinton and Pinchuk must be getting what they want from the relationship -- for Clinton, it's millions of dollars in contributions; for Pinchuk, it is a way to buy the respect he lacks but craves. Neither the West nor Ukraine are going to make progress in their relationship unless they drop newspeak in favor of hard truths.



NEWS ITEM: Victor Pinchuk, one of Ukraine's top billionaires, hosted the seventh annual Yalta European Strategy conference Sept. 30-Oct. 3 to promote Ukraine's integration into Europe. The conference brings together major international figures from the political, business, government and academic worlds. This year, the panel of speakers and experts included Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski, Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich, former U.S. President Bill Clinton and Dominique Strauss-Kahn, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, among others. But despite the annual meetings and the high-level debate, the nation has failed to make much progress in getting closer to European democratic standards, let alone joining the European Union. Moreover, analysts noted this year that the conference had the strongest Russian delegation to date, and there are few lessons in democracy to be learned from the Kremlin. (Drawing by Anatoliy Petrovich Vasilenko)



NEWS ITEM: The Cabinet of Ministers, led by Prime Minister Mykola Azarov, approved a dress code on Oct. 4, calling on government workers to dress modestly. The recommendations are detailed, even to the point of instructing on how to wear a crucifix, how tight women's belts should be, what precious stones are suitable, what colors and styles of shoes are men should wear and how neckties should look. It banned accessories such as feathers, ribbons and embroidery. Azarov's predecessor, Yulia Tymoshenko (depicted above right), known for her designer wardrobe, objected. (Drawing by Anatoliy Petrovich Vasilenko)

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For Yanukovych & Co., it's full steam ahead



JOHN MARONE
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Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych has assured British Prime Minister David Cameron that a recent decision by Ukraine's Constitutional Court to return far-reaching executive authority to the president would also return the country to legality, according to a presidential press statement.

But that statement failed to mention how Yanukovych had conveniently weeded those judges in the 18-member Constitutional Court who were not sufficiently pro-presidential. Instead, the whole affair has been declared "reform" – the latest in a line of controversial moves made by Yanukovych and his Party of Regions to consolidate all power since coming to power on Feb. 25.

Naked power grab

Yanukovych's first failed attempt at the presidency was in 2004, when he and his team were accused of rigging the Nov. 21 election that year, triggering the country's peaceful Orange Revolution and Viktor Yushchenko's victory on Dec. 26.

Now, six years later, the revolution's tandem leaders – Yushchenko and ex-Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko – are widely considered to be incompetent and spent political forces. But the ideals they proclaimed – honest, clean, effective government – must continue. Regrettably, these values are nowhere to be seen in this administration.

Instead, the Russian-looking Party of Regions stacked the government with officials discredited under the authoritarian regime of former President Leonid Kuchma, who is implicated in deep corruption and even the murder of journalist Georgiy Gongadze in 2000.

This explains why no one near the top has been tried, much less jailed, for the heinous crimes of Ukraine's recent past. Those in power also express condescension or contempt for the hopes of those who backed the 2004 Orange Revolution.

Yanukovych and Co. have firm control over the executive, legislative and judicial branches as they bully the media, academia and every other independent voice along the way.

Opposition lawmakers elected under the banner of pro-Western democratic orientation were bribed or threatened into joining the new power. As for the judiciary, its ranks have been vetted for party loyalty. More ominous has been the increased cockiness of police, prosecutors and the Security Service of Ukraine, or SBU. As for freedom of the press, we can only hope that things don't go the route of Russia, where murders of journalists continue.

This is not "reform." It is monopolization of power and it should be stopped.

Business silence

Business needs stability to thrive. Stability is not possible without a reliable legal system. Do international investment bankers and lobbyists really think that, by kowtowing today, their business interests will be secure tomorrow? However chaotic life was under the incompetent and feeble Yushchenko, there was always the freedom to be heard and challenge dubious decisions. Justifying despotism by criticizing the problems of a fledgling democracy is like condoning child abuse.

Even if greed is the motivation of Ukraine's international business community, surely its members already sense the danger to their own assets. For every corrupt top official, there is a pyramid of followers and business interests underneath who also need to be fed for their loyalty.

What is the West doing?

Yanukovych, Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin and others can stand in the company of their Western counterparts in Brussels and Washington, spouting the same meaningless rhetoric as the leaders of well-established democracies.

After all, if Yanukovych and Co. underwent any kind of transformation over the last five years, it was in PR, taught by sleazy U.S. flaks.

Are Ukrainians and Russians incapable of accept-

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin is flanked by ex-Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma (L) and current Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich at a military parade marking the 60th anniversary of the end of the Nazi occupation of Ukraine on Oct. 28, 2004. The photo was shot less than a month before the rigged presidential election in which Yanukovych – Kuchma's handpicked successor – was declared winner. That result was overturned by the democratic Orange Revolution that year, ending in the Dec. 26 election of Viktor Yushchenko. (AFP)



Ukrainian Prime Minister Mykola Azarov



RosUkrEnergo billionaire Dmytro Firtash

ing democracy and rule of law? No. But such institutions took centuries to develop in the West and now they are again under attack in Ukraine. Big brother Russia couldn't be more pleased.

Kremlin interests

What's happening in modern-day Kyiv is not about national interests. It's about the elite who claim to know what's best, yet lines its own pockets with more money than it can ever spend, while stifling or destroying opposition. It's the same in modern-day Russia. Moreover, Moscow doesn't consider Ukraine a "real" country or Ukrainian a "real" language.

The only thing that has gone faster than Yanukovych's consolidation of power has been the president's drive to "integrate" with the Russian economy. Aviation, industry and most importantly, energy have all been earmarked with details conspicuously lacking. To be fair, much of Ukraine's economy was inextricably (if not dubiously) tied to Russia's, making joint ventures and the like more suitable for both sides.

However, even more alarming than the lack of transparency that bilateral relations are being revived under, is the sectors that Russia is most interested in: i.e. energy. In Ukraine, it's been an abject capitulation. We are told that Gazprom (i.e. the Kremlin) wants to merge with Ukrainian state oil and gas company Naftogaz, which includes the gas pipelines to Europe and strategic storage facilities. Ukraine's nuclear industry, which makes almost half the country's electricity, is also coveted by the Kremlin. Who are Ukrainian plants and companies

going to complain to if their energy bills are suddenly raised – Kyiv or the Kremlin?

Another initiative by Yanukovych and his Russian counterpart, Dmitry Medvedev, is to build a bridge between Crimea – a peninsula claimed by leading Russian politicians as their own – and southern Russia. All suspicions aside, isn't Yanukovych & Co. tempting fate just a little?

But we are told by Ukraine's Soviet era grandfather figure, Prime Minister Mykola Azarov, that everything is under control, Russia is Ukraine's friend. Even if we give Yanukovych & Co. the benefit of the doubt and assume that they have the country's best interests at heart, can we say with the same certainty that they will be successful? Maybe the new team in Kyiv thinks that it can trick the Kremlin into providing them with financing while not demanding democratic reforms and the rule of law that the West traditionally has demanded.

If that's what Yanukovych and Co. are thinking, they might reread the history of Russian-Ukrainian relations. And if the oligarchs who support Yanukovych are only concerned about their short-term gain, they might consider the fate of Russia's oligarchs. A consolidation of power is not only convenient for Yanukovych & Co., it's convenient for the Kremlin as well.

Without the rule of law, a free press and fair elections, everyone is vulnerable – including Yanukovych & Co.

Kyiv Post staff writer John Marone can be reached at marone@kyivpost.com

VOX
populi

WITH
NATALIYA SOLOVONYUK



What do you think of the new dress code guidelines for government workers, which specify that men should be dressed in suits and ties and women should not wear mini-skirts, high heels or see-through blouses?



Oleksiy Kuharets
Civil servant
"I think it's normal. A civil servant is a person who performs the functions of the state. If the military

have uniforms, then why shouldn't state employees have a dress code? It's like a teacher who sets the standard to follow.



Olena Nosovets
Medical worker
"A dress code is a good idea. Many offices that are less important than the cabinet

have a dress code, such as banks and hospitals. There is nothing wrong with such a change."



Olena Kovalenko
Civil servant
"It would be nice if there was a single standard, as long as it is not a military uniform."



Mariya Polygenko
A non-governmental organization employee
"I think it's good because, if there is a single standard

in this regard, that will mean more discipline. In schools, for example, it helps to solve the problem of inequality."



Natalya Mysko
A post-graduate student
"This won't make regular people's lives any better, and the attitude to work in

these sort of establishments [as the Cabinet of Ministers] will probably not change. However, state officials should still have a dress code and set an example for all."

Vox Populi is not only in print, but also online at kyivpost.com with different questions. If you have a question that you want answered, e-mail the idea to news@kyivpost.com



Strauss-Kahn says Russia could help with gas payments

Dominique Strauss-Kahn, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, addresses journalists at the Yalta European Strategy conference on Oct. 2. Strauss-Kahn proposed that Russia could help Ukraine to pay a debt of \$3 billion to former gas trade intermediary RosUkrEnerg. The Swiss-registered company, owned by Russian state energy giant Gazprom and Ukrainian billionaire Dmytro Firtash, won an international arbitration court ruling in June ordering Ukraine to return 11 billion cubic meters of gas plus penalties. The gas had been appropriated by Ukrainian state energy company Naftogaz in January 2009 in a deal with Russia. Strauss-Kahn said that repaying the debt could threaten Ukraine's budget. The IMF currently has a \$15 billion lending program with Ukraine, which demands fiscal austerity, a rise in pension age and an end to household gas subsidies. Russian Finance Minister Aleksei Kudrin said Russia had received no proposal from Ukraine to help with the payment. (Serhiy Illin)

British-Ukrainian plan to redevelop Cherkasy detailed

British Ambassador to Ukraine Leigh Turner (L) looks on as Stephen Clarke (R), chief executive officer of the Cherkasy Development Agency, presents a project to redevelop Cherkasy's city and waterfront on Sept. 21. The long-term project, designed by British and Ukrainian companies jointly with Cherkasy City Administration, will need \$1 billion in funding, to be secured from national and international sources and debt financing. The Cherkasy Development Agency presented the project, which is aimed at stimulating the city's growth for the next two decades, at the British ambassador's residence in Kyiv. Clarke said he hoped the plan would become a model for the redevelopment of mid-sized Ukrainian cities. The project includes a golf course, leisure boat marinas, a convention center, hotels and a shopping and leisure precinct, intended to help promote Cherkasy as a destination for sporting, leisure and recreation pursuits. (Courtesy)

→ On the move

Send On the Move news to gnaviv@kyivpost.com, or contact Olga Gnaviv at 234-6500. Send business photos and press releases to: news@kyivpost.com, or contact the newsroom at 234-6310.



TETYANA SHUMILOVICH

was appointed managing director at Publicis Visage, the Kyiv office of global advertising network Publicis Worldwide. Before stepping

into Publicis Visage top management, Shumilovich served as deputy director at Grey Group Kyiv's office. She also led Leo Burnett Ukraine's non-tobacco clients division and new business department. Tetyana possess extensive experience on the advertising market. Prior to Leo Burnett she spent almost four years working for Atlantic Group in DDM digital production studio. As part of DDM's team, she led animation and digital projects for American and European clients, including Warner Bros. and Disney.



AURÉLIEN MOUSSET

has joined the team of Arzinger law firm in order to lead the company's French desk. His main field of expertise is the hospitality industry.

Prior to Arzinger, Mousset worked for 10 years as legal advisor for ACCOR Group, a world-leading French hospitality group. He also spent five years in the Czech Republic and Hungary, managing projects in real estate, hotel development and asset management in Central & Eastern Europe, CIS and Russia. Mousset holds a degree in business contracts from the University of Montpellier, France.



NATALYA KADJA

has become a human resource director at PARITET law firm. Kadja previously gained experience in the international IT business

at Materialise NV and Altana Capital, an investment company in Kyiv. Her professional accomplishments in seven years in the field include the successful implementation of systems to help motivate, adapt and develop teams and the implementation of a management system. Kadja has obtained degrees: in foreign languages at Kherson State Pedagogical University -and economics and business at Kyiv National Agrarian Academy.



ALEXANDER TOLKACH

was appointed director of external affairs at DTEK, Ukraine's leading fuel and energy company. Tolkach will lead

DTEK's external affairs directorate that encompasses four divisions: public relations, investor relations, international affairs and corporate social responsibility. Before joining DTEK, Tolkach was director of the external affairs department at Mechel, the Russian industrial group, with operations in the mining, metallurgy, ferroalloy and energy sectors. Prior to this, he served in the diplomatic service in a division of NATO and he was also an attaché at the Permanent Mission of Russia to the OSCE, Vienna, Austria. He graduated in 1999 from the Moscow State Institute of International Relations with a degree in international relations.

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Ukrainian prosecutors go after ArcelorMittal mill

BY GRAHAM STACK
STACK@KYIVPOST.COM

Another Ukrainian court is set to turn back the clocks, this time threatening a landmark, five-year-old privatization deal that brought state coffers \$4.8 billion in the cleanest state auction ever held.

The general prosecutor's office is suing ArcelorMittal, Ukraine's biggest foreign investor, which purchased the country's largest steel mill in Kryvyi Rih back in 2005.

The world's largest steel company denies alleged irregularities to a 2009 agreement to delay investments because of the financial crisis. The case could deal a major blow to the government's attempts to project itself as open to foreign investment.

The commercial litigation comes amid backsliding in the political arena, too. On Oct. 1, the Constitutional Court ruled to significantly augment the powers of Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich by canceling changes to the Constitution agreed in late 2004, during the height of the pro-democracy struggle.

The current Yanukovich team consists of many of the same officials who served before the Orange Revolution, when Kryvorizhstal (now ArcelorMittal KryvyiRih) was first sold under former President Leonid Kuchma to his son-in-law Viktor Pinchuk and billionaire Rinat Akhmetov, a major financial backer of Yanukovich, for a meager \$800 million.



ArcelorMittal's Christophe Cornier

Now, if prosecutors are successful, the Dnipropetrovsk Oblast mill purchased by Mittal Steel, now ArcelorMittal, will return to state hands – and maybe eventually back to Pinchuk and Akhmetov.

A top ArcelorMittal executive, Christophe Cornier, said that the first hearing of the case by the Kyiv Economic Court on Oct. 1 was more disappointing than even the company's worst expectations.

"We are taking this very seriously," said Cornier, a 25-year veteran of the company flown in from London to confront the emergency situation. "We paid \$4.8 billion for this plant, and put \$500 million worth of capital expenditures into it. We feel it is a very good plant and we don't want to lose it."

"But it is very difficult to assess what the outcome will be," acknowledged Cornier, who said he will be meeting with German and French ambassadors in Kyiv. "We are outside the boundaries of a normal law and order situation."

The steel plant is a defendant along with privatization agency the State Property Fund (SPF). Prosecutors are disputing a 2009 agreement between ArcelorMittal and the SPF that declared a force majeure in view of the global economic crisis, allowing the company to postpone investment commitments made under the terms of the original share purchase agreement of 2005.

"The dispute is that the addendum is not legal because it was not signed by the cabinet of ministers," Cornier said. "But when you look at the original share purchase agreement [of 2005], it is not written anywhere that it has to be signed by the cabinet."

Furthermore, according to Cornier, the plant's shareholder, ArcelorMittal Duisburg GmbH, has not been informed of the lawsuit, an apparent breach of the law.

And thirdly, according to Cornier, both the original share purchase agreement and the additional agreement of 2009 specify the International Commercial Arbitration Court at the Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (a non-state independent arbitration court) as the place of jurisdiction for all disputes.

→24

Business Sense

WITH MICHAEL WILLARD
MIKE.WILLARD@TWG.COM.UA



Editor's Note: Business Sense is a feature in which experts explain Ukraine's place in the world economy and provide insight into doing business in the country. To contribute, contact chief editor Brian Bonner at bonner@kyivpost.com

Paying for news only feeds corruption

Think your company is a good corporate citizen? Think again.

If you are purchasing press as if it were legitimate news, you have stepped over the line. It is impossible to be a good corporate citizen and at the same time help destroy the underpinning of ethical journalism by buying press.

In other words, you can't be half pregnant.

Today in Ukraine, multinational companies – Fortune 500 high-flyers – purchase newspaper stories with abandon. They either have their public relations or marketing departments buy stories as if they were legitimate news, or ask their public relations agencies to be a willing partner.

It was estimated at a recent European Business Association PR committee meeting that nearly 20 percent of all the "news stories" printed in Kyiv are bogus. These are so-called "hidden ads" – quite simply, purchased stories. The percentage rises dramatically in the regions.

In fact, companies – both multinational and regional – create a market for phony news and, in so doing, contribute to one of the worst practices in journalism in Ukraine and Eastern Europe. It impedes the development of a free press.

Why? The answer is simple: It is easy and it is available. Also, newspapers and television stations put forth the ruse that if a product's name is

mentioned in a story, the article must be treated as an ad.

This is untrue. There is no such legislation. It is merely the extrapolation of a statute to ludicrous lengths. The interpretation doesn't pass the common-sense test, nor is it a practice in Western countries. It merely is a big tree for lazy PR people to hide behind.

Another reason for buying press that I have heard from expats is, "When in Rome, do as the Romans do." This statement, if strictly adhered to, would make outlaws of most of us.

Finally, there is the argument that paid press is the only way to fight so-called "black PR," nefarious practices used to defame a company. This simply means that a company's strategic advisors – press and otherwise – are not sufficiently creative to come up with a legitimate battle plan.

However, I think it is best to concentrate on why buying press – other than the fact that it is just wrong – doesn't make good business sense. In fact, it's a waste of time and resources.

Purchased press has absolutely no credibility. At the EBA PR committee meeting, Myron Wasylyk, managing director of The PBN Company, a public affairs firm, pointed to a survey that revealed that virtually no one believes purchased stories.

From past experience with companies that have purchased press, it is apparent that it represents a slippery

slope. Once you buy press, you can't get into that same publication again without paying – even for a legitimate story with real news value.

From a newsman's viewpoint – and I was an editor many years before forming a PR agency – a purchased story generally has little news value and represents platitudes and positioning statements put forth by a company. In other words, they represent fried air.

It is the job of a company's PR department or agency to ferret out legitimate news and to package it in such a way that it is recognized as having news value. It is not easy, but it is why companies have PR departments and agencies. It takes absolutely no talent to purchase stories.

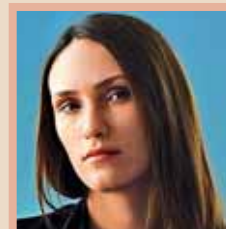
Whether in Kyiv, Krakow or Kalamazoo, a good story with news value will rise to the top of the stack and be published or broadcast. No one wants to miss a good story.

If corruption is endemic in Ukraine, this one aspect might be thought small. It is not. But one thing is certain: Purchased press will exist so long as it has enablers who otherwise pride themselves on being socially responsible corporate citizens.

Michael Willard is chairman of Willard, a public relations and advertising company with offices in Kyiv, Moscow and Istanbul. He can be reached at mike.willard@twg.com.ua.

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BUSINESSADVISER



Accounting profession in Ukraine

ALYONA SKICHKO
Executive Manager

It has been historically so that Ukrainian accountants in their activities are mainly oriented on tax compliance rather than on the quality of financial information and if you ask an average accountant for which reason financial statements are produced vast majority would answer – for "statistics office filings". Such low level of understanding of the principles and main goals of accountancy profession, which might come as a shock to many financial controllers of multinational companies handling a local unit in Ukraine, can be easily explained by several factors.

Heavy emphasis on tax compliance

For sure state policy heavily concentrated on tax collection and compliance, with a visit of tax inspector becoming a nightmare for any company, is one of the primary factors. We for sure have national GAAP duly adopted but no one punishes for breach of those. Whereas any breach of tax regulations can lead to huge tax penalties imposed on the company. And although tax office is quite severe in most countries of the world, still for Ukraine it is quite specific, due to the existence of unwritten rules and other practical problems of tax payers in Ukraine.

High level of involvement of owners into on-going operation

Even under such circumstances requirements of company management with respect to the quality of accounts could have become a driver for improvement of accounting profession level in Ukraine. And here we would run into another 'but'. Private business has just started its development together with the history of Ukraine as an independent country. And 19 years' time is not enough to develop high level of how-to-do business culture. It is still quite a wide spread situation in practice of Ukrainian SMEs when owners of the business would most commonly be managing day-to-day activities of the company. Being so highly involved to every single aspect of company activity they would not need to receive high quality financial information for control and decision making purposes.

Absence of certification of accountants

One more factor which, to my mind makes, negative impact on development of accounting profession in Ukraine is state policy or it is even better to say lack of state policy in this respect. Today there is no specific certification program or any strict qualification requirements to a person to take over the position of a chief accountant. This does not give employers an understanding of average minimum of the knowledge, skills and experience they might expect from a person who has the right to work as a chief accountant. So for a company manager or an investor operating an office in Ukraine and having no sufficient expertise to assess the professional knowledge of the candidates applying for the position of chief accountant it is every time a risk to end up with a low qualified person with good presentation skills and looking good on paper.

Insufficient knowledge of English

And even if after a long search you find a good person with right understanding and sufficient expertise, where you feel like speaking the same financial language with, another problem might pop up for foreign investors. Not so many accountants speak English or any other foreign language on the level enough to communicate directly on day-to-day basis. Staffing a position at senior accounting level is quite a challenging task even in biggest cities of Ukraine, and when we go further to the rural areas where you purchase let's say a plant or farming company this might turn into a problem.

We have no other way than improvement...

We definitely see such a situation as a temporary problem and even rather a stage of development of the profession in Ukraine, as obviously when there is demand for professionals of the kind it will sooner or later be balanced by respective proposition. Moreover there are certain discussions and steps undertaken to change state policy and approach with a view to improve the quality of financial accounting in Ukraine. At initial stage, it will cover banking, insurance sector and companies going public. Further on it will most probably have affect on the accounting labor market in general. So it is rather a matter of time and eventually accounting profession in Ukraine will evolve to higher quality level.

Meanwhile professional community of companies engaged in accounting practice also makes its contribution to the development of the profession in Ukraine bringing more and more personnel closer to the level expected from a professional accountant in world-wide practice.

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The Most Successful Expats

These foreigners have risen above obstacles in nation

BY MARK RACHKEVYCH,
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Every nation has two kinds of people – citizens and foreigners. The expatriates, or “expats” as almost everyone calls foreigners, are motivated to leave their homeland for various reasons – adventure, money and love among them.

Foreigners account for only a tiny sliver of Ukraine’s population of 46 million people – maybe as little as 0.2 percent, or roughly 100,000 people, including students.

Some get homesick and return to their native lands. Others experience failure and leave virtually unnoticed. Only a select few rise to the top and stay, influencing their adopted nation in profound ways.

This is their story.

“I can’t imagine Ukraine without them,” Anna Derevyanko, executive director of the European Business Association, said of expats living in Ukraine. “They’re model citizens, especially the young ones, who show that with hard work you can succeed.”

Succeeding as a foreigner in Ukraine requires overcoming daunting obstacles and challenges. This is why the Kyiv Post decided to identify two sometimes overlapping categories of foreigners – the richest and the most influential – for a first-ever ranking of its kind.

It wasn’t easy, particularly coming

up with the financial evaluations. The newspaper enlisted the help of Phoenix Capital. With the Kyiv investment bank’s advice, the Kyiv Post developed a list of the top 10 richest foreigners and estimated their fortunes. We also gave honorable mention to a second category of foreigners who, while wealthy, had fortunes too difficult to estimate.

The 20-member “most influential” category is far more subjective. The Kyiv Post sought to include those from all walks of life – business, entertainment, publishing, religion and non-governmental organizations – who have helped shape Ukrainian life.

All of these foreigners have stories that could fill books. We took the most interesting snippets of their lives for profiles that highlight how they expatriated from five continental homelands and what inroads they have made.

The newspaper came up with 38 names in all. Five expats – Jed Sunden, Tomas Fiala, Bjorn Stendel, Robert Shetler-Jones and Jorge Intriago – are crossovers, making both the richest and most influential categories.

The Kyiv Post also sometimes put two people into one spot because of their close business ties, such as the Sweere family, the father-and-son tandem who have run a successful agribusiness since the dawn of Ukraine’s independence.

Some have made a mark in finance (Tomas Fiala), others in agriculture (Carl Sturen and Johan Boden), the ser-

vice sector (Robert Koenig, Falk Nebiger, Benni Golani and Michael Don), entertainment (Bohdan Batruch), media (Jed Sunden and Joseph Lemiere) or metals (Kyiv Post publisher and ISTIL Group owner Mohammad Zahoor).

Some served as U.S. Peace Corps volunteers and stayed behind (Jorge Zukoski) to lobby for businesses. Others came to study and seized business opportunities (Robert Shetler-Jones). Still more had a spiritual calling to tend to their flock of believers (Rabbi Bleich and Sunday Adelaja).

Several trends emerged in putting together the elite list. Almost all of the foreigners profiled in the most financially successful category – richest and honorable mention – have created wealth, as opposed to acquiring it from government. The “crony capitalism” privatizations of state assets after the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union are how the first great private fortunes were accumulated in independent Ukraine.

By our count, the richest foreigners created more than 10,000 jobs. Many have attempted to introduce the best business practices from abroad and implant them in Ukraine, with mixed success in a nation that is still suffering from a Soviet hangover.

Many have also given back to the community, financially or by volunteering for worthy social causes.

“Unfortunately, there’s not enough long-term, established expats living in Ukraine,” said Mychailo Wynnyckyj, director of the doctoral school at Kyiv-

Mohyla Academy, one of the nation’s top universities. “Ukraine would be a far better place if Ukraine’s powers that be acted like these expats.”

Coming up with a simple definition of an expatriate proved tricky.

The Kyiv Post favored foreigners who live in Ukraine or are believed to spend most of their time here.

The newspaper included 10 people either born in what is Ukrainian territory today or who have Ukrainian ethnicity. We excluded those who have taken Ukrainian citizenship, such as former First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko, an American citizen until 2005, and Walid Harfouche, deputy head of the Ukrainian National State Television Company, who is from Lebanon.

The Kyiv Post also didn’t count Russians, as well, for the sake of simplicity. Ethnic Russians are Ukraine’s largest minority – some eight million of them, or 22 percent of the population. There is also a lot of mixed Ukrainian-Russian ethnicity and, until 1991, Russians were not foreigners.

Others would have easily made the cut but they simply don’t spend enough time in Ukraine anymore. For example, George Chopivsky used the wealth he made in the United States to start a business in Ukraine in 1991. He owned four grain elevators, a feed mill and two chicken operations while farming 3,000 hectares and was the first to market packaged eggs here.

And finally, others may be more deserving, but they weren’t more forth-

coming and we couldn’t find enough confirmation of their wealth to justify putting them on the list.

Traiblazing American Alex Sokol may be in this category. He opened Ukraine’s first Western health care operation, the American Medical Center, with his father and brother and has lived here since 1995. And there is also another American worth mentioning: Californian Michael Perry’s construction company has had a hand in building or renovating many of Kyiv’s most prominent buildings, such as Arena City and the American Embassy.

So, with all the imperfections, qualifications and ambiguities, the Kyiv Post is proud to offer the first-ever list of Ukraine’s most successful expats.

Citizenship of Ukraine's top foreigners

| Citizenship | How many | Percentage |
|----------------|----------|------------|
| United States | 21 | 55 |
| United Kingdom | 5 | 13 |
| Germany | 3 | 8 |
| Poland | 2 | 5 |
| Sweden | 2 | 5 |
| Italy/Canada | 1 | 2.6 |
| Belgium | 1 | 2.6 |
| Czech Republic | 1 | 2.6 |
| Nigeria | 1 | 2.6 |
| Ecuador | 1 | 2.6 |

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Most Successful Expats



| Richest Expats | | | | | |
|----------------|---|---|-----------------------------|--|------|
| Rank | Name | Citizenship | Estimated net worth | Who they are | Page |
| 1 |  Mohammad Zahoor |  | \$500 million – \$1 billion | Made fortune in steel business; now invested in real estate and media. | 10 |
| 2 |  Tomas Fiala |  | \$100 million | Investment banking; his company has managed most initial public offerings of Ukrainian companies | 10 |
| 3 |  Bohdan Batruch |  | \$83 million | Film distribution; advertising in films, Ukrainian language dubbing; movie theater chain | 11 |
| 4 |  Michael Don & Benni Golani |  | \$46 million (combined) | Run more than 30 restaurants and other ventures | 12 |
| 5 |  David & Daniel Sweere |  | \$31 million (combined) | Successful agribusiness owners who stuck it out throughout the turbulent 1990s, enduring government inspections, threats and corruption. | 11 |
| 6 |  Johan Boden & Carl Sturen |  | \$26 million (combined) | Farming, especially tomato production and processing | 12 |
| 7 |  Jerzy Konik |  | \$24 million | Had huge chunk of flower market; now into commercial real estate, manufacturing and other ventures | 12 |
| 8 |  Robert Koenig & Falk Nebiger |  | \$23 million (combined) | Joint interests in restaurants, high-end luxury brands and children's entertainment centers | 13 |
| 9 |  Jed Sunden |  | \$16.5 million | Online and print media publisher | 13 |
| 10 |  Joseph Lemiere |  | \$12-15 million | Radio broadcasting, online media, real estate | 13 |

| Honorable Mention (incalculable wealth; listed alphabetically) | | |
|---|--|------|
| Name | Who they are | Page |
| Michael Bleyzer | Private equity investment and charity foundation | 14 |
| James T. Hitch | Legal services | 14 |
| Jorge Intriago | Lawyer, public sector adviser | 14 |
| Andrew Mac | Legal services | 14 |
| Robert McNeil | Marketing agency | 14 |
| Nick Piazza | Investment banking, asset management | 15 |
| Robert Shetler-Jones | Asset management, real estate | 15 |
| Bjorn Stendel | Well-connected former grain trader; started business and troubleshooting consultancy | 15 |

| Most Influential Expats | | | | |
|-------------------------|--|---|---|------|
| Rank | Name | Field | Impact | Page |
| 1 | Savik Shuster | Political talk shows | Arguably provides Ukrainian households with the most entertaining, if not always substantive, political talk shows | 16 |
| 2 | Robert Shetler-Jones | Asset management | Front man for controversial billionaire Dmytro Firtash and chief executive officer of Firtash group of companies, lobbyist in the United Kingdom | 15 |
| 3 | Jorge Zukoski | Advocacy and lobbying | Longtime president of American Chamber of Commerce in Ukraine | 16 |
| 4 | Tomas Fiala | Investment banking | Brought billions of dollars in capital to Ukraine via initial public offerings and debt offerings | 10 |
| 5 | Phil Griffin | Political consultant and adviser to Party of Regions | American political adviser who helped resurrect Viktor Yanukovich politically after debacle of 2004 Orange Revolution loss | 16 |
| 6 | Peter Vanhecke | Investment banking and finance | Head of leading Russian investment bank, Renaissance Capital, in Ukraine, responsible for Belarus, Poland and the Balkans | 17 |
| 7 | Jock Mendoza-Wilson | Communications and public relations | Lead in-house public relations manager for one of Ukraine's largest corporations; largely credited with improving Rinat Akhmetov's image as gangster capitalist to upstanding billionaire citizen | 17 |
| 8 | Jed Sunden | Publishing, online and print media | Started nation's first English-language newspaper, the Kyiv Post, which raised journalistic standards and spawned publications and websites that remain among the nation's leading news sources | 13 |
| 9 | Sean Carr | Music, restaurant business | Has fast become part of Kyiv's music scene and restaurant business with his bad-boy Harley Davidson image as ex-Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko's son-in-law | 17 |
| 10 | Rabbi Yakov D. Bleich | Religion, faith | Steadfastly has brought spiritual leadership to a reviving Jewish community; activist who stands for reconciliation and healing | 17 |
| 11 | George Logush | Consumer goods | Corporate leader at the helm of Kraft Foods who knows consumer market very well; philanthropist and promoter of Ukrainian language | 17 |
| 12 | Jorge Intriago | Legal advice and consulting | Active in business community, European Business Association and has advised high-level government officials | 14 |
| 13 | Myron Wasyluk | Public relations and political advising | Advises all established Ukrainian parties, including Viktor Yushchenko's 2004 and 2010 election campaigns | 18 |
| 14 | Natalie Jaresko | Private equity investment | Longtime investor in small and mid-capital companies and a leading supporter of Ukrainian charities and culture | 18 |
| 15 | Bjorn Stendel | Grain trading, business consulting | Well-connected former grain trader; started business startup and troubleshooting consultancy | 15 |
| 16 | Sunday Adelaja | Religion, faith | Pastor who built up a large parish that includes many rich people and powerful politicians | 18 |
| 17 | H. Brian Mefford | Political party development consultant, political adviser | Headed the Kyiv office of the International Republican Institute for a decade and then advised Viktor Yushchenko in his bid for re-election in 2010 | 18 |
| 18 | Eric Aigner | Entertainment | Singlehandedly gave Kyivans a taste of fun-loving, affordable, unforgettable nightlife; at his zenith, ran more than 10 bars, restaurants and nightclubs | 19 |
| 19 | Christina Pendzola-Vitovych | Student exchanges, training and study abroad | She has sent thousands of Ukrainians to study in the United States than she can count through work in American Councils for International Educations | 19 |
| 20 | Bohdan Kulchyykyj & Petro Rodniak | Automotive dealership | Started Ukraine's first Western, state-of-the art car dealership with all the perks | 19 |

About the project

To create the first-ever ranking of Ukraine's richest expatriates, the Kyiv Post spent several months conducting interviews with more than 40 foreigners, in consultation with Phoenix Capital, an investment bank. Our tally was based on publicly available information, personal interviews with the expatriates and consultations with the wider business community. Phoenix Capital conducted asset valuations.

In the end, the Kyiv Post ranked 14 people in the Top 10 richest spots. Our estimates are a snapshot of wealth this fall and are by no means exhaustive or definitive, given the difficulty in quantifying these fortunes.

The participation of Phoenix Capital allowed the Kyiv Post to publish with a greater degree of confidence, supported by interviews with the expatriates themselves, but with no ironclad certainty.

The ranking of the 20 most influential foreigners was a subjective undertaking and was made by the Kyiv Post staff. These rankings are, it should be noted, independent of Kyiv Post publisher Mohammad Zahoor and his ISTIL Group.

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Richest Expats

Mohammad Zahoor, 55

\$500 million – \$1 billion



Yaroslav Debelyi

#1 Richest

expatriate career.

He learned Russian and metallurgy well. Then he eventually found a way to apply those skills in Ukraine, one of the world's top 10 steel-exporting nations. Zahoor also displayed a talent for knowing when to get out of a business, as he did in 2008 by selling his Donetsk steel mill for a top-drawer price of \$1 billion.

Zahoor is now the chairman and owner of the ISTIL Group, which went on an asset-buying spree in the last two years, including the small (for him) purchase of the Kyiv Post in 2009 for \$1.1 million from its founder, American Jed Sunden.

Zahoor left Karachi, Pakistan, to study metallurgy in Donetsk in 1974. He worked in Pakistan after graduating, but made Ukraine his home after working in Moscow, making frequent business trips to secure metals contracts.

At that time, Zahoor and a Thai businessman were running Metalsrussia, a Hong Kong-registered trading company based in Moscow. It soon became the main trader of Russia's Cherepovets metallurgy factory. The business was going well and Zahoor didn't think of moving to Ukraine until 1993, when Thailand imposed an anti-dumping duty on Russian rolled metal.

He soon became heavily invested in Ukraine.

Zahoor, a British citizen, renamed the company as the ISTIL Group in 1991 and made it a diversified holding company, with such interests as Aleana, a plastics manufacturer. But his main line of business was metals. He helped steel mills in several nations improve their product and learn how to transport the finished material to its destination without damage.

"It was luck, of course, being at the right place at the right time, and my

strong knowledge of the market," he said. He learned his first tough lesson about mixing business with politics during the 1994 presidential campaign. Incumbent President Leonid Kravchuk's advisers had asked Zahoor to speak on Kravchuk's behalf as a major investor. His speech was broadcast on TV and was a success. But a few months later, Kravchuk's rival, Leonid Kuchma, won the presidency.

"We had serious problems," Zahoor recalled. The pressure from the government had not eased up even by 1996, when he decided to invest into a dying Donetsk Metallurgical Plant. Since then, Zahoor decided to never lend his public support to any Ukrainian politicians. Competitors muscled him out of a big steel mill in 2000, but Zahoor found a way to modernize the mini-steel mill left in his control and prosper before cashing out in 2008.

Today, the ISTIL Group of companies employs up to 1,000 people. The owner has turned most of his attention

to building up a portfolio of Ukrainian media and real estate assets.

"These two [media and real estate] are our main fields of interest," he said. "Real estate is doing really bad now, but it's a good time to buy." He purchased the landmark Leipzig Hotel near the Golden Gate in the heart of Kyiv's center. The five-story, 9,620 square-meter building is an architectural gem that has sat empty for more than a decade.

He invested in Rialto Business Center in Podil, not far from the Petrivka metro stop. Reconstruction is under way in the 15,000 square-meter building, which will feature the latest digital fiber optic communications technologies and the latest in energy-efficient heating and cooling. He also bought the old Kinopanorama movie theater and owns ISTIL Studios, a state-of-the-art film and television production center, among other new assets.

He is the husband of singer-actress Kamaliya.

While it may look strange and self-serving for the Kyiv Post to declare its publisher the richest foreigner in Ukraine, Mohammad Zahoor certainly appears to have earned the title. If anyone knows of another expatriate worth between \$500 million and \$1 billion, the estimated size of Zahoor's fortune, please let

us know and we will set the record straight.

Zahoor certainly didn't get where he is today – namely, wealthy – by owning the Kyiv Post. Zahoor punched his ticket the hard way: making steel in rough-and-tumble Donetsk. He came to Ukraine in 1974 as a student from Pakistan, the start of his pioneering

\$100 million

Tomas Fiala, 36

When Tomas Fiala came to Ukraine as a 22-year-old in 1996 to set up an office for Czech brokerage Wood, he intended to stay for three years at the most. But upon arrival, he had a déjà vu experience that gave him a competitive edge.

"Ukraine was obviously passing through the same phase as the Czech Republic had some years before," he told the Kyiv Post.

Surviving the 1998 crisis then gave him the confidence to set up his own investment banking and brokerage group, Dragon Capital. In May, Dragon Capital celebrated its 10th anniversary.

The shock of 1998 also taught him a lesson in the importance of financial conservatism that paid off in the 2008 crisis. "We expanded market share and kept the team together," he said.

He looks back fondly on his first major deal. His first offering of a large stake, in Rohan brewery in 2000, to Interbrew, brought in \$16 million, quadrupled the value in four years. As a native Czech and beer connoisseur, he had grasped early on that, with beer consumption only 10 percent of central European levels, there was huge room to grow. He says diplomatically of Rohan: "The beer has changed, but it's still a good beer."

Fiala also regards the growth in beer consumption as a positive for public health: "Better beer than vodka," he said.

He names as his undisputed professional highlight the sale of a minority stake to Goldman Sachs in 2007. Today the company employs 180 people.

Fiala is bullish about Ukraine's prospects coming out of the crisis, forecasting at least 4 percent growth this year.

In 2005, Fiala said he considered quitting his business in Ukraine if Viktor Yanukovich came to power that year; instead, Viktor Yushchenko ruled for five years.

"There were certain people in his entourage who did not seem positive for the country," he said of Yanukovich in 2005.

"But I and a lot of business people are very happy with the initial impressions of the [Prime Minister Mykola] Azarov government's economic program. Yanukovich has changed."



Dmytro Nikonov

#2 Richest

#4 Most Influential

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Courtesy photo

#3 Richest

\$83 million

Bohdan Batruch, 52

Bohdan Batruch runs a film business with 400 employees. The company's interests include B&H, which distributes films; Le Doyen Studio, a Ukrainian-language dubbing company; and Kino Palats, a cinema chain. Besides that, he sells advertising for films.

An ethnic Ukrainian born in Poland, Batruch has been responsible for dubbing many of the films shown in Ukrainian cinemas for such leading movie companies as Universal Pictures, Paramount Pictures, DreamWorks and Disney. His stellar year was in 2006, when his film distribution company dubbed Cars, a Disney cartoon production. The film immediately became a hit, even in Russian-speaking parts of the country, where viewers lauded the Ukrainian version's superiority to the Russian-language version.

It costs \$20,000 to \$100,000 to dub a film. Batruch on average pays out \$5 million annually to actors alone for reading scripts in studios. "The trick to dubbing films in Ukrainian is to do it in such a way that the viewer forgets what language they're listening," Batruch said.

But he stressed the seriousness of language dubbing in Ukraine by comparing it to the divisive choice Ukrainians may face over whether to join the NATO military alliance.

"People discuss dubbing (in Ukrainian or Russian) as if they are choosing whether to join NATO," he said.

Batruch first came to Ukraine on business as the primary agent for setting up a banknote factory outside of Kyiv in 1992. He took a three percent cut, which he used to start a film distribution company, the first to enter the market, when Ukraine passed a copyright law in 1994.

He was integral in advocating for the copyright law on behalf of the American Motion Picture Association. But in those years, there were only four modern cinemas operating in Ukraine. So in 1998, with \$700,000 of his own money, Batruch opened the first Kinopalats cinema, the nation's first modern theater with Dolby surround sound, popcorn machines and air conditioning.

Batruch now controls in part or wholly 15 Kinopalats cinemas throughout Ukraine.

He is a fan of good food, contemporary art and architecture and sponsors many artists.

But when it comes to cars, he differs dramatically from many affluent people in Ukraine.

"I don't own a car. I'd rather spend money at a three-star Michelin-rated restaurant and enjoy every morsel on my plate," Batruch said.

Michael Don, 51, and Benni Golani, 50

Partners Michael Don and Benni Golani brought affordable, mid-scale ethnic food to Kyiv in 1996 when they opened Uncle Sam's American Bar & Bistro, the city's first American-style steakhouse. Today, it is simply known as Sam's and is still located on the corner of Zhylianska and Volodymyrska streets.

Opened just five months after Arizona's BBQ, another Kyiv expatriate mainstay restaurant, Don said Sam's Steakhouse turned a profit in just seven months.

"We adopted a Western-style, professional approach to managing restaurants. This is what has driven our success," Don told the Kyiv Post in earlier interviews.

Born in Kyiv, Don emigrated to the United States in 1989 with "\$1,350 in my pocket, two kids and wife, and not knowing a lick of English." He quickly integrated into the New York community and started a construction company,

which is when he met his friend and partner, Golani, a native of the former Soviet republic of Georgia. Years later, the tandem was to return to a now post-Soviet turf as expats with the bold idea of setting up restaurants.

"He commissioned me to work on his house in Maryland and we immediately clicked," Don said, recalling how he and Golani teamed up. "It was like we knew each other all our lives."

Golani was in the Washington, D.C. restaurant scene then, owning three popular Jewish restaurants. Don learned quickly from his new mentor and eventually took a trip back to Kyiv in 1993 to explore business opportunities. At first he was shocked to have seen how his native city had deteriorated in such a short period of time and cut his trip short. "Boryspil was like a ghetto. Kyiv's streets were a mess. It was scary," Don said.

But he returned, investing \$250,000 to \$400,000 into each restaurant since. Following Sam's was the Golden Gate Pub, then Mimino, a Georgian restaurant, Tequila House and Marakesh. After the opening of their fifth restaurant, Don and Golani lumped them all into the Mirovaya Karta Corporation umbrella company, offering

\$46 million (combined)



Courtesy photo

Courtesy photo

#4 Richest

repeat customers a discount card, a practice many began to emulate.

"We had to have a managing company. We just couldn't be at five places all at once during dinnertime," Don said.

Today, the two control 66 percent of Mirovaya, with 31 restaurants, including two Sushi Miya chain restaurants. They also have licensing rights for two Buddha Bars from the original Paris venue: one in Kyiv on Khreshchatyk and the other in Washington, D.C. Don said they always reinvest heavily and have plans to open a brick oven pizza restaurant soon in Kyiv called El Molino.

According to Don, Golani and he are also partners in the hotels Khreshchatyk and Razgulaevo, as well as in the Alianz Medical Center. Together, they employ more than 2,000 people.

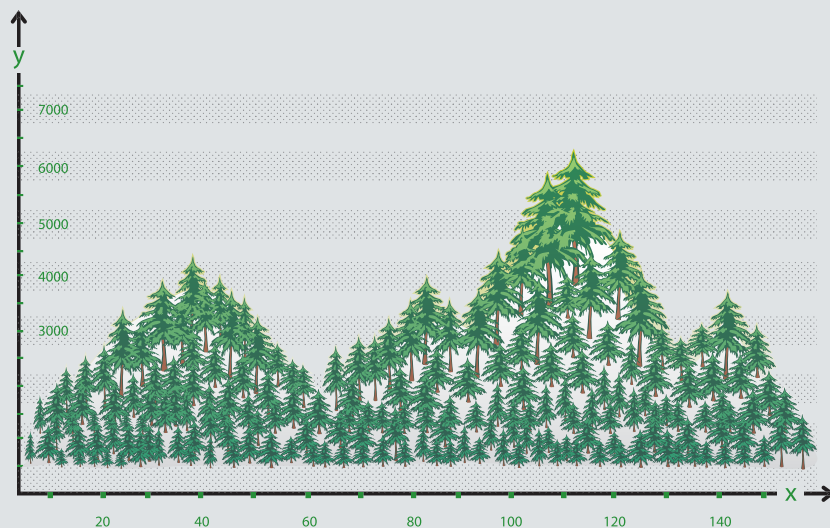
Don, who has residences in Kyiv, Maryland and Florida, said he spends 60 percent of his time in Ukraine, co-managing the company and always eats out at one of his restaurants.

"I only have fruit in my house," Don said.

It's always a reassuring sign when the owner eats at his own joints.

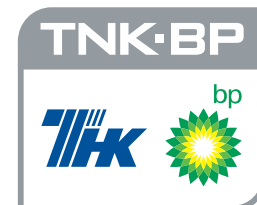
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David Sweere, 65 Daniel Sweere, 45

David Sweere added the word "business" to agriculture in Ukraine when he started the Kyiv-Atlantic Group at the dawn of Ukraine's independence.

But the going was tough during a time when farmers were used to top-down, command economic principles after years of being forced to work on collective farms.

Sweere started operations in Ukraine in 1990, with \$1 million, after selling off his agricultural business in Minnesota. He started off bartering diesel fuel for grain, and soon the business got so good that he decided to build his own fuel storage business. But he had to scratch that plan after getting death threats from what he called the "mafia."

"My father was lured by the amazing farming opportunity that Ukraine offered," Daniel Sweere said, who joined his father's Ukrainian farming business in 1994.

Roughing it out for so long through the chaotic hyper-inflation early 1990s, his effort finally paid off. "You have to be experienced enough to keep yourself growing. Local knowledge is the only reason we've survived for so long."

Soon afterwards, he received a \$2 million grant from the U.S. government to build the first private grain storage center in Ukraine. The financial crisis of 1998 made things hard; so did some pressure from the tax authorities. All in all, David estimated that it took his company five years longer than he expected to build its agricultural complex. Kyiv-Atlantic has been operating at a profit only since 2002, but has been profitable every year since then, according to Daniel.

Today, Kyiv-Atlantic farms 10,000 hectares of leased land in Kyiv and Cherkasy oblasts, growing corn, barley,

rape, sunflowers and soybean. The father-and-son majority stakeholder tandem also has 4,000 head of beef cattle and has started adding value through food processing: pasta, flour, multi-game feed, producing vegetable and soy oils and getting into the retail side of selling meat products.

The Sweeres have created more than 700 jobs mostly by pumping money into the infrastructure in 10 villages where they farm. Daniel said they often give money to benefit the elderly and to promote education for youth.

"There's not much left in the villages where we operate, so we're serious about rural development," Daniel said.

His company, created with a total investment of nearly \$30 million, also has a 40,000-ton grain elevator, a feed mill, an oil refinery and a milk plant. They are currently building two more feed mills worth \$10 million. But things could change soon. The elder Sweere is looking to retire and head back to Minnesota, leaving the business to his son and Danish equity shareholders who recently joined their business.



Serhiy Zavainyuk



Natalia Kravchuk

\$31 million (combined)

#5 Richest

Jerzy Konik, 56

Ukraine found this native of Krakow, Poland, not the other way around. When a friend asked Jerzy Konik to set up an attractive stand at Kyiv flower show in the late 1980s, the organizers were so impressed they asked him to stay. In the end, he ended up securing the most flower contracts.

A truck farmer by training, Konik soon found that selling flowers in Ukraine paid off better than in Germany and Denmark, where he was mostly engaged. After Ukraine's independence, Konik founded Lybid, a decorative flower company, which quickly evolved into Ukraflora, which he sold in 2005 and which today has an estimated 55 percent share of Ukraine's flower market.

"I like developing businesses and selling them for a profit," Konik said. "Today, I could tell you 10 business ideas that I could develop, turn around and sell at a profit."

Other businesses started and then sold included Reksbud, a roofing construction company he ran for 15 years, a brick factory and a travel agency next to his office on Reitarska Street in Kyiv.

In 2003, Konik moved into commercial real estate when he reconstructed the Magnus department store in Lviv with investor money and a loan from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Also in 2003, Konik built a condom



Courtesy photo

\$24 million

#7 Richest

factory in Lviv Oblast for the brand name Perfekt, in an area designated as a special economic zone. "I was encouraged by the close proximity to the Polish border and labor that was cheaper than in central Ukraine," he said.

The latex products factory supplies 20 percent of the Ukrainian condoms market of approximately 120 million units. Konik also opened Euromeister, a truck tire regeneration plant in Lviv Oblast with \$2.5 million of his own money.

Konik, who estimates he has employed more than 3,000 people

and today has 200 hires, is active in an annual charity drive that collects money in May to purchase medical equipment for children's hospitals in Ukraine. The Pole said that he wants Europe to bring down the "new iron curtain" and open its borders to Ukrainians so they could know how "a rose smells" and "break their isolation."

He said the judicial system is Ukraine's biggest business impediment. "The courts don't work, the vast majority of judges are small-time thugs," he said, recounting the number of times he has had to counteract raider attacks on his businesses.

Johan Boden, 39 Carl Sturen, 36

Sweden's Johan Boden and Carl Sturen were hardly out of their teens when they first came to Ukraine in 1993, looking to replace a cucumber crop lost in Estonia that year. Their impression was so positive that their next visit was already to identify a production plant, finally choosing the Kakhovka site in Kherson Oblast.

In 1995, Boden and Sturen got a huge boost when fellow Swede and billionaire, professor Hans Rausing, the founder of Tetra-Pak food packaging company agreed to invest in them. They christened their new company, Chumak (meaning historic Ukrainian itinerant merchants) with \$5.4 million in start-up investment. The brand would soon become a household name to food consumers across the country.



focus.ua

\$26 million (combined)

#6 Richest



UNIAN

Chumak's big breakthrough came with ketchup. The product was unknown in Ukraine, so much so that the company had a hard time convincing Ukrainian bureaucrats that such a thing existed at all. But once ketchup received official recognition as a food product, there was no looking back. By 1997, Chumak's distribution network covered all of Ukraine and Boden and Sturen purchased a second production factory in Kherson Oblast. It processes ripe Kherson tomatoes within hours of harvesting, ensuring freshness. Chumak then expanded into mayonnaise – and then crucially became the first former Soviet-based supplier of these products to McDonald's fast food restaurants. In

2000, the company grew by 78 percent, and in 2001 they launched Europe's largest fresh tomato processing plant handling a complete cycle from harvested tomatoes to finished product.

Chumak's international potential was recognized in 2008, when investment companies Dragon Capital and East Capital Baring Ukraine Fund jointly bought 67 percent stock of Chumak from billionaire Rausing for an undisclosed sum. Boden and Sturen own the remaining stake. Boden is currently the director of corporate development and board member, while Sturen is the president of the company that employs 1,000 people.

Their presence in Kakhovka, a Dnipro River port city with 38,000 people, has improved the city immensely. It had the highest gross domestic product per capita in recent years and, at least until 2009, had the highest foreign direct investment per capita before being surpassed by Odesa's Illichivsk due to the large port and elevator project there. The two Swedes are also involved in a number of local charity projects, including an orphanage and a house for people living with disabilities. Sturen has played a significant role as the honorable consul of Sweden in Ukraine, working to change lives in a settlement called Old Swedish Village located some 50 kilometers from Kakhovka.

Robert Koenig, 42 Falk Nebiger, 41

Robert Koenig

Most expatriates don't know that Robert Koenig is one of Ukraine's top-ranked squash players. He also has bragging rights for introducing Kyiv to chicken wings, margaritas and happy hours.

"I even represented Ukraine in a Polish squash tournament in the 1990s," said Koenig, who still competes and is ranked in the top 10 in Ukraine.

The trailblazing Washington D.C. native was Pepsi International's man in Ukraine in the early 1990s. While still working as a financial director for the company, Koenig opened the popular American Arizona BBQ restaurant in 1996 with friend and partner Falk Nebiger. It was an immediate hit with Kyiv's fast-growing expatriate community for its offerings of burgers, Tex-Mex and steaks.

He left Pepsi in 1997 and devoted all his time to business projects or, as he said: "developing after-hour places for foreigners."

He and Nebiger opened San Tori, a Japanese-Asian eatery in 1997. Other restaurants, such as Edelweiss, Kozak Mamai and an Arizona's in Donetsk, have since been sold or closed.

The Syracuse graduate and former Andersen Consulting accountant got into the movie theater business in 2001, developing three Butterfly cinemas before cashing out in 2005. And he got into commercial real estate when he helped construct Arena City, an adult entertainment center in 2004

with a local partner. He divested his interest in 2008.

He and Nebiger found a Greek investor in 2000 to put \$2 million into starting the Mr. Snack sandwich shop chain. Today there are 14 Mr. Snacks. He and Nebiger are also partners in two Ot Puza self-serve, buffet-style eateries.

Koenig has branched out on his own to build seven Igroland children entertainment centers with the first one opening in 2005 at Kyiv's Karavan shopping mall.

He also started in 2005 to capitalize on the spending power of Ukraine's growing elite when he entered the high-end luxury goods market. Today he operates 15 luxury boutiques all under the Richemont Group: Tiffany, Montblanc, Alfred Dunhill, Roger Dubuis, Van Cleef & Arpels.

How does he do it? "By giving all my effort and believing in the long-term potential of Ukraine's markets and economy," he said.

But he does admit that a lot of his success has to do with "being at the right place at the right time," a common success theme of those who came to Ukraine in the early 1990s.

And it's been a delicate balancing act to remain successful. Koenig prides himself in combining Western business values with local idiosyncrasies and paying attention to his strengths and benefiting from them.

"It's about honesty and open communication. Trust is very important in

business," Koenig said.

He still finds time to give back to the community. He sits on the board of the Klitschko Brothers Foundation, which promotes healthy lifestyles and after-school programs for children. "We build playgrounds and boxing halls. We've spent \$1.5 million on these projects," he said.

So as Koenig continues re-investing what he earns, he admits that he hasn't given much thought to an exit strategy: "How do I divest my interests?"

As he contemplates, we will continue to enjoy his margaritas.

Falk Nebiger

"I'm happy I'm still alive" is how Falk Nebiger described his most important achievement in Ukraine since arriving in 1992.

Another "original expat" on our list, the German national said he's seen his share of foreigners who've run into problems - getting muscled out by local partners, for example - or in some cases simply becoming alcoholics.

But Nebiger didn't encounter many of the problems that early expatriates faced because he was too busy starting businesses and choosing the right partners. "If I could start over again, I would focus on fewer things and do them better," he said, referring to the wide-open market of the early 1990s.

Together with his more outgoing business partner, American Robert Koenig, and a local partner, Ihor Balenko, they started Arizona Group, which lays



Kyiv Post file photo

\$23 million (combined)

claim to the city's first expat hangout, opening in 1996. Arizona BBQ is still the group's flagship restaurant.

Other restaurants include San Tori with Koenig and Muka on Khreshchatyk and Crazy Mama Rock'n'Roll Cafe on Taras Shevchenko Boulevard, both of which belong to Nebiger. He is also the silent partner with Koenig in a few jewelry stores. He also operates four fast-food style restaurants, two with Koenig, called Ot Puza.

His biggest breakthrough came on Dec. 1, 2000, when he and Koenig attracted a Greek investor to start the Mr. Snack sandwich parlor chain as part of an ambitious plan to become Ukraine's second-largest fast food operation after McDonald's.

The overseas partner is Greece-based Commercial Capital, a company that has already pumped more than \$10 million into various ventures in Ukraine.

Vadym Gruzyn, who heads Commercial Capital's representative office here, told the Kyiv Post in earlier

interviews that it has projects in chemical production and distribution, real estate and consumer goods in Ukraine. The company, now a co-owner of Mr. Snack, apparently invested \$2 million into the chain, according to Nebiger. There are 14 Mr. Snacks today.

When working with local partners, Nebiger said the trick is to work honestly and speak about problems as soon as they arise.

Nebiger said there still are untapped niches in the service industry. "With discipline and hard work along with creative ideas, there's still opportunity in bars and restaurants, also in agriculture," he said.

He has started a small asparagus farm with Chumak brand top managers Johan Boden and Carl Sturen, who next year plan to farm five hectares in southern Ukraine.

The longtime expatriate personally collects and donates money to a local children's home in Fastiv of Kyiv Oblast. He estimates that he currently employs up to 350 people.

Jed Sunden, 40

When reading the list of Manhattan's Stuyvesant High School's notable alumni, you'll notice KP Media owner Jed Sunden (class of '88) listed alongside jazz legend Thelonious Monk (class of '35), U.S. President Barack Obama's senior adviser David Axelrod (class of '72) and witty writer Gary Shteyngart (class of '91), among others.

The irony is Stuyvesant is a specialized math, science and technology school. It does not produce journalists or publishers.

But that's what Sunden ended up doing, eventually providing Kyiv's English speakers and many Ukrainians with credible print and online information that stood out from the swamp of state and oligarch-controlled media.

It all started in the mid-1990s, when Sunden started the Kyiv Post with a few thousand dollars and a few people. Today, Sunden's media empire includes Korrespondent, the leading Russian-language news magazine, and its online companion, korrespondent.net, as well as bigmir.net web portal. He had a much bigger presence before the 2008 economic crisis, which ultimately triggered the sale of the Kyiv Post and Pink magazine, as well as the closure of Novynar and Afisha magazines. He still has, however, an estimated 250 employees.

The New York native arrived in Kyiv in 1993 for a research project after graduating with a history degree from Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota. He studied Soviet history because "the Berlin Wall was coming down and the fall of communism

was the biggest story in the world when I was deciding what to do at college." He expected to return to the United States for further studies after conducting research in Ukraine. Instead, he heard that Ukraine's new airline needed an in-flight magazine and, after producing that for a year, he used his savings of \$8,000 to launch the Kyiv Post in 1995, his flagship publication for 14 years until he sold it in 2009 amid a sharp economic downturn.

That paper led the reporting of enough controversial issues that in 2000, the government of President Leonid Kuchma refused to let him back into the country after a holiday in the U.S. Only high-level U.S. government intervention cleared his entry while he waited in Vienna for the next in-bound Kyiv flight.

Sunden has always stood for editorial independence and believes it's also a good business practice. Owners and publishers who use their publications to pursue a political agenda or interfere with journalists' independent judgments "tend to lose the trust of readers," he said.

But Sunden weighs in often enough with his own political opinions. He is a libertarian who believes in low taxes, minimal government and free speech. He also has waged an unending campaign against Ukraine's lingering vestiges of communism - including seeking the removal of all monuments to Soviet founder Vladimir Lenin. He has not succeeded yet, but he hasn't given up.



\$16.5 million

Yaroslav Debelyi

#9 Richest

#8 Most Influential

Joseph Lemiere, 53

Under his umbrella company, Gala Media, American Joseph Lemiere is largely credited with introducing Ukraine's first music chart and live DJ radio broadcasts. The Michigan native went against an obscure law that forbade radio disc jockeys to broadcast live on the fateful rainy night of Oct. 16, 1995. That's when he asked his favorite, DJ Pasha, to talk to listeners about the music he chose for them. Later, in August 1996, Lemiere and DJ Pavlo "Pasha" Shylko started a Top 20 chart of most favored artists. Ukrainian rockers like Okean Elzy and VV became immediate overnight hits.

His Gala Radio station soon became the nation's most listened to station.

"Back in the 1990s, three to four guys would run a radio station without a clear-cut idea of what it was all about," Lemiere told the Kyiv Post back then.

In 1994, state-owned radio stations offered a steady diet of programming that lacked variety: the morning exercise lady, afternoon folk music, dinner-time poetry readings and evening classical music.

Four FM stations operated in Kyiv then: a Moscow rebroadcast, Voice of America and two local operations. There was little advertising. And there were no jingles, weather, traffic reports or loud morning shows either. Ukrainian FM primarily featured a smugly cool dude at the mike doing minute-long transitions between his personal favorites, usually Smoke on the Water or Stairway to Heaven.

Lemiere's initial investment was \$500,000 for a 30 percent stake; later, the total investment grew to \$2.2 million. By 1996, it had become profitable, grossing around \$1.5 million annually. Today Lemiere owns 99 percent of the radio station, which he obtained in 2006, as well as the gala.net web portal. He dabbles in television production and has residential real estate projects in Ukraine and China.

A certified public accountant and lawyer by training, Lemiere first came to Ukraine to set up businesses for multinational companies and organizations. He set up the first Kyiv International Bank with the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development, opened the original importer of BMW cars, the first Western Union and other businesses.

But his rise wasn't smooth. Repeated attempts have been made to take over his station and he has had to seek justice twice in arbitration courts. "We recently won a case against the Ukrainian government," he said, referring to the way radio frequencies are unfairly and arbitrarily allocated in Ukraine. "We did it in the framework of the U.S.-Ukraine bilateral investment treaty and, in the next few months, the arbitration court will be enforceable."

Lemiere said that, in more than 15 years, he has donated more than \$1 million to various charities under Gala's name to promote youth, including every Ukrainian Olympic team.

As for the lessons he's learned: "Never ever give up. There are so many good people in Ukraine, but the country needs more role models and we've produced some of them. We've had more than 1,000 people come through Gala and we've always taught them to take the 'Gala' high road by doing good while doing your best."



\$12-15 million

Serhiy Zavalnyuk

#10 Richest

Honorable Mention

Rich, but how rich?

Michael Bleyzer, 59

Michael Bleyzer was born in Kharkiv, and seemed destined for a high-flying Soviet scientific career before he left for America in 1978 as a Jewish emigre. His career in the United States blossomed, turning him into a successful capitalist.

Based mainly in Texas, he worked for Exxon and then Ernst & Young accounting firm in executive positions. "Then in 1993, I returned to Ukraine for a visit, and I saw the opportunities that were opening. I realized where I fit in. There were great opportunities, but no one in Ukraine knew how to access capital markets. I knew this very well, so I decided to act as a bridge between capital and opportunities," he recalled.

In 1995, Bleyzer founded his private equity institution SigmaBleyzer, which now has more than \$1 billion in assets under management. "The most important thing when operating in Ukraine is patience," he said. "It's a very difficult environment. A number of times I considered throwing it all in, in 1998 after the Russian financial crisis, and in the early 2000s."

The 1998 crisis, however, killed off many competitors, leaving Bleyzer's fund one of the few major surviving private equity funds operating in Ukraine. "It's important for investors to realize that Ukraine is an emerging market, and is not all that different from other emerging markets. There are great people here and the long-term strategic outlook is excellent."

Bleyzer recommends investment

in the consumer sector as most promising, even after the end of the credit boom. "It's going to be slower, but people still have money and need to spend it."

While his fund does restructuring work on company level, the Bleyzer Foundation, his charity launched in 2001, lobbies government for improvement in the business climate. Bleyzer sees serious free-market reforms as the only way forward for Ukraine, now that credit-driven and export-driven growth has dried up. In this respect, he says he is pleasantly surprised by the President Viktor Yanukovich administration – especially Iryna Akimova, economist and deputy head of the presidential administration: "They were saying the right things, now it's a question of implementation," Bleyzer said of the team's performance recently in Washington, D.C.



Yuriy Kryvenko

James T. Hitch, 61

Few people can claim the breadth of perspective that lawyer James Hitch, managing partner of Baker & McKenzie law firm in Kyiv, has in Ukraine. Hitch first came to Ukraine in 1970 on a rare-for-the-times college exchange program.

By 1975, the Harvard Law School graduate was beginning his long career with the international firm as their specialist in Eastern Europe. Between then and the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, Hitch was involved in various deals in Yugoslavia, Hungary, Poland and what was then known as Czechoslovakia. Having studied the Russian language in high school and international affairs at Princeton University, he was uniquely qualified to do things such as offer advice on the first joint venture between American blue jean maker Levi Strauss and its Hungarian partner.

Hitch went on to open or assist in opening Baker & McKenzie's offices in Russia (1989), Kyiv (1992) and other East European cities. He served as the firm's managing partner in St. Petersburg in 1997-2002, and then in Kyiv since 2002.

When asked by the Kyiv Post about his greatest impact on Ukraine, Hitch said: "Setting a standard for high integrity and anti-corruption in the legal profession."

Hitch also takes pride in making Baker & McKenzie the first foreign law firm in Ukraine to do litigation full-time. Also among the St. Louis, Missouri, native's accomplishments is taking the first Ukrainian companies to foreign markets for initial public offerings (IPOs), including agricultural giant Mironivsky Khliboproduct and mining company Ferroexpo to London's prestigious main exchange.

"I am proud to have helped Ukrainian companies take their first step toward the rule of law and corporate governance by getting them listed abroad," he recalls.

He is also a longtime board member of the American Chamber of Commerce in Ukraine.



Courtesy photo

Jorge Intriago, 46

Jorge Intriago, a partner in Ukraine at Big Four international auditing and accounting giant Ernst & Young, first partnered up with Ukraine in 1995, when he launched the country representative office of another Big Four auditor – PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Fifteen years later, the Ecuadorian citizen can look back at his many accomplishments in what has turned out to be his adopted country. Intriago, who grew up in the United States and has spent his adult life working for Big Four firms, has taken part in many of the big business deals that have come to Ukraine under his watch.

But the tax and legal consultant had intended to stay in Western Europe, in particular Spain, the land of his ancestors. "A friend suggested either Moscow or Kyiv, so I decided to take the bigger challenge," he told the Kyiv Post.

Since doing so, however, he has

had the pleasure of advising former Economy and European Integration Minister Valery Khoroshkovsky, who now heads the nation's intelligence services. He has also taken a leading role in developing Kyiv's European Business Association, serving seven years as vice president, one year as president and always on the board. "I have put a lot of time into the EBA," Intriago recalls.

The multilingual Latin American recalls that the motivation behind the creation of the EBA was Ukraine's European Union integration plans and the lack of an organized lobby of specifically European issues.

Although Intriago acknowledges that it's unusual to stay in a single country so long while working for the same multinational, "things worked out well," he said. The quote rings true for both him and Ukraine.



Courtesy photo

#12 Most Influential

Andrew Mac, 35

"If you think you can get by in Ukraine knowing just Russian or Ukrainian, then you're mistaken," said Andrew Mac, managing partner of Magisters, Ukraine's largest law firm. So he set out to learn both languages.

Born in New York City but raised in the Philadelphia area, those linguistic skills combined with his legal ones have made the Ukrainian-American one of the nation's top-flight lawyers. He works for a firm that employs more than 100 lawyers and with annual revenues close to \$40 million.

Mac has provided support for transactions worth more than \$1 billion over a two-year period.

Initially, Mac was recruited by PricewaterhouseCoopers in 2002 to work as a senior lawyer in Kyiv. He intended to stay only for two years, but then was offered a partnership with Magisters in 2004, the same year as the democratic Orange Revolution that overturned the rigged presidential election.

"I was inspired by what I saw on the Maidan (Nezalezhnosti)," Mac said. "This was the catalyst that made me want to stay longer in Ukraine."

Holding a bachelor's degree from Pennsylvania's Lehigh University and a law degree from Vanderbilt, Mac said he has learned a lot about Ukraine beyond the "diaspora version" he grew up with.

Mac plans to leave Magisters' Kyiv office in the near future to spend more time at the firm's London office to help expand its presence there and eventually open a branch in the United States.

Mac works closely with Kyiv-Mohyla Academy. Magisters sponsors visiting professors at courses and seminars at Mohyla



Konstantin Klymenko

as well as at other Kyiv universities. It also funds a mock courtroom team whose annual winner represents Ukraine in Washington, D.C. at a global competition. He also participates in a big brother program at a local orphanage that involves not only mentoring, but also financial assistance.

Robert McNeil

As co-founders of the marketing company Pulse, whose clients include the Kyiv Post, Robert McNeil and Stuart McKenzie are coy when it comes to discussing their respective stakes. Each refers to the other as the senior partner.

But the consensus opinion is that the elder of the two, McNeil, who hails from Scotland, is the senior partner. McNeil arrived in Ukraine in 1993, soon after the collapse of the Soviet Union, and began importing consumer goods to Ukraine for sale in hard-currency stores.

Pulse also started performing marketing and promotion for the goods it was selling, and found a growing demand for these services. When

a change in Ukrainian regulation made small-scale importing unprofitable in 1996, Pulse switched its focus to marketing. Today it is officially the country's No. 1 marketing agency by total revenue, according to the State Statistics Committee. The company has a sales force of 1,400 spread over Ukraine and its list of major clients includes Kyivstar, L'Oreal and Nestle. Despite having made his fortune in marketing and public relations, the only thing McNeil will say about himself is that he loathes publicity.

"Put it down to my Scottish Calvinist roots," he said, "but I have always had an aversion to flashiness and boasting."



Courtesy photo

Robert Shetler-Jones, 41

As the public face for many years of companies controlled by a Ukrainian billionaire with close ties to Russia's gas giant Gazprom, the United Kingdom's Robert Shetler-Jones hasn't done badly for himself. And with such big partners, large sums of cash have trickled into his pockets.

Shetler-Jones currently oversees the assets of Dmytro Firtash, a controversial Ukrainian gas trading billionaire, as chief executive of his holding company, GroupDF. He is also listed as a member of the supervisory board of Centragas AG, which owns 50 percent of RosUkrEnergo, the gas intermediary that for many years was at the center of the multi-billion-dollar energy trade among Ukraine, Russia and Central Asian producers.

It's a far cry from the early days.

Shetler-Jones came to Ukraine as a British university student in the late 1980s to study Russian at Kyiv Institute of Foreign Languages. After graduating from Surrey University, he began his business career in Kyiv in 1991 as the founder of BPL, a consultancy, offering advisory services for those doing business in the United Kingdom and Ukraine.

In the early days, Shetler-Jones met Ivan Fursin, a Ukrainian businessman and Serhiy Lyovochkin, the presidential chief of staff, who are both close to Firtash. Fursin today owns a 5 percent stake in RosUkrEnergo and Firtash owns 45 percent, while Russia's Gazprom owns 50 percent.

A decade earlier, between 1993 and 1994, Shetler-Jones was working at the Kyiv office of Jones East 8, a real estate agency practice.

He rose fast. From 1998 until 2003, Mr. Shetler-Jones worked for Commonwealth Property Investors, an affiliate of AEW International, as project coordinator for a \$50 million private equity fund that invested in property developments in the former Soviet Union.

Later, he became managing director of RSJ Erste GmbH, an investment company that owned chemical businesses in Ukraine and Europe, including soda ash and titanium dioxide. In a prior Kyiv Post interview, Shetler-Jones claimed to own these assets. But, as it turned out years later, the assets are now part of Firtash's Ostchem chemical holding.

Firtash evidently trusts Shetler-Jones. The British national sat on the board of Eural Trans Gas, an obscure compa-

ny founded in 2002 that sold Turkmen gas to Ukraine, until RosUkrEnergo replaced it. Again, it was Firtash's company.

A fluent Russian speaker, Shetler-Jones owns Chateau d'Arricau-Bordes in France, which is on the market for \$4.78 million.

Shetler-Jones' connections in the United Kingdom are also extensive. He is a financial donor to top British politicians and has had friendly relations with Viscount Asquith, allegedly the former British MI6 special agent who sneaked ex-KGB double agent Oleg Gordievsky out of the Soviet Union.

In some ways, Shetler-Jones' story could make for a good spy novel. At the very least, his acquaintances make him a supremely well-connected expat.



Kyiv Post file photo

#2 Most Influential

Bjorn Stendel, 49

Bjorn Stendel is so well integrated in Ukrainian society, that it took the more seasoned expatriates to remind us of his existence.

He has worked for grain trading titan Alfred C. Toepfer International since 1996. Until last year, he headed its Ukrainian subsidiary office since its establishment in 1999. He left the company in 2009 under unclear circumstances, despite Toepfer's strong market position in Ukraine and successful track record.

The company is a leading trader in oilseeds, feed, flour, malt and mineral fertilizers. It owns the largest export silo in the port of Odesa, with a storage capacity of close to 170,000 tons, as well as many inland storage silos in key agricultural regions.

In recent years, Toepfer has invested \$80 million into Ukraine's agribusiness sector.

Sources say Stendel is politically connected, which could be why his newly started BSTL Consulting company says it specializes in "troubleshooting and setting up businesses."



Courtesy photo

#15 Most Influential

In April 2009, former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko awarded Stendel for "his personal contribution to promoting the investment climate of the food production sector and for his high professionalism."

Stendel, as general director of Toepfer in Ukraine, has also placed high in rankings by business magazines as one of the best top managers in the agro-industrial sector.

The German national owns a Disney-like estate outside Kyiv along with a small collection of sailboats at his private marina in Vyshinsky, just south of Kyiv, according to the Kyiv Post archives.

He calls himself "an old man" on his personal Facebook page and says he is in a relationship. According to his personal page, Stendel attended the Goethe Schule in Quickborn, near Hamburg, and studied at the vocational college Am Lammermarkt, which specializes in economics and foreign trade. He also supports the German national soccer team. His favorite words in Ukrainian are "davai" (go on) and "shtraff" (fine/penalty).

Stendel wouldn't speak with the Kyiv Post for this story. Now that he's back on our radar, we'll keep closer tabs on the grain trading insider.

Nick Piazza, 33

One of two Chicagoans on our list, Nick Piazza's self-described hobby is running BG Capital, an investment bank owned by the Bank of Georgia.

It's a pastime he evidently loves. He turned it into a profit-making entity in just one year. He did it by piloting the company through the cataclysmic 2008: a five-day Russia-Georgia war, the global financial meltdown and stock market collapse.

"It was a great learning experience, rebuilding the company from scratch," Piazza said.

Before joining BG Capital, Piazza was the director of corporate relations at Concorde Capital, coordinating departments in the company, including sales, research and corporate finance. He joined Concorde in 2006, soon after moving from Moscow.

Ukraine was always on his radar since he first visited the country in 2001. "I fell in love with the country immediately," Piazza said. "Kyiv is a better place to live than Moscow. I really like the people. Muscovites are more closed and bellicose," he said.

In Moscow, Piazza worked for various companies, including a stint teaching English and reporting for Interfax, a news wire agency. Piazza said he's in Ukraine by choice.

"I feel very lucky. I'm here because this is where I really want to be. I think when I'll look back, I'll do it with pride, having contributed my small part to the



Konstantin Klymenko

development of these two very young countries (Georgia and Ukraine)," he said.

BG Capital's current chief executive officer said he's blessed to live and work in two of his three favorite countries, dividing time between Ukraine and Georgia.

"Italy is my other top-three country," Piazza said who studied Roman history as an undergraduate at Lake Forest College in Illinois.

And unlike many in the flash-and-cash investment banking industry, Piazza shuns the limelight. He chooses the company he spends time with carefully and mostly keeps a low profile in Kyiv's small expatriate community.

Today BG Capital has positioned itself to advance in a maturing market. Piazza said the emphasis is now to offer more quality and newer services. It has some 50 employees and is poised to increase market share in the future.

On the corporate level, BG Capital helps raise money for an annual gala run by Nove Pokolinnya, an organization that improves the lives of Ukrainian orphans. Piazza donates money and building materials to a Cherkassy school that teaches Georgian. He sponsors study abroad scholarships to Georgia for the school's best students.

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Most Influential Expats

Savik Shuster, 58



Natalia Kravchuk

Savik Shuster's career has consistently exposed abuses of power in the former Soviet Union, first in Russia and now in Ukraine, where he is a national star. He also knows a thing or two about football.

His perennial ability to multi-task may be attributable to his multicultural upbringing.

He grew up in Soviet Lithuania. In 1971, aged 19, he emigrated to Canada via Israel. Then, in 1976, Shuster moved to Italy after graduating from medical school. His career in journalism was kick-started by covering the Mujahedin's war against the Soviet occupation in Afghanistan. The collapse of the Soviet Union found Shuster working for Radio Liberty out of Munich, and then out of Moscow until 2001, when the Vladimir Putin chill on free speech blanketed the nation.

Shuster started working for Russian TV channel NTV, initially as the presenter of a football program. Then he found his calling as the host of political shows "Hero of the Day" and "Freedom of Speech," increasingly isolated islands of dissent as independent media slowly suffocated under Putin's presidency.

By 2005, there was no room left in Russia for Shuster as NTV canceled his shows. He moved to Ukraine to continue to what he does best – hosting political talk shows. Initially controversial because of his use of the Russian language, his shows "Freedom of Speech," "Freedom" and then "Shuster Live" became fixtures on Ukraine's political circus. The shows forced Ukraine's politicians to think and speak extemporaneously, often with comic results.

He has lost none of its confrontational and critical flair since switching to the TRK Ukraina TV channel owned by billionaire Rinat Akhmetov. Akhmetov's patronage could even be useful in protecting Shuster in the new President Viktor Yanukovich era. But the threats still loom: Yanukovich's deputy chief of staff, Hanna Herman, a former Radio Liberty editor, spoke disapprovingly of non-Ukrainian talk show hosts in May.

#1
Most
Influential



#3
Most
Influential

Yuriy Kryvenko

Jorge Zukoski, 43

Jorge Zukoski is one of Ukraine's best known expats, often serving as the unofficial face of Western business in the country. In his 12 years as the president of the 583-member American Chamber of Commerce in Ukraine, the articulate and amiable American has become a familiar face. He moderates investment conferences. He gives speeches about the concerns of international business. He hobnobs at VIP cocktail parties.

The Florida native arrived in Kyiv in the mid-1990s as a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer after working in Mexico City as an investment banker and doing private equity in the Cayman Islands. He soon took over the helm at the chamber, and seems to have been here as long as the first foreign investment.

When it was created in 1992, the chamber was like a free-market oasis on a

post-Soviet desert, providing its members opportunities to meet, hold conferences, exchange ideas and obtain information about business opportunities in Ukraine and about each other. Now, in a country with a generation of capitalist experience, Zukoski and the organization that he personifies are more like an advocacy group for wide-ranging reforms.

"Our core philosophy is that rule of law, transparency, predictability and equity in application of legislation and regulations to all investors, no matter their nationality of capital, has been a key driver for the change initiatives that the chamber has undertaken over the years. These have led to increased investment, protection of the rights of internationally oriented investors and implementation of more business friendly practices," Zukoski told the Kyiv Post.

Philip Griffin, 49

Political campaigns are globalized, just like everything else.

Prominent consultants such as Stanley Greenberg, James Carville, Bob Shrum and Arthur Finkelstein have advised candidates and run campaigns in nations as institutionally and culturally varied as the United Kingdom, Greece, El Salvador, Estonia, Venezuela, Russia and South Africa.

This has many democracy watchers concerned, since many consultants are not committed to the platforms of their political clients and show little concern about anything other than earning paychecks.

Some have even gotten in the way of U.S. interests. Paul Manafort, of Davis Manafort political consultancy, was reportedly the target of a National Security Council complaint to his onetime client, former U.S. presidential candidate John McCain. U.S. officials were unhappy with Manafort's work in Ukraine during the 2004 presidential election campaign and 2006 parliamentary election, according to The New York Times.

In late 2005, Manafort recruited Philip Griffin to clean up the image of Viktor Yanukovich and the Party of Regions leading up to the 2006 parliamentary campaign. Meanwhile, in 2004, the United States clearly favored Viktor Yushchenko's pro-Western agenda against Yanukovich's Kremlin-friendly stance. Moreover, the corrupt ex-President

Leonid Kuchma had picked Yanukovich as his successor.

Griffin largely succeeded in polishing up Yanukovich and curtailing his malapropisms.

According to the International Republican Institute in Washington, D.C., Griffin worked for them as a program officer in Moscow from 1995-1996 and, after that, in Haiti for an unspecified period of time. Griffin's name also has come up working for International Foundation for Electoral Systems 1999-2001 as a political party development consultant in Tajikistan. He was also listed as an official for the U.S. Senate African Affairs Department subcommittee working for Jesse Helms in 2002.

According to Americans who know Griffin, he once played semi-professional soccer and enjoys poker games in Kyiv's Opera Hotel. He speaks fluent French (his mother is French).

A search conducted on the American Association of Political Consultants website doesn't show him or Manafort as members.

According to German magazine Der Spiegel and Ukrainian media reports, the elusive Griffin once occupied a ground-floor office at 4 Sofiyivska Street with no sign on the door, no doorbell and no security guard.

Griffin continues as a behind-the-scenes operator who makes, but never appears, in headlines. Contacted by the Kyiv Post, Griffin refused to provide details of his employment history.



#5
Most
Influential

Pravda.com.ua

#6
Most
Influential

Courtesy photo

Jock Mendoza-Wilson, 47

Jock Mendoza-Wilson, director of international and investor relations for Ukraine's most powerful holding company, System Capital Management, doesn't think he is so influential. But as the Western face of the country's wealthiest tycoon, billionaire Rinat Akhmetov, this PR guru from Scotland most certainly has clout.

Mendoza-Wilson came to Ukraine in 2005, when the owners of the nation's most lucrative industrial assets were beginning to come out into the open. System Capital Management "was a pioneer in changing the way Ukrainian companies behaved and communicated," he told the Kyiv Post in his characteristically measured fashion.

Before Ukraine's 2004 Orange Revolution, most Ukrainian billionaires wouldn't even acknowledge owner-

ship of their companies, much less attempt to project a benign public image or dabble in philanthropy. But with serious holdings in the United States and European Union, in addition to its multi-sector empire at home, Akhmetov's company needed an international approach to the governments and multinational institutions that it engages in its day-to-day operations. Having run his own communications consultancy in London, and handled corporate and government relations in the Middle East and Eastern Europe, Mendoza-Wilson fits the bill nicely. "I was one of the first foreigners doing the job," he recalls.

The stout, bespectacled Brit, however, isn't a flak by training, but rather an economist with a specialization in finance. He also chairs the United

#7
Most
Influential

Ukrinform

Nation's Global Compact in Ukraine, which is intended to promote companies' responsibility to stakeholders in the broadest sense of the word: i.e. the community it works in, its employees, etc. When asked about his

accomplishment to date, Mendoza-Wilson stays true to corporate form, giving all the credit to the holding he represents. "Quite frankly, the role I've played has been part of a team," he said.

Peter Vanhecke, 41

Unlike many longtime expats on our list, Peter Vanhecke has only been in Ukraine permanently since early 2008.

But from the looks of it, he could be here for quite a while, given Ukraine's huge development potential.

He came from Renaissance Capital's Moscow office and is today the group's chief executive officer in Ukraine, leading a team of 60 Kyiv-based professionals with industry-leading investment banking experience. Vanhecke is also responsible for operations in Ukraine, Belarus and Eastern and Central Europe.

Since his arrival, Vanhecke said he is proud to have made the Kyiv office a full-fledged and broad service investment bank "rather than being a subsidiary or dependent on other offices."

"Our bank is as local as a Ukrainian bank but still very global and we're positioning ourselves as a leader in the mergers and acquisitions, debt service, initial public offering and research fields," he told the Kyiv Post.

The Belgian national said he's also proud to have not only survived the global financial crisis but also to have expanded during it. He oversaw the opening of an office in Minsk in 2009 and the entrance to the Polish market in February.

Vanhecke, who boasts a law degree from the Leuven School of Law (Belgium), a master's in law from Northwestern University in Chicago and a master's in business administration from Columbia University in New York, said he enjoys taking part in charity activities organized by the local Belgian Embassy and the case-by-case projects his company tackles. Renaissance Capital Ukraine recently provided aid to areas in Russia that suffered from the summer fires.

Vanhecke said Ukraine needs to be taken seriously as a separate market with its own dynamic. "It's a big mistake to think this is a province of another country, to think it's like Russia. There are similarities, but they are not the same," he said.

Another bit of advice Vanhecke gives to investors is that in order to succeed in Ukraine one has to be entrenched and have an on-the-ground presence. "If you're doing fly-in, fly-out business here, then you're going about it wrong," he said.

Sean Carr, 41



Vasyl Porokhnenko

#9
Most
Influential

Like many Western men, 41-year-old Sean Carr came to Ukraine from Britain because of love.

His marriage partner in 2005 immediately propelled him into the ranks of Ukraine's most influential expats. His wife is Yevheniya Tymoshenko, the daughter of the country's most powerful woman, ex-Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko.

Yevheniya Tymoshenko and Carr met in Egypt. The romance blossomed in England, where Yevheniya, then a 25-year old London student, had been living since she was fourteen. A heavily-tattooed rocker and biker who ran shoe repair shops in Leeds in England's gritty north, Carr seems at first glance to be a mother's worst nightmare as a son-in-law.

But Yulia Tymoshenko, gritty in her own right, welcomed him into her family and called him a "kind, educated and inspired person."

Carr and Yevheniya have since made their home in Kyiv and run the Kyiv franchise for Ciro's Pomodoro restaurant chain. Carr has largely stayed out of politics. But he and his wife are linked to a public relations film produced about Yulia Tymoshenko in the run-up to Ukraine's hard-fought presidential elections in early 2010, which Tymoshenko narrowly lost to President Viktor Yanukovich on Feb. 7. The production unit Coppolo Productions referred to the film as an "intimate portrait of Tymoshenko the wife, mother and soulful protector of Ukraine."

Yakov D. Bleich, 46

#10
Most
Influential

The unofficial chief rabbi of Ukraine and Kyiv, Yakov Dov Bleich, arrived in the nation from his native New York as a tourist in 1988. At the time, he was not aware that there was even a Ukrainian language, despite the fact that his ancestors came to the United States from Chernihiv and Ternopil oblasts.

In 1990, he moved to Ukraine with his new wife to work as a rabbi, and recalls that back then, "you had to go to Moscow to buy diapers." Since then, the Bleich family has grown to include six children.

Bleich has been widely recognized as chief rabbi in Ukraine since 1991, but has had to counter claims to the title from rival contenders. Still, few would doubt that Bleich is one of the most influential members of Ukraine's Jewish community, which includes dozens of affluent businessmen.

Bleich has occasionally aroused controversy through his support for Ukraine's unpopular oligarchs, saying that they earned money "because their minds work right," and "they effectively used the possibilities that were given to each person who lived in Ukraine at that time."

He has criticized aspects of former President Viktor Yushchenko's view of Ukrainian history. At the same time, he has played down polls that suggest increasing anti-Semitism in Ukraine.

According to Bleich, there are 300,000 to 500,000 Jewish people in Ukraine, with 80,000 to 100,000 in Kyiv alone. Five Jewish schools ensure that Jewish children grow up aware and proud of their identity. As chairman of the Jewish Confederation of Ukraine, Bleich is connected to industrial and financial magnates. Two of them, Eduard Shifrin and Hryhory Surkis, are also involved in running the confederation.



UNIAN

George Logush, 65

George Logush, Kraft Foods' vice president for Ukraine, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, is an American of Ukrainian descent. He has brought a lot to his ancestral homeland since he arrived more than 20 years ago — much of it good, but not always.

The 65-year-old New Yorker, who is married with five children, hails from academia rather than the corporate world, with a Ph.D. in econometrics from New York University.

His first job in Ukraine, in 1989, was to help set up the International Management Institute and the country's first masters in business administration program. But Logush soon found himself in business, launching R.J. Reynolds Tobacco (now Japan Tobacco International) in Ukraine, where he increased market share to 60 percent in 18 months. Now, of course, public health activists are trying to undo this damage by advocating policies to reduce consumption of these deadly, cancer-causing products in heavy-smoking Ukraine.

"It was easy back then," he now recalls.

Logush then moved on to become general manager of KPMG and Barents Group, bringing multinational Interbrew to Ukraine. It was only in 1995 that he took the helm at Kraft, where he has increased revenues from \$4 million to \$400 million, taking 12 countries



Courtesy photo

#11
Most
Influential

in Eastern Europe and Central Asia under the administration of the Kyiv office as well.

But professor Logush has remained a teacher at heart. "I am probably most proud of the team that I have built at Kraft. Many employees have gone on to run and set up other companies in Ukraine, to serve on their boards of management as well as in the capacity of Kraft vice presidents in our headquarters," he told the Kyiv Post. Logush still sits on the board of directors of more than one Ukrainian higher education institute.

Logush is equally proud of his philanthropy work with Kraft, including the sponsorship of an open literary competition called Koronatsiya Slova since 1999, resulting in 200 new writers being discovered, including 102 published novels and six films.

Myron Wasylyk, 48

It seems Myron Wasylyk's career has come full circle. He started his career working for former U.S. President George H.W. Bush's successful 1988 presidential election campaign. He applied those skills in former Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko's successful run in 2004. But Wasylyk couldn't work his public relations magic to get Yushchenko re-elected in 2010.

The Clevelander has been The PBN Company's top man in Kyiv since 1998, when he set up an office for the public relations firm headquartered in Washington D.C. that has extensive interests in Ukraine.

Today he's senior vice president and managing director.

Raised in a typical Ukrainian diaspora household speaking Ukrainian, he graduated from Kent State University in Ohio in 1984. His entry to Ukraine came in the cold winter months of 1992, when he helped establish the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv as a State Department employee putting his Ukrainian-language skills to use.

After the three-month stint, Wasylyk returned to Kyiv in March 1993, this time as executive secretary in a George Soros-sponsored project that advised Ukraine's parliament. Economic and legal reform, national security and foreign policy were major advisory areas. Wasylyk coordinated all the project's operations.

"It was a great job. I got to meet lots of interesting people. The first time I met [ex-Ukrainian President

Leonid] Kuchma was when he just resigned from the prime minister position. ... He was sitting in the Verkhovna Rada in the gallery. I went up to him and introduced myself and we were chatting. But he is not the type of guy you can chat with ... very nice guy, but not open," he said in an earlier Kyiv Post article.

In 1995, Wasylyk started working for mass privatization programs sponsored by the U.S. Agency for International Development and worked with various Ukrainian state institutions, including the State Property Fund.

Shortly after that The PBN Company – specializing in public relations, communications and lobbying – took over the programs' communications duties. Wasylyk went to work for them in 1997 for the Ukraine Market Reform Education Program.

Wasylyk oversees a staff of 20 professionals and numerous special consultants working in Ukraine, Moldova and the Caucasus region. He manages client services, strategic planning, government relations and works extensively with political parties, and their leaders.

He also has been active in civil society, serving on the board of the American Chamber of Commerce in Ukraine for 10 years, the supervisory board of the Eurasia Foundation and International Center for Policy Studies.

In all this, Wasylyk has made a mark on Ukraine and continues to do so.



#13 Most Influential

H. Brian Mefford, 38

To many Kyivans, H. Brian Mefford is known as a khaki-wearing, diehard supporter of the Republican Party whose slight Southern twang isn't cloaked when speaking Ukrainian – one of the few foreigners who know the language outside of the diaspora.

It's no surprise that he headed the International Republican Institute's Kyiv office for a decade until 2009, teaching election and campaign skills to all established Ukrainian parties.

In the 2010 Ukrainian presidential election campaign, Mefford was part of an international team of political advisors to Viktor Yushchenko's camp. Today he's an independent political consultant who found time to return to his native Arkansas in the summer to campaign for a local politician.

But his pro-democracy activities were always kept under the watchful eye of the authorities. In January 2004, the Kyiv Post reported how, during a business trip to Lviv, Mefford was followed around town, presumably by agents from the Security Service of Ukraine, or SBU.

"I haven't had any problems since 2005, however," Mefford told the Kyiv Post.

Mefford took a liking to politics at a young age. He did door-to-door campaigning when he was 16 and managed to win a seat on the East Camden City Council in Arkansas at 18. A year later, he got a seat on the Harmony Grove School Board.

At Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia, where he received a degree in finance with a minor in political science, he was president of the student body for two terms and became state chairman of the College Republicans in 1992-1993. Before coming to Ukraine, Mefford was the vice president of a small bank in Arkansas and was an alternate delegate representing Arkansas to the 1996 Republican Convention.

Although Ukraine is his base of operations, Mefford has worked in Azerbaijan, Moldova, Georgia, Iraq, Bangladesh, Croatia, Serbia and Macedonia.

As the face of Ukrainian politics continues to change, observers could expect to see Mefford still in the thick of developments.



#17 Most Influential

Natalie Jaresko, 45

Natalie Jaresko, one of four founding partners of Horizon Capital, arrived in Ukraine in 1992 to take the position of economic section chief at the newly opened U.S. Embassy in Kyiv, only months after Ukraine had achieved independence.

In 1995, she moved to U.S.-government sponsored Western NIS Enterprise Fund, where she rose to become chief executive officer in 2001. Western NIS Enterprise Fund went on to invest \$165 million into small- and medium-sized Ukrainian companies "at a time when virtually no other institutions were doing so," Jaresko said.

Then, not long after the 2004 democratic Orange Revolution that overturned that year's rigged presidential election, Horizon Capital was formed. The Chicagoan helped raise \$132 million from U.S. and European investors and invested the money into 11 companies in the consumer, financial and business-to-business sectors of Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus. "That 2006 vintage fund has been quite impressive to date. Based on it, we raised the \$390 million Emerging Europe Growth Fund, from which we are currently making investments of \$15-40 million into mid-capital companies in Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus," Jaresko said.

Jaresko considers the Orange Revolution as the turning point of her time in Ukraine. "I will always remember that historical time fondly because of what happened to the people of Ukraine, the incredibly honorable way in which they acted towards one another, the way they came together to define themselves and their aspirations. I believe that time, that event, continues to define Ukraine and the Ukrainian nation in a very unique way," she said.

As a result, Jaresko said, investors took notice of the nation. The freedom gained distinguish Ukraine from its neighbors. "The civil society that emerged from the Orange Revolution remains vibrant, demanding, creative and the key to maintaining this democracy on an ongoing basis," Jaresko said. "Ukraine has given me a home, valuable friends and colleagues, an incredibly exciting and challenging career, and the rare opportunity to be part of a historic process of transformation."

Jaresko has been involved in charitable activities. She is engaged in the rebuilding of Pokrovska Church (Kyiv Patriarchate) in Chernihiv Oblast's Baturyn, including the establishment of a community center, support of the local schools, orphanage and hospital, as well as the planning of community activities there, including donation of books to all these institutions via a program called "Z Knyhoyu do Ditey."

"I have served and continue to serve on the board of trustees of Pechersk School International, and am engaged alongside my children in a number of charitable efforts that are organized by the school and the children, including support of the Ark (orphanage and day center in Kyiv)," she said.



Courtesy photo

#14 Most Influential

Sunday Adelaja, 43

Pastor Sunday Adelaja, the exuberant Nigerian who founded and heads the evangelical Embassy of God in Kyiv, has a knack for drawing a crowd – and controversy. He launched his religious career shortly after arriving in Ukraine in 1993 and his church now boasts 2.5 million members, including 100,000 weekly churchgoers.

And despite the negative reaction to him by Ukraine's powerful Orthodox clergy, Adelaja's colorful preaching has earned him endorsements from the likes of former Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko, according to the church's website. He has also been implicated, however, in financial scams.

"Everyone has dropped in at least once. But the famous ones don't want anyone to know about it, because I am supposed controversial," the pastor told the Kyiv Post. Leonid Chernovetsky, Kyiv's eccentric and controversial mayor, has never been shy about his affiliation with the church, gaining

spiritually and politically. The church runs a soup kitchen in Kyiv and a rehabilitation center for alcoholics and drug addicts, two charities that worked to Chernovetsky's advantage at election time.

The pastor, married with three children, offers something to everyone. "My major contribution has been to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. When people see me, they say: I don't want to go to his church, but maybe I should reconnect with Orthodoxy."

Reinvigorating religious fervor after 70 years of official atheism by spreading the word in a simple manner is what Adelaja considers to be his greatest achievement. The result has been a worldwide ministry that Adelaja says extends to embassy churches in the U.S., Europe and former Soviet Union, a radio and television audience of eight million in Ukraine, plus over 80 books written and published by the pastor and translated into several different languages.



#16 Most Influential

UNIAN

Eric Aigner, 47

#18
Most Influential



Serhiy Zavalnyuk

Eric Aigner can fairly be credited with transforming the nightclub and bar scene in Kyiv.

Before the East German arrived in the mid-1990s, most mainstream establishments were overpriced and pretentious, with rude and dishonest wait staff as the norm. Starting out with a simple pizza place, Aigner seized on the idea of affordability and customer service. Soon, he had his own pub, which didn't need any advertising to fill up.

Rather than intimidating his loyal following of patrons, Aigner and his then-partner and then-wife, Viola Kim, set the house example for approachability. Aigner was usually dressed in his trademark overalls. Before long, the beefy and bespectacled businessman was running a nightclub, Al Capone, which stole the show from its snootier competition. It had music, atmosphere, scale and, most of all, people – lots of them, foreigner and local, from all walks of life, spending their money and not regretting it afterwards.

Despite open conflicts with his partners, Aigner went on to launch new and more successful venues, reaching his peak in 2001 when the cult-status 111 opened its doors beneath the Lybid Hotel on Victory Square. It was racy rather than glamorous, and drenched with the kind of freedom that the city was learning to enjoy.

When asked once during a Kyiv Post interview what the secret of his success was, Aigner, now divorced, said: "I think that it was a mix that consisted of a lot of work, a certain amount of risk and a love of people."

Some of Aigner's creations, which at one time numbered 18 venues under Eric's Family chain of restaurants and clubs, such as Art Club 44, continue to operate under different management – living testaments to the man who started them and set the standards for the restaurant and disco scene in Kyiv.



Courtesy photo

#19
Most Influential

Christina Pendzola-Vitovych, 39

Christina Pendzola-Vitovych hails from the influential U.S.-based Ukrainian diaspora. She learned Ukrainian as a child, and marriage took her to Ukraine in 1993, the second full year of post-Soviet independence. She found work at the American Councils for Education, which had just set up in Ukraine the previous year. She has been there ever since, making a big impact on Ukraine's future generations.

The American Councils is the main player connecting young people and students in Ukraine and across the former Soviet Union with their peers in the United States. It organizes U.S. government-financed study abroad programs for students, education professionals, independent travelers and local leaders. Her work has opened a window on America for a whole generation of young Ukrainians.

Pendzola-Vitovych became country manager of American Councils in Ukraine in 2002. She can see the results of her work in the many changes that have taken place in the country. Pendzola-Vitovych names the Orange Revolution, when young Ukrainians spearheaded mass protests against the rigged Nov. 21, 2004, presidential election, as the high point of her career in Ukraine.

The most rewarding part of her work, she said, is helping young people from Ukraine see how things are done in another part of the world, and then watch what they do when they return to their native country.

Bohdan Kulchychykyj, 47 Petro Rondiak, 44

Bohdan Kulchychykyj

Philadelphian Bohdan Kulchychykyj has run a car dealership in Ukraine since 1992. With backing from U.S. car dealer John Hynansky, Kulchychykyj was the first to import Fords to Ukraine and establish one of the country's first post-Soviet dealerships.

Today Winner Automotive is Ukraine's only multi-brand dealership selling Ford, Jaguar, Land Rover, Volvo and Porsche cars.

Dodging government-extorted kickbacks and mafia threats throughout the 1990s, Kulchychykyj said he just kept working hard at his business in what he described as "24-hour chaos."

"We have kept our word to everyone and kept to our business," Kulchychykyj told the Kyiv Post about what drives Winner's success.

Kulchychykyj moved back to the U.S. in 1997 although he did still run the Ukraine-based company. He returned in 2002 where he remains today as the chief operating officer and importer of five car brands with 52 selling points throughout Ukraine where some 3,000 employees work.

Asked to sum up his 17 years of business experience in Ukraine, Kulchychykyj has described the place as "one big perpetual crisis".

"We kid around that when there's some peace then we're in a crisis," he said.

The company made its first million in 1996 but didn't start making "real money" until 2007, according to Kulchychykyj.

And there's much more to be made: "There are always untapped market niches out there. This place is still underdeveloped. If you've a passion and a belief in something, you will make money."

But Kulchychykyj warned that the time has long passed for opportunists out to turn a quick buck.

"This kind of approach could get you into trouble, it's hard to make a quick buck nowadays," he said.

Along with fellow colleague Petro Rondiak, Kulchychykyj has a few pet charity projects and also donates to the Kyiv Women's Business Club, Toastmasters and Lion's Club.

Petro Rondiak

Petro Rondiak hit the ground running when he arrived in Ukraine in 1995 to run the retail operations of a recently established Ford auto dealership. His colleague, Bohdan Kulchychykyj, had already opened the business by the time Rondiak arrived. (John Hynansky, a Ukrainian-American with



UNIAN



Courtesy photo

#20
Most Influential

dealerships in the United States, is the owner.)

Born to Ukrainian parents who left Lviv after World War II, Rondiak moved around a lot as a child because of his father's U.S. military service.

"I consider myself to be from the East Coast, a combination of Boston, Philadelphia, and Washington. I ended up being a fan of the Bruins, Sixers and Redskins, for example," Rondiak said.

Rondiak ended up in Ukraine with his wife 15 years ago.

"We decided that the opportunity in Ukraine offered a chance to understand our roots better, and for me to leave engineering into entrepreneurial business which I desired. Olya was willing to put her career on hold since mine would be a priority, given our plans for children," Rondiak told the Kyiv Post.

He had worked with colleague, Kulchychykyj, in the United States at Raytheon, an aerospace systems supplier. The post-Soviet cultural and business environment was a big leap.

"Upon arrival, the learning curve was steep. I was immersed in a completely Ukrainian and often Russian-speaking environment in an industry, the car business, that was completely new to me," Rondiak said. "Our challenge was to overcome the pervasive 'Soviet' mentality and build a dynamic, can-do company that could handle continuous growth. We fought corruption at every turn, obsessively complying with every rule and obligation, even those we were told we could not possibly comply with. The result was a resilient company with no local partners, able to survive the political upheavals of Ukraine."

In the last 10 years, he and Kulchychykyj added Volvo, Land Rover, Jaguar and Porsche to the original Ford brand that they represent in Ukraine.

"Personally I am responsible for Winner's retail operations at the 'Winner Automotive Dealership' in Kyiv and for the Porsche Brand in the country," he said.

Winner Automotive consists of 221 Ukrainian employees with Rondiak as the sole expat. Plans for the future include building a state-of-the-art

Porsche center in Kyiv.

Rondiak supports a local school for children living with disabilities, the International Woman's Club of Kyiv as well as the Lion's and Rotary clubs of Kyiv.

Police say they have broken up international cyber-crime gang

BY OLESIA OLESHKO AND MARK RACHKEVYCH
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AND RACHKEVYCH@KYIVPOST.COM

The Security Service of Ukraine this week moved to show it is serious about cracking down on global cybercrime, arresting five Donetsk Oblast residents on suspicion of taking a leading role in a cyber theft ring that stole more than \$70 million in the United States and Europe.

The arrests of the alleged kingpins came after a long investigation by the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation that highlighted Ukraine's position as a global cybercrime hub.

The suspects were later released pending formal charges, which should be filed in the next few days.

According to the national intelligence agency, known as the SBU, at least \$40 million of the estimated \$70 million made its way into Ukraine via "money mules" and wire transfers.

On Sept. 30, the SBU detained and released five suspects and carried out eight search warrants connected to a global crackdown that led to the arrests of 39 suspects in the United States and 20 in the United Kingdom. The investigation started in Omaha, Nebraska, in May 2009.

The SBU said 15 others in Ukraine are suspected of being part of the ring that had attempted to steal some \$220 million in more than a year.

The majority of those arrested are

from the former Soviet Union, according to the FBI. The theft ring's brains and software coders and exploiters are believed to be the five suspects that were detained in Ukraine.

The cyber ring allegedly used malicious software to steal the money through use of the so-called "Zeus" family of software that has been used by thousands of criminals worldwide. A Russian is believed to be the author of the sophisticated password stealer.

The attacks worked by embedding hidden software in an apparently benign email that, once opened, installed the software and recorded the keystrokes on a victim's computer as they logged into their bank accounts. The hackers took over the accounts and transferred thousands of dollars to hundreds of false-name accounts. The money was allegedly sent or carried in cash overseas in a "money mule" operation, typically using foreign students recruited via online job sites.

The suspects in Ukraine are 20-30 years old and have knowledge in advanced computer technologies, according to Oleksandr Zahrebelny of the SBU's information security department. The SBU confirmed that the alleged kingpins could expect to be charged this week with money laundering, interfering with computer transmissions and distributing malicious programs.

The FBI called the global cooperation an "unprecedented partnership."

The SBU's Zahrebelny said that in the last two years, "we have substantially improved the effectiveness of our international cooperation because cyber crimes have no borders and they must be stopped."

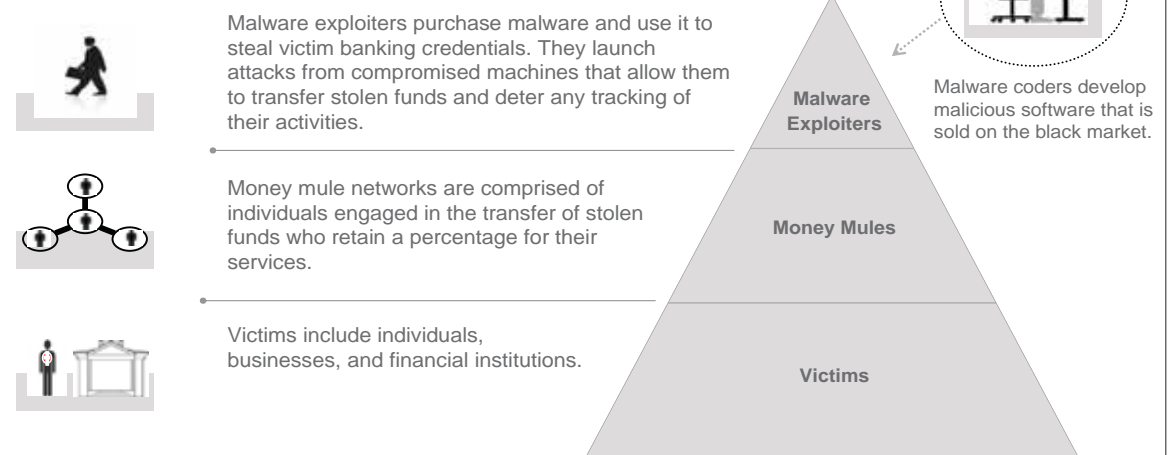
Ukraine has long been criticized as a weak link the fight against cyber-crime. In June, criminal charges were filed in a U.S. court against a Kyiv-based company that was allegedly a world leader in producing scareware

– fake anti-virus software that is sold by frightening users that they're computer is infected with viruses. In 2005, an investigation by U.S. law enforcement agents led to the arrest of Dmitry Golubov, who allegedly founded carderplanet.com, a website that trafficked stolen credit card details. He was later bailed out by Party of Regions deputies, and now heads the Internet Party of Ukraine. Golubov has always denied the charges.

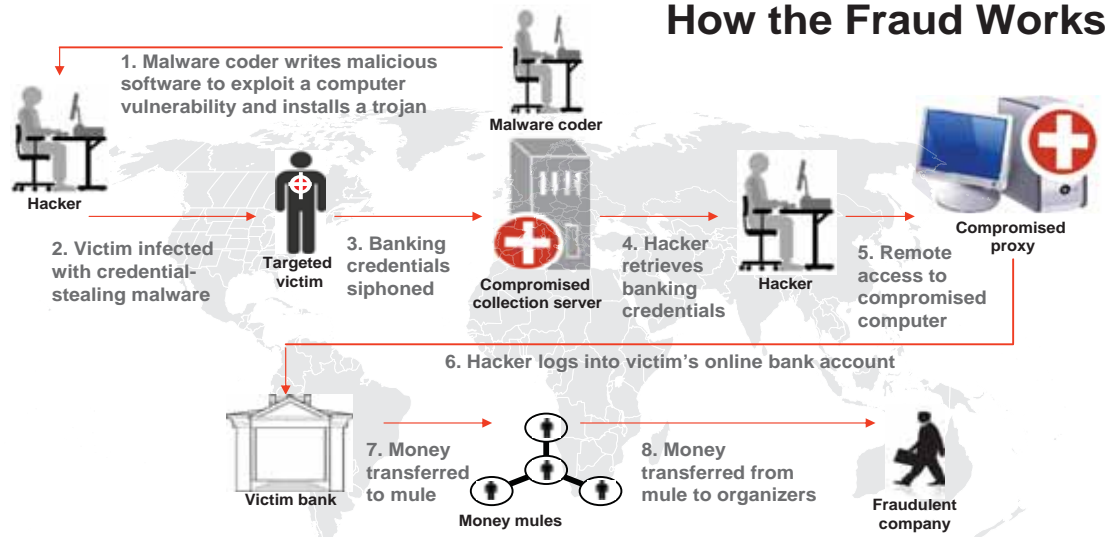
Paul Ferguson, a threat researcher at the U.S. office of Internet security firm Trend Micro, said Ukraine is the number one problem spot in the world for serious Internet crime.

"Although I am hopeful [as a result of these arrests], I can only be encouraged if we see the Ukrainian authorities do more to corral the Internet crime occurring in their country," Ferguson said.

Cyber Theft Ring

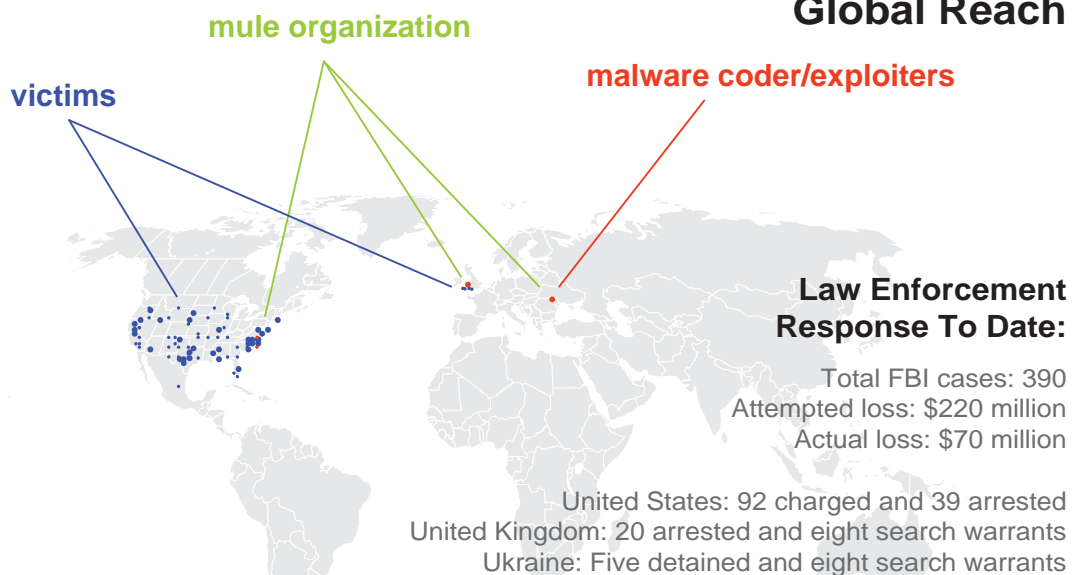


How the Fraud Works



Victims are both financial institutions and owners of infected machines. Money mules transfer stolen money for criminals, shaving a small percentage for themselves. Criminals come in many forms: Malware coder, Malware exploiters, Mule organization.

Global Reach



Law Enforcement Response To Date:

Total FBI cases: 390
Attempted loss: \$220 million
Actual loss: \$70 million

United States: 92 charged and 39 arrested
United Kingdom: 20 arrested and eight search warrants
Ukraine: Five detained and eight search warrants

Source: U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation

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Hip places for weddings

BY ALEXANDRA ROMANOVSKAYA
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Ukraine's main wedding house is jokingly referred to as the Bermuda Triangle. Its amusing shape adds to a popular feeling that once you enter its premises, you are lost forever. And yet every autumn, hundreds of couples dive in there to re-emerge as husband and wife.

Marriage is arguable the most important rite of passage for young Ukrainians, and the traditional ceremony reaffirms their importance. The bridal industry is often limited to do-it-yourself projects with hometown ceremonies heavy on drink, food and dancing bucking the trend. Destination weddings and off-site hip parties still make the news, but Western fashions never take long to catch up in Ukraine. → 27

Wedding in a hot air balloon makes for a private and unusual ceremony as seen in this photo. (nashare.com.ua)

Food Critic



WITH KATYA GORCHINSKAYA
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Editor's note: Eating out in Ukraine is a gamble. To bring you honest food reviews, Kyiv Post writers go to restaurants unannounced, pay for their own meals and never accept favors from restaurateurs.

Searching all over Kyiv for best lattes

Being a latte addict, I endlessly roam the city in search of my fix. But I won't take just anything thrown my way – it's got to be perfect. Mind you, in Kyiv I am yet to find what I am looking for. It isn't easy to find a perfect one because it really takes more than meets the eye to produce that frothy, milky and smooth coffee with a bit of a kick.

A perfect latte has to have three layers: Hot milk is poured into a glass first, then a shot of espresso is dropped inside before a creamy froth seals the drink. The milk has to be whipped in a special stainless steel container to a precise 65-70 degrees Celsius. This is a latte macchiato, to be absolutely accurate.

Lattes don't tolerate any short-cuts. If there is a brown hole in the froth, it means that the milk was steamed in a glass with the espresso dropped in at the last minute. Froth has not been added either.

The milk must be at least 3.5 percent fat – otherwise the texture of the froth will be too loose. The newly open coffee place on 26 Yaroslaviv Val called Coffee Life whips its milk just to that consistency, I found recently. But it falls short on other factors, such as temperature and taste.

A latte should be neither too hot, nor too cold, meaning that you must be able to start sipping as soon as it arrives at the table without burning your mouth. It also means that you can hold a glass between your palms comfortably rather than try to squeeze your fingers through that ridiculous dinky handle at the side of an Irish coffee glass that seems to be awkward for anyone. I don't like cappuccino cups either, but many places use them to serve latte.

Ambiance, strictly speaking, is not an ingredient in a latte, but would you really like to sip your coffee in a stinky, dingy, rat-infested basement? Of course not. Also, I try to avoid large international chains, the McDonalds' of the coffee world. You can quench your caffeine thirst there, but somehow get little satisfaction from the process.

Some connoisseurs would say that lattes are one of those Kantian "things-in-itself" that requires nothing or no one for its qualities to manifest themselves. However, if that was entirely true, would I really travel across the whole city → 25

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Oct. 9

Race for life

Running three kilometers on a wonderful October morning will be good not just for your health, but for the kids as well. The annual charity Race for Life will donate all the proceeds collected during the event to the children's hospital Okhmatdyt that treats children with AIDS.

The action plan is simple: register for the run, buy a T-shirt with a number, and race your legs off. Running is not a requirement for participation, though. If you are in a mood to stroll for a good cause, you are welcome to it. The race was started in 2001 as a project of the

United Nations in Ukraine. This year it has been taken over by an All-Ukrainian charity association Equal to the Equal. The UN staff as well as some celebrities will join the event.

Oct. 9, 11 a.m., Maidan Nezalezhnosti, 484-3730, 484-3968, www.cppa.org.ua/race
Costs: Hr 50 for adults, Hr 30 for youth

Handicraft: see and learn

The DIY heaven will include a handicraft gallery, shops and master-classes.

Over 60 arts and crafts groups will present their jewelry, toys, clothes and whatever else their hands are capable of fixing. In between searching for an unusual present and a new decoration for your flat, stop by the movie hall showing Ukrainian and international film shorts.

Oct. 9 at 1 p.m. - 8 p.m., Gallery Lavra, 17 Mazepy, metro Arsenalna, 220-0290. Free admission.



(Courtesy photo)

Oct. 9



(Elena Fedorchenko)

Oct. 9

Wine and dine in Bulgakov's vineyard

The pride of writer Mikhail Bulgakov's museum in Kyiv is a vineyard. Why so? Because it grew big and lovely despite a hilly and rocky garden-bed in the author's backyard. Inspired by the vineyard in Bulgakov's "Master and Margarita," it adds some authenticity to the place.

The Vineyard fest is surely something in Bulgakov's eerie and unique style.

To the sound of a guitar, each guest will get a vine wreath. Then you'll need to exchange your hrynia for make-believe cash to buy your way into the museum itself, drink some Georgian wine and nibble on cheese and special parcels wrapped in vine leaves. Other options include tea with homemade pastry and jam along with a movie about Bulgakov's museum. To add enigma to the evening, there's a wish room for all romantics out there. Flamenco dancers will entertain on a different floor. Without any special connection to the writer, they'll be there for their own sake.

Keep in mind that Bulgakov's money will expire by the end of the evening, so get rid of it before it's too late.

Oct. 9, 5p.m., 13 Andriyivsky uzviz, 425-3188, www.bulgakov.org.ua (in Russian)
Exchange rate for make-believe money: Hr 20 to 1. Tickets for flamenco: Hr 100

Week's best shows



Dances of the Middle East will be performed by a dance group "Ishtar" together with Amira Abdi, a famous Ukrainian belly-dancer and founder of one of Kyiv's biggest schools of Eastern dance. Of Arabic origin, Abdi visited Algeria at the age of 14 and got enthralled by its culture and dancing. She's been traveling the Middle East ever since honing her skills. Winner of numerous awards, Abdi promises a bright show. **Oct. 8, 7 p.m., Budynok Ofitseriv, 30/1 Hrushevskogo. Tickets: Hr 80-180**



Carmen Lundy is an American jazz singer who's been performing for the last three decades. She composed 11 albums all by herself. With so many jazz tips to share, Lundy gives lessons as well as concerts. If it's any indication for you, The New York Times, Washington Post, and the Los Angeles Times cover Lundy's performances. She is also a gifted painter and actress. **Oct. 10, 7 p.m., National Musical Academy, 11 Khreshchatyk. Tickets: Hr 80-200**



"Madam Butterfly" is an opera by Italian composer Giacomo Puccini. A beautiful 15-year old geisha Cio-Cio-San (nicknamed Butterfly) marries a U.S. naval officer Pinkerton in her native Japan. At one stage, Pinkerton goes back home and marries another woman. Back in Japan though, Butterfly gives birth to his son. In Kyiv the first performance of "Madam Butterfly" was staged in 1912. The opera is sung in Italian. **Oct. 11 at 7 p.m., National Opera House of Ukraine, 50 Volodymyrska, metro Teatralna, 279-1169. Tickets: Hr 20-200**



Jose Carreras is such a famous Spanish tenor that he hardly needs an introduction. Along with Placido Domingo and Luciano Pavarotti, he is one of the world's best three. Needless to say, Carreras won a huge variety of awards and recognitions. The singer has also been commended for establishing Jose Carreras International Leukemia Foundation following his own recovery from the disease. **Oct. 13 at 7 p.m., Palats Ukraina, 103 Velyka Vasylkivska. Tickets: Hr 400-6500**



Alina Orlova's style of music spurs debate. Some refer to it as Baltic pop-folk, while others call it psycho-folk. In her homeland Lithuania, the redhead is considered to be the most famous Russian singer, while in Russia everyone calls her the most famous Lithuanian singer. Orlova has just released her second album "Mutabor," but it's not yet available in Ukraine. She writes her own songs in three languages: Lithuanian, Russian and English. **Oct. 15 at 9 p.m., Crystal Hall, 1 Dniprovsky spusk, 288-5069. Tickets: Hr 150-200**



(Courtesy photo)

Oct. 8 - 10

Kyiv's Oktoberfest

The festival will be exactly what you would expect: loud music, lots of fried sausages, potatoes, sauerkraut and lots of beer. Among the eight kinds of the yeast drink, there'll be a special type courtesy of the authentic Oktoberfest in Germany. The smallest serving will be no less than a liter, so watch what you drink. Stronger alcohol will be on sale as well, which hopefully means more police squads on duty that weekend. With the orchestra, rock and pop music, drinking games of all sorts will be allowed in open air just this one time during a Ukrainian copycat festival. Just don't forget that public consumption of alcohol, including beer, is illegal in Ukraine.

Oct. 8 at 5 p.m., Oct 9, 10 at 11 a.m.-11p.m., stadium Spartak, 105 Frunze, Tickets: Hr 30 - 50

Movies



Lead actor Til Schweiger (L) in a scene from 'Phantom Pain.' www.10pix.ru

NEW GERMAN MOVIES FESTIVAL

Albeit hugely successful at home, German films rarely make it onto Ukraine's big screen. "New German Movies" festival is a great opportunity to catch the latest from German cinema. Seven films on the program are mostly about your average Hans going through some life dilemmas. Take lead character Katie from "Hairdresser," for instance. She applies for what she thinks is her dream job in a posh beauty parlor but gets rejected for the reason of being chubby. But Katie doesn't give up and opens her own hairdressing saloon next door. This film will open the festival on Oct. 7 along with live music and chocolate and champagne reception. Also don't miss German hunk Til Schweiger in "Phantom Pain," who plays a playboy rethinking his life over after losing his leg in the accident. Films will be broadcast in the original language with Ukrainian subtitles:

- **Hairdresser**, 106 min., romantic comedy by Doris Dorrie
- **Soul Kitchen**, 99 min., comedy by Fatih Akin
- **Everyone Else**, 119 min., drama/romance by Maren Ade
- **When We Leave**, 119 min., drama by Feo Aladag
- **Phantom Pain**, 97 min., drama by Matthias Emcke

CINE CIPHERS OF WOJCIECH HAS

To honor life and work of the Polish filmmaker Wojciech Has, the Kyiv Cinema starts a mini-festival of his work. Critics dubbed him the surrealist of Polish cinema for unexpected juxtapositions and surprise. The project includes four of his films made in 1960's. "The Loop," which tells the story of an alcoholic trying and failing to fight his addiction, is characteristic of Has' fascination with psychological drama. Films will be played in Polish with Ukrainian subtitles:

- **How to be loved**, psychological drama, 97 min., 1963
- **The Loop**, drama, 96 min., 1957
- **The Ciphers**, drama, 80 min., 1966

- **Lydia Ate the Apple** (Farewells), drama, 97 min., 1958

THE REGRETS

Language: French
Drama/Romance/France (2009)
Directed by Cédric Kahn
Starring Yvan Attal, Valeria Bruni Tedeschi, Arly Jover, Philippe Katerine
 Parisian 40-year old Mathieu loves his wife and his job. When he learns that his mother is terminally ill, he has to go back to his home town to stay with her. There he meets the love of his youth, Maya. Old feelings suddenly flare up again, except that life now is much more complicated. The story gets all the chaos and excitement of a juicy thriller making you wonder if all the characters will ever get out of it alive. Director Cédric Kahn has tried his hand in plots with serial killers, suspense, and sexual obsession before, so it maybe a fine movie to get the blood boiling.

KEY LARGO

Language: English
Crime/Drama/Film-Noir/Thriller/USA (1948)
Directed by John Huston
Starring Humphrey Bogart, Edward G. Robinson, Lauren Bacall, Lionel Barrymore, Claire Trevor
 Lead character Frank MakKlaud arrives at a hotel on the island of Key Largo in Florida, which is owned by James Temple with his daughter-in-law Nora. But it appears that gangster Johnny Rocco has more say in the hotel than its owners. At first MakKlaud turns a blind eye to Rocco's presence, but it won't be for long. One of the pioneers of the film noir genre, John Huston wrote and directed 37 movies. "Key Largo" was the last film pairing actors Humphrey Boggart and Lauren Bacall who were married at the time.

THE LIFE OF JESUS

Language: French
Drama/France (1997)
Directed by Bruno Dumont

KYIV CINEMA

19 Chervonoarmijska, 234-7381, www.kievkino.com.ua
Cineciphers Of Wojciech Has:
How to be loved - Oct. 7 at 7 p.m.
The Loop - Oct. 8 at 7 p.m.
The Ciphers - Oct. 9 at 5 p.m.
Lydia Ate the Apple (Farewells) - Oct. 10 at 5 p.m.
New German Movies Festival:
The Hairdresser - Oct. 7 at 8 p.m.
When We Leave - Oct. 8 at 7 p.m.
Soul Kitchen - Oct. 9 at 5 p.m., Oct. 10 at 7 p.m., Oct. 12 at 7 p.m.
Everyone Else - Oct. 9 at 7 p.m., Oct. 10 at 5 p.m.
The Phantom Pain - Oct. 11 at 7 p.m., Oct. 13 at 7 p.m.

THE MASTER CLASS CINEMA CLUB

34 Ivana Mazepy, 594-1063, www.masterklass.org/eng/
Key Largo
 Oct. 14 at 7 p.m.

YA GALLERY CINEMA CLUB

55/57 Voloska, 537-3351, www.yagallery.com.ua/akino/
The Life of Jesus
 Oct. 12 at 7 p.m.

BUTTERFLY ULTRAMARINE

1 Uritskoho 206-0362, www.kino-butterfly.com.ua
The Legend of the Guardians
 Oct.8-13 at 3:30 p.m.

sdfStarring David Douche, Marjorie Cottreel, Kader Chaatouf, Sébastien Delbaere
 To set things straight, "The Life of Jesus" has nothing to do with Jesus. It's a social movie about unemployed youth in the north of France who waste their days attacking Arabic immigrants. Full of deep existential meaning and stunning visuals, the film has made director Bruno Dumont pretty famous in Europe. It collected lots of awards throughout the years, including the Golden Camera in Cannes Film Festival in 1997.

THE LEGEND OF THE GUARDIANS: THE OWLS OF GA'HOOLE

Language: English
Animation/Adventure/Fantasy/USA/Australia (2010)
Directed by Zack Snyder
 Imagine a world without people but full of owls. Of course, there are good ones and bad ones. The good owls live in the kingdom Tito on the Great Tree of Ga 'Hoole. Evil neighbors threaten their happiness by stealing little owlets and teaching them bad things. Enjoy all the benefits of the 3D movies, bringing you into the owl world as if it was real!

Live Music



Marina Mortenson Jazz Band from Sweden (courtesy)

ART CLUB 44

44B Khreshchatyk, 279-4137, www.club44.com.ua
 Concerts traditionally start at 8 - 10 p.m.
Oct. 8 HOBOT & Co Birthday Party, Hr 50
Oct. 9 John Lennon Birthday Party: Beethoven, Hr 50
Oct. 10 Intelligent Pop Party III: Above The Tree (Italy), Andrea Rottin (Italy), Badiana Sauna System, free admission
Oct. 11 Swing Brothers, free admission
Oct. 12 Autumn Jazz Nights: DOK, Hr 40
Oct. 13 Marina Mortenson Jazz Band (Sweden), Hr 30
Oct. 14 The Hustler, BALKAN Party, Hr 70

DOCKER'S ABC

15 Khreshchatyk, 278-1717, www.docker.com.ua
 Concerts traditionally start at 9:30-10 p.m.
Oct. 8 Motor' Rolla, Ruki v Briuki, Hr 70
Oct. 9 Angie Nears, Partizanskie Vytivky, Hr 70
Oct. 10 Vostochny Express, free admission
Oct. 11 Mojo Jo Jo, free admission
Oct. 12 More Huana, Hr 20
Oct. 13 Swith On the Light, YouCrane, Goodlife, Hr 30
Oct. 14 Bangladesh Orchestra, Hr 30

DOCKER PUB

25 Bohatyr'ska (Heroyiv Dnipra metro), www.docker.com.ua
 Concerts traditionally start at 9:30-10 p.m.
Oct. 8 Ot Vinta, Red Rocks, Hr 70
Oct. 9 UkrayinSKA: Mad Heads XL, Mr.Och & His Root Boys, Hr 70
Oct. 10 Nogu Svelo (Russia), Tex-Mex Company
Oct. 11 Lemmons, free admission
Oct. 12 Tres Deseos Latino Party, free admission

Oct. 13 Svetlana Surganova & Orchestra, The Magma
Oct. 14 Ruki v Briuki, free admission

BOCHKA PYVNA ON KHMELNYTSKOHO

4B-1 Khmelnytskoho (Teatralna metro), 390-6106, www.bochka.com.ua
 Concerts traditionally start at 9-10 p.m.
Oct. 8 YouCrane, SuperDivka, Mr.Och & His Root Boys, Hr 40
Oct. 9 John Lennon-70 Cover Party: Angie Nears, HOBOT & Co, Navkolo Kola, Hr 30
Oct. 10 Live Salsa Dance Party: 3D Mambo Project, Hr 40

PORTER PUB

3 Sichnevoho Povstannya, 280-1996, www.porter.com.ua
 Concerts traditionally start at 7.30 p.m.
Oct. 8 Juke Box
Oct. 9 Abbey Road
Oct. 10 The Four from Liverpool
Oct. 13 Ivan Bliuz
Oct. 14 Maks Tavricheski

Other live music clubs:

- PIVNA NO.1 ON BASEYNA** (15 Baseyna, 287-44-34, www.pivna1.com.ua)
- JAZZ DO IT** (76A Velyka Vasylkivska (Chervonoarmijska), 599-7617, www.jazz-doit.com.ua)
- DRAFT** (1/2 Khoryva (Kontraktova Ploshcha metro), 463-7330).
- KHLIB CLUB** (12 Frunze, www.myspace.com/xlibclub).
- CHESHIRE CAT** (9 Sklyarenko, 428-2717).
- O'BRIEN'S** (17A Mykhaylivska, 279-1584).
- DAKOTA** (14G Heroyiv Stalinhgradu, 468-7410).
- U KRUSHKI** (12/37 Dekabrystiv, 562-6262).

Compiled by Alexandra Romanovskaya and Svitlana Kolesnykova

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New dress code raises sartorial office standards

BY NATALIYA HORBAN
HORBAN@KYIVPOST.COM

It's the first question of the day when you awake with bleary eyes – what to wear? Now workers in the Cabinet of Ministers building will have an easier time making their choice, after the government on Oct. 4 published a lengthy dress code urging them to maintain “a responsible appearance.”

The document, written in the style of an old-fashioned handbook for decorous living, is aimed at “securing society's and citizens' trust in the state service.”

The rules were immediately assailed by critics as unnecessary. Fashion-conscious opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko, the former prime minister known for her designer wardrobe, called them “laughable.”

The code, which runs to several pages, provides highly detailed and specific guidelines as to what is de rigueur this season in the government building. See-through dresses or large tie-knots get the thumbs down; subdued colors and matching socks and trousers are in favor.

The correct attire, the document assures, will increase self-confidence and even lead to career advancement.

Petro Ivanov, an official from the cabinet of ministers, said the code was only a list of recommendations, and that no fashion police would roam

the building. Visitors, such as journalists, are also asked to stick to the guidelines.

“All we ask for is that journalists respect the recommendations. The code concern only Secretariat staff and its task is to only provide suggestions,” said Ivanov.

According to officials, no particular case triggered the publication of the code. “I am convinced that all these rules have existed for a long time in the form of unwritten rules,” said Mykhailo Kukhar, spokesman for the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy. “During the six months I spent in the cabinet, 99 percent of the officials dressed in a way that would correspond to the current code.”

According to Kukhar, that remaining one percent were violators and they were men: “Women usually dress in a strict and modest manner.”

Other insiders disagreed. “Some younger female workers looked like they were attending a party at the Playboy mansion,” said a former cabinet of ministers official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The ex-official added that the guidelines would only be beneficial.

Tymoshenko, Ukraine's most famous fashionista, mocked the rules. “The Queen of England and [Libyan leader Muammar] Gaddafi, for instance, for sure would not get into the cabinet building,” Tymoshenko said.

She put a political spin on the move:

This woman would violate the new government dress code for at least three reasons: excessive makeup, short skirt and cleavage. (Courtesy)



“When they don't know how to carry out reforms, they start bringing in a dress code,” she said.

Tymoshenko's long-time political foe Hanna Herman, deputy head of the presidential administration, also known for her snappy designer attire, agreed, calling the rules “archaic.”

“Every person should have a sense of moderation. If they don't have it, it's worth considering whether such a person should be employed in government service,” she told Interfax-Ukraine news agency.

Others said it would take much more than a dress code to lift government officials' reputation.

“I support an idea of a dress code adoption,” said Nataliya Tymoshenko, a visiting professor of ethics at the Diplomatic Academy of Ukraine. “The only problem is that it is not enough to state those guidelines: Officials need to be given some training about etiquette, including not only clothing but manners as well.”

Kyiv Post staff writer Nataliya Horban can be reached at horban@kyivpost.com

Government's new recommendations for how public workers should dress:

- The appropriate colors of the clothes should be classic: dark blue, brown, black or olive, with limited visible pattern.
- Ties can be patterned, such as polka-dots, checks or stripes. Stripes are favored.
- The regulations point out the physiological differences between men's and women's sense of smell. “Woman might get irritated when sensing a bad smell on a distance over half a meter,” the document observes, adding that bad odors can cause a conflict within a group of people.
- Precious stones should be worn by married women, while younger girls should consider pearls or pure quartz as their options. Earring should match the eyes, be small and not jingle.
- During the summer heat, women should wear waterproof mascara and very little eye shadow.
- See-through dresses and blouses which make underwear visible are also on a no-no list. If one can stick two fingers between the body and the belt, it is an indicator that the belt isn't too tight.
- Men should watch the size of their tie, as a disproportionate tie knot may affect the appearance of the face and neck.
- Socks need to match the color of the trousers, and have to be tight, long and without any pattern.
- Men and women should not wear the same outfit for two days in a row.

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ArcelorMittal says it is facing official attack on its steel mill

→ But on Oct. 1, presiding judge Oleh Khrypun dismissed claims the court had no right to hear the case.

“This is very strange. I have never heard before that a judge from the Economic Court handles a case stipulated for the International Commercial Arbitration Court,” said Yevdokia Paschenko, vice president of the International Commercial Arbitration Court. Khrypun was only named to preside over the case one day before the hearing, replacing the original judge.

“If you see the pile of paper regarding the case he had to get through,” Cornier said. “I doubt if it was possible for him to have read much of it, even if he did not sleep.”

Khrypun has previously aroused controversy over his handling of cases, most recently in a lawsuit of Transbank against Ukrainian TV channel Tonis in August. “This seemed to us more like a raider attack than a fair hearing,” said Larissa Rudenok, head of Tonis legal department. Khrypun has denied any irregularities in his rulings on the case.

Then on Oct. 5, in a strange twist of Ukrainian justice, a representative of the cabinet, one of the plaintiffs in the case, withdrew its complaint against ArcelorMittal, but the case hasn't been closed.

“It is unclear whose interest the prosecutor is protecting in this case,” reads an Oct. 6 statement from ArcelorMittal.

A spokesman for the General Prosecutor's Office declined to comment on the merits of the case, citing

→ Steel giant fears takeover of its Kryviy Rih plant

its technical nature and the fact that it's still in progress.

But if prosecutors are successful, the steel mill will be returned to state control and threaten ArcelorMittal's entire investment, Cornier said.

“I doubt we would see our money back. I don't see the country is rich enough to give us back \$4.8 billion, when they are not capable of returning our VAT [value-added tax], and when by the end of this year we will have paid three years corporate tax in advance,” said Cornier.

Cornier said ArcelorMittal had received no offers for the mill, nor knew of anyone trying to acquire it, nor does it want to sell. “It is not the ArcelorMittal style to sell,” he said.

Cornier said the government's lawsuit was out of synch with the free-market image that Yanukovich projects abroad.

The lawsuit is not the only problem suddenly confronting the company, a fact that adds to the impression there is an organized campaign under way. The Security Service of Ukraine, the

successor agency to the Soviet KGB, is currently investigating the company after the State Customs Service brought criminal charges alleging that the value of coal imports were under-declared. ArcelorMittal dismissed the accusations.

“The customs service have suddenly declared that the real value of our coal imports should be \$360 per ton, when you only have to open a newspaper to see that the price is \$200,” Cornier said.

Trade union representatives at the plant have also raised their voices, accusing company management of failing to fulfill a collective agreement signed in 2009. Cornier played down the topic, saying: “Everyone has trade union issues, and we fulfilled 99 percent of the agreement.”

In October 2009, a car carrying two ArcelorMittal auditors in Ukraine was fired upon, injuring one of the company employees.

Cornier said more recent developments could cause the company to rethink its plans to expand into coal mining in Ukraine and to complete a plant for processing oxidized iron ore at Kirovohrad. “Mr. Mittal is a little upset,” he said of the response of ArcelorMittal's Indian owner and chief executive officer.

“We like our plant. We like the country. It is a good place to make steel. There is good iron ore, and skilled people,” Cornier said. “But we don't see our Ukrainian competitors having problems with the general prosecutor.”

Kyiv Post staff writer Graham Stack can be reached at stack@kyivpost.com

Food Critic: Lattes in need of improvement

→ **21** to Kaffa Coffee Theatre (Teatr Kavy) at Podil just to get those almond meringue cookies with chocolate filling served with my latte (which is, in itself, not perfect)? So, snacks can be a factor in choosing where to drink. The ambience of Kaffa, especially its summer terrace, on a warm autumn afternoon, is also a plus.

Coffee on wheels (little coffee vans scattered around the city), although giving you a latte at a bargain price (Hr 8), fails on many other accounts. It has no frothy top, is a little too hot, and is a little too strong for my taste. Perhaps it's the bitterness that gives the impression of strength. Coffee on wheels stores use an Italian blend of Arabic and Robusta beans, and the latter tends to add bitterness to the mix. The coffee is predictably served in a paper cup, which is not exactly an affection-building factor either.

Coffee Life clearly wants to be a Ukraine's Starbucks. Advertised as



Making a latte isn't easy. (bestcafes.com.au)

a "new format," it offers "something else" for Kyiv but not the rest of the world. But, like any copy, it lacks the depth of the original.

Dim Kavy (House of Coffee) is not really a coffee shop. It's a chain of shops that mostly sell coffee machines and supply coffee beans for them. The shops are more like tasting rooms and that means no particular atmosphere to speak of. But the chain offers a very decent latte.

There is a wide variety of coffee blends available. My personal favorite is Amadeus, a blend of seven types of Arabica from across the globe. It starts off unimaginatively and possibly a little on the bitter side. But as the drink cools down, various subtle and surprising after-tastes come out. I sometimes ask for a sprinkle of chocolate on top to add an extra twist to the taste.

Sometimes you find a good latte in an unexpected place, such as the Sunduk chain of pubs. For Hr 19 you get a very decent latte there, lacking somewhat in presentation but with a balanced flavor.

Specialized venues, naturally, try to fully satisfy your expectations. Shokoladnitsa, for example, gives you a very balanced neutral latte, but you pay Hr 25 for a standard one there, higher than Kyiv average. You even get a little flower pattern on your latte, which is still a rarity anywhere but coffee chains. Coffee culture has only just started to catch on in Kyiv in the last few years, so a balanced, perfectly presented latte at a reasonable price, in nice surroundings and with an option of a tiny mouth-watering macaroon to chase it is yet to be found here. Or am I just being too fussy?

Kyiv Post editor Katya Gorchinskaya can be reached at gorchinskaya@kyivpost.com



Best gallery picks

"Africa" photo exhibition by German photographer Michael Poliza continues in **Brucie Collections**. Poliza is an actor-turned-businessman. But in 1997, he decided to sell his company and travel the world on his private yacht. Africa appeared to be his favorite photo subject. The exhibition presents stunning views of African nature and people, with a focus on Zimbabwe, Namibia, Botswana, Tanzania and Kenya. *Brucie Collections, 55B Artema, 353-1234, www.bruciecollections.com, until Oct.31.*

Èrand new **Ya.Greter Art Center** marked its opening with the exhibition "Quick dreams." Paintings, photographs, sculptures and media installation by more than 20 artists present bright and colorful dreams, which humans usually see during the fifth – the last phase of sleeping. Reality and magic, surrealism and nonsense of dreaming through art can make you rethink your attitude to sleep when you go to bed next. *Ya. Greter Art Center, Vadyrna Hetmana 6, "Bolshevik" Mall, block A, 3 floor, until Oct. 31*

Ya Gallery on Voloska has an unusual carpet collection. Andriy Sagaidakovsky painted in oil a series of self-portraits using old carpets as his canvas. In search of happiness, he ended up exploring his personal universe with paint. Apart from carpets, he brought clothes and tools from his Lviv workshop to recreate his working environment and named the exhibition "Portrait of a Famous Artist." *Ya Gallery, 55/57 Voloska, 537-3351, www.yagallery.com.ua, until Oct. 19*

In **Ya Gallery on Horyva**, curators Pavlo Gudimov and Lidia Lykhach play with a table theme in a series of paintings named "On the table. (Folk Contemporary. Still life)." Exploring traditions of table decoration in the old days and now, artists try to explain what was important to people in their daily life then and what makes them tick now. *Ya Gallery, 49B Horyva, 492-9203, www.yagallery.com.ua, until Oct.26 (closed Sundays)*

To embark on a journey through a virtual world, visit the exhibition "All the Colors of Your Desktop" in the **Mystetsky Arsenal**. Artist Oleksiy Say works in what he calls "Excel-art", conjuring his images from the Microsoft Excel program. Say explores the difference between real and virtual life playing with colors. See his tropical paradise and urban bleakness in graphics. *Mystetsky Arsenal Cultural-Art and Museum Complex, Lavrska 12, 288-5140, www.artarsenal.in.ua, until Oct. 12 (closed Mondays)*

The last 10 years in Ukrainian art were marked by the emergence of a whole generation of young artists. **M17 Contemporary Art Center** presents works of more than 40 artists in "Those Who Came in 2000's" exhibition. Provocative and rebellious, they defy standards in painting and sculpture. Find Masha Shubina, Ksenia Gnilitzskaya, Alexey Say, R.E.P. and SOSka among others. *M17 Contemporary Art Center, 102-104 Gorkogo (Antonovycha), 596-2030, www.m17.com.ua/en, Oct. 1-20 (closed Mondays)*

Bottega Gallery will display the graphic works of 23 contemporary British artists, including Damien Hirst, Eduardo Paolozzi and Patrick Caulfield. Throwing you into the motley vortex of hues and shades, the "Seeing in Color" exhibition reflects the history of color and paint and how the society is represented through it. Though you may find it hard to understand the meaning of certain pictures, you'll definitely feel the strong emotional impact. *Bottega gallery, 22B Mykhaylivska, 279-5353, www.bottega-gallery.com until Oct. 14 (closed Sundays and Mondays)*

Those into fashion and dolls will enjoy a collection of hand-made dolls dressed in the Art Deco costumes in **Parsuna Gallery**. The style was a hit in Paris at the beginning of the last century. Elegance and subtle beauty in combination with obscene bourgeois luxury will make for a good conversation afterwards. *Parsuna Gallery, 43 Horyva, 425-2415, (097) 494-0865, www.parsuna.com.ua, until Nov. 8*

Camera Gallery invites you to see Belarus through the eyes of Vladimir Parfenok – a photographer who spent a lot of time traveling its western regions during the last two years. Parfenok says a single image cannot capture a quickly changing reality with its smells and sounds. But a sequence of photographs arranged in a peculiar order reflects what he called the "Unclear Image of Belarus." *Camera Gallery, 22 Prorizna, 279-5070, (067) 504-7065, www.photogaidai.org, until Oct. 22*

Compiled by Alexandra Romanovskaya

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Shcholkinе, Azov Sea city with nuclear past, now attracts tourists

BY NATALIA SOLOVONYUK
SOLOVONYUK@KYIVPOST.COM

The town of Shcholkinе on the Crimean peninsula's east coast was not even on the map 30 years ago.

Then construction of a nuclear plant, aimed at providing electricity for the whole peninsula, brought a secret settlement of engineers and construction workers.

The plant was never completed, but today Shcholkinе – known by locals as “the summer town” because of its sunshine and water – is a popular tourist destination.

Overlooking the Azov Sea, Shcholkinе offers the opportunity for a relaxing break, a windsurfing holiday, or a trip back into history for those who want to explore the incomplete shell of the nuclear plant.

The Guinness Book of Records notes

that it is the most expensive nuclear project that was never finished.

Today, you can stroll inside its creepy concrete guts, take as many photos as you wish and stare into what were once set to be the silos for radioactive fuel.

The grim skeleton of concrete and steel marks the entrance to the city. With the fall of the Soviet Union, the station's walls and cranes quickly fell into disrepair. Construction charts, which any foreign spy would be proud to get a hold of back in the Soviet days, are no longer in the vaults. Once-secret books now gather dust on the shelves of the Shcholkinе Institute. It seems almost everything has been dismantled, stolen and sold. The town's population shrank with incredible speed: Out of 21,000 former residents, less than one-third stayed to see Shcholkinе's slow death.

But tourists and filmmakers took a liking of the howling nuclear ghost on the sea shores and helped to keep the town alive.

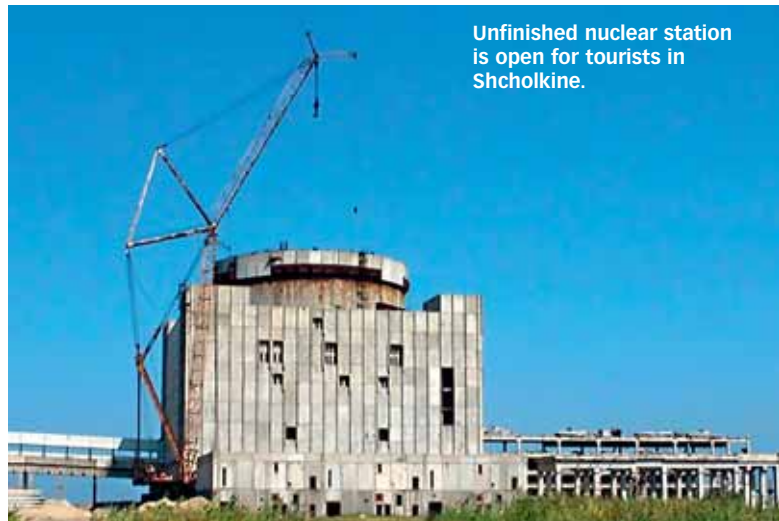
And the nature has offered its own solution to make sure the town does not vanish with the plant's demise – the sea.

The coast offers sports enthusiasts the perfect wind for windsurfing competitions. Electronic music festival Kazantip – now famous in Europe as well as in Ukraine – was first held there in 1995. Since fuel was never delivered to the nuclear power plant, dancing parties were held in its turbines. Russian filmmaker Fedor Bondarchuk shot the fantasy “Desert Island” there in 2008.

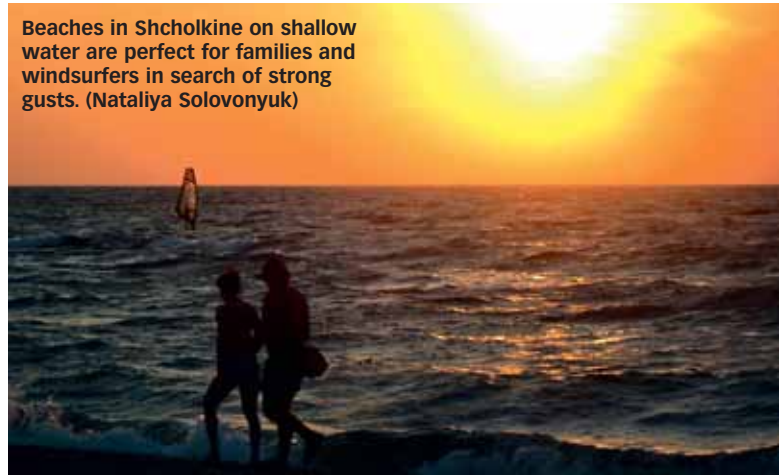
Apart from the power plant, there's not much else to see. But there is a sandy beach leading to shallow water – perfect for family breaks with children. It also has therapeutic muds, salt lakes and mineral springs to pamper body and soul.

Located in the east of Crimea some 75 kilometers from Kerch, it is an upcoming resort, where everything is much cheaper than at hot spots in the south. You can reach the beach in 10 minutes from the farthest location in town.

For sightseeing, head to Kazantyp Nature Preserve, a small but scenic green patch close to the city. Translated from Turkish, its name means “the bottom of a cauldron.” Many centuries



Unfinished nuclear station is open for tourists in Shcholkinе.



Beaches in Shcholkinе on shallow water are perfect for families and windsurfers in search of strong gusts. (Nataliya Solovonyuk)

ago, Kazantyp was an island, but winds and erosion gradually turned it into a shape reminiscent of a cooking pot with a handle stretching all the way to the mainland.

Tourists still find bits and pieces from the pre-historic Bosporan Kingdom settlements there. Nature has also played tricks with cliffs and stones, creating shapes like peculiar animals. The hike will take you to the Tartarsky Bay, known as one of the cleanest and most beautiful beaches in Ukraine.

Strong and persistent winds don't cause storms here, like they do in the Black Sea, so divers will appreciate calm waters in the coves dotting the Arabatska Bay. In late summer, kite and windsurfers steer in Shcholkinе's direction to catch some waves. Most of the tourists rent flats from the former nuclear plant's personnel, the main way many of them now make a living.

Kyiv Post staff writer Natalia Solovonyuk can be reached at solovonyuk@kyivpost.com



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Hip wedding venues to tie the knot in Ukraine

→21 Options for a breezier and versatile wedding, as opposed to a conventional one, exist in Ukraine.

But you'd still have to stop off at the Bermuda Triangle to leave your signature in their big ledger. If you are not a foreigner though, you may do it in 11 other registry offices. You must complete an application a month ahead at the latest and two months at the earliest. An in-house ceremony costs Hr 215. Special bureaucratic features must also be covered with all sorts of minuscule offerings. For an offsite ceremony, you'll have to spend around Hr 850, but it's all worth it with our Lifestyles choices around Ukraine to escape from the traditional walk down the aisle.

Ukrainian Venice

In Vilko, guests will arrive at your wedding by boat. Not very spoiled by choice, cossacks fleeing political and religious prosecution in the 18th century founded the town in the swamps. Up to this day, there are canals instead of streets and fish for breakfast, lunch and dinner. So like in good old Venice,

you'll board a Ukrainian version of a gondola to get to a chapel on a small island. Most likely your captain will be a woman, since they are considered better rowers in Vilko. Don't forget to have passports on you – Romanian border guards will mind if your wedding frolics take you beyond Vilko waters into the Danube. If you crave a cosmopolitan party after a union on the water, head to Odesa – it's only four hours away.

"Vilko-tour," (048)798-1629, (067)287-9994, www.vilko-tour.com
 "Vilko Pelikan Tour," (067)483-5207, (048)777-12-05, www.pelican-danube-tour.com.ua/

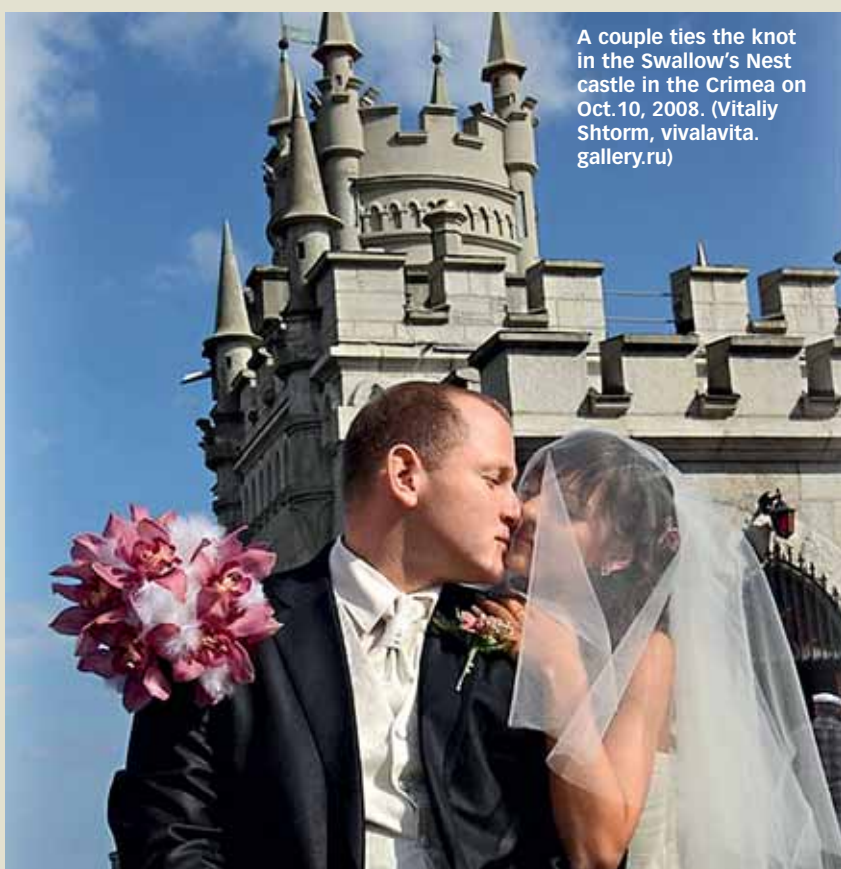
Medieval wedding

A well-preserved castle in Kamyanets-Podilsky has many legends to keep your guests busy. One of them says that it was found by nephews of the Lithuanian prince. Hunting in the forest one day, they saw a vast gorge and a rocky hill fit for a medieval castle. Local historians though may disagree

Castle of love

Swallow's Nest house near Yalta looks like one of those sand castles about to be washed away by the sea. Sitting dramatically on the edge of the cliff, it's a must stop for tourists in the Crimea. But you can rent the whole place out just for yourself for Hr 3,000. The restaurant hangs 40 meters above the sea. The story goes that sea god Poseidon was hovering above the waters with a beautiful crown to gift his beloved goddess of dawn, Aurora. But she rejected the poor bloke; heartbroken, he dropped the tiara, which later became the Nest. Another legend has a retired general instead of the sea god. But it also says that he built a castle for Aurora. Whatever the story, Nest's white towers do look like a wonderland and are perfect for a romantic setting.

Village Haspra, tel. (0654) 24-7571, 24-72-18, www.last-ochka.com.ua/html/english



A couple ties the knot in the Swallow's Nest castle in the Crimea on Oct. 10, 2008. (Vitaliy Shtorm, vivalavita.gallery.ru)



A scene from the wedding on a yacht on July 4, 2009 (Alexandr Shpilevoy, www.alexnewaro.livejournal.com)

with this theory showing you around excavations dating back to the Kyivan Rus times. The castle has seen many wars in its lifetime. This time around, make love, not war. Curators won't let you party inside the museum itself because "paintings don't go well with the alcohol." Yet medieval courtyards will fit some 100 people. For a package price of Hr 530 per guest, wedding planners offer food, music and a night tour of Kamyanets. The party would have to follow a rather Soviet, not a medieval, schedule: 6 - 11 p.m. If you still opt for it, beware of wearing high heels. Courtyards are paved with old stone and sprinkled with grass.

Tourist information center at the city council (067) 991-7052, www.kam-pod.info (English available), www.kamenets-tour.com for accommodation

Sail away with me, honey

Ukraine's been blessed with lakes, rivers and seas, so weddings on yachts and boats are becoming more popular. For a small ceremony of up to 20 people, there are yachts starting from Hr 2,000 per day. If you need to fit 10 times more people than that, there's St Andre boat with a dining hall, dance floor and a piano room. It costs some Hr 60,000 but the price may vary depending on your route.

For bigger boats that would fit from 200 to 500 guests, prices start at Hr 1600 per hour. They are your regular, Soviet-looking excursion boats, which run from the Kyiv riverport.

DniproTrip, 332-54-77, (067) 288-79-32, www.yacht.org.ua
 KyivRichFlot, 501-94-43, www.rechflot.kiev.ua

Ukrainian wedding

If you don't have grandparents in a village, it's still possible to have a

traditional rural wedding. Mamayeva Sloboda or Pirohovo open air museums will arrange a proper church ceremony and folk music bands. At Sloboda, the ceremony costs will run up to Hr 7,000 including the food. On top of it, you can rent folk dress, hire Cossacks and fire cannons on your special day.

Mamayeva Sloboda, 361 98 48, (093)872-4877, www.mamajeva-sloboda.ua
 Pirohovo, 526-5765, www.pirogovo.com.ua

can convince a registrar to hold a ceremony in the sky, you can then brag about your match being made in heaven. Children and pregnant women are not allowed on board, and old people may not appreciate the idea either. So, a balloon could actually make for a nice small wedding at Hr 1,500 per hour.

Kyiv Ballooning Society, 406-77-00, (097) 498-66-69, www.ballooning-ua.com/english
 Nashare, www.nashare.com.ua

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A tram wedding in Lviv in 2009 (Tereza Likhuta)

Wedding on wheels

The first Kyiv tram was launched in 1892. But after a century on rails, it looks like its days are numbered in the capital. For a vintage and hip wedding of up to 26 people, you can hop on one of these beasts for Hr 350 an hour.

Luckily, Kyiv's metro is not going out of service. Despite all sorts of bureaucratic obstacles, it's quite possible to throw a party underground. The price will depend on the number of wagons you need to rent, stops you want to make and lights you need to switch on at the stations of your choice. These may sound as small details but they sure amount to a big bill of "thousands of hryvnias," as we have been warned by the metro managers. Bear in mind that a party can be organized only in the afterhours when metro's regular passengers don't need its service.

Trams: (068) 121-6701, www.tramvaj-kafe.kiev.ua
 Metro: 238-58-55, www.metropoliten.kiev.ua, www.metro.kiev.ua



Actor Volodymyr Horyansky with daughter Maria

Little copycats



Party of Regions deputy Anatoliy Kinakh with daughter Sofia



'Via Gra' in town

Albina Dzhanabayeva (L), Eva Bushmina (C) and Nadiya Meikher during concert on May 16.

Sexy girl's band "Via Gra" celebrated their 10-year anniversary in Kyiv on Oct. 6. The Russian-Ukrainian band has been reshuffled over the years, but the short-hair brunette Nadiya Meikher is the one member who's been with the band from the start, although she did leave briefly at one point. Still hot but not as sizzling as before, they sing mostly about unrequited love and breakups. (BHL, UNIAN)



TV host Maksym Nelipa's son Artem



Actor Vitaliy Borysiuk with daughter Anna

→ Children from notable Ukrainian families attended the final ceremony of the project Babyphotostar on Oct. 2. They posed for photographs in nominations Most Charming, Little Princess, and True Cossacks among others during the selection rounds. A catwalk, concert and customary paparazzi were organized for the event. Parents of aspiring photomodels, with footballers, actors and singers among them, added some star power to the show. (Photos by Serhiy Zavalniuk, courtesy)



Producer Kostyantyn Meladze (L) with his Via Gra band during press-conference on Oct. 6

If you want Kyiv Post Paparazzi to cover your event, please send details or invitations to news@kyivpost.com or contact photo editor Yaroslav Debelyi at 234-6500

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Closing Date for Application: October 22, 2010
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The OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine is seeking a qualified and motivated person to fill the position of:

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(Temporary position)

Tasks:

- Assistance to the Head of Rule of Law Unit in the implementation of law-related projects;
- Management of internal documentation and correspondence;
- Organisation of logistics for and assistance in preparation and running of specific activities such as seminars, conferences, and study trips to implement the projects;
- Assistance in financial administration of projects; preparation of procurement requests and other related paperwork;
- Assistance in monitoring project implementation;
- Maintenance and updating project profiles;
- Some clerical and administrative work;
- General assistance to the Rule of Law Unit, including drafting of memos, summaries, and other project-related documents;
- Translation of documents;
- Performance of other related duties as assigned.

Requirements:

- Higher education;
- Professional fluency (oral and written) of English, Ukrainian and Russian;
- Computer literacy;
- Minimum of two years of working experience, preferably in international organizations;
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- Ability to work independently and meet deadlines;
- Good analytical and writing skills.

The position will commence in January 2011 and expire in December 2011. In order to apply for the position, please use the **OSCE Application Form** which can be found on the OSCE PCU site www.oscepcu.org. You can send your Application Forms via email to Lyubov.Kravchenko@osce.org or by fax: + 380 44 492 03 83 to the attention of Ms. Lyubov Kravchenko or mail it to the OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine, Striletska 16, 01034 Kyiv as soon as possible, but not later than **October 24, 2010**. Please indicate the title of the position in your application. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.



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Non-profit specialized in public health systems plans to start activities in Kyiv, implementing SPS (Strengthening Pharmaceutical Systems), a USAID funded program.

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The STA is responsible for managing all activities for the program. The STA is the primary liaison with the USAID Health Team, the Ministry of Health, the HIV/AIDS and TB Centers, and other stakeholders involved with pharmaceutical/commodity management activities. Ensures that SPS plans and activities address priority pharmaceutical and commodity management needs. Supervises staff and coordinates timely delivery of products and activities.

PROGRAM ASSOCIATE, MIS

The Program Associate will provide support to the MOH programs in the roll-out and support of dedicated TB management software systems (e-TB Manager). The Program Associate will be responsible for training users, providing follow up support, and troubleshooting. The Program Associate will also work collaboratively with technical partners to support the data management needs for TB and HIV program management.

IT SUPPORT SPECIALIST

The Information Technology (IT) support specialist will provide technical support to resolve systems issues (LAN, WAN, hardware configurations, software installations) for SPS staff and at sites. The IT specialist will maintain a helpdesk system to record and respond to all requests. In addition to support, the IT specialist will also regularly assess staff/user training needs and provide some basic training activities to new users.

PHARMACEUTICAL MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (PMIS) MANAGER

The PMIS Manager will be responsible for the roll out and support of SPS TB Management software (e-TB Manager). The PMIS Manager works closely with the SPS team, MOH staff and partners to manage the roll out of e-TB Manager and monitor its implementation, and to evaluate and/or support PMIS for HIV/AIDS. The PMIS Manager will also be responsible for providing critical input into reports, data aggregation and analysis and generating indicators that are relevant to the MOH staff and decision makers. S/he conducts training to build counterpart capacity in data analysis and use of PMIS information.

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MUNICIPAL HEATING REFORM IN UKRAINE

USAID-funded Municipal Heating Reform Project in Ukraine (MHRP) seeks a candidate for the position of

MONITORING SPECIALIST

Responsibilities include:

- Conduct monitoring and assist in administration of Grants and Purchase Orders related to the implementation of MHRP tasks and activities;
- Contribute in development and set-up of MHRP internal monitoring system for Grants and Purchase Orders and produce regular reports to MHRP Management;
- Perform on-going monitoring of demonstration projects, including schedules, deliverables and quality of performance;
- Contribute in preparation of the Project Performance Monitoring Plan, specifically in baseline data definition and performance data collection;
- Contribute to monitoring of energy consumption in the partner cities in accordance to the specific methodology;
- Monitoring and evaluation of energy savings and performance of energy efficiency (EE) demonstration projects implemented in MHRP partner cities;
- Drafting relevant progress reports for MHRP Management;
- Participation in the close-outs and transfer of works and equipment of demo projects to partner companies, cities, and NGOs.
- Contribute to other MHRP activities on Management request.

Skills and qualifications required:

- Bachelor or Master degree in Engineering, and/or Finance, and/or Economics;
- Minimum 3 years relevant experience in technical assistance projects on performance monitoring issues;
- Preferable experience in projects related to energy efficiency and/or heating systems improvements and/or construction sector. Experience in technical assistance international projects would be a plus.
- Excellent writing and communication skills;
- Good knowledge and understanding of energy efficiency field;
- Knowledge of energy performance and verification protocols would be a plus;
- Proficiency in MS Office (Excel, Word etc.);
- Fluent English/Ukrainian/Russian;

Closing Date for Application:
October 25, 2010 by e-mail attachment only, to hr@mhrp.org.ua



MUNICIPAL HEATING REFORM IN UKRAINE

USAID-funded Municipal Heating Reform Project in Ukraine (MHRP) seeks a candidate for the position of

TECHNICAL PROJECT SUPERVISION SPECIALIST

Key Responsibilities include:

- Conduct technical supervision and technical monitoring of implementation issues for energy efficiency (EE) and heating improvement demonstration projects in MHRP partner cities;
- Conduct field visits and represent MHRP on technical issues in discussions with sub-contractors and implementers;
- Draft relevant progress reports on technical status of demonstration projects for the MHRP Management;
- Based on field visits, if needed, recommend changes in the demonstration projects schedules and agreements;
- Based on energy audit results, draft technical specifications for the EE projects and technical scope of works for sub-contractors/implementers;
- Participate, as a technical expert, in various selection panels and analyses of bids;
- Ensure technical support during contract and grant negotiation processes;
- Perform technical acceptance for works, energy audits, and services for the MHRP demonstration projects portfolio;
- Perform other contributions on technical issues on MHRP Management request.

Skills and Qualifications required:

- Master (or Bachelor with 10 years experience) degree in Engineering;
- Minimum 7 years relevant experience as heating systems and/or construction sector engineer;
- Important experience in participation in energy efficiency and/or heating improvement projects;
- Knowledge of methods and tools for technical supervision, technical monitoring, and acceptance;
- Relevant Ukrainian certificates for technical supervision and acceptance. Additional international certificates on technical supervision would be a plus;
- Excellent writing and communication skills;
- Good knowledge of Ukrainian construction and HVAC standards;
- Proficiency in MS Office (Excel, Word etc.);
- Good English

Closing Date for Application:
October 25, 2010 by e-mail attachment only, to hr@mhrp.org.ua

Finance/Management

RESUME

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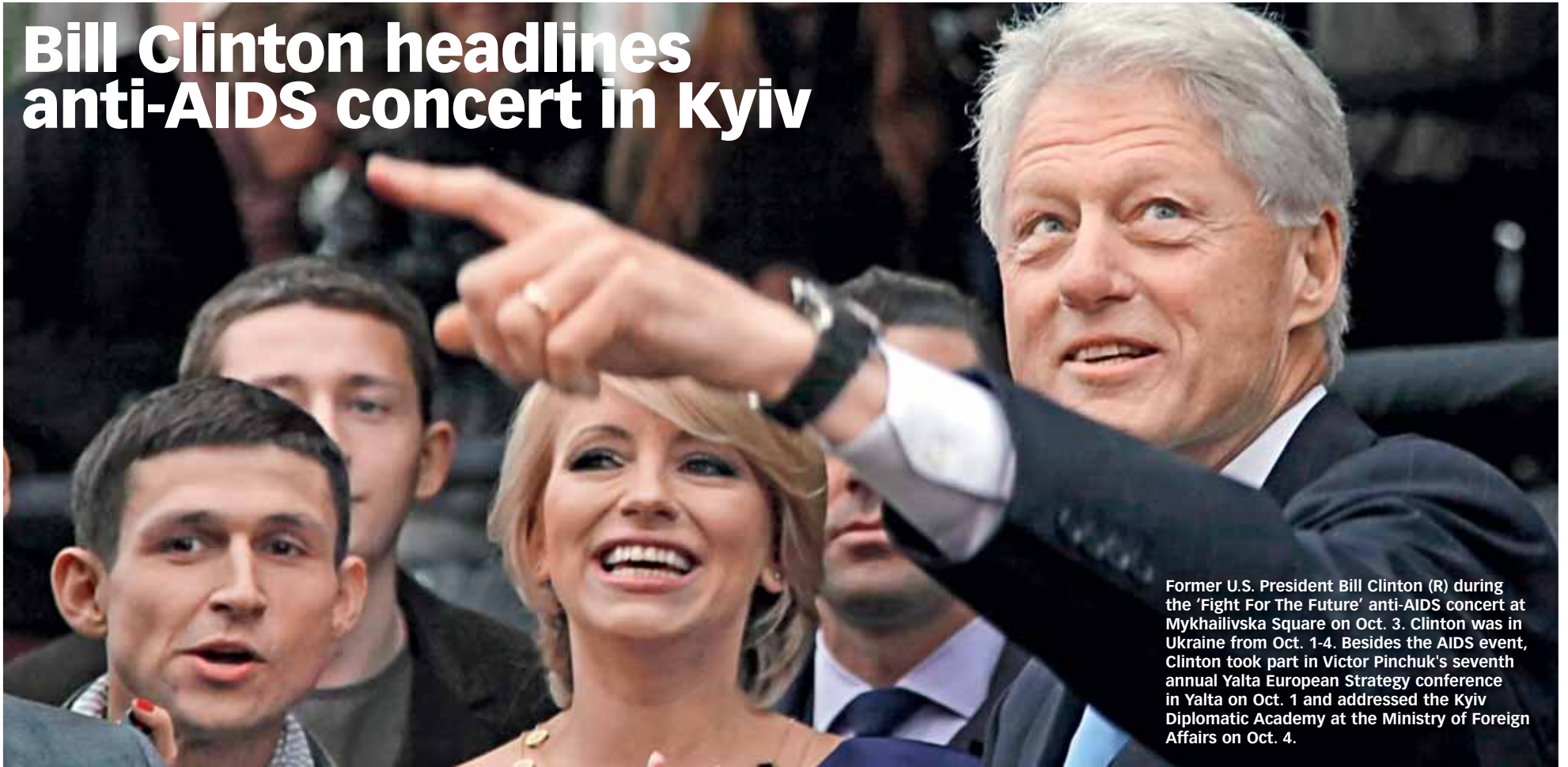
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Bill Clinton headlines anti-AIDS concert in Kyiv



Former U.S. President Bill Clinton (R) during the 'Fight For The Future' anti-AIDS concert at Mykhailivska Square on Oct. 3. Clinton was in Ukraine from Oct. 1-4. Besides the AIDS event, Clinton took part in Victor Pinchuk's seventh annual Yalta European Strategy conference in Yalta on Oct. 1 and addressed the Kyiv Diplomatic Academy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Oct. 4.

In chilly temperatures on Oct. 3, former U.S. President Bill Clinton talked to Ukrainians about HIV/AIDS during an event called "Fight For The Future" on Mykhailivska Square in Kyiv. The 42nd U.S. president was invited to Ukraine by Olena Pinchuk's AntiAIDS Fund. In his 15-minute speech, Clinton, who now devotes a lot of his charitable work to anti-AIDS activities, called on Ukrainians to check their HIV status and take responsibility for their health. Ukrainian celebrities such as Ani Lorak, Iryna Bilyk, Jamala and Natalia Mohilevska performed in support of Clinton's message. "Fabrika Zirok 3" took it even further by undergoing an HIV test right on the spot to set an example to the thousands at the event and the millions watching the live television broadcast. *Story by Nataliya Horban. Photos by AFP, AP and AntiAIDS Foundation.*



About 10,000 people attend the anti-AIDS event



A man and his two dogs try to get closer to the stage for a better view of the event.



From left: Boxer Wladimir Klitschko, Olena Pinchuk, singer Natalia Mohilevska and billionaire Victor Pinchuk.



Singer Ani Lorak heats up the crowd