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TVi, LB.ua journalists face rising pressure

BY SVITLANA TUCHYNSKA
TUCHYNSKA@KYIVPOST.COM

As pressure mounts on Ukrainian news media, journalists and international organizations are voicing alarm over the deteriorating situation ahead of the Oct. 28 parliamentary elections.



Criminal cases were opened this month against TVi channel and LB.ua news website. Access to the channel was also cut off on July 20 in many major cities. Critics see these actions as part of an attempt by the government to shut down two prominent news organizations, while authorities defended their actions.

However, President Viktor Yanukovich has expressed concern about the cases and voiced his support for freedom of speech. "Pluralism of opinions in the press – this is the guarantee of the democratic expression at the forthcoming election," Yanukovich was quoted as saying earlier this month.

Mykola Kovtunencko, a spokesperson for the State Tax Service in Kyiv, said a criminal case was opened against TVi director Mykola Kniazhitsky "for the deliberate evasion of paying Hr 3.025 million in taxes," stemming from undervalued value-added tax obligations.

The State Tax Service received a court order allowing officials to seize four years worth of documents from the office of TVi, which they did on July 12.

LB.ua is being investigated for invading the privacy of lawmaker Volodymyr Landik, whose text → 11

Russia 'Annexes' Ukraine



The giant banner unveiled by Russian supporters in Warsaw at the heavily politicized Poland-Russia Euro 2012 football match. The banner was criticized by many Poles as emblematic of Russia's bullying, imperialist attitude towards former communist-bloc states. More than two decades after the collapse of the Soviet Union, many of Russia's neighbors feel they are still treated as subjects, not sovereign states. The Russian Olympic Committee's decision to list former Soviet territories as still belonging to Russia in athletes' biographies has simply fueled the frustration. (AFP)

BY JAKUB PARUSINSKI, MARK RACHKEVYCH AND YURIY ONYSHKIV
PARUSINSKI@KYIVPOST.COM, RACHKEVYCH@KYIVPOST.COM, ONYSHKIV@KYIVPOST.COM

Either people on the Russian Olympic Committee don't know geography or imperialist dreams die hard.

Ukraine filed formal complaints about the biographies of Russian Olympic team members posted on the official London Games' website. The biographies referred to the athletes' Ukrainian birthplaces as Russian. Georgians and Olympic athletes from other former Soviet republics suffered the same fate – at least 30 in all, by the Kyiv Post's count.

The official complaints ask organizers of the 2012 London Olympics to correct the data. The opening ceremonies for the summer games take place on July 27.

The misclassifications are fueling resentment among Ukrainians who are still acutely aware of centuries of Russian domination, from czarist through Soviet times, before Ukraine gained its independence as a sovereign nation in 1991.

Criticism was swift.

"Last month, Russian President Vladimir Putin urged his diplomats to apply 'soft-power' tactics to promote Russian interests abroad. This is an ongoing example of Russia's systematic soft-power attacks against Ukraine's national and international security," said Walter Derzko, executive director of the Strategic Foresight Institute in Toronto. "Since when is Ukraine a region of Russia? This deserves a strong reaction from the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the leadership in the Ukrainian diaspora."

Even today, Westerners still refer to the nation as "the Ukraine," as if it is just a territory in Russia.

Russian President Vladimir Putin fuels this disregard. He once famously told then-U.S. President George W. Bush at a NATO Summit in 2008 that Ukraine is not "a real nation." In 2011, Putin said Russia didn't need Ukraine's help to win World War II.

Others think that too much is being made of the whole brouhaha.

Vladimir Kornilov, director of the Ukrainian branch of the Institute of the Commonwealth of Independent States, a pro-Kremlin group supportive → 5

Alexey Korovashkov

Overview

Country	Russian Federation	
Birth date and place	01/04/1992	UKRAINA REGION (RUS)
Age	20	
Height	181 cm / 5'11"	Weight
		82 kg / 181 lbs
Sport	Canoe Sprint	
	Men's Canoe Double (C2) 1000m	



Vera Moskalyuk

Overview

Country	Russian Federation	
Birth date and place	10/11/1981	ZHITOMIR REGION (RUS)
Age	30	
Height	180 cm / 5'11"	Weight
		78 kg / 172 lbs
Sport	Judo	
	Women's -78kg	



Screen shots of two Russian Olympic athletes on the official London Games website shows Alexey Korovashkov and Vera Moskalyuk as being born, respectively, in "Ukraina Region (RUS)" and "Zhitomir Region (RUS)" – not in Ukraine or the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic.

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From left, President of TUID Cem Murat Aytac, Turkish Ambassador to Ukraine H.E. Mehmet Samsar, Odessa Mayor Aleksey Kostusev and Director of Sonechko Orphanage Olha Zbrozhik



TUID's Odessa Representative Ozgur Tonguc Cuhali gives a plaque to sponsors



Turkish newspaper Hurriyet Economy Editor Emek Kaplangil and Vice President of TUID Burak Pehlivan



The children are grateful

The Turkish and Ukrainian Businessmen's Association (TUID) helps an Odessa orphan institution, "Solnyshko"

Turkish businessmen of Ukraine, under the auspices of the Turkish and Ukrainian Businessmen's Association (TUID), have reconstructed the second largest orphanage, "Solnyshko", in Odessa. The reconstruction lasted five months, the cost was approximately \$200,000 and, as a result, the orphanage obtained six new rooms, a quarantine isolation room, kitchens and playing rooms.

The Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Turkish Republic in Ukraine, Mehmet Samsar; the mayor of Odessa city, Aleksey Kostusev; the General Consul of Turkish Republic in Odessa, Huseyin Ergani; the Head of the TUID Board, Cem Murat Aytac, and the Representative of TUID in Odessa, Ozgur Tonguc Cuhali were present at the opening ceremony. Many Turkish and Ukrainian businessmen also showed their interest in the event.

The director of the orphanage, Olga Zbrozhik, in her grateful speech at the opening ceremony, said that in all her 20 years working at the orphanage, she had never seen such help provided to the institution.

"More than 100 children under the age of five suffering from such diseases as Down's syndrome, autism, and HIV live here," she said. "Until today it was physically impossible to provide all the children with separate rooms. But now we have new rooms, playing rooms, and above all, a quarantine isolation room. Now all the children will live in better hygienic conditions".

Odessa Mayor Alexsey Kostusev underlined the importance of the neighborly solidarity on both sides of the Black Sea and admitted that over many years this has been the most important charity event organized by foreign businessmen in Odessa.

Mr. Kostusev concluded his speech with the words: "It is very important that these are Turkish

businessmen who organized the charity event of such a scale. Their interest to social projects deserves high praise. I express great thanks to our Turkish partners".

The Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Turkish Republic in Ukraine, Mehmet Samsar, emphasized that most foreign businessmen do not pay sufficient attention to social problems in the country they live in—but Turkish businessmen do.

The Ambassador expressed his thanks to the Turkish and Ukrainian Businessmen's Association that turned this project into a reality and expressed his hope that similar charity projects would be further realized.

The Representative of TUID in Odessa, Ozgur Tonguc Cuhali started his speech by mentioning the businessmen for their unselfish aid and major moral contribution to the project and added, without wasting words, that the best reward is the children's happiness, laughter and joy.

The Head of the TUID Board, Cem Murat Aytac, reminded all that the project would not have been realized without the help of approximately 50 companies and businessmen, members of the group that provided the orphanage with furniture, household and office appliances, new kitchen appliances, six new rooms and a quarantine isolation room.

"We, the Turkish living in Ukraine, will continue the charity activity. This year we have also helped smaller orphanages in Zhytomir and Kharkiv. In the nearest future we will finish the project in Brovary, Kiev region, and in 2013 we are going to hold an important charity event in the capital", Cem Murat Aytac concluded.

The opening ceremony ended with the concert organized by the children from the orphanage.

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Leaders Talk

Dr. Vasil I. Kisil – Senior Partner, Vasil Kisil & Partners

Can we start with an introduction of yourself and an overview of your company? What is your company's strategic positioning on Ukraine's legal services market?

Our firm has more than a 20-year history. It started as a student study group at the Department of International Private Law. That was back in 1987. Starting from 1992 we have been working under the name "Vasil Kisil & Partners". In the beginning the concept was quite simple: to make enough money to keep our heads above water. However, eventually we got to the point of real long-term planning and strategy development.

Nowadays we are strongly positioned on the market of legal services. It boils down to striving to maintain our leadership as one of nation's top law firms, while providing a wide range of services in the field of economic relations, civil-legal relations with foreign elements, so basically being a full-service firm, excluding to a certain extent criminal cases that require special training.

What are the main trends taking place on Ukraine's legal services market now? How do you see the future of it?

In my opinion, one of the key trends that can be observed today in the legal services market of Ukraine is increasing specialization. A number of companies have reached a level of development, when they see that to be an expert in every single area is not just hard, but simply impossible. So the way I see it, further growth of each law firm will be characterized by development through specialization in a certain segment of the legal services market.

I am optimistic about the future of the legal market. Experience proves that even when the entire business sphere is undergoing turbulence it does not affect legal services all that much, even though business and economical growth does drive the demand for legal services. At the same time legal services are required even when the market crashes.

Vasil Kisil & Partners is present on Ukrainian market for 20 years. What was Vasil Kisil & Partners' office like in the beginning?

Yes, indeed, as a lawyer's association, we have been working on the legal market for 20 years. Our first office was in a single room in the building of the Ukrainian «Znanie» ("Knowledge") society where today there is a planetarium there. It was one room shared by all, a phone and if I'm not mistaken, two typewriters. But then the company had a different name.

"One of the key trends that can be observed today in the legal services market of Ukraine is increasing specialization"

What were your company's original goals and objectives? Do you feel that these goals have been achieved? What are your further plans and growth ambitions?

Our future objectives and goals are clear and transparent. We are planning quantitative growth, in terms of the number of lawyers and attorneys, as well as expanding our existing legal service segments where we have already established ourselves: litigation, real estate, corporate law, banking law, competition law, intellectual property, etc.

We plan to enhance these practices to meet our clients' needs. Obviously, we would like to pay close attention to real estate and land market developments, respectively, after adoption of the new legislation on Land. We believe that we should stay versatile, but remain a national law firm. Our focus is on high-quality service and building long-term relations with our clients therefore in the near future we do not plan an expansion into international arena by opening offices and branches in other countries. However we are continuously developing the network of foreign law firms we work with.

It is important for us to raise the profile of our individual practices and newly admitted partners. Traditionally, we have grown not by poaching talent or lateral hires, but rather from within by providing optimal environment for talented youth striving to achieve partner level positions. We have also formed a number of sector-specific groups with targeted expertise. Our diversification mitigates the risks of economic downturns and changing market conditions, it helped us stay on course and even grow during the last crisis and we plan to continue to offer innovative services to our clients, applying new technologies and targeting new market segments.

Will the billable hour still be king in another twenty years? If not, what will replace it?

Yes, today billable hours for actual work performed remain the main form of client – law firm interaction in the market of legal services. The way I see it this is not likely to change much in the nearest future, however, there are alternatives. I foresee that we are going to move to multiple ways of receiving payment for legal services, including flat fees, contingency fees, results-based fees, blended rates and fees by stages. However, I believe that main compensation principle for lawyer's work is here to stay.

Clients' portfolio of VKP boasts a large number of established and strong companies. When focus on the success of a business model you run – do you attribute this success to the 20-years' experience, team of professionals or something else?

Yes, indeed our client roster contains a fairly significant number of large, well established both national and international companies. There are clients who have been with us for over 20 years, and it says a lot about the firm. I think the main key here is our tough, and I'm not afraid to use this word here, stand on professionalism of our lawyers, focus on clients and their business, teamwork and, of course, the experience we've gained over the years. In any case, we have always emphasised high level of service and I am confident we always will.

With Ukraine's step-by-step entering a global marketplace, how do you see the future of local legal firms? Will the trend toward internationalization of law firms increase over the next future?

Of course, with Ukraine entering the world markets existing domestic law firms will evolve. Perhaps some of them will go through a merger or joining other foreign law firms. More than likely the process of merging among national law firms will go on, though, I also foresee the emergence of many new Ukrainian national law firms. But we, as I said, do not plan to merge with any international or Ukrainian law firm. We believe in our strategy of a multi-service national law firm that is able to provide a wide range of legal services for the corporate sector, in collaboration with other foreign and domestic firms.

What is, in your opinion, the best tool to retain clients' loyalty?

My strong belief is that the most effective way to maintain customer loyalty is to make the client feel, that his problem, his case is being taken seriously and professionally and that we will ensure legal support to his business no matter how difficult the case is. We have made it our life's work to anticipate our clients' specific priorities and concerns, to gain in-depth knowledge of clients' business cycle and major drivers while uncovering unforeseen service opportunities. Such approach enables us to provide our clients with the highest level of service satisfying their needs. We are proud that a lot of new business we get comes from referrals provided by our existing clients.

VKP has already built a strong name on Ukraine's legal services market. What were the main challenges it faced?

Yes, today we really do have a good reputation and we've secured our place in the legal services market of Ukraine. Nevertheless, we still face a number of organizational challenges, as well as those that clearly do not depend on us. We had to fundamentally solve the problems of our office location; we also reconsidered our business format. I recall that we started as a student co-op, and then moved into Limited Liability Partnership and we are now the Association of Lawyers. But these are not so much difficulties as they are growing pains. The toughest and main difficulties we have been dealing with are due to the apparent lack of the normal judicial system in Ukraine. The biggest problem for a lawyer as a professional is when he and everyone else are deeply convinced that there should be one legal decision and in the end what you get is totally not what you expected. It is very hard to take psychologically, particularly for young novice lawyers, and not only them.

What would you identify as your most meaningful accomplishment and as your biggest disappointment?

My biggest accomplishment is the fact that I was part of creating a really strong lawyers association with like-minded people, a strong partnership. There were really no big disappointments in my legal practice. I did have some hopes that never materialized and they did not have so much to do with practicing law, but rather with challenges of democratic development of our country.

How do you see the outlook of EU-Ukraine relations in the aftermath of EURO 2012 flawless hosting?

Regardless of the football championship success, I see enough good prospects for relations between the EU and Ukraine. No doubt, EURO 2012 is a great achievement for Ukraine's image. In relations between Ukraine and EU, from my point of view, there is a mutual and even I would say an equivalent interest coming from both parties. The European Union will make a huge strategic mistake, if it fails to seek a mutually beneficial relationship with such a large country like Ukraine, which has today such significant agricultural potential. The current state of these relations does not seem optimal to me, so I hope that if Ukraine holds problem-free, democratic parliamentary elections and proves, as it was in 2004, that the country can move confidently on a democratic path of development, the prospects for relations between the EU and Ukraine will be good.

If you look ahead five years, how do you see the future of VKP?

My vision is that five years from now our firm will maintain the status of the leading national multi-service firm that actively cooperates with international law firms on cross-border projects aiming to provide the most effective solutions to our clients and their business.

What are your top three priorities for the next 12 months?

Firstly, we have significantly expanded our partnership and, therefore, our common top-priority task for the year is to ensure



that this new wave completely assimilates itself as partners, and that each of them takes on his/her share of responsibility for the development of the firm. The second task is the continuing development of our leading practices. And the third one would be to improve our IT system.

I think that these goals are fully within our reach provided we keep developing and maintaining the traditions that we have.

"Today billable hours for actual work performed remain the main form of client – law firm interaction in the market of legal services"

Do you agree that best investment is in people? What opportunities does VKP offer for self-development and professional growth of the personnel?

Yes, investing in people is an essential component of our strategy with positive return on investment (ROI). Therefore, we have always paid special attention to this issue attracting students to intern with our firm, as well as investing in the training lawyers. We also strive to enable each lawyer at the firm both financially and time wise to facilitate his/her self-development and professional growth. All colleagues benefit from a corporate training programme which covers main business disciplines from management and leadership to marketing and finance. Moreover, we run English-language courses for lawyers. And that is in addition to all the seminars and professional exchanges with other firms.

Aiming to raise the standards of the legal service market in Ukraine, we are also keen on sharing knowledge and expertise. Our attorneys are actively involved in conducting seminars, webinars, etc., for the legal faculty students – members of the Students' League of the Ukrainian Bar Association. In addition, Vasil Kisil & Partners provides financial support and scholarships to the best students.

As the firm matures, we are starting to look at investment in people on a much broader basis revising our partnership arrangements, in particular, introducing non-equity partnership, and making sure that our partnership track is clear to all aspiring young professionals. We are also launching various initiatives to promote work-life balance and comprehensive business savvy among both legal and managerial staff.

What has been the most important management lesson you have learned?

Perhaps, the most important lesson I've learned over the years was the realization that no administrative decision can be "pushed" or forced upon a team of lawyers. No matter how difficult it is, but you have to convince them and more often than not it will take a lot of time. In our field the usual understanding of management is not appropriate. Here you have to build relationships with people who are on the same page with you. And if you want to propel an idea, you have to persuade them that it is necessary for the common cause.

Who do you most admire as a business leader and why? Do you have role models?

From my point of view, an ideal leader is a person who manages people in such a way no one notices and everything is going smoothly. Do I have any role models? Yes, I do, but I will not mention them to you because you would not believe me.

Editorials

Smokescreen

Passage of the language law on July 4 rattled the nation. Debates erupted and hunger strikes ensued. Political analysts have described the move as electioneering ahead of the Oct. 28 parliamentary election, a crude attempt to divide and conquer voters.

In part, however, it was a smokescreen. What took place in the days after the vote could damage the country just as much as any divisions over language.

Just hours after the language law vote captured media attention, pro-presidential lawmakers passed a state procurement law that experts say could further entrench corruption by making bidding procedures even less competitive.

According to President Viktor Yanukovich, corrupt procurement deals already account for \$7.4 billion or 10 to 15 percent of the state budget. He should veto the bill. But, given the fact that the party he controls in parliament passed the law, we don't have high hopes that he will do the right thing.

Also this month, the country's last independent TV channel, TVi, was raided by tax police, in violation of pledges by top officials not to carry out inspections of news media organizations before the elections.

Two days after the language vote, moreover, a law on the stock market infrastructure was passed in the second reading that would transfer ownership of technical functions to the central bank. Experts warn it could make Ukraine's capital markets uncompetitive for years to come and be used to pressure companies.

Meanwhile, the issue of corruption linked to Euro 2012 preparations, raised by opposition politicians during the football tournament, has completely vanished from the media radar.

Polls place the language issue near the bottom of Ukrainians' list of priorities. But it serves both the opposition, who can unite around the cause, and the government, which needs something to show its increasingly disenchanted base. In turn, the media get a juicy and easily digestible story about a nation divided, torn between past and present.

Whatever their stance on the use of Russian, almost all Ukrainians agree on one thing – that corruption among public officials is destroying the country and must be eradicated. They must not lose sight of that goal, not matter what distractions the government throws their way.

Muzzling speech

The already dangerous waters that independent and investigative journalists have to navigate are about to get even choppier.

Amid the scandals involving TVi television channel, whose director is accused of tax evasion, and LB.ua, a popular online publication facing an invasion of privacy charge, Ukraine's journalists are about to face yet more unwelcome attacks designed to muzzle them.

If legislation proposed by Vitaliy Zhuravsky, a member of the ruling Party of Regions becomes law, libel will become a criminal offense punished by fines of up to Hr 85,000 (\$10,625), or, in extreme cases, up to five years in prison.

Parliament should not pass this bill. If it does, President Viktor Yanukovich should veto the legislation which is seen as a blow to free speech and democracy.

Libel was decriminalized in 2001 and is not even considered an administrative offense. All allegations of libel are considered on a case-by-case basis. The plaintiffs usually demand a retraction and modest financial damages for publishing information they consider wrong. Journalists at least have some opportunity to protect themselves.

Yet the current status quo does not sit well with Zhuravsky. He explained his initiative by simply saying that it will make people "think before talking." That's always good advice. But all this talk about intelligent discourse and protecting people's dignity is mere smoke and mirrors.

What lies at the heart of this bill is yet another attempt by the ruling Party of Regions to silence free speech in the administration's steady march towards authoritarianism.

If the chilling idea becomes law, it would likely extinguish the ability of the public – and journalists – to investigate and expose many legitimately public issues, such as those involving corruption and government spending.

Moreover, Ukraine's court system is so broken that it would not be hard to find pliant judges to declare that a newspaper article has led to "serious health problems" of a well-connected plaintiff, triggering a possible five-year prison term for the journalist.

This is just more "me-too" legislation of the wrong kind. Politicians in Russia, already an entrenched authoritarian state under Vladimir Putin, criminalized libel on July 13.

In the case of Zhuravsky's bill, he is the one who should do more thinking before he talks, and withdraw his free-speech killing legislation.



NEWS ITEM: Deputy Prime Minister Borys Kolesnikov has been put in charge of ensuring that the Oct. 28 parliamentary elections will be free and fair. Kolesnikov was Ukraine's point man in getting the nation ready to co-host the Euro 2012 football games. Ukraine won praise as good hosts, even though eyebrows were raised by the no-bid tenders to build Olympic Stadium in Kyiv and other projects. Critics have said that the uncompetitive bidding increased the multibillion-dollar costs of the championship and fueled corruption, while Kolesnikov defended the no-bid practice as necessary to ensure the games will take place on time. Ensuring an honest vote on Oct. 28 may be no less of a challenge than Euro 2012.

Back Story: Thanks to many, the Kyiv Post is rebounding financially



MICHAEL WILLARD
WILLARD@KYIVPOST.COM

When you get to be a certain age – let's be gentle and just say "over 60" – a year passes in the flutter of a hummingbird's wing. That is how it has been in my year as CEO of the Kyiv Post. It has been a race to cut expenses, raise revenue and ensure independent journalism.

Without a financially secure Kyiv Post, independent journalism and "the World's Window on Ukraine" (the weekly paper and the regularly updated website) were threatened.

Thanks to our advertisers and readers, a dedicated editorial staff that does more with less and an energized commercial team that refuses to leave a kopek on the table, we've turned the corner. For me, it continues to be a fascinating ride back to the future.

A year ago, our ever-patient publisher, ISTIL chairman Mohammad Zahoor, was losing money on the newspaper. Today, we are close to breaking even. In the next year, I predict that we will be in the black.

We managed to substantially increase revenue over the previous fiscal year and to cut expenses significantly, including by shrinking the journalistic staff from 30 to 17 people.

However, we are not naive. We realize that economic crises tend to occur with regularity. We know this, but choose to be optimistic. The alternative is not terribly productive. I try to live up to the title of a book I wrote, "The Optimistic Alien."

For the increase in revenue, I am grateful to our advertisers, subscribers and users of other Kyiv Post services. You responded to our message that the Kyiv Post was a good

place for your ad, was a great read for your employees and had expertise in commercial editorial services.

Others concluded that the Kyiv Post was not only a good vehicle to reach a very good audience, but they also felt contributing to an independent press simply made sense. Isn't that what it's all about: making Ukraine a better place to live and work?

Early on, I met with Dario Marchetti, managing director of Danone. He told me how important the Kyiv Post was to the community, and then backed it up with advertising. I don't know how much Activia he sold as a result, but that was only a secondary reason for his placing ads in the Kyiv Post.

The European Business Association was already on board, and continued its confidence in the Kyiv Post by having a full-page presence each week. Other big advertisers were MoneyGram, Raiffeisen Bank Aval, TNK-BP, Atlas Copco, Rhenus Logistic, Russian Standard, ABB and various restaurants.

And thank God for lawyers: They find the Kyiv Post perfectly suited for reaching clients and potential clients. We know the potential is there for much more advertising. Cutting people and salaries is never pleasant. However, I figured I could live with that for a short time, so long as we became fundamentally sound and could restore salaries as we made more money in the future.

Conversely, the role of chief cheerleader for the Kyiv Post in the business community is one I have enjoyed. At heart, the role of Kyiv Post CEO is that of a salesman. While I like to think of myself as a journalist – my first of three professions – I can put on a Fuller Brush salesman's smile and knock on doors. But what the heck, my dad sold Mercury automobiles. It's an honorable profession. The Mercury brand is no longer in existence, but with support like the Kyiv Post has received from the community this year, this newspaper will be around for many years to come.

Kyiv Post CEO Michael Willard can be reached at willard@kyivpost.com

KyivPost

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J. Michael Willard, Chief Executive Officer
Brian Bonner, Chief Editor

Editors: Katya Gorchinskaya, Roman Olearchyk

Staff Writers: Oksana Faryna, Anastasia Forina, Oksana Grytsenko, Vlad Lavrov, Yura Onyshkiv, Jakub Parusinski, Mark Rachkevych, Denis Rafalsky, Olga Rudenko, Daryna Shevchenko, Svitlana Tuchynska

Photo Editor: Ganna Berynk. *Photographer:* Kostyantyn Chernichkin

Chief Designer: Vladyslav Zakharenko

Sales Director: Yevgeniya Baranska
Sales Managers: Elena Grysiuk, Alyona Nevmerzhytska, Anastasiya Sergienko, Elena Symonenko
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The Kyiv Post welcomes letters to the editors and opinion pieces, usually 800 to 1,000 words in length. Please email all correspondence to Brian Bonner, chief editor, at bonner@kyivpost.com or letters@kyivpost.com. All correspondence must include an email address and contact phone number for verification.

Ukraine cries foul about 'Little Russia' Olympic biographies

→ 1 of Ukraine forging closer ties with Moscow, said the classifications simply reflected athletes' views.

"The athletes were born in the USSR, so the [London delegation of the Russian] Olympic Committee just decided to put Russia on the website instead, the way they view the region," Kornilov said.

But some of the athletes with mislabeled birthplaces were born after the Soviet Union's collapse in 1991.

Oleksiy Melnyk, foreign policy analyst at the Kyiv-based Razumkov Center, called the misclassifications "purely a technical mistake."

Here's how the biographies appeared on the official website of the London Olympics:

Alexey Korovashkov, who canoes for the Russian Federation, is listed as being born in "Ukraine Region (RUS)." Other Ukraine-born athletes were listed being born in "Lvov Region (RUS)" or "Lutsk (RUS)."

The practice was extended to athletes born in other former Soviet republics, which today Russia considers as its "sphere of influence."

Boxer David Ayrapetyan therefore was born in "Baku (RUS)" (the capital of Azerbaijan), weightlifter Alexandr Ivanov hailed from "Rustavi (RUS)" (actually in Georgia), while volleyball player Tatiana Kosheleva came from "Belorussia Region (RUS)."

The mistakes proved to be too numerous and glaring to ignore, so Ukraine's Foreign Minister Kostyantyn Gryshchenko on July 26 took action.

"I have just instructed the Ukrainian Embassy in Great Britain to get in touch with the Olympic organizers to correct the [biographical] mistakes [listed for the Russian athletes born in Ukraine]," Gryshchenko tweeted.

Izabella Siemicks, a spokesperson for the London Organizing Committee, said "the information for the athlete biographies ... is provided to us by the National Olympic Committees. We have raised this matter with the Russian Olympic Committee."

Maria Kiseleva, spokesperson for the Russian Olympic team in London said: "these were technical mistakes." Asked how the errors occurred, Kiseleva said: "I am not ready to say now how it happened, but work is currently under way to fix the errors. It should be fixed today or by tomorrow [July 27]."

It will likely not be forgotten by tomorrow, however.

Ukrainians are used to bullying and disregard from an overbearing neighbor.

In a recent example, Russia's President Vladimir Putin was late four hours for a meeting with his counterpart in Crimea, President Viktor Yanukovich, on July 9.

Putin later chose to spend the evening with Viktor Medvedchuk, a former top-level Ukrainian official and millionaire businessman who has launched a blitzkrieg of street advertisements calling upon citizens to support Russian as a second state language. Putin is the godfather of

→ 'Since when is Ukraine a region of Russia?'
— Walter Derzko, Canadian-Ukrainian

Medvedchuk's daughter.

"No one believes that was accidental. That was certainly a tricky part of the bigger game, played by the Kremlin in order to achieve Putin's strategic objective of integrating the post-Soviet space" said Melnyk of the Razumkov's Center.

Georgia's Olympic Committee has also expressed outrage and is demanding correction. The website, for instance, says wrestler Besik Kudukhov's birthplace was in "South Ossetia (RUS)."

Georgia lost control over the breakaway republic after a five-day war with Russia in 2008. Since then Ossetia's independence has been recognized by Russia and a few other nations, but there has never been talk of annexation.

Lada Roslycky, a regional security expert, said Moscow is using such soft-power tactics in an effort to provoke, weaken, divide and geopolitically conquer former Soviet republics once under its control.

According to Roslycky, such tactics were used in the case of Georgia's two breakaway republics, Abkhazia and South Ossetia. "Without these tactics, Abkhazia and South Ossetia would not be in the situation they are in now. Moreover, their operations continue to be used in regard to the Russian Black Sea Fleet in Crimea," Roslycky said.

She called this month's adoption by Ukraine's parliament of a language law boosting Russian as another example of the "soft power war," Roslycky said.

Even some Ukrainian leaders have displayed disdain for Ukraine's sovereignty. Education Minister Dmytro Tabachnyk has shown contempt for the "Little Russian" language and culture, a derogatory reference to Ukraine.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Mykola Azarov was recently asked if he would pray with the Russian president for the glory of the Russian world, an ideological concept that has all Eastern Slavic or Russian-speaking regions subjugated to Moscow. His answer: "I would gladly do so."

Kyiv Post staff writers Jakub Parusinski, Mark Rachkevych and Yuriy Onyshchiv can be reached at parusinski@kyivpost.com, rachkevych@kyivpost.com and onyshchiv@kyivpost.com.



NEWS ITEM: After parents of children who suffer from cancer raised concerns over the failure of the Ukrainian Health Ministry to provide medicine, the ministry bought the needed remedies from a number of private companies. One of them was Farmstandart-Biolik, 20 percent-owned by Olexandr Bogatyrov, the son of Health Minister Raisa Bogatyrova. According to Nashi Groshi, a website that monitors public spending, the company of Bogatyrova's son has received tenders for Hr 28.73 million since his mother took the health job earlier this year. The sum is approaching the amount of state contracts that the company received all of last year.



NEWS ITEM: When the criminal case against Mykola Kniashchysky, head of the independent TVi channel, was opened in April, the channel went to court. On June 25, the court dismissed tax evasion claims against TVi. Despite this ruling, however, representatives of the State Tax Service seized documents from TVi on July 12, citing the still-open criminal case. Kniashchysky is accused of evading Hr 3 million in taxes. He denied all allegations and says the TV channel is being persecuted for its hard-hitting, investigative journalism.

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ТОВ АФ "ОЛГА Аудит"

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Відповідальність за зміст реклами
несе замовник.

Mailing address:

Kyiv Post,
31A Pushkinska, Suite 600, 6th floor
Kyiv, Ukraine, 01004

Advertising

tel. +380 44 591-7788
fax +380 44 591-7789
advertising@kyivpost.com

Editorial staff

tel. +380 44 591-3344
fax +380 44 591-3345
news@kyivpost.com

Subscriptions

Elena Grysiuk
tel. +380 44 591-3408
fax +380 44 591-7789
subscribe@kyivpost.com

Distribution

Andrey Beley
tel. +380 44 591-3409
fax +380 44 591-7789
distribution@kyivpost.com

Study: Ukrainians browse more, online advertising yet to boom

BY KATYA GORCHINSKAYA

GORCHINSKAYA@GMAIL.COM

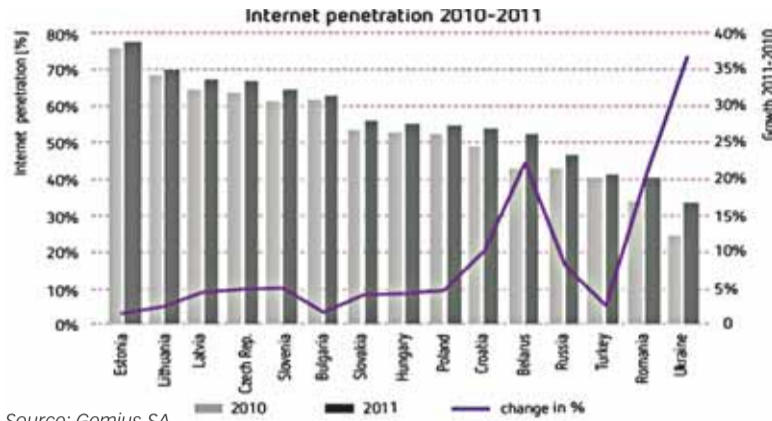
Ukraine is a land of promise for online marketers. It has the largest population in Central and Eastern Europe, and one of the region's fastest growing number of Internet users. But advertisers have yet to cash in on these opportunities.

These are the findings of a new report by Gemius SA, a research and marketing agency. The group's most recent report gives a unique peek at the region's online opportunities.

Ukraine is one of 15 countries of the region analyzed during the period between December 2010 and December 2011. Ukraine had the highest audience growth in the region at 17.5 percent (for those older than 14 years of age.)

That translates into 2.4 million more users, bringing the total number of users to 13.6 million. By comparison, the regional Internet population grew by 9.2 percent, or by 12 million users.

Yet the Internet advertising market remains weak in Ukraine. Advertisers only spent about four euros per user,



Source: Gemius SA

Ukraine's Internet audience is small but growing fast, according to research and marketing firm Gemius SA.

the third lowest regional figure after Belarus and Romania.

The good news is that Ukraine's online advertising grew at the fastest rate in the region, by 57 percent, compared to 2010. The national market reached Hr 440 million, Yandex Ukraine CEO Sergei Petrenko was quoted in the report as saying.

The report shows that social net-

works are popular. Four of them are in the top 10 most browsed websites. Three of them are Russian – Vkontakte, Odnoklassniki and Fotostrana. Facebook is also on this list.

"One of the few market segments where the leadership belongs to a local player is online shopping," the report says, with Rozetka.ua having a strong market position.

Ukrainian internet users also "began to perceive the web more as a source of advice on offline matters. Taking a look at the chart makes clear that the website categories which grew most rapidly in 2011 were health & medicine, women, entertainment & leisure," the report says. The website which grew most in was eurolab.ua, a medical portal, which had a mere 6,000 users in December 2010 and a half-million one year later.

Users with a higher education constitute the largest group of Internet users (41.2 percent).

Residents of cities with more than 500,000 residents make up the biggest group of Internet users – 45.7 percent. The rate of Internet penetration in Ukraine is 33 percent.

In Ukraine, less than 5 percent of all pageviews were generated with mobile devices in 2011. While low, it's higher than the regional average. In 2011, Ukrainians mostly used Nokia phones, but Apple's share is rising.

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

China \$3.7 billion loan far from done deal

BY SVITLANA TUCHYNSKA

TUCHYNSKA@KYIVPOST.COM

Contrary to recent reports, Ukraine has not yet finalized a record \$3.7 billion loan deal with China for coal gasification, an informed source said.

Local media outlets Interfax-Ukraine and Kommersant, as well as Bloomberg news service reported on July 16 that Ukraine and China already agreed on the deal. But so far, the two nations have merely discussed such a possible loan. If signed, the deal would be the latest in a flurry of multibillion-dollar deals under discussion.

No agreement has been sealed, said a Chinese government source who spoke to Kyiv Post on condition of anonymity. If Ukraine lands the loan, the funds could be used for upgrades and modernization energy infrastructure to decrease the national economy's dependence on increasingly costly Russian gas.

Ukraine's Energy Ministry, which trig-

gered speculation about the deal through a press release issued early this week, would not clarify the issue. In a vague statement, the ministry said that a protocol of the meeting had been signed involving the loan.

The negotiated deal includes building coal gasification plants and switching utilities from burning gas to coal slurry, a mix of water, coal and about 1 per cent of additives. Experts say the deal would decrease dependency on Russian gas and stimulate consumption of locally produced coal.

"We think this deal has no immediate short-term impact on Ukraine's fuel supply balance as coal gasification plants will take three to five years to build. However, their launch could enable the phasing out of gas imports in the medium term," investment bank Dragon Capital wrote.

The deal is likely to be realized, predicted Dmytro Marunych, director of the Kyiv-based Energy Studies Institute, a think tank. China is interested in sell-

ing its technologies to Ukraine for the loaned money, he added, particularly in the field of coal slurry.

The Chinese appear eager to give loans to modernize Ukrainian state-owned coal mines. A pilot project deal was signed in 2010 and includes financing the modernization of a coal mine in Lysychansk for \$85 million. China already transferred the first \$16 million in June.

A total of \$1 billion in Chinese loans will be used on modernizing Soviet-era mines, most of which are in desperate need of investment.

China also appears to be eyeing Ukraine's agriculture promise. Ukrainian officials earlier this year announced plans to lure \$3 billion in loans from China to support agricultural projects in areas including trade, fertilizer and cultivation. Major areas of investment are said to include procuring pesticide, seeds and equipment from China, and selling Ukrainian agricultural products to China. Weeks ago, China revealed that

it had inked a central bank currency swap with the National Bank of Ukraine valued at \$2.4 billion.

Activity between private sector Ukrainian companies and China also appears to be on the rise.

Citing a Ukrainian agricultural tycoon, Reuters reported on July 19 that Ukraine expects to sign a corn quarantine agreement with Beijing, paving the way for exports to China.

"Ukraine is expecting the agreement to be signed by the end of the year and soon after that, we can start to load corn to China," Oleg Bakhmatyuk, chairman of the board of UkrLandFarming, was quoted by Reuters as saying.

According to Reuters, the corn deal marks a move by China, the world's second largest corn consumer and a big importer of this crop, to "strengthen food security" by diversifying supplies.

Kyiv Post staff writer Svitlana Tuchyńska can be reached at tuchynska@kyivpost.com.



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Going Out Guide

● – see address in the box below and on the pull-out map.

Comments and tips are welcome. Email the lifestyle team at ls@kyivpost.comFor tickets online, please visit
kvytky.ua, parter.ua, freedomhall.com.ua,
bilethouse.com.ua, karabas.com, or biletik.ua.

Baptism of Kyivan Rus

The Day of the Baptism of the Kyivan Rus will be celebrated this weekend in medieval-themed Kyivska Rus Park, 30 kilometers outside Kyiv. The most important historical event that led to the adoption of Christianity in Rus in 988 will be recreated with a special performance of the park's theatre. Visitors will be invited to participate in a flash mob intended to make a giant figure of 988, a symbol of Christianity. Apart from the celebrations, participants can ride a horse and shoot an arrow.

Baptism of Kyivan Rus celebrations. Kyivska Rus Park. July 28-29. 10 a.m. – 10 p.m. Hr 60 ●

Friday, July 27

Classical music

Works of Caccini, Carissimi, Bach, Frank, Puccini, Reger, Webber, Glinka, Tchaikovsky (piano, organ). House of Organ Music. 7:30 p.m. Hr 20-80 ●

Classics on Fridays. Works of Brahms, Haydn, Enesco (violin, piano). Master Klass. 8 p.m. Hr 40 ●

Movies

Best Summer Shorts (shorts festival). Zhovten. 7:40 p.m., Hr 30-40 ●

Marina Abramovic: The Artist Is Present (documentary). Zhovten. 12:20 p.m., 4 p.m., 7:40 p.m., 9:35 p.m. Hr 25-35 ●

The Dark Knight Rises (action). Kyiv. 9:40 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 9:30 p.m. Hr 30-40 ●

Ice Age: Continental Drift 3D (cartoon). Ukraine. 11 a.m., 3 p.m. Hr 40-50 ●

Live music

Antitela & Crazy Train (rock hits). Docker Pub. 9:30 p.m. Hr 75 ●

Bangladesh Orchestra & Partizanskies Vytivki (Russian rock covers). Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 50 ●

Wake Up (sexy cover band). Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Hr 50 ●

Max Vatutin Trio. Divan. 8 p.m. Free ●

Clubs

Trance Summer Session. Forsage. 11 p.m. Hr 25-50 for females, Hr 30-60 for males ●

Rave On. Saxon. 11 p.m. Hr 20-40 for females, Hr 25-50 for males ●

Danny Howells (London). Mantra. 10 p.m. Hr 100 for females, Hr 200 for males ●

Theaters

Too Happy To Be A Father (comedy). Lesya Ukrainka Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 20-200 ●

Shows

The World Next Door 2012 (international music and contemporary art festival). Kerch, Crimea. 10 a.m. Hr 500

Miscellaneous

Retro Train (excursion). Kyiv central railway station. 11:32 a.m., 2:31 p.m. Hr 25

Karaoke (Volodymyr Sai art exhibition). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 11 a.m. Free ●

Citius, Altius, Fortius! (art exhibition). Kyiv National Museum of Russian Art. 10 a.m. Hr 5-30 ●

The Crowd (Zhanna Kadyrova personal art exhibition). Pinchuk Art Center. Free ●

Some Moments (Maryna Abramova). Kyiv National Museum of Russian Art. Hr 5-30 ●

Firecrosser (art-project). Modern Art Museum. 11 a.m. Hr 5-15 ●

Posters Of The Near-Communist Times (exhibition). National Museum of Taras Shevchenko. Through August 6. Hr 12 ●

Vedic Cooking Master Class. Kult Ra. 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. Hr 50 ●

Saturday, July 28

Classical music

The Chamber Ensemble 'Kyiv-Brass' Playing Albinoni, Bach, Handel, Handy, Gershwin, Bilousov (organ). House of Organ Music. 7:30 p.m. Hr 30-90 ●

Movies

Best Summer Shorts (shorts festival). Zhovten. 7:40 p.m., Hr 30-40 ●

Marina Abramovic: The Artist Is Present (documentary). Zhovten. 12:20 p.m., 4 p.m., 7:40 p.m., 9:35 p.m. Hr 25-35 ●

The Dark Knight Rises (action). Kyiv. 9:40 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 9:30 p.m. Hr 30-40 ●

Ice Age: Continental Drift 3D (cartoon). Ukraine. 11 a.m., 3 p.m. Hr 40-50 ●

Live music

Red Rocks & Antitela (rock). Docker Pub. 9:30 p.m. Hr 75 ●

Tabula Rasa & Tex-Mex Company. Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 50 ●

VIA Zhyguli (retro). Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Hr 50 ●

Planet Music Project. Divan. 8 p.m. Free ●

Clubs

House Paradise Party. Saxon. 11 p.m. Hr 20-40 for females, Hr 25-50 for males ●

Are You Techno With Hertz (Sweden). Forsage. Hr 25-50 for females, Hr 35-70 for males ●

All Day All Night Party. Home. 10 p.m. Hr 20 for females, Hr 50 for males, free before midnight ●

Shows

The World Next Door 2012 (international music and contemporary art festival). Kerch, Crimea. 10 a.m. Hr 500

Miscellaneous

Retro Train (excursion). Kyiv central railway station. 11:32 a.m., 2:31 p.m. Hr 25

Karaoke (Volodymyr Sai art exhibition). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 11 a.m. Free ●

Citius, Altius, Fortius! (art exhibition). Kyiv National Museum of Russian Art. 10 a.m. Hr 5-30 ●

The Crowd (Zhanna Kadyrova art exhibition). Pinchuk Art Center. Free ●

Posters Of The Near-Communist Times (exhibition). National Museum of Taras Shevchenko. Through August 6. Hr 12 ●

Baptism of Kyivska Rus Celebrations. Kyivska Rus Park. 10 a.m. – 10 p.m. Hr 60 ●

Sunday, July 29

Movies

Best Summer Shorts (short festival). Zhovten. 7:40 p.m., Hr 30-40 ●

Marina Abramovic: The Artist Is Present (documentary). Zhovten. 12:20 p.m., 4 p.m., 7:40 p.m., 9:35 p.m. Hr 25-35 ●

The Dark Knight Rises (action). Kyiv. 9:40 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 9:30 p.m. Hr 30-40 ●

Ice Age: Continental Drift 3D (cartoon). Ukraine. 11 a.m., 3 p.m. Hr 40-50 ●

Live music

Chill Out (disco rock). Docker Pub. 9:30 p.m. Free ●

Karnavalnaya Zhara (rock hits). Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Free ●

Soyuz 44 (jazz jam session). Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Free ●

Clubs

Help Me Doctor. Saxon. 11 p.m. Hr 20 ●

Sun.Day Session. Mantra. 10 p.m. Free ●

Shows

The World Next Door 2012 (international music and contemporary art festival). Kerch, Crimea. 10 a.m. Hr 500

Miscellaneous

Retro Train (excursion). Kyiv central railway station. 11:32 a.m., 2:31 p.m.



Indian cooking at its best

The range of ancient techniques of classical Indian vegetarian cooking as well as the art of eating will be presented by culinary expert Andriy Cherepanov during a two-hour master class at Kult Ra ethnic restaurant.

Meat and egg-free Vedic dishes are believed to nourish both the soul and the body if you know how to cook them right. So visitors are expected to leave with full stomachs and a head full of clever tips.

Vedic cooking master class. Kult Ra restaurant. July 27. 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. Hr 50 ●

Hr 25

Karaoke (Volodymyr Sai art exhibition). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 11 a.m. Free ●

Citius, Altius, Fortius! (art exhibition). Kyiv National Museum of Russian Art. 10 a.m. Hr 5-30 ●

The Crowd (Zhanna Kadyrova personal art exhibition). Pinchuk Art Center. Free ●

Firecrosser (art-project). Modern Art Museum. 11 a.m. Hr 5-15 ●

Posters Of The Near-Communist Times (exhibition). National Museum of Taras Shevchenko. Through August 6. Hr 12 ●

Baptism of Kyivska Rus Celebrations. Kyivska Rus Park. 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. Hr 60 ●

Monday, July 30

Classical music

Works of Bach (organ). House of Organ Music. 7:30 p.m. Hr 30-100 ●

Movies

Best Summer Shorts (short festival).

Zhovten. 7:40 p.m., Hr 26-35 ●

Marina Abramovic: The Artist Is Present (documentary). Zhovten. 12:20 p.m., 4 p.m., 7:40 p.m., 9:35 p.m. Hr 25-35 ●

The Dark Knight Rises (action). Kyiv. 9:40 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 9:30 p.m. Hr 30-40 ●

Ice Age: Continental Drift 3D (cartoon). Ukraine. 11 a.m., 3 p.m. Hr 40-50 ●

Live music

Dyadya Vasya. Docker Pub. 9:30 p.m. Free ●

Ruki V Briuki (rockabilly). Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Free ●

Bohdan Humeniuk Trio (jazz). Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Free ●

Miscellaneous

Arsenale 2012 Last Night. Mystetskyi Arsenal. 9 p.m. – 3 a.m. Hr 20 ●

Posters Of The Near-Communist Times (exhibition). National Museum of Taras Shevchenko. Through August 6. Hr 12 ●



American trance from Antoine Becks

Antoine Becks, a turntable guru from the United States is coming to Kyiv to play one of his best DJ sets. Trance-minded and dance addicts will have chance to enjoy an overnight Becks session.

The Kyiv concert is a part of his extensive tour across Eastern Europe. To see the detailed schedule of the tour go to www.sletoabecks.com

Antoine Becks. Sullivan Room. July 28. 11 p.m. Hr 300 ●



Arsenale 2012 last night

Arsenale 2012, the biggest ever contemporary art exhibition held in Kyiv, is closing next week. It will end with a special night of guided tours on July 30 as a last chance for art lovers to visit the show featuring more than 200 works by world famous and Ukrainian modern artists and get a taste for contemporary art.

The best Ukrainian DJs are set to accompany the last show with vinyl sets and organizers promise to reduce the fee that is another part of the bargain.

Arsenale 2012 last night. Mystetskyi Arsenal. July 30. 9 p.m. – 3 a.m. Hr 20 ●

Monofest 2012 (contemporary music art and performances). Underground Music Hall. 8 p.m. Hr 100 📍

The Crowd (Zhanna Kadyrova art exhibition). Pinchuk Art Center. Free 📍

Karaoke (Volodymyr Sai art exhibition). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 11 a.m. Free 📍

Tuesday, July 31
Classical music

Final Concert of the Season. Works of Bach, Mozart, Rossini, Bizet, Tchaikovsky, Vidor (flute, organ, piano). House of Organ Music. 7:30 p.m. Hr 30-100 📍

Movies

Best Summer Shorts (shorts festival). Zhovten. 7:40 p.m., Hr 26-35 📍

Marina Abramovic: The Artist Is Present (documentary). Zhovten. 12:20 p.m., 4 p.m., 7:40 p.m., 9:35 p.m. Hr 25-35 📍

The Dark Knight Rises (action). Kyiv. 9:40 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 9:30 p.m. Hr 30-40 📍

Ice Age: Continental Drift 3D (cartoon). Ukraine. 11 a.m., 3 p.m. Hr 40-50 📍

Live music
More Huana (cover band). Docker Pub. 9:30 p.m. Free 📍

Tres Deseos (latino party). Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 20 📍

QNG (pop rock). Divan. 8 p.m. Free 📍

Clubs
Brazil Fever Party. Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Free 📍

Shows
The Lowest (Polish hardcore). Kyiv Small Opera. 8 p.m. Hr 50 [SHO18]

Miscellaneous
Posters Of The Near-Communist Times (exhibition). National Museum of Taras Shevchenko. Through August 6. Hr 12 📍

Monofest 2012 (contemporary music art and performances). Underground Music Hall. 8 p.m. Hr 100 📍

The Crowd (Zhanna Kadyrova personal art exhibition). Pinchuk Art Center. Free 📍

Karaoke (Volodymyr Sai art exhibition). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 11 a.m. Free 📍

Wednesday, August 1
Movies

Best Summer Shorts (shorts festival). Zhovten. 7:40 p.m., Hr 26-35 📍

Marina Abramovic: The Artist Is Present (documentary). Zhovten. 12:20 p.m., 4 p.m., 7:40 p.m., 9:35 p.m. Hr 25-35 📍

The Dark Knight Rises (action). Kyiv. 9:40 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 9:30 p.m. Hr 30-40 📍

Ice Age: Continental Drift 3D (cartoon). Ukraine. 11 a.m., 3 p.m. Hr 40-50 📍

Live music
Rockin' Wolves (rock). Docker Pub. 9:30 p.m. Free 📍

The Magma (pop rock). Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 30 📍

Miscellaneous
Posters Of The Near-Communist Times (exhibition). National Museum of Taras Shevchenko. Through August 6. Hr 12 📍

The Crowd (Zhanna Kadyrova personal art exhibition). Pinchuk Art Center. Free 📍

Thursday, August 2
Movies

Best summer shorts (short festival). Zhovten. 7:40 p.m., Hr 26-35 📍

Marina Abramovic: The Artist Is Present (documentary). Zhovten. 12:20 p.m., 4 p.m., 7:40 p.m., 9:35 p.m. Hr 25-35 📍

4:44 Last Day on Earth (drama). Kinopanorama. 11:00 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m., 9 p.m., 11 p.m. Hr 20- 50 📍

Live music
Chill Out (disco rock). Docker Pub. 9:30 p.m. Free 📍

Crazy Train. Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 30 📍

Miscellaneous
Posters Of The Near-Communist Times (exhibition). National Museum of Taras Shevchenko. Through August 6. Hr 12 📍

The Crowd (Zhanna Kadyrova personal art exhibition). Pinchuk Art Center. Free 📍

Friday, August 3
Movies

Best Summer Shorts (shorts festival). Zhovten. 7:40 p.m., Hr 26-35 📍

Marina Abramovic: The Artist Is Present (documentary). Zhovten. 12:20 p.m., 4 p.m., 7:40 p.m., 9:35 p.m. Hr 25-35 📍

4:44 Last Day on Earth (drama). Kinopanorama. 11:00 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m., 5 p.m., 7 p.m., 9 p.m., 11 p.m. Hr 20-50 📍

Classical music
Classics On Fridays. Works of Ravel, Tchaikovsky, Shostakovich, Sibelius (violin, piano). Master Klass. 8 p.m. Hr 40 📍

Live music
Ot Vinta & Tex-Mex Company. Docker Pub. 10 p.m. Hr 75 📍

Red Rocks & Mama Mia (rock & italiano disco). Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 50 📍

Shows
Joe Satriani, Steve Vai, Steve Morse (guitar show). Palats Ukraina. 7 p.m. Hr 450-1,500 📍

Miscellaneous
Retro Train (excursion). Kyiv central railway station. 11:32 a.m., 2:31 p.m. Hr 25

Posters Of The Near-Communist Times (exhibition). National Museum of Taras Shevchenko. Through August 6. Hr 12 📍

The Crowd (Zhanna Kadyrova personal art exhibition). Pinchuk Art Center. Free 📍

Saturday, August 4
Live music

April & Crazy Train (The Beatles covers, rock). Docker Pub. 10 p.m. Hr 75 📍

Ot Vinta & Honey Top (cover band). Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 75 📍



Madonna to sing in Kyiv

American pop queen Madonna is coming to present her latest album M.D.N.A.in Kyiv on Aug. 4. M.D.N.A debuted at the top of the U.S. album charts in April, selling 359,000 copies in its first week of release. Critics say the 12 song-record combines the best elements of Madonna's repertoire. The Kyiv concert will be part of the Madonna Dance Party world tour in support of her new album. This is the second major music event at Olimpiyskiy Stadium this summer, coming on the heels of the July 25 concert of the Red Hot Chili Peppers. **Madonna concert. August 4. NSC Olimpiyskiy. 7 p.m. Hr 700-13,000** 📍



Posters of the near-Communist times

A collection of 70 Soviet posters made by Ukrainian artistic couple Tymofiy and Tamara Lyashchuk is on display in the National museum of Taras Shevchenko. Its name "The Posters of the near-Communist times", refers to the period of political and social reforms of Soviet communist leader Nikita Khrushchev, when the posters were created. The exhibition features political, social and event posters and you can expect to see anything from the poster with the leader of the Cuban revolution Che Guevara to cinema and authors' posters. **Posters of the near-Communist times exhibition. Through August 6. National Museum of Taras Shevchenko. Hr 12** 📍

Shows
Madonna (the M.D.N.A. tour). NSK Olimpiyskiy. 7 p.m. Hr 700-13,000 📍

Miscellaneous
Retro Train (excursion). Kyiv central railway station. 11:32 a.m., 2:31 p.m. Hr 25

Posters Of The Near-Communist Times (exhibition). National Museum of Taras Shevchenko. Through August 6. Hr 12 📍

Blacksmith's Day. Hummer on Fire (festival). Kyivska Rus Park. 10 a.m. Hr 30-60 📍

The Crowd (Zhanna Kadyrova personal art exhibition). Pinchuk Art Center. Free 📍

Addresses of venues

Classical Music
●National Philharmonic of Ukraine
2 Volodymyr Uzviz St., 278-1697
filarmonia.com.ua/en
●House of Organ Music
77 Velyka Vasylivska St., 528-3186
organhall.kiev.ua
●School of Jazz and Pop Art
7-A Chelyabinska St., 517-6188
●National Tchaikovsky Academy of Music
1-3/11 Horodetsky St. 279-1242
operna-nmau.kiev.ua
Movies
●Zhovten
26 Kostyantynivska St., 205-5951
zhovten-kino.kiev.ua
●Kyiv
19 Velyka Vasylivska St. (former Chervonoarmyska), 234-7381
kievkino.com.ua
●Kinopanorama
19 Shota Rustaveli St., 287-3041
kinopanorama.com.ua
●Budynok Kino
6 Saksaganskogo St., 287-6780
●Ukraine
5 Gorodetskogo St., 2796750, 279 8232
kino-ukraina.com.ua
! For more schedules visit
kino.ukr.net/cinema/kiev/

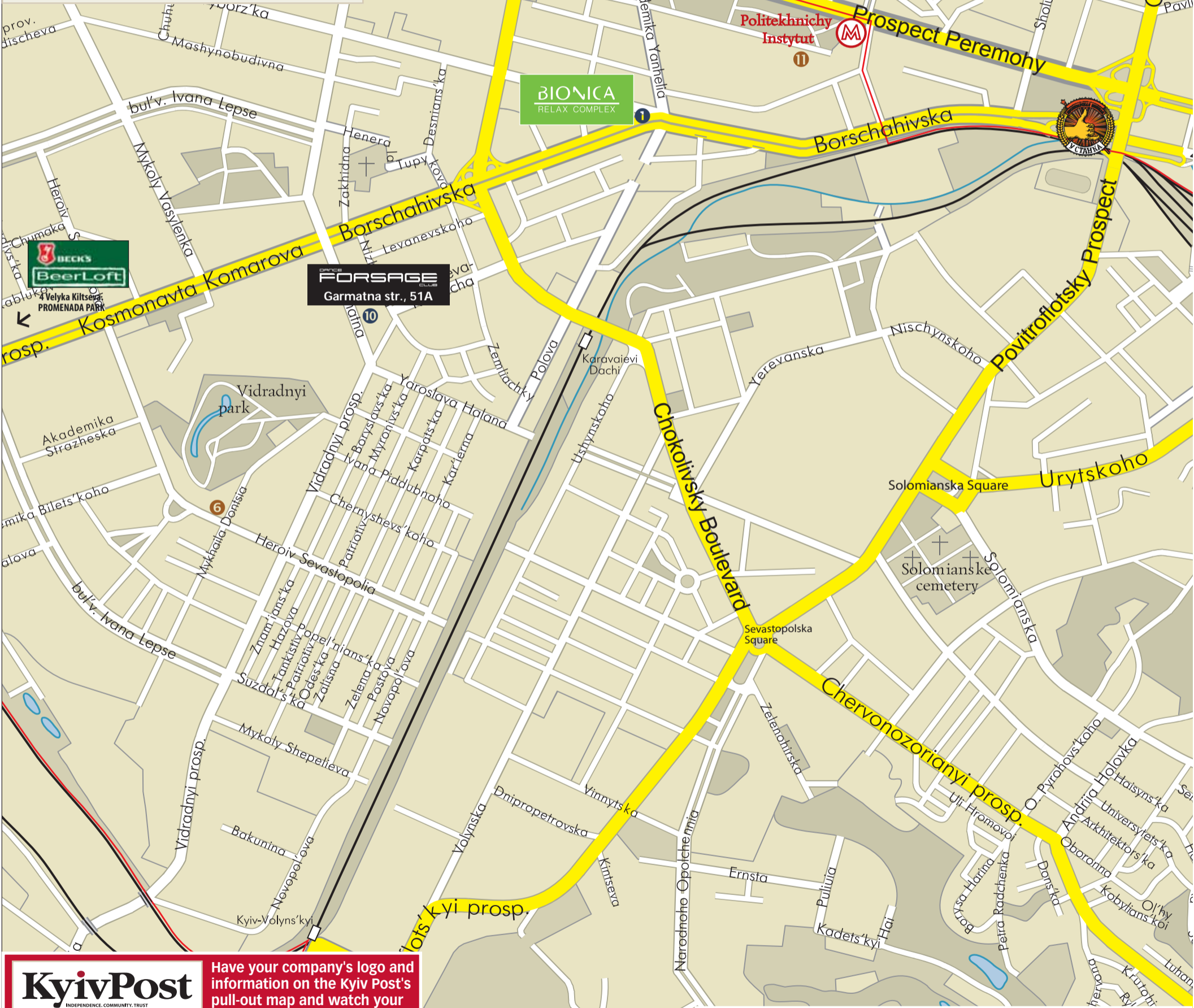
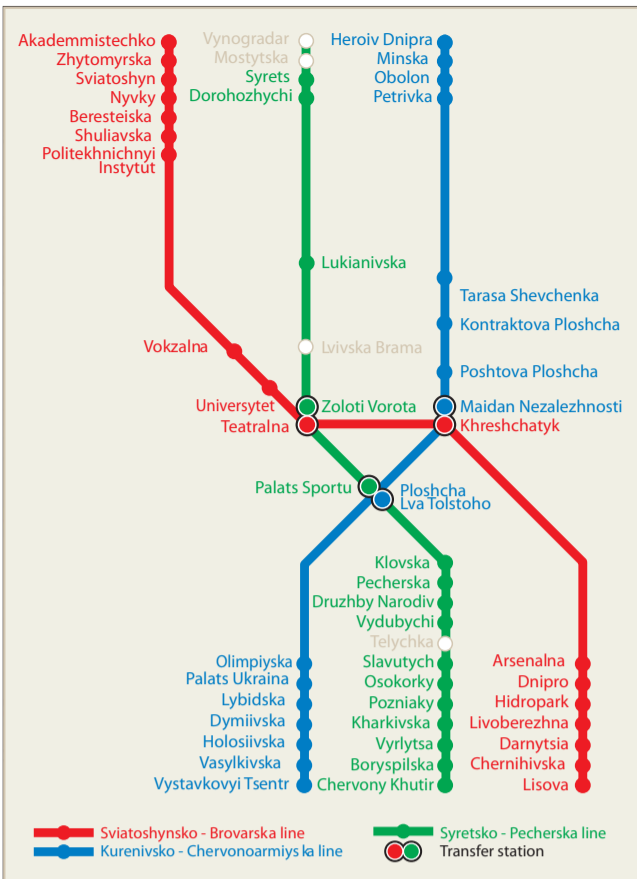
Live Music:
●Docker Pub
25 Bohatyrskaya St., metro Heroyiv Dnipra, 537-1340
docker.com.ua
●Docker's ABC
15 Khreshchatyk St., 278-1717,
abc.docker.com.ua
●Art Club 44
44B Khreshchatyk St., 279-4137
club44.com.ua
●Divan
2 Bessarabskaya Square, 235-7366
festrestdivan.com.ua
●Bochka
21 Verhnyi Val St. 067-433-0433
bochka.ua
Clubs
●Bionica
128 Borschahovska St., 277-4747
bionicaclub.com.ua
●Seven Music Club
1G Saksahanskoho St. 205-4451
se7en.com.ua
●Party Room
5/3 Velyka Vasylivska St. (former Chervonoarmyska), 093-815-1468
partyroom.com.ua
●Cinema Club
1 Enthusiastov St., 295-5854
●Saxon Club
4 Trutenko Onufriy St., 257-4070
saxonclub.com.ua
●Dorothy Pub
16/43 Saksahanskoho St., 287-0530
pubdorothy.com.ua
●Sky Bar
5 Velyka Vasylivska St. (former Chervonoarmyska), 465-8880
skybar.com.ua
●Sullivan Room
8 Prorizna St., 095-455-7724
sullivanroom.kiev.ua
●Forsage
51A Harmatnaya St., 406-7600
forsageclub.com.ua
●Prime Club
8 Nauky Av., 524-2209
primeclub.in.ua
●Crystal Hall
1 Dneprovsky Spusk, 288-5069
crystalhall.com.ua
●Arena Entertainment
2A, Basseynaya St. 492-0000
arena-kiev.com/eng
●Mantra
4 Basseylnaya St., 504-2555
mantra.dj
●Egoist
124/140 Gorlovskaya St., 223-3633
egoist-club.com.ua
●Fiesta
115D Horkogo St., 353-7685
fiesta.im
●Golden Gate pub.
15 Zolotovoritska St. 235-5188
goldengatepubkiev.com
●Vegas
44 Shchorsa St., 063-772-4972

ft.org.ua
●Lesya Ukrainka Russian Drama Theater
5 Bohdana Khmelnytskogo St., 234-4223
rusdram.com.ua
●Koleso Theater
8 Andriyivskiy uzviz St., 425-0422
koleso.teatr.kiev.ua
●Drama & Comedy Theatre on the left bank of Dnipro
25 Brovarsky Avenue, 517-8980
drama-comedy.kiev.ua
●Kiev Academic Drama Theater in Podil
4 Kontraktova Pl., 425-5489
Theateronpodol.com
●National Opera Theater of Ukraine
50 Volodymyrska St., 279-1169
opera.com.ua
●House of Actors
7 Yaroslaviv Val St., 235-2081
actorhall.com.ua
●Molody Theater
17 prorizna St., 234-6251
molody.kiev.ua
●Kyiv National Academic Theater of Operetta
53/3 Chervonoarmyska St., 257-6257
kiev-operetta.kiev.ua
●New Theater on Pechersk
5 Nemirovich-Danchenko St., 253-6550
newtheater.kiev.ua
●Kiev Opera and Ballet Theater for Children and

Youth
2 Mezhyhirskaya St., 425-4280
musictheater.kiev.ua
●Dakh Modern Art Theatre
13B Velyka Vasylivska St., 529-4062
dax.com.ua
●Art Union Chorny Kvadrat
1-5 Artema St., 353-0843
artkvadrat.com
●Kyiv Small Opera
5 Dehtyarska St. 502-3247
Shows
●Palats Ukraina
13 Velyka Vasylivska St. 247-2316
npmu.com.ua
●Freedom Hall
134 Frunze St. 468-3232
freedomhall.com.ua
●Stereo Plaza
17 Kilvidze St. 222-8040
stereoplaza.com.ua
●Palats Sportu
1 Sportyvna Square 246-7405
spalace.com.ua
●Artist's House
1/5 Artema St. 272-0547
●International Exhibition Center
15 Brovarskiy Avenue 538-0827
iec-expo.com.ua
●Lavra Gallery
17 Ivana Mazepy St. 280-0290
●Underground Music Hall
13B Moskovsky Avenue

360-9594
underground.co.ua
●Zhovtnevy Palats
1, Instyutskaya St. 279-1582
icca.kiev.ua
●NAU Center of Culture and Arts
1 Kosmonavta Komarova Ave., 406-6835
ckm.nau.edu.ua
●Expcenter of Ukraine
1 Glushkov Ave. 596-9116, 596-9101,
expocenter.com.ua
●House of Officers
30/1 Mykhaila Hrushevs'koho St, 253-8072
Miscellaneous
●Kyiv Expo Plaza
2b Salutna St. 461-9585
expoplaza.kiev.ua
●Master Klass cultural center
16 Lavrska St., 594-1063
masterklass.org
●Pirogov Folk Open-Air Museum
Pirogovo village, region 526-5765
nmnapu.org.ua
●Mamayeva Sloboda
2 Myhayla Dontsya St. 361-9848
mamajeva-sloboda.ua
●Ostrich farm
32 Pidlisna street, Yasnohorodka village, Kyiv region (04578) 232-40,
ostrich.com.ua
●Kyivska Rus park
Kopachiv village

●House of Architect's
7 Borysa Hrinchenka St. 279-7820
●National Art Museum of Ukraine
6 Hrushevskogo St. 278-1357, 278-7454
namu.kiev.ua/en.html
●Spartak stadium
105 Frunze St.
●Mystetskyi Arsenal
10-12 Lavrska St. artarsenal.in.ua
●National Writers Unity of Ukraine
2 Bankova St., 253-4586
nspu.org.ua
●Chulan
21 Pushkinska St. facebook.com/4ulan
●Triptych Gallery
34 Andriivsky Spusk triptych-gallery.org 279-8385
●Gryshko national botanic garden
1 Tymeryazevskaya St. 285-4105
nbg.kiev.ua
●Kyiv National Museum of Russian art
9 Tereshenkovskaya St. 234-6218
kmmr.com.ua
●Wunjo-Art gallery
10a Stalingrada St. 228-6620
wunjo-art.com
●Pinchuk Art Center
1/2 Bassejan St. 590-0858
pinchukartcentre.org
●Greter art-center
6 Vadyrna Getmana St. 200-0760
●House of Architect's
7 Borysa Hrinchenka St. 279-7820
●National Art Museum of Ukraine
6 Hrushevskogo St. 278-1357, 278-7454
namu.kiev.ua/en.html
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1/2 Bassejan St. 590-0858
pinchukartcentre.org
●Greter art-center
6 Vadyrna Getmana St. 200-0760
greter-art.com
●Atmosfera 360
57/3, Velyka Vasylivska St. 229-0193
atmosfera.com.ua
●Soviart
22a Andriyivskiy Uzviz, 425-2219
soviart.com.ua
●Ivan Honchar museum
29 Ivana Mazepy St. 288-5419
honchar.org.ua
●Ukrainian House
2 Khreshchatyk St. 234-4006, 236-8919
●Chaika airfield
Borshchagivka village 424-8293
dropzone.kiev.ua
●Kyiv Children Academy of Art
10 Heroiv Stalingrada St. 410-9310, 419-8777
●National University of Physical Training and Sports
1 Fizkultury str. 287-5452
uni-sport.edu.ua
●NSC Olimpiyskiy
St. Velyka Vasylivska 55 0800-50-5750
nsc-olimpiyskiy.com.ua
●National Museum of Taras Shevchenko
12 Shevchenko Blv. 234-2556
museumshevchenko.org.ua



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1 2 3 Entertainment venue. See Going Out Guide overleaf for more details.

Criminal probes take aim at prominent journalists

→ **1** messages in parliament were broadcast, according to prosecutors' spokeswoman Myroslava Mushka. She said Landik insisted on the complaint being investigated. However, Landik said he made up with LB.ua chief editor Sonya Koshkina and has withdrawn the complaint.

The tax action against TVi comes despite promises from tax authorities to not investigate media outlets prior to the elections.

Besides the criminal case, TVi was on July 20 kicked out of major cable network Triolan in 11 cities, including Kyiv. TVi has broadcast some of the nation's best investigative journalism and, unlike most top TV stations, TVi's journalists don't play the roles of cheerleaders for government and others in power.

Those watching TVi via Triolan suddenly found the station was gone. In its place has come Bank TV, the National Bank of Ukraine's taxpayer-financed channel. The BTV station heavily promotes National Bank chief Serhiy Arbuzov, an ex-subordinate of President Viktor Yanukovich's older son, millionaire businessman Oleksandr Yanukovich.

Triolan's explanations are vague. They said the switch happened "by accident" and "cannot be reversed due to technical reasons." Later they explained BTV is a new channel in Triolan's network of digital channels.

"The recent decision by the National Council [for TV and Radio] requires

us [to include it in the network]. We cannot switch the channels around anymore because we'll now be asked questions why we have switched off Bankivske TV," said Vadym Sidorenko, Triolan's Kyiv representative on July 24.

Triolan has also switched off local Simon channel, which used to broadcast many of TVi programs in Kharkiv Oblast.

TVi says the real reason for their tax and broadcast troubles is political and aimed at shutting the channel down.

The problems started in 2010 when it was denied some frequencies, and the same situation repeated itself in 2011.

This year brought a new kind of trouble as the Tax Service started inspections of the channel in April. In July, they opened the criminal case against the channel's head, Mykola Kniazhytsky, who is accused of deliberately evading payment of Hr 3 million (or \$375,000) in taxes.

Kniazhytsky denies the accusations and says a court has annulled the tax evasion claim. An appeal in court is pending. He fears authorities may open more criminal cases against him, with the aim of shutting down the channel ahead of the parliamentary elections.

LB.ua editor Koshkina is abroad, somewhere in Europe. She is saying that she fears returning to Ukraine after prosecutors opened the criminal case against the site on July 18.

"It is clear to us and our colleagues that these accusations are made up



Journalists and average citizens took part in protests in July against alleged crackdowns by Ukraine's government on channel TVi, a rare symbol of independent journalism in the nation. (Sohei Yasui)

and are political. The only reason to explain the situation is the upcoming parliamentary elections ... Landik is used as a tool to shut us down," says Koshkina. (Koshkina is her pen name; her real name is Ksenia Vasilenko)

Both Freedom House and Reporters Without Borders voiced their concerns, saying the fresh cases highlight a steadily deteriorating media situation in Ukraine.

"We are disturbed by the developments affecting freedom of information that we have been seeing in the run-up to the elections," Reporters Without Borders said on July 23. "June and July

have been particularly alarming. We are worried about the environment for journalists and about the future of pluralism in broadcasting. Independent media are subject to all kinds of harassment, including constant intimidation, raids and prosecutions.

Ukraine is ranked 116th out of 179 countries in the 2011-2012 Reporters Without Borders Press Freedom Index.

According to the 2012 Freedom House report, media in Ukraine are "partly free" and freedoms are declining. According to Freedom House, the nation now has the same score as it

did in 2004, during President Leonid Kuchma's authoritarian regime.

And even more restrictions might be on the way for news media.

Party of Regions lawmaker introduced a law on July 24 to make libel a criminal act punishable by fines of up to Hr 85,000 and imprisonment of up to five years.

A similar bill has recently passed by Russia's lower house of parliament and is expected to be signed by President Vladimir Putin. It makes libel a criminal offense. Such heavy-handed tactics are seen by independent journalists, experts and international organizations as aimed at silencing any criticism of the government or investigations of public spending and corruption.

President Yanukovich voiced concern over the TVi and LB.ua situation and presidential spokeswoman Darka Chepak said both cases will be studied at a July 30 meeting of a working group on media issues.

"Also invited are representatives of international human rights organizations Freedom House, Reporters Without Borders, Article 19, Open Society and experts of the Council of Europe," Chepak said in a statement on July 23.

LB.ua says the group is a farce. Kniazhytsky's expectations are also low. "I don't know any precedents when the tax authorities backtracked on their claims and apologized," he says.

Kyiv Post staff writer Svitlana Tuchynska can be reached at tuchynska@kyivpost.com

Slovaks find railway smuggling tunnel on border near Uzhhorod

BRATISLAVA, July 19 (Reuters)

— A smuggling tunnel the length of seven soccer fields, complete with its own train, has been found running beneath the border between Slovakia and Ukraine along with more than 2.5 million contraband cigarettes, the Slovak government said on July 19.

Police said the tunnel had possibly also been used to smuggle people into Slovakia, a European Union member state, from Ukraine, but that its main use had been to illegally import cigarettes into the European Union, bypassing customs duties.

"This tunnel was equipped with a small train, capable of transporting various kinds of goods and we suspect also people," Interior Minister Robert Kalinak told reporters.

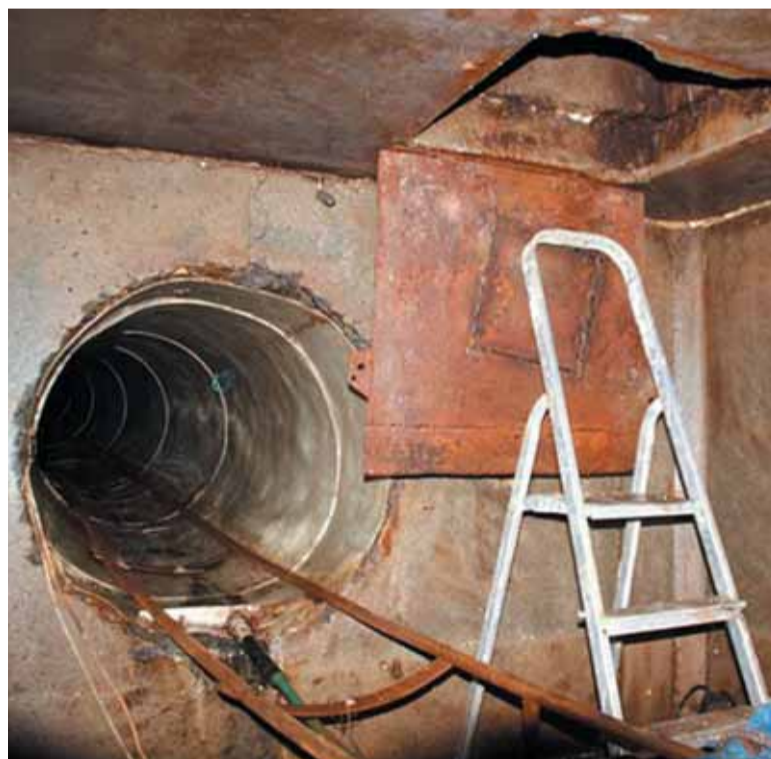
"There has been no case like this in this region," he added.

The tunnel was 700 metres (765.5 yards) long and connected a warehouse between the Slovak villages of Vysne and Nizne Nemecke with a newly-built family house in the Ukrainian border city of Uzhhorod, Kalinak said.

Tibor Gaspar, president of the Slovak police, said sophisticated mining technology appeared to have been used to dig out the tunnel, which ran about six metres below ground.

Finance Minister Peter Kazimir said a special tax evasion task force formed by the police and custom officials had been monitoring the Slovak house for weeks.

He said 13,100 cartons containing 200 cigarettes each had been seized in the raid, equivalent to 2.6 million cigarettes.



Slovakian authorities have discovered a 700-meter tunnel that extends to Uzhhorod, a western Ukrainian border city. It was apparently used by smugglers to move contraband cheap cigarettes from Ukraine to European Union nations, bypassing customs duties. (uainfo.censor.net.ua)

"We can assume excise tax evasion could reach up to 50 million euros, in case the tunnel was used for a year," Kazimir said.

The owner of the Slovak property was arrested on site along with a truck driver in a different location, police said, adding that a joint investigation with Ukraine would continue since

many more individuals must have been involved.

Slovakia shares a 97.8 kilometers (61-mile) border with Ukraine whose remoteness and deep forests mean it is commonly used by smugglers of drugs, cigarettes and refugees from east to west.

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Madonna sings in Amsterdam on July 7. She will perform in Kyiv's Olympic Stadium on Aug. 4. (AFP)

BY JAKUB PARUSINSKI, ANASTASIYA FORINA & OLENA GONCHAROVA
PARUSINSKI@KYIVPOST.COM,
FORINA@KYIVPOST.COM,
GONCHAROVA@KYIVPOST.COM

Only several years ago, international star performers would skip straight from Berlin to Moscow, ignoring the cities in between, except for maybe the occasional gig in Warsaw. No longer.

Now even the biggest names in the game make sure to perform in Kyiv, and even hit such provincial capitals as Odesa and Dnipropetrovsk.

A growing number of internationally acclaimed artists have included Ukraine on their tour routes -

Here's what to look forward to:
Joe Satriani, Steve Morse, Steve Vai – August 3, Palats Ukraina
Madonna – Aug. 4, Olympic Stadium
Placebo – Sept. 20, Palats Sportu
Lenny Kravitz – Sept. 23, Palats Sportu
The Kooks – Sept. 30, Crystal Hall
Lara Fabian – Oct. 27-28, Palats Ukraina
Scorpions – Oct. 29, Palats Sportu
Deep Purple – Nov. 1, Palats Sportu
Accept – Nov. 13, Stereo Plaza
Seal – November 23, Palats Ukraina
Patricia Kaas – Dec. 9, National Opera of Ukraine
Toto Cutugno – Dec. 15, Palats Ukraina

Limp Bizkit, Evanescence, Rasmus, The Scorpions, Lara Fabian, Placebo, Apocalyptica, and Elton John. They've all appeared in the last couple of years in Ukraine.

This week saw yet another major, the Red Hot Chili Peppers, give a concert in Kyiv. Madonna is coming in early August, while Lenny Kravitz is scheduled to appear in September.

More affluent Ukrainians able to pay for expensive tickets are one factor behind the increased attention, experts say. But so are improvements in the country's infrastructure – not least of which is construction of decent venues for performances – that make organizing the events more convenient.

"Ukraine is becoming more popular among different pop and rock stars in recent years and it's also because of audiences that can afford tickets. Thanks to Euro 2012 we have a rather good stage [Olympiysky stadium] for foreign artists to show off and it's a basic issue for them," said Lilia Mlynarch, an organizer of the Koktebel Jazz Festival in Crimea.

The stars don't always come for the traditional concerts, though. Barbados-born pop diva Rihanna performed at Donetsk's Donbass Arena for the 100th anniversary of local football club Shakhtar, while her Colombian counterpart Shakira sang at the opening ceremony of Kyiv's Olympic Stadium. Meanwhile, Jennifer Lopez performed at a wedding of an oligarch's relative in



Rudolf Schenker and Matthias Jabs (right) perform with their band the Scorpions in Vilnius, Lithuania, in 2011. The band will perform at Palats Sportu in Kyiv on Oct. 29. (AFP)

Crimea last November, which some say costs \$1 million for a private show.

Some attribute the stars' discovery of Ukraine to saturation in the Russian market. "Foreign artists took as much

as they could from the Russian show-biz market; they gave so many concerts in Moscow or St-Petersburg, so now they come to Ukraine," said Oleg Kovalevskyi, head of Anshlag Concert

Agency.

Nonetheless, Ukrainians welcome the presence of international performers, and by all signs the affection is mutual.

Sendoff to London Olympics



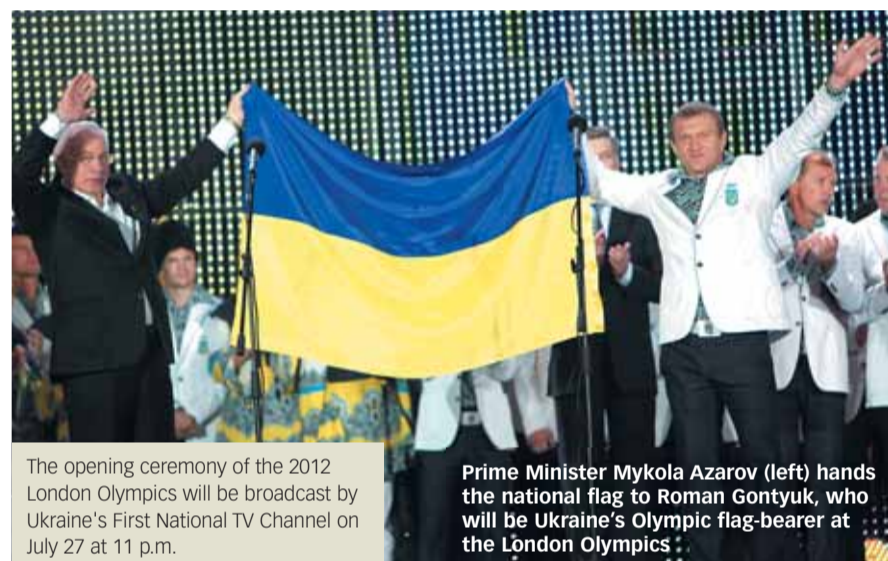
Gold-medal winning pole vaulter Serhiy Bubka near the torch on Kyiv's Independence Square.



A dance group performs on the festive stage.



Pop star Vitaly Kozlovsky performs.



The opening ceremony of the 2012 London Olympics will be broadcast by Ukraine's First National TV Channel on July 27 at 11 p.m.

Prime Minister Mykola Azarov (left) hands the national flag to Roman Gontyuk, who will be Ukraine's Olympic flag-bearer at the London Olympics.



An event worthy of a parade.



Dancers take part in the parade on Khreshchatyk Street.



Singers wish Ukraine's Olympic team good luck.

→ Hundreds of Ukrainians on July 21 braved chilly, rainy weather to wish good luck to their Olympic athletes in the London Games. Those who came to Kyiv's Independence Square were treated to Olympics' trivia quizzes and sports contests. The Olympic flame relay through Kyiv was shortened to a torch-passing hand-off that ended in the hands of Serhiy Bubka, president of the National Olympic Committee of Ukraine and a former gold medal winner. He lit the cauldron, symbolizing the nation's hopes for memorable victories in the coming XXX Olympiad starting July 27.

A parade headed by Bubka, the legendary pole vaulter, marched down Khreshchatyk Street, ending at Independence Square. Male athletes wore traditional Ukrainian papakhas (tall astrakhan hats) that were not part of their '70s-style official outfits. Together with the bell-bottomed trousers, pointed-collar shirts and single-breasted jackets, the ancient headgear looked particularly eccentric.

Prime Minister Mykola Azarov came to bid the national team farewell. While trying to read a letter from President Viktor Yanukovich in his typical, broken Ukrainian, Azarov was met with a burst of indignation and whistling. Azarov described the Olympics as the moment when athletes bring glory to themselves and the nation.

"It will be great test for you, a once-in-a-lifetime chance," Azarov is quoted as saying by the Cabinet of Ministers' website. "We're all together, we are concerned with your well-being and we are your fans. You can feel this. Let our support inspire you."

The prime minister is expected to head Ukraine's official delegation to London.

At the last Olympics in Beijing, Ukraine won 27 medals, ranking 11th among all competing countries. This year's team of 245 athletes will participate in 28 events.

— Denis Rafalsky

Photos by Ganna Beryk

Kyiv has become part of the tour for big-name acts

→ 12 "Kyiv, you were a transcendent audience, you truly blew my mind and uplifted things to their highest form, a perfect rock show, lovelovelove," tweet-

ed Flea, the bassist of the Red Hot Chili Peppers, after show on July 25.

Kyiv certainly seems to have made an impression on the blue-haired musi-

cian, who sent out more tweets about the city than during previous stages in Moscow and St. Petersburg combined.

"Kiev is blowing my mind what an amazing city. People are warm and nice. Streets are beautiful. Architecture old and hypnotic," he wrote.

To increase the flow of world pop and rock stars, however, Ukraine will have to improve its copyright laws and crackdown on widespread piracy, said Olga Stelmashkevsk, director of Del Arte PR, which provides singers giving concerts in Ukraine with PR and advertising service.

"It's a pity we are far from being a European country in terms of copyright protection," said Stelmashkevsk.

Kyiv Post staff writers Jakub Parusinski, Anastasiya Forina and Olena Goncharova can be reached at parusinski@kyivpost.com, forina@kyivpost.com and goncharova@kyivpost.com



The Red Hot Chili Peppers perform in Kyiv on July 25. (tanakachka.livejournal.com)

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A nation bids farewell to beloved Bohdan Stupka

BY OLGA RUDENKO
RUDENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

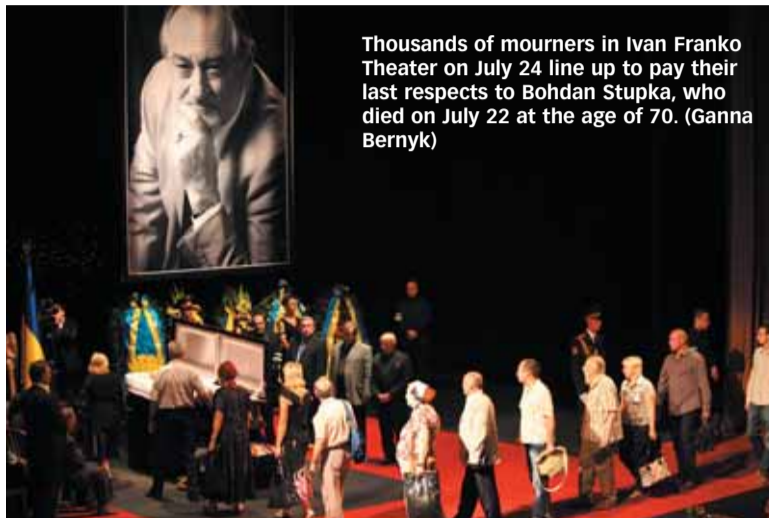
Thousands of people filled the square in front of Ivan Franko Theater on July 24 to say goodbye to Bohdan Stupka, arguably modern Ukraine's greatest actor.

Stupka, about to turn 71 in August, died of a heart attack on July 22 in a hospital in Kyiv. Stupka suffered from bone cancer and spent the last months of his life hospitalized. Previously he underwent surgery in Germany.

"We [the family] couldn't talk to him, he wasn't able to speak in his last days," his son Ostap Stupka said to Segodnya newspaper. He also noted that Stupka died alone, with no doctors or family with him at the time.

"He deserved another death. He could die on the stage, where he truly belonged," said Stupka's fan and friend Hanna Prints, waiting in line to enter the Franko Theater for Stupka's memorial service, holding two red roses.

She and other admirers of Stupka had to wait. The public ceremony, scheduled to start at 10 a.m., was delayed one hour so that Ukraine's top officials could bid farewell to Stupka in privacy. Before any of the people in line were let in to the theatre, Stupka's memorial service was attended by President Viktor Yanukovich, some ministers and top officials.



Thousands of mourners in Ivan Franko Theater on July 24 line up to pay their last respects to Bohdan Stupka, who died on July 22 at the age of 70. (Ganna Bernyk)



The farewell ceremony for Bohdan Stupka started an hour late because several top officials paid their respects first, forcing ordinary people to wait in the street. (Ganna Bernyk)

"I was in the line but then sneaked in by trick, because it would be unreal to wait so long," says Anna Artemienko, her voice trembling, eyes wet. She was one of the first to get to the memorial service.

The coffin was set on the Franko Theater stage, where Stupka played most of his theatrical roles.

Born in Lviv, Stupka started his career in the local Maria Zankovetska Theater at the age of 20. Seventeen years later, in 1978, he moved to Kyiv. Since then and until his death, Franko Theater became a professional home for him. For the last 11

years Stupka had been its artistic director.

However, it was not theater that made him widely popular, but his movie roles.

A cinema-workaholic, Stupka featured in more than 100 movies, often playing lead parts. His first screen role came at the age of 29 and he didn't stop until the last year of his life. Stupka's most famous characters were Bohdan Khmelnytsky in the Polish epic "With Fire and Sword," a Russian general in "A Driver for Vera" and the lead part in recently released "Taras Bulba." Among Stupka's theatrical works were

King Lear, Leo Tolstoy, King Oedipus and Jesus.

Being a Ukrainian actor, Stupka often participated in movies produced in Poland and Russia. His role in the Polish film "A Heart on A Palm" won him an award at the International Rome Film Festival in 2008. He had offers to move to Moscow, but preferred to stay in Ukraine.

Even after death, Stupka remains a controversial figure for many because of his political work. At the end of the '90s, he spent two years as culture minister in a Cabinet led by then-Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko, the former president.

Stupka didn't support the 2004 Orange Revolution. He even congratulated Viktor Yanukovich for winning the presidential election later declared fraudulent. However, when the scandalous language bill was approved by the Verkhovna Rada earlier this month, Stupka and several other cultural figures sent Yanukovich an official letter criticizing the measure to elevate the official status of the Russian language.

Stupka is buried in the historical Baikove Cemetery in Kyiv.

Kyiv Post staff writer Olga Rudenko can be reached at rudenko@kyivpost.com.

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Ganna Bernyk on August 24

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