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YEARS

Oct. 28 Election Day

Polls open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.



Rematch



Between his entourage of security guards and local Party of Regions' officials, Prime Minister Mykola Azarov barely had any contact with voters during an Oct. 19 campaign visit to Kharkiv. The presidential and ruling Party of Regions is expected to do well in the Oct. 28 election. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)



With ex-Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko in prison and disqualified from the Oct. 28 election, the job of uniting opposition forces is left to ex-Verkhovna Rada speaker Arseniy Yatseniuk. He is speaking to thousands of supporters on Oct. 23 in Ternopol Oblast's Chortkiv. (Andrew Kravchenko)

Azarov emphasizes 'stability' in Kharkiv

BY OKSANA GRYSSENKO
GRYSSENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

KHARKIV – Early in the morning on Oct. 19, workers fastened warning tape to park benches near the central office of the Party of Regions in Kharkiv. For some reason, the passersby were not allowed to sit in the park on that day. Police were stopping traffic on the central streets, blocking motorists from getting near the campaign event.

That's how the eastern Ukrainian city of more than 1 million residents

prepared to welcome Prime Minister Mykola Azarov, the Regions' chief and No. 1 on the party election list. President Viktor Yanukovich on Oct. 17 relieved Azarov of his governing duties to take up full-time campaigning ahead of the Oct. 28 vote.

But it was a strange pre-election visit, one devoted to the maximum comfort of the leader and minimal contact with the people. The 64-year-old Azarov approached neither voters nor journalists, being surrounded all the time by his security guards and the local party →21

Viktor Yanukovich beat Yulia Tymoshenko by 3.5 percentage points to win the 2010 presidential election. Two years later, their parties are again top contenders in the Oct. 28 parliamentary election. There's one big difference, however: Tymoshenko has been in prison for more than a year, bringing international condemnation of Yanukovich.

Yatseniuk takes up opposition's cause

BY YURIY ONYSHKIV
ONYSHKIV@KYIVPOST.COM

CHORTKIV, Ternopil Oblast – A crowd in the small western Ukrainian city of Chortkiv quickly grows to around 2,000 people as Arseniy Yatseniuk appears on stage and addresses people with "blessed be the Lord," a common local greeting. This is a large turnout for a city that has only 28,000 residents. And it turned out to be a fairly enthusiastic one as well.

People stood still, attentively listening to the 38-year-old politician,

who is currently running for parliament on the party list of the imprisoned former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko's Batkivshchyna Party. With Tymoshenko jailed for more than a year, Yatseniuk is the de facto leader of the United Opposition.

"You must be tired of politics by now, but I ask you to listen to me about what we offer for the country," Yatseniuk started off with voters on Oct. 23, five days before the Oct. 28 election.

Batkivshchyna is competing with another opposition party, Vitali Klitschko's Ukrainian →2

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Yatseniuk fires up opposition in cities, towns across Ukraine

→ **1** Democratic Alliance for Reform, to be the second most popular party in the country, according to polls. There's always been a lot of support for Tymoshenko and her party, mixed with contempt toward the current country's leadership, in western Ukraine.

And now it's left to Yatseniuk, the bespectacled, English-speaking former Verkhovna Rada speaker and former foreign minister, to fire up voters on the stump in place of the passionate Tymoshenko.

To do that, Yatseniuk had to reconcile with Tymoshenko and smooth over the bad feelings between the two former adversaries during their unsuccessful campaigns for president in 2010, a trophy won by Viktor Yanukovich.

"We were political rivals. Everyone wanted to win the presidential election (in 2010)," Yatseniuk explained in an interview with the Kyiv Post from the campaign trail in Ternopil Oblast. "Much has changed since then. Tymoshenko is in jail."

He says that opposition parties realize that if they do not unite, they will lose the parliamentary election.

As a result, earlier this year Batkivshchyna and seven other opposition parties, including Yatseniuk's Front of Changes Party, consolidated and composed a joint list of candidates for the parliamentary elections both for the party-list vote and for the single-mandate districts.

Separately, Batkivshchyna agreed with Oleh Tyahnybok's nationalist Svoboda Party on common candidates in the single-mandate constituencies throughout Ukraine in order not to compete with each other.

Dressed casually in dark blue jeans and a short black leather jacket, Yatseniuk speaks in simple yet skillful language to rouse the crowd over their biggest concerns.

"I know there can be a better life and not like now, when half of Ternopil goes abroad [to work] and the other half stays here, jobless. Or it's not your case?" asks the politician, waiting for the people's response.

"True!" they answer affirmatively.

Yatseniuk said that Ukraine is rich in human and natural resources, including its oil and gas that could be devel-



Ex-Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko



Ex-parliament speaker Arseniy Yatseniuk

→ Yulia Tymoshenko's jailing has led opposition forces to unite against ruling Party of Regions

oped more. "Tomorrow will be better," he shouted out, optimistically stressing each word and provoking another wave of applause.

Yatseniuk also won approval from the mostly elderly crowd when he said that, if opposition parties control the parliament, they'll make Yanukovich and Prime Minister Mykola Azarov retire and force them to live on the minimum monthly pension of Hr 1,000 (\$125). Many smile when Yatseniuk adds that Deputy Prime Minister Sergiy Tigipko can also retire in order to better test drive his pension cuts, which Yatseniuk promised to cancel once in power.

The speech made it clear that Yatseniuk has dropped his assertive and aggressive military-like rhetoric that was part of his failed 2010 presidential bid. Instead, he's adopted more humor and colloquialisms in his public speeches.

"I cannot but remind you of

Yanukovich, God bless him," he said again, making people laugh before he started to criticize Ukraine's current leadership that has cut government social expenditures and adopted unpopular measures such as raising the pension age.

"If they did not strip you of welfare, Yanukovich would have no money to fill up [the tank of] his helicopter," Yatseniuk said.

Billboards with the Party of Regions and its candidates cannot be found in the city of Chortkiv and are quite rare on the road toward it. Yanukovich's Party of Regions, as well as the Communists Party – which often appears to be in cahoots with the president's party – are highly unpopular in western Ukraine. They pose no electoral threat to any of the opposition parties, but the western regions are also the most sparsely populated in the nation.

Passionate contempt for the current political elite is a mobilizing force here.

"I know [that] nothing is easy, but I know what to do," said Yatseniuk, outlining his political platform.

Besides cancelling the current pension cuts and tax code, seen as regressive by its critics, the Batkivshchyna Party wants to give voters greater control over their elected officials. Some of the measures include: impeachment, introducing criminal responsibility for voting in parliament with someone else's electronic card and laws that make it possible for the people to recall lawmakers before the next regular elections, if these politicians switch sides or fail to deliver on their promises.

As far as economic policy goes, the opposition offers to cut and simplify taxes and crack down on offshore transfers of income. Closer relations with the European Union – signing an association agreement and winning visa-free travel – are Batkivshchyna's foreign policy priorities.

Tymoshenko's party won 156 seats in the 2007 parliamentary election, but the Bloc of Yulia Tymoshenko has dwindled to just under 100 members since then, with the exodus accelerating after Yanukovich won the presidency.

Yatseniuk said "we did everything we could" to prevent candidates on the opposition's list from doing so again, including forcing them to take a public pledge to stay true to the faction.

If the polls are correct, the opposition forces combined are not likely to win enough seats in the 450-member legislature to override Yanukovich's vetoes, so they will have to work with the president. But Yatseniuk thinks the opposition can force the president's hand through laws raising pensions and stripping the president of his state-owned villas, including the multimillion-dollar Mezhyhirya estate.

"If Yanukovich vetoes these laws, his popularity will fall below zero," he added firmly.

Yatseniuk spent only 40 minutes in Chortkiv before rushing off to two other rallies in the same day, a busy pace that he's tried to keep up for the last two months.

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The Kyiv Post's Business Focus in its Nov. 2 edition will be on:

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Health Care

Minimum range of medicines for pharmacies amended. Equal conditions set for domestic and foreign drugs manufacturers.

The wording "domestic production" removed from the title and text of Ministry of Health Order No. 1000.

On November 1, 2011 the Ukrainian Ministry of Health's (MOH) Draft Order "On the Minimum Range of Medical Drugs of Domestic Production at Pharmacies" (hereinafter – the Draft Order) was published on the MOH's Web site. The provisions of this Draft Order foresaw only domestically produced drugs being present on the list of the minimum range of medicines at pharmacies.

The EBA appealed to the state authorities, bringing to their attention the risk of discrimination against foreign manufactures, the order's being in conflict with Ukraine's international commitments regarding its WTO membership, and the risk of limiting patients' choice.

The EBA's position on this issue was also announced during the MOH Coordination Council meeting on February 9, 2012, and at a specially dedicated meeting with Oleksiy Solovyov, Head of the State Service for Medical Drugs, on March 29, 2012.

However, on April 10, 2012, MOH Order No. 1000 "On the Minimum Range of Medical Drugs of Domestic Production at Pharmacies" (hereinafter – the MOH Order) was adopted and registered at the Ukrainian Ministry of Justice as order No. 524/20837.

Later on, the EBA continued to work actively to seek amendments to the MOH Order, and ensure equal conditions for all market players, in order to prevent any violations of both existing Ukrainian legislation and Ukraine's international commitments as a whole.

Thanks to the EBA's efforts, the European Parliament was able to pay particular attention to this issue by having the essence of this problem raised during a number of parliament sessions.

In August 2012 a new MOH Draft Order amending the existing MOH Order No. 1000 by removing the words "domestic production" was put forward by the MOH, as we informed our member companies. The EBA fully supported these amendments and officially stated this support to both the MOH and other state authorities.

The EBA also received direct support for these amendments from the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine.

The issue of equal conditions for both domestic and foreign manufacturers of medical drugs is of paramount importance.

We are happy to state MOH Order No. 703 of September 7, 2012, amending the existing MOH Order No. 1000, has already been adopted and come into effect.

The newly adopted version of the MOH Order sets out equal conditions for all medical drug manufacturers, domestic and foreign.

"The issue of equal conditions for both domestic and foreign manufacturers of medical drugs has long been lobbied for by

the EBA HCC - since November 2011, when the first draft regulation appeared. At that point, only domestic manufacturers were to have their medical drugs included on the list of the minimum range of medical drugs that pharmacies would have to stock. The draft legislative act was clear evidence of a violation of conditions of equal competition between domestic and foreign manufacturers, and was in conflict with Ukraine's WTO commitments with regard to not discriminating against imported products. Moreover, the draft included the trademarks of medical drugs that clearly indicated their specific domestic manufacturers. In effect, after the new regulation came into force, it served as an additional and obligatory platform for sales of specific, domestically produced medical drugs.

The EBA HCC appealed a number of times to the Antimonopoly Committee and the relevant state authorities to correct the situation, and not to throw into question the state's international commitments. The issue was specifically addressed at a European Parliament as a clear example of protectionism by Ukraine.

We strove to bring as much attention as possible to this problem, and are glad that the required amendments are now in force, and that equal conditions with respect to this particular case are in place now," says Natalia Serhienko, the EBA Health Care Committee's executive director

This is a step forward on the way to implementing the highest EU standards in the economic policy of Ukraine.

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Editorials

High-stakes vote

Hopefully, Ukrainians will finally get a chance on Oct. 28 to either support President Viktor Yanukovich's policies of the last two years or repudiate them. The Kyiv Post, in keeping with the publisher's non-endorsement policy in Ukrainian elections, will not be picking sides. But we will urge people to vote their convictions. This election is all the more important as it is the last scheduled national vote before the 2015 presidential election.

We add the qualifier "hopefully" because this parliamentary election has little chance of being recognized internationally as free and fair among Western democracies. Russia and other nations governed by authoritarian rulers will, as always, say "all is well" no matter what happens.

Yanukovich ensured international criticism by allowing his top rival, ex-Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, to remain imprisoned on a bogus criminal charge for more than a year. He further created an environment of intimidation by allowing the nation's politically subservient judges and prosecutors to do the same with ex-Interior Minister Yuriy Lutsenko and others, while still more Tymoshenko allies fled abroad to avoid criminal prosecution.

Moreover, Ukrainians are facing a different election law yet again – choosing half of the 450-seat parliament proportionally from party lists, while the other half are chosen in 225 geographic districts. The single-mandate district races favor money, incumbency and power. They are difficult to monitor for honesty and the winning candidates are likely to be coerced into the pro-governmental camp.

Yanukovich's administration has done nothing to make the sources of campaign financing transparent. There are, moreover, disturbing reports of intimidation and violence against opposition candidates. Election commissions appear to be stacked with pro-presidential allies. The Central Election Commission's powers have been neutered. And any appeals to the courts seem destined to hit a dead end among judges who lack independence, integrity and fairness.

If things go bad for the party in power on Election Day, moreover, could an honest vote count be ensured by a president who still denies, against all evidence, that the 2004 presidential election was falsified and that the Orange Revolution helped Viktor Yushchenko steal the office from him that year?

There is hope. Polls show most Ukrainians think the nation is going in the wrong direction. If that is true, the ballot box is the way to punish whoever the voter thinks is responsible and reward politicians whom the voter thinks will lead the nation better. Every vote matters. Sitting on sidelines does no good.

Exit polls, parallel vote counts and transparent vote tabulations in the nation's 33,000 polling stations are keys to determining the honesty of the vote. Unfortunately, the only independent parallel vote count in this election is a sampling of 1,000 polling stations planned by the Oporo civic group. Exit polls and parallel vote counts are important. If the official tally is at odds with the polls or parallel vote counts, especially if voter turnout is high, suspicion of tampering will be high.

Unless voter sentiment has changed dramatically in the last two weeks, polls released before the Oct. 18 cutoff showed that the Party of Regions will fall short of its goal of a 300-member constitutional majority in the 450-seat body. However, the president's party will likely remain in control. The polls showed that the opposition will be able to prevent monopolization of power. Whether the opposition will be able to unite in parliament is one of the biggest intrigues.

Oct. 28 is a big test for democracy. Oct. 29 will be a very interesting day.

Guard returns

Mykola Melnychenko, the presidential bodyguard who taped ex-President Leonid Kuchma and other top officials of the era, is back in Kyiv. Instead of treating him like a whistleblower who might help solve some of the nation's worst crimes, authorities arrested him at Boryspil International Airport on Oct. 24. He is accused of disclosing state secrets, but his friends proclaim his innocence and say he is ready to tell the truth. Others believe that he made a deal with Ukraine's law enforcers, which had earlier issued his international arrest warrant. Reports quickly surfaced that Melnychenko may be used as a wedge against ex-Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko.

Since prosecutors have suddenly taken an interest in old criminal cases involving Melnychenko and Tymoshenko, the Kyiv Post suggests that they dig further and get to the bottom of these cases: whether Kuchma allegedly ordered the murder of journalist Georgiy Gongadze in 2000, the dozens of alleged high-level crimes caught on the "Melnychenko tapes," including extortion of businesses by tax authorities allegedly at now-Prime Minister Mykola Azarov's orders (he and all others deny all allegations on the tapes), the poisoning of ex-President Viktor Yushchenko, those responsible for the 2004 presidential election fraud, crimes – including murder – committed during Ukraine's privatization of state-owned industries...and so forth.

Regrettably, prosecutors are again displaying a political approach in setting priorities. It's selective prosecution. It's also a sham.



NEWS ITEM: When the presidents of Ukraine and Russia met on Oct. 24, many thought there will be progress on the most heated topic – the price that Ukraine pays for Russian natural gas. However, the only agreement that Viktor Yanukovich and Vladimir Putin announced at a press briefing afterwards is that they want to hold joint celebrations of the 200th year anniversary in 2014 of the birth of Ukrainian poet and painter Taras Shevchenko. "We have reached an agreement about ordering respective governments to begin with preparations for this important for both nations jubilee," Putin said.

Back Story: When to use anonymous sources



MICHAEL WILLARD
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An anonymous source can be as fawning with false humility as Charles Dickens' Uriah Heep in David Copperfield or as high-minded as a citizen whistleblower who simply wants to do the right thing.

Either way, it is not easy for any newspaper to determine the motive of a source, but it is important for the publication to put the source in context, and, to the extent possible, that is the policy of the Kyiv Post.

Having worked both as a journalist and a government spokesperson, I have felt the darts of the malicious rumor-monger parading as a motiveless source, and have also suffered the frustration of pursuing acts where only an anonymous leak could provide clues to a bell ringer of a story.

It is a given that every source that wishes his or her name withheld has a motive, whether ulterior or not. Generally, the motive is fear of retribution, quite often from the government.

However, there are many other reasons unnamed sources are ubiquitous in print. A quick search of the Kyiv Post files turns up hundreds of references to anonymous sources, many from other news-gathering organizations such as Interfax and Reuters.

During the eight years I worked on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., a symptom of "Potomac Fever" was a need to reveal information to the press that might or might not be

→ Some major stories could not have been told without secret informants

true, but served a partisan purpose. Often, the practice was akin to indiscriminately tossing hand grenades in print.

My boss, the Senate majority leader, liked to play his cards close to the vest. Only a handful of loyal staff—if anyone—would know his next move. However, it seemed at times that chatty staff members working in the warrens of the Capitol were certain that they knew his every thought, and did not hesitate to speculate to the media on the condition they remain anonymous.

Most often they were wrong, sometimes to laughable results when they were so far off base it made the newspaper look foolish and the source clownish.

From a personal standpoint, I regard the anonymous source as a necessary evil. And, at times, I have been the leaker in an effort to advance an agenda of my politician boss, whether it had to do with legislation or gaining a partisan advantage.

The role comes with the territory of spokesperson, particularly in a hard-fought election campaign which has a finite end where one team picks up all the marbles when → 5

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Tymoshenko: Remove Yanukovich's mafia



YULIA TYMOSHENKO

Editor's Note: The following is an English-language translation of an Oct. 17 open letter written by imprisoned ex-Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko to President Viktor Yanukovich. The Presidential Administration had not responded by the time the Kyiv Post went to press on Oct. 25.

Viktor Fedorovych!

Yesterday, moving around the prison that you have turned my hospital room into, I saw on all the TV channels videos of my prison life, filmed with hidden cameras. Given the extreme immorality of your action, I decided to write you this open letter.

Firstly - I confirm the authenticity of 90 percent of these recordings, especially the parts involving my physical therapy sessions with a physical therapist in the treatment room.

Secondly - The video from the treatment room and other premises were made with hidden surveillance cameras that were installed on direct orders from you. Now the fact of constant hidden video surveillance has been proved and this is your crime.

Thirdly - Many of the medical procedures that take place in the treatment room require that I undress, and the hidden video cameras record all of this and continue to record this during the entire period of my treatment. This is a moral crime that you are committing.

Fourthly - Prison staff that support me, after the videos were shown on TV, gave me a plan with the exact location of these hidden video cameras that were installed on your orders in the rooms where I spend time. The public may be interested in knowing that there are three cameras in the room for confidential meetings with my lawyers, two cameras in the shower stall and one above each of the two toilets (sorry for the details). There are so many hidden surveillance cameras that it's impossible to hide from them, day or night.

And lastly - There is a special room by my prison cell with monitors showing round-the-clock video of me. Male officers who work in the colony are responsible for it, male officers that work in the prosecutor's office cover it up, and male officers working in the SBU provide technical support. This is done demonstratively, openly, before my eyes, obviously for additional psychological pressure. Unfortunately, the officers that serve the president take their cue from him.

These videos are sent to you electronically every day.

In connection with these circumstances I don't have any requests or suggestions for you.

Should I ask you to stop this disgrace? But you organized it yourself. Should I ask you to open a criminal case against those doing this dirty work? But will your prosecutor general open a criminal case against you? You're the ideologue, organizer and executor of this unprecedented disgusting act. Therefore, I have only three questions that I ask you to respond to publicly.



Supporters of former Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko chant slogans during a protest in Kyiv on July 12. The imprisoned Tymoshenko has written an open letter to President Viktor Yanukovich accusing him of videotaping her every move as she serves a seven-year sentence for abuse of office. The presidential press service did not respond as of Oct. 25 to the allegations in the letter. (AFP)

First - What is it that you personally want to see on the videos made with the hidden cameras in the shower, toilet, prison call, rooms where I undergo treatment fully undressed?

What do you do with these films? Do you watch them alone or in cheerful company with friends? Maybe you get more self-confidence in your political capability by watching a female political opponent naked? Maybe you enjoy this specific power over your political opponent and it makes you feel stronger and more successful?

If you answered all these questions positively, then this, Viktor Fedorovych, is a diagnosis and you need to urgently seek anonymous treatment, because it may become chronic.

Second question. When will your channels show the continuation of this series that you find so interesting? When can we expect nude videos? Maybe you think that by showing these materials you're humiliating me? No. You're humiliating yourself, showing Ukraine and the world your true self. All the videos made with hidden cameras about my prison life turn you in the eyes of normal people into...better that you now know...

And my last question. Perhaps you'd like to try putting your wife Lyudmyla or your mother, if she's still alive, under constant public video surveillance and shown live on the Internet? Show on your channels how they live, how they sleep, how they undress, take a shower, or do their business. If you have such exotic fantasies to secretly monitor the private life of women like a "behind the glass" show, start with the women in your family.

Maybe then you'll understand the difference between sadism and morality, between vileness and dignity.

Given that I know very well who I'm dealing with and fully understand your psychological portrait, I don't blame you for anything. I even forgive you.

You are the way you are. And nobody can change you. Darwinism can't change a jackal into a lion, or vice versa.

Besides these questions, I don't have any requests from you.

My request is to all the women of Ukraine and the world with dignity, honor and solidarity. Before you speak with Yanukovich, just recall that he is watching, round-the-clock, the prison life of his female political opponent through cameras hidden in the toilet. And don't shake his hand, because you'll never be able to wash it clean.

I have the same request to the men of Ukraine and abroad who love their mothers, wives, daughters and sisters.

Don't shake hands with Yanukovich, because by doing so you are humiliating all women with dignity, you are supporting Yanukovich and his dirty daily activities.

And you, Viktor Fedorovych, I am informing that I am refusing "treatment" that is under video cameras aired on TV and the Internet, and is more like being in the torture chambers of the GULAG. In those conditions people are crippled, not treated.

I demand that I be returned to the colony in the condition I am. I will be treated when I am free, when you are no longer prying on me through a keyhole.

I hope the European Court of Human Rights makes a judgment that will make Ukrainians understand who you are and will remove you as president along with your mafia.

*Without respect to you,
Yulia Tymoshenko
Oct. 17, 2012*

VOX
populi

WITH
ANASTASIA FORINA



What are your expectations from the new parliament?



Anton Kechedzhy,
commercial specialist
"Nothing will change. Those (who will be in power) will have to work for the money invested in them. Whatever they are willing to do they are indebted to their investors."



Vasyl Belonozhko,
teacher
"You think it will be new? The same people will remain. They will be working the same way they

used to. Nothing is going to change, at all. I have no hope in that and I think (neither) do other people."



Valeria Kryvytska,
pensioner
"I expect nothing, nothing good. The living standards will be getting worse,

prices for utilities will grow and inflation rate will be extremely high. I don't trust any of them. I'm disappointed and have already lost all my optimism. I think nothing will change."



Natalia Matsura,
journalist on maternity leave

"Honestly, I don't think anything could change. I'm not going to vote. I'm disappointed. If I vote I will support none of the above."



Tetyana Romashova,
PR director
"I'm afraid nothing will change. Hopefully the things will not get worse. The

same people (will be) in the parliament. They haven't done anything before and will do nothing in the future. I'm not sure I will go to vote."

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 kyivpost@kyivpost.com.

Willard: Readers deserve explanation

→4 the votes are counted. In a campaign, much of the battle is waged in the trenches by "informed" or "reliable" sources, which might neither be informed or reliable.

It's also a fact that many stories would be swept under the rug without the benefit of an anonymous source. Some 40 years ago, an American president, Richard Nixon, resigned from office in disgrace prior to being impeached for multiple crimes. It was a defining moment in America's history.

There is a good chance the scandal called "Watergate" would not have been exposed but for a source called "Deep Throat," and two enterprising reporters for the Washington Post who kept up a daily drumbeat of stories focusing on the issue.

But when I see a story in the Kyiv Post that quotes an unnamed source, I am curious as to the motive. I also look to see if the source has been put into context, or, in other words, identified as to possible motive.

As a backstop to the malicious use of the unnamed source, some newspapers—such as The New York Times—require the reporter tell at least one editor the source of the information. This helps guard against a reporter being too close to a story and perhaps having a lapse in judgment as to the source's motives.

At the Kyiv Post, that person is chief editor Brian Bonner. Bonner says unnamed sources should be used sparingly, and that it should be explained to the reader why the source was granted anonymity. The Kyiv Post also strives to characterize the source — and

the source's motives — to the extent possible while still maintaining confidentiality.

"There has to be a good reason, and it's not good enough, no matter if it's Bob Woodward (of Watergate fame), to say 'trust me,'" says Bonner.

As for the reader, my advice is to ratchet down the credibility of any story based entirely on informed but undisclosed sources. Remember that the source rarely has an unselfish motive, particularly if attempts have not been made to put the source into context.

Also remember, however, that some significant history-changing stories would never have seen the light of day without there being an anonymous source.

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

Expats to Watch

Descendant of 'sugar kings' happy in historic homeland

BY MARK RACHKEVYCH
RACHKEVYCH@KYIVPOST.COM

Michel Terestchenko doesn't have to look too far to see what kind of legacy his family left behind when it escaped Bolshevik rule in 1918. A central Kyiv street that borders Taras Shevchenko Park carries his surname.

And the buildings that house the Russian Art Museum, Bohdan and Varvara Khanenko Art Museum, as well as the Taras Shevchenko National Museum, once belonged to his family – as did the building that houses Okhmatdet Children's Hospital.

Known as one of Ukraine's 19th and 20th century sugar kings, Terestchenko's family once farmed 400,000 hectares of mostly sugar beets. The family also gained fame and admiration as philanthropists who founded hospitals, orphanages, universities and museums.

His grandfather and ruble multimillionaire Mykhailo was czarist Russia's last finance minister under Alexander Kerensky's provisional government. Michel Terestchenko aptly titled his 2011 book about his grandfather, "The First Oligarch."

"At one point, one in five Ukrainians worked on sugar plantations," Terestchenko told the Kyiv Post in his Podil office.

But unlike his grandfather, Terestchenko cultivates another cash crop – flax in Sumy Oblast on land that once belonged to his family. He doesn't own the land. Like many agricultural newcomers, he leases it, some 3,000 hectares, one-sixth of which is constantly in use due to the crop's plant rotation cycle.

Born and educated in Paris, the 59-year old Terestchenko tiptoed into Ukraine in the 1990s, but has been here permanently since about 2003. He claims to have invested all his money four years ago to start operations near



Michel Terestchenko in his Kyiv office displays a book about his family's history. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

Hlukhiv not far from the Kyiv-Moscow highway. The city is also home to the Institute of Bast Fiber Crops – also a former Terestchenko family property – which works to breed improved hemp and flax cultivators. He got the idea to cultivate flax during a visit there in the 1990s. Although he wouldn't say how much start-up capital was put in to start Linen of Desna, Terestchenko sees enormous prospects in the flax-growing and processing business.

"Ukraine has mostly stopped farming flax – products made from it are non-toxic, eco-friendly and its technical uses are abundant," said Terestchenko.

Uses range from making insulation and panels, to chairs, insulated boots and bags that biodegrade in six months, said T in front of a desk with

sample products laid out.

Employing 250 Ukrainians, he sells the longer, better quality stems to European textile companies that produce linen, and the shorter stems to Chinese clients for technical use.

Terestchenko has already launched plans to scale-up and add value to his crop. A year ago he brought in two Kharkiv brothers, as well as other Ukrainian investors more recently to start operations in Zhytomyr Oblast to double harvesting capacity and to produce insulation for car doors. Plans are in the works to start manufacturing insulation by the end of this year.

"Ukraine is like America in the 1930s. Everything is possible," Terestchenko enthused.

Comparisons don't stop there.

Terestchenko likened the entrepreneurial spirit of Ukrainians to that of Americans.

"Ukrainians are Americans, but with a soul, and they calculate numbers faster in their heads than anyone in the world," said Terestchenko.

And given the historic burden of carrying the last name of sugar magnates, Terestchenko understands the significance of his endeavor.

"I realize this is a big risk (on my part). There's pressure for success. Failure isn't an option...nobody will understand if I fail," underscored Terestchenko.

"Yet no obstacle is insurmountable," he continued, quickly adding that corruption isn't acceptable at his business.

Michel Terestchenko

Nationality: French

Age: 59

Position: Founder and CEO of Linen of Desna and Terestchenko Heritage Foundation

Length of time in Ukraine: Since 2003

Tips for succeeding in Ukraine: "No obstacle is insurmountable."

He hopes the success of his business can serve as an example to Ukrainians who he says don't see a future for themselves here.

Terestchenko lamented that the "tragedy is Ukrainians are leaving, they don't see that they're needed here, but the reality is many could do so much more here (than abroad), and lead more interesting lives and make more money."

As part of his heritage, Terestchenko also established a charity foundation in his family's name.

However, carrying the Terestchenko name is a double-edged advantage. People send in many charity requests to him because they think he's rich.

"As a Terestchenko, I've a responsibility. It's a great privilege, but some people who often have more money than me think I'm in a position to help when I'm the one who needs assistance," said Michel.

Its purpose is to give a "new last residence" to his family, and continue doing what his ancestors did: help clinics and hospitals as well as other charitable projects.

Terestchenko aid that despite first finding himself in an "unusual situation" of not knowing the language, and culture, he feels "much at home."

"I'm here to stay," he said confidently.

Kyiv Post staff writer Mark Rachkevych can be reached at rachkevych@kyivpost.com.

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Pharmaceutical industry says new laws could cut access to imported drugs

BY OKSANA FARYNA
FARYNA@KYIVPOST.COM

Those in the habit of pill-popping had better stock up. Ukraine's pharmaceutical market is undergoing several changes that could affect supply and the price of medications, especially imported ones.

Up until the beginning of 2012, the registration of drugs in Ukraine was valid for a period of up to five years. According to the new regulations, however, registration is now indefinite, but more difficult to obtain. Apart from the Health Ministry and State Expert Center, companies also have to deal with a newly-founded special commission that oversees the registration of medications.

"Previously it took up to six months to register a new drug. Now it is hard to say how much time it will take as the process became much more time consuming and bureaucratic," said Evgenia Paliy, an advocate at the Kyiv office of Gide Loyrette Nouel, which closely follows local pharmaceutical legislation.

Longer and more complicated procedures may lead to shortages of some pills in drug stores.

Moreover, importers have to make sure they get a Good Manufacturing Practice certificate – an international quality control attestation – for each producer by Jan. 1, 2013. After this date it will be impossible to register medicines in Ukraine, thus to import and sell them on the Ukrainian market without this document.

"This is a positive initiative in general, as there are many low quality products on the Ukrainian market," Paliy said. "Considering the high quality standards, many medicines – around 2,000 items – won't be let in the market as of next year. But the procedure of obtaining a GMP certificate is time consuming and authorities are will not be able to issue enough certificates in time."

Last but not least, the new legislation introduces obligatory licensing for imported medicines beginning March 1, 2013. And despite the fact that this deadline is approaching fast, there is no procedure or conditions for issuing such licenses yet.

Oleksiy Solovyov, head of the State Service on Medical Substances, said that tougher regulations on licensing drugs are required because of Ukraine's commitments with various European partners.

"European Union had a clear mechanism of regulation of import of medications... Import is licensed in the same way as production of drugs," he recently told Apteka weekly. He also said that Ukraine had a loophole in regulating the procedure for calling off drugs, and the new regulations address this problem.

But market participants are understandably worried about the new regulations.

Andriy Stogniy, general manager in Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova and the Caucasus at global healthcare conglomerate GlaxoSmithKline, pointed to



Some people say that certain medications may disappear from drug stores soon because the pharmaceutical market is facing several new legislative restrictions. (UNIAN)

the triple control of medications that are imported to Ukraine: registration, getting a GMP certificate and obtaining the import license. "Such duplication of controls creates a threat of not being able to supply Ukraine's patients with the medicines they need," Stogniy said. "For instance, if an importer does not

have a license, their medicines cannot be brought into Ukraine."

A potential shortage of pills is not the only problem. Additional expenses in the form of licensing fees will be transferred from importers to consumers, which mean a price hike for imported remedies in Ukraine.

Experts say that obligatory licensing of imported medicines, a goal that Ukrainian authorities have frequently reiterated, is part of a state program for import substitution that was drafted to support the local production of pharmaceuticals in 2011-2021.

Ukraine's drug market is expected to reach \$3.3 billion in 2012, according to Proxima Research, an industry research outfit. That's 15.6 percent more than in 2011. The share of local producers amounts to 68 percent in terms of the quantity of medicines sold. But the low cost of locally produced drugs means that when counted according to the value of goods sold, this falls to just 26 percent of the market.

On one hand, strengthening local alternatives is seen as a good solution to make consumers less dependent on profit-squeezing multinational corporations, while also potentially reducing prices. But Volodymyr Ihnatov, executive director at the Association of International Pharmaceutical Manufacturers said the policy of protectionism of local producers will negatively affect the industry in general and consumers in particular.

"If you shut the market down, you will never get either new technologies or know-how," Ihnatov said. "You will end up back in the Soviet Union."

Ihnatov added that lack of competition on the market will lead to a lack of choice for consumers and an increase in price of certain medications.

Kyiv Post staff writer Oksana Faryna can be reached at faryna@kyivpost.com.

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to International Electoral Observers and Donor Organizations

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Background info: International NGO Internews-Ukraine is one of the leading media CSOs in Ukraine. The mission of the organization is promotion of European values through development of successful media. "Internews-Ukraine" aims at the development of independent and pluralistic media in Ukraine, raising journalism standards, support of democracy growth and foundations of civil society.

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More people quit smoking as tougher measures adopted

BY SVITLANA TUCHYNSKA
TUCHYNSKA@KYIVPOST.COM

More Ukrainians are giving up the highly damaging smoking habit as legislation toughens bans on advertising, smoking in public places and introduces disturbing graphic warnings on cigarette packs.

As of Dec. 16, smoking indoors will be illegal as a new law signed by President Viktor Yanukovich in June comes into effect. It prohibits smoking in restaurants, bars, cafes, hotels, governmental buildings, sport arenas and cultural premises. Hookah pipes and electronic cigarettes also fall under the ban.

These premises' smoking rooms or areas will be closed, but will still be allowed in office buildings. Violators will face fines of Hr 1,000 (\$125) to

Hr 10,000.

The new bill adds to the pile of recent success of tobacco-control legislation. In September, a law banning all forms of cigarette advertising came into effect. Moreover, since Oct. 4, tobacco companies are obliged to sell cigarettes with graphic warnings on packs.

"Lobbying for this legislation has been going on for the last three years and will go down in history as one of the most difficult campaigns in Ukraine," says Andriy Skipalskyi from Ukraine Smoke Free, a civic organization.

The graphic warnings law passed parliament in 2009, but implementation has been delayed through various measures until now.

Activists report that most cigarettes being sold now do not contain graphic warnings as the tobacco companies are selling what

was manufactured before Oct. 4.

The new smoking rules have wide public support. Olena Dub from Smoke Free Kyiv civic organization gathered 500 signatures from waitresses and bartenders who suffer the most from second-hand smoking in restaurants.

"We were also working with owners of restaurants and bars and most of them support the smoking ban. It bears no costs for them as the only thing they will have to do is to put up 'No Smoking' signs and remove ashtrays," Dub says.

Their profits will not be affected, either, experts say, and their businesses may even be helped by the return of patrons turned off by the health risks linked to exposure to second-hand smoke.

Partly because of the public health campaign, fewer Ukrainians smoke and fewer young people are starting. → 10



Women smoke near the 'No Smoking' sign in the Maidan Nezalezhnosti underpass in central Kyiv, even though smoking in underpasses has been banned since 2007. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

Milk Isn't Just Milk When It's On Your Table

Advertisement

The shopping list posted on your home refrigerator may just say 'Milk', but there's a lot more to it than that. We think of milk as a fairly simple, straightforward product, but like many other products in today's crowded marketplace, there is a different type of milk for every taste, use and preference.

Knowing which milk is the milk for you is important. After all, you wouldn't walk into a supermarket with a list that said merely, "Buy Food." To be useful, we need more information than the all-encompassing 'food.' Without specifics, you're likely to go home with an armload of radishes. Our parents had far fewer choices than we do today. From shoes to house paint, there was much less choice in just about every product category, and to a very large extent, technology has made the difference. Today's modern dairy producers are using the latest technology to provide consumers with plenty of choice while still ensuring quality, uniform taste and safety.

One byproduct of the many choices facing us in the dairy aisle of a large Ukrainian supermarket can be a degree of confusion: When asked to buy milk, which milk is 'the milk' for your family? This is especially a concern for Ukraine's foreign residents, who may be unfamiliar with some of the varieties of milk on the shelves of their neighborhood supermarket.

Raw Milk: There is admittedly something romantic about the idea of drinking raw milk - the real stuff in its most basic form, from the cow to your cup. What could be fresher or healthier, after all? However, when enjoying raw milk, one should make sure it's safe.

Milk's safety is determined by its bacteriological "purity", which in its own turn depends on the hygienic conditions used for collecting, transporting and storing the product: the cleanliness of the collection equipment, storage practices, temperatures and even the cow's own health and diet. Consequently, if you must drink raw milk, it is absolutely necessary that it be boiled first.

Hundreds of tests have proven that raw milk contains dangerously-high levels of E. Coli bacteria. This bacterium is killed by boiling. The government does not control E. Coli in the milk, assuming that it will be boiled prior to consumption.

Raw milk is routinely available in village bazaars and large urban markets. Sellers are required to possess certificates from the state veterinary service attesting to the health of the producer's herd and the milk's fitness for consumption. At every bazaar, a lab is tasked with testing milk for the presence of bacteriological contamination as well as the presence of additives. Once the milk is checked, a certificate is issued and the product may be sold. Additionally, every seller in the market should be able to present a medical certificate stating that their cow is fit and healthy.

Raw milk is usually sold as whole milk; without the milk fat or cream removed, and that's another reason people who grew up drinking it enjoy it despite the potential hazards involved. The taste of what Ukrainians call "home milk" is also important to note. We imagine it to be rich, creamy and natural milk. In reality, the taste can differ markedly from cow to cow and producer to producer. We are what we eat - so some raw milk may smell like whatever the cow has been fed - and even smell like the cow, herself.

Pasteurized milk. Most westerners are familiar with Pasteurized milk as it is common in most parts of the world - and even legally required in some areas. Milk is Pasteurized by heating it to

kill Micro-organisms like Brucella, E. Coli, Listeria, Salmonella, Mycobacterium bovis, and other disease-causing elements. The process was developed by Louis Pasteur in 1864, and had been adopted by commercial dairy producers by the early 1900s.

The Pasteurization process is a combination of heat and holding time. Low- and medium-heat pasteurization occurs when milk is brought to between 72 degrees and 90 degrees Centigrade for at anywhere between 20 and 300 seconds. At these temperatures, 99% of all bacteria are killed. Some spores may remain, however.

Most Pasteurized milk enjoys a shelf life of between eight to 10 days, though it and remain wholesome for up to 15 days if high-quality milk with very low initial microbiological contamination levels is used. High-quality milk requires the use of ultra-clean filling lines at the processing plant, and the maintenance of strict temperature control (between four and six degrees Centigrade) while it is stored, transported and on the grocer's shelf. Keeping opened milk cold by refrigerating it at home also helps it to remain fresher longer.

UHT: By now, most people are familiar with UHT - or 'ultra-high treatment' Pasteurized milk. This milk is distinguished by its 90-day shelf life. Keeping the milk fresh and wholesome for up to three months requires heating it to about 140 degrees Centigrade for just a few seconds. That's all it takes to ensure that there is no microbial activity that can cause illness or spoilage. UHT milk is ideal if it will be used where refrigeration isn't available, or on a long-distance journey, though some people buy it simply to ensure that it will remain wholesome beyond the week to 10 days provided by regular Pasteurized milk.

Homogenization: Homogenization is a process that breaks up milk fat globules so that they mix more uniformly throughout the milk. Purchasers of un-homogenized milk - including 'home milk' - will often find that the milk and fat has separated in the container, the fat-rich cream floats to the top. Unless it is mixed before pouring, the cream will pour off first and leaving a low-fat milk product behind. Milk is homogenized using high pressure.

Milkfat: Many milk lovers take fat content into account. Dieters may prefer non-fat or 'skim' milk, which can contain as much as half of a percent of fat. This milk has less body and lacks the creaminess of whole milk, but provides milk taste with fewer calories. Differences in the milk's taste may be more noticeable to people who prefer low-fat milk. Fat tends to coat the tongue and mask tastes that skim milk drinkers may notice - like a more watery flavor, or scents and tastes that reflect the foods a cow was fed. Tastes vary by region and culture. Many people enjoy milk containing 2.5% fat for everyday use. At the top of the scale is 4% - cream.

Low-fat milk drinkers are also more apt to notice the effects of milk falsification: Some unscrupulous producers have been known to add fillers like soda or ammonia. These unhealthy practices are just one good reason to buy brands you trust. Reliable and responsible milk producers control the quality and safety of their products at every possible step - assuring milk quality and taste from field to table.

By Ivan Khanas
R&D Director, Danone Ukraine





Several countries including United Arab Emirates, Iran, Kuwait no longer recognise Ukrainian medical diplomas. While number of foreign students in the country keep growing since 2000s, the percentage of foreigners studying medicine has decreased in recent years. (Courtesy)

Ukraine's medical education losing credibility abroad

BY ANASTASIA FORINA
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Ukrainian medical education was considered one of world's best in communist times. Even after the collapse of the Soviet Union, its reputation was still strong enough to attract thousands of foreign students each year.

But times have changed – for the worse.

Several Middle Eastern countries, including Saudi Arabia, Iran, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates, no longer recognize Ukrainian medical diplomas. Nigeria, the world's seventh most populous nation, could soon join the list. Its ambassador to Ukraine recently advised against studying in Ukraine.

Yet university representatives in Ukraine say they are losing no sleep over the criticism.

"If (countries) reject diplomas it's their right. It hasn't influenced the reputation of the university at all," said Ivan Letik, deputy rector at Kharkiv National Medical University, which has Ukraine's largest foreign student population with more than 2,000 enrolled. "We (remain) a leading university among foreign students. Our diplomas are important and highly valued."

The number of foreign students in the country has steadily grown since the early 2000s, when there were just 20,000. By the end of 2011, more than 55,000 foreign students from 130 countries were studying in Ukraine. The highest share come from China (9,000) and Russia (6,000), according to statistics provided by the Ukrainian International Education Council, a non-governmental organization that assists in finding education opportunities for foreigners in Ukraine.

But while medical universities have always been the most popular among foreign students, the percentage of foreigners studying medicine has decreased in recent years, to 20-25 percent in 2011, about half of what it was 10 years ago, according to the UIEC.

University management said the decrease hasn't affected the reputation and work of the universities.

However, experts cite corruption



Umair Ahmad Butt, founder and president of the Ukrainian International Education Council

among the major reasons for students choosing Western universities over Ukrainian ones. "Bribery (is the main reason)," said Umair Ahmad Butt, founder and president of the UIEC. "Ukraine could compete with England in terms of education. It has potential."

Visas are another problem. Official prices are \$85 for single entry and \$200 for multiple entry visas. But complicated, overly bureaucratic procedures mean foreign students often end up having to pay large sums to intermediaries before coming to study in Ukraine, according to Butt. "Only a few foreign students get visas (for the official price). Others usually (end up) paying \$2,000-\$2,500," Butt said.

The standards of medical education itself are another big headache.

Nigerian ambassador to Ukraine Frank Ngosi Isoh recently warned his countrymen against studying in Ukraine, because of the low level of English among Ukrainian tutors.

"One thing I will like to say about education in this place, and this is something we intend to package in a report to government to see how this can be propagated back home – I do not think that Nigerians get the best when it comes to studying in this place in the English language," he told Nigerian news site Bella Naija on Oct. 16.

Kyiv Post asked foreign students studying at Kyiv National Bogomolets

University if they were satisfied with the level of education in Ukraine.

"I'm not really sure about (the quality)," said Frank Douglas, a second year student at who came from the African country of Togo to study in Kyiv.

"Of course the level of education is better in Europe, but studying here is much cheaper," said Nina Amabetova from Azerbaijan.

Ukraine has 15 medical universities that are licensed to teach foreign students and have English-speaking tutors, according to the UIEC.

The average price for studying medicine is about \$4,000 per year for foreigners and \$5,000 for those wanting to study in English, which is still much less than in England or the U.S., where tuition prices start at around \$30,000.

However, low prices can't contribute much to the reputation of Ukraine's education when it's blackened by the alleged racial discrimination of foreign students.

A scandal which took place in the western Ukrainian city of Ternopil in January of this year, involving a local newspaper that published an article describing foreign students from African and Arabic countries as chimpanzees and part of a "black invasion" causing "a rise in criminality, prostitution and diseases," was one reason the international community feared Ukraine wasn't ready to host the UEFA Euro 2012 Championship.

Another case involved Olaolu Sunkanmi Femi, a Nigerian student at Luhansk State University. He was accused of the attempted murder of four people, which he allegedly attacked alone while intoxicated, and faces life imprisonment in Ukraine. He has been kept in a Luhansk pretrial detention center since November 2011 while awaiting the court's decision to move forward with the case.

"Ukraine was always considered a comfortable place to study," said Butt. "There was no racial discrimination here. Now it happens (often). And it discourages foreign countries (from) sending students here."

Kyiv Post staff writer Anastasia Forina can be reached at forina@kyivpost.com and Daria Zadorozhnaya at zadorozhnaya@kyivpost.com.

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BUSINESS ADVISER

NEW REGULATIONS FOR PHARMA BUSINESS AND THEIR POSSIBLE IMPACT ON UKRAINIAN MARKET

Licensing of Import of Pharmaceuticals

On 4 July 2012 the Ukrainian Parliament adopted the Law of Ukraine "On Amendments to Certain Laws of Ukraine regarding Import Licensing of Pharmaceuticals and regarding Definition of the Term "Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient". This law subjects import of pharmaceuticals to licensing in Ukraine. Although all importers already hold licenses for wholesale of pharmaceuticals, under the new law they are required to obtain additional licenses for import of pharmaceuticals. Moreover, a license for import of pharmaceuticals will specify each type of pharmaceuticals, which may be imported under the license. Requirements on licensing of import of pharmaceuticals will come into force as of 1 March 2013.



Mykola Stetsenko,
Managing Partner



Vadim Medvedev,
Associate

On the one hand, such amendments are likely to increase barriers to counterfeited pharmaceuticals, since state agencies will have additional control over the import. On the other hand, such licensing requirements may influence business models of the foreign pharma companies operating in Ukraine through their representative offices due to the following.

The wording of the mentioned law provides that the license on import of pharmaceuticals may be issued either to the producer of the respective pharmaceuticals or to its authorized representative in Ukraine. The pharma companies operating through the representative offices in Ukraine and selling their products to unrelated distributors cannot import their products to Ukraine on their own. Therefore, their distributors will be obliged to obtain licenses on import which will impose additional administrative burden on them. At the same time companies operating in Ukraine through the subsidiaries or commercial branches can obtain such licenses and import their products for further resale in Ukraine, thus releasing their distributors from additional licensing requirements. This fact can make producers without business presence in Ukraine less competitive for local wholesalers.

It is not clear from the wording of the law whether a product may be imported by only one authorized representative or there could be several of them. Considering the significant obligations for quality control imposed on importers state authorities may argue that there may be only one authorized representative in Ukraine. For companies dealing with several independent distributors it will lead to changes in their business models. In addition, the requirements on quality control are likely to cause high licensing requirements for import licenses. As a result, it may become too burdensome for independent distributors to comply with such requirements.

Due to the mentioned above, the pharma companies operating through the representative offices in Ukraine may consider establishing commercial branches or local subsidiaries, in order to retain their market position and distribution networks.

Restrictions on Marketing of Pharmaceuticals

On 4 July 2012 the Parliament adopted Law of Ukraine No.5036-VI introducing new restrictions on the conduct of medical and pharmaceutical employees. The prohibited conduct is:

1. receiving any "illegal" benefits from producers or distributors of pharmaceuticals, including any items of pharmaceuticals;
2. advertising pharmaceuticals, including writing prescriptions on papers with advertising information and identifying the producer when prescribing pharmaceuticals to the patient; and
3. concealing information on availability of drug analogues at lower prices.

The law came into force starting from 1 August 2012. The respective amendments to the Code of Ukraine on Administrative Offences impose responsibility for the violation of the described restrictions.

These legislative amendments in some respects entail more rigid restrictions than the current Ethical Standards on Marketing of Pharmaceuticals, which were developed by NGOs and adopted by most pharma companies on the Ukrainian market. At the same time, some matters which are dealt with in the ethical standards are not covered by the law. In any case, the ethical standards of the most recognized and reputable international associations are significantly more detailed and clear than the Ukrainian legislation on this matter.

Considering the above, we suggest that:

1. all marketing practices employed by pharma companies should be carefully reviewed as to their compliance with the new requirements of Ukrainian law; and
2. ethical standards still could be used as additional instrument for interpretation of relevant legal rules.

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'Big Tobacco' fights indoor smoking ban

→ **8** According to the World Health Organization, 62 percent of men and 17 percent of women smoked every day in 2005. In 2010, the numbers went down to 45 percent men and 9 percent women. This moved Ukraine from 4th to 29th place in a ranking of top smoking states, according to the WHO 2011 report.

Still, 8.6 million Ukrainians smoke, according to the State Statistics Service, down from 10.1 million in 2008. The mortality rate has also gone down in recent years, driven by a fall in smoke-related diseases.

A Kyiv International Sociology Institute survey shows 84 percent of Ukrainians approve of the indoor smoking ban, despite opposition from tobacco companies.

Tobacco companies say the ban discriminates against smokers. "Taking into account the balance of interest of smokers and non-smokers, we think it would be more appropriate to have separate premises for smoking. We think this issue needs further discussions," says Andriy Kryl, head of corporate and regulatory affairs at British American Tobacco in Ukraine.

Tobacco companies will likely fight back before the bill comes into effect on Dec. 16, public health activists warn. A draft law by Oleg Nadosha, a member of parliament with the pro-presidential Party of Regions, would cancel the ban.

The next battle is expected in parliament soon, as activists advocate for increased cigarettes taxes to make smoking less affordable. Tax increases have been shown to be the single most effective way to help smokers quit.

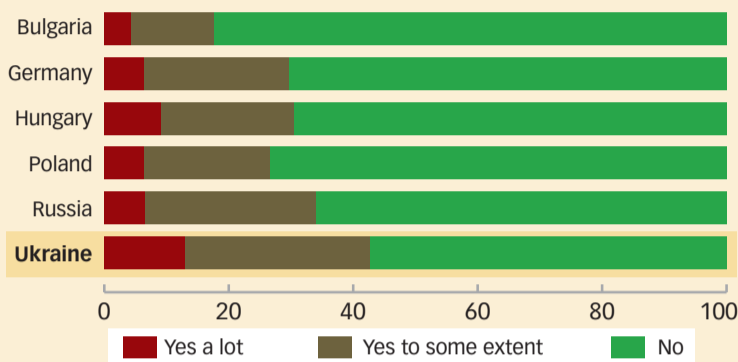
But a draft law passed by parliament in the first reading on Oct. 2 seems fairly modest. It foresees a Hr 0.10-0.15 price hike for the cheapest unfiltered cigarettes, while cheap filtered smokes will become only Hr 0.35 more costly and the most expensive cigarettes will go up by just Hr 0.25.

"So, overall, the price will increase about 2-7 percent, which would not affect consumption," says Hanna Hopko, head of the Ukraine Free of Tobacco Smoke council of civic organizations.

Currently the cheapest filtered cigarettes cost approximately Hr 5, less than in the European Union and Russia.

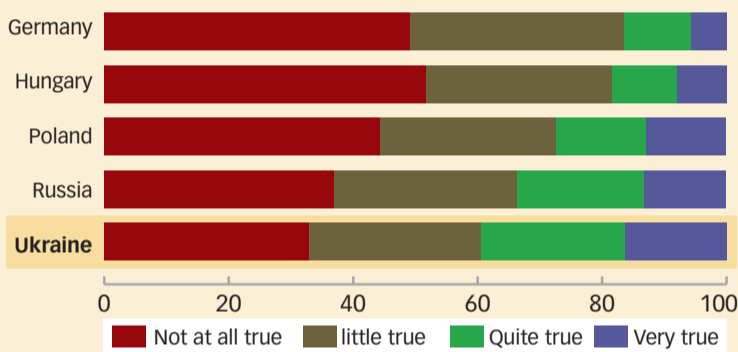
Ukrainians suffer most among European nations from disability

Are you hampered in your daily activities in any way by any longstanding illness, or disability, infirmity or mental health problem? If yes, is that a lot or to some extent?



Health risks at job remain a big problem

My health or safety is at risk because of my work.



Source: European Social Survey

A combination of bad habits and poor living conditions means Ukraine is one of Europe's least healthy nations. Widespread smoking, which routinely exposes even non-smokers to the deadly fumes, is a key reason behind the nation's heart- and lung-related health problems.

According to the WHO estimates, the tax on cigarettes has to be raised 50 percent to have a positive effect.

"In this case, the price for a pack of cigarettes will increase by 30 percent, which will drop the consumption by 12 percent. The state budget will benefit as well as the tax will bring Hr 22 billion compare to the current Hr 15.4 billion," says Dr. Igor Pokanevych, head of the WHO Country Office in Ukraine.

"The experience of most developed nations is that smoking has to be prohibited in all public places. At the same time, the law contains a strict definition of what is a public place. So smoking will remain legal (in open areas)," Pokanevych says.

Kyiv Post staff writer Svitlana Turchynska can be reached at turchynska@kyivpost.com



People work out on stationary bicycles in Kyiv's Sport Life fitness club. (Courtesy)

More fitness club options in Kyiv



TATIANA BABENKO

Despite the Soviet Union's great Olympic athletes and triumphs, the Soviet Union lacked a fitness industry overall. Gyms were equipped with self-made fitness equipment and, on top of that, they were inconvenient, with many lacking showers or ventilation.

Bodybuilding was considered a product of the bourgeois lifestyle. The habit of training at home was absent. Sports equipment shops were offering balls, jump ropes, dumbbells and other accessories, but nothing that would promote indoor training. Cardiovascular equipment was impractical because the apartments were small and not suited for making this type of purchase.

Now, by contrast, stadiums and sports centers have crowded the market.

Fitness in Ukraine

Ordinary people, not just the wealthy, have opportunities to exercise as the fitness industry in Ukraine rapidly develops.

At present, there are about 400 fitness clubs and small studios around Kyiv and more than 5,000 around the country. The turnover of fitness clubs Kyiv was estimated at more than \$70 million in 2011, making fitness a lifestyle – at least for some people. Approximately 90,000 people are working out in these clubs or have memberships – still a tiny percentage of the population.

Today all the players on fitness market are trying to use all of their tools to attract clients. They are handing out leaflets with "unbelievable 80 percent discounts," gift certificates for classes, free one-entrance tickets and promotions for a free second membership, etc.

Fitness clubs and studios can be divided into five formats by their size, services and price range.

The first format is the format of small studios. They usually offer a selected fitness program, whether it's aerobics, yoga, boxing, martial arts or dancing. They are small (usually 300 square meters) with a limited set of services: changing room, shower, air conditioning. Membership usually goes with the popularity of the program. Plenty of dance studios opened at the peak of TV dance shows era (Tantsuyut Vsi, Tantsi z Zirkamy, etc.). These studios often work on the principle of monthly memberships or one-time visits, with prices ranging from Hr 50 to Hr 700.

The second format is democratic. It is a format of 300-1,000 square-meter clubs. These clubs have more space for free weights, cardio equipment, strength equipment and to offer facilities with specialized equipment for pilates, yoga

and so on. They usually work in a format of annual cards or monthly subscriptions. These clubs usually offer monthly and annual memberships. Price ranges from Hr 500-Hr 2,500.

The third format is business. It is a format of 1,000-2,500 square meter clubs, with or without a swimming pool. Besides offering more equipment, these clubs are also offering a wide range of services: sauna, free towels, roup classes. Typically these clubs rely on the business segment. In these clubs, more attention is paid to comfort and personal service. Classes and services are often included in the cost of the card. Today, this segment probably offers the perfect ratio of price-to-quality with an optimal set of services. These clubs usually offer annual memberships ranging from Hr 1,500 to Hr 3,500.

The fourth format is the grand club. These clubs are from 2,500 to 7,000 square meters. They are equipped with swimming pools, tennis courts, squash courts, bars and so on. They are focused on attracting a huge stream of people, even up to 10,000 members. The level of service is not always the best. While a large range of services are offered, the client often has to pay extra for them.

The fifth format is luxury. Size and location are not as important as other features: furnishing, grand entrance, quality exercise equipment, services, class of clients who train there and so on. These clubs are often designed not to raise money and generate income, but to cater to status. The clients are often friends and relatives of the owner. Price ranges from Hr 20,000-Hr 56,000.

Personal training helps

The economic crisis of 2008 taught people to save, so many clients have moved down a notch or two in their choices – especially if those fitness clubs are centrally located and convenient. Among the most common complaints is excessive overcrowding. This is happens when the club announces "crazy discounts" and stops controlling the number of newcomers.

As a result, the club cannot offer comfortable workouts, lockers are overcrowded and the client has to stand in line not only to use the treadmill but also to shower. The lack of qualified instructors is another weak point. The number of true professionals is small. Some instructors are even so badly qualified they have caused injuries to clients. With so many clubs opening so fast, quality control is a big issue.

A qualified personal trainer costs from Hr 75 to Hr 500 per session and can help motivate people to reach their fitness goals more quickly and effectively.

Tatiana Babenko is chief operating officer of MyFit Personal Fitness Club (www.myfit.ua), a chain of business-format fitness centers that emphasizes personal training.

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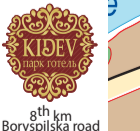
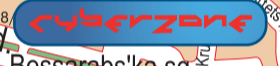
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Botanical gardens of Academy of Sciences

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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.com

For tickets online, please visit
kvytky.ua, parter.ua, freedomhall.com.ua,
bilethouse.com.ua, karabas.com, or biletik.ua.

Friday, October 26

Classical music

Works of Bach, Haydn, Byrd, Purcell, Bull, Scheidt (organ). House of Organ Music. 7:30 p.m. Hr 30-100 ②

Symphony Orchestra of the National Philharmonic of Ukraine Playing Webern, Mozart, Brahms. Soloist - Ketevan Chkhartishvili (Georgia). National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 20-100 ①

Tchaikovsky Tribute Concert. Symphony Orchestra of the National Tchaikovsky Academy of Music Concert. National Tchaikovsky Academy of Music. 7 p.m. Free ④

Movies

Molodist (International Film Festival). Kyiv. 10:00 a.m., 12 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 3:45 p.m., 4 p.m., 4:45 p.m., 5 p.m., 6 p.m., 7 p.m., 8 p.m., 9 p.m., 9:30 p.m., 10 p.m. Hr 20-50 ②

Molodist (International Film Festival). Kinopanorama. 5 p.m., 7 p.m., 9:15 p.m. Hr 30-50 ②

Live music

Mad Heads UkrainSka & Red Rocks (rock). Docker Pub. 9:30 p.m. Hr 100 ①

Kozak System & Mama Mia (rock, italiano disco). Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 75 ②

Some Like It Hot (jazz cover band). Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Hr 50 ③

Orchestr Che. Divan. 8 p.m. Hr 60 ④

Clubs

We Love Electronic Dance Music. Forsage. 11 p.m. Hr 40-60 for females, Hr 50-70 for males ⑤

DJ Sebastien Leger. Mantra. 10 p.m. Hr 100 for females, Hr 200 for males ⑥

Titty Shaker Party. Ajour. 9 p.m. Free for females, Hr 150 for males ②

Halloween. Disco Radio Hall. 10 p.m. Hr 60 for females, Hr 80 for males ②

Theaters

Napoleon and Corsican (comedy). Lesya Ukrainka Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 15-120 ②

Satisfaction (based on William Shakespeare's novel 'The Merchant of Venice'). Molody Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 50-90 ⑥

Taming Of The Shrew (comedy). Ivan Franko Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 15-150 ①

The Rubber Merchants (comedy). Drama & Comedy Theater on the left bank of Dnipro. 7 p.m. Hr 40-70 ④

Shows

Lev Durov. House of Officers. 7 p.m. Hr 130-380 ②

Mark Portnoy & Co. Bingo. 7 p.m. Hr 350-600 ⑥

Treeorange (lounge band). Atmosfera 360. 8 p.m. Hr 80-120 ②

Miscellaneous

Jazz in Kyiv 2012. Zhovtnevy Palats. 7 p.m. Hr 150-600 ⑤

Mercedes-Benz Kiev Fashion Days. Mercedes-Benz Fashion Palace. 12:01 p.m. Free (ask for invitations on Kiev Fashion Days facebook page)

Human Body Exhibition. NSC Olimpiyskiy. Hr 110-350 ⑤

Normandy In Paintings (works of Monet, Renoir, Corot, Gericault). National Art Museum. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Hr 40, Hr 10 (for children) ⑥

Anatoliy Melnyk (art exhibition). National Art Museum of Ukraine. 10 a.m. Hr 40 ⑥

The Mystery of Old Boards. Museum of Bogdan and Varvara Khanenko. Hr 10 ⑤

National Art Museum. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Hr 40, Hr 10 (for children) ⑥

Anatoliy Melnyk (art exhibition). National Art Museum of Ukraine. 10 a.m. Hr 40 ⑥

The Mystery of Old Boards. Museum of Bogdan and Varvara Khanenko. Hr 10 ⑤

Sunday, October 28

Classical music

Pages from the Best Programs. Works of Haydn, Britten, Puccini, Dvorak (violin). National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 20-100 ①

Tchaikovsky Tribute Concert. Kyiv Soloists Ensemble Playing Haydn, Gubadulina. National Tchaikovsky Academy of Music. 7 p.m. Free ④

Movies

Lying Naked Truth (comedy). Drama & Comedy Theater on the left bank of Dnipro. 7 p.m. Hr 70-120 ④

The Dove (tragic comedy). Until Mother Did Not Come (comedy). Molody Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 50-90 ⑥

Push Up 1-3 (drama). Koleso Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 70 ②

Night For Two (lyric comedy). Theater in Podil. 7 p.m. Hr 60 ⑥

Molodist (International Film Festival). Kyiv. 11:15 a.m., 12 p.m., 1:15 p.m., 2 p.m., 3:15 p.m., 4 p.m., 5:15 p.m., 6 p.m., 7:20 p.m., 8 p.m., 9:30 p.m., 9:45 p.m. Hr 20-50 ②

Molodist (International Film Festival). Kinopanorama. 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 8:15 p.m. Hr 30-50 ②

Clubs

Salsa Halloween. Fiesta. 7 p.m. Hr 20 ⑥

Electro Lovers Party Time. Saxon. 11 p.m. Hr 15-30 ⑥

Shows

Lara Fabian. Palats Ukraina. 7 p.m. Hr 250-3000 ①

Skryabin. Underground Music Hall. 8 p.m. Hr 170-200 ⑥

Therion. Bingo. 8 p.m. Hr 250-400 ⑥

Undervud. Docker Pub. 9 p.m. Hr 150-2100 ①

Miscellaneous

Jazz in Kyiv 2012. Zhovtnevy Palats. 7 p.m. Hr 150-600 ⑤

Mercedes-Benz Kiev Fashion Days. Mercedes-Benz Fashion Palace. 12:01 p.m. Free (ask for invitations on Kiev Fashion Days facebook page)

Human Body Exhibition. NSC Olimpiyskiy. Hr 110-350 ⑤

Normandy In Paintings (works of Monet, Renoir, Corot, Gericault). National Art Museum. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Hr 40, Hr 10 (for children) ⑥

Anatoliy Melnyk (art exhibition). National Art Museum of Ukraine. 10 a.m. Hr 40 ⑥

The Mystery of Old Boards. Museum of Bogdan and Varvara Khanenko. Hr 10 ⑤

Monday, October 29

Classical music

Music of Viennese Classics. Lysenko String Quartet (piano, organ). House of Organ Music. 7:30 p.m. Hr 20-80 ②

Play My Bandura. Works of Maiboroda, Gvozd. National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 40-80 ①

Movies

Autumn Future Shorts (shorts festival). Kyiv. 4:40 p.m., 6:30 p.m. Hr 30-40 ②

Goodbye, Ukraine. Kyiv. 6:40 p.m., 8:50 p.m. Hr 55-65 ②

Live music

Ruki V Briuki (rockabilly). Docker Pub. 9:30 p.m. Free ①

Rockin' Wolves (rock). Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Free ②

Saturday, October 27

Classical music

Works of Vivaldi, Bach, Handel, Pergolesi, Mozart, Durante, Gordan (piano, organ). House of Organ Music. 7:30 p.m. Hr 50-200 ②

Debussy Tribute Concert. National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 40-80 ①

Movies

Molodist (International Film Festival). Kyiv. 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 12 p.m., 1:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 4 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 8 p.m., 9:30 p.m., 9:45 p.m., 11:45 p.m. Hr 20-50 ②

Molodist (International Film Festival). Kinopanorama. 3 p.m., 5 p.m., 7 p.m., 9:15 p.m. Hr 30-50 ②

Live music

Antytila & Dyadya Vasya. Docker Pub. 9:30 p.m. Hr 75 ①

Mad Heads UkrainSka & Red Rocks. Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 75 ②

Mama Mia (italiano disco, rock). Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Hr 50 ③

Koma. Divan. 8 p.m. Free ④

Clubs

I'm No Angel (erotic party). Seven Music Club. 11 p.m. Free for females, Hr 70 for males ②

Happy Halloween. City Entertainment in Sky Mall. 11 p.m. Free for females, Hr 50 for males ⑤

Angels & Demons. Mantra. 11 p.m. Free for females, Hr 200 for males ④

Theaters

Ma-Na Hat-Ta (based on Ingeborg Bachmann's play 'Der gute Gott von Manhattan'). Palats Ukraina, small stage. 7 p.m. Hr 150-250 ①

The Bat (operetta). Operetta Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 80-100 ⑤

Urus-Shaitan (the tale about Sirko - Cossack Ataman, Chevalier d'Artagnan and the Turkish Sultan). Ivan Franko Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 15-150 ①

Four Reasons To Get Married (comedy). Drama & Comedy Theater on the left bank of Dnipro. 7 p.m. Hr 70-120 ④

Shows

Lara Fabian. Palats Ukraina. 7 p.m. Hr 250-3000 ①

Troll Gnet Yele. Bochka. 8 p.m. Hr 110-160 ⑥

Botanika. Underground Music Hall. 8 p.m. Hr 80-110 ⑥

Miscellaneous

Jazz in Kyiv 2012. Zhovtnevy Palats. 7 p.m. Hr 150-600 ⑤

Best Food Fest and Health. NSC Olimpiyskiy. 10 a.m. Hr 150 ⑤

Mercedes-Benz Kiev Fashion Days. Mercedes-Benz Fashion Palace. 12:01 p.m. Free (ask for invitations on Kiev Fashion Days facebook page)

Human Body Exhibition. NSC Olimpiyskiy. Hr 110-350 ⑤

Normandy In Paintings (works of Monet, Renoir, Corot, Gericault).

molodist 42

Singer-actress **Kamaliya's** Hollywood debut movie "Officer Down" will be screened on **Oct. 26 at 6 p.m.** as a special event during the 42nd Molodist Film Festival in **movie theater Kyiv** as its Ukrainian premiere.

The film was shown earlier during the Cannes Film Festival. The film is planned for worldwide release in January 2013.

Kamaliya, James Woods, Stephen Dorff, Stephen Lang, Dominic Purcell, Oleg Taktarov, Walton Goggins, David Boreanaz, Elisabeth Rohm, AnnaLynne McCord are among the cast. It is directed by Brian A. Miller.

It's an invitation-only event, so no tickets would be offered for sale.



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Rock Funk Fest. Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Free

Theaters

A Profitable Position (based on Nikolay Ostrovsky novel). Lesya Ukrainka Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 15-120

Spectators Are Not Allowed On Performance! (comedy). Drama & Comedy Theater on the left bank of Dnipro. 7 p.m. Hr 70-120

Shows

Scorpions. Palats Sportu. 7 p.m. Hr 690-5990

Miscellaneous

Human Body Exhibition. NSC Olimpiyskiy. Hr 110-350

Tuesday, October 30

Classical music

Lyatoshynsky Classical Music Ensemble Playing Puccini, Paganini (violin). House of Organ Music. 7:30 p.m. Hr 30-90

Movies

Autumn Future Shorts (shorts festival). Kyiv. 4:40 p.m., 6:30 p.m. Hr 30-40

Goodbye, Ukraine. Kyiv. 6:40 p.m., 8:50 p.m. Hr 55-65

Live music

Animals Session (classic rock). Docker Pub. 9:30 p.m. Free

Karnavalnaya Zhara (rock). Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 20

Jeck Frost (pop rock). Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Free

Guitar House Jam Session. Divan. 8 p.m. Free

Theaters

Ordinary Story (drama). Molody Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 40-70

Ladie's Night (comedy-show). Operetta Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 80-350

City Of Dating (comedy). Palats Ukraina, small stage. 7 p.m. Hr 100-140

Indian Summer (lyrical comedy). Lesya Ukrainka Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 20-200

Shows

Mikhail Bublik. Zhovtnevy Palats. 7 p.m. Hr 150-1000

Miscellaneous

Human Body Exhibition. NSC Olimpiyskiy. Hr 110-350

Wednesday, October 31

Classical music

Works of Bach, Vidor, Faure, Scheidt, Gaubert, Rheinberger (organ, flute, piano, harpsichord). House of Organ Music. 7:30 p.m. Hr 20-80

Movies

Autumn Future Shorts (shorts festival). Kyiv. 4:40 p.m., 6:30 p.m. Hr 30-40

Goodbye, Ukraine. Kyiv. 6:40 p.m., 8:50 p.m. Hr 55-65

Live music

Halloween with Beefeaters & Crazy Train. Docker Pub. 9 p.m. Hr 50

Jazz Wednesday with Konstantin Ionenko Quartet. Divan. 8 p.m. Free

Club

Dead Star Costume Party. Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Hr 30

Theaters

The Seagull (comedy, based on Anton Chekhov play). House Of Actor's. 7 p.m. Hr 50-70

The School Of Scandals (comedy). Lesya Ukrainka Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 15-120

Woyzeck. Carnival Of Flesh (premiere). Drama & Comedy Theater on the left bank of Dnipro. 7 p.m. Hr 70-120

Don Juan (based on Moliere's play). Molody Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 40-70

Miscellaneous

Human Body Exhibition. NSC Olimpiyskiy. Hr 110-350

The Mystery of Old Boards. Museum of Bogdan and Varvara Khanenko. Hr 10

Thursday, November 1

Classical music

My Love. Works of Albinoni, Schubert, Verdi, Puccini. National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 40-80

Movies

Skyfall (action). Kyiv. 9:45 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 3:15 p.m., 6:10 p.m., 9 p.m. Hr 30-60

Walkabout. Master Klass 7 p.m. Hr 40

Live music

Mama Mia (rock, italiano disco). Docker Pub. 9:30 p.m. Free

Animals Session (classic rock). Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 30

Theaters

Ball In Savoy (operetta). Operetta Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 80-120

Torchalov (premiere). Molody Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 50-90

Do Not Disturb! (comedy, based on Ray Cooney's play '#13'). Palats Ukraina, small stage. 7 p.m. Hr 60-85

Dreams Of Vasilisa Yegorovna (performance by Les' Poderev'yans'ky). Kinopanorama. 7 p.m. Hr 150-400

Shows

Deep Purple. Palats Sportu. 7 p.m. Hr 350-2000

Anton Lirnik & LirnikBand. Crystal Hall. 9 p.m. Hr 100

Happy Birthday, Inter! Palats Ukraina. 7 p.m. Hr 450-2950

Miscellaneous

Human Body Exhibition. NSC Olimpiyskiy. Hr 110-350

The Mystery of Old Boards. Museum of Bogdan and Varvara Khanenko. Hr 10

Friday, November 2

Classical music

Classics on Fridays. Baroque Ensemble 'Offertorium' and 'Collegium Kyiv' Orchestra Playing Brahms, Mozart. Master Klass. Hr 50

Georgian Chamber Music Concert. National Academic Symphonic Orchestra of Ukraine Playing Sibelius, Kancheli, Paliashvili (violin). National Philharmonic. Hr 45-90

Movies

Skyfall (action). Kyiv. 10 a.m., 1 p.m., 4 p.m., 7 p.m., 9:45 p.m. Hr 30-60

Live music

Mandry & Crazy Train. Docker Pub. 10 p.m. Hr 75

Chilibombers & Red Rocks (rock). Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 75

Theaters

The Threepenny Opera (musical, starring Konstantin Khabensky). Opera Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 490-5,990

Pavlik Morozov (performance by Les' Poderev'yans'ky). Kinopanorama. 7 p.m. Hr 150-400

Love Letters To Stalin (premiere). Molody Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 50-80

Sorochinsky Fair (operetta). Operetta Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 80-120

Shows

Volodymyr Kuzmin. Crystal Hall. 8 p.m. Hr 250-1500

Les Poderev'yanskyi. Kinopanorama. 7 p.m. Hr 150-400

Miscellaneous

Human Body Exhibition. NSC Olimpiyskiy. Hr 110-350

Kimono. Three Centuries of Japanese Fashion. Atmosfera 360. 10 a.m. Hr 30-90

Grand Natural (photoexhibition). Ya Greter Art-center. 11 a.m. Free

The Mystery of Old Boards. Museum of Bogdan and Varvara Khanenko. Hr 10

Saturday, November 3

Classical music

Works of Vivaldi, Rameau, Muthel, Dubois, Bossi (organ). House of Organ Music. 7:30 p.m.

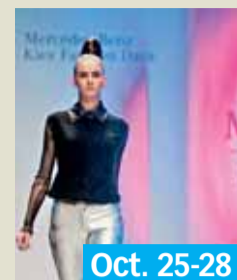
Femi Mustafayev (baryton) Accompanied by National Academic Orchestra of Folk Instruments of Ukraine Playing Ukrainian Folk Songs and Works of European Composers. National Philharmonic. Hr 40-80

Live music

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

Bangladesh Orchestra & Beefeaters. Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 75

More fashion coming in Kyiv



Oct. 25-28

Kyiv will be hosting Mercedes-Benz Kiev Fashion Days show this weekend. The event includes 16 catwalk shows, 13 lectures and four themed parties. Apart from Ukrainian designers, London fashion guru Jean Pierre Braganza and David Koma will present their new collections. Canadian artist and model Rick Genest, known as Zombie boy for being covered in tattoos from head to toe, is expected to perform for the guests during one of the fashion parties. Mercedes-Benz Kiev Fashion Days show is the second major event in Ukraine's fashion world this autumn coming on the heels of the Oct. 10-14 Ukrainian Fashion Week. For more information and schedule go to event's website http://mbkievfashiondays.com.

Invitations can be received at Yakitoria, Kult Ra, Espresso Cappuccino Bar, City Hotel and Piure shop. Mercedes-Benz Kiev Fashion Days. Oct. 25-28. Mercedes-Benz Fashion Palace. By invitation.

Theaters

Valentin And Valentina (drama). Palats Ukraina, small stage. 7 p.m. Hr 50-120

Four Reasons To Get Married (comedy). Drama & Comedy Theater on the left bank of Dnipro. 7 p.m. Hr 70-120

Athens Nights (comedy). Molody Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 50-90

The Gypsy Baron (premiere). Operetta Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 80-150

Shows

Les Poderev'yanskyi. Kinopanorama. 7 p.m. Hr 150-400

Garou. Palats Ukraina. 7 p.m. Hr 200-1500

Miscellaneous

School of Scientific Wonders. Artist's House. 11 a.m., 1 p.m. Hr 60-150

Human Body Exhibition. NSC Olimpiyskiy. Hr 110-350

The Mystery of Old Boards. Museum of Bogdan and Varvara Khanenko. Hr 10

Sunday, November 4

Classical music

Works of Arnold Schoenberg

(Austria). National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 40-80

Live music

Paul Di'anno, Blaze Bayley (Iron Maiden). Docker Pub. 8:30 p.m. Free to be announced

Tres Deseos (latino party). Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Free

Theaters

Dangerous Liaisons (drama). Drama & Comedy Theater on the left bank of Dnipro. 7 p.m. Hr 50-80

Chasing Two Hares (operetta). Operetta Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 80-150

Natalka Poltavka (Ukrainian rococo, based on Ivan Kotlyarevsky play). Ivan Franko Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 15-150

Pickled Aristocrat (Ukrainian-British fantasy). Molody Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 50-90

Shows

Seether. Bingo. 7 p.m. Hr 250

Miscellaneous

Human Body Exhibition. NSC Olimpiyskiy. Hr 110-350

The Mystery of Old Boards. Museum of Bogdan and Varvara Khanenko. Hr 10

Addresses of venues

- Classical Music: National Philharmonic of Ukraine, House of Organ Music, School of Jazz and Pop Art, National Tchaikovsky Academy of Music, etc.

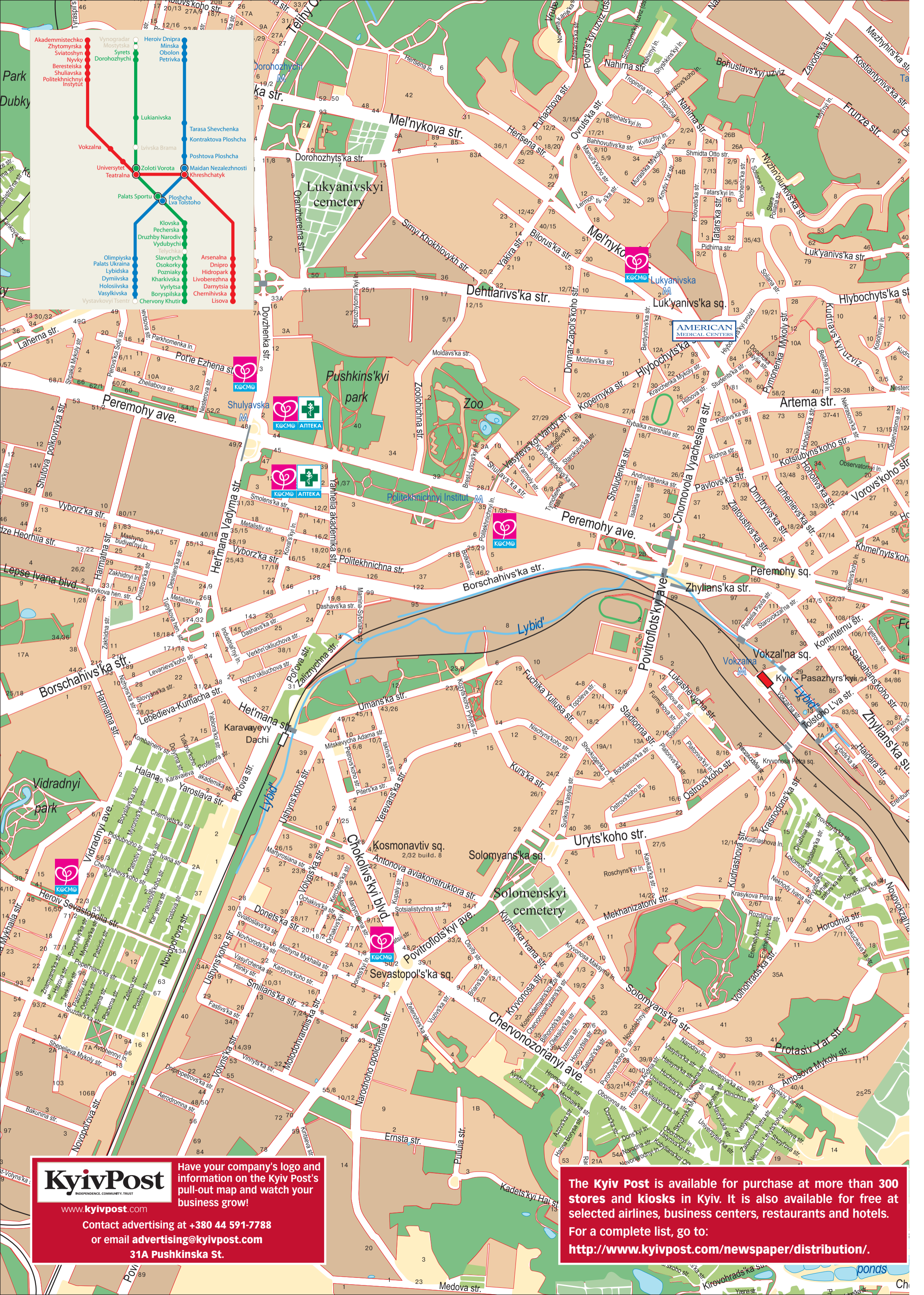
- 406-7600 forsageclub.com.ua, Prime Club, Art Club 44, Arena Entertainment, Woyzeck, Don Juan, Human Body Exhibition, etc.

- 2 Park Alley, Opera.com.ua, House of Actors, Ajour, Molody Theater, etc.

- International Exhibition Center, Kyivska Rus park, Spartak stadium, Mystetskyi Arsenal, etc.

- Mytets Gallery, National University of Physical Training and Sports, National Museum of Ukraine, etc.

- Golfstream club, Babuin, Triptych Gallery, etc.



Legend:

- Vynohradar Mostytska Syrets Dorohozhychi:** Vynohradar, Mostytska, Syrets, Dorohozhychi
- Heroin Dnipra Oblon Petrivka:** Heroin, Dnipra, Oblon, Petrivka
- Lukyanivka:** Lukyanivka
- Taras Shevchenka Kontraktova Ploshcha Postshva Ploshcha:** Tarasa Shevchenka, Kontraktova Ploshcha, Postshva Ploshcha
- Maidan Nezalezhnosti Khreshchatyk:** Maidan Nezalezhnosti, Khreshchatyk
- Palats Sportu Ploshcha Lva Tolstoho:** Palats Sportu, Ploshcha Lva Tolstoho
- Klovska Pecherska Druzhy Narodiv Vydubychi:** Klovska, Pecherska, Druzhy Narodiv, Vydubychi
- Arsenalna Dnipro Hidropark Livoberezhna Darymtsia Chernivska Lisova:** Arsenalna, Dnipro, Hidropark, Livoberezhna, Darymtsia, Chernivska, Lisova
- Olimpiyska Palats Ukraina Lybidska Dymyivska Holosiivska Vasylivska Vystavkovyi Tsentr:** Olimpiyska, Palats Ukraina, Lybidska, Dymyivska, Holosiivska, Vasylivska, Vystavkovyi Tsentr
- Slavutych Osokorky Pozniaky Khar'kivska Vyrlytsa Boryspilska Chervonyi Khutir:** Slavutych, Osokorky, Pozniaky, Khar'kivska, Vyrlytsa, Boryspilska, Chervonyi Khutir

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Vitali Klitchko, Ukrainian politician

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Jean-Jacques Hervé, Board in Agricultural Matters, Credit Agricole

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Remembering River Palace



For some men and women, River Palace was a delightful place to hang out and find companionship – at least for an evening and often for a price. To others, it was a tawdry eyesore on the Dnipro River – a “floating bordello” whose removal in 2010 improved Kyiv’s image. (Courtesy)

GRAHAM PHILLIPS

River Palace, the legendary “den of iniquity,” was removed from the riverbank in mid-2010, changing the Kyiv nightlife scene dramatically.

For years, River Palace was one of the most recognizable landmarks in Kyiv. It stood on the banks of the Dnipro River, next to the metro, as part of an esplanade of establishments. Internet searches on Kyiv nightlife put it near the top. Tens of thousands saw it every day while passing by on the metro, going on boat tours or in cars. Many also crossed its threshold, although getting anyone to admit that they went there was notoriously difficult. For all the billing as a nightclub, restaurant, or casino, River Palace always was purely a brothel.

Then, one day in late July 2010, River Palace was gone, towed away to Ukrainka (around 50 kilometers from Kyiv), and unlikely to return. So what happened to all the women who worked there? Or the gentlemen who “never went there” a couple of times a week? This Kyiv Post freelance writer catches up with some of them, and takes a look at how the demise of the “pleasure palace” affected Kyiv.

River days

River Palace set up business in 1995, the first of what became a strip of establishments on the Dnipro riverbank, when post-Soviet Kyiv was starting to see tourist booms fueled by lower-than-Western prices and comely ladies. There was a bar, restaurant and small casino, but the room almost

every visitor went for was the club room. This comprised a dance floor flanked by tables and women looking to hire out their services for that evening. While never legal in Ukraine, prostitution was largely ignored in the 1990s and early 2000s, as newly independent Ukraine was grateful for whatever tourists it could attract. River Palace soon saw itself joined by several other venues as the Dnipro promenade became a somewhat seedy but thriving embankment.

Entering “the boat” was an interesting experience, as you descended under a covered gangway, before crossing a small gangplank onto the slightly rickety, 62-meter-long riverboat. Admission was always fairly reasonable, running at \$10 on most nights. The spectacle was both the women themselves, gussied

up and some nights in the hundreds, and their clients-to-be. The gentlemen were an interesting combination of types. There were the pros, seasoned business travelers who went solely to find company for the evening. There were rookies, struck dumb by such a place, affixing their gazes to their shoes while working women circled. And finally there were the gawkers who went just to take in the whole giddy spectacle of it all.

Changing days

There wasn’t anything like River Palace. Yet, in the mid-part of the 2000s, the winds started to blow against the floating bordello. A 2005 law imposing tougher sentences for human trafficking and coerced prostitution may not have been strongly enforced, → **17**

Food Critic

WITH OLENA GONCHAROVA
GONCHAROVA@KYIVPOST

Dine with live critters at Botsad

thKyivans, always hungry for a new culinary experience, will be pleased to hear about Botsad (short for Botanical Garden), the latest gastronomical addition to the city’s menu of restaurants.

Located on Lva Tolstoho Street in downtown Kyiv, just in front of its namesake Botanical Garden, Botsad is easy to find. And, unique to the city’s dining scene, Botsad offers patrons the company of various farm animals while enjoying the meal. The food, though, is good enough to warrant a visit even without the additional entertainment.

It was overcrowded when my group arrived and we could hardly find a place to sit on the terrace, except for a table beneath a giant plasma television. We were given a wine list first, and then we waited for at least 30 minutes for a menu.

But our impatience disappeared when a white rabbit passed by our seats. A great spot for animal lovers, Botsad boasts an array of noisy canaries, chinchillas and even a pig in the yard near the entrance door. There are some “green corners” in the restaurant, where patrons can play with animals. Rabbits and hens can be found in a special cloakroom near the WC.

Besides the animals, the site also has an interesting history. It was once an IQ bar famous for its high-brow tastes and variety of board games to play. Those times have left more than a trace, notably in the mirrors, with IQ signs making reference to particular guests.

But mostly Botsad is fresh and new, especially the menu, in which diners will find Odesa cuisine, like vorschmak (Hr 49), minced meat or anchovies with onions, eggplant salad with cheese (Hr 37) and “macaroni po flotski” (similar to traditional pasta bolognese) that goes for Hr 72.

Not surprisingly, Ukrainian and Russian dishes are there, too, including Kyiv cutlet, carpaccio, pelmeni and golubtsi (cabbage rolls), all common among Kyiv restaurants. The menu is also foreigner-friendly with English translations.

Our meals came after some 25 minutes. Rose petals decorating the plate seemed odd, especially since we had ordered chebureki (Hr 47), a Tatar meat-filled dumpling dish widespread in former-Soviet countries. Yet despite the peculiar appearance, the dish tasted just fine.

Our main course was the Black Sea Rapana mollusk with Crimean caper for Hr 96, which tasted great, but had a slightly → **19**

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Kyiv's 'floating bordello' towed away in 2010

→ 16 but it marked a change in attitudes as Ukraine sought to align itself more closely with Europe.

River Palace had since the start been an unofficial brothel, and thus unregulated in that sphere. However, management did make efforts to keep things fairly civilized, with no overt presence of pimps or narcotics. The women were freelancers, paying an admission fee at the door but keeping their earnings themselves. Most were career prostitutes, although on any given night there was a chance you would find a non-professional there for a quick injection of cash. Certainly their prices, Western as they were, were appealing given that a woman could potentially earn in a couple of nights what she may make in an entire month as a waitress.

The writing, though, had been on the wall for River Palace since Ukraine won the bid to host the Euro 2012 football championship five years ago. Ukraine could not allow the global attention to fixate on River Palace.

It is still unclear how much the final removal had to do with policy, politics or unsavory business interests. The place is reported to have changed hands in early 2010, from Moscow-based Ritzyo Entertainment Group to new owners said to be less inclined to pay police protection fees.

In any case, the palace, which had enjoyed a light touch from the police in its early years, started finding itself the subject of more frequent raids. In these raids, the women would be bundled into vans and taken off, in scenes reminiscent of the Soviet classic *Interdevochka*. Joining them would be any foreign visitors without their passports. Needless to say, this impinged on the atmosphere. When the adjacent restaurant, Murakami, was removed in early July, River Palace's fate seemed sealed and, on July 28, River Palace served its final customer.

Police vs. the Palace

About 50 police officers arrived on the morning of July 29, 2010, apparently

River Palace, the one-stop shop for men and women, was towed to Ukrainka, downriver from Kyiv on the Dnipro River, on July 29, 2010. (Ukrafoto)



without any documentation, but citing a letter from the river administration. They would be making an urgent inspection and the dozen-plus staff on board all needed to abandon shop immediately. A couple of staff members, rather inebriated, resisted, and were carted off to jail. Police moved quickly, cutting off all power and setting about detaching the ship from its moorings.

Eyewitness reports describe the removal as efficient and rapid, with little thought given to the preservation of the vessel. By mid-afternoon River Palace was towed away under the Metro Bridge and out of Kyiv. There are reports of women and clients turning up that evening only to find a walkway leading nowhere.

Press releases from the prosecutor's office after the event presented the official position that the quayside was not suitable for docking vessels, and that the proliferation of floating venues there was unregulated, potentially damaging the riverfront, with the gangways acting as potential death traps for clients.

Although some of the other boats

once forming the Dnipro entertainment embankment can be found around Kyiv, River Palace will likely never be seen in the capital again. And yet, what of those who went there for work and pleasure?

Using only their first names, this Kyiv Post freelance writer interviewed men and women who frequented River Palace and asked how life has changed since the final tow two years ago.

Masha – I used to go there most nights of the week. I'm a single mother and being a "working girl" is how I feed my children. River Palace was an ideal place to work – safe, no problems from the management. Plus, the guys came there looking for prostitutes. Since River Palace left, things have been very different. I have a few clubs where I work, but it's unreliable. Quite often people aren't looking for prostitutes there, and if we look for clients too assertively, management can be heavy-handed. I can definitely say that things have been tougher for me since it was taken away.

Evgenia – I worked there at the start of my career, so I have some nostalgia for the place. However, the

world changes and business changes, so you have to look for new opportunities. Working in such an environment could be a bit depressing. There were always a lot of girls and fewer guys, so they could be a bit unkind sometimes, reject you, just walk on to the next girl. And there was quite a lot of competition among the girls – cattiness and so on. We were all lined up, waiting to be picked, based purely on appearance. Now I do my business online. It's much simpler. I do all the negotiating from my computer, then go and meet the client with everything agreed. Sometimes I pass by where River Palace was on the river, and think of it, but I don't really miss the place.

Yulia – In an unpredictable business, it was a surer thing than most. Taking out advertisements with a phone number or handing out business cards around town is unreliable, and can take a lot of time and money. With River Palace you could go most nights, and as long as you looked good, there was a decent chance you'd find a client. Also, you could see the guy, size him up a bit and work out how much to charge him. If he was a gentleman,

he'd buy you a drink while negotiations took place, and be staying in a nice hotel somewhere. Sometimes it could be as high as \$500; other times as low as \$100 – it all depended on the guy, and how much I needed the money. Since River Palace left, I've worked mostly from massage parlors and bars and clubs around town. But it's not as reliable, and I miss the security of the boat.

Dmitry – "It was a fabulous place. Whenever I had business contacts in town, I'd take them there and just watch their eyes light up. They'd never seen anything like it before. Some of them got hooked and every time they came back to Kyiv, would demand I take them there. I'm sure some of them found reasons for business trips, just for that. I miss the place, it was a lot of fun, there's nowhere similar now."

David – "I liked it, and would go there from time to time. However, towards the end of its days, it was starting to feel like an anachronism, and strange that such a place would be allowed to exist. One thing that I really appreciate, in retrospect, is how much it gathered all the prostitutes in one place."

Ray – "I've been in Kyiv long enough to remember when the River Palace first opened and, over the years, I went there off and on. It was funny, among visitors, sometimes you'd see guys in a professional capacity who you'd seen before on the boat. You'd kind of exchange a knowing glance at each other, and hope that it would help rather than harm your prospects of doing a deal! Its removal is kind of an ironic situation. On the one hand, it would appear to have cleaned Kyiv up and it certainly improved the appearance of the riverbank. On the other, nowadays you can go into the toilet of an expat pub and find a prostitute waiting to offer you her services. When River Palace was there... you went looking for them, rather than them for you."

Graham Phillips is a freelance writer living in Kyiv.

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Weddings

In partnership with Premier Palace Hotel



European trends blossom in Ukraine's wedding market

BY DARYNA SHEVCHENKO
SHEVCHENKO@KYIVPOT.COM

Some women dream of wedding gowns and black limousines from early childhood. Others act indifferent to marriage. But in the end almost everyone has a ring on their finger – even if it doesn't last forever.

That's probably why, even in times of economic crisis, the wedding industry does well. New wedding designers, florists and wedding fashion houses keep appearing not only in European countries, but in Ukraine as well.

"There was no wedding industry in Ukraine at all when it just became independent," said leading wedding designer Oksana Mukha. Her brand has been on the market for almost two decades and started from a dress rental shop with no designer wedding outfits (which come in a single-copy only). Her stock initially came in from abroad. Her first exclusive wedding fashion lines appeared in 1993. From then on, she's been on the road to success.

Mukha says Ukrainian wedding fashion has progressed a lot since the early 1990s. "It used to be all white a decade ago, (but) now colors are widely used and there are many themed weddings," she said.

Brides agree. "People lately started successfully combining national traditions like eating a wedding loaf and salt with European ones, like decorating their wedding spaces with one color, all with fresh flowers or bridesmaids in the same color and similar dresses," said Victoria Tyazhkorob, 24. She married a year ago, but has been a maid of honor at 11 weddings and has the wardrobe to prove it. "This definitely confirms the European trends in Ukrainian wedding fashion," she laughs.

Tyazhkorob's wedding was pretty big with more than 200 guests invited, but



Victoria Tyazhkorob, a newlywed from Kyiv, her groom, bridesmaids and groomsmen celebrate the 2011 wedding in Kyiv. (Bohdan Grygorenko)

still perfectly decorated in brown and cream colors with wheat and chrysanthemums all around the wedding hall.

"The selection of flowers definitely became more elegant at Ukrainian weddings in recent years," said Anna Oksymets, a wedding florist in business for eight years. "The palette definitely became more interesting, there are many more creative orders and approaches, even though classic (solutions) are still quite popular," she said.

"I wanted something totally crazy, up to thorns in the bouquet and I got it," said another newlywed, Olga Lavytyska, who married a few months ago, with a short dress and a short budget. "Now

you can get even a good European wedding for Ukrainian money," she said.

As anywhere, weddings are pricey in Ukraine. But weddings can be had for both \$10,000 and \$2,500. Wedding gown prices can jump to Hr 30,000 for a designer dress or fall to Hr 1,000 or even less.

As new products appear, weddings are also becoming more creative. Ukrainian bride Natalia Maiboroda had two weddings – in Moscow and in Kyiv – and both were as imaginative as can be: a globe-shaped wedding cake, an old car for newlyweds covered with a knitted blanket and wedding rings

with fingerprints.

"Even our rings are unique," Maiboroda said. "I got one with my husband's fingerprint and he got one with mine," she said, adding that such rings can only be bought in Russia and Canada.

Others just want to keep things simple and elegant. Iryna Petrenko, a recent bride, said she and her husband decided against the official ceremonies, dinners and expensive outfits.

"We didn't want a suit that would hang in the wardrobe for years, never to be used again, and a gown that costs thousands (of hryvnias)," she said. "So we bought my husband an ensemble in

Zara and bought my wedding gown for just Hr 1,000," she explained.

Her ivory-colored dress with a big black ribbon looks just like a creation by world famous American designer Vera Wang – but it isn't. But the imitation looks real enough and costs just a fraction of the several thousand dollars for an original. Petrenko said she always loved Wang's collections and dreamed about wearing one. "I just bought the materials and found a person who would make it for me, easy and cheap," she said.

But others just need that designer's touch, no matter the price. Ukraine's Natalia Tausher, for instance, accepts orders starting from Hr 10,000, which then cover services for the bride up to the wedding day. "If there is a need I even come to the bride's house to help her get dressed myself," she says.

Her gowns definitely stand out through the bright elements, decorations and models. Tausher claims a single look is enough to conceive a dress that would fit a bride's inner appearance and says each of her works is unique. "I have a rule – no less than 15 differences between two gowns," she explains. The designer says most women born in the 80s still dream of a fairy-tale princesses look but younger brides opt for elegant silhouette gowns.

Designer and elite wedding planner Olga Gromova says Ukraine's wedding market still has a lot to learn from Europe, although the trend is positive. "There were no such professions as wedding planner or wedding creative director in Ukraine several years ago and still many agencies don't have specialists," she said. "Luckily there are less balloons and more style and taste at Ukrainian weddings."

Kyiv Post staff writer Daryna Shevchenko can be reached at shevchenko@kyivpost.com



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An outdoor wedding ceremony is a popular choice for many couples. (Hastya Guz)

Organizers step in to smooth out weddings

BY ELENA PASHKOVSKAYA
PASHKOVSKAYA@KYIVPOST.COM

A stiff, official ceremony in the Civil Registry, the playing of a recorded Mendelssohn's March, photos near monuments and an ordinary banquet. That's what most weddings looked like for a long time in Ukraine.

But more and more couples are trying to make this special day more exclusive and beautiful.

"The main trend now is an outdoor ceremony in European style. It gives a lot of space for creativeness and fantasy," says Ksenia Bobyl, the owner of the Love Is In The Air wedding agency. "Our task is to make it unforgettable and pleasant, to bring a couple's dreams to life."

According to Bobyl and her colleagues, it takes three to seven months to organize a wedding. To help a couple through this complicated event, future spouses sometimes decide to hire wedding organizers.

The steps are rather simple. The wedding organizer usually starts with a theme for the wedding chosen by the couple. Then, the organizer offers different options for decoration, a banquet menu, the design for invitations, flowers and entertainment.

Dasha Pyvovar from Kyiv is one of many brides who used the organizers' services. Her wedding took place in early September. It was an outdoor ceremony for 170 guests, held in a countryside restaurant. Entertainment was brought by a magician and popular Ukrainian folk band TIK.

"I met with six wedding organizers, before choosing one," Pyvovar says. "I'm really happy that my wedding was led by an organizer because I hardly could handle all by myself. I didn't have to worry about anything that day."

Pyvovar won't reveal her own wedding expenses. But Bobyl, who took care of her wedding, says that her



Organizers look after every wedding detail. (Courtesy)

price starts from about \$700 for small weddings, while weddings with more elaborate programs cost at least \$1,500 to organize. Some agencies, she says, prefer charging a commission from the entire wedding budget.

According to Bobyl, her clients' wedding budgets differ. She said the average cost is \$30,000, while some families spend up to \$80,000. Lower-budget weddings for \$10,000 and even \$5,000 are also in her resume.

"If couple doesn't want an organizer, they can just order the services of coordinator to help them on the day of ceremony," Bobyl says.

Another wedding organizer, Masha Reznikova, talked about the main ingredients of wedding planning.

"We start with choosing a date," says Reznikova. "Then the location, the bride's dress, the host, the photographer and cars. Those are the things that need to be ordered as early as possible."

According to her, the average

time to prepare the wedding is three months, but it could be done faster or even take longer. "A good agency can plan and organize everything in just two weeks, usually clients are the ones who slow the process down," Reznikova said.

Unexpected problems can ruin weddings. That's where organizers step in.

Reznikova remembers a case when a restaurant where the banquet took place suddenly changed the curtains on the day of ceremony, and the new curtains just didn't go with the wedding. The scariest thing that ever happened, Reznikova says, was when the lights went off in the whole neighborhood.

But the biggest challenges usually come from the clients themselves.

"Sometimes the bride and groom would quarrel, or their mothers would interfere, pushing their own views," Reznikova said.

Kyiv Post staff writer Elena Pashkovskaya can be reached at pashkovskaya@kyivpost.com



Botsad restaurant offers clients a dining experience in the company of rabbits. Other farm animals can be seen at the "green corner." (Ganna Bernyk)

Food Critic: Pig out at Botsad

→ **16** sour aftertaste because of the lemon sauce. Savory shashlik (Hr 113) was also good.

For those with a sweet tooth, a lot of nice desserts are available a la carte. Choices include chocolate cake (Hr 37), éclairs (Hr 49) and ice-cream.

Overall, Botsad is a pleasant place to enjoy a glass of good wine during leisure hours. Cozy armchairs, dim lighting and knitted napkins make visitors feel at home. The terrace

opens onto Lva Tolstoho Street and the Botanical Garden, where throngs of students pass by, making it a great place for people-watching.

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Stag, hen parties catch on among marrying couples

BY DARYNA SHEVCHENKO
SHEVCHENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

It is the topic of jokes for many comedians: If you've ended up drunk at a nightclub with a bridal veil on your head, or in the arms of a handsome stranger who's not your fiancée, you just might be having the final blast before your marriage.

They're called bachelor or stag parties for men, bachelorette or hen parties for women.

And the sometimes risqué, often alcohol-soaked events, are catching on among Ukrainians.

"The tradition of celebrating hen and stag parties before weddings definitely came to us from the United States, as many other wedding traditions," said Artur Sygnaevskyi, the director of the High Day event agency in Kyiv.

Sygnaevskyi said Ukrainians mostly prefer to organize such events themselves, without the help of event agencies. Maybe that's because such a service is quite pricey, sometimes costing upwards of Hr 10,000 or more for a standard celebration with a limousine, alcohol and strippers. "Mostly stag par-

ties are pretty much the same – outside-the-city celebrations and a lot of alcohol," he said. Sygnaevskyi laughed while recalling a story about a groom who was arrested during a stag party and missed the wedding.

Brides are often the most creative. They organize themed parties, prepare costumes and have fun, though not always in a more civilized way.

"My friends organized a disco-style party," said Anna Daniliuk, a newlywed from Kyiv. "Everyone had tutu-like skirts, mine was white, and I also had a flashing bridal veil. They even made a funny video about my life."

But it didn't stop there. Daniliuk's friends went even further, decorating an entire room with inflated penises and hanging them from the ceilings. "Even a cake was in a penis shape," Daniliuk said.

Ideas for parties celebrating brides' and grooms' last night of freedom are endless, and it seems Ukraine is an attractive place to host them.

"I want to organize real trips to Chernobyl [nuclear power plant] as a stag party venue, and themed stag parties like 007 nights and weekends



Anna Daniliuk and friends have fun during Daniliuk's hen party before her wedding. (Courtesy)



A stag party for men organized by the Stylyaga event agency. (Kiev.ko.slando.ua)

where a guy comes to Kyiv and we set him up to meet a damsel in distress by tracking her down for two nights," said Neil Leary, a professional stag party organizer from Great Britain. Leary said he finds Ukraine to be one of the most attractive places for pre-wedding celebrations, as well as a place of intrigue and mystery.

And mystery is an important part of the stag and hen celebrations. Friends usually try to surprise a groom or bride.

"My friends invited me to a concert, but I had no idea what was going to be there," said Andriy Fedchuk. He got home late after the party, or, depending on how you look at it, early the next day. Luckily it was planned well in advance of his wedding. "We had

our parties almost a week ahead of the ceremony. I think that's the right way to do it, if you don't want to have a hangover wedding."

Another good way to have a memorable party is to go out clubbing. Kyiv nightclubs offer a wide variety of stag and hen party possibilities. In most clubs you can get a discount for such an event, including free alcohol and interesting contests.

"We started partying at home, but then moved on to Bionika nightclub," said Yulia Lyapkalo. She had a gentlemen-style hen party. The dress code required black-and-white suits with black bow ties. Even though the club's dress code for hen parties required veils and Lyapkalo's friends had only bow ties, they didn't panic and made

some, right in front of the club's door, from a piece of tulle.

Lyapkalo chuckled when telling about tasks assigned to her by her bridesmaids while out at the club. "I had to collect a whole notebook of men's phone numbers and pass it to the unmarried friends," she said.

Lyapkalo said her hen party was just right. "I don't think these stag and hen parties have some very deep meaning. It's just one more chance to have a good time with your friends and relax after all the wedding preparations," she explained. "But afterward I said it's truly worth it to get married, just to have a hen party."

Kyiv Post staff writer Daryna Shevchenko can be reached at shevchenko@kyivpost.com



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Azarov on hustings for Party of Regions

→ **1** bosses, who made every possible attempt to win his good graces.

Several thousand people gathered near the city opera house, wearing the white-and-blue cloaks and caps, and holding the flags and umbrellas with the party's symbols. Mostly middle-aged women were happily dancing to the love songs of pop singer and No. 2 in Party of Regions list Taisiya Povaliy.

The romantic mood was abruptly interrupted by Azarov's arrival on stage. Standing between the head of oblast administration, Mykhailo Dobkin, and Kharkiv Mayor Hennady Kernes – both local Party of Regions leaders – Azarov resembled a Soviet-era Communist Party chief waving to the crowd from the heights of the Kremlin wall.

The prime minister spoke about stability and starting the modernization process as the main achievements of the ruling team.

"Will we give it all to 'the Orange (camp)' on October 28?" he asked the crowd.

"No!" the people shouted in reply.

Just several kilometers from that point is the hospital where one of the 2004 Orange Revolution's leaders and Azarov's predecessor, Yulia Tymoshenko, is serving a seven-year sentence. Her conviction for criminal abuse of office last year is widely regarded as a politically motivated attempt to eliminate her as Yanukovych's top rival. Yanukovych has so far not heeded the West's calls for Tymoshenko's release, creating strains with the United States



President Viktor Yanukovych



Prime Minister Mykola Azarov

and European Union.

Azarov seemed to forget that eight years ago he stood on another stage in front of Orange Revolution protesters in Kyiv, who prevented Yanukovych from coming to power in 2004. Azarov, however, had been a supporter of Yanukovych.

Playing an anti-Orange card together with huge financing of the campaign has allowed the ruling party to keep leading positions in the election polls.

Despite common disappointment with the economic and political stagnation in the nation, residents of Kharkiv and other southern and eastern cities continue supporting the Party of

Regions. Many say they don't see any good alternatives. Local officials also pressure voters, analysts say.

Whatever the case, central party leaders didn't feel the need to put much effort into talking with the electorate. After delivering his three-minute speech, Azarov promptly left the stage, allowing Povaliy to continue entertaining the public with her free concert.

"Perhaps he is very busy," said 70-year-old pensioner Nina Trofimtseva, who said she is going to vote for Party of Regions. The other participants of the event, however, were less talkative. "I will not tell you anything. It is not in my interests," one of the women answered

after a question about her voting plans.

When the Region's pre-recorded anthem was played to end the concert, the crowd dispersed quickly, handing over the white-and-blue party symbols to organizers. By the end of the song, the square was almost empty, which led to the impression that the huge event was organized just to please the leader's eyes.

Azarov sometimes even appeared irritated by the servile attitude of local officials. While meeting with students of the Kharkiv Law Academy earlier that day, he slammed the representative of the university administration, who tried to thank him for "perfect state of the student's dormitories," despite negative murmuring in the hall.

"Do you see this reaction?" he said. "I will reply on it. I perfectly know how our dormitories look like."

A geophysicist by profession, Azarov spent almost two decades working in research institutes and lecturing. So, speaking to the students, he looked more confident than in front of the Region's supporters. He tried to persuade young people with state plans of cheap loans for housing, and described Ukraine's economy as having good prospects amid the harsh economic crisis in Europe.

But the students reacted skeptically to the prime minister's speech, telling jokes and criticizing. "Emigration, only emigration," one of them said.

Kyiv Post staff writer Oksana Grytsenko can be reached at grytsenko@kyivpost.com



Engravings by Durer, Rembrandt

The collection of rare engravings by world famous painters German Albrecht Durer and Dutch Rembrandt van Rijn will go on display among other masterpieces of European masters of graphic art on Oct.26 in National Museum of Western European Art known as Museum of Bogdan and Varvara Khanenko.

The visitors will have chance to see the oldest city maps and other graphic drawings made using ancient techniques as well as learn more about the process of making engravings.

The Mystery of Old Boards. Through Dec. 31. Museum of Bogdan and Varvara Khanenko. Hr 10

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Requirements for all positions:

- University degree in environmental studies, etc. (MA, PhD).
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Specific requirements for Canadian Environmental Expert position:

- Experience in working with municipalities and oblasts in Ukraine is an asset.
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Specific requirements for Ukrainian Environmental Expert position:

- Fluency in English and Ukrainian.
- Located in Kyiv and able to travel and work in other areas of Ukraine.

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- Gathering and analyzing environmental indicators to be included in the economic development plans of pilot oblasts and municipalities.
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Please submit your CV and cover letter in confidence to e-mail: darby@conferenceboard.ca by **November 9, 2012**, indicating the name of the position in the subject of the letter.

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**The following information only applies to 759 short number in compliance with the rules of Ukrainian GSM operators: Calls to 759 number from mobile numbers of Ukrainian operators are charged as follows: UAH 0,00 per-minute, UAH 2,00 connection fee. Prices quoted VAT –included, additional surcharge of 7,5% Pension Fund applies. The service is available to all adult subscribers of Ukrainian GSM operators. Information support at the short number is provided by Istil Telecom LLC, 01023 Kyiv, Shota Rustaveli Str. 19. For inquiries concerning the use of 759 number, please call: (044) 591-19-13, Mon - Fri from 9:00 till 18:00.