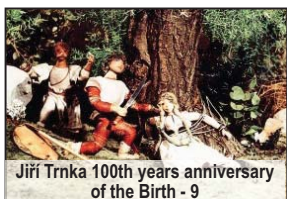




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ENGLISH
LANGUAGE
SUPPLEMENT

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NOVÝ DOMOV



THE NEW HOMELAND

Pravda vítězí!



CZECH AND SLOVAK BI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER www.masaryktown.ca

Thousand sterilized women may be entitled to compensation

Prague, Feb 21 (CTK) - Up to a thousand women, but 59 at least, may be entitled to compensation from the Czech state for unlawful sterilisation, the government committee for torture prevention says in a report assessing the issue.

To compensate victims of unlawful termination of fertility was previously recommended to the government by its human rights council.

It is not known when the cabinet may discuss the issue.

In the past, dozens of mainly Romanian women turned to the ombudsman, an some also to courts, over forced sterilisation.

The government's human rights council says the ministers of labour, health, finance and justice, along with the government's human rights commissioner, should propose a model of the compensation to the cabinet by the end of 2013.

The committee for torture prevention says a special bill should be drafted, similar to the law enabling the compensation of freedom fighters and victims of Nazism.

A special commission installed by the government and comprising ministry officials, a gynaecologist and psychologist, would assess the claimants' applications and decide on whether the women are entitled to compensation.

A similar approach to the problem was taken by Sweden where 63,000 people, including 93 percent of women, underwent forced sterilisation in 1935-1975. At the time, the doctor mainly explained the step by the persons' mental retardation, but in fact there were social or eugenic (upgrading of race) reasons behind the sterilisations. Wrong approach was later proved in 10,000 cases at least, and 2,067 victims applied for compensation.

The Czech government committee has estimated the number of Czech applicants based on the Swedish experience.

It said at least 59 Czech women would claim compensation, since the Czech ombudsman previously passed 59 cases to the Supreme State Attorney's Office (NSZ) for handling. The NSZ has shelved all the cases over lack of evidence, however.

The maximal number of applicants may reach „up to a thousand,” the committee said.

It has preliminarily proposed 300,000 to 400,000 crowns as compensation for a successful applicant depending on the damage caused to her health and how much the then valid directives were violated.

The state could pay out up to 400 million crowns in the compensations altogether, the committee says in its report.

In its previous report in 2006, the committee proposed compensation worth 175,000 crowns.

„Now this sum seems to be too low,” it says in its fresh report.

It points out that last year some women gained half a million crowns from hospitals in extra-judicial settlement, and that the European Court of Human Rights has granted compensation of 31,000 euros (an equivalent of 773,000 crowns) to a complainant from Slovakia.

The committee proposes that the compensation go to the women who underwent involuntary sterilisation in the period from January 1972 to May 1991. At the time, the operations were made „for the sake of a healthy population” and the authorities offered up to 10,000 crowns to motivate the women involved.

The compensation may also go to those forcibly sterilised after 1991, who, however, cannot claim it in court over the expiry of the three-year period of limitation.

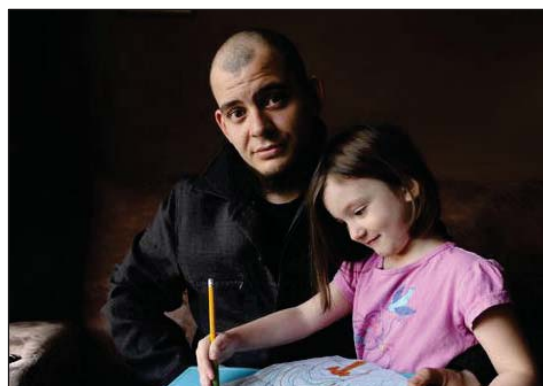
The state should pay the defence counsel for the women that can turn to the court, the committee proposes.

The European Roma Rights Centre came up with a suspicion of

forced sterilisation of mainly Romanian women in the then Czechoslovakia in 2004. The Czech government's human rights council recommended compensation steps in 2007.

In 2009, the Czech government apologised for the sterilisations. U.N. committees dealing with the discrimination against races and women, however, say an apology is not enough. (\$1=18.770 crowns)

Source: <http://praguemonitor.com/2012/02/22/thousand-sterilised-women-may-be-entitled-compensation>, ČTK, 22.02.2012



▲ Arrested dad Jessie Sansone wants answers after daughter draws gun pic... more pag. 8

Former Ukrainian Interior Minister Lutsenko Sentenced to Four Years in Prison

KYIV, Ukraine - Ukrainian court found former Minister of Internal Affairs Yuriy Lutsenko guilty of embezzlement and abuse of office. On February 27 Kyiv's Pechersky district court announced the decision to sentence Lutsenko to four years in prison with confiscation of property and a ban to hold public office.

The court ruling incriminated Lutsenko failing to observe lawful procedures in hiring and paying a close acquaintance while serving as interior minister (2007-2009).

The ruling said that Lutsenko gave illegal perks to his driver Leonid Pristupliuk at the expense of the state: Lutsenko illegally provided Pristupliuk with an apartment and accounted his civilian labor record as police service record, securing him pension. Also, the former interior minister is believed to have approved the overspending during the Police Day celebrations in 2008-2009 while the governmental decree on budgetary savings

was effective. The criminal investigation concerning Lutsenko and three other former officials of the ministry revealed that their unlawful actions caused losses to the state budget exceeding UAH 970 thousand (around USD 110 thousand).

The state prosecution asked the court to sentence Lutsenko to 4.5 years in prison with property confiscation; however, the court sentenced Lutsenko to a four-year imprisonment taking into account mitigating circumstances. He was arrested in late 2010. Yuriy Lutsenko dismissed all the charges, claiming the court procedures were unjust and politically motivated. His advocates announced the decision to argue the court ruling in the appellant court and then file the application to the European Court of Human Rights.

The court's ruling in Lutsenko's case served as a message to each state official - anyone can be held liable for the abuse of power, stated First Deputy Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Legislative Support of Law Enforcement Volodymyr Olynyk. He added that equality of every citizen before the law was the key to the existence of a lawful state. He did, however, highlight that the ruling of the district court could still be changed by the court of appeals: „The verdict in the case of the former Minister of the Interior, Yuriy Lutsenko, has not entered into legal force yet, and therefore it is too early to speak of the irrefutable guilt of the convicted.”

Source: People's Deputy Volodymyr Olynyk's Press Service <http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases>, 28.2.2012 Photo Wikipedia



OTTAWA - Jessie Sansone and his family are reeling after he was arrested and strip searched by police after his four-year-old daughter

my wife that I had been charged with possession of firearms, that she would have to come with them, and that Sundae (their infant daughter) would have to go with the social worker," said Sansone. Stephanie called her Mom who rushed over to take Sundae instead.

"My littlest is still in diapers with a bottle. Thank goodness my mother-in-law lives nearby," Sansone said. Once Stephanie got to the police station she had to wait.

"The detective was giving my wife the idea that our children were at the police station with her, just in another room at the station. She was waiting for over an hour, close to two hours, not knowing where the kids were," Sansone said.

His children had been at Family and Children's Services, being interviewed by social workers.



ter drew a picture of a man with a gun in her Kitchener, Ont., kindergarten class.

The 26-year-old father of four said Saturday the sketch was supposed to be him, getting the bad guys and monsters.

The school must have thought differently, as after Nevaeh drew it Wednesday, the school contacted Family and Children's Services

Arrested dad wants answers after daughter draws gun pic

By Kris Sims, Parliament bureau

es and they called police.

Waterloo Police met Sansone at the school when he tried to pick up his kids he was told he was charged with possession of a firearm. He was then handcuffed and put him in one of the several squad cars waiting outside, he said.

"When I was finally able to see my family, after this ordeal was over, my little girl ran up and gave me a hug and asked: 'Daddy, are you mad at me?'" said Sansone, his voice choked. "How could she ever think that I would be mad at her? She knows this has to do with her drawing," Sansone, and his wife, Stephanie, have been together since they were teenagers. They have four children, aged 10 years to 15 months, and Stephanie is five-months pregnant with their fifth child.

"Years ago, being really young parents we were given the cold shoulder, like we didn't know how to raise our children, this feels like that again, because I felt totally alone in that cell," Sansone said. "We still can't believe this happened to us."

Sansone had a scrape with the law five years ago, but has since turned his life around, left Toronto for Kingston, Ont., and has become a certified counsellor.

While Sansone was being strip searched at the police station: told to disrobe, lift his testicles and bend over, his wife was home with their 15-month-old daughter. "They came to my house, told

"So, my wife was really panicking at that point. So her and the detective drove down to children's services. They questioned each of my children."

Now the family is trying their best to explain things to their kids.

"At that interview, I wasn't there, my wife wasn't there, but my boys, all they know right now is: 'Daddy and guns, guns and Daddy' - my kids knew all the police were at the school because of me. Now I have to explain to them how much of a mistake this is."

Sansone said police searched his house and found a plastic toy gun that shoots foam darts.

"So many people dealt with this situation in the wrong way," said Sansone. "I know the principal really well, how could he judge my character in this way? I drop off and pick the kids up every day, I always say hello, I sign every report card, I go to every parent teacher meeting, I am an active parent at that school."

The family is trying to decide what to do next, and they are finding a new school for their children to attend.

Source: http://www.torontosun.com/2012/02/25/arrested-dad-wants-answers-after-daughter-draws-gun-pic?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=recommend-button&utm_campaign=Arrested+dad+wants+answers+after+daughter+draws+gun+pic, 26.2.2012 Photo <http://www.theblaze.com>

RUSSIA'S BORIS NEMTSOV: From 'boy governor' to opposition 'grandfather'

By Olivia Ward Foreign Affairs Reporter

The thicket of curly hair, the unbuttoned smile, the blast-down-the-door brainwaves: two decades ago Boris Nemtsov, the self-styled "boy governor" of Nizhny Novgorod, took the once-closed region by storm and turned it, for a brief shining moment, into the model of the New Russia. In a country as starved of glamour as its stores were of fresh bread, 32-year-old Nemtsov was an instant idol, Russia's most popular politician. It was only a matter of time until he was pulled into even higher circles as Boris Yeltsin's deputy prime minister.

But much water has flowed down the Volga since then. Sitting in the King Edward Hotel bar earlier this week, the now-opposition leader — detained, denounced and denigrated by the Kremlin — shows flashes of his old rock star status. The trademark jeans, the glimpse of chest through the open-necked shirt, the silver-tinged hair.

But, he admits, "I'm the dedushka (grandfather) of the opposition movement now. In the council of the Solidarity movement, there are 40 people and 30 are younger than 35. I'm the oldest and I'm 52."

That hasn't kept Nemtsov from playing a vocal role in the protests that rolled across Russia after a widely disputed parliamentary election last December. Last weekend, at least 100,000 people turned out in Moscow in bitter temperatures to call for Prime Minister Vladimir Putin's resignation, a rerun of the polls and political reform.

Putin hasn't got the message. A crucial presidential election is set for March 4, with a predictable slate of well-worn parliamentary party leaders filling the empty slots on the ballot — and only one newcomer, billionaire Mikhail Prokhorov — permitted to run against him.

But while growing numbers of Russians are fed up with Putin's "managed democracy" — in which factions like Nemtsov's People's Freedom Party are barred from registering and presidential candidates are carefully controlled — current opinion polls put the premier back in the Kremlin driver's seat.

So the question facing Nemtsov and the revitalized opposition is, "where to now?" Can the fractured factions survive another six to 12 years of Putocracy without bloodshed or terminal cynicism overtaking them?

"Everybody wants results immediately," he says, "but it's never happened. People ask me 'will there be a Russian Spring?' But I don't think so. I'm for a peaceful scenario and not to repeat Rus-

sia's terrible experiences of the past."

So far, the largest protests are urban and middle class, propelled by a grab bag of disparate factions and an Internet generation that missed out on the excitement of the 1991 mini-revolution that toppled communism and elevated Yeltsin to power.

Nemtsov himself is one of the most seasoned campaigners. Trained as a physicist, he was inspired by legendary dissident scientist Andrei Sakharov, and his physician mother, whom he joined in anti-nuclear protests. He threw himself into the perestroika movement in the late 1980s, winning a seat in the Soviet parliament in 1990.

As Yeltsin's protégé, he was appointed governor of the grim military-industrial enclave on the Volga, creating enterprises that filled empty shelves with badly needed goods and opening up roads and an international airport. When democratic elections were held, he easily won.

With Nizhny a new economic mecca, Nemtsov was called to Moscow and put in charge of Yeltsin's energy reform. But his closeness to the American-influenced reformers, who applied the "shock therapy" of fast privatization as millions were thrown into bankruptcy, dulled the luster of his reputation.

His difficulties deepened when Putin came to power and Nemtsov co-founded the badly divided Union of Right Forces party that originally supported him.

But Nemtsov broke away from the party, became a gadfly, and was arrested from time to time for organizing unauthorized demonstrations against Putin. In 2008 he ran for mayor of Sochi (site of the 2014 Olympics) and lost.

He co-founded the centre-right People's Freedom Party and joined with former chess star Gary Kasparov and human rights campaigner Lev Ponomarev in the Solidarity coalition.

Images of Nemtsov being dragged away by police went viral after a huge December protest, when he was sentenced to 15 days in jail. But once there, he chuckles, the police asked him to sign copies of his party's damning book on Putin's time in power, alleging massive corruption.

More recently, at Domodedovo airport en route to Toronto, Nemtsov was accosted by a provocateur from the government-backed youth group Nashi, who accused him of soliciting money from "Canadian imperialists" and

the U.S. State Department.

And an embarrassing scandal broke out in December when the pro-Putin Life News Internet tabloid leaked transcripts of private phone calls in which he appeared to insult fellow protest leaders and opposition figures.

Nemtsov maintained the calls were edited to discredit him, and he apologized to his colleagues. But there was little fallout — except to expose the splits among the leaders and activists.

"To be frank, we're united just as far as protests are concerned," he says. "If we achieve political reform in Russia, we will have doz-



ens of different parties."

The common goals seem elusive. They include Putin's exit, electoral reform, cancellation of censorship, release of political prisoners, more power to parliament and a sweeping change in the balance of power between the regions and federal government.

Beyond that, he says, "there's no common agreement. I believe in the free market, and I think lots of guys on the left have stupid ideas. They want nationalization, price-fixing. They're anti-globalization. I'm not optimistic about a united front."

He's more upbeat, if tentatively, on the immediate future of the protest movement, in spite of its fractious nature.

"The lack of a single leader is a very popular question in Russia," he says. "But the protests are mainly middle class and they come from the Internet generation. Those people don't like leaders."

As for his own presidential ambitions — a broad grin — "when we have elections instead of selections, we will have a primary system to see who's the most popular. Then the people will decide. If that's not me, it's not the end of my life."

And the next protest, he says, will be on March 5.

Source: <http://www.thestar.com/news/world/article/1129334-russia-boris-nemtsov-from-boy-governor-to-opposition-grandfather>, Published On Sun, 12.02.2012 Photo: <http://www.thestar.com/unassigned/columnists/94633-ward-olivia>

Many thanks to the Nový Domov readers who have e-mailed to tell me about their connection to the incredible journey taken by the Czech Regiment we follow in this true story. The risks and reward for their dedication and loyalty to friends, remind us all of examples when people to-

say. She watched Natasha go back into the kitchen before sitting down to open each slender case. She checked the names inside, then removed a necklace with a coin dangling from a sturdy gold chain. She smiled to see the glint of a sharply etched Russian eagle on the back of this perfect twenty-

clutching the necklace. After a pause she whispered. "It would take too long. Your uncle and grandfather will be here any minute." "Golfing at Olympic Club? They won't be back 'til after lunch." Natasha gently stroked her grandmother's fingers whispering,

ty-two years old and a little taller, was proud to be seen walking with his own father every morning. And why not? Not everyone was the son of a man the caliber of Anton Branda, President of the Falcon Athletic Association, and a man of ardent political passion who was revered throughout Prague – even throughout Bohemia. Besides, Alex was confident that no one's admiration exceeded his own.

Alex had always loved the peaceful dignity of the park with its regimented rows of precisely trimmed holly hedges set in patterns designed centuries before, now bristling with frost and giving clear direction to their way. Here there was a sense of permanence that made him feel part of some great plan.

"Are you ready for that clever little center of theirs?" his father asked as pebbles crunched on the pathway curving beneath a long line of poplars. "He'll be dangerous."

Alex forced himself to breathe normally as he thought about the man he would mark tomorrow for the National Football Cup. He nodded.

"I believe I am."

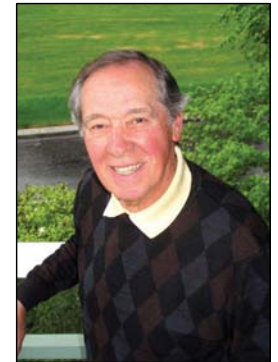
"Good. Then you can win."

Alex returned his look with a smile, hoping to reduce the worry he could see pulling at small folds near his father's eyes.

Their path opened out onto Na Kampě Street one hundred metres or so from the Charles Bridge. From here, Alex could see life-sized statues looming above the river's drifting mist, standing high on pedestals built into the sturdy stone walls and framing each side of the broad walkway. This was the ancient road from Prague Castle on the West Side, winding down the hill and across the river to Old Town Square, its gas lamps still showing the way at dawn with splashes of yellow on the dark cobblestones.

Thirty Gothic ghosts stood above the walls of this bridge, black against the morning sky in eternal martyrdom against the various tyrannies that had taken their lives; Bohemian saints and Czech

heroes, watching the river, watching the years, watching the citizens of Prague trudge by. Alex knew that his father walked beneath their stern gaze every day, alert to the presence of these silent guardians and well aware of the special atmosphere on this



bridge where the conscience of the country was preserved as a permanent vigil for the path to freedom. For himself, Alex always felt an overwhelming sense of deference as he passed beneath their frozen stare. Knowing their determination, their strength, and their sacrifice, could anyone feel less?

He glanced up at the statue of Jan Nepomuk and shuddered. How could a man summon that much courage? Condemned to the stake for his love of freedom... burned alive by his enemies, but still shouting defiance even as he choked on the flames. Alex frowned at the thought. As a student, he had not yet earned the right to cross this bridge with pride. Perhaps, though, with the cup...

To the west lay the graceful park near the university he loved, and to his right the river gliding by the twisted medieval streets of Old Town, but really, he knew it was the bridge that was his pre-occupation. It was, somehow, the key to his purpose, and he hoped that one day he might be able to walk across, knowing that he deserved the privilege. But even as he formed this thought, he began to shake his head. To die for one's beliefs... I never want to face a test like that.

Near the high arched gate on the town side, red and white Austrian flags fluttered near the Empire's black eagle as a reminder to all Czechs that freedom was nothing more than a dream. That flag does not belong here, he thought, not near this bridge, but of course, this was part of the usual Habsburg insensitivity.

It was here on the bridge, Alex supposed, that his father daily fueled his unshakable determination to excel, and perhaps it was the nearness to these martyrs now that prompted Anton to grip Alex's arm. He waited while his father searched for words, raking fingers through a head of wiry gray hair. Staring down the two lines of statues, Anton said in a troubled voice: "Be careful today."

IN THE COMPANY OF HEROES

For ND Ted Hunt

gether to overcome great odds no matter how bleak the day may seem at first light.

This novel is available at Amazon/Kindle and now with Kindle rent-a-book. Perhaps readers would like to browse through the opening descriptions of Katherine and Alexander, two of the leading characters in this great adventure story which takes them from San Francisco to Prague to Vladivostok and back, while finally explaining the great loss of platinum and bullion from Russia's Treasury.

We are at present negotiating the film rights to the book. (ted.hunt@shaw.ca)

PROLOGUE

SAN FRANCISCO
Autumn 1988

Katherine Kazakova walked carefully across her penthouse patio to look out over San Francisco Bay shimmering in the morning sunshine. Just a bit unsteady, she took a firm grip on the railing because since her last birthday, the height from the nineteenth floor made her nervous. But the view was worth it.

Out to sea past the Golden Gate Bridge, wind from the endless rows of white-capped waves filled her lungs with fresh salt air and ruffled her favorite robe cut from black silk with a thick line of gold embroidery tracking every edge.

Katherine heard the front door close and turned to watch her granddaughter, Natasha, come out onto the deck wearing jeans and a CAL-BERKELEY rugby sweater.

"I know you've got pull, but how'd you get a jeweler to deliver on Sunday morning?" Natasha asked this while placing three black velvet cases on the glass-topped table.

"He wanted you to know... he's cleaned them all, and checked the clasps."

"Thank you, dear... just an old friend," was all Katherine would

say. She watched Natasha go back into the kitchen before sitting down to open each slender case. She checked the names inside, then removed a necklace with a coin dangling from a sturdy gold chain. She smiled to see the glint of a sharply etched Russian eagle on the back of this perfect twenty-

five ruble gold piece. Then with a practiced move, she slipped the chain over stylishly cut white hair and began to stare contentedly at the solemn visage of Nicholas Romanov, the last Czar of Imperial Russia. Babushka, breakfast," Natasha called, carrying a tray across the patio.

Katherine came out of her reverie to sit tall while Natasha poured tea.

She took the coin in her palm again. "This will be yours one day," Katherine said with a matter-of-fact tone.

"Baba, don't talk like that. You know it upsets me."

"I only wanted you to know about the necklaces. They are priceless, after all."

Natasha began pouring tea before answering.

"But you've never told me anything about them. Where'd all this come from?"

The grandmother smoothed imagined wrinkles from her housecoat while remaining silent.

Natasha put scrambled eggs on a gilt edged forest-green plate. "You didn't answer my question. What's the matter... you didn't steal them did you?"

The old woman looked away quickly before answering.

"Not really."

Natasha stopped serving and turned with wide eyes.

"Not really? Oh my God... Babushka. What does that mean – not really?"

Katherine looked out to sea still

"What was it like back then?"

Katherine hunched her shoulders, but her eyes shone.

"Wonderful," she answered slowly, "... and terrifying."

When I was your age, my life was filled with heroes... like your grandfather. He was from Prague you know."

CHAPTER 1

PRAGUE

October 1914

Prague at dawn. Alex Branda entered a park on the West Bank of the Vltava River walking beside his father with their usual energetic stride. He could feel the chill of winter in the air as patches of white mist drifted downstream. Up ahead to his right, where sharply pointed spires of Old Town rose darkly against an orange sky, the mist suddenly burst into a golden haze. It looked to be the start of a perfect day.

Alex enjoyed these daily treks together: his father on the way to work in the glass shop near Old Town Square, and he to Falcon House Gymnasium before classes at the university. He may have been the only son in the capital city who, despite being twen-



Peaceful Old Town Square in Prague today

Photo Wikipedia

Unique Training Program (8) Reports from Ukraine (final)

For ND Kazuhiro Kobayashi



21st century is said to be the time of Asia in terms of economy. China as its frontier, South Korea, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia etc...numerous countries are expected to achieve high rate



economic growth for the coming decades. In economic figures, or exotic tours, you may find the expression 'Asia ex-Japan' sometimes, or routinely. Every time I see it, I receive complicated emotions in myself. "Where are WE?" 'Europe ex-U.K.' is rarely seen. Even though the reason is simply technical to show more accurate aspect of the Tiger Economies in continental East and South East Asia, for good or bad the ex-Japan creates mysterious sights, sometimes similar to illusion.

Being a Japanese, as well as an Asian

Ukraine is multiethnic nation with 11.6% of its population as immigrants born abroad, more than five million foreigners live in the country according to United Nations. Despite the drop from 15% within some years, the current ratio still shows how diversified the society is. Mostly the *inostranets* (foreigner) are from neighboring countries such as Russia, Moldova, Georgia etc. Due to its former socialist connections or just the result of economical immigration, East Asians (often Chinese, Koreans and Mongolians) are sometimes seen, much less often than in Czech Republic and Slovakia. When it comes to Japanese, 210 Japanese live in all around the nation (there are 1,500 Japanese in Czech Republic and 190 in Slovakia) despite the fact that even within Kiev, hundreds of Japanese restaurants are on business. Regardless of the mind-boggling price of a piece of sushi here, those restaurants are always crowded and the popularity promotes cooking sushi at home. 'Sushi rice' (such a kind of rice does NOT exist in Japan) made in Egypt shows triple as high price as ordinary kinds of rice, yet they occupy one column on the rack of a certain supermarket chain, despite the fact not many people can afford the price. Watching huge disparity between

the riches and the poor

Once you go on the street in the centre of Kiev, a number of Mercedes, Porsche and other luxury brand cars occupy the road. This is one of a few places where you can find as many Lexus as Tata from India. Many of *marshrootka* (micro-bus) are either Tata or 30+ year-old Isuzu. One day I realized one of the *marshrootka* I usually take did not have active speed meter - it was broken and the bus was on the highway! The appropriate pricing for sustainable safety is necessary, yet even in Borispol which is one of the suburbs for Kiev, there was a systematic failure. People do hitchhiking in Ukraine so as to support the hole of public transport. Once public bus operations end at 10 p.m., it is time for private, non-registered buses to catch people for the same price. The lack of public service is filled with people's ideas.

Heading for Canada again

Seven weeks in Kiev gave me wider points of view on Ukraine. I am writing for Novy Domov from Uzhgorod, border city to Slovakia. Looking at Carpathian Mountains from the window of a hostel, various thoughts come in my head just like bubbles in Šariš, my favorite beer from Eastern Slovakia. Finally the first stay in Kiev is going to end and I expect to arrive in Canada when the readers receive the newspaper. The days were very intense and exciting. Fresh sky in Uzhgorod clears as the temperature is above 0C finally. Sometimes frustration arose for both minor and major things, though, it did not matter a lot in Ukraine. A lot of fortunes led me here. Yuriy, student at U of T, his friend Olga in Kiev, and her friend Aleksey who offered warm home-stay together with his wife, In-

one was Ukraine, working in Košice. The two officials both spoke English by chance, and one of them was associated with foreign companies in Zakarpattia region. He described those companies as 'woodpecker'. It is not easy to do business in Ukraine for the reasons such as legal issues, taxes, corruptions, political and economic stability. For him the big foreign companies are simple and purpose-oriented. "Whatever happens, they just pick the tree 1,000 times and achieve what they want." Like a business, if someone really wants something, it is possible. In my case, if I describe the life in Ukraine, it was how I tried to be a local.

Seven weeks trying to be a local In Ukraine it is not easy to be a local, but it is not also difficult. I thoroughly enjoyed a fruit which I obtained in Adventure life in Canada. Members in the Language Exchange Club welcomed me without any rejection. As usual, the first questions are "Where are you from?" and "What do you do in Ukraine?" Sushi experience comes the next from locals, not to mention that. With different backgrounds and origins, things just went on for the purpose to 'speak language' there. Language is just a tool. During the seven weeks and even now in Uzhgorod, it was not easy, but possible and sometimes fun to communicate with locals in indefinable language - a mix of Russian, Ukrainian, Czech and Slovak languages. Especially in communication, you could say "*Kde sa chce, všetko ide* (Where is a will, there is a way)". When immigrants come to their new homeland, that's probably the same thing. Purpose-oriented people pass through difficulties much faster than method-oriented ones. Through the language club expe-



na...I am very thankful for all the people who realized the stay. My position might be quite unusual in this world. On the train from Kiev to Uzhgorod, I was in a 4-person sleeper. Two of them were governmental workers and

rience, my thought went to such a way. I am not from ex-Japan anymore. By this volume, the report from Ukraine ends. The next column will be for readers of Novy domov final.

TO ALL MY FRIENDS

This is just an advance notice, of a very special performance which will take place on Tuesday evening, June 5th, at Hugh's Room, one of Toronto's top jazz venues. Larry Coryell will be playing that night and his appearance is being sponsored by the MMM (Toronto) group. Check out the attached link to find out more about Larry and about the venue (<http://hughsroom.com/2012/01/larry-coryell-3/>).

Our good friend George Grosman and his group will be opening the show for Larry.

Needless to say, we are all very excited and proud to sponsor such an amazing evening and such a renowned guest musician, and we hope that you will be able to support our venture, and join us on that night. Due to Larry's popularity there may be quite a demand for the tickets, so it would be advisable to book yours early. If you are interested, please contact me, as I have a number of tickets available and you can purchase them from me directly. *You may also make dinner reservation from 6:30 pm on, prior to the show - the food is very good at Hugh's Room 2261 Dundas St. W., Toronto, showtime is at 8:30 pm.* Mark your calendars and save the date June 5th! Hope to see many of you there! Regards, Erica Viezner



Conference Czech School without Borders: Czech language education for Czech children living abroad

The United States and Canada have become, during the last couple of centuries, a home of the largest Czech and Slovak communities in the world, outside of their original land. Language is the most important part of our cultural heritage, the one which helps to maintain the other traditions. It is important to keep it alive as long as possible. First „Czech School Without Borders“ was founded in the Czech Cultural Center in Paris in 2003.

The conference will be organized by the non-profit organization Czech School without Borders and will be held, if enough participants, on June 16th and 17th, 2012 in Czech Centre in New York <http://new-york.czechcentres.cz/>.

The conference will focus on the Czech School without Borders model of a "Sunday" Czech school, created in 2003 in Paris, and having started and successfully worked in 8 more European countries since. Several other Czech communities around the world (in the Europe, USA and South America) expressed their interest in this school model and made the first steps to be one of them.

Sharing the opinions and the experiences in this field will help to better define the needs of the Czech community in the USA and Canada in terms of the Czech language education for (Czech) children living abroad these days.

The results of the conference will be presented during the annual meeting of the Czech Schools without Borders, held in Prague, in August 2012.

All interested participants, please send an email to csbh@csbh.cz, by March 09 2012.

No entry fee.

If you want to learn more about the Czech School without Borders, please visit: <http://www.csbh.cz/sekundarni-odkazy/co-je-csbh/about-us>

Source: http://www.mzv.cz/chicago/en/culture_events/conference_czech_school_without_borders.html, 14.02.2012