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# BRIDGES

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*COVER PHOTO: Regina Narusis,  
the president-elect of the Lithuanian-American  
Community, National Executive Committee*

## To Our Readers:

This issue of BRIDGES may remind you of BRIDGES issues published in the recent past when Lithuania was struggling to reestablish independence. BRIDGES then presented articles which provided information on the various aspects of the political struggle.

These again are critical times as the government of Lithuania is preparing to sign treaties and establish regulations that will govern the transit of dangerous cargo, military hardware and military personnel of other countries, and most ominously Russia, through Lithuanian territory.

During this last month, the President of Lithuania, Algirdas Brazauskas visited United States to address the UN assembly and in part to explain the Lithuanian government's direction in foreign policy to, among others, Lithuanian-Americans.

The Board of Directors of the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. convened near Washington, D.C. in September to set LAC direction and elect a new leadership. Regina Narusis who campaigned for the LAC to "stay involved" with the rebuilding process that is taking place in Lithuania while strengthening the LAC network in the United States was elected the LAC's first woman president of the National Executive Committee.

A new US ambassador to Lithuania, James Swihart, was confirmed by the US Senate and he has already departed for Vilnius. Mr. Swihart and his wife were given a warm farewell the day before flying out of Washington at a banquet which was held during the LAC Board of Director's meeting.

Some small changes at BRIDGES as well. The current managing editor of BRIDGES, Audrone Gulbinas, at the request of the new LAC president, has agreed to accept the formal responsibility of Editor. Rimantas Stirbys and I will continue to assist in the publication of BRIDGES and together with Audrone Gulbinas will form the Executive Board of Bridges.

I must admit that one of the most rewarding aspects of my tenure as LAC president was participating in the "rebirth" of BRIDGES. Many thanks go to Audrone, Rimantas and the current board of contributing editors who have collaborated to create an interesting and informative journal. The help of others, though is continually needed to provide new energy and insight.

We hope to see articles from BRIDGES' contributing editors of the recent past. We recall the interesting material provided by Dr. Thomas Michalski, Rev. Vincas Valkavicius and others. We hope their schedules will again permit them to contribute to BRIDGES. They would be most welcome.



Vytas Maciunas,  
Publisher, BRIDGES  
President (Outgoing),  
LAC National Executive Committee

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**Editor** ..... **Audrone Gulbinas**  
**Layout & Design** ..... **Kazys Razgaitis**  
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**Sports Editor** ..... **Pranas Gvildys**  
**Contributing Editor** ..... **Ramune Kubilius**  
**Contributing Editor** ..... **Joseph Arlauskas**

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Vytas Maciunas

# Lithuania's President Brazauskas Visits the US

On September 29, the President of the Republic of Lithuania, Algirdas Brazauskas arrived in Philadelphia to deliver the keynote address at the World Affairs Council luncheon held at the Ritz Carlton Hotel, meet with Philadelphia dignitaries and the local Lithuanian-American community. President Brazauskas was in the United States to deliver a speech to the United Nations General Assembly and meet UN General Secretary Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

In his address to the World Affairs Council, the President reviewed the milestones of Lithuania's history, the road to independence and the current condition of the country. He also emphasized that the foreign policy of Lithuania is being coordinated with western countries. He downplayed the dangers to Lithuanian independence of a military and other dangerous cargo transport agreement that will legalize Russian military hardware and troop movements through Lithuania and claimed that the governments of western countries, including the United States, support the Lithuanian government position. (The transit agreement is needed by Russia to facilitate its supply and travel from Russia to the area known as Kaliningrad, which after World War II was to be administered by the Soviet Union until a final peace settlement was established.)

After the World Affairs Council luncheon, President

Brazauskas toured Independence Hall, the birthplace of America's democracy, and placed a wreath at the Liberty Bell, with a message thanking the United States for never recognizing the forced incorporation of Lithuania into the Soviet Union.

Philadelphia's Mayor Rendell met the President and gave him a miniature model of the Liberty Bell to take back to Lithuania. In their conversation, it was recalled



*At the meeting of President Algirdas Brazauskas with His Eminence John Cardinal Krol, Archbishop Emeritus of Philadelphia, from left to right: Fr. Timothy Burkauskas, O.S.P., administrator of St. Andrew's Parish; Msgr. Leon J. Peck (Peciukevicius); Rev. Eugene A. Wassel, Pastor of St. Casimir's parish; and Rev. Joseph J. Anderlonis, J.S.D., pastor of St. George's Parish.*

that in 1922, Lithuanian-Americans sent to Lithuania a full size replica of the Liberty Bell with an inscription which read: "O ring through the ages for the children of Lithuania, that freedom is not deserved by those who don't defend it".

After the meeting with the mayor of Philadelphia, President Brazauskas had an audience with Cardinal John Krol, who for twenty five years has been known to the Philadelphia Lithuanian-American community as a

Robert S. Heavly

staunch supporter of religious freedom and independence for Lithuania. The President and the Cardinal conversed to the Cardinal's obvious pleasure in his na-



Rimas Jakas

*President Algirdas Brazauskas addressing the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia.*

tive Polish language. The President thanked the Cardinal for his support of Lithuania and noted the irony that when in 1988, the Cardinal signed a petition to have the Vilnius Cathedral returned to the Catholic Church it was Algirdas Brazauskas, then head of the Lithuania's Communist Party, whose order returned the Cathedral to the Church. The President gave Cardinal Krol as a gift, the beautifully published book on Lithuanian churches.

For the last meeting in Philadelphia, the President travelled to the Lithuanian Music Hall in the Port Richmond section of the city for a meeting with Lithuanian-Americans living in the city and surrounding suburbs. The President was officially greeted by the president

of the LAC chapter, Terese Gecys and the president of the Lithuanian Music Hall, Mr. Vytautas Karalius. In his welcoming address, Mr. Karalius noted that some of the most important persona of the Lithuanian nation had come to the Lithuanian Music Hall to address Philadelphia's Lithuanian community since it was built in 1909, including two presidents of pre World War II independent Lithuania, Kazys Grinius and Antanas Smetona, Jonas Basanavicius, and more recently Vytautas Landsbergis. The Lithuanian-American pilots Darius and Girenas came to the Lithuanian Music Hall before embarking on their tragic flight across the Atlantic.

In his opening remarks, President Brazauskas announced that US citizens will no longer have to apply for Lithuanian visas to enter the country. A US passport will be the only required document. There was enthusiastic applause from the audience. The President invited Lithuanian-Americans to come to visit, live and/or work in Lithuania. He suggested that they become part of the political process in the country and even run for elective offices. He again defended his government's position on the enactment of regulations which will legalize the movement of Russian military hardware and personnel through the country with Lithuanian military escort.

After the President answered a series of questions from the audience, the meeting was concluded with everyone singing the Lithuanian National anthem.

The President returned to New York to meet with the members of the Baltic Fund Association, which is planning multi-million dollar investments in Lithuania and to deliver his speech to the UN the following day. A trip to the Lithuanian-American communities in Chicago and Lemont would follow.

## Lithuanian Heritage Tour

Saturday, December 3,  
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

"From the Nemunas to the Monongahela"  
**BUS TOUR**



*Lithuanian immigrants left their Nemunas River region to live, work, and worship in the many neighborhoods that developed as Pittsburgh's industries attracted thousands of workers from Eastern Europe. Join us on a bus tour of Pittsburgh's Lithuanian heritage as we explore its neighborhoods including Whitehall, the South Side, and Soho. Highlights of the tour will be visits to St. Casimir's Cemetery and the convent of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God in Whitehall, and lunch at the Lithuanian Hall on the South Side. Co-sponsored by the Knights of Lithuania.*

**\$33 for HSWP members, \$38 for non-members**

*For more information please call or write Ann Fortescue at the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, 4338 Bigelow Boulevard, Pittsburgh, PA 15213. Telephone (412) 281-2465*

Asta Banionis

# Major Changes at the United States Embassy

United States Ambassador James W. Swihart, Jr. has presented his credentials to the Lithuanian government and taken up residence with his wife, Ellen Cendo Swihart, in Lithuania's capital, Vilnius. The Ambassador is well acquainted with the struggle of the people of Lithuania to regain their freedom and independence and the role Lithuania played in helping to change the face of Europe.

Mr. Swihart served as Director of the Office of East European and Yugoslav Affairs at a critical time for United States policy. The democratic movements of Eastern Europe were in full flower and were crumbling the prison walls of these communist states. The long-awaited revolution which United States policy had hoped for and encouraged over 40 years was taking place. Mr. Swihart helped guide United States policy through this tremendously challenging period. But the range of his earlier diplomatic postings has also made him uniquely qualified for his present responsibilities.

Mr. Swihart is a career foreign service officer who entered the diplomatic corps soon after completing his B.A. in English at Columbia University in 1968. Although his very first diplomatic post was in the Central American country of Belize, he quickly moved on to Eastern Europe. In 1971 he was sent to be the political officer in Belgrade, Yugoslavia. Two years later he was brought home to Washington, DC and served for three years as the desk officer for Italy and the Holy See. Mr. Swihart finds it remarkable that in those three years, the State Department never once sent him to Italy or the Vatican which is standard procedure. The turbulent Watergate era seems to have produced some lean years at the State Department.

But it was in the latter 1970's when Ambassador

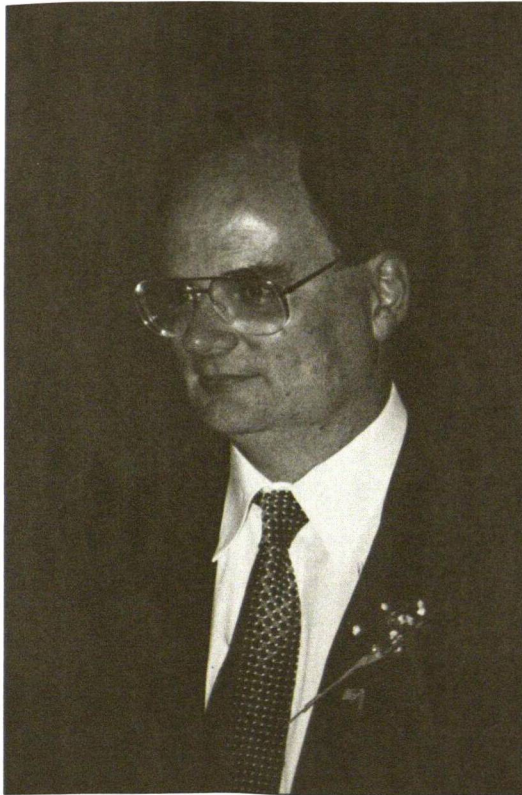
Swihart got his first hand experience with communist societies and the Soviet Bloc by being assigned as the political/military officer to the United States Mission in West Berlin. The diplomatic mission was really part of the military government which administered Berlin under the Four Powers agreement. It was his responsibility to guarantee United States access to West and East Berlin, and it was still the era of East German border guards with "shoot to kill" orders for persons trying to escape East Germany.

After Berlin, Ambassador Swihart was given a unique assignment. He became the desk officer for the U.S. effort within the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) better known as the Helsinki process. During his tenure, the CSCE convened the Madrid Conference which dealt extensively with not only security issues, but with the all important "Basket III" provisions of the Helsinki Act - the human rights provisions.

During the Madrid CSCE Conference, Ambassador Max Kampelman served as the head of the United States delegation. Serving under Kampelman at this critical time, Ambassador Swihart was really in the front lines of advancing a democratic agenda for Eastern Europe and the countries occupied by the Soviet Union as well as helping the dissidents of the Soviet Union.

Before becoming Director of the Office of East European and Yugoslav Affairs in late 1989, Ambassador Swihart worked within the West German Affairs bureau in Washington, DC and served a tour of duty as U.S. Consul General in Zagreb, Yugoslavia (now the capital of Croatia). Just before his appointment to Vilnius,

*Continued on p. 7*



Paulius Mickus

*Ambassador James W. Swihart, Jr. attending banquet in his honor, September 17, 1994. Arlington, VA*

Vytas Maciunas

# Lithuanian-American Community National Council Meets

The XIV LAC Board of Directors ("Taryba"), also known as the LAC National Council, met this September 17 and 18 at the Sheraton National Hotel located in Arlington, Virginia for its first session. The current LAC Board of Directors is made up of 60 representatives elected for a three year term from all over the United States and eight regional LAC chairman, for a total membership of 68. (The LAC elections were discussed in the April, 1994 issue of BRIDGES).

In this first session of the XIV LAC Board of Directors, elections for LAC leadership (presidium of the board and president of the national executive committee) and many important issues were on the agenda.

Lithuania's independence has challenged the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. to clarify its purpose and reestablish its identity in a changed world. Resolutions identifying the commitments of the LAC organization were developed in subcommittees of the LAC Board of Directors and then voted upon in general session. A

summary of resolutions accepted will be presented in the next issue of BRIDGES.

Two slates were presented by the nominating committee for election to the presidium of the LAC Board of Directors. The presidium conducts the Board of Director's sessions, conducts correspondence meetings throughout the year, and acts as the liaison between the Board of Directors and the National Executive Committee, which conducts LAC business and implements LAC policy. A slate from California in a 32 to 29 vote was elected to serve as the presidium for the duration of the three year term of the XIV Board of Directors. The members of LAC presidium are: dr. Zigmas Brinkis (chairman), Angele Nelsas, Violeta Gedgaudas, Vytas Vidugiris, Antanas Polikaitis.

The election of the next National Executive Committee president took place in the Sunday morning session. Two strong candidates were presented by the nominating committee. They were Vytautas Kamantas



*Members of the past LAC National Executive Committee. (From l to r) seated; B. Jasaitis, L. Sileikis-Hood, Pres. V. Maciunas, R. Narusis, R. Kucas, A. Gecys, 2nd row; G. Cepas, G. Taoras, I. Bublys, A. Dambriunas, D. Krivickas, Dr. V. Vengris and B. Raugas.*

and Regina Narusis. Vytautas Kamantas was the outgoing chairman of the presidium for the XIII Board of Directors, while Regina Narusis was the executive vice-president of the National Executive Committee approved by the XIII Board of Directors. Both candidates presented final and summary remarks before the Board of Directors vote. They had previously distributed their policy outlines in writing to the Board of Direc-

Paulius Mickus

tors. After a final question and answer session, the board of directors voted by secret ballot. When the votes were counted, Regina Narusis was announced as the next president of the LAC National Executive Committee for a three year term winning the election by a 35 to 25 vote tally.

Regina Narusis (58), born in Kaunas, Lithuania, brings experience in both Lithuanian-American and American public affairs work to the LAC leadership post. Coming to United States after World War II, she finished high school in Chicago, graduated from University of Illinois with a BA in political science and received her law degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana in 1959.

She is married to Bernard Narusis, also a lawyer. Together, they have three children and three grandchildren. They jointly own and manage the law firm of Narusis & Narusis, handling a general practice.

Ms. Narusis is a member of State of Illinois Toll Commission Board, president of People of Rockford Catholic Foundation, previous member of Board of Directors of Marian Central Catholic High School and School Board member for Illinois district # 46. She has received the Community Leaders and Noteworthy Americans Award (1978), Illinois Association of School Board's Award of Merit. She has been recognized in the Who's Who in America, the Who's Who of Women Biographies.

In addition, Regina was past president of the Waukegan chapter of the LAC, member of the National LAC Public Affairs Council (1990-1991), President and founder of LABAS, the Lithuanian-American Bar Association. She is currently the president of Lithuanian Folk Dance Festivals, Inc., an independent subsidiary of the LAC organization. She has organized the LAC's Free-



Newly elected LAC Executive Committee President Regina Narusis (left) and a member of Sen. DeConcini's staff.

P. Mickus

dom Forums in Washington, D.C. and has been a legal consultant to the Lithuanian governments of prime ministers Vagnorius and Slezevicius

She has been an active member of the Lithuanian folk dance group in Wisconsin, "Klumpe" and participated in the Lithuanian World Dance and Song Festival in Lithuania this summer.

The new president must now submit her selections for the various posts in the National Executive Committee to the LAC presidium, who will then present the candidates to the full LAC Board of Directors for an approval vote. Once approved, the new National Executive Committee will take over management of LAC affairs and its policy implementation. This transfer should take place in mid November of this year.

## EMBASSY

*Continued from p. 24*

Lithuania as U.S. Ambassador, Mr. Swihart served as Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Vienna,

Austria (a city noted for its pastries and as a crossroads for intelligence officers - could there be a correlation between the quality of pastries and the number of spies?).

Mrs. Ellen Cendo Swihart is of Croatian-Dalmation ancestry. A teacher by professional training she has nonetheless accompanied her husband throughout his many postings overseas and managed to teach wherever they went. The Swiharts have raised two children, Jennifer and Christopher, who have successfully completed their college educations despite the many hardships that befall a diplomat's family. A smile comes quickly to Mrs. Swihart and we are sure that the warmth she radiates will melt even the most winter-hardened heart in Lithuania. We wish them both well.



Edmund Kulikauskas

Farewell gathering for US Ambassador Darryl Johnson at the American Center in Vilnius. From left US consul, the ambassador's secretary, Mrs. Kathleen Johnson, Ambassador Darryl Johnson, translator, American Center head Victor Sidabras, a Lithuanian-American.

Asta Banionis

# Two Invitations Declined

The Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. joining with other member organizations of the Central and East European Coalition declined its invitation from the White House to participate in the state arrival ceremony for Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin on September 27, 1994. It was thoughtful of the White House to invite us, but considering what transpired in Washington, DC during Yeltsin's visit we believe we made the right decision.

Members of the Coalition were already feeling a general anxiety over Yeltsin's visit to Washington, DC because of a Clinton Administration policy paper which had surfaced recommending that the United States acknowledge a Russian "sphere of influence" over the countries which had recently freed themselves from Soviet oppression. The policy read, "It is understood that a Russian sphere of influence is being recognized with Europe extending to the eastern border of Poland, leaving the Baltics somewhat up for grabs ..."

Although U.S. Department of State and Clinton Administration officials were prodded into denying the existence of the policy paper, it demonstrated once again that Americans who care about the success, let alone survival, of the new democracies of Europe must be ever vigilant. Funny, how this policy option keeps popping up within the bureaucracy despite President Clinton's public statements about a U.S. commitment to the reintegration of the new democracies into Western political structures.

No one should grow discouraged, however, because "policy is process" or rather policy is always in the process of being formed, applied, altered and reformulated. Its interactive. And in a democracy, every citizen gets to participate if he/she wants to.

Back to President Yeltsin's visit to Washington, DC. Did the two presidents, Clinton and Yeltsin, divide up Europe? Judging from their remarks during the joint press conference the formula appears to be a little more complex than just re-drawing the map of Yalta-I. President Clinton in his prepared remarks adroitly avoided any discussion of a "near abroad" or a "sphere of influence". President Yeltsin, who was definitely feeling his oats, provided a less guarded view of the agenda of the two "strategic partners". Among the marathon list of issues discussed he mentioned, "The most important talks and subjects at these talks are the strategic partnerships

between Russia and the United States, international issues, external political coordination of our efforts so that we two great powers, two countries, constantly coordinated everything that we do so that nothing happens in the world that might ruin peace on our planet... peacekeeping, CIS, the role of Russia in the CIS, NATO and Russia, coordination in the United Nations Security Council, reforming United Nations, the situation all around the world — Bosnia, Middle East, Caribbean Basin, North Korea, Rwanda, Islamic extremism, Iran, Libya, Iraq, Trans-Dniester, Nagorno-Karabakh, Abkhazia, Tajikistan, the Baltics — military issues, START III as in START I, START II, now III, non-proliferation,... harmonizing military doctrines since today doctrine in the United State, the military doctrine is one; Russia has a different one..."

How does it feel to have your favorite countries, the Baltics, ranked among the war-torn countries of the world, as well as the recently re-acquired Russian colonies. And don't forget the pariah states of North Korea, Iran, Libya, Iraq, and those perpetual Islamic

extremists. It's clear that President Yeltsin thinks that the Baltics are part of the problem and not part of the solution, while latter-day Metternichs in the U.S. State Department suggest that the Baltics are "up for grabs".

Helen Thomas, UPI White House correspondent and the dean of the White House press corps, as is traditional, asked the first question. "Well, I have questions for each of the presidents but I've narrowed it a bit. You've covered the waterfront and I'm sure you have all the answers. I would like to ask President Clinton: are you going to call a special session on GATT? President Yeltsin, I think the American people are very happy to find out that Russia will never attack the United States, as you said today, you would never fight... There is some concern that Russia may still have some feeling that it has a sphere of influence over former Soviet republics and that when you intervene you don't feel it necessary to go through an international situation. Is that true?"

President Yeltsin's answer: "Well, of course we're not planning to avoid and go walk around the decisions of the United Nations. Moreover, as you know, I'm appearing at the General Assembly session, and I came out and talked for strengthening and for widening this organization so this organization would be strengthened in the future. Maybe they need it now more than ever, more

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*...President Yeltsin  
thinks that the Baltics  
are part of the  
problem...*

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than 20 years ago. So, now as far as the CIS countries, how do you feel? I mean, are you close to the neighbor that you live to or not? Of course, Are you? (Laughter from the press corps) Well these are our neighbors. Yesterday we were in the same — we lived in the same house, in the Soviet Union. There is no Soviet Union, but these republics, they — they're our blood, right? Come on, let's be honest. We've helped them financially, just as you help other countries, you financially help other countries: Latin America and Africa, et cetera, et cetera. It's only natural that we would have contacts and ties; they should be good. As a matter of fact, now we're planning some kind of centripetal forces pulling them inward, those tendencies. Everybody wants to be close to Russia, and we will be friendly with them, and we will support them, but in no way — not to contravene any international norms of behavior which are established or which shall be established."

Wrong, Mr. Yeltsin, these fourteen other countries which have emerged from the Soviet house are not your blood relatives. And, your "financial help" to Lithuania looks more like blackmail to us. Doubling tariffs on Lithuanian imports to and exports from your country, Russia, in hopes of extracting a military transit agreement from Lithuania is not the neighborly thing to do. What about those centripetal forces pulling everyone inward? Sounds like the definition of a black hole.

How did President Clinton react to this candid display of Yeltsin's philosophy of life and foreign policy? Playing the role of a gracious host, he didn't react. But later in the press conference he identified the standards that meet his criteria for acceptable intervention by Russia. "First of all the United States does not object to Russia taking an active role in the resolution of Nagorno-Karabakh. What we have discussed with the Russians, and what Boris and I finally had a chance to discuss personally together at some considerable length, is how that could be made more like Haiti; that is whatever Russia does should be done in a manner that is consistent with and within the framework of the United Nations resolution. I think that Russia plainly does have an interest, significant interest in what happens on its borders and what happens in countries on its borders. In all of our discussions, President Yeltsin has acknowledged that he respected the sovereignty, the independence and the territorial integrity of all those countries, but that what happened there affected what happened within his country and that there were things that he might be able to do there in pursuit of stability without being inconsistent with sovereignty and territorial in-

tegrity and independence that were appropriate."

So, is there a Yalta-II in the making? As long as the Russians invoke the mantra of "respecting the sovereignty and independence" of their neighbors and convince members of the United Nations to give them a resolution approving their actions, it looks like President Clinton has given Yeltsin a green light to do pretty much whatever the Russians want to do. Defenders of the United Nations formula will protest that surely the United Nations would never approve of a situation that undermined or destroyed the sovereignty of one of its members. Just ask the Bosnians who are crippled in their attempts to defend their own citizenry from Serbian aggression because of a United Nations resolution creating an embargo on weapons for Bosnia.

But the Clinton Administration has not waited for the Russians to come to the United Nations to justify their actions against their Baltic neighbors. The dust had hardly settled in Washington, DC after President Yeltsin's departure, when State Department officials orchestrated

some "multilateral" political cover for the Government of Lithuania to give in to Russia's blackmail for a military transit agreement.

As you read this article, it is quite possible that the Lithuanian government will have not only adopted a general law governing the transit of military

equipment and personnel through Lithuanian territory (applicable to any nation), but also signed an executive agreement with Russia concerning its transit rights to and from Kaliningrad through Lithuanian territory.

Yeltsin left Washington, DC on Wednesday, and Lithuania's Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys arrived on Thursday. The U.S. State Department had offered to arrange a meeting between Mr. Gylys and representatives of Lithuanian-American organizations to discuss issues of concern to our members, like the proposed military transit agreement. The Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. was invited to attend and we enthusiastically accepted the State Department's invitation. Unfortunately, it was the Foreign Minister that declined the invitation to meet with us or any of the other Lithuanian-American groups represented in Washington, DC.

The Foreign Minister, however, did accept the invitation of the State Department to meet with the Ambassadors of a number of European countries (11 countries are listed in a September 29, 1994 press release of the Embassy of Lithuania) for an "informational meeting" on the draft of the Lithuanian transit regulations and draft Lithuania-Russia agreement.

Reading from the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry's "News

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***We urge all Lithuanian-Americans to stay informed and to stay involved. The stakes for Lithuania's future and all of newly liberated Europe are too high to allow decisions to be made without public involvement.***

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File" dated October 1-5, 1994 it is easy to understand why the Foreign Minister didn't want to meet with us. On September 18, 1994 the National Council (board of governors) of the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. adopted a resolution clearly opposing any separate agreement with Russia on military transit. If Foreign Minister Gylys' representation of the ambassadors meeting is accurate, then little would be gained by meeting with a group of Americans who were opposed to the Lithuanian government's intended policy.

The "News File" (Oct.1-5) reads, "Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys said that during their visit to the United States together with President Brazauskas, he and Ambassador Virgilius Bulavas, who heads the Lithuanian team to negotiate with CIS, had met at the US State Department with more than ten ambassadors from Western countries and representatives from various US departments.

Mr. Gylys said that all participants of the meeting had accepted the idea of transit and approved Lithuania's pragmatic and realistic stand towards this issue. On the other hand, they noted that Lithuania had to make its own decision about the details of this agreement. All ambassadors spoke on behalf of their governments and pointed out that by signing the transit agreement Lithuania would not impair its chances to integrate into European political and economic structures, Mr. Gylys noted.

He also said that the sides discussed both the transit rules and the agreement with Russia. 'The ambassadors emphasized the political aspect of the agreement and indicated that such a document would be beneficial to Lithuania's relationship with Russia as well as to the general political development in Europe.' Mr. Gylys said."

President Brazauskas is quoted in this same "News File" item, "He (Brazauskas) stressed that Lithuania and Russia were not negotiating a bilateral treaty but an agreement that would be signed by heads of state."

This official report from the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry leaves numerous questions unanswered about the transit agreement to be signed with the Russians. From a number of sources who attended the "informational meeting" we know that the draft transit regulations are based on the Turkish government's transit regulations for the Bosphorus straits. Since the regulations will apply to all nations using Lithuanian territory, it appears that the Russians' insistence for a separate agreement is redundant and unnecessary. If the agreement is not redundant then what are these "political aspects of the agreement" which make it possible that "such a document would be beneficial to Lithuania's relationship with Russia as well as to the general political develop-

ment in Europe." Especially when the Russian government has linked trade policy with Lithuanian performance on a transit agreement and has effectively dried up Lithuanian trade with Russia by doubling tariffs against Lithuanian products and Russian products exported to Lithuania. Surely, the ambassadors of these Western countries do not believe that the "general political development in Europe" will be enhanced by rewarding Russian economic blackmail.

This official report also raises questions about U.S. foreign policy. President Clinton recently said that he would call back the United States Congress after the

November elections to pass the enabling legislation for the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and generally, this Administration has argued that they do not believe that trade barriers such as tariffs should be wielded as economic weapons. Yet, rather than protest the doubling of Russian tar-

iffs against Lithuania, the United States appears to have encouraged Lithuania to give in to the economic blackmail of Russia and provide an agreement on military transit.

The Clinton Administration generally appears to support a decrease in nuclear, biological and conventional weapons in Europe. Yet, the United States appears to have enhanced the viability of a massive Russian military outpost the size of Northern Ireland in the heart of Europe by encouraging the Lithuanians to provide a reliable and cheap form of transportation (railroad) to the Russians so they can continue to supply this military encampment. The technocrats of the U.S. State Department have managed to reverse what should have been a natural demilitarization of the area. It will now be cost effective for the Russians to keep this military base which is on occupied territory, totally isolated from the Russian mainland, open. The Polish government must have sighed with relief that they were not encouraged or pressured to provide cheap transit for the Russians to Kaliningrad.

Clinton Administration officials may think that they've disposed of a problem they didn't want to face - Kaliningrad - with relative ease. But they've done a disservice to the U.S. administrations which will come after them and to the people who live in the nations surrounding this powderkeg. These actions have merely extended the long term threat posed by Kaliningrad well into the next century.

We urge all Lithuanian-Americans to stay informed and to stay involved. The stakes for Lithuania's future and all of newly liberated Europe are too high to allow decisions to be made without public involvement.

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*...the United States appears to have encouraged Lithuania to give in to the economic blackmail of Russia and provide an agreement on military transit.*

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Colonel John Kronkaitis, USA (Ret)

# U.S. Foreign Policy and the Security of Eastern Europe

In the Caucus Room of the United States Senate, on 16 September 1994, the assembled members of the Lithuanian-American Community Board of Directors and guests, heard three speakers address the subject of U.S. Foreign Policy and the Security of Eastern Europe. It was particularly fitting that the seminar was held in the premisses of the Legislative Branch of our government. It was the collective wisdom of this body which countered the pro stability, pro Soviet Empire stance of the Execu-



Paulius Mickus

*Attendees of LAC, Inc. Public Affairs Seminar, Sept. 16, 1994  
Russell Caucus Room, Senate Office Buildings, Washington, DC*

tive Branch which could have delayed, or even doomed reassertion of Lithuania's independence.

## U.S. Foreign Policy - No Good News for Lithuania

The first speaker was Paul Goble, Ph.D., of the Carnegie Endowment For International Peace, who is well known for his tenacity in supporting the aspirations of the Baltic Republics while serving in the Department of State. When he saw that the Bush Administration was opting for "stability" in Eastern Europe at the expense of democracy and self determination for the Captive Nations, he had the courage to resign his position at The State, but pursued his well focused efforts in advocating adherence to international law and a judicious approach to Russia. Goble opened his remarks regretting that he had only bad news for Lithuania. He sees the present Lithuanian government succumbing to Russian influence and that Clinton Administration is creating a two superpower spheres of influence. Russia effectively vetoed Baltic and Visegrad membership in NATO, which seems to define the boundaries for the two spheres.

Baltic Republics, in his view, are being thrust into the Russian orb. Many russians still harbor the notion of reassembling the empire. Goble cautioned Lithuanian-Americans not to relax, but continue efforts to support the right for Lithuania to embrace the Western sphere. Although we are losing two of the most loyal supporters of Baltic rights, Senators Donald Riegle, Jr. (Mich.) and Dennis DeConcini (Ariz.), as a result of their announced retirements, he believes there are many legislators ready to back the principle of self determination and Baltic rights.

It should be useful to reflect on Goble's view of the Lithuanian-American role in the U.S. foreign policy formulation. He cautions that, "... the Clinton Administration is increasingly inverting the logic of the Cold War. If during the Cold War, American foreign policy was subordinated to American-Russian hostility, now it is subordinated to American-Russian cooperation." He continues to say that this shift in logic "... is especially threatening to small countries like Lithuania whose interests may be sacrificed in the name of this cooperation. ... no matter how often American officials insist that the Baltic states are a special case." Pointing to the success of keeping the idea of Lithuania alive, Goble urges Lithuanian-Americans to join Baltic and East European coalitions in order to exert more influence on the Congress and the Executive Branch to counter Russian efforts to exploit the new found friendship in Washington. " Now, the challenge is to keep the reality of Lithuania alive."

## The Age of Empires is Over - But Not of the Atom

The second speaker was Phillip Petersen, Ph. D., of the Potomac Foundation. He received his Ph. D. in Political Science from the University of Illinois, and an MA in Political Science from Western Michigan University. He had served in the Office of the Secretary of Defense as a Foreign Affairs Specialist from 1984 through 1990. He developed an excellent background for assessing soviet military posture through various assignments in the U.S. intelligence community.

Petersen illustrated the complexity of developing sound policies in dealing with Russia by reminding the audience that Russian Federation covers eleven time zones. He credited Strobe Talbott for being "...the West's best expert on Moscow", but that matters very little since "... Moscow doesn't have any better clue what's happen-

ing in Russia than does Washington.” Furthermore, to bring about an enlightened policy toward Central and Eastern Europe, ... “the Democrats are even more disorganized than Republicans.” Petersen contends that democracy and market economy in Russia is being constructed in spite of Moscow and that a common Russian is unwilling to subsidize the restoration of “the empire”. He pointed out that the Russian army of 1.2 million is composed of an equal number of officers and conscripts. As a result, only a few divisions are combat ready and that at least three of those divisions in the Moscow region are watching each other. “The Age of Empires is over.” He sees the inevitability of Central and Eastern Europe integrating into the European political

stated that it was perhaps fortunate for Lithuania that NATO did not move to expand its membership at this time, because most likely, only Visegrad countries would be accepted and this would leave Lithuania in a more precarious position. Partnership for Peace initiative is not a substitute to NATO. This concept originated not as a response to Yeltsin’s concerns, but as a plan to help the newly independent states to work together to maintain stability and peace in the region. While NATO membership is not assured for the participants in the Partnership for Peace initiative, it is an essential precondition. Herr envisions that through such activities as joint military planning, rescue missions, disaster relief, and peacekeeping operations member nations would find common interest in preserving peace and will find security through mutual respect. It is a challenge for NATO to maintain the momentum of the Partnership with expanding activities. On 28 September, in Spain, NATO ministerial meetings, which Secretary of Defense Perry will attend, will address this challenge.

### Preserving an Idea and the Nation

All three speakers have made a significant contribution to our understanding of the dynamics of foreign policy and national security. More than that, their continued interest in the Baltic Republics and their enthusiasm for Baltic rights has raised the level of sensitivity among our policy makers and the public of issues which sometimes are presented in a distorted form; e.g., citizenship laws in Estonia and Latvia as a human rights violation. It is not necessary to draw firm conclusions from the three presentations, but it should be clear that Central and Eastern Europe is in transition, seeded with uncertainty and dangers. Lithuania, by faith of geography, can not isolate itself from events in the East, or the West.

This July in Riga President Clinton declared, “We will stand with you, we will help you, we will be partners so that your nation can be free forever.” What words could make U.S. policy regarding Baltic republics clearer?

Reassuring words of friendship have an intangible value, but neither United States nor any other country will provide security for Lithuania. In spite of statements to the contrary, the Lithuanian government is not anxious for membership in NATO and the latter is not anxious to grant it. It is up to the Lithuanian government to develop a sound national security strategy leveraging off self-interests of other countries, forming alliances, creating high technology armed forces and preparing to exploit weaknesses of potential adversaries. Russia will be there “forever” and Lithuania can not ignore that reality. Good relations with Russia are no less important than with the Western World, but good will is no substitute for a strong political, economic and military posture. That Russia covers eleven time zones and Lithuania but a fraction of one, should not be viewed with passive despair. Russia need not be an enemy and Lithuania need not be under her influence.



Paulius Mickus

Panelists from left; Don Herr, Philip Petersen and Paul Goble

culture and the global economy, to include NATO and the European Union. To retain its influence Washington must not oppose the inevitable. Petersen ended on an ominous note. The period of transition is fraught with danger. He considers the moving of nuclear weapons into an unstable Russia and then disassembling them without an adequate mechanism for controlling the fissile material as one of the gravest of threats to our security.

### Partnership for Peace - A Hope

Donald F. Herr, Ph. D., Acting Director of the Office of NATO Affairs, Department of Defense, was the last speaker. Herr, who received his Ph.D. in Political Science in 1978, and M.A. in International Relations in 1962, from Yale University, did his undergraduate work at Harvard, where he graduated magna cum laude in American History. He first joined the NATO Affairs office in 1982 and has been the Acting Director since 1 April 1994. He prepared the original concept paper for “Partnership for Peace Initiative”, which became centerpiece of January 1994 NATO Summit. He also drafted Secretary of Defense statement presenting this concept for initial discussion with allies at Travenmuende, Germany in October 1993.

Herr disagreed with Goble’s assertion that Yeltsin has had, or could veto anyone’s membership in NATO. He

Jurate Krokys-Stirbys

# The Lithuanian Teachers' Study Week

Being an "active" Lithuanian usually means that your Saturdays are devoted to some ongoing Lithuanian activity, i.e., you are not housecleaning or shopping or



Participants of the Study Week conducted at Camp Dainava, summer '94.

otherwise resting. In the case of many parents, it means taking their children to Lithuanian Saturday School, or even teaching there. The Lithuanian Saturday School fits the description of many other ethnic weekend schools which seek to preserve the language and customs of a minority ethnic group within the larger American society. They are usually kept together at the seams by a core of devoted albeit tired group of people who want to give their kids the KEY to unlocking that which is special about being that minority. In most cases, if the minority group is still vital, it is the language and culture which provide the KEY.

As is any other true school, the teachers' and parents' groups are continuously striving to improve the Lithuanian Saturday School. And so, the Lithuanian American Community, Inc. of the USA provides an annual Lithuanian Teachers' Study Week. For 28 years now this study week has been taking place, most recently at Camp Dainava in Michigan. The six days are devoted to discussions, lectures, cultural programs and even a little time for rest and relaxation. During the past few years, the Study Week has taken on a distinctly different face, one that I would call promising.

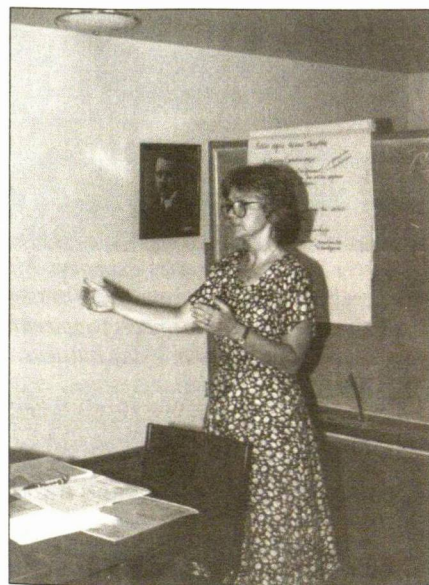
First of all, it has incorporated into its structure, a separate strand which provides Lithuanian language les-

sons for adults from beginning to advanced levels. I consider this promising because, it brings a good jolt of reality: it shows the true face of emigre life. It also injects us with a renewed spirit of appreciation. This we get from the students of every profile who find something precious in a language and culture, and who work very hard to have it as their own.

Second, the Study Week's working schedule now also reflects a more realistic view of the Lithuanian Saturday School. Round-table discussions and methodology classes reflect the more complex needs of the Saturday School now 50 years removed from its source.

And so it was, the summer of 1994, when it seemed that most everyone was going to Vilnius for the Song Festival, that about 100 souls traveled to Dainava to the Lithuanian Teachers' Study Week. About 25 of them were the children of visiting teachers and their time was enriched by a program of crafts and folk dancing. An-

other 25 or so, were the participants of the Lithuanian Language Strand. Many of them were returning for a fifth and sixth year and had "graduated" to the advanced class. The rest of us were the teachers of the Lithuanian Saturday School. (Although I noticed a few retired teachers who seemed to be enjoying the best part of Dainava, just sitting and resting under the pines with a



Jurate Krokys-Stirbys, director of the 28th Lithuanian Teachers' Study Week

Continued on p. 16

Edmund Kulikauskas

# Business News

## Lithuanian Treasury Bonds

The Lithuanian Government has started issuing Treasury bonds for sale in order to raise funds to cover the deficit. These obligations are guaranteed by the Government, but since they are purchased in Litas are subject to currency exchange risk. The Litas continues to be tied to US\$ at a rate of 4 Litas for \$1.

Four Treasury bond auctions have taken place and two additional auctions are planned for late September. The first auction offered 50 million Litas with 3 month maturity, but only 13.36 million Litas were sold at an annual interest rate of 35%. At later auctions the maturity was reduced to 45 days. In the second and third auctions all of the offered 30 and 25 million Litas, respectively were sold at interest rate of 32%. On the fourth auction all of the offered bonds for 40 million

unions, Lithuanian partners and the Canadian Desjardins Credit Union Federation. The plans call for establishment of 15 credit unions in the Kaunas region over a three year period. The project awaits action by Seimas (Parliament). It is hoped the credit unions will be a success as they were also implemented in Lithuania prior to the Soviet occupation.

## \$80 Million to be Invested in Klaipeda Petroleum Terminal

About \$40 million will be invested in Lithuania's petroleum industry by brothers Vytautas and Algis Didziulis, owners of Lancaster Steel Co., Inc. Klaipeda petroleum company and the US company have formed a joint venture "Klaipedos Nafta" with Lithuania having 51% of the stock and the US partners 49%.

The total investment is valued at \$80 million and will be made over a period of 3.5 years. It is planned to renovate the Klaipeda petroleum industry, installing the latest Western equipment. The facility will be able to import crude oil and various petroleum products and also maintain world class environmental standards. After reconstruction, the capacity will remain the same - approximately 6.8 million tons per year.

Lancaster Steel operates in Columbia, Venezuela and US with sales of \$200 million. Vytautas and Algis Didziulis left Lithuania as refugees in 1944.

## Kaunas - Zurich Airline Connection

"Lietuva" airline has established three days per week passenger flight service between Kaunas and Zurich. Round-trip fare for the flight in a JAK-40 24-seater will cost 1580 Lt (\$395). So far the flights have been profitable.

## Business Newspaper to be Published

Swedish concern Bonier Group plans to publish a business newspaper of 16 to 24 pages in Lithuania starting in October. Bonier Group is already publishing newspapers three days per week in Estonia, Latvia, Saint



*Speakers at the Los Angeles Economic Affairs monthly meeting in September: EAC member Edmund Kulikauskas, ALIDCORP president Ambrose Zatkus, EAC member and meeting coordinator Vytautas Cernius and businessman Vytautas Burokas.*

Litas were sold at annual interest rate of 27%. The fifth offering was to be for 45 million Litas and the expected interest rate was 25%. The sixth offering was to be for bonds maturing in 91 days and the offering was to be 35 million Litas.

## Credit Union Project Awaits Action by Seimas

The Credit Union project is supported financially by the Canadian Government, Open Society Fund of Lithuania (Soros Foundation), Lithuanian Canadian credit

*Edmundas Kulikauskas, a driving force in the creation of the LAC's Economic Affairs Council and active member will be moving to Lithuania in Nov., 1994. We wish him the best of luck and will await further reports from Vilnius. Thank You Edmundai!*

Peterburg and a magazine on the petroleum and gas industry in Russia; first issue of the latter appeared in September. Bonier Group will provide 49% of the capital for the Lithuanian venture. It will require a total of \$520,000 in capital and Bonier is seeking Lithuanian partners.

## Los Angelenos Interested in Lithuania's Economic Affairs

Since early 1993, the Los Angeles LAC chapter has organized monthly meetings on economic affairs (Ekonomines Vakarones) for individuals interested in the economy and business activity in Lithuania. The meetings are coordinated by LAC Los Angeles chapter board member Vytas Cernius (213) 469-9951, also a member of EAC. At the last meeting held on September 1 three speakers reported on their recent trips to Lithuania.

**Ambroziejus Zatkus, ALIDCORP President (909) 887-6014**

American Lithuanian Investment and Development Corporation's (ALIDCORP) chapter in Seduva has been active in agriculture for over two years. They raise grain crops, produce milk and operate two stores. Company matters and new projects prompted this trip. Recently the company experienced two setbacks: the Seduva manager was killed in an auto accident and one of the stores was damaged by fire. A. Zatkus is also very active and has close ties with the Farmer's Union and supports their projects.

During this trip he had to deal with some institutions which provide technical assistance to Lithuania's agriculture. As a result of his experience he has some criticisms for VOCA, USAID and World Bank; he also questions the effectiveness of the Peace Corps. Accord-



Paulius Mickus

*Algirdas Rimas, former US Embassy in Vilnius Economic Affairs Officer, and D. Dugan-Hilliard at the LAC Public Affairs Seminar in Washington on September 16, 1994. PHOTO by Paulius Mickus.*

ing to him, the people who are sent to Lithuania frequently do not have the necessary experience; in some cases, he suspects they come because they have no other job. In addition he has witnessed behavior (e.g., putting feet on a table during a meeting) which is not acceptable in Lithuania.

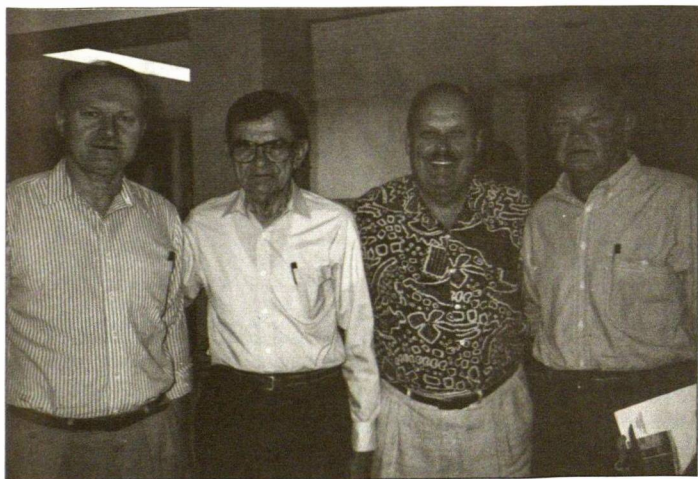
His criticism also extends to the Lithuanian Government for importing spoiled corn instead of helping find markets for Lithuanian farmer's own production. He seeks to encourage farmers and instill faith in themselves although many natives and foreigners take advantage of them. Along with normal difficulties, this summer's draught will bring great losses to the farmers. Grain crops have been severely reduced, cabbage heads were the size of peanuts and potatoes and carrots were a total loss.

Small plant cheese production organized by ALIDCORP in Seduva is spreading and progressing. Seven cheese production operations have been similarly equipped. Initially 500 liter stainless steel containers were purchased from Azerbaijan for \$500 and now a manufacturer in Jonava produces and sells 2200 liter containers for \$550.

Manufacture of instant potato powder is a new project being investigated with a consultant from Idaho. This will prevent potato spoilage during storage. Some farmers in Idaho may host and teach Lithuanian farmers their potato growing methods. Manufacture of potato chips and canning of fruits and vegetables are also being considered.

**Vytas Burokas, businessman (310) 474-0211**

Plans to renovate and upgrade the main dry cleaning facility in Vilnius. He has purchased 49% of the present building for \$260,000. The Government owns the remaining 51% which he



Edmund Kulikauskas

*President Dr. Stasys Poskus, center, with other members of management of "INVALDA", a large investment company in Lithuania. PHOTO by Edmund Kulikauskas.*

can acquire in the future. He is presently seeking investments to purchase German-made dry cleaning equipment which costs \$150,000.

V. Burokas is also importing expensive women's linen sweaters in small quantities from Lithuania; store prices are \$160-180. They are sold in Los Angeles and New York and soon in Dallas.

He underscored that we need not only ideas as to what goods to produce in Lithuania, but should also teach Lithuanians how to market their products. He learned one store sells bacon from Denmark because there are no distributors delivering bacon produced in Lithuania. Transportation is needed. According to him, it is better to invest in small projects, than to keep money in the bank. Likewise, it is better to invest money with your relatives to promote a business than to give it to them as charity.

**Vytautas Cernius, EAC member (213) 469-9951**

Reported on meetings which he organized as part of EAC activity with management of East Baltic States West (EBSW) and INVALIDA private holding companies. They have a controlling interest in many Lithuanian companies. Possibilities of presenting the companies in the US so they can establish ties with US companies and market their products were explored. Also present at the meetings were Cleveland businesswoman Ingrida Bublione, New York LAC Region President Kestutis Miklas, and Chicago businessman Jonas Pabedinskas. The companies are reviewing the merits of such a trip.

He observed that some companies span a wide range of products and activities which are not related. For example, one company produces agricultural implements

and ladies pantyhose. According to him, company executives need to learn strategic planning and business ethics. He wants to return to Lithuania as soon as possible to organize a management course.

**Edmundas Kulikauskas, EAC member (714) 521-8694**

Reported on the Lithuanian American Investment Fund feasibility study performed by EAC which was described in Bridges September issue. Startup of the fund is costly. The fund would provide a method for diversified investment under care of professionals thus reducing the risk which is the principal concern at this time.

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### TEACHERS

Continued from p. 13

good book.) Many of the younger teachers commented that above all else, it was extremely helpful just to discuss what others were doing, often to find that they were not the only ones to be "creating and recreating". Often, it seemed that we were magically whisking away our worries when so many of the camp participants joined in the daily folk dance lessons. Of course, the various cultural evening programs, the great meals, the fresh country air, and those wondrous starry nights helped to create an atmosphere of relaxation, so that the work of the Study Week seemed not to be so much work as play.

The future of the Lithuanian Saturday School depends on many variables: the parents, the children, the support systems of the Lithuanian Community, the definitions of what is important to me and what is not, certainly the curriculum, the outcomes of many Saturdays "in the bank", and perhaps many other variables. The Lithuanian Teachers' Study Week seeks to contribute to the support system and to revitalize those who make every Saturday happen. For this, I as a teacher and a parent, am grateful.



Jeanne Dorr

# Rotary International

There are days we look at all the needs of Lithuania and are overwhelmed. It seems that every institution whether it is social, economical, religious or educational has its arms outstretched for help. There are not enough of us around the world to do the job alone. Most of us are stretched to the limit giving our time trying to do what we can for our families in Lithuania. Sometimes we tend to forget that there are others out there willing to help Lithuania. Organizations that are not "Lithuanian", but are providing assistance should not be viewed with suspicion. There are good and generous people all over the world who recognize a need and want to help. There are individuals who are grateful for what they have been given and want to share their gifts with those less fortunate. Many times, all we have to do is ask. And ask is exactly what Liutas Jurskis of Fair Haven, New Jersey did. Mr. Jurskis is a member of the Board of Directors of the Red Bank Club and Secretary of the Rotary District 7510 which is comprised of 71 clubs with a membership of 2700 Rotarians.

Mr. Jurskis asked me for information about Lithuanian Orphan Care. I provided him with some facts and

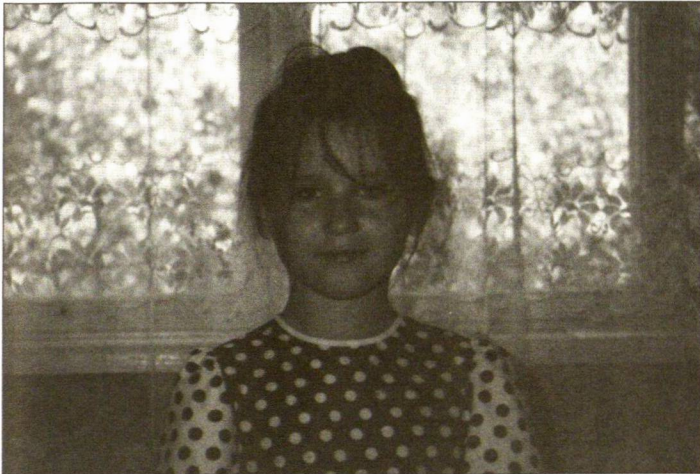


*Mr. Liutas Jurskis Rotary Club member helping Lithuanian children.*

an orphan for a year. They immediately sent a check for \$150. This particular club has issued a challenge to the other 70 clubs in their district to follow their lead and adopt a child. Mr. Jurskis and Mr. Jay Pierson, Director of International Service, will coordinate this very important project.

Liutas Jurskis was born in Kaunas and arrived in the US with his parents in 1949. He served in the US Army and is a graduate of Drexel University and Temple University. He is a licensed professional engineer in seven states. Mr. Jurskis is presently the owner of a mechanical and electrical consulting engineering firm. He has held numerous positions in Lithuanian-American organizations as well as in local politics. Currently, much of his time has been devoted to Rotary International of which he has been an active member since 1974. Liutas was active in establishing contact with the Rotary Club of Kaunas and worked with the Rotary International "Balticum" committee to re-charter the Kaunas Club. He was also instrumental in making the Kaunas Rotary Club, a sister club of the Red Bank Rotary Club.

At the re-chartering ceremony held December 11, 1993 for the Kaunas Rotary Club in Lithuania, the Red Bank sister club presented a plaque signifying its relationship to the Club in Lithuania. A letter was received from the secretary of the Kaunas Club thanking the Americans for their help in the reorganization of the



*Seven year old Ingrida Sadauskaite who is sponsored by the Forked River, NJ Rotary Club. Her four sisters are in need of sponsors.*

he took it from there. While speaking at one of the Rotary Clubs in his district, he mentioned the Orphan Care project. He certainly must have been very convincing because the board of directors and members of the Forked River Rotary Club were interested in supporting

Kaunas Club. The secretary wrote of the great desire of the club to have contacts with their American counterparts.

Mr. Jurskis did not do all this on his own, but he was certainly instrumental in presenting the program about orphan care and helping to re-establish the Kaunas Rotary Club. I am sure there are many BRIDGES readers who are Rotarians or are related to Rotarians. Perhaps a friend or neighbor belongs to this fine organization.

being sponsored this year by the Rotary Club of Forked River, NJ. She is a beautiful little girl who lives with her grandmother and four sisters. The children range in age from five to fourteen years. Ingrida is the only child in the family who has a sponsor. The other sisters are available and are hoping they too will have sponsors in the near future. Life is difficult in Lithuania. It is almost impossible for people who live on fixed incomes. The Rotary support is what makes a difference for this family

in making ends meet. The family lives in a two room apartment. The children are happy and well adjusted in spite of the fact that they were abandoned by their mother. You could sense the pride and love their grandmother has for them when she talk about her granddaughters. Ingrida's grandmother cried with gratitude when she spoke of the monthly stipend she receives from people she will never meet. Her greatest concern is that she stays healthy and lives long enough to see her granddaughters become self sufficient young women.

From Lithuanian Orphan Care a million thanks to Liutas Jurskis for presenting this topic to his fellow Rotarians and helping to coordinate the project. A special thank you to the Forked River, NJ club, not only for sponsoring a child for a year, but for issuing the challenge to the other 70 clubs in their district to also support a child. I am grateful to Robert J. Carr of the Forked River Club who offered his personal assistance with this project. A sincere thank you to Director of International Service, Jay Pierson, for coordinating the program and contacting the other clubs.

I would like to add my personal thanks to Mr. Jurskis for all the telephone conversations, information, and time he gave to me in preparation for writing this article. Let's hope that other Rotarians will pick up the challenge and make it a national campaign to help Lithuania's children. After spending the summer in Lithuania I now realize that we need a large scale campaign such as Rotary International to help the children and their families who seem to be the forgotten while the rest of Lithuania moves forward. So come on, BRIDGES readers, make the contact today with your local Rotary. Put them in touch with Mr. Jurskis. We are being offered the help of an outstanding organization - let's take advantage of it by helping on the local level. Lithuania's children need YOU!

## Children of the Month

This 30 year old widow and her children are in need of help. They live in one room in the region of Anykščiai. Cost to sponsor one child for one year: \$150. Please send donations to:

Lithuanian Orphan Care  
2711 West 71st Str  
Chicago, IL 60629

(Please note "Anykščiai widowed family" on the check.)



Show them this article. If you would like to know more about this wonderful humanitarian project which is taking place in District #7510, please contact me through the BRIDGES office and I will be more than happy to put you in touch with Mr. Jurskis.

Once a again, there is no "catch" to it. The only thing the Rotarians receive is the satisfaction of knowing they are helping those who are less fortunate. There are many non-Lithuanian organizations whose members would be happy to help Lithuania, but someone has to ask. Write that letter or make that phone call today. If you put it off you'll find a hundred reasons not to get it done.

I spent almost two months in Lithuania this summer and visited the home of seven year old Ingrida Sadauskaite who lives in Kaunas. Ingrida is the lucky child who is

Aukse Trojanas

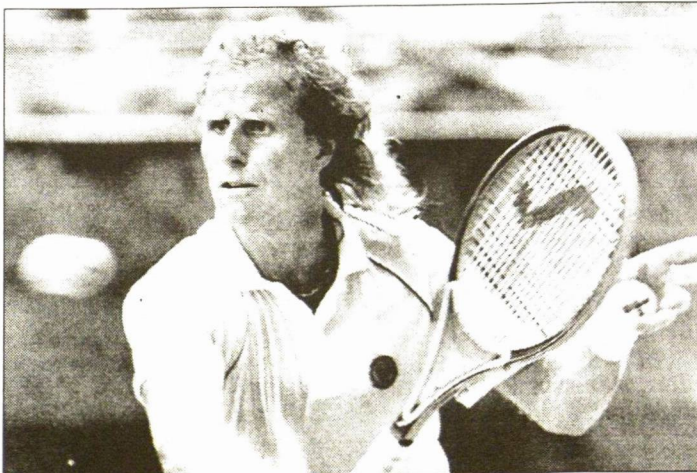
# The New York Scene

Vitas Gerulaitis died on September 17th of accidental carbon monoxide poisoning. The New York Times in announcing his death, proclaimed that "One of New York's Own and One of Its Favorites" was lost. Tragically, Vitas died at the Southampton home of a friend. The house had a faulty propane heater and air conditioner.

Vitas was a flamboyant tennis champion who once said that he wanted the whole world to like him. In his heyday he was known as the "Lithuanian Lion" because of his long blond hair and ferocious playing style. His greatest period of activity in professional tennis competition was from 1977 to 1982 when he was ranked among the world's top 10 tennis players. In 1977 he placed 3rd and in 1984 he was 4th. He won 27 singles titles and one grand slam, the Australian Open in 1977. He was a doubles champion at Wimbledon in 1975 and a singles finalist at the 1979 U.S. Open and the 1980 French Open. Vitas felt that he achieved his personal best in a finals match against Bjorn Borg in 1972 at Wimbledon. Although he lost in a tiebreaker after five sets, the match was considered to be among the greatest ever played in the history of tennis at Wimbledon. Vitas knew it had to be good since no one left for tea during the match.

With the proceeds of the Australian Open victory he purchased a home for his parents in Kingspoint, N.Y. He never established a permanent home for himself and stayed with his parents and his sister Ruta, also a professional tennis player, when visiting New York. The Kingspoint house and its tennis courts became a magnet for many champions from around the world who came to visit Vitas and to practice with him.

Vitas Gerulaitis was an unusual man. A self-acknowledged gypsy, he made friends all over the world. His success at making and keeping friends was said to overshadow his triumphs in tennis. The fact that he succeeded in being loved very widely was made manifest by the out-pouring of affection which was expressed at his death. Many tennis greats were at his funeral, among them Bjorn Borg, Jimmy Connors, Chris Evert, Billy Jean



Vitas Gerulaitis

King and John McEnroe, a former doubles partner.

Vitas Gerulaitis, Sr. was his son's first instructor. The elder Gerulaitis was the tennis champion of Lithuania when he fled his country during World War II. Vitas Sr. and Jr. were above all else best of friends. When the son purchased Rod Laver's tennis training camp in Florida, the father came down to help out. The son got into trouble with alcohol and cocaine in his 30's, but sought treatment for his addictions after his father's death in 1991. He straightened himself out and recently said that all that was long behind him.

At loose ends for a few years, Vitas had been playing exhibition games and working as a tennis commentator on television. At the age of 40 he was again in good shape and had rejoined a professional tennis circuit, the Champions Tour. He loved the camaraderie of professional tennis which bonds players in a very special way. Recently, when Pete Sampras collapsed in the locker room following an exhausting defeat in the U.S. Open, he asked everyone to leave except for Vitas who peeled off Pete's shirt, replaced it with a fresh dry one and comforted him with the sympathy that only someone who has experienced grievous defeat can give.

In an interview given three days before his death, Vitas said: "I had it pretty good. I had some fun and made pretty good money, made enough to live my life now the way I want to live it. I did a lot of things wrong growing up....No regrets."

Vitas never visited Lithuania. He got as close as Estonia where he beat Bjorn Borg in a match in 1978. He had planned to visit his ancestral homeland in the summer of 1995 to attend the Lithuanian World Sports

Games. He is survived by his mother, Aldona Gerulaitiene, and his sister, Ruta.

This article is based on recent articles in *The New York Times*, *The Daily News*, *The Baltic Independent*, *U.S. News and World Report*, *New York Magazine's* October 5, 1994 publication of an interview by Mimi Shachat and personal communication with Dr. James Doundoulakis who knew the Gerulaitis family.

Ramune Kubilius

# From the Lithuanian Press...

Selected excerpt from the Lithuanian Press in America.

## Lithuanians and the Printed Word

The Lithuanian printed word has been considered precious from the days Lithuanians understood that having their own printed language was an important part of ethnic identity. Maybe it's because Lithuanians had to fight for the freedom of publishing in Lithuanian. In reality, the Lithuanian press rarely experienced full freedom. Even during the democratic period, between the two world wars, newspapers had empty spots where government censors used their scissors, cutting out opinions contrary to government opinion. And that doesn't even closely approximate the problems experienced during the German and Soviet occupations. The press was free only in the underground, but the risks of being caught were great, even life threatening. Why should it be so amazing that after Lithuania regained independence, that newspapers and new publications sprouted out of every corner as if from a horn of plenty? Some people left Lithuania for one or another reason. They brought with them a love of the press. The first high point was at the turn of the century to about 1918, the next after World War II. Now we are experiencing another low point and there's not much we can do about it. At present, there are about 40 Lithuanian periodical publications published

in North America, South America, Europe and Australia (not counting Lithuania). Among all of those newspapers and magazines, there is only one daily paper—DRAUGAS which in July will commemorate its 85th anniversary. DRAUGAS ("Friend") is not the oldest—that would be Argentina's TEVYNE ("Homeland") which is 92 years old. DRAUGAS has readers all over the world, comes out 5 days a week with an 8 page cultural supplement in Saturday's edition. What is the biggest problem of our sole remaining daily paper? It needs new subscribers who would take the place of those who have travelled to eternity. Then there wouldn't be any fears that by the year 2000 DRAUGAS will disappear like a dinosaur.

(DRAUGAS, from an editorial by Danute Bindokas, 5/26/94)

## Lithuanian Language Schools

The fun days of summer, full of memories and impressions are coming to a close. September is coming soon and the Lithuanian language schools will once again open their doors. The LAC's Lithuanian Educational Council is concerned with the continued work of Lithuanian language schools, the need to attract of new students and retain the older students to complete their schooling. In the past five years, the total enrollment in



A parade to the Song Festival in Vilnius, July, 1994.

the 23 Lithuanian language schools has remained about 1000 students. The founding of each new school gives cause for celebration. In September newly founded schools in Seattle, WA and Colorado state will open their doors. In Houston, TX, an adult education course will help persons of Lithuanian descent learn about the Lithuanian language and culture. Some of the schools operate under bare minimum conditions (called "vargo mokyklos" in Lithuanian). The schools need the Educational Council's moral support, but a helping hand can also help the schools supplement the money collected from tuitions. The Educational Council conducts an annual fall fund-raising drive to financially help these schools pay their rent, purchase teaching supplies, and reimburse instructors. (The Educational Council also publishes

PHOTO: A. Kubilius

teaching materials and has exchange programs with children's publishers in Lithuania). On August 15th, a group of volunteers, including many retirees, gathered to help package and mail the fund-raising envelopes. It is hoped that financial support from the Lithuanian American public will be forthcoming.

(DRAUGAS, 8/19/94, from an article by Educational Council president Regina Kucas)

## Summer Day Care in Lithuania

Vilnius Pedagogical University students spent 6 days walking and camping through the Dzukija part of Lithuania with a group of young grade schoolers and young high schoolers. In the spring, the Lithuanian Children's and Youth Center were concerned about ways to occupy the time of young children of working parents who would spend their summer vacations in grey city streets. Posters were put up to draw student leaders for the six day trips to familiarize the youngsters with historical places. At first it was planned that the young people would travel 10 km a day, but the student leaders decided to allow the youngsters more play and swimming time. The children became a bit sunburned and were bothered by mosquitos, but they returned happy with their trip. One young visitor to the children's campground was a five year old who helped them bring water from the lake for their tea. His grandmother donated fresh milk and eggs to the group. Besides the longer experimental tours, the Children's and Youth Center also runs a day camp from 9 am to 5 pm. As Mrs. Benovas of the center indicated, when parents are at work, the children have a more enjoyable time when they can be with a group of friends.

(DRAUGAS, from an article reprinted from Lithuania's "Lietuvos rytas" of 7/13/94-in DRAUGAS 8/11/94)

## Jack Sharkey Dead at 92

On August 17th, former world heavy weight champion Jack Sharkey (Juozas Zukauskas) died at the age of 92. Zukauskas was born in 1902 in Binghamton, NY. He began boxing at the age of 16, became a professional. He defeated Max Schmelling and earned his title June 21, 1932. His career ended in 1936 when he was defeated by Joe Louis. Zukauskas spoke only Lithuanian with his mother. His successes were the pride of Lithuanians-both in Lithuania and abroad. Upon his death in Beverly, MA, he left three children, 14 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandchild.

(DRAUGAS, 8/20/94)

## Women Outnumber Men

According to the Statistics Department a critical demographic situation has developed in Lithuania. There are 200,000 more Lithuanian women than men and this difference has not evened out in the last 25 years. Normally, for a country's reproduction rate to even out,

there must be equivalent numbers of reproductive age men and women. Birth rates should be higher than death rates. In Lithuania this year, there were 3.7 million persons- men made up 47.3% of the population. For every 1000 men, there were 1114 women. Even though more boy babies are born, that does not suffice. The death rate of 20-60 year old males dying from accidents, murders and suicides is 4-5 higher than the death rate for women in that age group. Just in the past year, the death rate for that age group rose 20%. The age expectancy for men during 1988-93 dropped by 4.6 years, for women-1.6 years. A matter which raises concern is the age expectancy of men. Last year 50 year old men could expect to live on the average 21 years, women-29 years. According to the Statistics Department, the average life expectancy of Lithuanians has become one of the lowest in Europe, and the difference in the life expectancy rate between men and women is one of the highest in the world.

(DRAUGAS, 9/24/94)

## Pensioners

At the beginning of this year, 240 Lithuanians out of 10,000 received pensions. In 1989 that rate was 227 persons. In 1994, there were 892,000 persons receiving pensions in Lithuania. Of that number, 655,000 were receiving old age pensions. Last year, 14% (116,000) pensioners worked. The average old age pension in 1993 was 63 litai per month. In 1989, it was 91 rubles. In December 1993, the average was 94 litai (three times higher than in 1992). The Statistics Department indicates that each year, the working population is decreasing in size. In 1993, there were 30 adult old age/nursing homes where 6100 persons lived. Various cities have established various nursing homes. They have grown: in 1991 they housed 49 persons, in 1992-195, in 1993 - 562 persons. Old age homes have also been established by the Caritas and Malta humanitarian groups and the Church. Various city funds pay out 13 different types of aid. In 1993 - 557,000 persons or about 15% of families have received some type of aid.

(DRAUGAS, 9/14/94)

## Camp Neringa Anniversary

The 25th anniversary of Camp Neringa will be celebrated October 7-10th. (The camp is located in a beautiful spot in Vermont, and has been host to a variety of Lithuanian American youth and family camps.)

(DRAUGAS, 9/13/94)

## Chemists Travel to the US

A group of chemists from the Vilnius Chemical Institute will present results from their work with sodium borohydride and copper at the Electrochemical Society 186th meeting in Ft. Myers, FL October 9-14th. In the

past, Lithuania was stronger in theoretical rather than practical applications in the chemical field. Now the time has come for the Lithuanians to join the Americans, Japanese, Germans and even in Irish. It is important to prepare for the microelectronics industry.

(DRAUGAS, from an article by Saulius Simoliunas, 9/13/94)

### Children's Hope Efforts Continue

The Lithuanian Children's Hope Committee, established in 1990, now works with Shriners Hospitals in Chicago, Philadelphia, San Francisco and Los Angeles. The committee brings to America children from Lithuania who would benefit from operative procedures not available in Lithuania. To date, 41 children of the 49 who travelled to the U.S. live more independent lives, thanks to the surgeries. As of September 1st, over \$2 million worth of donated medical equipment has been installed in the special orthopedic clinic built in Vilnius. Between October 10, 1993 and September 1, 1994 320 surgeries were performed, whereas in 1992 only 260 operations were done. Chief orthopedic surgeon Dr. John P. Lubicky of the Chicago Shriners Hospital travelled to Lithuania with an orthopedic surgical team in 1993 and 1994 to teach and perform surgeries. 62 such teaching operations were done- hip, spine, leg and hand surgery techniques were observed by and participated in by Lithuanian surgical teams. In 1994-95, the goals of Lithuanian Children's Hope is to expand the network of Lithuanian American colonies which have Shriners Hospitals and agree to support the efforts of funding and bringing children to the U.S. A registration project is underway in Lithuania to list children whose orthopedic conditions warrant surgery. Efforts are underway to produce a bilingual videotape about the efforts of the Lithuanian Children's Hope and to continue seeking funding from major American foundations.

(DRAUGAS, from an article by Jurate Budrys, 9/13/94)

### Lots of Bucks in Kaunas

Full-breed dogs have gained in popularity among Kaunas inhabitants. Particularly popular are Rotweiller guard dogs which are purchased to guard homes, banks, cars, and stores. A full-breed dog with proper documents can cost about \$200. Almost every other guard dog in Kaunas is named "Baksas" which in local jargon means "dollar".

(DRAUGAS, 9/13/94)

### Schools in Lithuania

The Education Ministry of Lithuania announced that during the first fall school days, there were 2,218 schools in Lithuania which are teaching 496,387 children. 57,000 children will cross school doorways for the first time. Also, two new schools- the John Paul II School opened

in Vilnius, and the Panevezis 20th school opened its doors. High schools will be formed out of middle schools in 19 sites, in addition to the 39 high school classes already operating... There are 30 adult education courses. Private school registrations are on the rise- there are 12 high schools, 3 professional schools... 6 new high schools. 6 new private grade schools opened their doors... Registration is down in some colleges and universities- some young people want to start independent lives earlier, also the spaces for engineering and other specialty students have been reduced, according to Grazina Dauginis of the Education Ministry. Some schools have seen increases, other decreases in student enrollment. Courses have begun at the Kaunas Technological University, the Veterinary Academy, the Agricultural Academy, the Music Academy, the Seminary in Kaunas, the Vilnius University's Kaunas Humanities Faculty, the Kaunas Medical Academy, the Physical Education institute, Sports Trainers' Institute, Vytautas Magnus University...

(DRAUGAS, 9/14/94)

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**IX Lithuanian Theater Festival**

This year during the Thanksgiving Day weekend (Nov. 24-27) the LAC Cultural Council is sponsoring the IX Theater Festival at the Youth Center in Chicago. Five different theater groups from Canada and the US will be performing during the entire weekend. In conjunction with the festival, a photo exhibit spanning 50 years of theatrical activity of Lithuanian-Americans and Canadians will be on display.

Why not plan on spending Thanksgiving in Chicago while you support American and Canadian artists and actors by attending the Festival?

See you in Chicago in November!

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Pranas Gvildys

# Sports News in Lithuania

## Basketball

The Lithuanians are the European champions. As reported in the last issue of the Bridges, the Lithuanian junior team qualified for the play-offs in the European junior basketball championships held in Israel. In the semifinals the Lithuanians defeated Spain 91:77 (33:39). The powerful Croatian team, with five players over 6' 8", defeated the Italian team 83:64. In the finals the Croatians immediately took the lead and in the first half were ahead by 16 points. However, the Lithuanians steadily erased the deficit and were equal with several seconds left in the game. In a dramatic finish, a steal and a score by A. Jurkunas gave the win to Lithuania. The final score was 73:71 (28:37). The team players in the final game were: N. Karlikanovas-15, K. Sestokas-12, A. Jurkunas-12, M. Janulis-9, S. Jasikevicius - 8, K. Marciulionis-4, Z. Urbonas-2, and M. Lydeka-2. The team coach was J. Kazlauskas.

## Soccer

The Baltic soccer championships were held July 29 to 31 in Vilnius. The Lithuanians defeated Estonia 3:0 and Latvia 1:0 to become Baltic champions. Latvia defeated Estonia for the second place. V. Ivanauskas, the star of the Hamburger SV team scored two goals against Estonia, but was unable to play against Latvia due to previous commitments.

## Cycling

The Lithuanian women earned the silver medal in the 50 km. team race of the world championships in Sicily. The team members were the twin sisters Jolanda and Rasa Polikeviciutes, Liuda Triabaite and Diana Ziliute. The winner was Russia with time of 1:04:55, Lithuania was second with 1:05:39, USA was third with 1:05:53, Spain was fourth with 1:06:51.5, Italy was fifth with 1:07:07.6 and Germany was sixth with 1:09:15.

Jolanda Polikeviciute was in the first place before the last tour of the prestigious "Tour de France" race, but because of injury had to withdraw from the race. She recovered in time for the world championships. Her sister Rasa came second in the "Tour de France" race behind the Russian V. Palchanova.

## Tennis

The Lithuanian junior championships ended in Vilnius on July 29, 1994. In the girls division the winner was R. Dauderaite defeating E. Liachoviciute 7:5 and 6:4. The third place winner was G. Masiliunaite against E. Abaraviciute 6:0 and 6:2. In the boys division R.

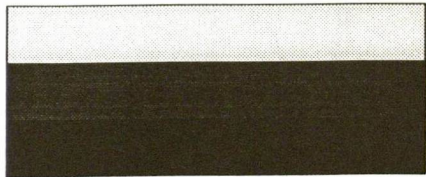
Bertasius defeated T. Petrauskas 4:6, 62, and 7:5. For the third place P. Murauskas defeated D. Dirzauskas 3:6, 6:2 and 6:2. G. Masiliunaite has been playing for the Germany's Linz Town Tennis club, and T. Petrauskas for the Germany's Valenda Town Tennis club.

## Track and Field

The Lithuanian junior men's team participated in the Pentathlon World Championships in Toledo, Spain and came home with two gold medals. In the combined individual event the Lithuanians came with a total of 15,689 points, defeating Poland who had 15,534 points. The Lithuanians also won the gold medal in the relay event.

Nele Zilinskiene-Savickyte brought home the only medal from the European track and field championships held in Helsinki. She was third with a high jump of 1.93 m. A total of 11 Lithuanian athletes participated in the championships. Other notable results were: R. Ramanauskaite was fifth in the javelin with a throw of 61.54 m., A. Razgys was eight with a hop-skip-jump of 16.59 m, S. Kleiza was tenth in the shotput event with a throw of 18.8 m and R. Nazaroviene was seventh in the heptathlon with a total of 6262 points.

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