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BRIDGES

LITHUANIAN AMERICAN NEWS JOURNAL

Volume 19, No. 5

JUNE 1995

\$2.50 per Copy

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Rainiu Chapel, a memorial at the site of a massacre that occurred the night of June 24, 1941 in Rainiu Forest. This is one of the many sad events commemorated by Lithuanians during the month of June.

To Our Readers:

As we go to press, the Senate vote on the budget is days away. The proposed cuts in foreign aid could result in negligible amounts to developing nations in Eastern Europe including Lithuania. I hope most of our readers were able to contact their Senators and let them know how you feel. Asta's article gives us all the details of the foreign aid proposal, the budget approval process, as well as its implications in NATO expansion.

On a brighter note, Jeanne takes us on a warm visit to a retirement home in Prienai. It seems that the "system" hasn't done that poorly in this arena - at least not at the home Jeanne spent time at. Her warm encounters with the staff and residents of the home give us all hope that the elderly of Lithuania are cared for in a warm environment by qualified staff members.

Perhaps your summer travel plans include a trip to Europe. Why not visit the campus of Vasario 16-osios Gimnazija - the only Lithuanian secondary school outside of Lithuania? Darius Udryas describes the campus, the school and its environs and the surrounding region of Germany. If a visit isn't possible now, perhaps you or someone you know is interested in pursuing a high school diploma in this very "European" school, with an emphasis on Lithuanian culture and heritage. Pass this information on to them...

Algis Rimas describes the latest business developments in Lithuania and here in the US regarding Lithuania. If you're an entrepreneur (or one at heart), don't miss the opportunity to participate in one of the conferences Algis refers to and get the latest news and information regarding doing business in Lithuania. In addition, don't miss guest writer Skirma Anna Kondratas' description of the work of the Hudson Institute "think tank" and the Lithuanian Free Market Institute in the development of sound western policy in Lithuania. Great strides in progress have already been made, while more are on the horizon. Read about them in her article.

Aukse once again introduces us to Rasa Allan Kazlas' works in theater. It's great to have such talent amongst us.

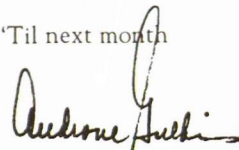
News from the Lithuanian Press brings interesting tidbits, as always. Thanks Ramune.

While North American Lithuanian athletes are busy competing in Cleveland at the annual championships sponsored by the North American-Lithuanian Athletic Union, others are preparing for the Fifth World Lithuanian Games to be held in Lithuania this July, while the Lithuanian Olympic Committee prepares for Atlanta in 1996. Vytas updates us in these areas.

Finally, Edward Baranauskas describes the "interesting" problems of being a motorist in Lithuania. So, if you plan to travel to Lithuania soon, be sure to read his article to know what to expect...

As you can see, plenty of reading awaits you. Some of it may be controversial or at least may elicit an opinion. Let me hear it. Don't forget...Letters to the Editor are welcome.

'Til next month



Audrone Gulbinas

BRIDGES: Lithuanian-American News Journal (ISSN 8750-8028), is published 10 times per year by the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. 2715 E. Allegheny Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19134

BRIDGES Journal
Editorial / Subscription Offices
2715 E. Allegheny Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19134
Fax 609-234-8782

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BRIDGES: Lithuanian-American News Journal serves as a link between Lithuanian Americans and their Lithuanian heritage (as well as a source of information for those interested in Lithuania and/or the activities/goals/background of Lithuanian Americans), by presenting items on Lithuanian culture, history, conditions in Lithuania, Lithuanian related events and personalities in America; and serves the aspirations of those who want to assist Lithuania's integration into the community of democratically governed, free market economic system, nations of the world. **BRIDGES** - The Official Publication of the Lithuanian American Community, Inc.

POSTMASTER: Send any address corrections and/or changes to **BRIDGES JOURNAL**, 2715 E. Allegheny Avenue, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19134.

Asta Banionis

If You Don't Have Vision, At Least Try, Reason, Equity and Simple Fairness

As we go to press for our June *Bridges*, the Republican controlled U.S. Congress has begun the budget cutting process in earnest. What will it mean for U.S. foreign policy and U.S. foreign aid in 1996 and beyond?

If the "slash and burn" crowd have their way, the United States will be a nuclear superpower with a second-rate diplomatic apparatus. Newly liberated democracies like Lithuania are being cast aside by these neo-isolationists who forget why we fought two world wars and sacrificed for 50 years of a Cold War.

As taxpayers we can all appreciate the efforts of the U.S. Congress to reduce the federal budget deficit, but within this effort there must be a distinction between those programs which are the sole obligation of the federal government and those which can be handled by state and local governments, or even the private sector. The conduct of foreign policy cannot be delegated to any other level of government, nor to the private sector.

The State Department and the Agency for International Development (USAID), in particular, have made a good faith effort over the last two years to down-size their operations and reduce their spending. They have done far more than other departments of the federal government to behave responsibly towards the budget deficit. The State Department has closed U.S. embassies and consulates, while USAID has reduced staff by 20 percent and has ended U.S. foreign aid to over 27 countries over the last two years. To ask them to make further cuts, willy-nilly, will seriously jeopardize U.S. foreign policy goals.

Here's an example of what these cuts, if adopted, will do in Lithuania.

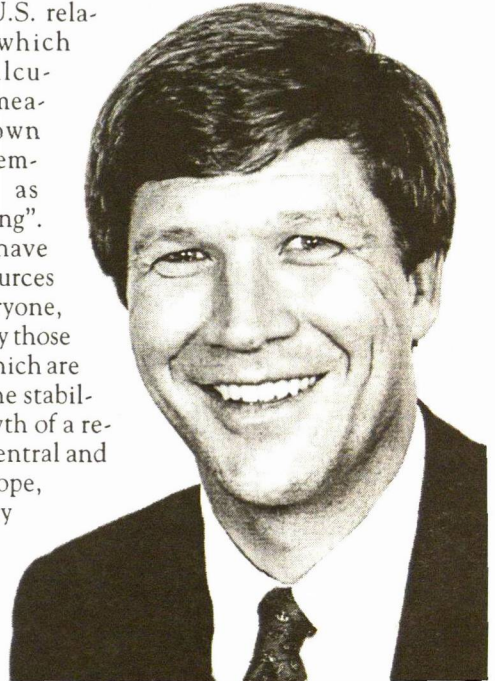
The U.S. aid program for East European democracies, known as SEED, has been funded at the following levels: \$364 million (FY 1992), \$398 million (FY 1993), \$383 million (FY 1994), and \$359 million (FY 1995). This year, the Clinton Administration had requested \$480 million (FY 1996), but Congressman John Kasich (R-OH) as chairman of the House Budget Committee with the backing of Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-GA), has ordered that foreign aid programs be drastically scaled back, so it appears that the House will only approve \$300 million for SEED this year.

Under these authorized budget numbers, the scramble for resources for vital technical assistance programs will be bloody. The SEED coordinator's office has already let it be known that the modest program of \$12 million in

technical assistance to Lithuania will be slashed to a catastrophic \$6 million. Lithuania is likely to be left with only \$3 million after the Administration removes money from that account to make up for the \$7 million in "peacekeeping funds" they took from the Baltic Battalion appropriation last year (FY 1995) and spent in Haiti.

The philosophical justification for this withdrawal of U.S. influence from countries like Lithuania is already being laid by policy gurus on the 7th floor of the State Department. It's called, "anchored regionalism" and it's a variation on the old theory of "triage". The Merriam Webster's dictionary defines triage: "the sorting of and allocation of treatment to patients and especially battle and disaster victims according to a system of priorities designed to maximize the number of survivors". Applied to the current situation of meat-cleaver politics, the foreign policy decision-makers are preparing to salvage those countries

and those U.S. relations which they've calculated, by measures known only to themselves, as "worth saving". If you don't have enough resources to help everyone, you help only those countries which are critical to the stability and growth of a region. For Central and Eastern Europe, that country is Poland. Poland, which has received billions of



Congressman John R. Kasich (R-OH), Chairman of the Budget Committee, U.S. House of Representatives. This is the man who is single-handedly wreaking havoc with United States foreign policy by gutting the State Department's and foreign assistance budget.

dollars in debt forgiveness over the years, and half of all the assistance provided under SEED over the last six years, will be the "anchor" in newly-liberated Europe.

It appears that an alternative approach cutting a certain percentage across-the-board to all foreign aid

reform parties have just won back control of the city and county councils.

If this worst case scenario becomes reality who will be responsible? You, my dear reader, and me. Because, we have the ability, to change the assumptions, the dynamics,

the outcome, if we will merely speak up to our elected officials over the next two months. The fiscal year for 1996 begins October 1, 1995. The House and Senate will hammer out these budget allocations and actually appropriate money over the next two months. If you fail to let your elected officials know how you feel about this issue, you can take little pride in your "wonderful Lithuanian language skills" or that "stunning Lithuanian folk costume that hangs in your closet", or that your son married a "real lietuvaitė". The most important role you have as an American citizen, as an American supporter of Lithuania, is to participate in the American political process; to participate in the American public policy debate. You don't have to be a "professional Lithuanian politico", nor a grand pontificator of political opinions. You just have to write a short letter once a year, or pick up your phone and call your Congressman and Senator. And you have to get your best friend to do the same.

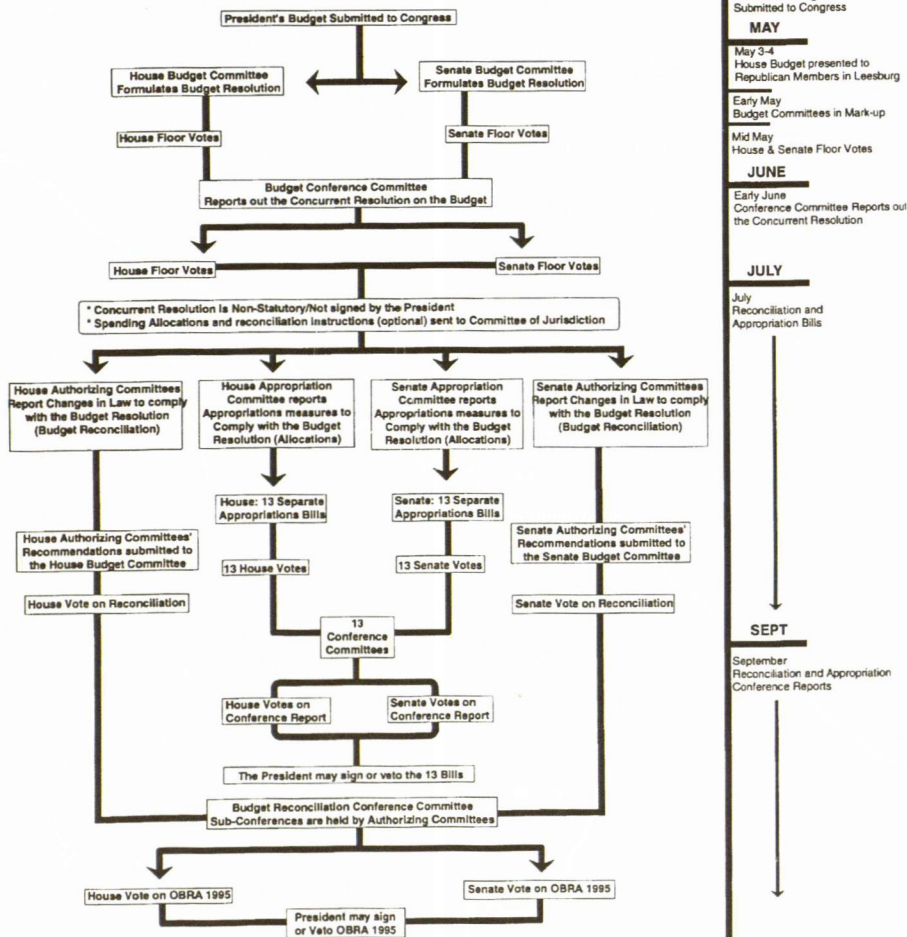
Now, if you are totally against U.S. foreign aid for anyone, you may be saying that this doesn't apply to you. Well enough. But, the outcome of this struggle over U.S. foreign aid (which is less than 1% of the total U.S. budget) will set up the dynamics on the NATO expansion debate. If you don't think U.S. foreign aid is worth a

hill of beans, anyway, you should at least think about Eastern Europe's security. Unless, you're prepared to join the debate over NATO expansion, I wouldn't buy that retirement cottage in Lithuania, just yet.

NATO EXPANSION: The Senate Foreign Relations Committee Weighs In

The Subcommittee on Europe, chaired by Republican presidential hopeful, Senator Richard Lugar (R-IN), began a series of hearings on NATO expansion a few

The Budget Process and Timeline*



* Timeline is subject to change

This year's legislative schedule for appropriations bills to fund the government's activities for fiscal year 1996.

recipients, not just the countries of Eastern Europe, is not on the table, yet. One can make a pretty good case that in this period of fiscal distress in the United States, burdens should be shared and the pain should be spread equitably. Why should Lithuania take a 50 percent cut, when it's only received a modest amount of help for four years, while other countries who have been getting aid for far longer and in much greater amounts per capita, have few or no cuts? It's also curious that aid should be cut back so drastically to Lithuania when the democratic

weeks ago. And it is clear from the testimony being given that a large part of the foreign policy “establishment” (all those professors, think tank denizens and former diplomats) is against NATO expansion, unless Russia approves this expansion!

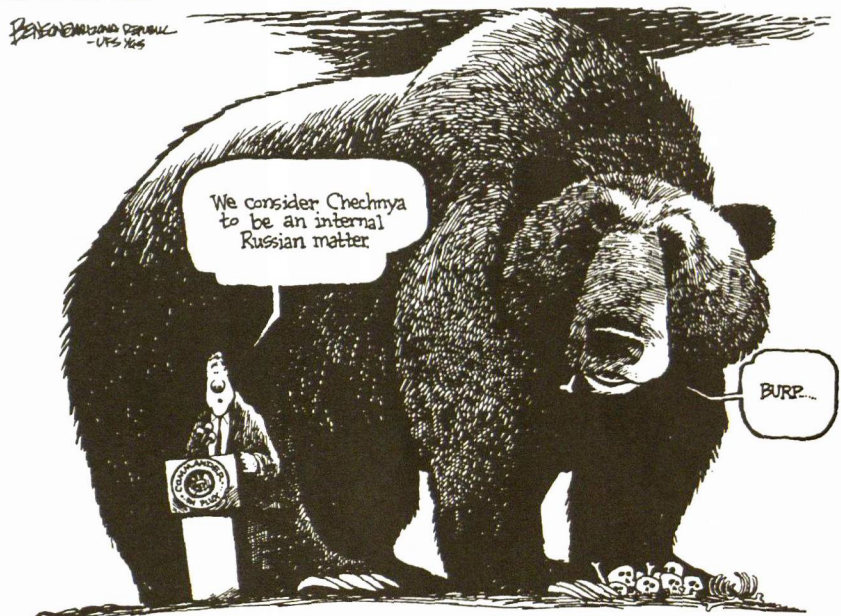
Some of these folks are just russophiles. Some of them are on the payroll. But, what lurks behind the arguments against NATO expansion is a basic disregard and even distrust of “those Eastern Europeans”. Europe for these experts, is Western Europe. Russia is clearly identifiable because it has all of those nuclear missiles. While the people and the land mass they occupy between these two entities is a primordial swamp of not quite cultured, certainly, not civilized people with unpronounceable names who lack American virtues of tolerance and respect for civil rights. After all, we had to take away those Soviet nuclear weapons from “those unstable Ukrainians” (a people who haven’t invaded anybody in 1,000 years, unlike the Lithuanians). And, who can we rely on to destroy those nuclear weapons — the Russians!

Sitting in the hearing room, listening to these learned men give not so clever rationalizations to mask their deep-seated prejudices against Eastern Europeans, does induce delirium and heightens your sense of the absurd. Why? because neither Senator Lugar, nor Senator Biden (D-DE) who have attended the hearings have been willing to challenge these witnesses’ basic assumption, i.e., that Eastern Europe is just not worth securing!

Bridges readers know that I’m not a big fan of former President George Bush. But at least his speech writers got it right on occasion. The memorable phrase, “a Europe whole and free”, provided a fresh and powerful vision for U.S. foreign policy for a few brief months and should be revived as part of the lexicon of the current NATO debate. Maybe, just enough U.S. Senators (51 votes needed) will begin to grasp the meaning of that phrase to settle this debate favorably. Here’s a sample of what the “experts” have been saying against NATO expansion. Fred C. Ikle, a former Bush Administration Defense Department official, argued that NATO should remain as it is because the purpose of NATO is limited. “It is meant to protect the core — the very survival of the member states — not to defend some peripheral interests”...“Likewise, it is not the business of NATO (nor is it the business of the US) to tidy up the borders of Europe.” Mr. Ikle

believes that the single most serious threat faced by the U.S. is nuclear proliferation and the possible use of nuclear weapons. He concludes, “The U.S. needs allies to cope with a future crisis involving weapons of mass destruction. But only an alliance rooted in a long tradition, having braved many storms together, will have the cohesion to cope effectively.” And then, Mr. Ikle concludes, “And for the nuclear question the most important, and in the long run most promising avenue still remains for the U.S. to pursue a cooperative, mutually supportive relationship with Russia. As of today, this goal is more important than tidying up loose ends in Eastern Europe”.

A researcher from RAND in Santa Monica, CA, Mr. Arnold Horelick, was a very adept witness arguing that to expand NATO would be to weaken NATO. And, although, Mr. Horelick acknowledges that the U.S. has an interest in “helping to consolidate the independence, democratic development and stability of the states” in Central and Eastern Europe, he argues, that Russia’s future course is the most important American strategic concern. “This is or should really be at the heart of the



Cartoon: Reprinted from the Washington Times, May 2, 1995

debate, but the Clinton Administration’s juggling of the Russian factor in its handling of the NATO expansion issue has obscured the fundamental problem.”

It may surprise Bridges readers to learn that former U.S. Ambassador to the Soviet Union, Jack Matlock is against NATO expansion. He now holds the seat of the “Kathryn and Shelby Cullom Davis Professor in the Practice of International Diplomacy” at Columbia Uni-

versity. Ambassador Matlock while serving in the Reagan and Bush Administrations gave the appearance of being concerned about Soviet-occupied countries such as Lithuania. Now, we find, his main concern is that Russia not be isolated. "None of the countries that have applied for membership in NATO is threatened at present by any other country. Their principal task is not to defend themselves from some external foe, but to reorder their economies and their political systems so that they can participate fully in the world economy ..." "There is no way it (NATO expansion) can be done in the near future without seeming to draw a line in Europe, selecting some countries for our security guarantees and leaving others out. And there is no way that it can be done in the near future without suggesting to Russia that the United States is determined to exclude it from European councils and is bent on shifting the balance of power even further to Russia's disadvantage. This, of course, is not the intent of NATO expansion, but the Russians will inevitably interpret it that way. After all, President Gorbachev was given the most categorical assurances in 1990 that if he would agree that a unified Germany could stay in NATO, NATO would under no circumstances be moved further eastward."

Well, well, what really went on at those 2-plus-4 talks that reunited Germany during the Bush Administration? Did 1989 produce some "secret protocols" similar to the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact protocols?

Next month, we'll introduce you to the arguments being developed by the pro-NATO expansion experts. The most striking argument from a NATO expansion advocate so far has come from a friend of Sajudis, and the Baltics, Mr. Dimitri Simes, now President of the Nixon Center for Peace and Freedom. Mr. Simes, at one of the hearings before Senators Lugar and Biden pointed out that it is self-defeating for the U.S. to seek, and even insist, on Russian approval for NATO expansion. He argued that U.S. diplomatic efforts to expand NATO should go forward, and that the Russians will learn to live with it. He carefully explained why the current Russian government had to be publicly against NATO expansion, not the least of which was the fact that Russia was using its very sophisticated diplomatic skills (a 400 year old tradition) to advance its own self interest. What was even more striking was the fact, that Senators Lugar and Biden didn't seem to understand this simple, yet profound, question posed by Mr. Simes. I guess, you still don't get any points in Washington, DC for revealing that the "emperor has no clothes!"

LITHUANIA: THE CENTER OF EUROPE

If a few short years ago, an average American thought of Paris, France as the center of Europe, the crumbling of the Berlin Wall has surely moved that perceived geographic point a few hundred miles east - probably to Berlin, Germany. Yet, the true center of Europe, geographically speaking, is in Lithuania. Is Lithuania the

center of Europe in a social, economic or political sense? Not yet, but it could be.

Lithuania and her neighbors in Central and Eastern Europe, as well as Russia (the true eastern half of the European continent), are engaged in a daring attempt to leap a cultural chasm of fifty years. Lithuania has summoned the talents and energy of her people to make that leap and rejoin Europe, as have most of her neighbors. It is Russia alone which is stepping back, and begrudgingly threatens to pull back the nations already in mid-air. Now, when they need encouragement from the United States and Western Europe, to land that historic jump, Lithuania and her neighbors find little cheering. NATO membership is a vivid example.

It has been disappointing to watch the recent debates over the expansion of NATO because it has demonstrated that the United States is still reticent to embrace the heart of the European continent. "Too soon to join NATO", "These states won't be able to shoulder the responsibility", is the current judgement. Yet, the eager applicants know that what is really at issue is a Russian veto and a crude calculation by the American russophiles that it's better to risk losing the nations of Central and Eastern Europe than to provoke our new "strategic partners", the Russians.

As the people of Lithuania, Poland, Hungary, Ukraine and the many other new democracies nervously watch reformers being ousted and ever more bellicose bullies assume positions of power in Russia, the people in the center of Europe know that it is they and not the United States, not Western Europe, who will feel the Russian imperial boot. The people of Central and Eastern Europe, over 100 million strong, could be trustworthy allies of the West. They do not question the goals of democratic reform — an open political system and market economy. Despite the economic hardships and the social dislocation change has wrought, they persist in the building of democratic and free market institutions. That's why the voices being raised in the United States to put Russia first seem so foolhardy.

As the Berlin Wall was being torn down, a previous American Administration spoke of the historic opportunity to restore a Europe whole and free. Now that phrase is all but forgotten as the Russia-first crowd, criticize even the limited measures of the Clinton Administration to expand NATO.

To his credit, President Clinton has moved the process of deciding on the criteria for eventual NATO membership along this past eight months. The Partnership for Peace program established as an interim measure has provided needed consultation, evaluation and training of the new armies of these new democracies. These nations should now be given a fair chance to attain explicit goals that would qualify them for membership in NATO. A whole and free Europe will need a stable and secure center, and the people of Europe's center deserve our genuine help.

Jeanne Dorr

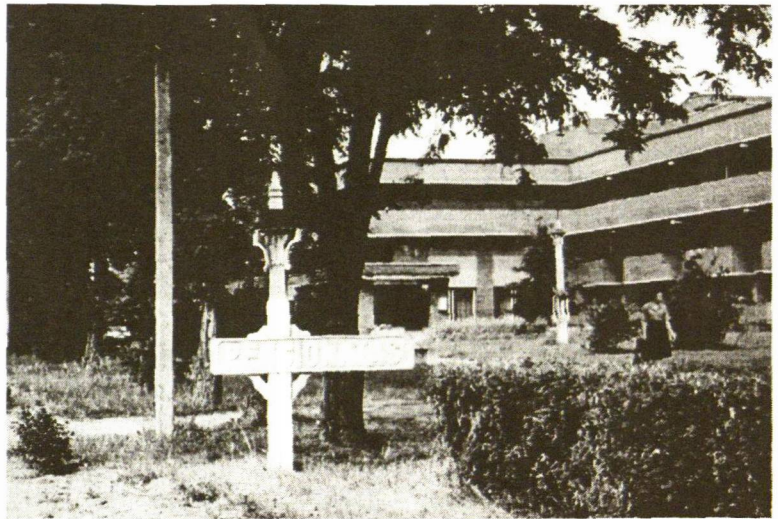
A Visit to a Retirement Home

For four months I took the readers of this column on a journey through Lithuanian towns, cities and villages. I asked your patience while I wrote about Lithuania's Forgotten Children. Your heart-warming letters and financial support were overwhelming. Please continue to remember these children; they need each and every one of you.

This month I would like to take you on a visit to a state retirement home in the town of Prienai. What does this have to do with humanitarian aid? My definition of humanitarian aid is rather broad - it includes anyone who helps another person. The people who work in this home show their love for the elderly, sick, and disabled every day they come to work.

A young priest invited me to accompany him to the retirement home while he visited a gentleman who was an artist. I agreed because I was rather curious. The term "state" home sent my active imagination working overtime. In my mind, I pictured a run down, ugly, shabby building with residents who were mistreated and unhappy. I was pleasantly surprised to see a modern building which was having a new wing added. The grounds were lovely and almost park-like in their setting. People were strolling about and sitting under the beautiful old trees. A short distance away was the legendary Nemunas River, the object of so many Lithuanian poems and songs. As we went inside, I thought this might be an interesting story for BRIDGES readers. You see, readers, you are never far from my heart or mind. However, I had neither camera nor tape recorder with me which meant that there would have to be return visit. The Director of Nursing greeted us warmly. She invited us to look around and offered any information I needed for an article. I am ashamed to admit that I was still "programmed" for the days before independence and couldn't get it right in my mind that this was a free Lithuania. I explained to her that I really would feel better about the interview if I had permission from the director of the home. She was away at a meeting that day. I could picture myself being asked to leave and having my tape recorder and camera confiscated (it wouldn't be the first time!) The nursing director smiled and assured me there would be no problem and invited me to return anytime - no appointment was necessary.

The next day I prepared to do the interview. I didn't have a ride, so I would have a short walk - so I thought. After all, it was only five minutes by car, how far could it be by foot? I was staying with my grandmother's ninety-five-year-old nephew and eighty-four-year-old niece in Prienai, so I felt a certain need to adhere to old world tradition such as asking their permission to go to the other side of town. For a full fifteen minutes I was lectured about not talking to strangers, keeping my purse



Prienai Retirement Home

close to me, and not going outside without a sweater (it was 90). It was only after I gave my solemn word that I would not lean over the bridge and fall into the Nemunas that the back door was unlocked and I was allowed to leave. I hadn't reached the front sidewalk and I was already exhausted. I walked and walked, never having realized how far and how wide the river was. Finally, I saw the Pensioners Home in the distance. The people walking around the grounds and those sitting in the shade all had a smile and a greeting. I went directly to the Director of Nursing who once again welcomed me like an old friend. We spoke in her office, where she patiently answered my many, many questions.

Construction of the original building was started in 1970 with a new wing being added at the present time. There is room for 200 residents; at the time I was visiting there were 191 people living here. The oldest, a ninety-six-year-old woman had been admitted the day before.

There were ten residents in their nineties, while the youngest was in his twenties. Some have families and others are alone in the world. Unlike many American homes, the residents do not lose their homes or their life's savings. Once the paperwork is completed by the government, (the home does none of this) the monthly pension check is given to the home. Each resident receives between 20 and 30 litas a month for personal spending. Smoking and alcohol are discouraged, however, if a resident wishes to smoke they may do so. They may also have beer, wine and liquor, but must do so in



Resident who pursues one of his many hobbies.

moderation. If a resident goes on vacation or is visiting family or friends for an extended period of time, a portion of their money is returned to them for the time they are gone. They can go away for many months and not lose their room.

The concept which I found interesting is that the residents are encouraged to work around the home. The tasks are light, such as gardening or sewing. Most of the residents do not partake of these tasks because they say they are paying guests. Those who were occupied with these jobs seemed more focused. After answering what must have seemed like an endless amount of questions, the Director of Nursing suggested we start our tour. She would take me around and after that, I would look about on my own. She told me to feel free to open any and every door and to talk to any residents. We started with the medical supplies. The home budgets about 4,000 litas a month for medical supplies. The closet seemed well stocked. We continued on the ground floor where women were cleaning the floors. The surroundings were absolutely spotless, the same as any American hospital. We passed many residents in the hall and the Director knew each and everyone one of them by name. Some received a hug, while others were happy with an extra wide smile from her. We visited dining areas and a recreation room which was equipped with a large movie screen. Unfortu-

nately, because of budget cuts, they can no longer afford to show even the occasional film which the residents enjoyed so much. It seems so unfair that when budgets must be cut back the first to suffer and the hardest hit are those who can do the least to help themselves - the very young and the very old. In the dining room, the residents are given four meals a day. If they desire anything else, they must buy it from a store using their personal money. Some have their own small refrigerators in their rooms. There is also a chapel on this floor where Mass is celebrated for those wishing to attend. I was told to open all the doors, nothing was off-limits. And open every door I did- including the morgue. Thank goodness it was empty at the time. It was rather a large room where the mourners could be comfortable. If there is no family, then the home provides the casket, clothing and burial. If there is family, they receive any assets that were left; if there is no family the assets go back to the state. We continued our tour of the ground floor passing many residents. As in any residential home, some seemed to be wandering aimlessly. I saw a young man without legs who was moving very quickly on a type of small board with wheels. I was told that he was twenty years old and had been born without legs. He did not know where his mother was and the home was his permanent residence.

We made our way to the second floor where the residents lived. Some have private rooms, others share a room, and still others have suites. Our first stop was to a wonderful gentleman who was resting in his room. He invited us in and was such a wonderful host. He had lived in the home for several years. He was a talented man - a painter and a musician. He was interested in everything from history to politics. We talked about Lithuania's past and her future. He asked my opinions on a variety of subjects and I was equally interested in what he had to say. He had a lot of questions about America and I had a lot of questions about Lithuania...He seemed in very good health and I asked him why he chose to live here. He explained that his only child, a son, lived in Vilnius. It seems my new found friend could not adjust to life in the city. He said he felt like he was living in a prison, he didn't know the neighbors in the large apartment complex, doors had to be locked, and he missed his friends. He still visits his son often, but now he knows he can come home to Prienai and the privacy of his room. His room was filled with personal items which seemed to reflect his marvelous personality. When I told him I planned to write an article he had just one request. It was a simple one and I intend to honor it. He asked me not to let the readers forget about the partisans who fought so long and so hard against impossible odds. He told me story after story and it was almost like he was reliving the incident. What can

be more humanitarian than to give your life for your country? Before I left, he took an accordion down from a shelf and played three songs, all of them sung by the partisans. My eyes filled up many months later when I listened to the tape I had made to write this article.

My next stop on the second floor was to a small suite occupied by a husband and wife. They were entertaining a visitor, but proudly showed me around their living quarters. Again, they were very happy to be living here.

The third floor is reserved for residents who are bedridden. The residence has a doctor in attendance five days a week from eight in the morning until five in the afternoon. There are also eight nurses on staff. Most laboratory work is done on the premises, as well as physical therapy and massages. The staff knew everyone by name and it was obvious these were more than long term patients, they were family. The patients are in a large room similar to the European type of a hospital room. There were several nurses working with them, taking blood pressure, giving medication and comforting patients. We visited the elderly lady who was admitted the day before. Although she was smiling, she seemed slightly disoriented. I spoke at length to a woman who was a long term resident. She lost her sight due to diabetes and recently had her leg amputated. She was enjoying some tomatoes which her son had brought her from his garden. In spite of all her health problems, she was a very cheerful person.

Most told me their stories and their problems. A few kept their faces to the wall and I respected their need for privacy. Almost all had questions about America and almost everyone wanted to know if I knew their relatives in Chicago.

On the way back downstairs, we spoke of the problems faced by the home. They were the same as they would be in any part of the world. The biggest stumbling block is always the budget. There is a real need for more professional staff. The patients crave attention. There are times when a nurse takes one person's temperature and she has to take everyone else's in the room or they accuse her of playing favorites. The Alzheimer patients need constant supervision. Although the other residents are very watchful and bring them back when they wander, more professional help would be put to good use in this area.

I spent the final part of my visit with the young Director of the nursing home. She recently came back from a seminar in one of the Scandinavian countries and could only dream of the kinds of retirement homes she saw there. The Prienai Home has concerts and performers who come to entertain the residents especially during the Christmas season. We talked about a "wish" list for the residents. Her biggest concern is to have something to keep them busy, such as the films they can no longer afford. If she had extra money she would also see that they had musical instruments since many of the residents are musically talented. There was a small gift shop on the

ground floor which is now closed. The Director would like to reopen that as a little cafe where residents could sit and have coffee. We spoke about the "Adopt a Grandparent" program which some of the American schools have implemented. It is almost cost free and helps the young and the elderly to understand each other. The Director's most important goal is to have the residents live in dignity in a home-like environment.

I hope I have given you a glimpse of life in a retirement home. I am not in any way advocating giving up one's home and moving into a residence. We all know that there is no place like your own home. However, life doesn't always work according to our plans and circumstances make it necessary for people to leave their homes. The Prienai residence is the only one I visited in Lithuania, I know nothing of the others. Is it without problems? Of course not! It has the same problems as a retirement residence anywhere. Some residents are argumentative, others help themselves to items that are not theirs, and some will not sit at the same table with their roommates. The staff was very open when they discussed the problems. Nothing was brushed under the rug, but over all, staff and residents were upbeat and had a very positive attitude.

I thoroughly enjoyed my visit and I wish the staff well. I thank the residents, especially Feliksas, for their interest in my visit and I wish them all good health. A special thank you to Angele Bajoriene, I hope she gets her "wish" list for the residents. My gratitude to Ona Aleksyniene who spent many hours answering my endless questions. Her laughter and cheerful personality are contagious to all who come in contact with her. It was a day well spent and I kept all my promises. I didn't speak to strangers on the street, I held my purse tightly, and I didn't lean over the bridge and fall into the Nemunas. Mission accomplished!

Lithuanian Orphan Care would like to thank the RED WING SHOE COMPANY of Red Wing, MN for the donation of approximately 2,000 pairs of shoes valued at \$200,000. The shoes were divided among Countryside Children, Mrs. Landsbergis' children's group, S.O.S. Lithuanian Children, Lithuanian Arthritis Foundation at the Red Cross Hospital in Vilnius, and four groups who work with special needs children. Many people participated in this massive undertaking and special thanks must be given to Robert Boris, Pres., Aid to Lithuania; Al Vasys of Clementon, NJ and Rimas Jakas of Norristown, PA for coordinating the shipment; and Lithuanian Mercy Lift for providing the transportation. Thanks to all involved, especially the **Red Wing Shoe Company**.

Darius Udryš

Vasario 16-tosios Gimnazija: A Perspective Abroad

If your summer travel plans include a trip to Europe, why not consider visiting Vasario 16 Gimnazija in Germany? The following article describes the campus and the school - the only Lithuanian high school outside of Lithuania.

The most prominent architectural feature of the Privates Litauisches Gymnasium - Vasario 16-tosios Gimnazija - and of the surrounding village of Huttenfeld as well, is the pristine white tower of the castle Rennhof, one of the school's main buildings. Set against the backdrop of the Odenwald mountains and situated only kilometers away from famous and historic German cities like Worms, Heidelberg and Mannheim, this remarkable intercultural center of learning has for more than forty years afforded an opportunity to thousands of students of Lithuanian descent from all over the world to discover and experience their Lithuanian-European heritage.

Although the school was founded in the army barracks of Diepholz in 1951 for children of war refugees from Lithuania, both its size and the scope of its mission have since grown dramatically. Already in 1953, the German Lithuanian Community relocated the school to the grounds surrounding the newly purchased castle Rennhof, where the school has remained and grown to its present-day size.

Today, the campus includes five main buildings. The most distinctive is the recently renovated castle, which houses the school library, two music rooms, conference facilities, the school chapel (where Sunday and weekly services for students are held), and the library, archive, and central office of the German Lithuanian Community; a central school building with classrooms, science and computer labs, cafeteria and administrative offices.

The modern young men's dorm boasts an assembly hall, a game area (where it's not unusual to find students playing a quick game of table tennis between classes), a reading room, a TV room for couch potatoes, a weight

room for hard-bodies, (to all of which the young women have access as well), kitchenette and laundry facilities, and rooms each with an individual toilette and shower. The residence supervisor's apartment is an annex to the dormitory and also contains guest rooms where visitors are sometimes accommodated. The recently renovated women's dorm features a TV room, kitchen and laundry facilities, with communal toilettes and showers on each



Men's and women's dorms at Vasario 16 Gimnazija

of its three floors. Both dorms have telephones by which parents can keep in touch with their children. And finally, a barracks-style building where some of the younger students have class.

The campus is nestled in a park encompassing about 5 hectares. The park with its pond, bridge and island is popular with those seeking a bit of solitude, as well as those who take time out for a pick-up game of basketball or volleyball on the courts there.

Through the years, the school has grown from an island for children of Lithuanian war refugees living in postwar Germany to what amounts to an international school to which young people of Lithuanian heritage come from all over the world (and, in increasing numbers from Lithuania). They come to study, to travel, and to

grow in so many ways.

Students come for a variety of reasons. Increasingly, students are applying from Lithuania in hopes of acquiring an internationally recognized diploma here, with which they could more easily begin studies in a Western university or vocational school. Students from the US, Canada, South America and Australia come for many reasons- the opportunity to learn about the culture of their fathers or forefathers - its traditions, its literature, its language - which the school offers as its main selling point. However, "experiencing Europe" cannot be discounted as one of the primary motives for making the decision to spend a year abroad at "V-16", as English-speaking students like to call the school. The school tailors a program of study to meet the academic requirements of US and Canadian high schools (including the requisite levels of math, English, science and history), and adjustments are often made to suit individual requirements as well.

Aside from free time spent in and around campus, students often enjoy weekend hikes to the Odenwald, or excursions to nearby cities such as Heidelberg, with its castle, world-famous university and rustic old town; historic Worms or cosmopolitan Mannheim, all within an hour's bus, tram or train ride. Baden-Baden with its famous mineral baths is about two hours away. And on extended weekends or vacations, you may find "V-16er's" anywhere from the Biergarten of Munich during Oktoberfest and beautiful Prague to the beaches of the French Riviera, the dusty streets of Rome, the museums of Paris, the baths of Budapest, Barcelona, London, Berlin,...

Of course, most all of the students make use of the opportunity to visit Lithuania, the land of their ancestors, during at least one of their holiday breaks. There they not only have a chance to familiarize themselves with its cities, towns, countryside and seashore - with all the subjects of the warm sentiments echoed in Lithuanian songs and poetry - but also to witness the at once fascinating and hopeful, yet painful transition of a country from socialist stagnation and suppression to an open, democratic society and a free-market economy. The value of such an experience is inestimable and this opportunity should definitely not be missed! The school is known to organize excursions to Lithuania at least once a year, usually during spring break, though it is not unusual for students to want to return and spend the summer there.

In spite of difficulties and obstacles over the years - from lack of qualified personnel to financial difficulties - the school thrives today with a community of over 100 students. Over the past seven years alone, students at the school have hailed from such diverse places as Australia, Argentina, Uruguay, the US, Mali, the Dominican Republic, Poland, and, of course, Germany and Lithuania, the latter of which have usually accounted for about a

two-thirds majority at the school. Though many come to the school to learn or improve their Lithuanian language abilities, non-German speakers also come away with at least a basic knowledge of German (German classes are part of the required core-curriculum) and, it is not unusual for them to have learned or improved other languages such as Spanish or English, perhaps by having shared a room with or having befriended someone from a Spanish or English-speaking country.

Extracurricular activity groups at the school have included: a folk dance group which performs on numerous occasions throughout the year and which participated in the 1994 World Lithuanian Festival of Song in Vilnius; a choir; an orchestra; an informal folk-singing group; Scouts; "Ateitininkai" (the Catholic Student Association); student council; rock'n'roll bands and other groups begun on student initiative.

Although, strictly speaking, the school is not affiliated with any one particular church or denomination, the Christian spirit of its founders has remained central, as can be seen from the school's mission statement: "to educate young Lithuanians is a Christian, Lithuanian and democratic spirit", from the blessing spoken before every meal, from daily religion classes, and from opportunities for religious expression and spiritual growth through non-compulsory attendance at Sunday and weekly services, through participation in Lenten and Advent retreats, and/or in activities organized by the "Ateitininkai".

Though many may have thought that the mission of the school ended with the reestablishment of Lithuanian independence, nothing could be farther from the truth. The school remains essential as a meeting point (on "neutral ground", so to speak) for Lithuanians from all over the world, today including Lithuanian as well; far be it from redundant, today its mission takes on even greater importance. The school is a bridge across the chasm separating Lithuanian youth raised in the West from their brothers and sisters who grew up in Lithuania - a means of integrating young people from Lithuania into the Western tradition as well as a place where young expatriate Lithuanians can discover their roots and experience the cultural tradition of their forbears, and learning about and experiencing modern day Lithuania. This is the vision which, in turn, serves as a beacon, guiding it toward the twenty-first century.

For information about the school, please write:

Info

Privates Litauisches Gymnasium
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Algirdas Rimas

Business News

More Trade and Investment Conferences to Promote Lithuania in the United States

Readers of this column have already been informed of the EAC Chicago conference on commercial relations with Lithuania. At the time of this writing the May 20-21 conference has yet to take place, but by the time you read this, it will be over. The purpose of such events is to review the business climate in Lithuania and encourage trade and investment between the US and Lithuania.

Another business conference on the subject is being organized. This time, it is again the Los Angeles-based U.S. - Baltic Chamber of Commerce taking the initiative to acquaint potential US investors and traders in New York City with business opportunities in Lithuania. The event is being planned jointly with the Lithuanian Consulate General in New York in the fall. For more information call, write or fax Ms. Annette Haraldsted, US-Baltic Chamber of Commerce, 13902 Fiji Way, Ste 324, Marina del Ray, CA 90292, tel/FAX (310) 827-9590.

EBRD Soft-Loans for Industrial Development Announced

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, EBRD, (the US Government is a member) announced that it will extend a six million dollar five year soft-loan to the privately held commercial Vilnius Bank. The bank, in turn, is to provide financing for companies interested in expanding their production facilities. According to Vilnius Bank officials, quoted in the Lithuanian press, borrowers would be charged 13-15 percent annual interest rates. That would be a vast improvement over the current situation, as bank loans for industrial investment purposes are very difficult to obtain.

The EBRD announcement follows the start-up of the Baltic-American Enterprise Fund which will offer a similar facility to fund investment projects. The US government funded Baltic-American Enterprise Fund will grant loans and make equity investments in all three Baltic states. Of the total 50 million dollars appropriated by Congress for the Fund, it has been obligated only the first 10 million to begin its operations. How the US rates in Lithuania's trade and investment rankings of foreign countries

American investors, large and small, are welcomed in Lithuania. There are some 4500 joint-ventures registered in Lithuania but only 10 show a foreign investment

of more than 3 million dollars. Total foreign investment in Lithuania is about 235 million dollars. American investors account for almost 50 million dollars. They are now in second place, after Germany, in the value of investments. Among American big-name investors are Phillip Morris, Coca Cola, IBM, Motorola, Ford and U.S. West.

Lithuania's trade with the US is relatively small, accounting for an insignificant proportion of the total (in the first half of 1994 alone, Lithuania's exports reached 1200 million dollars and imports 900 million). According to US Commerce Department data, US exports in 1994 to Lithuania were valued at 41 million dollars and imports at 16 million dollars. Feedgrain, valued at 17 million dollars, accounted for most of the US exports. Other major categories were telecommunications equipment, computers, and cars/trucks. Key imports from Lithuania consisted of cheese and cheese products, textiles, and fertilizers.

Export-Import Bank Makes Offer

The US government run Export-Import Bank (Ex-Im) reportedly issued a letter of commitment to the California based engineering firm, Fluor Daniel, to finance 60 percent of the cost of building and equipping the off-shore oil handling terminal proposed for Butinge on the Lithuanian-Latvian border. The estimated cost of the project is 200 million dollars. The offer is reportedly tied to the procurement of US origin goods and services.

According to the Lithuanian company managing the construction project, the Lithuanian government and parliament will have to decide whether or not to accept the Ex-Im offer. The terminal project also includes building a pipeline to pump crude oil from Butinge to the Mazeikiai oil refinery and from there, pump refined products back to Butinge. Financing to cover the remaining 40 percent of the costs remains to be found. Attempts to raise the money may be made by floating a public bond issue.

The Ex-Im Bank appears to have become increasingly active in Lithuania. It has recently announced a financial project to cover a large purchase by the Lithuanian fire services of fire engines from the Emergency One Company.

The US, of course, is not the only country active in financing major projects in Lithuania. The European Union has announced its intent to fund a 225,000 dollar pre-feasibility study for building a 200 million dollar rail

freight handling facility in Kaunas. Several European groups, including a German one headed by the Krupp company, have expressed interest in competing for the project. The German consortium reportedly offered to initially finance the entire project at their expense, but to turn the terminal over to Lithuania only after it had generated enough revenue to have paid back the investors.

Investment Opportunity

The EAC from time to time reports offers of reasonable investment opportunities in Lithuania. We do not necessarily endorse such offers nor are we responsible for their contents. One such investment opportunity is described below:

A Washington DC based development firm has received final approval for a four-unit, high quality residential project in Vilnius. The housing site, leased by the City to the developer for 99 years is in Zverynas, a desirable residential neighborhood within minutes of the city center.

The units will be developed for long-term lease (5-10 years) or sale to the US or other western governments. Designed to US State Department standards of quality and comfort, the units are targeted toward the significant and growing demand for housing to serve diplomats and related staff.

All development planning and design is complete and construction is scheduled to commence immediately. The developer is seeking an investor or lender to fund model units. Capital requirements range from 350,000 dollars to 550,000 dollars. The project presents an outstanding investment opportunity. For more information please contact Boyd Bishop, Bishop Associates in McLean, VA at (703) 506-9851 or FAX (703) 506-9852.

The Joint Program of the Hudson Institute and the Lithuanian Free Market Institute

Skirma Anna Kondratas

The Hudson Institute is an Indianapolis-based public policy research organization, with branch offices in Washington, D.C. and other cities. Such organizations are sometimes called "think tanks". One of its areas of interest is democratic economic reform in post-communist Central Europe, the former Soviet Union and the Baltic States. The Hudson Institute received funding from the Pew Charitable Trusts to develop a Public Policy Research Institutes Program in the Baltic States.

For democracy to flourish policy making cannot be left only to the politicians. The public must be involved,

and nonprofit organizations, citizen associations and other civic groups must play an active role in the political process. The aim of the Hudson program is to enhance the role of private institutions in formulating public policy and to increase the influence of such organizations on the process of economic reform. Under the auspices of the program, a partnership was developed in Lithuania with the Lithuanian Free Market Institute (LFMI), because it was already successfully engaged in the kinds of activities the Hudson Institute sought to encourage.

The LFMI was founded in 1990 by a group of enthusiastic free market supporters based at the University of Vilnius. Led by Professor Kestutis Glaveckas (who remains on the LFMI board), the founding group included Nijole Zambaite, Dainius Pupkevicius, Petras Austrevicius, Darius Mockus, and Elena Leontjeva, who is its current president. The initial efforts of the group were focused on banking and monetary policy, and the LFMI has had considerable success in influencing public policy in these areas. Their efforts contributed greatly to the development of Lithuania's current financial infrastructure. More recently, prominent Lithuanians who have joined Hudson's efforts to broaden the LFMI's mission and public education efforts include journalist Rimvydas Valatka and former Prime Minister Aleksandras Abisala.

In contemporary Lithuania, citizens have a deep distrust of government, rooted in the hypocrisy and corruption of the former communist system. The prevalent culture of bureaucracies is hard to turn around, and evidence of continued cronyism, bribe-taking, ludicrous red tape and general inefficiency confirms the average person's lack of faith that ordinary citizens can influence the political process. Since the heady early days of independence, there has been a decrease in civic spirit in Lithuania and an increase in public apathy. There has also been a marked political polarization which means that much of the public discussion about economic and social reforms tends to be politicized and consensus is difficult to achieve.

Two areas the Hudson Institute particularly encouraged the Lithuanian Free Market Institute to explore were social security reform and tax policy. These are critical issues, and the LFMI is working to develop alternatives to the current inadequate state-run pension system and the ineffective and onerous tax system. Like Social Security in the US, the Lithuanian pension system is pay-as-you-go, which means the current generation of workers is supporting the current generation of retirees out of payroll taxes. We know the budget problems this creates in the US, and these problems are magnified many times in a country as financially strapped

as Lithuania currently is. Meanwhile, Lithuanian pensioners live in dire poverty because inflation has all but destroyed the value of their pensions, while workers avoid paying taxes as much as they can already, and can hardly afford paying a penny more. Tax policy has also discouraged investment and stifled economic growth (or at least has driven it underground), while the government's response has been to levy new taxes even as it is not very successful at collecting those already on the books. The LFMI is currently developing proposals to supplement the public pension system with reliable and well-regulated private pension funds for future retirees. In the tax area, it is working on policy reforms that would promote economic growth while lowering the overall tax burden to encourage compliance.

In addition to direct research and educational efforts among opinion leaders and politicians, the LFMI organizes public education campaigns to acquaint the public with the ideas underlying a market economy and an open society. These are undertaken through the media or through participation of institute staff and associates in various public forums. The work has not been easy. Maintaining political neutrality and a reputation for objectivity while trying to work with whatever government is in power arouses the skepticism of some and the suspicion of others. On the whole, however, the process of engaging the public to consider important public policy issues has been constructive.

There is also the question of funding. Nongovernmental policy organizations in the US are the beneficiaries of tax laws encouraging charitable giving. Further, the US is affluent, with numerous foundations funding a range of nonprofit activities and a tradition of both individual and organizational giving to various causes, be they political, charitable or social. Lithuania has no wealthy foundations, and the nascent foundations and other charities that do exist, understandably enough, are focusing their limited resources on traditional charity, in other words, on helping the poor survive. Newly wealthy businessmen, on the other hand, do not always understand the concept of giving to promote the general good. They might willingly "buy" research if they could count on its furthering their own narrow business interests, but are not yet entirely convinced that their long-term interest is best served by having an economically educated populace that will make rational economic policies more likely.

To maintain its credibility and independence, the LFMI does not accept funding from the Lithuanian government. Its main source of funding thus far have been the Center for International Private Enterprise, based at the US Chamber of Commerce, and the Hudson-Pew funds. There have also been contributions from Lithuanian organizations and individuals, primarily busi-

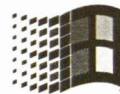
nessmen, as well as a few Lithuanian-Americans. The LFMI continues to seek funding from American foundations and international organizations, even as Hudson is working closely with them to develop a Lithuanian fundraising strategy and campaign. The goal is to have this organization and others like it eventually funded entirely by local sources.

The partnership of the Hudson Institute and the Lithuanian Free Market Institute is continuing, and will hopefully contribute to strengthening civil society in Lithuania, as well as promoting rational economic policies that will contribute to Lithuania's economic health.

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Calendar

June 9, 1995 LAC, Inc. Annual Legislative Conference

Washington, DC: 9:00 am to 9:00 pm..The Public Affairs Office of LAC, Inc. is now accepting registrations. Early registration for the all-day conference is: \$45.00 per person which includes lunch. Topics will include the status of current U.S. foreign aid, the prospects for NATO expansion and organized crime in Lithuania.

Call the PAO at 703-524-0698 for further details or fax: 703-524-0947. The legislative conference will be followed on June 10-11, 1995 with a conference of LAC, Inc. local chapters. Everyone is encouraged to attend both events.

June 10-11, 1995 - Lithuanian Festival in Baltimore, MD from 11:00-6:00 at the National Guard Armory, 130 Mellor Avenue, Catonsville, MD. Featuring Lithuanian food, drink, vendors of Lithuanian goods such as amber jewelry, T-Shirts, books, etc. as well as booths with information on cultural, heritage and social groups.

June 14-15, 1995 - VIIth Conference on Baltic Linguistics (Baltistica VII), Lielupe (in the vicinity of Riga, Latvia)

June 16-18, 1995 - First Conference on Baltic Studies in Europe, Riga Latvia Theme: "Small Nations and States", Languages: English and German. Contact: c/o

continued on p.22

Camp Neringa

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Both photos: Scenes from Camp Neringa - summer 1994



ANNOUNCEMENT

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Aukse Trojanas

The New York Scene

Rasa Allan Kazlas is one of our most talented Lithuanian-Americans. She is a theater director, actor, dramaturge, mime specialist, movement choreographer and acting teacher. Most recently, two works received her original interpretation in New York: "Caged Visions" and Chekov's "Ivanov." In both, she utilized remarkable means to achieve her unique goals.

"Caged Visions" is a dramatization of prison poetry written by inmates in the New York City prison system. A few years previously, she had produced a work called "Etched in Amber" based on Lithuanian poems. That dramatization was performed eloquently by six actors and actresses, speaking and moving among themselves with a rhythm which flowed from the poetry's meaning and action.

Originally intending to create a piece on the poetry of varied non-professional writers, Rasa became fascinated by the startling incongruity of prison poetry. She learned that Ausrine Byla, who is employed by John Jay College to teach creative writing at Rikers Prison, also edits THE PEN, a monthly poetry journal for prisoners. Through Ausrine, Rasa gathered original poems and created "Caged Visions." The work was performed at HB Studio in the fall of 1994. It is in turn witty, lyrical, brutal, surprising and emotionally moving. A spare set, a broom, some chairs and skeletal bunkbeds allow athletic releases of energy and alternatively, create the dulling atmosphere of inactivity. Accompanied by original music, the actors dance, jive, rap and fight, conveying their tensions and regrets, finding the true voices of their experience.

Another major theatrical project for Rasa was the play "Ivanov" with the Independent Theater Company. This was a seminal work for Chekov as an artist. Written at the age of 26, it was his first successfully received play. The protagonist is Ivanov a man who has "broken his back" by the age of 30. A member of the landed gentry in a far flung part of Russia, he has diligently pursued modern European ideals and used new technologies to improve the production of his estate and the welfare of his peasants. His projects fail due to local resistance to change. He becomes burnt out psychically, unable to love his wife or to find purpose in his life. Ivanov discovers a soulmate in Sasha, a young idealistic woman. Life and hope are briefly resuscitated in him by love. But Ivanov is a man of integrity. He realizes that he is truly spent of a life force. Not wanting to ruin Sasha's future, he kills himself.

It is fascinating how Rasa is able to bring this 19th century play into modern times. Ivanov and his wife, Anna Petrovna and his uncle, a Count, are dressed in period costumes. They are anachronistic and isolated

even in their own time. The other characters are in modern dress. The director sees parallels with present day Russia and Eastern Europe. There is a clawing, grasping mass of opportunists ready to be manipulative for their own ends. During the travails of his personal and economic distress, Ivanov is hounded by gossip and criticisms which distort his actions and attack his reputation. The local gossips move and speak in a slow hypnotic manner, like a monstrous amoeba engulfing and disgorging its prey. Ivanov remains true to himself despite the enervating attacks upon him. His greatest problem is that he is confused, not knowing how he arrived at such an impenetrable impasse in his life. Part of the stage set is a random web of many strands. Ivanov unravels it to find the only path left to him is death.

"Ivanov" is a flawed but very spontaneous play. It raises issues which Rasa Kazlas found truly challenging: How does one cope in the world when entrapped in one's circumstances and character? How does one find freedom and purpose whether in prison in NYC in the 1990's or isolated in rural 19th century Russia?

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Ramune Kubilius

From the Lithuanian Press...

Selected excerpts from the Lithuanian Press in America.

Bishop Baltakis' Planned Schedule

Bishop Paulius Baltakis, OFM, lives in New York, but his duties as Bishop to Lithuanians who live outside of Lithuania result in a busy travel schedule. April 23rd, he travels to Brockton, MA to participate in the 50th anniversary of the Sisters of Jesus Crucified. Then his travels will take him to Toronto & Hamilton, ONT, and to Los Angeles, CA to officiate in the sacraments of Holy Orders and Confirmation. From June 15th-July 14th, he will travel to the February 16th (Vasario 16-osios) Lithuanian High School in Germany to confirm some young Catholics. After that, he will travel to Russia (to Moscow, Murmansk and elsewhere) to visit Lithuanians who live there. August 13th, he will travel to Detroit, MI to help St. Anthony's Parish celebrate its 75th anniversary. September 6-28th, he will travel to Siberia to visit Lithuanians who live there. October 4-8th, he will be in New York during the Pope's visit. October 15th, he will be at the St. Francis Lithuanian Parish in Minersville, PA on the occasion of its 100th anniversary, and October 22nd, he will help the parishioners of Sts. Peter & Paul Parish in Elizabethtown, NJ celebrate their parish's 100th anniversary.

(DARBININKAS, 4/14/95)

NY Islander Kasparaitis visits

New York Islander professional hockey team player Darius Kasparaitis visited the DARBININKAS newspaper complex where the New York Lithuanians' Cultural Center is also housed. Accompanying Darius was a childhood friend from Vilnius who was in New York for a students' conference at the United

Nations. Hosting them was Vida Jankauskas, Director of Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid. Darius talked with editors, telling about his life in New York. He has become accustomed to American life, he admitted that after a recent visit to Lithuania, he realized that he would find it hard to return to live in Lithuania. He and his wife keep in constant touch with relatives-his in Lithuania, her's in Russia. His brother is an ice hockey player, his sister is an student at the Vilnius Art Academy. During his tour around the facility and other Lithuanian institutions, Kasparaitis agreed to come to a future reception hosted by the Lithuanian American athletes' club in their room at the Cultural Center. Kasparaitis was born October 16, 1972 in Elektrenai. He is a defensive player

for the New York Islanders, a strong player against whom teammate Steve Thomas said he wouldn't want to play. (DARBININKAS, from an article by A.J., 4/14/95)

New Lithuanian-Americans meet

A newly organized group called "Versme" has been organized in the New York Queens, Manhattan, Great Neck area. The group, calling itself "Versme" already has 175 members. Most are recently arrived immigrants from Lithuania. They have decided to join the structure of the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. New York region, but with special emphasis on the informational and support needs of those who are now establishing themselves in the United States. The group has even determined that a centralized informational "office", located in Albina Baniene's home, should have its own phone line. Many in the group attend English language courses and course instructors have donated \$250 to establish the treasury of the newly formed organization. The group plans other informational sessions about life in America, and has organized a cultural evening on April 29th at the Cultural Center in Brooklyn to which all New York area Lithuanian Americans are invited.

(DARBININKAS, from an article by Romas Kezys, 4/15/95)

Biographical Directory

Informational questionnaires have been sent out and still are being collected for the LITHUANIAN BIOGRAPHICAL DIRECTORY. One of the editors, Jone Landzbergiene, is still in Chicago, where she is coordinating work with the Lithuanian Research and Studies Center, 5620 S. Claremont, Chicago, IL 60636-1039.

(DRAUGAS 4/18/95)

Man of the Year

The Lithuanian Chamber of Commerce in Chicago has selected Frank Zapolis, longtime instructor of the Knights of Lithuanian Folk Dance Group (written up in BRIDGES for its longtime Christmas performances of traditional Lithuanian holiday customs at the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry-rk) as its Man of the Year. Mr. Zapolis will be honored at a banquet May 7th at the Martinique Restaurant in Chicago.

(DRAUGAS, 4/19/95)

Recipient of Ellis Island Medal of Honor

Dr. Antanas Razma, one of the founders of the Lithuanian Foundation, and former president of the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. has been selected for special mention by the "National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations" with the award of a 1995 Ellis Island Medal of Honor. The medal is given to American citizens who have achieved much in the areas of humanitarian efforts in their ethnic group, benefitting all of the United States. Other honorees have included General Normal Schwartzkopf, Senator Alfonse D'Amato, Eric Severeid, Senator Strom Thurmond and others. The ceremonies will take place May 21st with ecumenical religious ceremonies at St. Patrick's Cathedral, and a presentation of the medals at the Great Hall of Ellis Island. Dr. Razma was born June 20, 1922 in the Kretinga region of Lithuania, a farmer's son, second of five children. He attended high school in Skuodas and Plunge, but after the war years, completed his medical studies in Tuebingen, Germany. He and his wife Elena

emigrated to the United States where they settled in Wilmington, IL. They raised two sons who are now physicians as well. His medical practice was in the area of family practice, and at one time he was the Will-Grundy Medical Society's vice-president and the St. Joseph Hospital Medical Center chief of the medical staff in Joliet, IL. In 1975, he was honored as "Man of the Year" by the Lithuanian-American Republican League of Illinois. Thirty-three years ago, Dr. Razma founded the Lithuanian Foundation, which now has close to \$8 million in capital and which annually awards scholarships to students of Lithuanian descent and gives grants to Lithuanian organizations doing special projects. He has held various responsibilities in the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. and 1988-91 was its president. Dr. Razma has been a member of the Lithuanian Catholic Federation "Ateitis" since high school, and a member of the "Lithuanian Frontas" organization since university days.

(DRAUGAS, 4/15/95)

Lithuania's Jesuits

Lithuania's Jesuits have their own churches in Vilnius, Kaunas and Šiauliai. In Klaipėda and Biržai, the Jesuits oversee the parishes in the dioceses. The Jesuit school in Kaunas, now with 650 students, is in its fourth year. The Jesuits plan on opening a high school in Vilnius in September, 1995. Nine Jesuit seminary students are studying abroad, and three are students at the seminary in Kaunas. These are the plans and work of the Lithuanian Jesuit community.

(From a fundraising brochure. The Jesuit Fathers, 2345 W. 56th Street, Chicago, IL 60636 are collecting donations to support the work of the Jesuits in Lithuania.-rk)

Lithuanian mayor of Bogota

The new mayor of Bogota, Columbia is the Columbia National University's rector, 48 year old Antanas Mockus. Although Mockus was born in Columbia, his father came from the Silute region in Lithuania. His grandfather was well-known woodcarver, Aleksandras Mockus. Twenty years ago, Mockus and his friends attended the Lithuanian language courses offered during the summer at Vilnius University. His mother Aurelija visited Kaunas several years later, and she visited her parents in Anyksciai. His relatives from Silute sent greetings to Antanas.

(DARBININKAS, 4/21/95)

Opera singer at La Scala

Violeta Urmanaviciute, known to European opera lovers as Violeta Urmana, will perform at La Scala over the next two years. She has offers through 1999 to sing in Vienna's State Opera and London's Covent Garden. Violeta began studying piano in Marijampole, Lithuania as a child. In 1986 she received her diploma from the Lithuanian Music Academy in piano studies. She decided to begin studying singing. At first she began as a soprano, then later became a mezzo-soprano. In the spring of 1991, Violet went to the Giocchino Rossini Contest in Germany. During that summer, she enrolled in Munich's Music School. She sang in Bavaria, and in 1992 she won three special prizes in a contest in Vienna. In Barcelona that fall, she won the Grand Prix in the "Francisco Vinas" contest...She has sung the works of Verdi, Wagner, Poncellini, Richard Strauss in the opera theaters of Munich, Kiel, Stuttgart and elsewhere. In Milan's La Scala, Urmanaviciute will sing the part of Fricka in Wagner's "Valkyrie". She will also sing in Lucerne, Switzerland and Vienna, Austria. On the evening of Easter, Violeta sang perhaps her first public performance in Vilnius. Music for the concert was provided by the Vilnius Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Gintaras Rinkevicius.

(DARBININKAS, 4/21/95)

"Gaja" anniversary

The "Gaja" medical "korporacija" (a fraternity/sorority-rk) will celebrate its 65th anniversary September, 1995. ("Gaja" members are also members of the Lithuanian Catholic Federation "Ateitis" which had its roots in 1907-1910 when young Catholic students and priests studying abroad in Russia and Belgium first discussed the founding of a Catholic organization based on intellectual principles-rk). "Gaja" consists of physicians, dentists, pharmacists, veterinarians. The group plans on fund-raising activities and seeks donations to offset \$12,000 in projected expenses for 1995-96: for publishing its history, financially supporting medical students in

Lithuania, and providing some financial support to older, retired "Gaja" members in Lithuania who have fallen on hard times. "Gaja" has recently enjoyed a revival in Lithuania, where members from the U.S. travelled to the "Ateitis" Congress and met with their counterparts in Lithuania. At a recent meeting in Lemont, IL, "Gaja" members listened to a presentation of Lithuania's medical education system from a visiting physician from Kaunas. They also debated and critiqued the problems of present-day delivery of health care in Lithuania. The reality in Lithuania is that physicians' earnings are low: some physicians seem to expect special payments (bribes?) from their patients; others work extra jobs in for-profit clinics being established there; many medical students are striving to get into postgraduate training programs abroad- they may never return to Lithuania after completing their residencies and fellowships. About 97 "Gaja" members have died since 1932, and "Gaja" is now seeking new younger members from the large Lithuanian American medical community.

(DRAUGAS, from an article A.R., 4/22/95)

Ciurlionis Ensemble founder to move

Ona Mikulskis, one of the founders of the Cleveland ensemble "Ciurlionis" and teacher of the "kankles" orchestra is moving to live in Lithuania.

(DARBININKAS, 5/5/95)

Scout outings

Lithuanian scouts in Chicago will gather for their traditional "Jamboree" June 2-4th in Lemont, IL...A group of student scouts- "akademikai" are planning a trip to Lithuania to participate in a 3 day-2 night canoe trip in late June. They are attempting to revive a tradition begun in pre-war Lithuania by Prof. Kolupaila and the scout fraternity "Vytis" to canoe along Lithuania's rivers and lakes each year. The scouts in Lithuania will provide tents and food.

(DRAUGAS, from an article by Leonas Maskaliunas, 5/3/95)

Lithuanian TV in Chicago?

On April 11th at a meeting of the American Lithuanian Art Society, documentary filmmaker Arvydas Reneckis raised the idea of reviving Lithuanian television in Chicago. Reneckis remarked that Chicago ethnic television channel 23 transmits programs for Polish, Russian, Ukrainian, Romanian, Greek, Korean, Chinese, and various Latin American groups. Even Albanian immigrants, who come from the poorest country in Europe have put together a program of their own. Lithuanian-Americans in Chicago had their own program many years ago in Chicago, thanks to the efforts of

pioneers such as Anatolius Slutas. It is understandable that finances and energy were sapped. It seems realistic to start plans again. A half-hour weekly program is possible. It could be journalistic, with summaries of news from Lithuania and around the world. Announcements could be made about Lithuanian-American activities. A short segment especially for children could be included. Once a month, persons of various viewpoints could be invited to discuss and debate issues. A regularly scheduled program could change history and even make a difference in those who affect Lithuania's politics. It's possible that in about 2-3 months Chicago may have its own television program in Lithuanian (again), if enough funds become available to sign a half-year contract with Channel 23.

(DRAUGAS, from an interview Algimantas Kezys had with Arvydas Reneckis, 4/27/95)

University libraries automated

A year ago, Kaunas Technological University and Vytautas Magnus University signed a contract with the Danish firm DANTEK to install the automated library system Cicero in those two university libraries. The libraries made their preparations and obtained their equipment. On April 11th, the system was introduced to specialists. The system is the first integrated automated library system in Lithuania. It will be useful to librarians and library users.

(Libraries in America, Western Europe and elsewhere have been installing automated library systems during the last 20+ years. The interconnected features of integrated systems have allowed libraries to perform all library functions without switching computers; Orders, addition of journal or book titles, cataloging, checking in of journal issues, tracking bindery shipments, producing claims for missing issues, creating patron records, maintaining the status of materials checked out to library departments or to library users, issuing overdue notices and bills for non-returned items are all possible with an integrated system...Best of all, automated library systems have allowed libraries to convert (and discard) the contents of their card catalogs. Once library holdings are converted to online form, remote access to the online catalog portion of the library system by persons from around the world via Internet is possible. Some libraries in Lithuania already have this capability—we can "dial in" and find out which libraries have which titles. It will be interesting for overseas librarians to read about the automation and modernization of Lithuanian libraries. The retrospective conversion of the records of the oldest, historical or unique/formerly censored materials will be of great value to scholars-rk)

(DARBININKAS, 4/28/95)

Edward Baranauskas

Problems of a Motorist in Lithuania

Getting fuel for an automobile in Lithuania today is not much of a problem. However, with the price of gasoline always increasing, the concern then becomes how to afford it, while still managing to live within one's budget.



P. Reivytyis filling the tank with liquid propane.

I had the pleasure this past summer of motoring from Vilnius to Žokniai airport, which is just outside the city of Šiauliai. Before starting out on our expected three hour trip, we decided to service the car, and I was very surprised when we stopped to buy propane and not gasoline. I was puzzled as to why anyone would go to the expense of installing a special tank in the luggage compartment of the car, and converting the engine to use propane gas. The answer is simple. It's a matter of economics.

The cheapest gasoline is grade 92, and its cost is double that of propane. It is available at the numerous so-called "benzine" stations that operated during the Soviet days, and is suitable for the lower powered Soviet-made automobiles. It is a leaded gasoline.

Because imported autos are becoming more and more popular, better grades of gasoline are needed for more efficient engine performance. These are available at the Finnish-Lithuanian joint venture "Neste" service stations. Grade 93 is more

expensive than grade 92.

The most expensive gasoline is grade 95, and it is triple the cost of propane. It is used primarily by those who own automobiles like the Mercedes-Benz.

Once a car is converted to run on propane, the cost of running it affords considerable savings to the motorist. There are two propane service stations in Vilnius, and one in each of Lithuania's larger cities. The source of supply is the refinery at Mažeikiai. The propane gas is pumped into the automobile's tank in liquid form, and then a device at the engine converts it into a gaseous state during engine operation.

Before returning to Vilnius, we stopped at a propane station on the outskirts of Šiauliai, which was not far from the "Hill of Crosses" to "fill-up" again. The cost of fuel for our entire trip was about 22 litai, compared to the 43 litai we would have had to pay had we been using gasoline instead. As one can see, there is quite a difference.

For reasons of safety, passengers are not permitted to sit inside the car during propane servicing, and the engine hood must be raised.

I doubt very much if the American motorist will show very much enthusiasm for using propane in his car, even though it is more cost-effective.



One of two service stations in Vilnius that sell liquid propane. The law requires the hood of the car be raised and all passengers must stay outside the

Vytas Grybauskas

Sports News

Activities of the Lithuanian National Olympic Committee

The Lithuanian National Olympic Committee continues its work in preparation for the Olympics of 1996. Following are but a few of the Committee's accomplishments during the last several months:

LNOC President Arturas Poviliunas was in Argentina during the latter part of February. Mr. Poviliunas was there at the invitation of Argentina's Olympic Committee's President A. Rodriguez. Meetings and discussions were held with members of the Olympic Committee as well as other sports leaders. The visit also provided Mr. Poviliunas an opportunity to meet with resident Lithuanians as well as attend the Pan-American Games.

The LNOC President has planned a visit to Quebec, Canada this month at the invitation of the Olympic Committee there.

News from the International Rowing Federation includes the fact that E. Levickas has been invited to officiate at the Atlanta Olympic Games. Levickas participated in the rowing competition during the 1964 Olympic Games in Tokyo in addition to being a prize-winner in European rowing competition.

During the fall of 1994, the LNOC opened bidding to travel agencies to organize trips with tickets to the Olympic Games. The contract was awarded to Baltic Tours of Boston, which was established twenty years ago by A. Mitkus. The LNOC has signed a contract with the agency, which has opened an office in Vilnius and has begun accepting reservations to the Olympic Games. - worth mentioning here is the fact that we haven't heard much on this subject from American or Canadian travel agencies yet; the LNOC attache for the Atlanta Olympics has announced that tickets can be purchased by using forms which can be acquired through a variety of mer-

chants, and enclosing a check or credit card number. This does not seem to be much of a service.

Several weeks ago, a representative of the Upjohn pharmaceutical company visited the LNOC office in Vilnius. A sponsorship contract was signed by which Upjohn will provide Lithuanian Olympic athletes with vitamins and a portion of earnings from vitamins sold bearing the LNOC symbol. The Upjohn representative brought with him the first shipment of vitamins for the athletes.

On May 5, 1995 the Lithuanian Olympic Academic session took place at Vilnius University. Sports leaders and academicians from Austria, Estonia, Latvia and Bellaruss participated. Among the 11 featured reports were A. Poviliunas' "100 Years of Sports and Olympic Ideals" and S. Stonkus' "Pierre Coubertin - revival of Olympic Ideals".

Lithuanian youth tourney thrives as families have fun

Reprinted from the Hamilton, Ontario "Spectator", Tuesday May 2, 1995

Alon Marcovici, Special to The Spectator

Canadians love hockey, Americans love baseball and football and the Brazilians love their soccer. But none of



One of the 33 youth basketball teams participating in the North American Lithuanian Youth Basketball Championships in Hamilton, ONT April 29-30 - Philadelphia's "ARAS".

these compare to Lithuanians' love - er, obsession- with basketball.

The country that has brought you former Canadian national basketball star Leo Rautins, Arvidas Sabonis and Sarunas Marciulionis- not your mainstream basketball superstars- is full of hoop-crazed fanaticism.

This, however, is not the fanaticism for soccer that is most often seen in riots and fights in the stands. Theirs is a passion based on friendship and fun.

"We always joke that years ago someone started a party and we haven't let it end," Marius Gudinskas said of the Hamilton Lithuanian Sports Club's 46 year history of basketball competition.

Gudinskas was president of the organizing committee for the 1995 North American Lithuanian Youth Basketball Championships which brought 33 teams from Detroit, Philadelphia, Chicago, Cleveland, Toronto and London to Hamilton on the weekend.

As long as a tournament is judged by fan support, family participation and quality of competition, then this third North American youth championship was a huge success.

Played in five categories - competitors ranged from five-year-olds playing in the aptly named Molecules division to 15-year-olds - at Westdale and St. Mary's

schools, the most indistinguishable feature of the two-day tourney was whether the players or their parents had more fun.

The stands were a blend of part cheering, no jeering and mostly joking. By the way, Hamilton collected a first-place finish in the 10-and-under class, along with silvers in both boys and girls under-14 and boys under-16.

"This is like a reunion of sorts for us," said Gudinskas, noting that most of the Hamilton players' parents once played.

The familial presence was not unusual for people seemingly unified by sport, primarily basketball.

In 1991, the Baltic country had not yet been recognized as independent by the Soviet Union, and staged its first World Lithuanian Games to throngs of supporters in their capital. More than 250,000 people lined the streets as the more than 1,000 athletes, from as far away as Australia, paraded in a show of national unity.

One year later, the Lithuanian national basketball team led by the NBA's Marciulionis, won a bronze medal at the Olympics in Barcelona, Spain. The team earned plenty of media attention. Most memorable were the team's warmups which were tie-dyed Grateful Dead-designed T-shirts.

CALENDAR *continued from p.15*

Prof. A. Varslavans, University of Latvia, Raina bulv. 19, LV-1586 Riga, Latvia, FAX: (371)-8820113, (301)-2-225039; Telex: 161172 Tema SU

August 6-13, 1995 - Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. Educational Council sponsored **Lithuanian language course and Lithuanian language teachers' camp** at Camp Dainava near Manchester, MI. Information: Educational Council President, Regina Kucas, 13648 Kickapoo Trail, Lockport, IL 60441, tel. 708-301-6410, FAX (same number).

August 13-20, 1995 - **Courses for Lithuanian Folk Dance Teachers/Leaders** whose groups are planning to participate in the 10th Folk Dance Festival (planned for July 1996, Chicago, IL) Place: Camp Dainava, MI. Information: Lithuanian Folk Dance Institute, Dalia Dzikas, Pres., 43 Mildred Road, West Hartford, CT 06107

September 30-Oct 1, 1995 - **Lithuanian Days** in Los Angeles.

Make plans for 1996

June 1996

15th Conference on Baltic Studies, Boston, MA
Contact: Advancement for the Advancement of Baltic Studies, 111 Knob Hill Rd, Hackettstown, NJ07840-

4222; Tel.:(908)852- 5258; FAX (908)852-3233; e-mail: 70762.640@COMPUSERVE.COM

July 1996

10th Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival, Chicago, IL
Information for group teachers: Dalia Dzikas, Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival, Inc., 43 Mildred Road, West Hartford, CT 06107

Advertisement

ALICE DOESN'T LIVE HERE ANY MORE...

She moved to Florida. Alice Zupko, the Lithuanian proprietress of Alice's Flower Shop in Richmond Hill relocated to North Fort Myers five years ago, where she has opened her house as a haven for fleeing Lithuanian snow-birds and their friends from the North. She has a pool on the premises and tennis is just around the corner.

Sanibel Island and Fort Myers Beach are a short drive away. Alice serves a great breakfast to start a vacationer's day off right.

If you're planning a trip to sunny Florida and don't want to go broke - stay at:

Alice's Palace

5886 Guest Court
North Fort Myers, FL 33903
Tel. (813) 656-5886

Bits and Pieces

The Jungle Remembered

The *Chicago Tribune Magazine* of February 19th revived interest in Upton Sinclair and his book, *The Jungle*. In an occasional series, the *Magazine* reprints excerpts and short biographies, written and selected by Bill Granger, of great writers who have used Chicago as the backdrop and frequently the soul of their works.

At the turn of the century, Upton Sinclair wrote a "powerful, somewhat clumsily written tract on the hard life of immigrant workers crowded into shanties in the Back of the Yards neighborhood." In order to get accurate information, Sinclair became one of the workers, toiling for seven weeks in the meatpacking plants. "At night, he infiltrated the Lithuanian community where hard lives led to hard drinking and only occasional cracks of laughter and happiness, like at a neighborhood wedding." Bill Granger goes on to write that "the novel led to passage of the nation's first pure food laws under the administration of President Theodore Roosevelt, who invited Sinclair to the White House on the occasion."

Upton Sinclair was born in Baltimore on Sept. 20, 1878 and died Nov. 24, 1968. He was a Socialist who ran unsuccessfully for Congress, the Senate and for governor in California. He founded the southern California chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union and said that if someone examined what was "written on his heart" the words "Social Justice" would be engraved there.

The *Chicago Tribune Magazine* excerpt from *The Jungle* included a description of the stockyards and neighborhood as new immigrant Lithuanian Jurgen (Jurgis?-rk) is given a tour of the Packingtown neighborhood around the "sprawling, appalling Chicago Stock Yards" by his relative, Jokubas, who owns a deli and is a longtime resident of the neighborhood. Jokubas tries to get Jurgen a job through his "connections." It's hard to believe that Upton Sinclair's reporting in 1904 became the big, well-known novel about Chicago and the meat-packing industry that dominated Chicago's commercial life, and also brought some familiarity to readers about Lithuanian immigrant life along Halsted Street. *Ramune Kubilius*

Lithuanian Millionaire

A Lithuanian living in England made headlines in Europe a few months ago when he won the largest football lottery prize ever paid - a record sum of more than two million pounds sterling (about 3.65 million dollars).

Andrius "Andy" Paliunovas was born and raised in Lithuania. In 1944 when his homeland was under German occupation, he was forced to work in a gun factory

in Stuttgart. He left behind his mother, three brothers and four sisters. When the war ended, he lived in a displaced person's camp in West Germany before settling in England to begin a new life. He never wrote to his family or even tried to find out what happened to them. Now a 73-year-old retired handyman, he never married and lived alone with his cat in Gloucester.

Speaking through an interpreter at a press conference in London after he won the lottery, Andrius expressed a desire to go for a vacation in Jamaica first, rather than try to find out about his family in Lithuania. He thought this would "too painful" for him to do.

The British press located the surviving members of his family, a brother and three sisters, living in the town of Radviliškis in northern Lithuania. When Andrius was told of this, he was surprised because he thought they were all dead. When his family learned that he was alive and living in England, they were all in tears. They, too, thought he was dead. They were stunned when they learned that he had won the equivalent of 14 million litas in the lottery.

One of his sisters wrote him a letter and asked him to come back to Lithuania. They didn't care about his money; they just wanted to hug and kiss him. It is his money, they said, and he could do whatever he wants with it. They were just happy that he is alive. It is interesting to note that Andrius still has the original passport that was issued to him by the prewar, independent Lithuanian government. *Edward Baranauskas*

The University of Washington Baltic Studies Summer Institute

The second annual Baltic Studies Summer Institute (BALSSI) is to be held during the Summer Quarter (June 19-August 18) at the University of Washington in Seattle. The following courses will be offered:

Intensive First Year Lithuanian	(June 19-Aug 18)
Nordic and Baltic Folklore	(June 19-July 19)
Scandinavia in World Affairs	(June 19-July 19)
Baltic History	(July 20-Aug 18)
Baltic Culture	(July 20-Aug 18)

For information about the program contact:

Guntis Smidchens
 Scandinavian Department
 U of Washington
 Box 353420
 Seattle, WA 98195-3420
 Tel: (206) 543-0645
 FAX: (206) 685-9173
 Internet: GuntisS@u.washington.edu

ADVERTISEMENT

INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITY PHYSICIANS...NURSES

The Baltic-American Medical & Surgical Clinic, a private medical clinic owned by a joint venture of American and Lithuanian physicians, opened in Vilnius in September. The clinic, which has its facilities in rented space within an existing hospital, is the first of its kind and has been renovated, furnished, equipped American medical standards. It operates on a fee-for-services basis, but the mission of the clinic includes a significant effort to assist in promoting better health care throughout the region. Beginning next year, in conjunction with International Medassist, Inc. (a non-profit corporation), the clinic hopes to be able to provide certain amounts of free care to people who could not otherwise afford it. There will also be assistance in training physicians and nurses from public hospitals. One of the objectives for the clinic is to have at least one American physician and nurse available to the clinic, on a rotating basis, during the first two years of its operations. An American nurse from New Jersey and an American physician's assistant from Washington each began a six-month stay at the clinic on October 1. A board certified general surgeon from Ohio began a 3 1/2 month stay on November 7, and a surgeon from Massachusetts will joined him for the month of January. The clinic is seeking other physicians and nurses interested in being part of this exciting and pioneering effort.

- Minimum commitment of two months preferred, but shorter stay will be considered. Clinic will seek to obtain a Lithuanian medical license for physician participants.
- No need for participants to speak or understand Lithuanian. Lithuanian staff is experienced and multi-lingual. Charting and recordkeeping in English.
- Only 30-35 hours required each week.
- Clinic will provide roundtrip air travel for participant and spouse and free use of a furnished apartment in Vilnius (utilities included).
- Clinic will pay modest living stipend. Additional fee income for physicians.

Persons interested in further information should contact:

Dr. Kenneth M. Leavitt*
11 Middlesex Avenue
Wilmington, MA 01887 or
Phone: (508) 658-9774
FAX: (508) 658-2919

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LITHUANIAN AMERICAN NEWS JOURNAL

Volume 19, No. 5 JUNE 1995 \$2.50 per Copy
