

DRAUGAS

THE FRIEND

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Needed urgent action

Washington, DC — Resolution #51, introduced by Christopher Cox, R-CA 47th District, calls for the removal of Russian troops from Karaliaučius-Königsberg-Kaliningrad city and area. Congressman Christopher Cox has re-drafted H. Con. Res. #51 on the demilitarization of Kaliningrad in order to speed its passage through the House and Senate prior to Congressional adjournment at the end of September.

The new draft includes support for the de-militarization of Kaliningrad and calls upon Russia to respect Baltic interest in joining NATO. The new draft cites examples of Russian military doctrine targeting the Baltic States and more examples of Russian infringement of Baltic sovereignty and it calls for action to restore the environmental integrity of the Kaliningrad region.

The Committee Chairman, Congressman Ben Gilman (R-NY) and the Ranking Minority Member Lee Hamilton (D-IN) need to know of your support of this legislation. The support of Gilman and Hamilton is key to reporting this legislation out of Committee for House floor consideration this Congress.

The original bill had 54 Congressional cosponsors including John Boehner (R-OH), and Republican Conference Chairman. Currently 8 bipartisan members of the International Relations Committee are cosponsors of the resolution.

Please notify Congressman Gillman and Hamilton immediately of your support for the Cox resolution.

Congr. Gilman's phone in Washington — 202-225-3776; Hastings — 914-478-5550; Middletown — 914-343-6666; fax — 202-225-2541.

Congr. Hamilton's phone — 202-225-5315; district — 812-288-3999; fax — 202-225-1101.

Or contact Angele Nelsas, Exec. Vice President of Baltic

BALTIC ASSEMBLY STANDS FOR ABOLITION OF DEATH PENALTY

Vilnius, Sept 4 (ELTA) — Law committee of the Baltic Assembly (BA) in fact stands for abolition of death penalty. However, this can be done only after reaching a decrease in crimes, reforming prisons so that most serious criminals could withstand their lifelong sentences in the jails.

Such a resolution discussed already at BA law committee on August 30, seems to be passed at the nearest BA session to be held in Riga at the beginning of October, a member of the BA law committee Algirdas Kunčinas told ELTA at news conference on Wednesday.

Leaders of Baltic states are not ready morally to abolish the death penalty, since such capital punishment guarantees security of people.

Lawyers tell that such a refusal from death penalty could be too hasty; as a main reason for such a solution is lack of conditions for lifelong imprisonment.

There is an opinion that referendum on this issue would result a support of the people.

American Freedom League, Inc. until Oct. 5, 1996. Phone — 201-327-9203; fax — 201-327-1916.

Re-drafted version of HCR #51

Expressing the sense of Congress concerning economic development, environmental improvement and stability in the Baltic region.

have expressed concern that the heavy concentration of military personnel in Kaliningrad represents a threat to them and that military transit to and from Kaliningrad has resulted in violations of their sovereignty;

Whereas polls conducted by the Kaliningrad Sociological Center have shown that over 60% of the Kaliningrad public favors development of Kaliningrad as an economic bridge between Europe and Russia and opposes development of Kaliningrad as a military outpost in the Baltic region;

Whereas establishment of Kaliningrad as a Free Economic Zone by the Russian government in 1994 represents a positive step toward Kaliningrad's integration into the Baltic and European economies and toward giving Kaliningrad an opportunity to flourish economically and substantially contribute to the well-being of the Baltic region;

Whereas Russian economic analysts at the Russian Foreign Policy Foundation have noted that the militarization of Kaliningrad has corresponded neither to the needs of the population of the region itself, nor to the necessities of its economic development;

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring). That it is the sense of the Congress that —

1. Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia have the right to self-determination in conduct of their foreign policy without interference, including the relationship with NATO.

2. The United States is concerned about the use of concentrated Russian military forces in the Kaliningrad region to influence the foreign policy decisions of the Baltic States.

3. Demilitarization and development of the Kaliningrad region as a free trade zone will contribute to ensuring the freedom, as future prosperity and stability, of the Baltic region.

4. Demilitarization and environmental restoration of the Kaliningrad region will greatly facilitate economic development and prosperity in Kaliningrad.

The re-drafted Resolution HCR 51 is now in the State Department and it might move very rapidly to full Congress and may soon be voted on in the House. Asking for support from Congressmen is crucial, especially from International Relations Committee members.

US Capitol switchboard: 202-224-3112, ask for your Congressperson (Representative). No need to know your Congressperson's name. A telegram with given text will be sent for \$6.45, just by giving your name, address, and telephone number.

BAFL Hotline: 1-800-651-1572.



Lithuanian soldiers in Pennsylvania — learning new strategies and methods from American counterparts.

US Continues to Support Lithuanian Army

Vilnius, BNS — The US military attaché to Lithuania, Colonel Ralph Rhea August 23 presented a check for 170 thousand USD for Lithuania's defense. The check was allocated by the US Congress, and presented to Minister of Defense Linas Linkevičius.

The money was appropriated to finance Lithuania's participa-

tion in Partnership for Peace program exercises. BNS was told by Defense Ministry Secretary Povilas Malakauskas that this gift is only a small part of this year's American support for the Lithuanian army.

For participation in international exercises, one half million USD has been appropriated. The largest part of the 170

thousand USD now being given, will cover the costs of the participation of the Lithuanian frigates — the Aukštaitis and the Žemaitis — in the large international BALTOPS-96 manoeuvres in the Baltic Sea.

The US allocated Lithuania this year 1.25 million USD to acquire modern military technology. With these funds, communication equipment was purchased for the Panevėžys motorized infantry battalion, the first Lithuanian unit to be provided with NATO standard weaponry.

About another one half million USD was allocated for consultations by US specialists and for training Lithuanian troops in US military academies. 1.7 million USD has been appropriated for the joint peace-keeping battalion of the Baltic Countries BALTBAT.

American military aid to Lithuania, used so far this year, has been estimated at about 6 million USD.

The total aid extended to the Lithuanian army this year by the US comes to roughly 10 million USD, which is a fifth of the Lithuanian government budgetary funds, allocated for the army.

Bad for Balts or Russians?

Moscow, Aug 23, Interfax-BNS — Moscow thinks the planned enlargement of NATO toward the East would bring negative consequences for the Baltics and the Nordic countries, Russian foreign ministry spokesman Mikhail Demurin said.

Speaking at a news briefing in Moscow Thursday, Demurin said Russia had made its position on the issue known to Finland during bilateral consultations on European issues in Helsinki at the beginning of this week.

The Russian delegation for the consultations, headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Nikolai Afanasyev, once again presented to Finnish officials "Moscow's position of principle on the plans for enlargement of NATO," the spokesman said.

The Russian official told their Finnish counterparts that it was inadmissible to draw new separation lines in Europe and to seek to ensure the security of some countries at the expense of others, Demurin said.

US LITHUANIAN COMMUNITY TO ASSIST LITHUANIA IN JOINING NATO

Vilnius, Sept 5 (ELTA) — One of the most important US Lithuanian community tasks is persuasion of Washington officials on the necessity of Lithuanian membership in NATO.

Chairman of the community board Regina Narušienė said that the community established close relations with US authorities and continued active cooperation with the Lithuanian foreign ministry.

"Lithuanian membership in NATO is very complicated. The expansion of alliance may be delayed, however, it is very important to persuade US that membership of Lithuania in NATO is important not only for Lithuania but US as well", Narušienė told the news conference Thursday.

The chairman noted that Lithuania had to make certain preparations for joining NATO and continuously remind Washington authorities of the Baltic States aspiration to become a member of the alliance.

During our meetings with high officials we keep repeating our position that Poland does not have to be admitted to NATO earlier than Lithuania, otherwise a security balance in the region would be violated,

Lithuanian-American Community, Inc.
Recommendations to Platform Committee
Republican National Committee,
July 31, 1996

Resolution:

The United States with its NATO allies has a historic opportunity to consolidate the spread of democratic institutions and freedom in the eastern-half of Europe, which is the result of the collapse of the Soviet empire, through the enlargement of NATO.

Therefore, the countries of Eastern Europe who have requested membership in NATO and have been making progress in meeting NATO requirements should be designated as candidates for alliance membership now, including but not limited to, the countries of Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

Further, as the leading member of NATO, the United States should lead the effort to facilitate NATO membership for all countries of Eastern Europe that have requested membership and are making progress in meeting NATO membership requirements.

Narušienė said.

However, the community chairman refused to comment on the position of Bill Clinton and Bob Dole on the Baltic States saying that "the positions have not been formed yet but the most important thing was that the candidates would remember the Baltic States".

Lithuanian MP Everistas Raišutis said he believed that a newly elected parliament would create a new parliamentary and US Lithuanian community commission for a more active cooperation.

The second session of this commission already convened in Lithuania and mainly solved the issue on return of emigrants from the West.

Another chairman of the commission Donatas Skučas gave a positive evaluation of the commission work saying that "concrete steps were undertaken in cooperation".

The session approved an important programme titled "integral nation" aimed at unification of the efforts of all the Lithuanians in the world to live together without establishing priorities for somebody's interest.

The United States should steadfastly reject any reimposition of such outmoded 19th century practices as spheres of influence in Europe. The United States should utilize a wide range of diplomatic, political and economic instruments to help the emerging democracies of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia maintain their independence and territorial integrity.

United States foreign assistance programs are a useful and necessary tool of United States foreign policy. Foreign assistance funding has fallen to an unacceptable level which now threatens the effectiveness of United States foreign policy. The nations of Central and Eastern Europe, particularly Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, are being graduated from United States assistance programs too early, endangering the development of a civil society and democratic institutions in the region.

Nuclear Power Plant Restarts Operations

Ignalina, Sept 3 (ELTA) — After five days of stoppage, Ignalina nuclear power plant renewed its operation at the 1,228 MW level.

After the first unit was stopped on August 27, the plant ceased its operation completely, since the second unit (of two) was closed before for a planned repair.

Two thirds of electric power in Lithuania is produced by Ignalina NPP. Therefore, the stoppage caused an urgent increase of power production at the Lithuanian oil-burning power plant in Elektrėnai. The addi-

tional 850 MW required burning of an additional 4 thousand tons of black oil per day.

Kruonis accumulative hydroelectric plant allowed to better distribute the power for consumers.

Total demand in electric power in Lithuania reaches 1 thousand MW. Now both power plants satisfy only 40 percent of the demand. The remaining amount of energy is imported from Russia and Latvia, according to bilateral agreements for supply of power in the cases of emergency.

Lithuanians in Sports



A regular Sport's page contributor for daily Draugas Remigijus Gaška (left) with one of the most loyal supporters and helpers of Lithuanians Dream Team, Don Nelson.

LITHUANIAN STARS SHINE IN OLYMPICS

Who are the best Olympics basketball players?

If you judge by the number of medals won, the answer is Lithuanians, Lithuanians and Lithuanians. That's three-for-three. And that's how many Olympic medals the triumvirate of Arvydas Sabonis, Šarūnas Marčiulionis and Rimas Kurtinaitis has won.

These three Lithuanians stars won a gold medal in Seoul (1988) and bronze medals in Barcelona (1992) and, most recently, Atlanta. Only one other player — the USA's David Robinson — can match their accomplishments.

The list of two-time Olympics medal winners is a bit longer but Lithuanians are well-represented here as well. Valdemaras Chomichius, Gintaras Einikis and Artūras Karnisovas have won two medals apiece. They join the likes of Yugoslavia's Vlade Divac and USA stars Michael Jordan, Scottie Pippen, Karl Malone, John Stockton and Charles Barkley as two-time medalists.

For Sabonis, Divac and Robinson, the 1996 Olympics were a

LITHUANIAN SCHOOL IN MOSCOW OPEN NEW ACADEMIC YEAR

Vilnius, Sep. 02, BNS - on September 1 in Moscow, the new academic year began in the renovated building of the Lithuanian Šaltinėlis (the Spring) School.

Advisor Petras Zapolskas of the Lithuanian embassy in Moscow participated in the school's opening ceremony, presenting the school a gift of a stereo system. Representatives of the Lithuanian community and the Moscow mayor's department of education and culture also took part. The opening ceremony ended with disco dancing.

Zapolskas told BNS that there were 113 pupils, taught by 50 teachers and auxiliary personnel, studying at the Šaltinėlis School this year. The premises for the Lithuanian school, which has been operating now for four years, have been provided by the Moscow mayor's office.

According to Zapolskas, it is hoped that the Moscow mayor's office will appropriate additional funds to expand the school and that as of October the Šaltinėlis School will be one of the most prestigious schools in Moscow.

The Šaltinėlis School is the second Lithuanian school to be opened in Russia. There is another Lithuanian school in the Russian exclave of Kaliningrad.

reunion of sorts. The three superstar centers have been battling each other for international supremacy since they were tall and talented teenagers. In Seoul, Sabonis bested first Robinson, then Divac, in leading the USSR to the gold medal. In Barcelona, Robinson's USA team took the gold, Lithuania won the bronze and Divac, with Yugoslavia ineligible, watched his former teammates from Croatia take silver. Finally, in Atlanta, the order was shuffled again, this time Divac's Yugoslavian squad besting Lithuania before losing to Robinson's "Dream Team".

Kęstutis Pocius

UNEMPLOYMENT CREATES HUGE PROBLEMS

Vilnius, BNS - the level of unemployment in Lithuania in the second quarter of this year was 14.2 percent. This became clear after the population's employment was examined in accordance with Eurostatistics requirements.

A sampling study carried out in July by the department of statistics surveyed 2,000 families with 5,000 members, ages 14-74. The results of the survey were published in the department of statistics' August bulletin, "Lithuanian economic and social development."

According to calculations of the employment office, the average unemployment in the second quarter was 7.5 percent. The greatest unemployment, the new study indicates, is

THEY DID EVERYTHING THAT THEY COULD

BY KĘSTUTIS POCIUS

Interviewed recently by "Lietuvos Rytas," Šarūnas Marčiulionis said that "For me as a basketball player, the national team is of greatest importance. I did everything that I could."

Indeed, though their hearts were willing, their knees were weak. Still, intensity overcame injuries as the Lithuanian Olympic Team (a.k.a. Team Tie-Dye) won its' second consecutive bronze medal in Atlanta.

As the Grateful Dead might say; that's back-to-back bronze, baby!

Arvydas Sabonis and Šarūnas Marčiulionis played with pain the entire Olympics, the result of surgeries and accumulated injuries. Champions, however, don't make excuses, just more effort. For Marčiulionis, it was particularly difficult to play on a knee that was still being rehabilitated. Frustrating, too, because it took away the aggressive, driving game that had become his trademark. Playing on guts and guile, his results speak for themselves.

Team Lithuania's strategy during group-play was to go all-out to beat Croatia, secure a favorable medal-round seed and then rest its stars as much as possible.

Except for the upset loss to Argentina, the plan worked. After missing the Argentina game with a leg injury, Artūras Karnisovas teamed with Gintaras Einikis and Lithuania's "subs" to give the USA's "Dream Team" a run for its money. Subsequent blowout wins over Angola and China gave everybody plenty of playing time.

Scores for the preliminary round:

Lithuania 83 Croatia 81 (2 OT)
Argentina 65 Lithuania 61
U.S.A. 104 Lithuania 82
Lithuania 85 Angola 49
Lithuania 116 China 55

recorded for persons 14-24 years of age (25 percent).

Unemployment among women is also greatest in the 14-24 year-old age group.

25 percent unemployment was recorded for craftsmen and workers in related professions, 12 percent — for machine workers and assembly-line workers, 9 percent — for service and trade workers.

According to education, 35 percent of all unemployed had completed high school, 22 percent — technical schools and 19 percent had professional education. 5 percent of unemployed had college education.

Lithuania finished second to the USA in Group A and advanced to the medal round. Game summaries follow.

Lithuania 99 Greece 66

Team Lithuania, paced by Rimas Kurtinaitis's two three-pointers and two free throws, raced to an early 18-2 and were never challenged in routing Greece. Lithuania hit 7 of 8 shots in the first six minutes while holding Greece to a single field goal. Lithuania led at halftime by 45-19.

Kurtinaitis's play throughout the Olympics was a revelation. The 36-year old veteran, who still plays for Kaunas Žalgiris, combined veteran poise with rookie legs and enthusiasm. His second-half heroics, including a clutch three-pointer, lifted Lithuania past Croatia in that crucial, double-overtime thriller.

Greece, which played poorly (a 41-point loss to Australia) in its final group-play game in order to be seeded in Lithuania's medal-round bracket, heard derisive whistling from its fans throughout the game.

Šarūnas Marčiulionis led Lithuania with 16 points and 7 assists. Kurtinaitis and Artūras Karnisovas tallied 15 points each while Arvydas Sabonis had 10 points and 11 rebounds.

Yugoslavia 66 Lithuania 58

This semi-final game was a rematch of last year's European championship game (won by Yugoslavia) and was one that the Lithuanians desperately wanted to win to have a shot at the gold or silver medal. Unfortunately, the taller and deeper Yugoslavs pulled away in the final minutes.

With the game tied at 58 with 3:22 left to play, Yugoslavia's Predrag "Sasha" Danilovic scored six of his team's final eight points while Lithuania went scoreless.

Rimas Kurtinaitis led Lithuania with a game-high 22 points, including 5-for-7 three point shooting. Fifteen of Kurtinaitis' points came in the first half and kept Lithuania within four points, trailing 35-31.

Arvydas Sabonis, who played the entire game against Yugoslavia's tall, physical front line, had 14 points and 13 rebounds while Šarūnas Marčiulionis added 5 points and 6 assists.

Afterwards, it was a somber Team Lithuania that finally emerged from its locker room. "A real bummer," said a

noticeably limping Marčiulionis while assistant coach Don Nelson remarked, "where's the nearest bridge?"

Lithuania 80 Australia 74

In the bronze medal showdown, head coach Valdas Garastas decided that Lithuania's game would revolve around Sabonis. Playing magnificently, Sabas carried both his teammates' hopes and his country's expectations on his broad shoulders. Putting an exclamation point on his international legend, Sabonis scored 30 points, grabbed 15 rebounds, blocked 5 shots and had 4 assists.

The game was close throughout as Australia, led by guards Andrew Gaze and Shane Heal, wouldn't let the determined Lithuanians pull away. But they had no answer for Sabonis, either. Time and again Sabas scored or passed to open teammates. Hooks, drives, three-pointers and behind-the-back passes — all his skills were on display. On defense, Sabas ruled the lane, blocking shots and grabbing key rebounds.

Leading by 36-34 at the half, Lithuania got solid play off the bench from Darius Lukminas and Mindaugas Žukauskas, who started in Einikis' place. When Australia surrounded the lane in a desperate effort to defense Sabonis, Marčiulionis and Karnisovas began drilling second-half jumpers. Lithuania built leads of 5 and 6 points but no more.

With 1:30 left, Australia had shot its way to within a point at 71-70. Marčiulionis hit 2 free

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throws that were answered by Heal's tremendous fade-away jumper. The score was 73-72 with sixty seconds left. In that final, tense minute, Sabonis converted a 3-point play and Marčiulionis hit 2 of 4 free throws to make it 78-74. Karnisovas added a pair of free throws at the buzzer as his teammates exhaled, then rejoiced. The bronze medal was theirs!

Although Sabas was the biggest hero, he wasn't the only one. Šarūnas Marčiulionis

found his shooting touch in the second half to score 15 points. He also has a game-high 9 assists, none more important than the leaping pass he threw to Sabonis for a 3-point play with a minute left. Artūras Karnisovas also finished strong with 21 points.

As time expired, Sabas grabbed the game ball and tucked it safely under his jersey as Lithuania celebrated, saluted its fans and jubilantly left the court.

Ačiū!

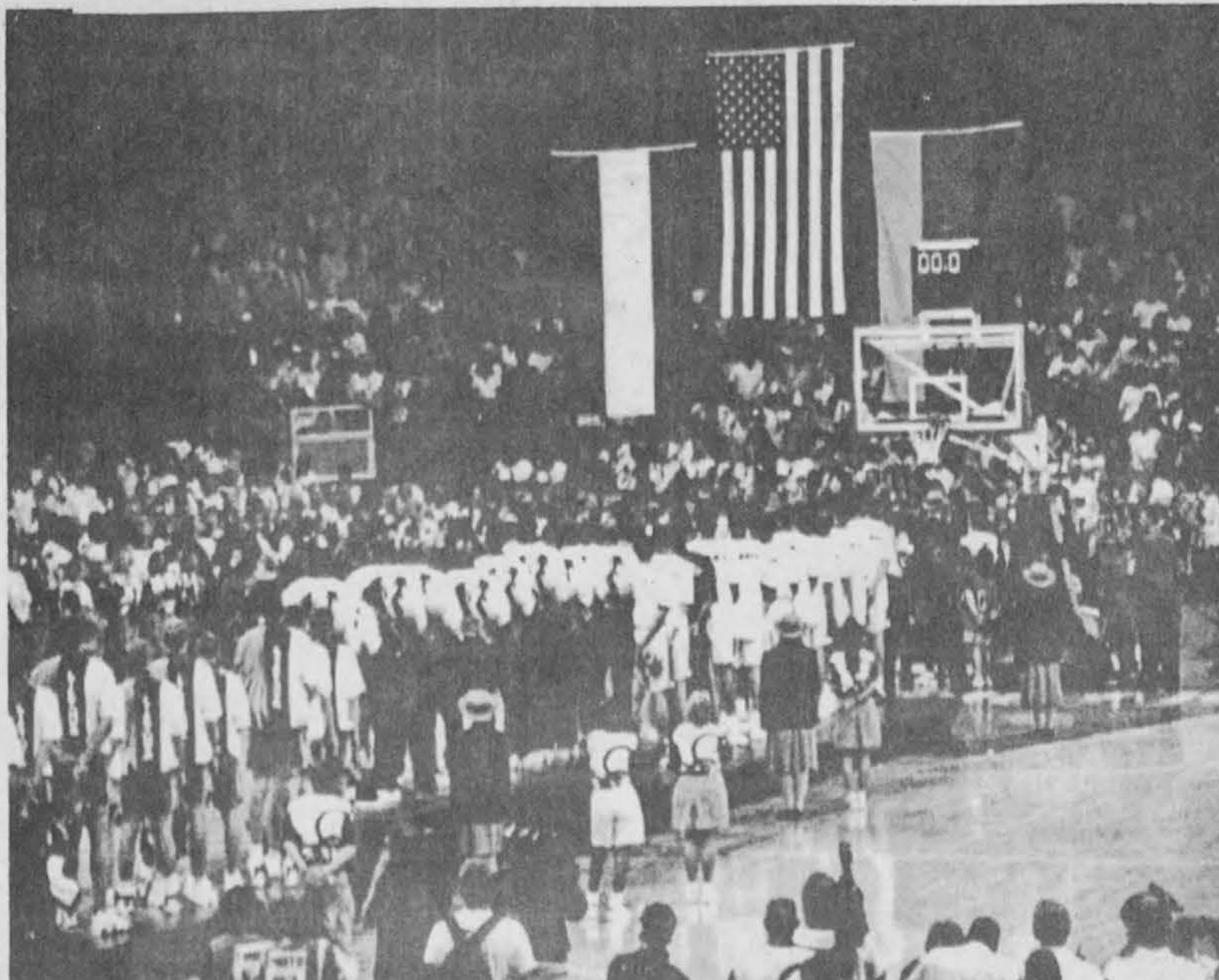


Before going to the Summer Olympics in Atlanta, GA, Lithuania's Dream Team met with worthy opponents in Chicago's Rosemont Horizon stadium. There was some sad but also happy times for many Lithuanian basketball fans. From left: M. Žukauskas, Š. Marčiulionis and Toni Kukoc (middle).

Photo by Kęstutis Pocius



Lithuania's Dream Team in Atlanta, GA, after winning the bronze medal at Summer Olympics.
Photo by A. Jurkūnas



Bronze medal for Lithuania's Dream Team at the Summer Olympics in Atlanta, Georgia.
Photo by A. Jurkūnas

BALTIC: A WINDOW TO EUROPE

BY NERIJUS UDRENAS,
WASHINGTON, DC

Peter the Great "cut a window to Europe" by annexing Livonia and building St. Petersburg on Neva swamps. Does it give Russia a title over today's independent Baltic states? No, but it explains historical Russia's sensitivity in third region. Historical situation has changed and today a state opens itself up to the world not by conquering its neighbors but by respecting human rights, and among them a right to self-determination. Thus, if today's Russia truly wishes to open up again to Europe and world it should establish normal respectful relationship with Baltic nations on the grounds of international law, free trade and respect for human rights. Baltic states are a test of Russia — either they will become a window to Europe once again, or Russia, by mishandling Baltic issue, will lock itself into isolation.

The issue is NATO. Russia opposes NATO enlargement in principal, but especially to Baltic states — Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia constantly hearing and experiencing threats from Russian officials, are eager to join NATO as soon as possible. It may seem that Baltic states worry for no good reason, and create trouble for solid and calculated politics of big players. Doesn't the situation remind of the Balkans in the late 19th—early 20th century? Bulgaria, Romania, Greece, and Serbia repeatedly confused all the cards for big players. They did not follow the spirit of Berlin Congress, which wisely configured destinies of each country, but finally dragged big guys into the bloody First World War. Of course, one might assume, that the small Baltic countries are to blame, for reemerging from occupation and confusing the plans of the world manipulators. Now big guys have to deal with those little pygmies, who get upset if no one consults them when CFE treaty is renegotiated.

NATO question is a thorny one and it has to be faced with all seriousness. Balts, by pushing into NATO, may be creating more problems than benefits for themselves. After all, the debate so far has evolved around timing and membership. Neither politicians nor citizens in the Baltic countries discuss what responsibilities and burdens they will have to assume entering the Alliance? How is membership in NATO going to change geopolitical constellation? Does membership in NATO guarantee protection? Is it feasible to think that NATO will send their troops to defend Daugavpils?

I asked my friend his opinion on NATO enlargement. This young computer expert, not particularly involved in politics, gave a very sober evaluation, "They will not come to defend us! Have you forgotten late forties, when Americans broadcasted to all Lithuania and its freedom fighters? They promised help which never came. Also what did they do in January 1991, when Soviet tanks were attacking? Nothing. The United States were last to acknowledge our independence. I do not believe they're going to come and rescue us. The only thing positive about NATO membership is that it might be significant legally and morally." I haven't asked my friend what he knows about NATO he criterias needed to become eligible for entry. Most likely he did not know much, and if he knew,

would support the membership even less. In Poland, Hungary and Czech Republic experience show that the more public is informed the less it is supportive for the NATO membership.

After end of the Cold War, a purpose of NATO to keep Soviets out, Germany down, has lost some validity. Russia, it is believed, does not threaten West. Germany does not have revisionist ambitions, and only wishes a seat in the Security Council. Then why Americans should be kept in? Americans have expertise, experience and money. Their presence provide a comforting shade of stability and security for Europeans.

Security is a vague concept. Where and who is an enemy? Now after Yeltsin again won the elections in Russia westerners will believe that Russia is not a threat. Although Russian conventional forces undergo downsizing, financial squeeze and decrease of professionalism, analysts understand that Russia still maintains the largest nuclear arsenal in the world. Therefore strategic security depends, whether Russia will stay democratic and unified state, or whether it will plunge into dictatorship and anarchy. For now Russia continues democratic experiment, thus it does not pose immediate threat for Western security. Where does then NATO have to lock for justification of its presence?

Containment of local conflicts is on the agenda of NATO. In order to justify NATO one needs to find new missions for the Atlantic Alliance. One of the missions is shifting emphasis from global deterrence to local containment tasks; the other, flowing from the first, is enlargement of NATO eastwards, thus decreasing probability of local conflicts. NATO Berlin summit on June 3, 1996 devoted more of its attention shaping a new NATO identity. Combined Joint Task Forces, manned by Europeans, commanded by Americans and Europeans, while using borrowed American equipment, will be expected to react quickly and effectively in preventing local conflicts. The agreement increases West European Union (WEU) responsibilities; brings back France into closer cooperation; but confirms technical dependency on American equipment.

What did the summit decide on NATO enlargement? Nothing in concrete terms — Russian elections were too close. It is also true, enthusiasm for enlargement is waning among European partners. United Kingdom half a century ago involves itself in ECE and Baltic States, but now does not have an opinion. France, traditionally supportive of Poland as a counterpower to Germany, does not want to assume any responsibilities in the Baltics. Germany is a major European power pushing for enlargement. Naturally it would get most of the benefits — enlargement would increase its status and power in the immediate neighborhood, and it will also make her the central instead of the frontier power of the Alliance. Scandinavian countries are very interested in NATO expansion to Baltics, because Scandinavian security depends on Baltic region security.

The debate, however, increasingly shows that an expansion, if at all, is going to be gradual, that Czech Republic, Poland,



The restored castle of Trakai, a popular attraction for tourists.

and Hungary have the best chances to get into NATO first. For the Balts, Scandinavians and NATO this is bad news. If it happens, Balts are going to be left out in a "dry zone", both theirs and Nordic security will decrease. It would be bad for NATO too by creating tension between Russia and NATO, and between "ins" and "outs". Russia's pressure and presence is going to be stronger.

Baltic nations are going to have almost no chances to enter NATO in such a case. First, Russia will become more sensitive. Demilitarization of Kaliningrad enclave might become unclear. Second, there will be no funds left to support Baltic military modernization, because Poland, Hungary and Czech Republic will suck up all the money. As the case of East Germany suggests, East Central Europe is a "black hole" for money. A \$60 billion estimate might be overstated, but nobody exactly knows how much it would really cost. Everybody, however, would agree that Baltic region military needs more assistance than Poland or Hungary. These countries had their armies and equipment, while Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia had to build their armies from scratch. But Baltics will not get an assistance — nothing would be left for them.

What has to be done? Baltic leaders have to resist partial expansion which would exclude Baltic nations. Second, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia have to diminish Russian economic influence in the region. It is not an immediate military threat, but Russian economic domination is a threat to Baltics. One way to dominate the Baltic countries is through energy supplies. A survival of centralized energy sector in Baltic countries is very convenient for Russia: Gazprom or Lukoil know exactly where to push when they need to. One does not need to be reminded that Gazprom is a baby of Chernomyrdin. Deregulation and privatization of the energy sector will reduce Russia's economic leverage in that region.

Post-scriptum. Yeltsin won — West is enthusiastic. Baltic and East Central European countries are much more reserved. Baltic states worriedly follow unpredictable moves of Gen. Lebed. Yeltsin also escalates international relations when he announces groundless human rights violations in Baltic countries. In a near future, it is unlikely that Russia would be a dangerous military threat to Baltics. Russia's aim is rather to maintain political influence through economic channels. As long as Russia is not fully democratic, its influence in the Baltics is a danger to national security. Thus Balts have to look for ways to enhance their security. Since NATO and EU membership is nowhere in the

U.S. BALTIC FOUNDATION SPONSORS STANFORD STUDENTS TO TEACH IN THE BALTICS

This summer eight students from Stanford University in Palo Alto, California, will have the opportunity to spend two months in the Baltic States of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia teaching English as a second language. Through the co-sponsorship of the U.S. — Baltic Foundation and Stanford's Students for Eastern European Development (SEED) program, the chosen students have been busy preparing for their teaching homestays throughout the past academic semester. By providing Balts with access to intensive language training, the SEED hopes that its efforts will bridge the communication gap which exists not only among Balts themselves, but between their Scandinavian neighbors as well. Furthermore, each of the selected students will spend their time teaching in smaller Baltic municipalities, where the indigenous populations have had less exposure to Western influence. According to Audrone Pakstys of the U.S.-Baltic Foundation, "the exchange is equally important for its cultural merits as it is for its academic

near future, other ways have to be developed to ensure stability and security in this region. The only effective way to undermine consequences of Russian influence is deregulation and privatization of the energy sector. In order to avoid monopolization of the market by Russian oil and gas giants certain quotas to different countries should be established. Such privatization will be beneficial both for consumers and for the suppliers. Estonia and Latvia has started the process, Lithuania is still planning. There is a hope, it will attract enough public attention to speed up privatization.

By Audrone Pakstys

CONGREGATION OF THE MARIAN FATHERS
American Province of Saint Casimir
6336 South Kilbourn Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60629

September 10, 1996

Mrs. D. Bindokas
DRAUGAS
4545 W. 63rd Street
Chicago, IL 60629

Dear Mrs. Bindokas:

Congratulations on the appearance of the first regular edition of the DRAUGAS in English. I hope this new venture will enable all interested in Lithuanian affairs and culture, but unable to understand Lithuanian or at limited in its use, to be instilled with a deeper appreciation of Lithuanian affairs, culture, and traditions.

Best wishes to you and to all responsible for the English edition. May success crown your effort!

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Rev. Donald S. Petraitis, MIC
Provincial

Danutė Bindokienė

A Time to Act

There comes a time for talking; there comes a time for planning; finally comes a time when all the words and plans aren't enough — we have to step over the line between a dream and reality. However, the last step is filled with uncertainty, even dread. It is much safer to talk, and dream, and plan than take action.

We chose to take that last important step by starting an English edition of the Lithuanian daily "Draugas". Twenty, ten, perhaps even five years ago such a venture was unrealistic. At that time "Draugas" wasn't the only Lithuanian daily abroad and the reading public — mostly Lithuanians who emigrated to the United States after the World War II from Displaced Person's camps in Germany — were numerous, very active in their community and avid readers of Lithuanian press.

Although the latest official US Census shows about a million Americans of Lithuanian descent, many of them are born in this country and have very limited command of Lithuanian language. Nevertheless, they are Lithuanians, proud of their heritage, interested in their roots and supportive to the Land of their parents and grandparents. Those are the people we strive to reach with a weekly English edition of "Draugas" — "The Friend."

Time and time again it was suggested that "Draugas" have a page or a special section in English for readers, who find it hard to grasp the written Lithuanian word. Though tempting, the idea had to be rejected — "Draugas" was started as a Lithuanian only newspaper (later it became a daily) 87 years ago, and it should adhere to that policy even if some of its younger readers experience hardships and therefore fall away.

Over 87 years of faithful service the Lithuanian community, "Draugas" publishers and editors do not think it is prudent to abandon the younger genera-

tions just because not everyone can speak or read fluently in the language of their forefathers. Therefore, it was decided to speak the language they speak, to print the words they can easily read and understand. This in no way diminishes or changes the daily "Draugas" — perhaps even makes it more important — building a bridge between the younger and the older generation using Lithuania, important to both of them as the main component.

We strongly encourage and urge young people to learn and use Lithuanian language. It is a great privilege to own a very special treasure — the oldest living language in today's world. Those who for some reason didn't learn Lithuanian in their childhood or youth, should consider numerous language classes for adults held in Lithuanian Saturday schools and elsewhere. Maybe eventually such students would be able to graduate to a Lithuanian newspaper — the daily "Draugas." In the meantime please consider the alternative: "The Friend." It is also a very fitting gift for mixed nationality married couples, American friends who are interested in Lithuania through business, charity, teaching ventures or just for information's sake. "The Friend" would be right at home in a college, university, high school library, in a doctor's or dentist's office. It only costs \$60 a year and would make a perfect gift that keeps on giving.

Ethnic identity is very important and precious to every person. United States are often called "the melting pot-of-the-world" — but who wants to "melt" and become a faceless particle of a gray mass? By being who we are — and proud of it — we can contribute more to America, to ourselves, and to the Land of our roots — Lithuania. The weekly "Friend" will help preserve the Lithuanian heritage.



"We are Lithuanians at heart, we want to belong to the Lithuanian community, although the lack of Lithuanian language skills sometimes erects barriers"... A weekly edition of "Draugas" in English hopes to tear down some of these barriers.

THE FIRST LITHUANIAN BOOK: FACT AND SYMBOLISM

BY SAULIUS ŽUKAS

The history of every nation contains several symbolic milestones. Lithuania appeared in the history of Europe in the 13th century as a politically active state conducting, at first, its administration in written Latin, Old Slavonic and German. But the maturity of a national culture is usually associated with the time at which an existing oral tradition is replaced by the written and printed word. The earliest Lithuanian manuscripts known so far date back to the beginning of the 16th century, while the first printed book in Lithuanian, Martinus Mosvidius' (Lith. Mažvydas) "Catechismus", was published in Königsberg in 1547.

What is the significance of this event viewed in a wider perspective, especially if we bear in mind that at the time the written traditions of the neighbouring nations — the Poles, Russians and Germans — were already both well developed and rich? Several answers suggest themselves. Looking at it from the source critical point of view, it is interesting as it reflects the confrontation of different cultures: In "Catechismus" we see heathen Lithuania's beliefs cross with Christianity, Catholicism with Protestantism, Polish influence with German pressures, political intentions with cultural aspirations. By its very nature, a cultural event of this kind is bound to focus in itself great tensions, but "Catechismus" also represents a dialogue of European cultures. In the latter sense the book is interesting also for the study of those cultural traditions which conditioned its appearance. Yet the publication of the first book in Lithuanian was also an act which witnessed the determination of Lithuanian culture to look west rather than east by adopting the Roman alphabet and joining the written traditions of Western Europe (political decisions had already been taken before by accepting Christianity, but these had not become yet the foundations of national culture). Lastly, the appearance of the first book in Lithuanian marked Lithuania's determination to build her own culture distinct from and resistant to the overwhelming Polish and German influence.

Such acts of determination are very important in order to ensure the possibilities for the independent existence and subsequent survival of a small nation. For Lithuanians their first book became an important symbol of resistance to various political occupation, including the resistance to Soviet ideology, because the first book demonstrated the depth and continuity of national history and the right of the na-

tion to determine its own destiny.

Mosvidius' "Catechismus"

The first Lithuanian book is a small format publication (18 X 11 cm) including 79 pages, printed in Gothic lettering (except for some titles and the text in Latin). The Latin text is printed very nicely, but the Gothic letters of the Lithuanian text are often uneven and not quite clearly printed; technically, the printing shop must have been of very poor quality. Insufficient attention was paid to types: when running out of one type the printers simply replaced it by another. The number of copies printed was probably somewhere between 200 and 300. The book has been reprinted several times for scientific purposes.

The first Lithuanian book is not only a catechism as the title says. It includes also the first original text in Lithuanian written in verse (the versified foreword), the first Lithuanian primer and the first collection of Lithuanian hymns (it is surmised that Mosvidius was not the author of all the hymns). The author of the book is not indicated in the title page, but J. Safarewicz has deciphered the author's name in acrostic in the foreword written in verse: MARTJNVS MASVJDDJVS. Linguists Ch. Stang and E. Fraenkel have established that the text of "Catechismus" is largely a faithful literal translation from J. Seklucian's (1545) and J. Malecki's (1546) Polish catechisms. Latin sources were also used.

The book begins with an epigram in Latin, dedicated to the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. This is an indication that the author had the reader in Lithuania Major more in mind than the reader in Eastern Prussia. The epigram speaks about the severity of the Last Judgement Day, and calls on people to convert to Protestantism.

Concerning the identity of the author of the Latin foreword "To the guardians and servants of Lithuanian churches...", there are still some doubts. Investigators think that it may have been written by Fridericus Staphylus, a professor of theology at Königsberg University, who had lived in Lithuania and knew Lithuanian quite well. The Foreword criticises the Roman Catholic Church, which allows only the priests to read the Bible, emphasises the benefits of catechism as a primer of faith, and expresses regrets about the estrangement of Lithuanians from the true faith through their pagan beliefs and rites, which they practice quite frequently.

The book also included a Lithuanian primer with an alphabet adapted for the first time to Lithuanian sounds, which clearly follows the Latin pattern.

"Catechismus" itself is composed of the Ten Commandments, prayers, a few excerpts from the Bible which represent the first attempts at translating the Bible into Lithuanian, and some other texts.

The largest part of "Catechismus" is taken up by hymns which are eleven in number, presented together with music in mensural notation. Investigators think that this collection of hymns was compiled by several people. Translations may have been made by Rapaganus, Culvensis, and others, but certainly the largest number of the hymns must have been translated by Mosvidius himself.

The Foreword in Verse

The first line of the Foreword "Brothers and sisters, take and read me" has become a poetic cliché, which is paraphrased in an infinite number of ways. At first sight, this Foreword is a collection of primitive admonitions, phrased in an obsolete language which is difficult to understand. It is written in the form of a conversation or argu-

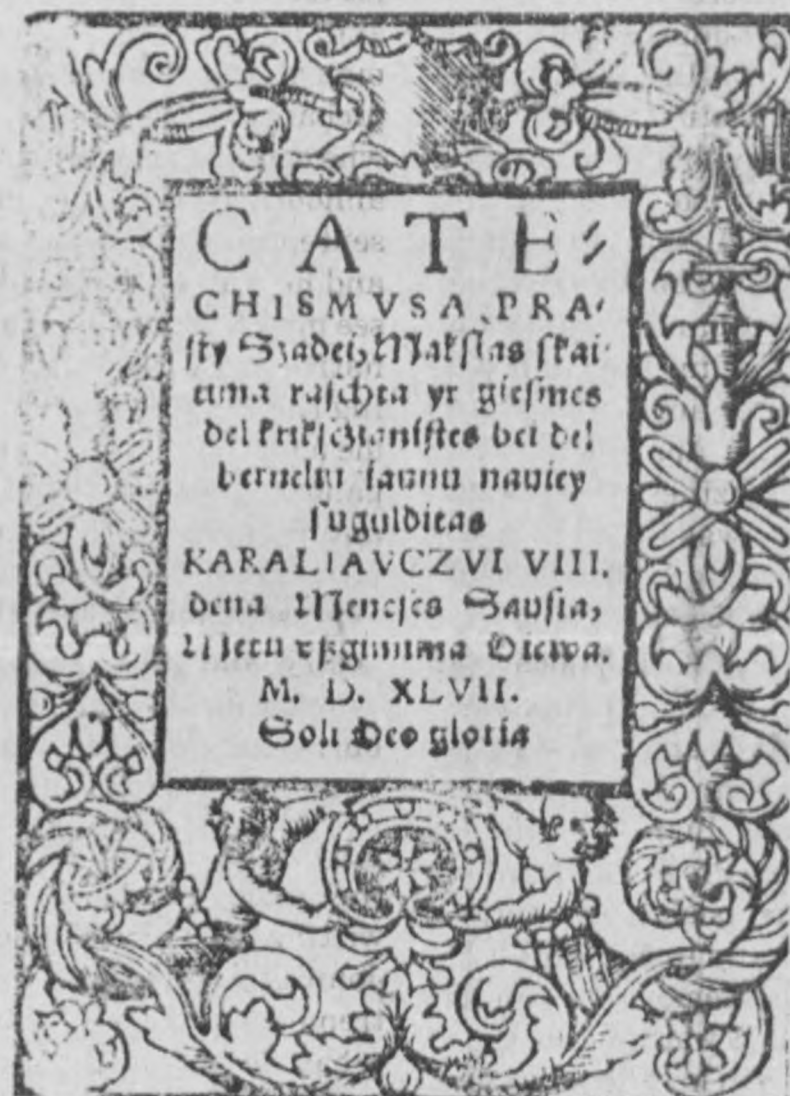
ment, with questions and hypothetical answers of the interlocutor. The intended reader finds himself in the environment of a debate, and he is advised to make a decision in favour of the faith advanced by the Reformation. The book is addressed to three different social strata of readers — the peasant, the landlord and the priest. The greatest part of attention goes to simple people, for their eyes still need to be opened to the advantages of the new creed. The advocate of this creed is, naturally, reluctant to permit a free choice between the old pagan gods and new God. But his interlocutor does not agree with him. He says the pagan customs, i.e. traditional life, is dearer to his heart. It is noteworthy that in the dispute female pagan deities are opposed to male Christian God to the disadvantage of femininity.

The nobility is addressed with the request not only to tell people to attend church, but also to keep an eye on pastors and ensure that they teach people properly; if pastors fail in their duties, the nobility themselves should try and spread the new religion.

But the most important thing is man's ability to read and understand the truth of faith himself. Earlier, in the absence of printed books, the propagation of faith depended on the will of lords and pastors; now, the simple man will be able to do it himself because he has a

book, which is becoming the most important means in the propagation of Christianity. The book marks, in general, the beginning of a new and innovative stage of culture in which the flow of history can be clearly felt, for it marks the demarcation line between things that were and things that are to be, that is, between the past and the future.

Mosvidius wrote his Lithuanian Foreword in a syntactical-intonational versification system based on the similarity of the syntactical structure of lines, which predetermines the similarity of the intonation, while the number of syllables and the distribution of accents is not exactly defined. Thus, the one-hundred-and-twelve-line-long Foreword symbolizes today the beginning of the printed Lithuanian words, as well as the beginning of Lithuanian secular poetry. To the historian interested in the history of culture the Foreword is an interesting piece because it includes a lot of interesting material about the confrontation of Catholicism and the Reformation in Lithuania. To the ethnologist, it gives a lot of information about old beliefs, and contemporary norms of morality and social relations. It is also one of the earliest attempts to articulate Christian culture



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In the 19th century, Lithuania, included into the Russian Empire after the partitioning of the Polish-Lithuanian state in 1795, was drained by successive, honourable, but hopeless uprising. After the uprising of 1863, which aspired to restore the Polish-Lithuanian state and was supported by the participation of large numbers of peasants, the Czarist authorities prohibited the publication of Lithuanian books in Roman letters (Lithuanian books were allowed to be published only in Cyrillic). The ban met with an unexpected and tough resistance which lasted for all of its 40 years: religious and, later, secu-

lar books began to be published in East Prussia, where the majority of the population in border regions was still Lithuanian, and smuggled into the former Grand Duchy of Lithuania. A class of voluntary professional 'book carriers' emerged. They were cruelly persecuted by the Russian gendarmes — more than 2000 people were punished not only for smuggling books, but also for merely reading them. This type of resistance, which was at first more religious than patriotic, played an extremely important role: the mutiny against the Russians became not only wider and more popular, but it also made the Lithuanians accustomed to seeing written texts in their own language, and in Roman characters at that. Very soon it became the primary symbol of identifying themselves with Europe.

In 1883, twenty years after the 1863 uprising, *Aušra*, the first Lithuanian periodic publication of secular patriotic contents, was published in Tilsit, a small town in East Prussia on the Lithuanian border, to be followed soon by other publications in Lithuanian. 1883 is, actually, a recognized historical date marking the beginning of the rebirth of the Lithuanian nation. Thus, Lithuanian national and cultural revival began in a place where Protestant and Catholic cultures crossed, which is a proof that religious differences were no obstacle to dialogue and common work. In one form or another, this situation lasted until the Second World War when the Prussian territory became part of the Soviet Union and the local population, including the Lithuanians who lived in East Prussia, were replaced almost entirely by newcomers from Russia.

Mosvidius' "Catechismus" and his other writings are especially important monuments of Old Lithuanian, therefore they are continually subject to the scrutiny of Baltic linguists. In addition to linguistic information, these texts offer ample material for investigations by ethnographers and experts in religious history; the hymns and the forewords written in verse are analyzed from the point of view of the history of versification. Mosvidius' dramatic life, his dedicated efforts to see Lithuanian book published have become popular plots for contemporary Lithuanian fiction. Finally, today Mosvidius' personality and his work, together with *The Seasons* of Donelaitis, are seen as monuments reminding us of the vanished country, East Prussia.

Preparing to celebrate 500 year jubilee

The Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania has proclaimed 1997 the Year of the First Lithuanian Book. The date is to be marked not only in Lithuania, but is also to reach the present Kaliningrad oblast of Russia where the church building of the former Ragaine parish, served by Pastor Mosvidius, has sur-



Photo by Vytenis Statkus

LOVE FOR A FAR-AWAY COUNTRY

Why would a guy with perfect pearly whites see a dentist more than twice a year?

Because that's who the government sends the dentist. And it just sent him another one.

Patrick King, owner of King Construction and K. International Inc., in McHenry, County, IL in late July played host to Vitalija Stirbienė, a Lithuanian prosthodontist visiting the Chicago area as part of an educational tour for foreign business people.

The U.S. Agency for International Development in Washington, D.C., sponsored the tour through a contracted program named Partners for International Education and Training.

King became involved with the program after visiting Eastern Europe to establish markets for K International, a distribution company providing former Soviet bloc nations with electronics and business information. King, a designer and builder, has lec-

vived to the present day. The highlight, however, of the observation of this historical date will take place in Lithuania: a special programme of publishing Old Lithuanian texts has been launched. Under the programme, a new facsimile publication of Mosvidius' works has already appeared, and other works important to Lithuanian and Baltic studies (including both manuscripts and publications in other languages associated with Lithuania) are being prepared for or are already in the process of publication.

(The First Lithuanian Book and its Cultural context")

OIL REFINERY STARTS WORKING AGAIN

Vilnius, Sept. 6 (ELTA) — Lithuanian oil refinery Mažeikių Nafta Co. on Friday started working again. Oil refinery activities were halted for eleven days, as Russia stopped crude oil deliveries to Lithuania.

At present Mažeikių Nafta Co crude oil reserves stand at 100,000 tons and 300,000 tons of oil are to arrive in the nearest future.

Since the start of this year Mažeikių Nafta Co was forced to stop its activities for the fourth time.

ured in Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Belarus, and Russia on dental practice design and marketing.

"The Soviets absolutely had no consideration for location," King said. "They would put a dental office in the back of a building down an alley. They don't know that the three most important word in business are location, location, location."

Choosing a site is even more important now than when King started his work three years ago because the number of private dental practices in Lithuania alone has shot up from three to more than 200, he said.

Open markets ushered in by the fall of communism enabled dentists, like other professionals to establish businesses, but many practitioners still do not have the training required to provide quality care, Stirbienė said.

"We need a Western standard," said Stirbienė, whose clinic employs seven dentists.

"We were taught by the Soviet standard, and we haven't been taught modern technology. I decided to come here to gain experience, to gain more information about how your dentistry is done and how dental clinics are managed."

In McHenry County, King and Stirbienė visited the dental office of Thomas J. Frymark in Johnsburg, McHenry Dental Specialists in McHenry and Dental Craft Corp., in Ringwood. Dental Craft makes dentures and prosthetic devices Stirbienė and her crew work with every day.

"We have a great need for prostheses," she said. "The area in which we live has a low quantity of fluoride and many people are missing a lot of teeth."

At Stirbienė's clinic, dentists see more than 20 patients a day, she said.

Stirbienė's visit also included trips to the American Dental Association and the University of Illinois in Chicago. At UIC, Stirbienė observed dental labs, bought books and learned about the school's post-graduate courses in prosthodontics. She may enroll at a U.S. dental school if she can afford tuition, she said.

King also has sponsored trips for architects from Latvia, Lithuania and Russia, and he belongs to the Lithuanian Architectural Association.

By Leeann Zouras
"The Business Journal"



Martynas Mažvydas — Father of the first Lithuanian book, published almost 500 years ago.

BRONZE CAPSULE INSERTED INTO THE PEDESTAL OF GEDIMINAS MONUMENT

Vilnius, Sept 6 (ELTA) — A ceremonial was held on Thursday in the very centre of Vilnius City, in the Cathedral Square, where a monument to Gediminas Great Duke of Lithuania started to be built.

Vilnius Mayor Alis Vidūnas and leader of Gediminas Monument Support Foundation Betričė Kleizaitė-Vasaris bricked a bronze capsule into the pedestal of the monument for the next generations.

The capsule contains Gediminas coin issued to commemorate Great Duke's jubilee and bronze medal made for this occasion, a protocol of the monument commission, a poem by Justinas Marcinkevičius about Gediminas, as well as Thursday copies of main Lithuanian newspapers.

Unveiling ceremony of the

Monument is planned for September 22. The Monument is created by a national prize winner Vytautas Kasuba, Lithuanian emigrant living in the USA.

The Monument portrays a Duke standing on a high pedestal with a sword held high. Beyond the Duke's figure, there is a horse — a symbol of a hero. The figures of the Duke and the horse now are being founded of bronze in Tallinn foundry, and soon they will be transported to Lithuania.

The author of localization of the Monument is architect Henrikas Šilgalis, the founding works have been supervised by sculptor Mindaugas Šnipas.

Special foundation established in June of 1993 headed by Beatrice Kleizaitė-Vasaris, an agent of Kašuba, took care about the construction works.

Draugas, Saturday, September 14, 1996

5



A Young Lithuanian mother tries to juggle her responsibilities in a modern society.

LITHUANIA'S WOMEN TODAY

DR. VIDA KANOPIENĖ

Six months after the United Nations' Beijing conference on women, there is still a lot of work to be done to promote women's equality in Lithuania. During preparations for the conference, UNDP supported a secretariat which, along with a national committee, helped prepare Lithuania's report to the conference. The secretariat has now become the Women's Issues Information Centre, working to promote awareness of women's issues, producing, among other things, a newsletter entitled "Women's World".

The WIIC will also arrange seminars and conferences on specific women's issues, and make sure that the media is fully involved. The Dutch government has just approved a grant of \$67,400 for 1996 to fund the secretariat and to arrange for its staff and other people from NGOs or government to attend management training courses.

There is also an urgent need for more information and research into the problems facing Lithuanian women. This would be one of the best ways to raise public and government awareness. As a consequence, UNDP is helping to publish a series of reports. Dr. Kanopienė's "Social Mobility Study" looks at how Lithuanian women's position in the labour market could be improved. "Women in Lithuanian Society", written by Dr. Purvaneckienė, studies women in the family, their attitudes to children and to politics, and the prevailing violence in the family. And a final study on legal discrimination against women shows how the country's laws could be changed to offer more protection for women's rights.

Twelve most urgent problems of Lithuanian women today are:

1. **Human rights:** popular opinion treats women's rights as special, not part of universal human rights.
2. **The legal situation:** Lithuanian laws mean that *de jure* equality has almost been achieved, but *de facto* equality is often violated.
3. **Inequality in decision-making:** despite high education

and equal participation in the workforce, few women have positions of power. Only 7% of Members of Parliament (the Seimas) are women and there is only one female minister.

4. **Feminization of poverty:** women constitute the majority of Lithuania's poor and their average income is 1.4 times smaller than that of men. They also head more single-partner families.

5. **Inequality in economic structures:** women are marginalised in the labour market and in decision-making on economic issues. Their property rights after divorce are vulnerable because the shadow economy means former husbands can avoid paying maintenance.

6. **Violence against women:** 20% of Lithuanian women have experienced an attempted rape, 18% have been robbed and 33% have been heavily beaten.

7. **Women's health:** women are affected by the decline of the Lithuanian health care system as well as inadequate family planning.

8. **Education:** at school, females seem to be treated equally, but in higher education they suffer discrimination — at entry, in competition for higher degrees such as doctorates, and in academic appointments.

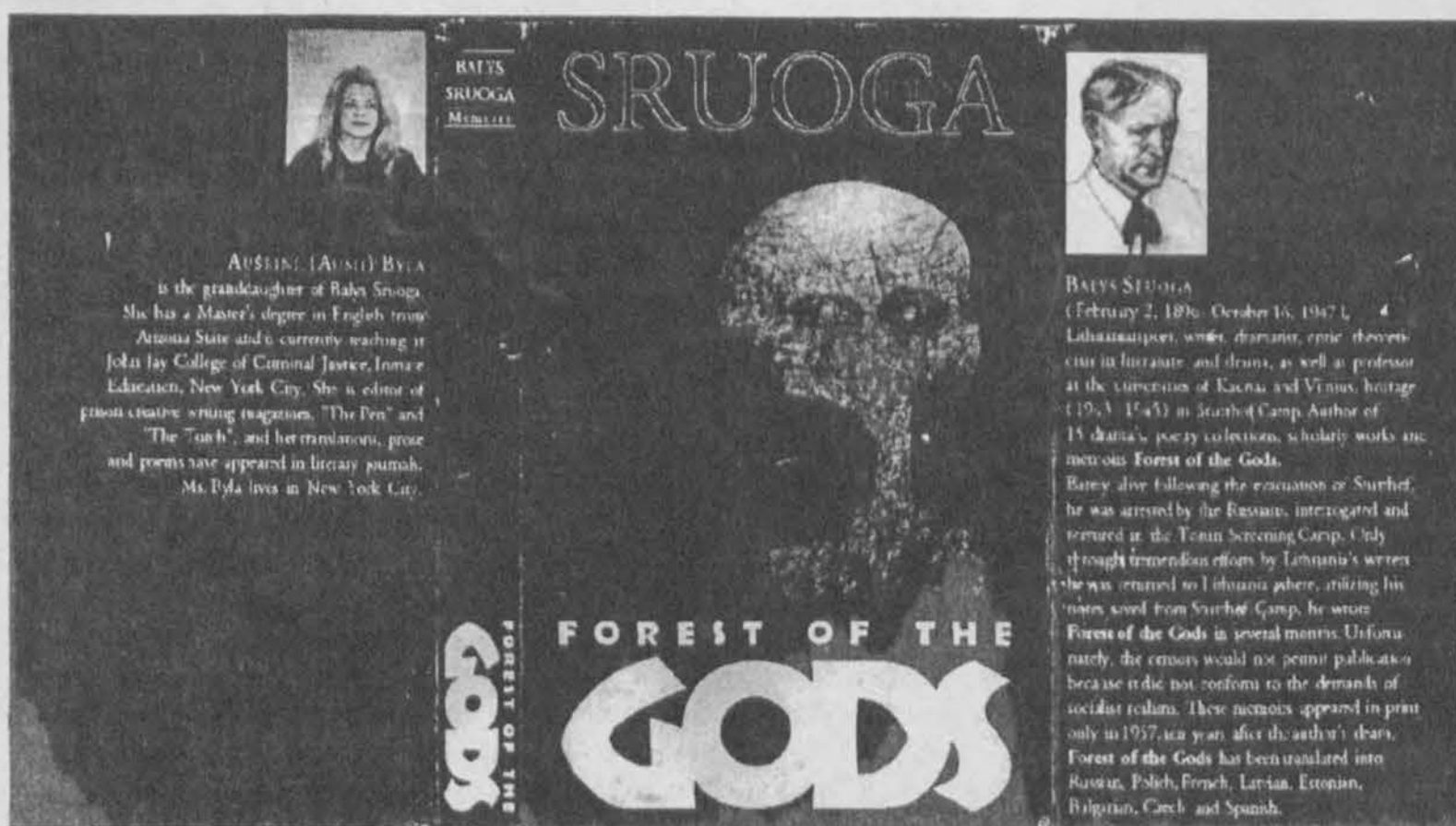
9. **Women and the family:** after independence women were urged to return to the family, but few families can survive on one income, and working women now lack facilities such as day care centres for children.

10. **Statistical data:** existing statistics are insufficient and need improvements to assist policy-makers.

11. **Women and the media:** the media tend to ignore women's issues or portray women according to patriarchal stereotypes as sex symbols or good mothers.

12. **The girl child:** girls in Lithuania face problems such as violence and forced prostitution. There is also a lack of sex education.

The U.N. Bulletin in Lithuania
June, 1996



THE UGLY AND THE BEAUTIFUL SIDE OF LIFE

Romas Daugirdas of Vilnius talks with Aušrinė Byla of New York, a writer and granddaughter of Lithuanian giant of the literary world — Balys Sruoga. She has translated one of her grandfathers books "Forest of the Gods" (Dievų miškas) into English and had it published by Vaga publishers in Vilnius, Lithuania. In this book Balys Sruoga writes about the experiences and indignities suffered at the hands of the Nazis while imprisoned at the Stutthof concentration camp in Germany (1943-1945). In this article Aušrinė Byla explains how this translation came about.

"Forest of the Gods" is a concentration camp memoir dealing with a very specific segment of a society belonging to a tiny country which found itself faced with a peculiar situation: intelligentsia, Lithuania, hostages. These are not the normal admixtures of a Holocaust autobiography. An editor at William Morrow Publishing wrote me a thundering letter to the effect that he can pound his fist on the table and say that books of this nature must be published and must be read but at this time this is not the right book for this agency. When I turned to Jewish organizations like the Simon Wiesenthal Center, I received responses simply stating that there was not enough content about Jews in the book for them to assist me in finding a publisher but they would be pleased to place this book in their library stacks when it was in fact published. Smaller university presses were overwhelmed and were publishing but several books a year and this very specific topic just didn't fit into their agenda. To every editor, this was just a piece of nonfiction. Not one commented on the incredible style and tone of the book. And so it went for a few years until I resorted to stashing the manuscript in my closet.

"Vaga" took my manuscript about 10 years ago but apparently it was merely transported from my closet to its closet. Now, in the spring of 1996, I arrive in Lithuania on what I believe is to be a pleasure trip, and find that I am in fact on a business trip. I am in Lithuania for a number of reasons. My daughter, Alina, is 12 years old and my mother, Dalia Sruoga, and I decided she was ready for an introduction to her heritage. (She's half German). Another reason for choosing this particular time is the celebration of Balys Sruoga's 100th birthday and Volume 1 of 17 projected volumes of his complete works was hot off the press. We were

fortunate to attend the presentation of this beautifully formatted book. Meanwhile, instead of touring and drinking coffee with my friends, I've been proofreading and editing and smiling, deep into the night with the knowledge that Kornelijus Platelis is about to hand me a contract and we will be signing this contract before I leave Vilnius and it will be mutually satisfactory to all concerned. I'm thrilled. The people involved with publishing the book have been warm and cordial and as business like as they can be, considering that most of the staff is shiny and new.

Vilnius has changed. It's been eight years since my last visit. There were no satellite dishes protruding from balconies or row upon row of bananas hanging on major street corners. The veneer is different but the human dilemmas remain the same: survival, not so different from New York.

The translation took about three years of evenings and several summers while I was teaching high school English days. I was naive when I approached this project. Lithuanian and American English are so vastly different in most every aspect and then my grandfather was "a lyricist, a poet," which complicated matters even more... internal rhyme, alliteration, onomatopoeia. I'd check on a word in the Lithuanian equivalent of the Oxford English Dictionary and find that Sruoga was the first to use this word with this particular ending or in this particular context. Was I to do the same with English? As far as I recall, I did do just that on several occasions. Maybe I couldn't use alliteration in just the spot where he did, but I compensated by using alliteration in another paragraph, just to let the flavor out. With words relating to violence, I had a language that was richer and larger and juicier than Lithuanian but with the diminutives in all their shades, I had to plead no contest. The real insanity arose with geographic place names. His world had changed hands so was I to use the Lithuanian, the German, the Russian, the Ukrainian or the Anglicized name? Lwiw? Lvov? Lwow? All three are listed as possibilities in my reference books. Danzig? Gdansk? Now 20 years later as I proofed the manuscript, lo and behold, we have no more USSR and the Russian names are dead! Major changes had to happen to my carefully researched place names. "Forest of the Gods" has a strong undercurrent that not all is right between the Poles and the Lithuanians. Americans (seen by me as the principal readers

of this translations) just wouldn't get it so I started adding footnotes and then the book got quite scholarly which I wasn't planning on when I started. Now I've removed most of the footnotes but the one on these aforementioned relations, remains. As a footnote to this question, I'd like to say that my grandfather died before I was born but by analyzing, scrutinizing his use of language and word choice, I got quite close to the man and I thoroughly enjoyed what I found. I also know that I wouldn't dare touch any of his other writings for translating purposes. On occasion I'll translate Liūne Sutema, a woman living in the States, my favorite poet. I've attempted translating Lithuanian women's poetry, poetry written in Lithuania but the tone and subtext was too alien for me; the temperaments, world views were too strange and pastoral for my urban self and I quit.

Right. I am not a translator. I have a Master degree in English from Arizona State University. I've dabbled in some writing of my own and I've done readings and performances but primarily I'm a teacher. While I lived in Chicago, I taught high school English in all Black schools for a number of years. By 1980, I found myself fulfilling a fantasy. I had fallen in love with Jamaica and its people, its music, its lilting patois language. A lot of my poetry was about this island and I was reading my poetry accompanied by a Rastafarian friend playing the congas. I took it all a step further. I moved to New York to start an all-female reggae band which I did and the band, Steppin' Razor, was the first all-female reggae band in music history. I played synthesizer for eight years with a wonderful group of women who all played instruments, wrote music and sang but it was not the right decade for women in music. Now, the 90's are much more conducive towards this type of thing. We were professional musicians but we were treated as a novelty act: "All White! All Female! All Reggae!" Imagine billing any band as: "All Black! All Male! All Reggae!" It was rough, the manual work of touring was tough, and as James Brown says, "It's a man's world!" I don't regret the ex-

perience for a minute. It was funny that the Jamaican reggae colors were yellow, green and red, just like the Lithuanian flag and we frequently dressed in these colors.

I had a 24-hour rehearsal studio, Cool Run-Ins, which I leased by the hour to local musicians, as my primary source of income. I also lived in this loft/studio. I sold the studio when the band became the equivalent to a band relationship. My husband, my then four year old daughter and I, moved into a "normal" apartment away from the craziness of the music business. I was forced to resort to my teaching experience once more for survival.

The "New York Times" ran and ad for a GED teacher. I answered it and got the job through John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Inmate Education Program: teaching on Rikers Island, the largest prison colony in the world. My specific placement was in the men's AIDS ward. I mean I got an education in college, I got an education in the music world, but it was here that I got education on humanity, incarceration, living with AIDS, and teaching with the knowledge that my students will be dead soon. This was in 1988 when AIDS was still "The Monster". These men, these skids, these low-lives, drug addicts, sociopaths, deviants, infected with "The Monster" were among the kindest humans I have ever encountered. And I was privileged to have them at a time when they were straight (on the street they were high), when they were clean (on the street they were homeless), when they had time to devote to poetry, writing, psychology, debate (on the street they were hustling). I remember writing in my journal after my first day on the job that, "Life will never be as beautiful again." It was true. I was right. I had to get tough



Aušrinė Byla.

THE "SNOWBALL" IS ROLLING

If you thought the drug and alcohol problem in America was bad, try Lithuania.

The citizens of that feisty Baltic state that declared its independence from Soviet domination — before the fall of Communism — are in the thrall of a drug that is as much a part of the culture as "kugelis".

That drug is alcohol and the drink of choice is vodka.

Jack Irwin, Batavia schools' prevention coordinator, is one of four teachers and 10 high school students and recent graduates going there this summer to teach drug prevention.

Irwin, who is part Lithuanian, went there as a tourist in 1992. Struck by the classic beauty of the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius, Irwin came home very enthused about being Lithuanian.

He joined the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture in Chicago when he came back. Lithuanian language classes were among his interest there.

"I asked my teacher if there was anything I could do to help Lithuania."

She referred him to the AP-LE organization, an acronym for American Professional Partnership for Lithuanian Education. The organization is helping to reform Lithuania's educational system.

He offered his expertise as a high school counselor and substance abuse coordinator for Kaneland schools, at the time.

As it happened, they wanted someone to teach substance abuse prevention. So last summer, Irwin was one of 80 AP-LE teachers who went to Lithuania to teach. Carmen Samples, prevention coordinator for the St. Charles school district, went along and is going again this year.

They taught a class of 24 in Marijampolė. "It was the first time this issue was addressed," he said. "Drinking is an integral part of the culture. Alcohol is their drug problem, primarily vodka. You see people in toxicated on the streets. Their addiction rate is same as ours, 10 percent, but their drugs walk and our drugs drive, so you see them".

They went to an English class where one of the teachers was leaving and brought lunch for everyone. "So we walked to the teacher's room and she had open-faced sandwiches and two bottles of champagne and one bottle of vodka. And right in

school, they're all drinking."

Because of what they were there to teach, Irwin and the group decided not to drink no matter the circumstances. They were frequently invited out because Lithuanians were excited to have contact with Americans. Everywhere they went, they were pressured to drink.

Alcohol was a major part of every gathering. when they refused vodka, the hosts would offer champagne. When they said no to taht, then they were offered cognac.

"Just the pressure," Irwin said. "I don't know how a newly recovering person could make it because of the pressure. It's such a part of being a good hostess, they press to drink."

They filmed the high schoolers in Operation Snowball, the high school drug prevention program, and showed it to the Lithuanian teachers so they could get an idea of what Snowball was. They wanted it. The big question was, could they do it? Bring a group of young people with them to show how Snowball works?

Irwin said yes. But now the project is in jeopardy because of lack of funds. "I made some wrong assumptions, that the Lithuanian-American community would jump right in on this and help out on it," Irwin said. "Various organizations have not come through" with the money to support such a trip. "We talked earlier that we really didn't want to beat, the community (for donations). We didn't and now it's come back to haunt us. We could have raised enough funds since last September and we didn't."

The group had a fundraising car wash from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on June 4 in the Mid-America Bank parking lot near the Fox Field Theaters in St. Charles.

The St. Charles American Legion gave \$1,000. Intervention, a Chicago treatment program, said it will match donations up to \$6,000.

The whole trip will cost \$15,000 for the four adults and 10 youngsters to go — \$1,000 per ticket on Scandinavian Airlines and, because the housing is all arranged with Lithuanian families, only an additional \$1,000 for expenses, Irwin said.

All the money had to be in by June 15. Irwin was going July 3 for six weeks, Samples came



Lithuanian girls in Kaunas.

Photo by Pranas Abelkis

FROM DREAM TO REALITY

with the teens on July 28. The students will stayed two weeks.

The importance of teaching teens self-esteem and leadership skills in connection with prevention is almost immeasurable, Irwin said. It's one thing to teach adults; it's another for a handful of teens to teach other teens how to create a Snowball prevention program themselves.

You could almost say the program is necessary not only to help Lithuanians deal with alcohol problems, but to help them recover from the residual effects of communist rule.

Because everything always came from the top down, the Lithuanian teachers were not used to coming up with their own ideas. When the class was asked to come up with a topic for presentation of a prevention theme, they couldn't cope with having to think of something on their own. "It was painful to watch them be so afraid", Irwin said.

They taught the Lithuanians the concept of "brainstorming", and that helped. "Once they started doing that and weren't criticized, they came up with just a fantastic program. They took a traditional Lithuanian drinking song based on the months of the year.

"All the people born in January stand and the end line is something to do with drinking and you shug. They changed it to something healthy," Irwin said. "It was so rewarding, but they have a long way to go."

The youngsters who wanted go were Andy Hauser of Aurora, a graduate of Marmion; Aaron Cox of East Aurora High School; Sara Barbel and Leslie Devereaux of Batavia; John Boggs, Louis Verzi, Meghan Fislter and Geanna Desideri of St. Charles; Amy Reynolds of Kaneland High School; and Michael Bruce of Springfield.

Irwin said in order to raise the money, Hauser is contacting alumni with Lithuanian last names. The rest are asking service clubs, including Kiwanis, Moose, American Legion and Lions, for support.

If anyone would like to make a donation, checks should be made out to Operation Snowball-Lithuania. The address is Greater Fox River Valley Operation Showball, 1329 Garden (court, Batavia, Ill., 60510. Irwin said the group is tax exempt and all donations are tax deductible.

"These kids are leaders in our program," Irwin said. "We could have done this by saying who can afford it, but we wanted the best kids to introduce the program to Lithuania, not just kids who could afford it".

by Brenda Schory
"Kane County Chronicle"

The 46-year-old Sri Lankan ambassador to Lithuania resides permanently in Stockholm.

ESTEEMED PROFESSOR IS LAID TO REST

A LITHUANIAN DENTIST IN THE LAND OF PLENTY

It has been nearly five years since Lithuania earned its independence from the former Soviet Union, but the transition to freedom is far from complete.

Dr. Vitalija Stirbienė, a dentist from Vilnius, the capital city of Lithuania, has come to the U.S. as part of a business exchange called Entrepreneurial Management and Executive Development. Stirbienė hopes she can teach what she learns in the U.S. to other dentist back home, through seminars.

"My main aim was to compare where my skills in dentistry fit in," Stirbienė said. "I am pleased to see that I am somewhere near the top. But I still want to raise the general level of dentistry in Lithuania."

Stirbienė said it has become fashionable in Lithuania to have one's teeth fixed.

"Everyone wants to look Western. A wonderful smile has the esteem of success," she said. "But there is a shortage of people with dentistry skills. There is a wait of up to six months for people who want bridges, crowns or dentures."

Despite the popularity of prosthetic dentistry, Stirbienė faced obstacles to establishing her office in Vilnius.

"We have had a difficult time making the transition from state-run medicine to private practice," Stirbienė said. "Changing people's opinion has been the hardest thing. They still believe that private-practice doctors are bad. Today they don't understand why they must pay."

Patrick King, president of K International Inc. of Johnsburg, has been Stirbienė's host in the Chicago area. King has been involved since the early 1990s with the not-for-profit group Partners for International Education and Training, which allows these business exchanges.

"As the world shrinks and becomes a more global society," King said, "it became very rewarding to assist those like Stirbienė who are eager to improve their lives."

During her 22-day visit, Stirbienė visited the University of Illinois at Chicago, the American Dental Association in Chicago and other dental offices.

"We cannot start from zero," Stirbienė said. "We must learn from others. The Americans have been very helpful, and being a part of the business exchange permits me to view the American path and learn from others who have gone this way."

Barbara Church

Vytautas Kavolis, a Dickinson College professor, an active member of Lithuanian cultural community abroad, has devoted his academic life to his homeland — Lithuania. He died in Vilnius, Lithuania on June 24, 1996 while doing scholarly research.

Vytautas Kavolis was a winner of Lithuania's National prize for Culture and Art in 1993, and one of the worlds leading scholars on comparative civilizations. He was buried in the Antakalnis Cemetery in the capital of Vilnius. This cemetery is usually reserved for the country's most revered people — artists, writers, poets, educators, and statesmen.

Prof. Kavolis was born in Kaunas in 1930. He earned a bachelors degree from the University of Wisconsin his masters and doctoral degrees from Harvard University. He came to Dickinson College in 1964 and at the time of his death was a Charles A. Dana professor of comparative civilizations, named to this post in 1975 in recognition of outstanding teaching and scholarship.

During his Dickinson tenure, prof. Kavolis also served as a visiting professor at the New School for Social Research in New York and at the University of Vilnius, Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas and Klaipėda University. The latter university granted him an honorary doctorate in 1995.

Vytautas Kavolis was a lecturer in cultural history and organized sociology and comparative civilizations studies programs at Lithuanian Universities. He was also a prolific writer — published 16 books, more than 130 articles and 20 book reviews. He edited and wrote for a Lithuanian culture and society magazine Metmenys (was also one of the magazine's founders). His works have been translated into Swedish, Spanish, Portuguese; of course, he wrote in Lithuanian and English. In the United States he resided in Carlisle.

E.P.



Prof. Vytautas Kavolis



The Hill of Crosses near Šiauliai.

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