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Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union

## **President's Message**

Dear Readers,

З Новим Роком! We enter the new year with the full momentum of Euromaidan: barricades, mass demonstrations, vigils, and Twitter storms. SUSK and its member USOs have continued to express their solidarity with the people of Ukraine through participation in local community events intended to raise awareness of and express support for the basic tenets of democracy in Ukraine.

2014 also brings several important commemorations and celebrations. In March, Ukrainians all over the world will honour the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of the great poet Taras Shevchenko. His wisdom and patriotism, embodied in his famous words "Бопіреся, побопере!" are of particular significance today, as Ukrainians continue to stand for their rights and freedoms at Euromaidan, and as the world turns its eyes to Sochi, the host city of the Winter Olympics and the ancient homeland of the Circassians.

This academic year also marks an important milestone for SUSK, as we celebrate our organization's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Over the years, SUSK has played an integral role in the Ukrainian Canadian community by engaging youth and fostering their development for future positions in both their career and community. I am proud to announce that the SUSK National Executive has committed itself to reflecting on and preserving SUSK's rich history by digitizing all published issues of "Student". The launch of an online archive will coincide with this year's National Congress, to be held in Toronto May 8-11, 2014. The Congress is an incredible opportunity to meet students from across the country, participate in professional development seminars and workshops, and continue to strengthen and develop SUSK by electing a National Executive and adopting resolutions for the future. I hope that many of you will join us!

З повагою – Regards,  
Christine Czoli,  
SUSK President





## **Ukrainian Protests: Canadians are Watching**

**With more than 1.2 million Canadians of Ukrainian origin, the Diaspora in the country is closely watching the upheaval of Maidan. If the marchers in Kiev protest against the Yanukovych government, a Canadian delegation, for its part, is worried about another aspect of Ukrainian politics: the worsening of the lack of election transparency.**

A team of 26 Canadian observers was in Ukraine last December. They were not there to study the protests that started last November, nor did they go to Maidan square. The team was there to monitor by-elections that were occurring in 5 Ukrainian districts. The conclusions of this Mission Canada, nevertheless, would probably not calm the Ukrainians demonstrating against the Yanukovych government: "Based on this mission : It is fair to say that Ukraine's experience of democracy is heading in the wrong direction", explains Yaroslav Baran, spokesperson for Mission Canada.

Since 2010, a troop of Canadians have monitored Ukrainian elections to check their transparency and make recommendations. Among the troops in 2013 were former chief of the Liberal

Party of Canada, Stephane Dion, and federal Members of Parliament Ted Opatz and Russ Hiebert. This team was small compared to the 2010 and 2012 elections, in which about 500 Canadians were on the field.

The conclusion of Yaroslav Baran and his team is clear: the legitimacy of elections has diminished in 2 years, and this decline is continuing. "The kinds of irregularities that we saw in these 5 districts were quite similar to the irregularities of 2012: incidents of vote buying, misuse of the press, violation of electoral laws..." Mr. Baran explains that the final report of the mission is not entirely negative, and his final results are balanced. He also explains that the 5 districts observed in 2013 were the ones with the worst results in 2012. However, he does not hesitate to say that there is still room for improvement to have transparent elections. The conclusions of the Mission do not surprise Maria Popova, professor of Political Science at McGill University: "democracy has been in decline in Ukraine since Yanukovych won the 2010 election", she explains.





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## Election and Democracy

Raynell Andreychuk was the head of Mission Canada's 2010 and 2012 teams. She says she has observed a country that has been independent for only 20 years, and that is still developing its democratic institutions. She says she has also seen a people that "want to vote and express their will". She sees this desire of the Ukrainian people in the marchers occupying Maidan. Raynell Andreychuk establishes a link between Mission Canada's observations and people protesting in Kiev: "people are frustrated that their free will wasn't translated into governance."

Last November, demonstrations began when Ukraine's president Viktor Yanukovich suspended negotiations for an economic agreement with the European Union. A few days later, on November 30<sup>th</sup>, after the police violently repressed protesters, the nature of the movement, according to Maria Popova, rapidly changed: "the protesters are not all in favour of European integration (...); the movement is not as much about the European Union, but about corruption and police brutality". She adds that "what worries most people is the selective way in which the laws are applied." Darina Naumova, a Ukrainian student at McGill University, comes to

the same conclusion: "the protests are not about the European Union anymore, but about our rights, the rights of Ukrainian people, and democracy".

## An Attentive Diaspora

Thousands of Canadians with Ukrainian origins are watching the upheaval of Kyiv attentively: "as much as I would like to go, I have to stay here", explains Darina Naumova. The size of the Ukrainian community in Canada allows the community to play an influential role with respect to this Eastern European nation. "The role and the assistance of Canada are well-known in Ukraine", supports Yaroslav Baran. However, with the actual crisis, Senator Andreychuk believes that Canada has to be careful because diplomatic actions are risky: "**we cannot have excessive reactions to it. We are concerned about the role that Russia is playing. If you close the door for dialogue and engagement, you leave Ukraine no choice, as its officials say: "our only option left is Russia."** She thinks Canada should push Ukraine to have a **balance between Russia and the European Union.**

Maria Popova, from McGill University, thinks many initiatives can be taken to





ease tensions in Ukraine. Among others, she thinks of some kind of mediation by the European Union. Also, she proposes economic sanctions, similar as in the Orange Revolution, but she assumes this option is very unlikely. On January 29, the Canadian government restricted visa entry for many Ukrainian diplomats.

Taras Zalusky, Executive Director of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, pushes Canada to sign a free-trade agreement with Ukraine. For the future of Ukraine, he stresses that the country has a very vibrant civil society. He therefore stays optimistic: “now that they have a taste for democracy, they will not give up that easily”, he promises.

Stéphanie Fillion

### **Networking Event Outcomes**

On Thursday, November 21, 2013, the first Networking Event for Students and Recent Graduates was co-hosted by SUSK and the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Association (UCPBA) of Toronto. The event was a great success with nearly sixty youth and twenty professionals and entrepreneurs present.

As a result of this productive networking

event, SUSK is proud to announce that five recent graduates secured full-time positions, one student acquired a part-time position, and several others have interviews in the near future! Congratulations and best of luck with your future endeavors!

For those that were unable to attend the first event in Toronto, we hope to have more in the near future that will be held not only in Toronto, but nationwide. Stay tuned for updates!

Olena Kit

### **Провокатори**

За остані два місяці слово “провокатор”, дуже швидко, посіло місце одного з найпопулярніших слів в Україні. До недавнього часу, провокаторами називали всіх, хто рішуче діяв і вів війну проти бандитської влади. Але тепер “провокаторами” стала більшість, тому що, люди зрозуміли, що Правий Сектор і інші активні організації Майдану - єдині хто по-справжньому борються з владою. Я сам вірив у мирний протест. Просто проблема у тому, що для результативності



мирного протесту потрібна сильна, ідейна політична сила. У нас її, нащастя не знайшлося. Я кажу “нащастя”, бо те, що зараз відбувається в Україні - найкраще, що могло бути. Це той самий момент, коли народ перетворюється у націю. Коли схід і захід справді разом. Коли декілька поколінь разом борються за майбутнє своїх дітей. То ж, хто такі ці “провокатори”? Це - прості українці - хлопці і дівчата, мами і тати, бабусі і дідусі, всі хто хочуть жити у вільній державі. На Майдані та на Грушевського можна побачити як сімнадцятирічна студентка приносить медикаменти, як бабуся з дідусем насипають мішки для барикад, як матір підходить до солдатів внутрішніх військ і благає їх згадати присягу яку вони давали Українському народові, як бізнесмен відбиває бруківку аби хлопці на передовій кидали її у псів режиму, та як молодий футбольний уболівальник готує коктейлі молотова (які вже прозвали “коктейлями Грушевського”).

Ці “провокатори” - це найкращі сини



і дочки України! Вони зараз єдине, що може змінити цю систему, частиною якої є не тільки влада, а й псевдо-опозиція, яка зрадила Український народ своєю бездіяльністю. І я теж - “провокатор”, бо я хочу змінити цю державу, а не давати “опозиції” вирішувати, що робити з моєю Батьківщиною. Нещодавно, Яценюк сказав: “завтра, якщо куля в лоб, то куля в лоб”. Чому ж він не на барикадах? Щуряча душа злякалася? А де Тягнибок і Кличко, котрі закликали народ до Революції близько пів року назад? Ось він - народ. Ось вона - Революція. Вони показали, що вони є пристосуванцями, а не лідерами. Тепер говорить вулиця, а не вони. Зараз відбувається Революція Гідності, а Майдан - це наша Січ. То



ж, візьмемось за зброю і відстоїмо нашу волю, по-справжньому, а не з ліхтариками і танцями біля сцени. Слава Нації!

Артем Чаплинський  
“провокатор”

### **Living in the Article: Why Your Ukrainian Friend Gets Angry When You Say “The Ukraine”**

To my friends, professors, peers, and people everywhere,

For the last four years, I have been studying at the University of King's College and Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. It should be said that the stereotype is very real – east coasters are really quite wonderful people. If you're cold, they will provide you with mittens and hot chocolate. However, I find myself having to explain myself more and more often in the nicest voice I can – “No, it's not ‘the’ Ukraine. It's just ‘Ukraine’.” I get a humble apology from my boss or my peer or my friends and I smile and they ask “So, yeah! What's going on in the Ukraine?” This issue isn't exclusive to the east coast population either, this happens on an international scale.

Although the article seems almost meaningless to non-Ukrainians, the

crucial use of ‘the’ before Ukraine sends many messages to your now-miffed Ukrainian friend. “But why?” I hear you ask.

During the time of the Soviet Union, Ukraine was not ‘Ukraine’, it was the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic. From 1919 to 1991, Ukraine's name was a few words longer and the world saw it as The Ukraine. The Ukraine was a time of totalitarian rule, the Holodomor, the Cold War, and most prominently a Soviet social ideal. An ideal that many people died to change. An ideal that many people did not live to see come into fruition.

On August 24<sup>th</sup>, 1991 Ukraine declared its independence and in dropping the weight of the Soviet Union off its shoulders, it dropped the ‘The’ that made it a Soviet state. That August marked the political shift for Ukraine that it had been fighting for since 1919. That August was when maps had to be changed to cross out the article before our name. The ‘the’ holds us back from progress; the ‘the’ is keeping a whole culture from moving forward.

Nothing is more angering than hearing our history overshadow our accomplishments.



So, when your Ukrainian friend pauses and closes their eyes when you drop the article bomb on them, remember the weight of a single article to a whole culture and nation of peoples.

PS. And if you are someone who is older or 'just can't seem to get it,' we are not going to forgive your ignorance and your erasure. Enough is enough.

Ariana Potichnyj

### **Одна Родина За Столом**

Dear *Student* reader, due to a recent tipping of the supply and demand scales of the global illegal drug market by the consumption habits of a certain Canadian mayor, I was unable to obtain the stimulants required to spur my creative writing and thus failed to contribute an article for the previous issue of *Student*. However, thanks to a recent under the table arrangement between myself and another unnamed party involving my attendance at a rally with a mandatory wardrobe consisting of a Party of Regions scarf and an anti-European Union integration sign, I was able to acquire a sufficient quantity of гривні (although less than I had been promised) allowing me to acquire the

necessary substances to help reload my creative juices. This being the case, I have once again returned to share with you a riveting tale. This crazy, twisted and wild story will focus on a well-known pan-Slavic villain whose vile ways have been immortalized in folktale stories used to discourage bad behaviour in children for generations... the infamous Baba Yaga!

Most of you are likely reasonably familiar with the notorious queen of folktale terror known as Baba Yaga, the crazy lady that flies around on a mortar with pestle, lives in a house which stands on a chicken leg and enjoys eating children, or something along those lines. These conceptions probably came about as a result of last ditch efforts by your Ukrainian youth group camp councillors to secure your obedience to them. You are however probably not aware that Baba Yaga also has a husband whose name is Dido Yogo (don't bother looking that up. Due to a classic case of Putin information tinkering, his existence has mysteriously disappeared from the public record. Not to fret however, I heard on the BBC (baba babi skazala) that Jesse Ventura has nearly completed his work on unraveling this great mystery).





Not much is known about Dido Yogo except that he is widely considered to be blind (this is based on the theory that he could not have possibly agreed to marry Baba Yaga had he ever actually seen how hideous she looks). However, there is now a new emerging school of thought which postulates that Did Yogo was in fact not blind, and opted to marry Baba Yaga despite her horrendous looks due to her unparalleled ability to use her iron teeth for sexual pleasuring. In any case, he is the single (un)lucky gentleman in history to be married to the inglorious Baba Yaga.

The two of them live together in a house deep in the forest. Due to the remoteness of their house within the deep woods, and general lack of children within the vicinity of said woods, the two are forced to make trips out to the nearest tabir, ridna shkola, sadochok or the like to find their next meal. Usually Baba Yaga is the one who makes the trips out due to her Maverick level piloting abilities of the mortar. However, due to the recent emergence of a midlife crisis and subsequent onset of rave and disco-teka frequenting, combined with a Richard Simmons workout film obsession, leading to an unfortunate lower back injury, Baba

Yaga was unable to make the trip on the particular occasion of which I am sharing a story with you about. This being the case, Baba Yaga sent Did Yogo to go in her place.

Did Yogo was not a particularly skilled grub scavenger nor did he possess a valid class 72 driver's license (one in an unnecessarily long list of provincial license classifications which allows for the operation of magical folktale based vehicles) and thus was not keen on performing this particular task. However, as with any healthy marriage, when the individual without the Y chromosome commands, the individual with the Y chromosome obeys. So, much to his chagrin Did Yogo took the mortar and went zipping off through the woods.

Meanwhile, back on the home front Baba Yaga was tasked with completing the remaining preparations for the meal. This included setting the table, cutting firewood and preparing the stove. This mundane set of chores was usually Did Yogo's responsibility but today the roles were reversed. Baba Yaga however, was a free spirit, she was used to flying through the air at breakneck speeds. The boring housekeeping role wasn't really her jam. Fortunately, Baba Yaga had





scored some sick LSD during her latest rave outing. This was sure to make her tasks a little less dull and a little more groovy, she thought as she popped a tab.

After a terrifying tree-dodging journey through the woods Did Yogo noticed a number of dents dotting the side of Baba Yaga's prized mortar and a large scratch running right across the face of a new Bob Marley decal (a recent mortar apparel addition of the midlife crisis variety). He continued on to the nearest town and made his way to the local Ukrainian education facility. Upon arrival he pulled out a fishing rod, and fastened a large burger to the end of the line (a foolproof method of luring in a plump student on lunch break). After hiding behind a tree he cast the line out into the field where the children were enjoying a break from class and in two shakes of a lamb's tail a curious youngster had taken interest in the bait. Did Yogo pounced on the opportunity and snagged the confused youth. However, due to his before mentioned less than stellar vision capabilities Did Yogo failed to realise that the particular adolescent he had caught was in fact not of the plump variety but instead of a slender build, all skin and bones.

This was owing to that fact that at the time of purchasing the bait burger used in this ingenious plan his poor vision had also failed to notice the 'veggie burger' label on the packaging. This being the case he had unwittingly caught a vegan child who was by some mysterious coincidence also the skinniest kid in the class. Oblivious to this and the lashing awaiting him at home from Baba Yaga for the poor meat per prey ratio he would be returning with, he hopped back into the mortar and began making his way back to the house with his catch.

After another hectic journey through the obstacle course that is the woods, Did Yogo arrived back at the house where he came upon a rather unbelievable scene. Upon entering the house he found that not only had Baba Yaga not completed the required pre-meal tasks but had also turned the house into what could only be described as a psychedelic art project analogous to some bizarre, life-size painting of Wonderland with goats in rollerblades and gnomes surfing through rainbows. Did Yogo found Baba Yaga sitting inside the dishwasher holding what looked like the TV antenna, "This is my spaceship and I'm going to Mars for



a vacation” she said upon seeing him.

This my friends is where I leave the remainder of storytelling up to you. What happened next? Did the combination of Baba yaga’s drug induced antics and Did Yogo’s measly meal fetching lead to enough mutual frustration, division and anger to cause a divorce? Or did the two forgive each other for their mistakes and differences realising instead the value of their diversity and still opted to sit down together as a family at the table for dinner? That decision I will leave to you my beloved readers.

You may now ask why I have shared this twisted tale with you. Was it maybe a cheeky attempt to draw a connection between hipster diets and anorexia? Or, was it a litmus test to see what side of the publishable or not line *Student* magazine considers cannibalism to fall on? Or, I am I just depressed and bitter that the beautiful вишивана сорочка wearing girl with the nice set of гарбузи declined my request for a valentines date and am taking out my frustrations by sadistically inducing misadventures upon these poor fictional characters? All of these are conceivable possibilities, but alas

none are in fact the motive for my putting pen to paper.

Canada has received a number of waves of Ukrainian immigration throughout its history. The people who arrived in these waves along with their descendants have in turn become the Ukrainian Canadian community that we know today. Each wave of immigration as well as each subsequent Canadian-born generation is influenced by a unique set of circumstances which affect the individuals within that group and make that group distinct from other Ukrainian Canadian groups. This is all part of the Ukrainian Canadian mosaic. However, in recent times a rift has emerged between the newest wave of immigrants (Those born in Ukraine) and those who are descendants of earlier waves. The level of interaction between these two groups is minimal. This rift is clearly evident within Ukrainian Canadian social circles as well as formal organizational settings. Even within SUSK there is indication of this. The ratio of Ukrainian vs Canadian born members in SUSK is extremely disproportionate. If the Ukrainian community is to remain strong for generations to come this rift must be overcome. Similarly to how Baba Yaga and Did Yogo had



the choice of division and separation vs embracement of diversity, we also have the same decision to make. We must work together and choose to sit together as one united Ukrainian family at the dinner table which is our community (одна родина за столом). Only through doing this will we ensure a strong, cohesive and successful Ukrainian Canadian community for generations to come. It is my hope that all Ukrainian Canadians regardless of birthplace will strive to reach this important goal.

Crazy and Mysterious Student Contributor

### University of Alberta – Solidarity Campaign

In lieu of the current political situation in Ukraine the Ukrainian Students' Society at the University of Alberta ran a solidarity campaign in support of the protestors in Ukraine. The solidarity week ran from February 3-7 on the University of Alberta campus. USS made 250 blue and yellow solidarity ribbons that were distributed to the student body in hopes of further raising awareness on campus. As well USS plastered a public bulletin board on campus with a blue and yellow flag that read "my z vamy" students were

encouraged to take a picture by the wall and share it on social media. The campaign saw overwhelming support from student body as well as support from the international community, people from all over the world have reached out to USS asking if they can have solidarity ribbons.

Tymothy Jaddock



*Have something to say?*

*Want to get your opinion out?*

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*Editors note: In a few months SUSK will have an exciting announcement regarding Student. Stay tuned on Facebook, Twitter, and our website for more information.*