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Phone: (216) 431-0628

e-mail: ah@buckeyeweb.com

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Lt. Colonel Loraine M. Pope Retires

On Friday, August 8, 2003, **Lieutenant Colonel Loraine M. Pope** retired from the United States Air Force in a formal ceremony at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois, after 23 years of service.

Lt. Col. Loraine (Lori) M. Pope is Chief of the Tanker Airlift Control Center Business Center, Headquarters Air Mobility Command, Scott Air Force Base, Illinois.

Colonel Pope was raised outside of Cleveland, Ohio. In 1980, she graduated from Kent State University with a Bachelor of Science in Applied Mathematics with Honors, and was a USAF Reserve Officers Training Corps Distinguished Graduate.

Commissioned as a second lieutenant, she entered the Air Force Basic Meteorology Program at Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas. After completing the Basic Meteorology program she served as the duty weather forecaster for the 2nd bomb Wing, and as Assistant Chief, 8th Air Force Weather Support Unit, Barksdale AFB, Louisiana, through 1985.

In 1987, Colonel Pope was competitively selected

for the Air Force Institute of Technology advance degree program at Saint Louis University where she completed a Masters of Science in Meteorology, again with Honors. While completing her Masters of Science degree, she was concurrently assigned to Headquarters Air Weather Service, Scott Air Force Base, Illinois.

In this assignment Colonel Pope was instrumental in fielding the Air Force's \$78 million, first generation Automated Weather Distribution System.

Recognizing her leadership within the weather community, the Air Force next assigned her as the Center Commander, European Meteorological and Oceanographic Center, Traben-Trarbach, Germany. Colonel Pope performed as the technical liaison with the German Meteorological and Geophysical Office, and was also directly responsible for all centralized weather forecasting services for United States armed forces in Europe and in Africa.

While in Europe, Colonel Pope also deployed as part of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's Stabilization Force in 1996 to Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, providing critical weather support for all NATO components.

Colonel Pope's last assignment brought her back to Scott AFB, Illinois in 1997, where she became the Deputy Chief, Weather Division, Air Mobility Command. In this position she oversaw the command's entire weather program to include huge technical upgrades and system improvements necessary to safe and efficient flight operations around the world.

Colonel Pope has two children, **Katie and Jeremy**. Her father, **Donald** and mother **Mary Zipperman**, of South Euclid, Ohio, and her brother **Paul** (a talented singer at St. Mary's (Collinwood) Church), and sister, **Donna Flynt**, went to St. Louis for the Retirement Ceremony and celebration.

Lori is the granddaughter of **Mary and Joseph Strancar** (Cleveland), and **Anna and Edward Zipperman** (Euclid, OH). All four are deceased.

Her mother, Mary Zipperman, says, "We are very, very proud of Lori's service to our country and all the opportunities the Air Force gave her when she was so young, and of course, all of her commitment, hard work, sacrifices and achievements!"



Lt. Col. Loraine Pope

Congratulations to all!

Great and Glorious Diversity of Slovenia

by **CHRISTOPHER REYNOLDS**
Los Angeles Times

LJUBLJANA, Slovenia — Here is my excuse: I'm not from Cleveland, and I didn't know any better. I didn't know how much fun Slovenia would be, and so I visited Europe a dozen times before I got to thinking about this place south of Austria, across the Adriatic from Venice.

Now, having been here, I am a wiser, happier guy. Perhaps not as Slovenia-wise as many Ohioans who can claim Slovenian ancestry, but certainly a step ahead of the rest of America.

Slovenia, which lies 100 miles east of Venice, Italy, and 150 miles south of Vienna, is about the size of New Jersey, full of forests

and mountains and lakes and about 2 million people. The language is Slovenian, although most young people speak enough English to make a foreigner feel comfortable. I spent five days there recently, and it was gorgeous, peaceful and cheap. It was also full of under-appreciated history involving World War I and Ernest Hemingway. I'm coming back the next chance I get.

But who will come with me? In all of last year, just 19,140 Americans visited, according to Slovenian government records. I think I've stood in post office lines longer than that.

Outside Cleveland, which received an estimated 330,000 Slovenian immigrants between 1880 and

1920 and remains the Slovenian capital of North America, Slovenia is newly invisible in the North American consciousness. If anyone thinks of it at all, it's most often — and inaccurately — as a zone of Balkan hostilities.

Forget that for a moment and consider my arrival. I reached the capital, Ljubljana (pronounced, roughly loob-lyana), by train on a sunny Sunday afternoon. At the core of the city, a university town with about 25,000 students among its 300,000 residents, a medieval castle rose on a green hill. At the foot of the hill, pedestrians surged through a warren of narrow streets and prosperous chops of the Old Town. A block away, the Ljubljanica River meandered past and walkers paced across

Triple Bridge.

On the other side of the river, a charming quirky series of buildings from the early 20th century lined Miklosiceva St. like soldiers awaiting inspection by an eccentric general. A few steps away stood the monument to 19th century poet France Preseren, little known outside Slovenia but a hero here. I paid my respects to Preseren, one of whose verses serves as the Slovenian anthem, crossed the bridge and took a patio seat in an Old Town tavern.

While I toyed with this equation, a waiter shouldered his way through a gaggle of chic and cheerful young Slovenians — one in 12 residents of Ljubljana is a college student — and regarded me with a frown.

"Smile," I said to the waiter.

The waiter nodded, kept frowning, and retreated. A moment later he was back with a beer bottle.

"Three hundred and fifty dollars," I heard him say.

Fortunately, I had been briefed. A Smile is a golden lager produced by Union, the capital's leading brewery. And what sounds like a dollar is a tolar, Slovenia's currency. At the going exchange rate the Smile cost about \$1.50.

Other prices were just as pleasing. That night, my recently renovated room at the art nouveau Grand Hotel Union, the fanciest, most architecturally interesting lodging in the city, cost

(Continued on page 5)

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6117 St. Clair Ave., Cleveland, OH 44103-1692
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James V. Debevec – Publisher, English Editor
Dr. Rudolph M. Susel – Slovenian Editor

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August 28, 2003

REFLECTIONS BY RUDY

The Dessert Maven

by RUDY FLIS---

At a hot rod car show last Saturday night, I saw a license plate holder with this phrase, "Life is Uncertain, Eat Dessert First." Me and my stomach just love that phrase, especially, "Eat dessert first." And we wholeheartedly endorse it.

Often, I have snuck dessert first, before the main meal, and never have I risen from my chair and walked away from a table laden with food, just because I had a piece of pie or strudel or whatever is sweet and tasty and dessert.

My heart fell in love with Therese, and we became one. My stomach falls in love with dessert, and we become one. Like my wife, Therese, my stomach is not bias and likes all good food, and does not care at all in what sequence the food arrives. But my wife does. Can you believe Therese thinks something like dessert will kill my appetite.

I am a peace-loving man. All of me gets along with all of me, and harmoniously works together to keep all of

me happy in this way.

My nose picks up the scent of banana cream pie, my eyes see it, my feet rush toward it, my hands and knife cut it, and my hand, with fork puts a piece of it in my mouth and my lips press on the fork leaving the banana cream pie on my tongue and my taste buds which scream to my stomach of the tasty food headed down in just one swallow.

My feet dance my yearning body toward another piece of that great tasting banana cream pie and repeat that gratifying experience of eating. What an experience which comes with my health in this great country so abundantly blessed.

Labor Day weekend honors working class Americans and is a great family weekend. May God bless all workers, all in our Armed Forces, our leaders and our subscribers to American Home.

On this beautiful weekend, celebrate being American, eat plenty, and remember, "Eat dessert first."

Two Senior Ladies Talk

Two senior ladies met for the first time since graduating from high school.

One asked the other, "You were always so organized in school, did you manage to live a well planned life?"

"Oh yes," said her friend. "My first marriage was to a millionaire, my second marriage was to an actor, my

third marriage was to a preacher, and now I'm married to an undertaker."

Her friend asked, "What do those marriages have to do with a well planned life?"

"One for the money, two for the show, three to get ready, and four to go."

This joke was brought to you by Phil Hrvatin.

News from Slovenia

Slovene newspapers reported on Monday that the Slovenian government has not responded to a demand for compensation from Croatia's HEP for electricity produced at the jointly owned Krško Nuclear Power Plant that was never delivered to Croatia.

Slovenian media reported that Slovenia will explain its views on the issue in a letter to Croatia's Economic Minister Ljubo Jureia.

Croatia Urges Dialogue

Croatia and Slovenia should address their outstanding issues "through dialogue in the spirit of our good neighborly relations" rather than communicate through protest notes, the Croatian Foreign Ministry said in a note to the Slovenian Embassy in Zagreb on Tuesday in connection with Croatia's intention to proclaim an economic zone in the Adriatic Sea.

The note came as a response to the Slovenian note of Aug. 11 in which Slovenia expressed its position in the event that Croatia proclaims an exclusive economic zone in its part of the Adriatic.

Welcome Extraterrestrials

After serving as the in

spiring cause for many media events that have jolted public opinion during the past year, particularly with the announcements made regarding the first human clones, the spiritual leader of the Raelian Movement is in Slovenia from Aug. 18-30.

This trip to Rogla is part of an annual visit to conduct the Raelian Movement's sensual meditation and guide seminars which are held every year and on each continent. This year, more than 600 people are coming from 20 countries, including 50 Raelian priests and 10 Raelian bishops.

It is noteworthy that the Raelian Movement is the largest UFO-related non-profit organization. It counts 60,000 members in 84 countries united to spread the messages given by the ELOHIM to RAE.

Their goal is to build an Embassy to welcome Extraterrestrials and spread their peace and non-violent values.

Coal Mine Fire

In the coal mine Trbovlje-Hrastnik, in the shaft Ojstro, coal has spontaneously combusted on Friday, Aug. 15. As the coal mine director Alex Berger told the press, the fire started at the Ojstro

shaft after pieces of self-ignited coal fell on the rubber conveyor belt. When the fire started, there were only six miners in the shaft. They were all evacuated in time.

The rescue operation has now ended and if everything goes as planned, work in the shafts will resume Monday.

Mercator Builds 2 Shopping Centers in Serbia

Slovenia's leading retailer Mercator has bought the lease-hold on two properties in the Serbian city of Kragujevac, 140 km south of Belgrade, where a market and hyper-market are to be built for a total of EUR 25 million.

Mercator's hypermarket will be expanded over an area of 20,000 square meters, while the smaller market will be situated over an area of 4,500 square meters. The former will employ at least 300 persons and is expected to open at the end of next year or early 2005. Its shelves will be offering 25,000 products, of which 40 percent will be from Serbia, 40 percent from Slovenia, and 20 percent from other countries.

Thanks to Phil Hrvatin for this news.



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Enjoyment is not a goal, it is a feeling that accompanies important ongoing activity.

If you wish to be at rest, labor. —Brother Giles

100 WORDS MORE OR LESS

by John Mercina

The Rewards of a Late-Summer Vacation (without a plan)

Most *normal* people plan their summer vacations well in advance, with finely tuned daily schedule and right smack in the middle of the summer. Granted, some do it out of sheer necessity. Their kids are not in school and getting them out of the house in the middle of their vacation from school keeps both parents and the kids somewhat sane. For those with kids no longer attached by an apron string, or even a rubber band, a late summer vacation is a better alternative. A slower, relaxed pace permeates the air. People that you meet have time to talk and reminisce about the good times spent in their respected vacation areas. Traffic is not a problem, hotel rates are cheaper, end-of-season sales are the norm and there are no lines in restaurants. Depending on the area, the sun is still warm, the beaches are deserted, and miles of walking areas are there for you to enjoy in solitude. You can stop and pick up a piece of driftwood on the beach, listen to the sounds of seagulls sailing in the wind, sit down in the sand and read a favorite book or cast a wiggling worm into a farm pond in hope of catching a sunfish that you will release in order to catch a bigger fish next year. Lack of a plan gives you time to stop and smell the flowers that you find along the path and watch the butterflies that your kids were catching just a few short years ago. You can stop at an antique store and find the item that you will treasure for years to come and talk to a complete stranger whose tastes for antiquity are same as yours. You can come and go as you please and return home at a leisurely pace – to savor the good times.

Life in the Refugee Camps

by ANTON ZAKELJ
translated and edited
by JOHN ZAKELJ

Thursday, April 17, 1947

Mire returned to work at Zeltweg.

UNRRA has now repaid me most of what they owed me for lace sales. They still keep part of what we sell, but they really have no expenses. I do all the selling myself, while other people take their products to the UNRRA store and wait for UNRRA to sell them.

Dr. Est, Strukelj and J. Zupan were all sentenced to a month in jail for *schwarzhandel* - buying and selling on the black market.

[Editor's note:] Mark Wyman has some interesting comments about the black market in his book, "DPs, Europe's Displaced Persons, 1945-1951" (page 116):

A Ukrainian DP recalled that "food was number one" in his camp's black market, with forays into the countryside to illegally barter with German farmers. The acquisition of bread, sugar, flour, vegetables, fruit and similar items helped enrich the dismal diet of the camps. When investigations were conducted into black market activity at the... DP camps, the extent of illegal trade

was discovered to be enormous. "Blankets issued to the refugees, food from their kitchens and articles of clothing... all find their way into the illicit trade." the New York Times reported in January, 1946.

Efforts to thwart the illegal trading made little headway on a continent where millions were participating in it - most notably the occupying troops... UNRRA authorities were sensitive to the continuing complaints that DPs controlled the black market, and in November 1946 the organization's director ordered drastic steps to suppress DP black marketing...

Friday, April 18, 1947

I went to Rauscher's to pick up the repaired radio. It was fixed by J. Jerič, who told me he was asked to take over one of the camp's paid leadership jobs, but he refused. The radio works well now.

Saturday, April 19, 1947

This morning, I was summoned to meet with the camp's new welfare officer to make plans regarding repatriation (returning home to Slovenia.) I told her I cannot return to Slovenia. If the UNRRA camps are dissolved, Cilka and I will stay in Austria.

Sunday, April 20, 1947

This morning I wrote letters to my mother and my brothers and sisters in Slovenia. In the afternoon, Cilka and I walked to the castle ruins on the nearby hillside.

Our roommate Cene put together a package for his relatives in Slovenia, just as he does every week. He included shoes, socks, clothes and other things. I have sent things like that to my relatives, but now it's too risky. If the authorities find a refugee sending materials like that, they suspect the person of stealing or illegally trading. I told Cene I would not take his package to the post office.

Monday, April 21, 1947

We hear rumors that 90 of the 120 craftspeople in our camp will no longer be able to work in the camp. They will be required to get jobs outside the camp. Babnik, Sršen and others will actually be expelled because they were too critical of the camp leadership.

Tuesday, April 22, 1947

Mr. and Mrs. Oven are sick with diphtheria. The entire camp is under quarantine; nobody is allowed to come or go.

(To Be Continued)



Eddie Rodick Honored at Collinwood Slovenian Home

Eddie Rodick will be the main honoree at Collinwood Slovenian Home's "Music Fest" on Sunday, Sept. 7.

The music festival will begin at 1 p.m. and last until ??? Music will be provided by Eddie Rodick, Gaylord Klancnik, Bob Kravos, The Zolka Brothers, The Captain's Crew, Magic Buttons, Ray Skovenski, Tony Fortuna, and the Buttonaires.

Many bands, and surprises. Come and join the fun on Holmes Avenue. Free admission. Parking lot security.

Eddie Rodick was born in Mannheim, Germany and raised in Mentor, Ohio. He began his musical career at age 7 when his father brought home an accordion hoping to learn it himself. Once Eddie saw the instrument, it was love at first sight.

Eddie was playing professionally by age 16 forming his own three-piece band, the Champagnes. The next group to discover Eddie's talents was the Bob O'Blocki Orchestra. Then he teamed up with Don and Dan Wojtila, Dave Skrajner and Al Bambic to form "Eddie Rodick and the Goodtime Boys."

They started out playing at the Newburgh Slovenian Home and went on to become one of the most highly-demanded groups in the Cleveland area.

They recorded their first album, "Good Time Polkas," and took the polka world by storm. This band is one of the best in the history of Cleveland-style polkas and remained together for more than eight years.

After a short retirement in the early 1980s, Eddie formed a new band with his son, Eddie Rodick III, Phil Srnick, Frank Yasnowski and Rick Papaleo. They recorded "Polka Down The Town," Ron Sluga joined the band later, bringing his talented banjo playing to this already dynamic group. Recordings made during this era include "Welcome Back Again," and "Sixty Years of Cleveland-style Polkas and Waltzes," a live recording that is Eddie's best seller.

Other members joined the orchestra including Mel Petraski, Dick Flaisman, Denny Bucar, and Frank O'Kicki. "My Silver Anniversary" was recorded to celebrate Eddie's 25 years in music.

Dart Tourney at Pristava

The Slovenski Sportni Klub will hold its second annual dart tournament on Sunday, Sept. 14 at Slovenska Pristava. The number of two-person teams competing in the double elimination tournament will be limited to 16.

The entry fee is \$10 per team. Registration begins at noon with play beginning promptly at 1.

Last year's exciting contest featured a come-from-behind win by Pavle Sedmak

of Euclid and France Rote of Cleveland's St. Clair-Superior neighborhood.

The Slovenski Sportni Klub wishes to recognize Michael and Ed Baznik of Seven Hills for directing this summer's tennis exhibition series at Slovenska Pristava and Elmwood Park in Independence, Ohio.

Special thanks must also be given to Azman and Sons Market on St. Clair Avenue, a proud sponsor of Slovenian tennis events.



American Home photographer Tony Grdina, front, is pictured with his wife, Betty (behind Tony) at a Slovenian gathering in downtown Cleveland this year.

(Photo by PHIL HRVATIN)

Collinwood Seniors Meet

St. Mary's Seniors (Collinwood) will gather in the School Hall for their meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 2nd, at 1:30 p.m. Doors open at 1 p.m.

Steven Musser, DPM, a podiatrist, will present information on: "Good Foot Health."

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Mlakar Walks Down Memory Lane

by RAY MLAKAR

Hip, hip, hooray, Ray is not going to California, and is forgetting any dreams of the Governorship, for God only knows I have enough problems here. Well, let's go to the vault, and check on the joke file. Let's start off with a quiz. Why did the boy put sugar under his pillow? He wanted to have sweet dreams. Okay, what did the cat say when he met the mouse? Pleased to eat you.

One more. What do you get when you cross a parrot and a pig? An animal that hogs the conversation. One more rib tickler for the road. A friend named Jan sent her three children, Heather, Ethan and Katy out to play, giving them a bag of potato chips to eat for a snack. It wasn't too long before Katy came back into the house sobbing. She threw her arms around her mother and cried, "Heather and Ethan ate all the potato chips. That's not fair." "Katy", mom said, "Life is not always fair." "I'm not talking about life," Katy sniffed, "I'm talking about potato chips".

Let's get back to work. As you recall from the last article, I left the Air Mail Post Office Field and went to work at the Navy Finance Center, continuing working for the U.S. Government, Civil Service. I had started with the Post Office on 14 September 1954 and left on 22 January 1955 and while there, was making a straight \$1.71 per hour. I am sure J.

D. Rockefeller did not start out like that, but what can you expect from a young punk who drives too fast when he has a dead guy he is taking to the funeral home.

I started at the Navy Finance Center on 24 January, 1955, working for the "Family Allowance Activity" which was a division of the overall Navy Finance Center. I started out as a GS-2 earning \$2,750 per year, and let's face it, you can't start any lower than that.

Let's see, if I remember what Sister Bernadette tried to teach me. Working a full year at eight hours a day, would amount to 2080 hours per year and earning \$2,750 a year as a salary, I was certainly stepping down from what I was making at the Post Office. Odd dam that is less than \$1.35 per hour. But it had its benefits for there was no one yelling, "Is the mail for flight 276 ready?" By the same token, no one was coming in the front door with meals from a canceled air flight, either. I was strictly a clerk, period. No great job and one that didn't

call for any skills to speak of.

We had rows and rows of six drawer file cabinets loaded with brown manila folders on Navy Personnel having allotments going home to their wives or whomever. In the morning they gave me a huge list of files to be pulled to take over to the adjudicators who would process applications for allotments to go into effect.

Fortunately, at that time all files were filed by the Navy Personnel's Service number which made it rather easy, for you did not even have to know the alphabet when returning the files back to the cabinet. There were two of us handling the files, one taking files out, and the other putting the processed files back into their drawers in proper sequence.

A young African-American girl "Barbara" worked with me doing the same kind of job. One day I would pull files and the next day I would put files back and she would pull files. It was a never ending job but I did not mind it. I always dressed the part, white shirt, tie, the whole nine yards. I would say that with the entire staff at Family Allowance which included attorneys, there were more females than male, about two to one, so us males had quite a selection.

One of the side jobs they gave me was photo-stating copies of divorce degrees, marriage certificates, birth certificates. Unfortunately, way back then, they did not have the capabilities of photo copying like they have today. Back then it was a wet-dry process using negative and positive paper, putting it into a solution, but it was fun, if you want to call that fun.

Unfortunately, back then when making up such photo copies, they did not hold up, for in time, within six months, the photo copies turned almost white and you could hardly read them. It was necessary to photo copy such documents for the original copies had to be returned to the Navy personnel who had sent them in to either start an allotment or stop one.

At break time when I would walk out back to get some fresh air, toward the end of the month, you would see hampers on top of hampers with the brown envelopes containing Navy checks either going to Navy personnel or dependents and they were on the dock waiting pickup by the postal

trucks to take them to the post office to get them on their way. A real so-called "stash" sitting on the docks.

Most of the office personnel "brown bagged" it, that is brought baloney sandwiches from home. Fortunately working on the first floor, I could go right out the back door and into the back door of Woolworth's Dime Store, which was "My Place To Be."

When I had money and that was not too often, I'd go to the dime store to purchase one of their steamed hot dogs and I really thought I was at the dining table having the last supper. When I

was broke, which was more often the case, I would stroll across the street to Sterling Linder Davis and just look at all the stuff I could buy if I had money. Well, it helped pass the lunch hour.

Although I had a car, I did not drive downtown to the Navy Finance Center for who in their right mind had 75 cents to park. Fortunately, my Dad was working at the Orange Avenue Freight Station and in the morning I would go to work with him, dropping me off at the Hanna Theater and Dad taking the car on to the freight station.

Unfortunately, I took the bus and streetcar going home for we did not quit at the same time. It saved me money on car fare and dad liked it for he himself did not like to drive and so he appreciated the idea of me driving there and he would take over after I got to the Hanna Theater. It was just a hop, skip and jump from the Hanna to the Navy Finance Center.

(To Be Continued)

The father who does not teach his son his duties is equally guilty with the son who neglects them.

Confucius

Baraga's Corner

In the Baraga Bulletin there are some interesting letters from and to Fr. Baraga.

He signs his letter to the Bishop of Detroit, "Your Lordship's most humble servant in J. Chr. Frederic Baraga." - "L'Anse, Mission of the H. Name of Jesus," June 11, 1848.

Interesting abbreviations: Was he short of ink?

Sign up to be a member of the Bishop Baraga Association for access to these fine bulletins.



Melted mint jelly makes a marvelous topping for cooked green peas.

"Slot Machines" - When you rearrange the letters you get "Cash lost in 'em."

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A PRAYER TO THE VIRGIN MARY

(Never known to fail)

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate virgin, assist me in my necessity. O star of the sea, help me, show me herein, you are my mother, O Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of heaven & earth, I humbly beseech thee from the bottom of my heart to succor me in my necessity. (Make request). There are none that can withstand your power, O show me herein, you are my mother. O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee. (Say 3 times) Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (Say 3 times). Thank you for your mercy to me and mine. Amen. Say this prayer for 3 consecutive days, then you must publish & it will be granted to you. Grateful thanks.

M.D.D.

Kres Dances at Slovenian Home

On Saturday, Sept. 13 at 7 p.m., everyone is invited to join Folklorna Skupina Kres for an evening of stylized and authentic Slovenian dance and song.

Please come to the Slovenian National Home on St. Clair Avenue where over

100 dancers will perform, followed by Véseli Godci orchestra for entertainment.

Tickets are \$10 for floor and balcony seating. Call Monika Povirk at (216) 486-0713 or Sonia Domanko (440) 944-9780 for tickets.

Newburgh Wine & Cheese Fest

We've planned something special for the "Wine and Cheese Festival" being held at the Slovenian National Home on East 80th Street on Saturday, Sept. 13.

A celebration of the cultures of five different regions will be the focus of this year's third annual "Wine and Cheese Festival" - and you get to keep your wine glass. In addition to the opportunity to sample fine wines, the festival offers an unending array of cheeses, crackers, dips and fabulous hors d'oeuvres.

Spread the message that

moderate wine consumption can be great for your health. If ever there was a marriage made in heaven, it's cheese and wine and nothing is more wine friendly than cheese.

Al Battistelli will be strolling, and from eight to 10, will play for your dancing pleasure.

More surprises are in store. There will be a Chinese Raffle, door prizes and a sing-a-long. All for \$12 admission. For tickets call (216) 662-3339.

--Florence Mirtel
Chairperson

Eggplant Patrice

This recipe came from my friend Sally Koepke, courtesy of her mother, Pat Hurley. It's an old family favorite of theirs, which you can tell, because there aren't a lot of measurements of ingredients.

Ingredients:

Eggplant, sliced 1/2" thick
Tomatoes, sliced 1/4" thick
Green pepper, chopped
Onion, chopped
Shredded cheddar cheese; 1 block or 1# bag
Sugar - 1 tsp. each layer
Pepper - 1/2 tsp each layer
Garlic salt - 1/2 tsp. each layer

Directions:

In a greased casserole (Corning Ware with lid), layer ingredients in the order they are listed, twice, ending with cheese. Sprinkle sugar, salt, pepper and garlic salt over each layer of the onions and peppers. Bake covered at 400° for 30 minutes, then turn the oven down to 350° and bake uncovered for another 45 minutes.

--Kim Ann Kaifesh

Our Family and Friends Recipes

Great and Glorious Diversity of Slovenia

5 AMERIŠKA DOMOVINA, AUGUST 28, 2003

(Continued from page 1)

about \$95. The priciest dinner of my stay (two courses with a bottle of Slovenian white wine at an eatery named simply AS) was \$29. And if I'd been smart enough to leave myself several days for lazing in a pension by a postcard pretty lake, \$20 per night would have been plenty.

Low prices, medieval alleys, post-communist intrigue, a landmark bridge and a castle on the hill — such attributes brought thousands of Americans to Prague after the fall of communism. But so far, those hordes, and the T-shirt sellers who follow them, don't seem to have found Ljubljana.

Now, about Balkan hostilities: Slovenia has been fought over. In the last century, it was a province of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and a part of Yugoslavia. During the 20 years between the world wars, Italy annexed a large chunk of the country. But when the opportunity came, this was the first Yugoslavian republic to shrug off Slobodan Milosevic's yoke. In their 1991 war for independence, the Slovenians prevailed with fewer than 100 fatalities on both sides. The fighting lasted just 10 days. Apparently, the generals in Belgrade had also been underestimating Slovenia.

Since then it has been a peaceful, independent nation whose economy is among the strongest in the former communist world. Kosovo is about 350 miles south of Ljubljana, farther than Venice or Vienna or Munich or Budapest.

In the ancient alleys of Ljubljana's city center, home-grown shops and restaurants hold their own against the occasional McDonald's or Holiday Inn. Down below, there is an abundance of architecture that was revolutionary 85 years ago, and there is the life's work of a national treasure named Joze Plecnik.

Plecnik, a Slovenian who studied in Austria, was an architect and city planner. After a decade spent renovating Prague Castle while art nouveau designs were transforming that city, he returned to Ljubljana in 1921, at age 49. From then on, for more than 30 years, Plecnik (pronounced plechnik), somehow managed to curry favor with otherwise repressive authorities while designing handsome, forward-looking buildings that are nothing like the brutal boxes found throughout the former Soviet bloc.

So, while visitors to other former communist capitals lament the 20th century proliferation of ugly buildings, visitors to Ljubljana see a string of designs drawn from classical and folk elements that knit together the river, the old quarter, the park and the castle.

The Triple Bridge, which combined two pedestrian passages with two lanes of vehicle traffic, was a 1931 Plecnik reworking of a 19th century span. The central market's stately colonnade? Plecnik again. Tivoli Park, the city's main greenbelt, is dominated by a Plecnik-designed promenade. The Krizanke, an open-air theater that houses most events of the city's summer music festival (July and August), is Plecnik yet again, this time incorporating recycled stones in a neighborhood known for its Roman ruins. (Plecnik died in 1958. His Ljubljana home houses the city architectural museum's Plecnik collection. It is open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.)

Ljubljana makes for a fine couple of days. But it is only the beginning. Three distinct geographies converge in Slovenia: Adriatic Europe, alpine Europe, and the central European plains. The countryside's caves are renowned among spelunkers: The Skocjan Caves are UNESCO World Heritage Sites, and the Postojna Cave is large enough to hold a full orchestra.

Both are an easy day trip from the capital. In winter, mountain lodges in the north fill with skiers.

Slovenia's toe-hold on the Adriatic consists of perhaps 30 miles of coastline south of Trieste and north of Croatia. But apart from the tiny old town of Piran, which was run by the Venetians for about five centuries where I passed a pleasant afternoon strolling and eating seafood, the Slovenian coast looked too crowded, commercialized and industrial to be of much interest to tourists. A few Slovenians told me that for beach holidays they prefer the Croatian coast, which begins just a few miles south of Piran.

My foray to the countryside was to Lake Bled and Lake Bohinj, both of which mirror tall mountains and

thick forests, provoking thoughts of Montana postcards. Bled is about an hour's drive northwest of Ljubljana; Bohinj is about a half-hour more, southwest of Bled.

At Bled, which has been Slovenia's most visited attraction for more than a

century, a big blue lake lined with a half dozen affordable hotels reclines beneath a fine old castle. A tiny island in the lake is just large enough to hold a scenic church. For \$3 you can pass 20 minutes rowing out to it. For nothing, you can stroll the lake's 3.5 mile perimeter and perhaps peek in at the Villa Bled, a boxy mansion that once served as a getaway for former Yugoslav strongman Marshal Tito, and now houses a luxurious, but unremarkable, hotel.

Side Trip to Falls

Bohinj is the country's largest lake and far more rustic, with scattered lodges and guest-houses whose rates tend to run less than the lodgings around Bled. At one end of Bohinj stands the 15th century Church of St. John the Baptist. At the other end, there's a patio restaurant and a short trail to the 200-foot Savica Falls. The 15-minute walk to the falls reminded me of the Mist Trail to Vernal Falls in Yosemite — as did the roaring, soaking payoff view.

Bled and Bohinj, good for boating and swimming, are selling points enough. But the Soca Valley, part of the battleground that World War

I historians know as the Isonzo Front, is something else. In 1915, when Italy entered the war, its troops came up against the Austro-Hungarian Empire's forces, including many Slovenians, in the Julian Alps near Trieste. The result was perhaps the bloodiest series of mountain battles in history — 12 of them — and a crucial chunk of that killing ground lies in what is now northern Slovenia.

For 29 months in this territory along the Soca River, troops subsisted in trenches and caves fought with bombs, rifles and even spiked clubs, one of which is on display in a museum in the town of Kobarid. Some estimate as many as 1 million lives were lost along the front from 1915 to 1917.

The greatest bloodshed, and the capture of at least 250,000 Italian soldiers, came in the last three weeks, when German forces joined the Austro-Hungarians in a lightning assault that came to be known as the first blitzkrieg. One of the combatants was a young German officer named Rommel. And some of the Isonzo Front's casualties were removed by an 18-year-old ambulance driver named Hemingway, who later drew from the experience for his novel, "A Farewell to Arms."

When the book came out in 1929, all of this now-

Slovenian territory was part of Italy and, in the text, the Soca River and the town of Kobarid were called by their

Italian names, Isonzo and Caporetto. Now they're Soca and Kobarid again.

In other words, Americans know more Slovenian geography than they realize. Millions of us had it in American lit.

Land of haunting beauty

It was about an hour northwest of Ljubljana when the landscape jumped up and nearly knocked me over: The river widened and reclined before us, a dead-still pool of turquoise under a cotton-candy cover of lifting mist. As the mist receded, snow-topped mountains loomed into view. I made my driver Dragan pull off the road so I could watch.

It was beautiful, and soon it was haunting, too. On a hill overlooking Kobarid stands a Catholic church dedicated to St. Anthony, and just beneath the church is a shrine that holds the bones of 7,014 Italian soldiers killed here between 1915 and 1917.

At the bottom of the hill stood Kobarid itself, a town with one hotel, a pleasant square and not much more — except for its excellent museum. The Kobarid Museum, which has gathered many honors since its opening in 1990, lays out the story of the fighting here with graphic photos and multilin-

gual explanations. Checking the last 40 pages of the guest book, I found no Americans.

River changes shapes

The Soca (pronounced socha) Valley isn't only about ghosts. The Soca River holds its striking blue-green hue for about 60 miles, widening and narrowing as it runs through chasms and broad valleys. In some stretches near Kobarid it's less than 30 feet wide, racing between steep slopes. Farther south, at Most na Soci, it dawdles and widens into a lake.

Much of the area has been set aside as part of Triglav National Park. For the same people who were fighting here 85 years ago — Italians, Austrians, Germans, Slovenians — the valley has become a hiking, mountain biking, kayaking, canoeing and fly-fishing haven. At Most na Soci, in fact, a diving board has been placed on a river bridge so that swimmers can plunge 35 feet into the water.

Not far beyond 5,285-foot high Vrsic Pass lie the Italian and Austrian borders. My driver's favorites, and a surreal sense of larger context descended upon me.

I am a mile high on a Slovenian mountain, I thought, with Led Zeppelin on the tape deck, a ridiculously glorious landscape in the rearview mirror. Life is good.

Slovenia. Who knew?

St. Vitus Alumni News

Another summer winding down. Hints of autumn all around. And with that... the beginning of a new school season.

Our weather played havoc with us all season. The spring rains lasted longer than desired into the summer, at times giving us the 'chill of autumn' long before it's actual arrival.

Although the Bells of St. Vitus have been silenced and put to rest, the former St. Vitus school building will arise with new life as St. Martin De Porres High, an academic, job program facility, an asset to the area.

To reinforce the question in many minds. Yes, the St. Vitus Alumni is and will remain in existence. Scholarships for students will still be given to siblings of members

of the alumni. More news to follow in the months to come regarding scholarship availability.

Remember, to be a member of the Alumni, one must be current in payment of dues -- \$5.00 per year. Dues to be mailed to Treasurer Ray Gobec, 10762 Wilson Mills Rd., Chardon, OH 44024. -- 1-440-285-2359.

Mark your calendars for the Alumni Event of the Year. Honoree Day Sunday, Oct. 26. Honoring three deserving individuals, Edward Mihevic, Class of 1934, Ms. Jean Krizman, Class of 1935, and Lt. Col. Robert Jevic, Class of 1957. Beginning with 12 noon Mass. Banquet Dinner to follow prepared by our Slovenian Gourmet, Julie Zalar. Cost of tickets \$18.00.

--Agnes Koporc

One pleasure attached to growing older is that many things seem to be growing younger; growing fresher and more lively than we once supposed them to be.

--G. K. Chesterton

The Old Country - Europe 1937

(Continued from last week)
by JOE GLINSEK

These peasant farmers raised the usual cows, pigs and chickens, but ironically, like their parents before them, they had a very skimpy diet. Grandpa used to tell me about his childhood when meat was on the table only for special occasions, and forget the cream and butter. They were virtually on a full barter system. Necessities like salt, kerosene, or metal implements could not be grown or made on the farm, but they were needed to live and work on a farm. You either traded meat, butter and eggs for these products, or sold your best farm produce for cash to buy these essentials. They were caught up in this endless circular situation, and things hadn't changed as of 1937.

Imagine the irony of living and working on a farm and not eating well. My dad bought a bag of oranges somewhere on our trip, and on one of our earliest visits, he gave one to a child, who immediately smelled it and took a bite. After peeling the rind, it was hard to convince her to try again. Even my dad was surprised that she had never seen an orange before.

At one of our stops, our hosts brewed a pot of coffee for the visitors from America. After my first sip, I gave Mom a puzzled look after my first taste, but fortunately said nothing aloud. She gave me one of her "looks" and discreetly whispered, "jemen," and I knew that it was barley. Large grain barley roasted black was ground with chicory powder, and this concoction of ersatz coffee was hoarded for special guests. To avoid 'seconds' of this awful drink, I sipped it ever so slowly and continued making small talk. Quite at ease with the language at that age, the necessity of constant usage improved my fluency daily.

This was the food situation in the peasant farm areas. By contrast, not 30 miles away in Ljubljana, things were very different. Dad's cousin Zita, a pretty woman in her 30s, came to visit and brought a delicious *torta* that rivaled any French *gâteau* for quality, flavor and flair. Many thin layers of cake were spread with alternating fillings of a creamy chocolate fudge and tangy apricot preserves, and then frosted over with a rich dark chocolate. She had lovingly created a *jezhevec* (porcupine) cake, using slivered toasted almonds as bristling quills. This treat was in honor of a folk song I sang during her previous

visit. The short, rhyming Slovenian song about a porcupine that lives under the barn, was taught to me by Grandpa Anzlin in America. I had to sing it again, but it was the cake, not the song, that was the highlight of the day. It was a delicious work of art, and demonstrates the immense contrast of circumstances between Dad's family in the city and Mom's relatives in the country, such a short distance apart.

Although most of our trips were to visit relatives, some were purely for sightseeing. One was a pilgrimage to the shrine at Brezje, the Lourdes of Slovenia. Another was a grand dinner at a famous ski lodge which stayed open for restaurant business in the off-season. I was surprised to learn that skiing was so popular here, but unlike the terrain around Cleveland, Slovenia had the ideal topography for skiing. The many peaks of the nearby Julian Alps were well suited for the sport. The largest and most famous of these was *Triglav*, a mountain that every Slovenian lad yearned to climb at least once. It's more of a tourist attraction than a major climbing challenge, but certain faces of it are a tough climb.

My dad had a youthful photo of himself taken atop this mountain with a name that means "three heads." The *Grad*, an old castle tower atop the hill where Dad had lived, was also a popular destination for visitors. It offered a cool shady picnic spot and a grand view. On a clear day you could see much of Slovenia from the *Grad*, and with mountains as a backdrop, it was quite a sight.

After lengthy visits with our friends and relatives in the rural places and the short trips for sightseeing, we went back to Ljubljana for a farewell visit with my grandparents. With tearful good-byes we began our train ride for the return voyage. Years later, thinking about this moment, a grim reality struck me. I had been

too young to know that war was inevitable, but my dad knew, as did his parents. It would be the last good-bye. They had no wish to leave their homeland, and even if they survived the war, Dad could never afford to make this trip again. Their parting was far more melancholy than I realized at the time.

Our train from Bremen to Ljubljana had taken a direct route, but Dad had changed our return tickets to include a circuitous sightseeing trip. I had my nose pressed against the window and really enjoyed the train ride and the food. Cigarettes, cigars, and excellent ham sandwiches were being hawked and sold through train windows at every station.

(To Be Continued)

C-Nile Virus

There is a virus called C-nile that even the most advanced programs from Norton cannot repair, so be warned. It appears to affect those of us born before 1958.

Symptoms of C-nile Virus are:

Causes you to send same e-mail twice.

Causes to send blank e-mail.

Causes you to send to wrong person.

Causes you to forget to attach the attachment.

Causes you to hit "send" before you've finished

This computer humor from Boro Avsec of Toronto.

Mladi Dolenjci at Pristava

Popular Slovenian Ansambel Mladi Dolenjci plays music at Slovenska Pristava on Saturday, Aug. 30. Music for the picnic begins at 6 p.m.

Plenty of good food available including fresh Slovenian sausage and *cevapci*.

Mladi Dolenjci is a unique ansambel where musicians sing softly and appealing. Do not miss this "veselica." Enjoy music, dance and have a great time.

--Milan

Right to Life Spaghetti Dinner

St. Mary's Collinwood Holy Name Society will hold their annual spaghetti dinner on Saturday, Sept. 6 in the school cafeteria from 6 to 8 p.m. Donation is \$7.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children under 12 years of age.

Proceeds of the dinner are to support the Holy Name Society's Right to Life Program.

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Coming Events

Saturday, Aug. 30

Slovenian Ansambel Mladi Dolenjci plays music at Slovenska Pristava, starting at 6 p.m. Plenty of food available.

Sunday, Sept. 7

Collinwood Slovenian Home Musicfest honoring Eddie Roddick, from 1 p.m. onward. Free admission.

Sat., Sun., Sept. 13, 14

Annual Bishop Baraga Days in Indianapolis.

Saturday, Sept. 13

Over 100 Folklore Dancers Kres performance at Slovenian National Home, Cleveland, 7 p.m. Music by Veseli Godci. Tickets \$10. Call (216) 486-0713.

Saturday, Sept. 13

Wine and Cheese Festival at Slovenian National Home, 3563 E. 80th St., Newburgh. Tickets (\$12) call (216) 662-3339.

Sunday, Sept. 14

Wine festival (Stan Mejac Band) at Slovenska Pristava.

Sunday, Sept. 21

St. Vitus Altar Society annual dinner.

Saturday, Sept. 27

Slovenian radio program "Songs and melodies from beautiful Slovenia" celebrates 50th anniversary with banquet at Slovenian National Home, St. Clair.

Sunday, Sept. 28

Slovenian Cultural Society (Triglav) in Milwaukee, WI Wine Festival at Triglav park in Wind Lake, WI.

Sunday, Sept. 28

Matching funds dinner in St. Vitus Auditorium, E. 61 and St. Clair Ave., Cleveland sponsored by Christ the King 226 and Sacred Heart of Je-

sus 172 KSKJ for benefit of Bishop's School in Slovenia. Serving 11 a.m. to 1:30. Adults \$12, children \$6. All welcome.

Sunday, Oct. 12

Koline dinner (Retirees Slovenska Pristava) at Slovenska Pristava.

Sunday, Oct. 19

St. Mary's (Collinwood) School Alumni annual banquet following 12 noon Mass.

Sunday, Oct. 26

St. Vitus Alumni Honoree Day.

Sunday, Nov. 9

Slovenian Junior Chorus Fall Concert, Slovenian Society Home, Euclid, OH.

Saturday, Nov. 15

Glasbena Matica Fall Concert.

Sunday, Nov. 16

Rev. Victor Cimperman celebrates 60th anniversary at 10:30 a.m. Mass in St. Vitus Church. Reception to follow.

Sunday, Nov. 23

30th Annual Artists & Crafts Show, 20713 Recher Ave., Euclid, OH 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Free admission. Contact person: Justice Skok 1-216-261-1253

Saturday, Jan. 24

Pristavska Noč at Slovenian National Home, St. Clair.



The hardest naturally occurring substance is the diamond.



St. Vitus Village

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Death Notices

JOHN BLATNIK

John Blatnik, age 97.

Loving husband of the late Anna; dearest father of Edward (Judy), Gregory (Joyce), John (Linda), and Mary Ann Shaw (William, deceased); beloved grandfather of Thomas, Michael, John, Luke, Mary, Anna, Mark, Jennifer and Joseph; dear brother of the following deceased: Franc, Josef, Anton, Angela, Jozefa, Tony, Domin and Marija.

The family suggests contributions to Jennings Center for Older Adults, 10204 Granger Rd., Garfield Hts., OH 44125.

Friends called at Rybicki & Son, a Golden Rule Funeral Home for visiting hours on Tuesday, Aug. 5.

Family and friends were asked to meet Wednesday, Aug. 6 at Holy Spirit Chapel of Jennings Center for Older Adults for visitation from 9-10 a.m., followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 10 a.m. Interment Holy Cross Cemetery.

CYRIL GRILC

Cyril Grilc, age 97, beloved husband of Mary (nee Marsich) (deceased); uncle and great uncle of many.

Memorial Mass was Saturday, Aug. 23 at St. Mary Church, 15519 Holmes Ave., at 9:30 a.m. Interment All Souls Cemetery.

Arrangements by Zele Funeral Home.

JO GOSLINE

Jo Gosline of West Palm Beach, Fla., formerly of Barberton, Ohio, passed away on Sunday, Aug. 17, 2003.

Daughter of Joseph and Gertrude Leksan Sr. (both deceased).

She is survived by husband Jack, son Jim Borsos, and daughter Chris Borsos. Sister of Joe Leksan of Norton, Ohio and sister of Bert Drobic of Cleveland.

Memorial services will be held in Barberton, Ohio at a later date.

JOSEPH MERTIK

Joseph Mertik, 82, passed away on Saturday, Aug. 23 at his residence in Euclid, Ohio.

Mr. Mertik was born on July 30, 1921 in Bridgeport, CT. He was a former resident of Cleveland.

He was a machinist for 20 years with Caterpillar Inc., of Mentor, Ohio.

Mr. Mertik is survived by his wife, Mary (nee Borovic); children: Marija (Anton) Adamic, Angela (Jerry) Hong, Augustine Mertik, and Joseph (Denise) Mertik; grandchildren: Gregory, Peter, Anthony, and Joseph Adamic, Angela (William) Krajcirik, Hollie (Casey) Pettingill, Stephan, Brendan and Tristan Mertik; great-grandchildren: Colin and William Krajcirik; and brother Ivan Mertik.

Deceased family: parents, Peter and Barbara (Duh) Mertik, and brother Stefan Mertik.

Friends were received Tuesday, 4-8 p.m. at The Dan Cosic Funeral Home, 28890 Chardon Rd., Wiloughby Hills.

Mass of Christian Burial on Wednesday, Aug. 27, 2003 at St. Christine's Church, 840 E. 222 St., Euclid, Ohio. Interment: All Souls Cemetery, Chardon, OH.

A Little Exercise Helps a Lot

The standard suggestions on how to incorporate exercise into daily life are so basic, they seem silly:

Use the stairs instead of the elevator. Get off the bus a few stops early. Park at the far end of the lot at the mall. Mounting evidence shows that tiny improvements in physical fitness do indeed make a significant difference in the way our bodies handle stress.

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John Blatnik, Devout Christian

My Dad (Moj Oce)

My father, John Blatnik, was born in the village of Velike Lese (near Krka) Slovenia in 1906. His house in Velike Lese was on top of a hill overlooking the Krka River. His village consisted of about 15 houses. He was the oldest of eight children (five boys and three girls). His early childhood was spent working on the farm and going to school in nearby Krka. On weekends he would accompany his father to the markets in Ljubljana. At the markets, his father would sell eggs and milk.

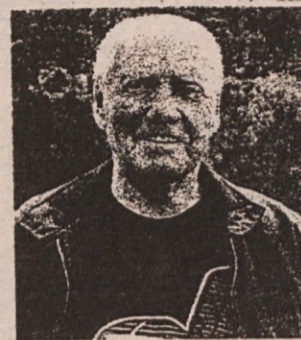
After attending school for six years, he continued to work on the farm. Eventually, he learned the brick laying trade. When he was 20, he was drafted into the Yugoslavian Air Force (1926).

In 1929, he emigrated to Canada. The United States was closed for immigration. He had \$10 and the shirt on his back when he arrived in Nova Scotia. He spoke no English. His first job brought him to the city of Edmonton, Alberta where he worked on a farm for \$15 a month plus room and board. After about 10 years, he moved to Vancouver Island, British Columbia. Outside the city of Port Alberni, he found work in a sawmill. While he was working in Canada, he would write to his uncle in Cleveland, Ohio.

One summer, he visited his uncle and aunt. His aunt introduced him to his future wife. After a few dates, he proposed to her. He went back to Canada, and his fiancé followed him a few months later. In September, 1949, they were married.

They moved back to Cleveland in 1950 and began to raise their family. He worked as a machinist for 25 years at Weldon Tool. When he retired at age 70, he began a routine of walking to the bus stop and going downtown and then to the airport. At Cleveland Hopkins International Airport, he attended Mass in the chapel. Then he would go back downtown to attend Mass at the Cathedral, where he served as an usher. Besides attending two Masses every day, he prayed 4 to 5 rosaries a day. He did this routine for the last 25 years walking many miles (he never did own a car).

Although my 95-year-old father never earned more than minimum wage, he has always been very generous with his money. He frequently gave five and ten dollar bills to his grown children. When he sees a child, he always pulls out his



John Blatnik

wallet and gives them a one dollar bill. At parties, he asks to gather the children together. Once all of the children are assembled, he passes out one dollar bills to each of them. Despite being robbed several times on his way to church, his benevolence was never stifled.

Even though he lived a meager existence, I wonder how he can give out all this money. But I have a clue. My father goes to church every day. In fact, he often attends three church services a day. One of these church

services is at a very small chapel. He told me of an incident that occurred at this chapel.

While attending Mass in the summer of 2001 in the chapel where the only ones present were the priest and himself, a stranger approached him. The stranger reached out and gave him something. While holding his rosary in one hand, he reached out and accepted the piece of paper. When he realized it was a \$100 bill, he turned to thank the man. But no sooner had he turned around, he found the man was gone. Although this incident occurred a few times, it still does not account for my father's generosity.

Then one day it became quite clear to me. I remember the story of Jesus feeding the multitudes with seven loaves of bread and five pieces of fish. Now I know the message: kindness to others multiples tenfold!!!

--Greg Blatnik

Old Events, New Expressions

Consider life in the 1500's: (Continued)

Houses had thatched roofs - thick straw - piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the dogs, cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof. Hence the saying, "It's raining cats and dogs."

There was nothing to stop

things from falling into the house.

This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could really mess up the nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how the canopy beds came into existence.

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying "dirt poor."

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POINTERS FOR PARENTS

How To Make The Most Of The Early Years

by Rob Reiner, actor, director and founder of the I Am Your Child Foundation

(NAPS)—Reading, singing, playing and just talking are more than fun activities you can share with your children.

Because a child's brain develops so quickly during the early years, interactions such as these can dramatically improve a child's ability to reach his greatest potential in school, and in life.

Whether you're a new parent, a grandparent, a friend or a babysitter, you can make a difference by following these simple tips recommended by the non-profit *I Am Your Child* Foundation. Many more pointers for parents are available in the Foundation's award-winning six-video series.

- **Create a Reading Routine**—Reading aloud is one of the best ways parents can help their children develop language skills and enter school ready to succeed. Interacting while you're reading can make the experience even more meaningful, so try pointing to pictures in a book or turning the pages together.

- **Sing Together**—Singing isn't just fun, it helps young children learn new words and explore their creativity. So, even if you can't carry a tune, sing! It's one of the best ways to stimulate a child's brain.

- **Eat Right**—If you're pregnant or breastfeeding, your child eats what you eat, so it's important to choose a balanced diet. As your baby gets older, proper nutrition is just as important. You help to shape your child's body by helping her establish good health and nutrition habits



Simple activities such as reading and singing can help give a child a head start in life.

early in life.

- **Use Child Safety Devices**—Sadly, accidental injury is one of the leading causes of brain damage among young children. You can reduce that risk by childproofing your home and always using a child safety seat when driving. Studies show that 80 percent of car seats are installed incorrectly, so it's a good idea to arrange for a free inspection from a qualified professional.

You don't need fancy equipment or expensive tools to stimulate a child's mind and help him grow up happy and healthy. All it takes is time, love, and a little knowledge.

For more tips to make the most of a child's early years, order the *I Am Your Child* Foundation video series at www.iamyourchild.org or 1-888-447-3400.

Degrees of Separation

Divorce may teach children some hard lessons about life, but that kind of learning doesn't seem to lead to the Ivy League. Economists Jennifer Gerner and Dean Lillard of Cornell University noticed that while almost 50 percent of children have divorced parents, at elite schools the rate is about 10 percent.

The pair then analyzed data from 27,000 students nationwide. After taking parents' income and education into account, they found that children of separated or divorced parents were half as likely as those of married parents to attend one of the country's top 50 colleges.

"We know that a divorce at home tends to lower a student's grade point average and SAT scores, so we expected a difference," says Gerner, "but not one this large."

A divorce claims children's attention and emotional energy, she says, making it harder for them to concentrate on homework or join in activities such as sports and drama — which can make or break a college application. Divorced dads may also be less willing to spring for Ivy League tuition.

Everyone can master a grief except he who has it.

In Loving Memory

In Loving Remembrance of the 14th Anniversary of my Beloved Husband

Frank Slejko
Sept. 1, 1989



No one who was loved is ever lost. No one who has ever touched a heart can really be gone — because some beauty lingers in every precious memory of which they were a part.

When someone you love becomes a memory — the Memory becomes a Treasure.

Remembered forever
Forgotten Never!

Your Loving Wife,
Jane

The truest wisdom, in general, is a resolute determination. —Napoleon



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New Children's Version of National Geographic Available in Slovenian

VENICA, CA — Books of Slovenia recently announced the publication of National Geographic Junior, a joint project of National Geographic and Rokus Publishing House. Published in Slovenian, the magazine is intended for children age 9 to 15.

NG Junior is an educational magazine with articles covering the natural sciences and humanities written in a manner appealing to children along with large-format photographs taken by some of the world's best photographers.

The contents of the Slovenian edition mainly follow the American version, complimented by columns of an entertaining character. The magazine also features contributions from Slovenian authors. NG Junior is the perfect gift for youngsters

learning Slovenian.

Slovenia's Rokus Publishing House follows only two other publishers — in Japan and Spain — to secure a license from the prestigious National Geographic to publish the new children's magazine.

NG Junior has 32 interior pages plus four cover pages and costs \$60 for an annual subscription of 10 issues, September to June.

NG Junior can be ordered on-line at www.BooksOfSlovenia.com or by sending a check (or purchase order) payable to Delphi Associates to 453 Rialto Avenue, Venice, CA 90291. To assure timely delivery, issues will be shipped each month directly from Slovenia to subscribers. For information call (310) 392-4843 or email BooksOfSlovenia@comcast.net

What I learned from a cow

Wake up in a happy moo-o-d.

Don't cry over spilt milk.

When chewing your cud, remember: There is no fat, no calories, no cholesterol, and no taste.

The grass is green on the other side of the fence.

Turn the udder cheek and moo-o-ve on.

Seize every opportunity and milk it for all its worth.

It's better to be seen and not herd.

Honor thy fodder and thy

mother and all your udder relatives.

Never take any bull from anybody.

Always let them know who's the bossy.

Stepping on cowpies brings good luck.

Black and white is always an appropriate fashion statement.

Don't forget to cow-nt your blessings every day.

Thanks to Bogo Avsec for these thoughts.



– Vesti iz Slovenije –

Zgago povzročil predsednik hrvaškega sabora – Italija ga demantirala

Pretekli ponedeljek je Zlatko Tomčić, predsednik hrvaškega sabora, je izjavil po sestanku z italijanskim veleposlanikom v Hrvaški, da imata ti dve državi usklajena stališča do razglasitve izključne ekonomske cone na Jadranskem morju. (Članek na str. 14) Tomčićeve besede so močno odmevale v Sloveniji in je slovensko ministrstvo za zunanje zadeve v torek na pogovor poklicalo odpravnico poslov v italijanskem veleposlaništvu v Ljubljani Adriano Apollonio in jo uradno zaprosilo za pojasnilo v zvezi s Tomčićevimi trditvami. Omenjena je odgovorila, da je Italija sicer zainteresirana za celovito zaščito Jadranskega morja s sodelovanjem vseh zainteresiranih držav na tem območju, torej tudi Slovenije. Zagotovila je, da bo Italija spoštovala interese Slovenije ter jo bo vključila v kakršne koli dogovore s Hrvaško glede vzpostavitve izključne ekonomske cone na Jadranu. Pri tem je še povedala, da bodo vsi dogovori potekali v okviru Evropske unije.

Skoro enako izjavo je dalo italijansko veleposlaništvo v Zagrebu.

Rojaki-državljeni, živeči po svetu, vabljeni k sodelovanju na referendumu

Republiška volilna komisija je obvestila slovenske državljane, ki živijo v tujini, da se lahko udeležijo referenduma 21. septembra o zapiranju trgovin ob nedeljah. V tujini bodo Slovenci lahko glasovali po pošti (o tem morajo RVK sporočiti do 6. septembra) ali na 35 diplomatsko konzularnih predstavništvih (tako n.pr. v Clevelandu, New Yorku in Washingtonu).

Zapleteno referendumsko vprašanje se bo glasilo: "Ali ste za to, da se v predlogu zakona o spremembi zakona o trgovini določi, da so prodajalne za nujne življenjske artikle odprte največ do deset nedelj v letu, razen bencinskih servisov, prodajaln v bolnišnicah, hotelih, na letališčih, mejnih

prehodih ter železniških in avtobusnih postajah, z omejeno površino, ki so lahko odprte brez omejitev."

Skupna vaja z britanskimi vojaki

Na vaji Dragon Tolar 2003 se v Cerkljah ob Krki in na strelišču Poček pri Postojni uri 100 britanskih in 50 slovenskih vojakov. Namen vaje: izvajanje skupnih dejavnosti obeh vojska ter urjenje v postopkih in metodah, ki jih uporablja NATO. Oktobra pa bo skupna britansko-slovenska vaja (120 Britancev) v Bohinjski Beli (preživetje v gorah) in Cerkljah (padalstvo).

Nadškof in metropolit dr. Franc Rode: "Ustavni sodniki so neverniki"

Ljubljanski nadškof dr. Franc Rode je v intervjuju za hrvaški katoliški tednik *Glas Koncila* izjavil, da je napredek in urejanje težav v odnosih med slovensko Cerkvijo in državo ustavljeno, ker skoraj dve leti po podpisu ni ratificiran sporazum z Vatikanom. Kakor opozarja, o sporazumu odloča ustavno sodišče, ki je lani izglasovalo odločitev, da je verouk v šolah neustaven. Največ skrbi ima, ker je Cerkev izolirana od državnega vzgojno-izobraževalnega sistema, saj verouk ni niti izbirni predmet v šolah, ampak se poučuje v župniščih. Verouk v šolah je menda največji problem Cerkve v Sloveniji.

Za nadškofa je težavno, ker večina ustanovnih sodnikov, izvoljenih po izboru bivšega predsednika Milana Kučana, prihaja iz vrst bivših komunistov in nevernikov, ki niso naklonjeni Cerkvi. "To je pravni položaj v Sloveniji. Žalostno." Mediji, ki oblikujejo javno mnenje, so po njegovih besedah pod nadzorom postkomunistične leve. "Položaj na področju medijev ni katastrofalen le za Cerkev, ampak tudi za demokracijo," je rekel nadškof Rode.

Tečaj, tolarja: Včerajšnji srednji devizni tečaj Banke Slovenije je kazal, da prinese 1 US\$ 217,32 SIT, kanadski pa 155,25.

Iz Clevelanda in okolice

Vrtna veselica to soboto—

To soboto zvečer ste vabljeni na Slovensko pristavo na vrtno veselico. Od 6h zv. bo za ples in zabavo igral ansambel Mladi Dolenjci iz Slovenije. Poskrbljeno bo za hrano in pijačo. Pridite in se veselite, saj gre sicer nekako nenavadno poletje vendarle h kraju.

Lilija ima sestanek—

Dramsko društvo Lilija ima svoj redni mesečni sestanek na drugi ponedeljek v septembru, to je 8. september, ob 7.30 zv. v Slovenskem domu na Holmes Ave. Sestanek je prestavljen zaradi Delavskega dne praznika. Članstvo lepo vabljenost! Dne 19. oktobra bo imela Lilija nastop z veseloigro "Vražja vdova" v Torontu. Bomo še poročali.

Krofi in rezanci—

Oltarno društvo sv. Vida bo imelo prodajo krofov in rezancev v soboto, 6. septembra, ob običajnem času v društveni sobi svetovidskega avditorija. Zaznamujte svoj koledar že danes.

Večerja s špageti—

DNIJ pri Mariji Vnebovzeti pripravlja v soboto, 6. septembra, v šolski dvorani, večerjo s špageti. Servirana bo med 6. in 8. zvečer, dar bo \$7 za odrasle in le \$3 za otroke pod 12 letom. Ves dohodek bo namenjen programu za pravico do življenja.

Delavski dan praznik—

Ta bo v ponedeljek, 1. septembra. Vsi uradi in pošta bodo zaprti.

Zopet referendum—

V Sloveniji bo v nedeljo, 21. septembra, zopet nacionalni referendum, tokrat o trgovinah ob nedeljah. Več v poročilu na tej strani, ti isti državljani Slovenije, ki bi se za udeležbo zanimali, se lahko informirajo pri najbližjem slovenskem konzularno-diplomatskem predstavništvu, tu v Clevelandu na tel. 216-589-9220. Postopek je sicer tak kot na referendumih doslej.

Novost na Pristavi—

V soboto, 6. septembra, zvečer bo na Slovenski pristavi prvič igral za ples Grand Avenue Band. Ta ansambel že nekaj časa igra v Clevelandu in okolici in eden od članov je Tony Klepec ml., sin znanega Tonyja Klepca. Kot ponavadi, bo poskrbljeno za hrano in pijačo. Vabljeni!

Celovečerni nastop Kresa—

Folklorna skupina Kres vabi v soboto, 13. septembra, na svoj nastop narodnih in umetnih plesov in sicer v SND na St. Clair Ave. Pričetek bo ob 7h zv. Za ples in zabavo bodo igrali Veseli godci. Vstopnice za odrasle so po \$10. Naprošeni ste, da pokličete ali Moniko Povirk (216-486-0713) ali Sonio Domanko (440-944-9780) za rezervacije in več informacij.

Novi grobovi

Anne J. Slapnik-Petkovsek

Dne 26. avgusta je v Slovenskem domu za ostarele umrla 95 let stara Anne J. Slapnik - Petkovsek, rojena Karish v Biwabiku, Minnesota 8. oktobra 1907, živeča na Willoughby Hillsu, pred tam pa v Clevelandu, vdova po Jamesu A. Slapniku in po Anthony Petkovšku st., mati Jamesa A. (June) Slapnika ml., Marceline (Don) Mausser, Priscille in Juliette Slapnik, 7-krat stara mati, 12-krat prastara mati, mačeha Tonyja Petkovška ml. Pogreb bo to soboto v oskrbi Cosicevega zavoda na Chardon Rd. s sv. mašo v cerkvi sv. Vida dop. ob 10h, sledil bo pokop na pokopališču Kalvarije. Ure kropjenja bodo jutri, v petek, pop. od 2. do 4. in zv. od 7. do 9.

(DALJE na str. 15)

KOLEDAR

AUGUST

31. – Društvo SPB vodi romanje k Žalostni Materi božji v Frank, Ohio. Sv. mašo daruje č.g. dr. Pavle Krajnik ob 12. uri opoldne, druge pobožnosti ob 2.30.

SEPTEMBER

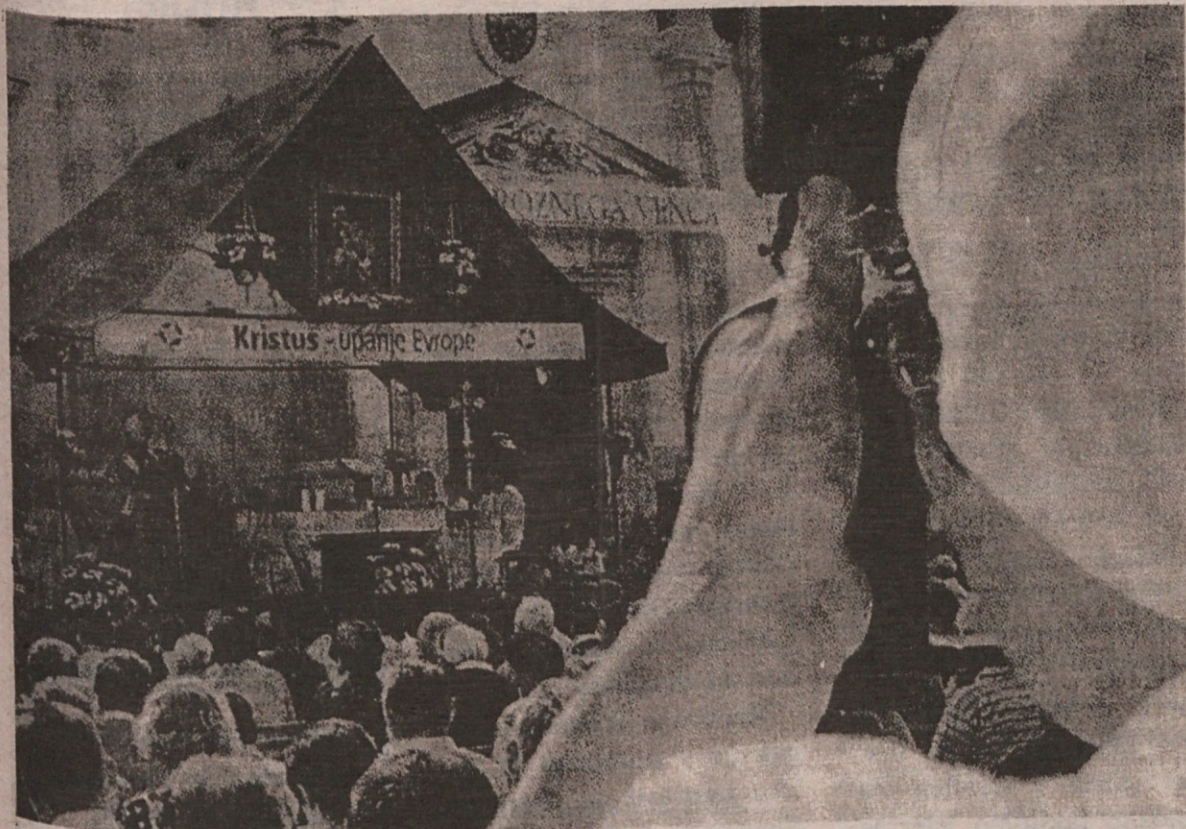
13. – Folklorna skupina Kres ima celovečerno prireditev v SND na St. Clairju.

21. – Oltarno društvo sv. Vida ima vsakoletno kosilo v avditoriju pri sv. Vidu.

27. – Slovenska radijska družina priredi banket v proslavo 50. obletnice obstoja oddaje "Pesmi in melodije iz naše lepe Slovenije", v Slovenskem narodnem domu na St. Clair Ave. Pričetek ob 6. uri zv., za ples igra orkester Staneta Mejača.

28. – SKD Triglav, Milwaukee, priredi Vinsko tr-

(dalje na str. 16)



PRAZNOVANJE MARIJINEGA VNEBOVZETJA NA BREZJAH 15. AVGUSTA – Poglavitne točke govora ljubljanskega nadškofa in metropolita so že bile objavljene. V današnji številki je tudi članek o intervjuju, ki ga je imel nadškof s slovensko novinarko, in članek, ki govori o izjavi Slovenske škofovske konference o rastoči nestrpnosti do Cerkve.

Tine Debeljak, urednik *Svobodne Slovenije*

Preambula slovenske ustave

Že več kot deset let ima Slovenija svojo ustavo, to je svojo bazo. Takrat je bilo treba na vrat na nos sestaviti osnovna pravila državnega življenja, potrebno je bilo soglasje, ker je bila nuja in ni bilo veliko časa za premišljevanje ali izboljšave. Pa še vsi državljani so morali biti istega mnenja, da je lahko nova država Slovenija takoj pričela živeti.

Saj vemo, kako je bilo z zastavo ali državno himno. Zastava je bila bela-modra-rdeča, to je bilo pač že iz zgodovine. A so revolucionarni komunisti zahtevali svoj prejšnji sovjetski grb, ki ga pa demokrati niso sprejeli. Pa je nastal kompromis. V grbu naj bo Triglav, dva valova namesto treh, brez klasja in trakov, namesto komunistične zvezde pa naj imajo nekomiunisti celjske zvezde nad Triglavom.

In državna himna. Nič več internacionala, še manj tište kitice o Stalinu in Titu iz prvih let, ki se jih še spominjam. Naj bo Prešeren, kdo je proti? Seveda pa tista kitica, kjer ni govora o Bogu ali Slovencih, ampak je prava internacionala.

Volk sit in koza cela.

Sicer je vsa ustava bila kar dobra rešitev, čeprav šepa pri izvedbah še danes.

A sedaj so bivši oblastniki dobili pogum in zahtevajo popravek prav v idejnem uvodu v ustavna določila. Tam je bilo kot kompromis govora o večstoletnem naporu in borbi slovenskega ljudstva za osamosvojitve, svobodo in samostojnost, kar so vsi sprejeli. Pri tem so bili mišljeni kmečki upori, Krekovo socialno prizadevanje, Prešernova in Cankarjeva odločitev za Slovenijo proti jugoslovanski ideji, in podobno.

Sedaj pa nekaterim to ni dovolj, ker posebej ne omenja ta uvod partizanstva.

Zato zahtevajo, da se napiše, da je ta borba za samostojnost Slovenije dosegla vrh z NOV – narodno osvobodilno vojsko – ki je končno pripomogla, 50. let kasneje odločilno k osamosvojitvi.

V kolikor mi je znano, je bila NOV pod jugoslovanskim vodstvom, idejno revolucionarsko pa pod vodstvom mednarodne prosovjetske Komunistične partije. Spominjam se, kako so skušali omejiti učenje slovenščine. Je tukaj kaj tako slovenskega?

NOV je bila samo sredstvo za dosego komunistične oblasti in izvedbo socialistične komunistične revolucije. Ker drugače ne bi dobili ljudi na svojo stran – bilo je komunistov premalo – so pod protiokupatorskim geslom zajeli ljudi v svoje vrste, ker so očitali demokratom, da so se potuhnili in ne naredijo nič proti okupatorju. Sami pa so delali isto do Hitlerjevega napada na Sovjetsko zvezo.

In v času diktature komunistične partije je kot največje herojstvo ni vrednost v slovenski zgodovini veljala socialna revolucija. Ta je bila razglašana kot največji dosežek. Postavljali so ji spomenike – še danes lahko vidiš spomenik revoluciji pred parlamentom, lahko se še bere napis, ki slavi revolucijo – imamo spomenik revolucionarjem Kardelju, Kidriču in drugim. Zadnji predsednik slovenskega predsedstva Milan Kučan je napisal več člankov, kjer slavi revolucijo. Revolucija, revolucija, in spet revolucija.

Danes so na lepem vsi pozabili nanjo. O njej se ne govori, ne piše in se je ne spominja. Gotovo ni

dobra vstopnica v Evropsko skupnost. A so iz ropotarnice potegnili drugo besedo, to je NOV. Slavijo se brigade, čete, heroji, poveljniki in partizani, ki da so hoteli samo svobodo in nič drugega. Čedalje več se o tem govori. Partizansko bolnico Franja so hoteli spraviti med najvišjo dediščino človeštva, sicer brez uspeha. In da bo to še bolj držalo, hočejo spraviti omembo NOV v ustavo, da bo spominjala poznejše rodove o čistim neomadeževanem osvobodilnem boju slovenskih komunistov in da se tako še prej pozabi beseda in pojem komunistične revolucije. To je tako, kot so v romanu Orwella natisnili stare časopise z novimi teksti, ko se je spremenil zgodovinski kurz. Da ne bo niti v arhivih kaj napačnega in protivnega novi politiki. (Mimogrede, kje so slovenski arhivi?)

Ljudem, ki stvari ne poznajo dobro ali pa so sami potomci partizanov, pa se to zdi lepo in resnično.

Le tisti, ki imamo malo spomina in se brigamo za zgodovino, se ne bomo pustili zavajati, saj se s pomočjo novih zgodovinarjev odkriva vrsta dejstev, ki naše mnenje potrjujejo. NOV ni beseda za ustavo, je pač le krinka za zločinsko delovanje komunistov.

Bodimo budni!

Buenos Aires, Arg., 14. avg. 2003

Ur. AD: O spremembah in pa tudi ne-spremembah v slovenskem zgodovinopisju se da razbrati v članku v nedavni Sobotni prilogi Dela o smrti Vinka Levstika izpod peresa zgodovinarja Božota Repeta, ki je ponatisnjen v celoti v današnji AD.

– † Anton Nemec –

(Družina, 17. avg. 2003) – V slovenski skupnosti v Clevelandu je nedavno spet ostro zarezala bolečina ob izgubi uglednega in izjemno dejavnega člana.

Od lanskega leta, ko se je Antonu Nemcu zdravje močno poslabšalo, so mnogi rojaki spremljali njegov boj proti zahrbtni bolezni in ko je že vse kazalo, da zmaguje, ga je Gospodar življenja na poti v bolnišnico, kamor je hodil na redno dializo, v petek, 1. avgusta, poklical k sebi.

Anton se je rodil 30. marca leta 1927 v narodno zavedni in globoko verni družini v Štrigovi, ki je danes na Hrvaškem, takrat pa je bila to skoraj že povsem slovenska vas.

Po vojni in vseh hudih preizkušnjah se je Nemčeva družina, razen dveh hčerk, ki sta bili na prisilnem delu, zaradi komunističnih groženj leta 1947 umaknila v Avstrijo.

Po posredovanju salezijskega duhovnika iz Portugalske, so Nemčevo družino sprejeli v deško semenišče v Gradcu. Anton je obiskoval gimnazijo v Linzu in se po maturi vpisal v Gradcu na teološko fakulteto, kjer je študiral tri leta.

Ko sta dekleti Ani in Kati konec leta 1950 pri-

bežali k domačim v Avstrijo, so se Nemčevi, takrat še brez Toneta, odselili v New York. Tone je prišel za njimi po letu dni.

Skupaj so se preselili v slovensko župnijo Marije Vnebovzete v Clevelandu. Tam se je Tone spoznal z Ani Krulc iz Moravč, ki je takrat žive la na Aurori v Minnesoti, in se z njo poročil. V lepem zakonu se jima je rodilo 7 otrok. Vse svoje moči je posvetil delu in skupaj z ženo vzgoji otrok. Njuna družina je danes pomemben steber narodnega življenja v clevelandski slovenski skupnosti.

Tone jim je bil v tem zgled. Ob delu (bil je strojnik in pozneje dolga leta nadzornik v tovarni) je veliko prostega časa namenil delu v različnih društvih in krožkih. Do zadnjega je bil dejaven v domači župniji. Dvajset let je bil tajnik društva sv. Jožefa, pri KSKJ, deset let pa je urejal Glasilo društva KSKJ. Skorajda ni bilo društva, kjer ne bi sodeloval na tak ali drugačen način.

Redno je spremljal dogajanje v domovini in veliko napravil za poznanje Slovencev v ZDA. Bil je seznanjen z dogodki v domovini, izjemno načitan in izobražen. Njegova

bogata knjižnica je imela skoraj vsa znana dela slovenskih pisateljev in pesnikov ter drugih piscev. Odlikoval ga je izjemen čut za slovenski jezik, med prijatelji je bil priljubljen zaradi vedrega značaja in nagnjenja k humorju. Njegove šale, anekdote, uganke, ki jih ni le pobiral drugod, pač pa tudi sam sestavljal, so bile izraz njegove čiste in vesele duše.

Kot tak je imel vselej odprt dom za goste, pa naj so prišli iz Clevelanda ali iz domovine.

Vse to je je najlepša dediščina, ki jo je zapustil svojim otrokom, najbolj pa zgled močne in trdne vere, ki se je kazala v njegovem življenju. Bil je dobro versko podkovan in je to prenesel tudi na svojo družino.

Pogrebno slovo je bilo veličasten vstajenski praznik z mašo v župnijski cerkvi Marije Vnebovzete in slovesom na pokopališču Vernih duš. Nagovoru župnika Janeza Kumšeta se je pridružil tudi družinski prijatelj mons. Franc Urbanija. Očetu pa so v slovo spregovorili tudi hvaležni otroci.

Njegov zgled pa bo še dolgo ostal spodbuda za vse, ki nadaljujejo njegovo delo v slovenskih organizacijah in ustanovah. Naj počiva v miru in iz večnosti prosi za blagor našega naroda! F. P.

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NOVI GLAS / INTERVJU – Toni in Aljoša Ravnik

Ohranjanje slovenskega duha v ZDA

– II. del ALJOŠA RAVNIK –

Mnogo let je že poteklo, odkar si skupno s tvojimi odšel v Ameriko (ZDA). Naselili ste se v Kaliforniji blizu San Francisca, kjer ste še danes. Kako se imaš?

Da, prišli smo v Kalifornijo, v Oakland, leta 1951, tik pred Božičem, ko je bilo vse praznično okrašeno, lučke povsod – to je bil res čudovit, nov svet.

Vendar začetek ni bil lahek. Oče se je trudil v raznih poslih, ker ni mogel službovati kot živinozdravnik. Brate Tone je, poleg študija, delal v restavraciji, jaz pa kot cerkovnik v slovenski cerkvi v San Franciscu, kjer je župnikoval g. Vital Vodušek.

Najprej sem študiral na jezuitski univerzi (U.S.F.), in sicer politične vede. Po dveh letih sem bil sprejet na University of California v Berkeleyju, potem sem nadaljeval na zdravniškem centru v San Franciscu (U.C.S.F.), kjer sem dobil doktorat na farmaceutski fakulteti.

Najprej sem opravil triletno vojaško dolžnost kot oficir v "United States Public Health Service" v bolnišnicah na Staten Islandu (New York) in San Pedru (Los Angeles). V New Yorku sem redno obiskoval slovensko cerkev "na osmi" (Sv. Ciril in Metod), pel na koru in užival njih predstave.

Po vrnitvi domov sem nadaljeval kot farmacevt v občinski bolnišnici v San Mateu (malo južno od San Francisca), kjer sem delal do leta 1993. Leta 1972 sem se poročil s Susan Norcross (anesteziologinja). Po rojstvu dveh fantov, Davida in Jožeta, je bila moja glavna skrb družina. Po upokojitvi sem se zaposlil v bližnji bolnišnici, toda samo polovično.

Ti si po študiju farmacevt, vendar so tvoje dejavnosti zelo razvejane. Vsi skupaj si zelo prizadevate za slovensko skupnost, ki živi v tistem delu Združenih držav. Čemu posvečaš največ svojega prostega časa?

Pred leti je bilo tu še kar precej Slovencev. Večkrat smo se zbirali na slovenskih domovih in seveda tudi v Slovenskem domu za večerjo, petje in ples. Petje je bilo zame vedno nekaj lepega. Že kot študent sem začel peti v dobrem pevskem zboru v naši slovenski cerkvi. Tam pojem že več kot petdeset let – razen tistih nekaj let, ko sem bil odsoten.

Saj je tudi vsa naša družina vedno uživala petje in so vsi postali člani cerkvenega zbora, razen Tonyja – njegovo zahtevno delo ga pogosto vpreže ob nedeljah. Pa pride v slovensko cerkev ob posebnih praznikih.

Od 1967 do 1972 sem pel v moškem zboru Orpheon. Sem tudi član društva Dramatsko in izobraževalno društvo Slovenija, kjer se brat Ivo in Jože Govednik, voditelja društva, trudita ohraniti slovensko skupnost s tem, da sta zopet začela zanimive mesečne programe v Slovenskem domu. (Pred kratkim je na sestanku predaval g. Vinko Potočnik iz Maribora.) Poleg petja se zanimam za razne športe. Pred leti sem igral nogomet in smučal.

V novem svetu je bilo gotovo veliko novosti. Z leti pa se gotovo tudi te uglasijo in se pač povežejo s starimi elementi prejšnjih izkušenj. Ali je tako ali ne?

Sprememba v novem svetu je bila za nas velika. Takoj po prihodu v Oakland nas je obiskal Vital Vodušek in mi ponudil cerkovniško službo (čeprav mi je bilo komaj 16 let). Vsako jutro sem odpiral cerkev ob 6.30. Ob sobotah je bilo čiščenje cerkve, kora in dvorane. Če nisem imel strežnikov, sem moral streči sam pri mašah (ob nedeljah jih je bilo pet). Že takrat sem se pridružil

cerkvenemu pevskemu zboru. Novemu jeziku v šoli in okolju v farovžu sem se prilagodil še kar hitro.

Kaj bi povedal o vaših stikih s primorskim in slovenskim svetom nasploh?

Takrat je bilo tu kar precej Slovencev, kot sem že omenil, vendar le malo primorskih Slovencev; največ jih je bilo iz Bele krajine. Vsi so bili zelo zaposleni z delom in svojimi družinami.

Za Slovence sta bila dva centra: naša cerkev in Slovenski dom. Poleg tega smo se tudi pri pevskih vajah sprijateljili z drugimi družinami. Vsa leta smo seveda nadaljevali stike s sorodniki in dobrimi prijatelji iz domovine in drugimi, raztresenimi po vsem svetu.

Vem, da si že od mladih let navdušen glasbenik. Igral si harmoniko, rad pel. V bližnjem goriškem Alojzijevešću pa si rad vadil klavir. Kako je sedaj s tvojim glasbenim udejstvovanjem v ZDA? Vem, da stalno sodeluješ v slovenskem cerkvenem zboru v San Franciscu. Poješ pa tudi v ruskem zboru Slavyanka, ali ne?

Še vedno pojem v cerkvenem zboru z mamo, sestro Mirjam in bratom Ivotom. Pristopil sem k ruskemu zboru Slavyanka, ker mi je všeč ruska glasba. Pojemo pretežno ruske pesmi, deloma iz pravoslavne liturgije, pa tudi georgijske, armenske, bolgarske, srbske in makedonske. Sedaj vadimo tudi prvo slovensko skladbo: *Večerni ave* Antona Foersterja. Med pevci ni nobenega Rusa, razen pe-
vovodje Gregorja Smirnova, ki je iz Pskova.

Tako ti kot bratje, zlasti Ivo, se zelo udeležujete v slovenski župniji v San Franciscu. Letos menda le-ta praznuje visok jubilej (100 let). V tej verski in obenem narodni skupnosti je delovalo v dolgem obdobju veliko znanih in zaslužnih duhovnikov. Med temi recimo tudi g. Vital Vodušek, znan tudi kot pesnik in zaslužen kul-

(dalje na str. 12)

Iz farnih buletinov

Župnija Marije Vnebovzete

Krasen dan za uspešen farni piknik
(8.24.2003)

Zadnjo nedeljo (tj. 17. avgusta) je bil piknik velik uspeh. Veliko faranov, nekdanjih faranov in prijateljev naše župnije je prihajalo na Slovensko pristavo ves dan. Vreme je bilo perfektno, hrana odlična; duhovita glasba in povsem praznično razpoloženje je napravilo zelo prijeten in nepozaben dan.

Zahvaliti se moramo posebno pripravljalnemu odboru piknika, Florjanu in Pat Osredkar ter Davidu Kushnerju, ki so skrbeli, da je vse potekalo v redu. Iskrena hvala tudi Julki Zalar in njenim pomočnicam, ki so servirale nad 500 kosil in potem nadaljno stregle hrano do zadnje klobase in hamburgerja. Še naš novomašnik Fr. John Retar je ves popoldan hitro obračal hamburgerje.

Hvala Kristjanu Sedmak in njegovi ekipi, ki so držali vročo žaro za njegove zelo priljubljene čevapčiče, ter Gregorju in Jennie Sedmak, ki sta zabavala otroke z igrami in tekmovanjem. Hvala tudi Alice Zagar in Christine Nemec za pripravo "Chinese Auction", in vsem, ki so zato darovali dobrotke.

Iskrena zahvala članicam Oltarnega društva in vsem farankam za okusne krofe in toliko raznovrstnega peciva, kakor tudi vsem prostovoljcem za pomoč. Hvala vsem, ki ste svoje srečke kupili ali prodali. Hvaležni moramo biti samo vsemogočnemu Bogu in za molitve naše Device Marije za tako lep dan. Naj Bog blagoslovi in poplača vsem, ki ste na kakršenkoli način pripomogli, da je bil piknik tako uspešen.

Resnično smo blagoslovljeni

Zadnjo nedeljo (tj. 17. avgusta) po maši na Slovenski pristavi je g. James Debevec obvestil,

da bo naša župnija prejela dar za novo dvorano v vsoti \$215,000. v petih letih od Frances in Jane S. Lauche Foundation. Nato je za letos podaril vsoto \$100,000.

Resnično smo zelo hvaležni Lausche Foundation za ta velikodušen dar ter Jim in Madeline Debevcu in ostalim zaupnikom za njihovo podporo in zaupanje v naš farni projekt. Atrij ali zbiralni prostor bomo posvetili v spomin senatorju Franku J. Lausche. Še enkrat naša globoka hvaležnost in zahvala za ta velikodušen dar župniji.

Župnija sv. Vida

Poročilo pastoralnega sveta
(24. avgusta)

Svet se je sestel v sredo, 13. avgusta. Precej časa je razprava potekala o nujnem popravilu cerkvene strehe. Že več let vemo, da imamo problem s cerkveno streho. Prejšnja popravila niso bila temeljita. Čez nekaj časa je streha začela puščati na drugih mestih.

Ko se je 1993 prenavljala notranjost cerkve, je fara poskušala z večjimi in bolj temeljitimi popravili na strehi. Toda problem se je po nekaj letih zopet pojavil.

Ker je streha stara že 70 let, se fara bavi z mislijo, da bi streho nanovo prekrili. Več ljudi, ki poznajo španski način pokrivanja streh, smo o tem že vprašali za njihovo mnenje. Farà je v zadevi tehnične pomoči tudi v stikih s škofijskimi uradi. Več o tem v prihodnjih nedeljskih biltenih.

G. župnik se je zahvalil članom Sveta za njihovo sodelovanje na farnem pikniku v juliju. Prav tako se je zahvalil farnim prostovoljcem, posebno farni mladini. Zahvaljujemo se vsem za trdo delo, da je bil farni piknik finančno uspešen in obenem prijeten dogodek za vse.

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(dalje na str. 12)

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IZDAJAMO TUDI ZDRAVILA

ZARAČUN POMOČI

DRŽAVE OHIO – AID FOR

THE AGED-PRESCRIPTIONS

Ali nestrpnost do Cerkve narašča?

Ljubljana (Delo fax, 23. avgusta) – Komisija za pravičnost in mir pri Slovenski škofovski konferenci, vodi jo dr. Anton Stres (mariborski pomožni škof), se je v včerajšnjem odprtem pismu vrhu države, šolskemu ministrstvu, medijem – predvsem pa varuhu človekovih pravic – zaradi "verske nestrpnosti, ne-kulture in vandalizma" obrnila še na javnost. Nestrpnost zoper Katoliško cerkev narašča, je ocenil Stres in dejal, da posamične provokacije ne ostajajo več le na tej ravni.

Komisija za pravičnost in mir opozarja, da se takšni primeri – omenili so preprečitev zvonjenja v koprski stolnici na praznik Marijinega vnebovzeta (ki jo je organiziral /koprski mestni svetnik/ Marko Breclj), na Laibachovo skrunitev cerkve na Kumu, oskrunjen spomenik Matere božje v Portorožu, zažgan križ v Strunjanu, pa tudi na podgano v naročju brezijske Matere božje na ovitku zgoščenke skupine Strelnikoff – razraščajo, prav zato pa so se v komisiji odločili, da javnost opozorijo na takšne pojave. Stres ugotavlja, da je "stopnja tolerance ob teh dejanjih prevelika".

Vzroki za takšna dejanja so po mnenju komisije neurejeni (pravni) odnosi med državo in Cerkvijo, rezultati desetletnega dela različnih državno-cerkvenih komisij pa pičli.

Stres pravi, da vatičanski sporazum, ki bi bil simboličen korak naprej,

še vedno čaka na presojeno na ustavnem sodišču.

Zaznali so sicer določene premike – denimo duhovno oskrbo vojakov in v bolnišnicah, pa pri denacionalizaciji –, toda ti rezultati so preskromni.

Prav konfliktni položaj med Cerkvijo in državo poraja nestrpne reakcije, ocenjuje Stres, med vzroke takšnih pojavov pa je prištel še prepoved verskega pouka v šoli, saj naj bi bil prav odnos šolskih oblasti do vere povzročitelj naraščajoče nestrpnosti do vere in vernikov.

Tretji vzrok pa je po mnenju komisije odnos nekaterih medijev do Katoliške cerkve, predvsem cinčni in pristranski način obravnavanja cerkvenih tem. To, da je regionalni center RTVS snemal dogajanje v Kopru, komisija razume kot ne-profesionalno početje.

Cerkev ne želi ne nadmoči ne privilegijev, je dejal Stres, ko se je dotaknil četrtega vzroka – javnega mnenja. Zanj je značilen strah pred Cerkvijo, je ocenil Stres.

Cerkev želi le takšno mesto, kot jo ima v sosednjih državah, ki niso poznale petdeset let komunističnega enoumja.

Člani komisije dodajajo, da teh dejanj verske nestrpnosti nihče od predstavnikov oblasti ni nedvoumno obsodil. Sprašujejo se, ali predstavniki države s pomočjo medijev versko nestrpnost do katoličanov tiho podpirajo. Prav tako se čudijo,

ker nobena od strokovnih organizacij – denimo zavod za kulturno dediščino ali organizacij civilne družbe – ni protestiral ob uničevanju kulturne dediščine.

Opozarjajo tudi, da koprski mestni svetnik (Breclj) vodi tamkajšnji mladinski center, ki prejema javna sredstva, ta center pa daje mladim določene usmeritve. "Te pa so čudne," ocenjujejo člani komisije.

Pri tem dodajajo, da ima tudi svoboda izražanja in umetniška svoboda določene meje. Odziv komisije lahko pomeni, da zgolj nasedajo na provokacije oziroma na najbolj poceni promocijo, vendar pa želijo na te "boleče in žaljive" in zaenkrat samo posamezne ekscese pravočasno opozoriti, saj ugotavljajo, da nestrpnost narašča in da se "bo to stopnjevalo".

V Sloveniji, še ugotavljajo, ni družbene skupine, ki bi bila tarča tako pogostih in nestrpnih napadov kot Katoliška cerkev. Naslovnike, še posebej pa varuha, ki se doslej tej obliki nestrpnosti ni posvetil, sprašujejo, kaj bodo storili. Pismo so poslali tudi apostolskemu nunciju, veleposlaništvom drugih držav in komisarju za človekove pravice pri Svetu Evrope.

Rok Kajzer

Iz farnih...

(nadaljevanje s str. 11)

sv. Vida. Je veliko stvari, ki jih morajo opraviti, da pride taka šola do življenja in začne delovati. Celo prihodnje šolsko leto bodo porabili, da pripravijo notranjost stavbe za potrebe nove šole. Istočasno pa bodo tudi zbirali učiteljstvo in dodatno osebje za šolo. Kot druga leta pa bo Slovenska šola pri sv. Vidu odprla vrata sredi septembra.

V prihodnjih mesecih je na programu več pomembnih farnih prireditve, ki jih bo Pastoralni svet pomagal organizirati in izvesti. Sledilo je poročilo o splošnih zadevah v sosesčini, kot so varnost, delovanje organizacij v soseski in opuščeni hišah.

Z AMERIŠKO DOMOVINO
STE VEDNO NA TEKOČEM

Ohranjanje slovenskega duha v ZDA

(nadaljevanje s str. 11)

turni delavec sploh. Kaj bi lahko povedal o vsem tem?

Letos praznuje naša župnija Rojstva Jezusovega v San Franciscu 100 let obstoja.

Prvi župnik je bil g. Francis Turk. Ko je umrl 1. 1939, je prišel g. Vital Vodusek, ki je ostal do svoje smrti leta 1973. Leta 1994 je bila cerkev začasno zaprta. Takrat so slovenski škofje, takratni veleposlanik v Vatikanu Štefan Falež in tudi obisk škofa Piriha zelo vplivali na novega nadškofa, da je cerkev odprl, in sicer skupaj s Poljaki, ker so oni imeli svojega duhovnika. Ta nam sedaj mašuje – samo po angleško.

Poleg omenjenih je tudi g. Jurij Trunk živel v župnišču od leta 1946 – na povabilo g. Vitala Voduske –, kjer naj bi preživel zadnja leta kot upokojenec. Maševal je še 27 let. Umrl je 1. 1973, ko je imel skoraj 103 leta.

On je leta 1918 zastopal koroške Slovence kot poslanec pri mirovnem posvetovanju v Versaillesu. Po prihodu v ZDA, leta 1921, je služboval nekaj let v Severni Dakoti, nato pa do upokojitve kot župnik v Leadvilleu v Coloradu. Tam je naslikal notranjost cerkve z bibličnimi prizori. To cerkev je država označila kot "zgodovinski spomenik".

Približno pet let je bil tam kaplan Louis Dabovich iz Boke Kotorske in je maševal za Hrvate. Ko je bil Vodusek nameščen v drugo faro, se je naučil pridigati Hrvatom v njihovem jeziku.

Najbolj vpliven za Slovence, odkar smo mi tu, je bil g. Vital Vodusek, res izredno dinamičen duhovnik. Bil je sposo-

ben pesnik, organist, ljubitelj glasbe in cerkvene umetnosti. Z velikim navdušenjem je zasledoval in uvedel liturgične spremembe v cerkvenih obredih. Zelo je podpiral in vzpodbujal cerkveni zbor, ki je dobro zvenel pod vodstvom pevovodje in organista Aleša Šimenca.

Vsak četrtek je vabil na kosilo ameriškega škofa in več bližnjih slovenskih duhovnikov. Ob teh priložnostih sem lahko prisluškoval zanimivim razgovorom na političnem, ekonomskem, socialnem in verskem področju.

Poleg tega so prav pogosto obiskovali Vitala svetovno znani pisatelji, pesniki, pevci, filozofi in teologi (npr. Karl Rahner in Josef Goldbrunner, Božidar Jakac in Zinka Milanov ter Slovenski oktet; vsi so bili dobrodošli in lepo pogoščeni).

Koliko je približno Slovencev v Kaliforniji? Po vojni je bilo tam še nekaj znanih goriških oz. tolminskih Slovencev; tako prof. Viktorija Komjanc pa še kdo. Ali ste imeli mnogo stikov z njimi?

Kot sem omenil, je bilo tu le malo Primorcev. Ob štetju 1. 2000 je žive-lo v ZDA 175.000 Slovencev. Največ v Ohiju (58 tisoč), v Kaliforniji samo 9.500. Dosti več nas je bilo pred 50 leti, ko smo se večkrat srečevali, posebno ob nedeljah, v cerkveni dvorani, Slovenski dvorani ali pri posameznih družinah, kjer smo po jedi vedno peli nekaj lep-pih slovenskih pesmi.

Že večkrat je bil skoraj vsak član Ravnikov družine na obisku v Evropi oz. doma. Danes med vsemi vami najstarejša gospa Štefka, ma-

(DALJE na str. 15)

Sprememba naslova

Ko se selite, trajno ali začasno, ste lepo naprošeni, da naši pisarni posredujete pravočasno tako Vaš nov naslov kakor sedanji. To omogoča, da boste brez prekinitve dobivali naš list, prihranili boste pa pisarni strošek 60 centov, ki jih računa pošta za vsak povrnjen oziroma ne dostavljen izvod lista. Uporabljajte ta obrazec za posredovanje potrebnih informacij.

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Nadškof dr. Franc Rode – Intervju...

Ob smrti Vinka Levstika

BOŽO REPE, zgodovinar

"Dobro sodelujem z Ropom"

Koliko domobranstva je še živega

Ljubljana – "Gospod Rode, kako sodelujete z vlado Antona Ropa?"

"Dobro. Se čudite?"

"Nekoliko sem prese- nečena."

"Dobro sodelujemo. Imamo pogovore. Moram reči, da se določene stvari, sicer obrobne, ne zelo pomembne, vendarle premikajo. In jaz imam upanje, da se bo marsikakšen problem pod to vlado rešil."

Dr. Franc Rode, ljubljanski nadškof in slovenski metropolit, je v torek (tj. 19. avgusta, op. ur. AD) zvečer nastopil v televizijskem pogovoru, ki ga je vodila novinarka Rosvita Pesek. Rode v intervjuju ni sprejemal črno-belih delitev in poenostavitve.

Zakaj je v svojem govoru na Brezjah ošvrknil levo, je v začetku intervjuja vprašala novinarka Peskova. Rode ji je odgovoril:

"Družbeni problem, ki sem jih omenil v nagovoru na Brezjah, so realni problemi slovenske družbe in slovenske države. In ker levica pri nas vlada že več kot desetletje, je jasno, da v glavnem za to odgovarja levica. Da je ta tista, ki ne rešuje problemov ali slabo rešuje probleme, ki jih čuti slovenski človek. Omeniti to je moja dolžnost. Ne gre za obsojanje, sam le opozarjam na probleme slovenske družbe – zato, da bi se položaj izboljšal. To je moj namen."

Novinarka je vztrajala: soodgovorne so tudi desne stranke, saj da je LDS vedno imela v vladi tudi kako desno stranko: "Zakaj šparate, kot se grdo reče, Slovensko ljudsko stranko in je ne izpostavite?"

Rode je odgovoril: "Ne gre za to, da bi ščitil Slovensko ljudsko stranko. SLS ima znotraj koalicije svoje predloge, svoje poudarke, tako v državnem zboru kot v vla- dni koaliciji. Vprašanje je, koliko s temi svojimi predlogi in poudarki prodre, koliko jih more uresničiti v praksi? Mislim, da ne veliko."

Nato je Rode nadaljeval: "Spominjam pa se, da so v devetdesetih letih te desne stranke več-

krat omenjale krščanski etos, da so govorile o krščanskih vrednotah. In opažam, da te terminologije in teh konceptov desne stranke ne uporabljajo več.

In torej v tem smislu se mi zdi, da je to neka sprememba, ki ni po mojem sprememba na boljše in ki je verjetno tudi nekakšna nezvestoba do volilcev, ki volijo te stranke tudi zaradi tega, ker imajo krščanski krščanske vrednote v svojem programu.

Katoliška cerkev se ne identificira z nobeno stranko, absolutno ne. Jaz vem, da je slovenski politični prostor precej raznolik, da ne moremo reči: ta stranka je 100-odstotno stranka krščanskega navdiha, in ta druga stranka je popolnoma nasprotna krščanskemu etosu in v svojih kadrih ali med svojimi volilci nima vernikov.

Slovenski politični prostor je precej razpršen in Cerkev se ne identificira z nobeno politično stranko, pač pa zagovarja določene vrednote, ki naj bi jih stranke uveljavljale."

Novinarka je Rodeta vprašala, kako ocenjuje, da pobudnikom referendum o dekriminalizaciji prostitucije ni uspelo zbrati podpisov?

"Mislim, da je več dejavnikov, ki so se nagnetli in dali tak rezultat. (Pojasnilo ur. AD: Gre za to, da so liberalci oz. levičarski poslanci parlamenta želeli sprejeti zakon o dekriminalizaciji prostitucije, nekateri, ki

(dalje na str. 16)

Ljubljana (Delo, Sobotna priloga, 16. avg. 2003) – Ali bo smrti Vinka Levstika, domobranskega podnarednika, ki je bil za vojne zločine pred okrožnim sodiščem v Ljubljani leta 2001 najprej obsojen na dvanajst let zapor, naslednje leto pa na prizivnem sodišču oproščen, kaj vplivalo na več kot šestdesetletni partizansko - domobranski spor?

Cinično bi lahko rekli, da bo, saj z biološko smrtjo konflikti izgubijo svoj smisel. Vendar so tu mnogo daljša in globlja ideološka ozadja. Tudi sodišča morajo slediti svoji logiki in materialnim dokazom. S tem je, še posebno ko gre za vojne čase – kot kažejo tudi sojenja na haaškem sodišču –, težko že po nekaj letih, kaj šele po več desetletjih.

Sojenje Vinku Levstiku je ves čas imelo politično konotacijo, med drugim je leta 1993 tedanji ljubljanski tožilec Miklavčič, ki svoje desne usmeritve ni skrival, pregon opustil. Le težko pa je reči, da je sojenje Levstiku za domobranstvo imelo tudi simbolni pomen. Ne glede na sodni razplet je zgodovinsko dokazljivo, da je bil Levstik jurišnik, ki mu ubijanje še zdaleč ni bilo tuje.

Podpisani je v knjigi *Mimo odprtih vrat* leta 1988 objavil faksimile dokumenta, v katerem domobranski kaplar, Vinko Levstik (takrat Levstek), marca 1944 poveljstvo organizacijskega štaba Slovenskega domobranstva prosi za povišanje v

čin podnarednika.

To med drugim utemeljuje s tem, da je po vstopu v slovensko domobranstvo (pred tem je bil nekaj časa pri partizanih, op. p.) 15. novembra 1943 ob neki priložnosti "1 partizana ujel, 1 ubil", ob drugi priložnosti "ujel /.../ dva partizana z orožjem in kolesi" in "zasledil /.../ tri terence in dve terenki".

Levstik je po lastnih navedbah rešil most pri Šmarju, ki so ga partizani poskušali zrušiti in od "40 partizanov, ki so napadali, /.../ ubil enega, drugi so zbežali".

Med uspehe je navedel uboj partizanskega vodnika 27. februarja 1944, ujetje drugega, zaplembo dveh pušk, ene pištole in zaboja municije. Naslednji dan je šel prostovoljno v akcijo z Nemci in je "enega partizana podrl, 1 ujel", 29. februarja 1944 se je "udaril skupaj s 7 partizani", tri od teh je ustrelil. En partizan ga je ranil v hrbet, toda Levstik se ni dal, takoj ga je ranil v ramo in mu odvzel mitraljez in municijo.

Gotovo je ob taki dejavnosti meja med tistim, kar je po mednarodnem vojaškem pravu še sprejemljivo, in tistim, kar ni, zelo zabrisana. Gotovo je tudi, da so Levstikova junaštva ali "junaštva" napihnjena, kot je ob takih priložnostih običajno. Niso pa čisto izmišljena. Kot kažejo časopisne polemike v času sojenja, naj bi se sam bahal, da je odkril in pobil več kot šestdeset partizanov.

Sodišče Levstiku ni uspelo dokazati uboja partizana Alojza Marolta, ki naj bi ga, preoblečen v partizansko uniformo, storil šestdeset let prej, 28. avgusta 1944. Tudi ne uboja sanitetnega referenta XVIII. divizije NOV Borivoja Jeleniča – Borčija na pokopališču pri cerkvi v vasi Struga. In ne uboja Ivanke Vesel, ki naj bi ga kot poveljnik skupine Črne roke (tajne skupine, ki je bila povezana z domobranstvom in je pobijala in mučila pristaše Osvobodilne fronte, op. p.) storil skupaj še z dvema domobranci-

ma 24. junija 1944. (Članstvo v Črni roki je sicer Levstik zanikal).

Levstik je vojno preživel in je bil v povojnih desetletjih hotelir v Rimu in nato v Gorici. Njegov penzion Bled (pozneje je odprl še dva) je bil v Rimu zbirališče raznih ljudi iz slovenske politične emigracije pa tudi iz Slovenije.

Iz dokumentov slovenske službe državne varnosti (Udbe), ki sem jih v arhivu RSNZ videl konec osemdesetih let (ne vem pa, če so še ohranjeni), je (bilo) razvidno, da je sodeloval z jugoslovansko (slovensko) službo državne varnosti, ki je v hotelu tudi snemala pogovore.

Zaradi tega sodelovanja je verjetno Levstik sploh lahko preživel, čeprav je sodelovanje javno sicer ves čas zanikal, priznal pa je, da je delal za Cio. Uboj bivšega domobrancia tedaj pač ni bilo nekaj, kar bi jugoslovanski (slovenski) službi državne varnosti predstavljalo kakšno posebno težavo.

Levstikov spor s slovenskim pravosodjem se je vlekel več kakor dvajset let. Spodbudil je številne polemike v časopisih in zagreta pisanja v pismih bralcev, ki so v širšem kontekstu obravnavala vprašanje državljanske vojne, zločine na eni in drugi strani, kolaboracijo in revolucijo.

V javnosti pa Levstik ni postal znan le zaradi procesa, temveč tudi zato, ker sta ga 15. maja 1988 v Gorici iz ne prav jasnega motiva obiskala Janez Janša in Igor Bavčar, kar je prišlo v javnost.

"Bil sem navdušen nad Janševim obiskom, manj pa nad Bavčarjevim," je pozneje izjavil za enega od časopisov (Janša je, kot je znano, iz domobranske, Bavčar pa iz partizanske družine).

Tudi sicer se je Levstik politično identificiral z Novo Slovenijo in SDS, razočaran pa je bil nad nekdanjo SLS. Nedvoumno politično podporo je v času procesa imel le pri eni od manjših des-

(dalje na str. 14)

Misijonska Znamkarska Akcija (MZA)

Catholic Mission Aid (CMA)

je javna, nepridobitna, dobrodelna misijonska organizacija. Ustanovil jo je Fr. Charles A. Wolbang, CM. Registrirana je v mestu Columbus, Ohio, ZDA.

Za pomoč slovenskim misijonarjem zbira finančno pomoč za njih delo med ubogimi v misijonskih deželah ter za vzdrževanje bogoslovcev za domači misijon.

Hvaležni bomo za vsak dar, ki ga boste darovali v ta namen.

Spomnite se misijonarjev in ubogih v svojih oporokah. Za vse prejete darove izdamo potrdilo za "Income tax".

Uradni naslov:

MZA – CMA

17826 Brian Ave., Cleveland, OH 44119

Glavni odbor MZA-CMA, Cleveland

Koliko domobranstva je še živega?

(nadaljevanje s str. 13)

nih strank, Liberalni stranki.

V Slovenijo je z njeno pomočjo legalno prvič po vojni prišel poleti 1992, v spremstvu odvetnika Danijela Starmana in dveh vodilnih mož stranke Vitomirja Grosa in Danijela Malenška. Namen je bil očiten: v relativno ugodnem političnem ozračju doseči rehabilitacijo. Druge desne stranke, čeprav so domobranstvo sicer zagovarjale, izpostavljenemu Levstiku niso dajale izrazite javne podpore. Tudi časopisje je o procesu proti njemu poročalo nevtržno. Precej goreče ga je branil le *Slovenec* (Ivo Žajdela), kasneje pa precej bolj previdno *Mag*, ki je pravosodju predvsem očital procesne napake in dejstvo, da na enak način ne obsoja tudi partizanskih zločinov.

Domobranski podnarednik Vinko Levstik ni bil človek, ob katerem bi privrženci domobranske ideologije lahko prepričljivo dokazovali svoj prav. Še manj ob njem ali z njim ponujali spravo.

Celo ob morebitnem obnovljenem procesu proti škofu dr. Gregoriju Rožmanu, kjer bi tekla razprava "zgolj" o politični in ideološki odgovornosti, to ne bi bila ravno lahka naloga.

Je pa lahko Levstikova smrt izziv za vprašanje, kaj od domobranske ideologije in v kakšni obliki se je v slovenski politični kulturi še ohranilo.

Zagovornikov klasičnega, medvojne domobranstva v slogu "komunizem je bil hujši kot nacizem, zato je bila kolaboracija upravičena", je še precej. Obstaja dokaj močna veteranska organizacija Nova Slovenska zaveza s svojim glasilom. Poleg zagovarjanja medvojne ravnanja domobrancev, prizadevanja za moralno in pravno obsodbo povojnih pobojev, urejanja napisov in grobišč je – če smemo ugihati – verjetno njena tiha želja, da bi se status domobrancev izenačil s statusom partizanov.

Bivši domobranec Anton Drobnič je bil več let državni tožilec in je

poskušal doseči obnovitev procesa proti Rožmanu, naročil pa je tudi dve zgodovinski študiji, ki naj bi dokazali, da je bil Rožman nedolžen.

Tudi v parlamentu sedi en poslanec iz bivših domobrinskih (in politično-emigrantskih) vrst. /*mišljen je seveda dr. Jože Bernik, op. ur. AD/* kar nekaj poslancev in politikov pa se posredno ali neposredno z domobranstvom identificira ali vsaj do njega kaže naklonjenost.

Na intelektualni ravni je seveda precej težje kot na politični, verjetno se je tu kot najbolj prepričljiv zagovornik domobranstva v zadnjih dveh desetletjih izkazal predvsem Justin Stanovnik.

Vendar domobranstvo ni bilo niti tedaj, ko je bilo na vrhuncu, niti ni danes, enovita ideologija. Čeprav občasni notranji spori ali razlike, kot je bila tista v zvezi z zakonom o grobiščih, kjer je tudi v javnosti prišlo do razlik med prejšnjim in sedanjim vodilnim v Novi Slovenski zavezi, Tinetom Velikonjo in Antonom Drobničem, verjetno niso predmet različnih konceptov, temveč prejšnjim nesporazumov ali osebnih zamer.

Domobranstvo na Slovenskem je bilo najbolj skrajni rob protiliberalizma, ki ga je s svojimi spisi v reviji *Rimski katolik* leta 1888 začel Anton Mahnič. Ta je najprej vero postavil pred slovenstvo (ker so tedaj v zagovoru Zedinjene Slovenije in v kulturnem življenju sploh prednjačili predhodniki liberalcev, mladoslovinci), potem pa ju je izenačil.

Kot protikomunizem se je nadaljeval v tridesetih letih 20. stoletja in med vojno, dokler ga ni ostro in brezkompromisno, tudi fizično brutalno, iz slovenskega političnega prostora za petinštirideset let izbrisala revolucija.

V svojem najbolj trdem jedru je domobranstvo predstavljal general Leon Rupnik s svojim krogom. Ta je od splošnega katoliškega-desničarskega prepričanja iz tridesetih let, da sta katolicizem in slovenstvo eno, zunaj tega

pa ni nič, oziroma so sami sovražniki (kar še posebno velja za komuniste), prešel k protizidovstvu, pronicizmu in pronemštvu.

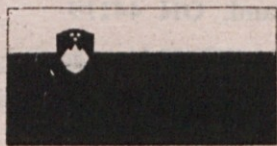
Slednje je bilo morda tudi posledica njegove fasciniranosti z nemško vojaško in siceršno močjo, sovražen odnos do parlamentarizma, strank in demokracije pa je bil ne glede na to prvinski. Čeprav bi po drugi strani o kakšnem slovenskem fašizmu (nacizmu) celo pri Rupniku le težko govorili.

Podobno zagreto kot Rupnik je bilo v času vojne le vodstvo Katoliške cerkve v t. i. Ljubljanski pokrajini, druge oblike domobranstva so bile mehkejše, celo v vojnih razmerah so priznavale strankarstvo (seveda ne OF in komunistov) in kljub kolaboraciji in vojnim razmeram so izražale privrženost zahodnemu tipu demokracije.

Klasično domobranstvo, zagledano v vojne razmere, v Sloveniji nima velike prihodnosti. Politično bo aktualno morda še na enih, največ dveh volitvah. Novodobno sicer v osnovi sledi znanemu geslu "Mati, domovina, Bog, to so naši ideali", a vendarle v modernizirani obliki (saj sicer politično sploh ne bi preživel). Torej brez nadaljevanja, da je za te ideale treba "napeti pravice lok" in brez "boja za sveto stvar", na katerega poziva "Domobrankska".

Če zapisane misli vsaj malo držijo, Vinko Levstik pretiranih hvalnic, razen morda pri redkih piscih, ne bo doživel. Kar je lahko tudi znak, da Slovenci kulturnega boja, ki se je začel konec 19. stoletja, v 21. stoletje ne bomo znova poskušali rešiti z medsebojnim fizičnim obračunavanjem, tako kot se je zgodilo v štiridesetih letih 20. stoletja.

(KONEC)



Slovenija – Hrvaška: Konec vojne diplomatskih not?

Zagreb (Delo fax, 26. avg.) – Kljub resnemu nestirnjanju z vsebino v sredo (tj. 20. avg.) poslane slovenske diplomatske note Hrvaška nanjo ne bo odgovorila, je namestnik hrvaškega zunanjega ministra Ivan Šimonović na ponedeljkovem sestanku povedal slovenskemu veleposlaniku Petru Bekešu. To naj bi bilo znamenje želje Zagreba, da bi odpravili sporna vprašanja z neposrednim dialogom in končali vojno not, ki se je začela, ko so hrvaški funkcionarji napovedali, da bo Hrvaška v Jadranskem morju razglasila izključno ekonomsko cono (EEZ). /*To je Exclusive Economic Zone, op. ur. AD/*

Šimonović je Bekeša opozoril na "konstrukte iz slovenske note in medijske nastope visokih slovenskih predstavnikov", da Hrvaška brez soglasja Slovenije ne more razglasiti EEZ in da je prvi pogoj ratifikacija sporazuma o meddržavni meji, parafriranega pred dvema letoma. Slovenija zaradi svoje zemljepisne lege nima izhoda v mednarodne vode, sodijo v Zagrebu in pojasnjujejo, da parafrirani sporazum premierov Ivica Račana in Janeza Drnovška ni bil ne podpisan ne ratificiran, zato nima nobenih pravnih učinkov.

Slovenija je po uradnem hrvaškem mnenju država z neugodnim geografskim položajem, zato ne more razglasiti svoje EEZ, ima pa legitimni interes za ekološka vprašanja Jadranskega morja in za izkoriščanje dela presežka živih bogastev v hrvaški coni, ko bo ta razglašena.

V hrvaški javnosti v zadnjih dneh uporabljajo argument mednarodnopravnega strokovnjaka in sodnika hamburškega sodišča Budislava Vukasa, da je Slovenija leta 1995 ob notifikaciji nasledstva jugoslovanske ratifikacije konvencije o pomorskem pravu v OZN podala posebno izjavo, s katero je privolila v položaj geografsko prikrajšane države in – posredno – v hrvaško pravico do razglasitve EEZ.

Predsednik sabora, Hrvaške kmečke stranke in vnet zagovornik razglasitve EEZ Zlatko Tomčić se je v ponedeljek z italijanskim veleposlanikom v Zagrebu Alessandrom Grafinijem pogovarjal tudi o projektih na Jadranu. Ker je Grafini po izbruhu afere EEZ izjavil, da je Italija dobila od Hrvaške jamstva, da interesi italijanskih ribičev, ki veliko lovijo v vzhodni polovici Jadranskega morja, ne bodo ogroženi, so se po sestanku v dobro obveščenih krogih razširile razlage, da je Rim podprl hrvaške načrte in da bodo položaj italijanskih ribičev v EEZ uredili s posebno dvostransko pogodbo.

Peter Žerjavič

Pereč blagovni primanjkljaj

Ljubljana – Vrednost blagovnega izvoza Slovenije se je v prvih petih mesecih v skladu s skromno dinamiko proizvodnih dejavnosti glede na primerljivo obdobje lani povečala za 2,5 odstotka (merjeno v evrih). Tako je bil letos do maja blagovni primanjkljaj na tekočem računu plačilne bilance precej večji kot v istem obdobju lani.

S tem je saldo tekočega računa, ki je lani beležil presežek v višini 79 milijonov evrov (88 centov USD), letos dosegel primanjkljaj v višini 69 milijonov evrov, ugotavljajo analitiki Urada RS za makroekonomske analize in razvoj v zadnji

številki *Ekonomskega glasila*. Ob tem dodajajo, da neto finančni tok v prvih petih mesecih izkazuje skromen priliv kapitala (lani v enakem obdobju odliv), zato so se ob primanjkljaju tekočega računa zmanjšale devizne rezerve bank.

Na strani finančnih tokov je struktura precej spremenjena glede na isto obdobje lani (prvih pet mesecev leta), saj letos domače nesporedne naložbe v Sloveniji so po lanskim visokih prilivih (658,9 milijona evrov) letos dosegle le 42,7 milijona evrov, medtem ko so letošnje domače nesporedne naložbe (105 milijonov evrov) že skoraj dosegle celoletne lanske (122 milijonov evrov).

STA

Nekdanje ledice – današnji sladoled

– Maja Godina-Golija –

V vročih poletnih dneh, ko zaradi vročine in pogoste utrujajoče sopare slabo teknejo tople jedi, je sladoled ena najbolj priljubljenih osvežitev.

Njegova najstarejša zgodovina še ni znana, a pisni viri omenjajo, da si je kralj Salomon (v 10. stoletju pr. n. št.) v vročih dneh žetve dal postreči z ledenimi pljaccami, ki so mu jih hladili v snegu. Arabci so torej že znali izdelovati zmrznjeno mešanico sadnih sirupov in vode, ki so jo imenovali sarbat (današnji sorbet).

V prvem stoletju našega štetja imamo že zapise o izdelovanju sladoleda pri starih Rimljanih. Tedanji patriciji so pogosto pošiljali svoje sužnje v planine nabirat sneg, ki so ga nato mešali z medom, sadjem in sadnimi sirupi ter tako izdelovali sladoled.

V 13. stoletju je znanje o pripravi zamrznjenih jedi in pljač obogatil Marco Polo, ki je s svojih potovanj po Aziji prinesel v Italijo recepte za pripravo različnih zmrznjenih desertov. Kitajci so bili v tem obdobju pravi mojstri v njihovem izdelovanju, zamrznjene dobrote pa so prodajali kar na mestnih ulicah.

Na začetku 18. stoletja se je sladoled iz Italije in Francije razširil tudi v srednjeevropsko plemiško in meščansko kuhinjo. Iz potopisov nam je znano, da so ga konec 18. stoletja na Dunaju ponujali že v številnih kavarnah in slaščičarnah.

Vpliv dunajske kuhinje na pripravo jedi v plemiških in meščanskih gospodinjstvih na Slovenskem je bil odločilen, zato lahko sklepamo, da so v tem času sladoled pripravljali tudi na ozemlju Slovenije.

Že v prvi kuharski knjigi slovenske avtorice Magdalene Pleiweisove "Slovenska kuharica ali Navod okusno kuhati navadna in imenitna jedila" iz leta 1868 lahko najdemo kar 19 receptov za pripravljanje ledic ali zmrzlin, kot jih je imenovala.

Recepti opisujejo njihovo pripravo iz smetane,

jajc in različnih dodatkov, zlasti vanilije, čokolade, kave, ananasa, jagod, ribeza in višenj. Dejansko gre za opise priprave sladolediv in tudi sam postopek dela je podoben njegovi današnji domači izdelavi.

Sladoled so pripravljali zlasti v premožnih meščanskih in plemiških gospodinjstvih, večini slovenskega prebivalstva pa je zaradi cene in dragih sestavin ostal nedostopen.

Njegova ulična prodaja se je razširila okrog leta 1900, ki je to noviteto približala tudi drugim plastem prebivalstva. Najbolj razširjena je bila od aprila do oktobra, ko je med izdelovalci in prodajalci sladolediv vladala velika konkurenca.

Pogosto so se sprli slaščičarji, ki so pripravljali sladoled iz najboljših sestavin – mleka, smetane, jajc, sadja, čokolade in vanilije –, in poulični prodajalci, tako imenovani Turki, torej prodajalci sladoleda in sladkarji iz južne Srbije in Makedonije.

Arhivsko gradivo iz slovenskih mest priča, da so morali mestni sveti pogosto določiti, koliko vozičkov je lahko imel posamezni prodajalec in kje je lahko prodajal.

Pripravo in prodajo sladoleda pa so nadzorovali tudi mestni fiziki, ki so konec dvajsetih let minulega stoletja prepovedali prodajo sladoleda v bližini šol, saj so menili, da je sladoled zaradi mraza in sladkorja neprimerna jed za šolarje.

Danes je sladoled zaradi večje kupne moči, industrijske proizvodnje in nizke cene dostopen skoraj vsakomur. Težje pa je dobiti res dober sladoled, brez umetnih arom, barvil in konzervansov. Takšen, kot so ga pripravljali slaščičarji v preteklosti – iz smetane in svežega sadja – in ki se je v znanih evropskih slaščičarnih in kavarnah ohranil še danes.

Zato vam priporočam pripravo domačega sladoleda po starem, preizkušenem receptu, ki ne zahteva dosti znanja in časa.

Zaradi velikega deleža sadja bo dobrodošla jed tudi za otroke, ki si ga v poletnih dneh najbolj želijo.

Domač sadni sladoled pripravimo iz pretlačene-ga sadja, ki mu dodamo sok velike limone in sladkor. Zmesi dodamo razmešan rumenjaki in mešamo na hladnem. Na koncu dodamo še stepeno sladko smetano, dobro premešamo in zmes nalijemo v posodice za sladoled. V zmrzovalniku jo ohlajamo dve do tri ure, odvisno od velikosti posodic. Pred postrežbo pustimo sladoled nekaj minut še na sobni temperaturi. Ponudimo ga s stepeno sladko smetano ali s sadnimi prilivi.

Malinov sladoled

25 dag malin (ali drugega sadja, npr. jagod, borovnic, višenj ali marelic)
20 dag sladkorja
sok 1 velike limone
2.5 dl sladke smetane
1 rumenjaki

Rodna gruda
št. 7 – julij 2003

Ohranjanje...

(nadaljevanje s str. 12)

ma štirih otrok (Toni, Aljoša, Ivo, Mirjam), kot vemo, se kljub visoki starosti prav lepo drži. Zanima jo vse življenje in delovanje pri nas, kar zlasti zasleduje preko našega tednika, ki redno prihaja v daljno Kalifornijo. Kljub manjšim krajevnim razdaljam pa ste vedno zelo povezani med seboj.

Naša mama je, hvala Bogu, pri dobrem zdravju. Z zanimanjem sledi svetovnim dogajanjem. Še posebno rada zasleduje novice iz vašega odličnega tednika Novega glasa in Družine; največkrat vse prebira Mirjam, ker sama ne vidi dovolj dobro.

Kljub temu pomaga vsako nedeljo s petjem v cerkvenem zboru. Z veliko ljubeznijo in skrbjo ima stike z vsemi člani družine in sorodniki in znanci, razstresenimi po Evropi in Argentini.

Kaj osebno pomenijo obiski rodni krajev?

Zelo prijetno mi je, ko pridem na obisk v rodne kraje! Letošnji – z bratom Tonijem – je bil moj četrti obisk. Sorodniki, prijatelji in sošolci so vedno tako prisrčni in

prijazni do nas. Z užikom obujam spomine na važna mlada leta; čeprav so bili hudi časi in hude posledice vojne in stara sovražstva, sem ohranil pretežno lepe in vesele spomine.

Zelo težko in žalostno je bilo zapustiti prelepe domače kraje, dobre prijatelje – naš dom! – in iti neskončno daleč v tuje kraje, ne vedoč, kaj nas čaka.

Zato sem toliko bolj zadovoljen, da se lahko bolj pogosto srečamo in dobro pomenimo. To je zame največ vredno. To me poživlja in ohranja v meni slovenskega duha.

Ko sem bom naslednjič vrnil, bi rad pripeljal s seboj svoja sinova, da bosta spoznala sorodnike in moje znance, pa tudi naše lepe kraje. Medtem pa vsem: najlepša hvala!

Hvala tudi vama obema za lep in prisrčen pogovor.

Delo fax, 24. avg.

Katoliški pedagogi na Slomškovi domačiji

Ponikva pri Grobelnem – Slovenski katoliški pedagogi začenjajo priprave, da bi blaženega Antona Martina Slomška razglasili za zavetnika slovenskih učiteljev, vzgojiteljev in katehetov. To je v soboto na četrtem srečanju pedagogov slovensko storil mariborski pomožni škof dr. Anton Stres med maševanjem.

Po orgelskem koncertu so se udeleženci podali na pot do Slomškove rojstne hiše na Slomu. Popoldne so pedagogi na delavnicah razpravljali o narodni zavesti, šolski vzgoji za vrednote, vzgoji srca, vzgojnem načrtu šole, vzgojni mreži, sodelovanju med starši in šolo, vzgoji za medije, mestu slovenskega jezika v njej in tudi o Slomškovi bralni znački.

Novi grobovi

(nadaljevanje s str. 9)

Joseph Mertik

Dne 23. avgusta je na svojem domu v Euclidu umrl 82 let stari Joseph Mertik, rojen 30. julija 1921 v Bridgeportu, Conn., mož Mary, roj. Borovic, oče Marije Adamic, Angele Hong, Augustine in Josepha, 9-krat stari oče, 2-krat prastari oče, brat Ivana in že pok. Štefana, zaposlen kot strojnik pri Caterpillar Inc. v Mentorju 20 let, do svoje upokojitve 1. 1982. Pogreb je bil 27. avgusta v

oskrbi Cosicevega zavoda na Chardon Rd. s sv. mašo v cerkvi sv. Kristine in pokopom na Vernih duš pokopališču.

Cyril Grilec

Umrl je 97 let stari Cyril Grilec, vdovec po Mary, roj. Marsich, stric in prastric. Pogreb je bil 23. avgusta v oskrbi Želetovega zavoda s sv. mašo v cerkvi Marije Vnebovzete in pokopom na Vernih duš pokopališču.

Edmund M. Ciolek ml.

Dne 19. avgusta je v St. Augustine Manor umrl 66 let stari Edmund M. Ciolek, ki je v letih 1980-1986, ko je njegova varda vključevala tudi slovensko okolico St. Clair Ave., služil v mestnem svetu Clevelanda in je tudi pozneje ostal v stiku s sedanjim odbornikom te okolice Josephom Cimpermanom. Pokojni zapušča ženo Louise, sina Edmunda III, hčerke Pamela Waite, Tanijo, Andrejo in Tracie Killius. Pogreb je bil 23. avgusta s sv. mašo v cerkvi St. Rose of Lima na Detroit Ave. in W. 114 St. ter pokopom na Sv. križa pokopališču.

Elizabeth J. Adamic

Umrla je 64 let stara Elizabeth J. Adamic iz Mentorja, prej živeča v Euclidu, rojena O'Neill, žena Franke, sestra Mary Webster, Nancy Kekish in Jamesa, v letih 1962-1968 učiteljica v osnovni šoli Clark v Clevelandu, v letih 1969-1972 pa v osnovni šoli Memorial v Euclidu. Pogreb bo danes s sv. mašo v cerkvi St. Bede the Venerable v Mentorju.

V BLAG SPOMIN

ob prvi obletnici smrti



ALBINA MRŠNIK

Pozabili Te ne bomo vse do konca naših dni; v srcih naših bomo Te nosili, dokler nam življenje tli.

Žalujoci:

Hčerka Rose Mary Toth z možem Johnom
Sin John Mrsnik z ženo Geraldine
Vnuki in pravnuki

Misijonska srečanja in pomenki

1491. Na Floridi živi Belokranjec, brat pokojnega

skladatelja, duhovnika Matija Tomca, Nikolaj Tomc, ki je pravkar praznoval 93. rojstni dan. Je večletni dobrotnik s. Marije Pavlič, misijonarke na Madagaskarju. Poslal je Knezovim zanimivo pismo:

"Spoštovani g. Rudi in ga. Anica!

Priložen je ček za \$150, nekaj od daril, katere sem prejel ob mojem rojstnem dnevu. Sem prišel kar do visoke številke 93 let. Kolikor mi je znano, so vsi moji sošolci že na drugem svetu. Kaj še mene drži na tem svetu, saj je bilo moje življenje vse kaj drugega, kakor pa komudno? Verjetno je nekdo, ki veliko moli za moje zdravje.

Bilo je kar precej voščil. Eno od voščil me je posebno prijetno iznenadilo. Se je slišal po telefonu neznan ženski glas: "Dober dan, ata!" V naglici sem pomislil, ali bi bilo možno, da bi imel kje kakšno hčerko, ki me je šele zdaj odkrila? Sekundo kasneje se pa oglasi: "Sestra Marija". Kar oddahnil sem se. Ta dobra sestra Marija je dobila od nekoga "telefonsko kartico" in jo je porabila, da je mene poklicala tam z daljnega Madagaskarja. Je že precej časa, kar me je prvič naslovila v pismu "Dragi naš ata". Seveda se je pojasnilo, da sem samo krušni ata in to je ostalo do danes.

Verjetno sem kdaj že omenil, da pričakujemo obisk iz Slovenije, prav iz moje rojstne hiše. Moj brat Janez se je po končani vojni znašel na domu brez vsega. Mama je umrla med vojno, hlev in svinjake so pa izpraznili partizani, verjetno ni bilo niti ene kokoške žive. Pa je izročil hišo in posestvo bratrancu, ki se je pravkar vrnil po treh letih iz nemškega ujetništva. Ni bil mobiliziran k vojakom, namestili so ga na eno veliko posestvo nekje v Tirolah, ki je bilo zelo moderno urejeno in to mu je veliko pomagalo v poznejših letih. Oženil se je in v tej mladi družini je bilo rojenih pet fantov. Če se ne motim, je eden od teh sedaj župnik v Črnučah. Kar hočem povedati, je to, da je ta moja rojstna hiša dala dva duhovnika. Mlada gospodinja v isti hiši je pa sedaj muslimanka.

Ko je bilo dogovorjeno, da bo prišla ta mlada žena z možem Stankom k nam na obisk, sem jih čakal z velikim veseljem, pa tudi z eno majhno rezervo. Prišla sta 11. julija in odšla 29. julija. Vsa moja rezerva se je že prvi dan podrla. Ne bi si mogel niti predstavljati boljše žene, kakor je ta Kelly. Verjetno bo ostala pri tem, kar jo je mama naučila. Sta pravilno poročena v naši farni cerkvi, imata dva lepa in zdrava otroka, seveda krščena, in je šla Kelly tudi z nami k maši. Ni bilo nobene razlike od drugih, samo k obhajilu ni šla.

Vse, kar bi še lahko omenil, bi bila zmeraj najboljša ocena. Živel so pri meni in je tako skrbela za mene, da bi se mogla primerjati samo moji hčerki Veri, pa nikomur drugemu. Oba z možem imata enako let 27. Stanko je mojster v elektrotehniki, Kelly je pa šefinja v trgovini s foto aparati in z vsem, kar spada zraven. Vozila se je z vlakom k večernim tečajem angleščine.

Po nekaj dnevih Vas bom poklical po telefonu, da mi potrdite prejem pisma in če Vas bo kaj zanimalo,

Vam bom radevolje vse pojasnil. Na vsak način je zgodba zanimiva.

Iskren pozdrav, Niko Tomc."

Dragi g. Niko! Tudi mi vsi pri naši misijonski skupini Vam želimo vse najboljše! Nam Vam Nebeški Gospodar življenja poplača vso Vašo dobroto, ko vsak mesec pomislite na s. Marijo in zanjo oddaste košček od svoje pokojnine (kar zdaj opravlja Vaša hčerka) in ste za to delo še pridobili eno dobrotnico. Bog Vas blagoslovi!

Še par dobrotnikov se je oglasilo: M. Cendol (za salezijance) \$20; J. Mraz (za najbolj potrebne) \$200; A. Žakelj \$25; R.V. Kolarič (za Rev. F. Urbanija) \$1000; R.A. Knez (za Rev. Urbanija, v spomin +Tone Nemec) \$300.

Vsem prav iskren Bog povrni s svojim blagoslovom!

Prav lep misijonski pozdrav od vseh sodelujočih
in Marica Lavriša
1004 Dillewood Rd.
Cleveland, OH 44119

Dobro sodelujem z Ropom

(NADALJEVANJE s str. 13)

so temu proti, so pa začeli akcijo za zbiranje podpisov za nacionalni referendum, ki bi preprečil dekriminizacijo. Ni jim uspelo dobiti dovolj podpisov, da bi bil sklican referendum. O tej zadevi tu govori nadškof Rode.) Prvič je bil čas za zbiranje podpisov zelo hitro določen, sicer v legalnih okvirih, a če bi bilo več časa, da se javnost psihološko pripravi na zbiranje podpisov, bi bil rezultat verjetno drugačen. Mnogi tudi niso vedeli, za kaj gre.

Drugi vzrok pa je – in povem ga naravnost –, da ni bilo enotnosti med moralnimi teologi. Profesorji moralne teologije niso bili enotni o primernosti tega referenduma. Nekateri so bili naravnost proti. In jasno, to se je zvedelo. Zato mnogi niso vedeli, ali naj se podpišejo ali ne."

In kaj meni o prostituciji? "Prostitucija je ena najbolj žalostnih stvari. Dejansko gre pri tem za suženjstvo, za suženjstvo ženske. Gre za trgovanje s tem, kar ima ženska najsvetejšega, trgovanje z lastnim telesom. Gre za skrunjenje tistega, kar je najbolj žensko: ljubezen in materinstvo. In asolutno je treba storiti vse, da bo čim manj žensk pristalo na teh pozicijah."

Rode je predstavil tudi pogled Cerkve na homoseksualnost: "Stališče Katoliške cerkve do homoseksualnosti je povsem jasno. Isto stališče imajo tudi pravoslavne cerkve, zelo podobno stališče imata na primer Islam

in judovska vera.

In na čem temelji to stališče Katoliške cerkve? Že v stari zavezi so homoseksualne zveze oziroma homoseksualne prakse obsojane kot gnusoba, kot piše v Svetem pismu. Tudi v Novi zavezi apostol Pavel v pismu Rimljanom obsoja homoseksualnost tako med ženskami kot med moškimi. Sveto pismo je glede homoseksualnosti zelo jasno.

Moramo pa razlikovati, kot poudarja tudi kardinal Joseph Ratzinger, da je eno zasebna sfera, torej homoseksualnost kot zasebna zadeva, ki je seveda proti naravnemu redu in je prav tako nemoralna, a vendar gre za osebno zadevo. Drugo pa je priznavanje homoseksualnih zvez, kot da so to zakonske zveze.

In ta cerkveni dokument govori o tem – da je to tisto, kar je škodljivo za družbo, ker destabilizira družino in nekatere ljudi, ki mogoče spolno še niso jasno opredeljeni, navaja k tej opredelitvi."

Če bi se denimo v njegovi škofiji kdo javno solidariziral s homoseksualci oziroma se razglasil za homoseksualca, bi ga suspendirali, je vprašala novinarka. Rode je odgovoril kratko: "Seveda."

Rode sicer nestrpno pričakuje odločitev ustavnega sodišča glede t. i. Vatikanskega nesporazuma. "Zelo sem neučakan. Več kot leto in pol je dovolj časa, da bi lahko ustavno sodišče izreklo svoje stališče, svojo sod-

bo o tem sporazumu med Svetim sedežem in Slovenijo.

Ta sporazum je med najbolj nedolžnimi od vseh, ki jih je podpisal Sveti sedež s katero koli državo. Ne daje nobenih privilegijev Cerkvi, z vidika mednarodnega prava ni čisto nič posebnega. In da se naše ustavno sodišče o tem ne more izjasniti in čakamo že več kot leto in pol?

Zdi se mi, da je že čas, da ti gospodje malo pospešijo ta proces."

Kako pa bo po njegovem pričakovanju potekalo nadaljne dogovarjanje z vlado?

"Jaz imam upanje in računam na zdravo pamet katerekoli slovenske vlade, naj bo to tako ali drugačne barve. Veliko je nedorečenih stvari, ki jih moramo razčistiti. Življenje sicer ne more teči naprej. In v interesu vke vlade, naj bolj ali bolj desna, je, da te stvari uredijo."

In zakaj se po Rodetovem mnenju člani levih strank pretežno ne udeležujejo na primer maše za domovino?

"Meni se zdi, da je to problem slovenskega značaja, pa tudi problem njihove lastne identitete. Polovica članov sedanje vlade je krščanskega izvora, bili so pri verouku, bili so pri prvem obhajilu, pri birni, danes pa v javnosti nastopajo kot ljudje brez vere. To je vprašanje njihove lastne identitete."

Grega Repovž

Delo fax, 21. avg. 2003

KOLENDAR

(nadaljevanje s str. 9)

gatev, na Parku.

28. – Društvi KSKJ št. 226 in 172 priredita dobrodelno kosilo v dobrobit Škofovih zavodov v Šentvidu, od 11. do 1.30 pop. v avditoriju sv. Vida.

OKTOBER

10. – Dramsko društvo Lilija gostuje v dvorani Brezmadežne v New Torontu z veseloigro "Vražja vdova". Pričetek ob 3h popoldne.

25. – Štajerski-Premurški klub ima martinovanje v SND na St. Clairju.

NOVEMBER

8. – Belokranjski klub ima martinovanje v SND na St. Clairju.

15. – Pevski zbor Glasbena Matica ima koncert v SND na St. Clairju.

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