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Florence Welch, Photo: David McGirr

Whither Gowin

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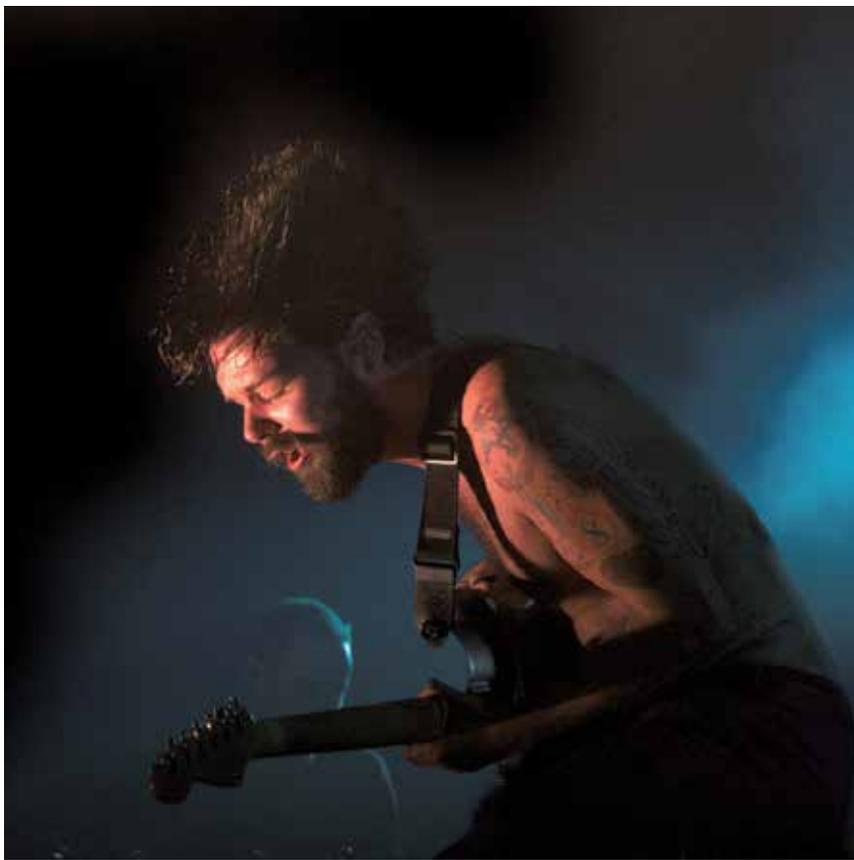
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Biffy Clyro at the Coke Live Festival 2013 (Photo: David McGirr)



Coke Live Festival 2013 (Photo: David McGirr)



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Bob Hardy of Franz Ferdinand at the Coke Live Festival 2013 (Photo: David McGirr)



THE MAVERICK

■ Nissan Tzur

“Gowin does not seem the kind of man to keep his head down”

Krakow politician Jarosław Gowin was elected as one of 14 members of parliament for the Krakow constituency in 2007, and again four years later. He was appointed Minister of Justice by Prime Minister Donald Tusk in 2011 and looked to be on the path to a powerful political career. Just two years later, he is now seen as a troublemaker by many in his party after being sacked from his cabinet post and mounting a failed but highly divisive leadership challenge against Tusk.

How did it come to this for the man who entered politics in triumph at the age of 44 after a glittering career in journalism and education?

Gowin was born in 1961, in Krakow. He spent his early years in Jasło, in neighbouring Podkarpackie. Gowin's parents were activists in the anti-Communist Freedom and Independence movement, and the conversations he heard at home sparked an early interest in politics and shaped his political views.

He also credits his youthful sporting career as helping to form his character: “I was a goalkeeper for the Black Jasło (Czarni Jasło) football team. I had to work hard to overcome the fear of being hit by a powerful shot on goal. That was good practice for my willpower,” he said.

After graduating from high school, Gowin moved back to Krakow to study history and philosophy at the Jagiellonian University. This was the early 1980s, and Gowin recalls endless conversations with his colleagues about how Poland would look once the Communist regime fell.

He received a scholarship to attend Cambridge University and moved to the UK. There he met the acclaimed Polish political scholar, Zbigniew Pelczyński, who is also known as the tutor of former US president Bill Clinton, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán and Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs Radek Sikorski. Gowin describes him as a: “Remarkable man, the author of many books, who found time to see where I lived, what I was reading and talk to me about Poland.”

Upon returning to Poland, Gowin started work as an assistant at the Institute of Social Sciences at the School of Education in Krakow and for the conservative Catholic monthly *Znak*. In 1994, he was appointed editor-in-chief of the magazine, a position he held for over a decade. During this time, Gowin met the eminent priest and philosopher, Józef Tischner, and became deeply influenced by his political views.

Gowin was so impressed by Tischner that he founded the Tischner European University in Krakow, of which he said: “I believed that Poland should have a top European University that would train the future political elite of the country. I realised some of my ideas and memories from Cambridge at the Tischner European University.”

The future politician's friendship with Tischner also prompted his interest in the history of the Polish Catholic Church since 1989, which formed the basis for his Ph.D thesis at the Institute of Political Studies and a book he published in 1995. “It is a pleasure for me to hear graduates say that,

for them, it was the best book showing Polish society from the beginning of the transformation,” he said.

Gowin broke into politics in 2005 when he was elected as one of four members of the Senate for the Krakow constituency. He stood as a candidate for Civic Platform, which was then a rapidly rising force in Polish politics, but was still defeated by Prawo i Sprawiedliwość (Law and Justice party) in the parliamentary elections of that year. Two years later, he moved to the Sejm in the elections that brought Civic Platform to power.

In November 2011, following a second Civic Platform win, Prime Minister Donald Tusk named Gowin Minister of Justice. It was a controversial appointment among some members of Tusk's party, who disapproved of Gowin's conservative views.

Despite some notable successes in boosting employment by removing bureaucratic hurdles from 49 professions, Gowin soon got into hot water for bucking party discipline. When Tusk ordered opposition to a law proposed by the United Poland party aimed at stricter controls on abortion in Poland, Gowin abstained. His next clash with Tusk came only a few days later when Gowin publicly expressed his disappointment that the PM had not consulted him before announcing an increase in funding for in vitro fertilisation treatment for some married and unmarried couples.

The tension between the two reached a new peak in February of this year, when Gowin led 46 Civic Platform members in opposition to Tusk's attempt to legalise

civil partnerships for heterosexual and homosexual couples. Only a month later, Gowin was one of very few cabinet members who publicly supported Lech Wałęsa's statement that gay politicians should: “Sit behind walls.”

Things came to a head in April. During a television interview, Gowin shocked viewers by claiming that German scientists were importing embryos from other countries, probably also from Poland, in order to conduct experiments on them. The statement sparked a diplomatic dispute between the two countries and Tusk decided to dismiss Gowin, saying: “I don't have time to explain ministers' comments every week.”

A few weeks later, Gowin announced his decision to challenge for the leadership of Civic Platform, despite polls indicating he had little chance. In the vote by party members on August 22, Tusk received 80 percent.

Philosophical in defeat, the challenger said: “I want to say very clearly – we have competed but now the competition is over. I will keep my fingers crossed for Mr Tusk.” As the *Krakow Post* was going to print, Gowin announced he was ‘suspending’ himself from Civic Platform, an unprecedented move, in protest at the suspension of Jacek Żalek. With the recent resignation of another prominent conservative-leaning member of the party, John Godson, and the steady rise of main opposition party, Law and Justice, in national polls, it looks like there are interesting times ahead, and Gowin does not seem the kind of man to keep his head down for long.

NEWS

■ Rita Oliveira

Promoting Małopolska Foods

Małopolska's government has signed a deal with supermarket chain Alma to promote the region's unique foods across Poland.

Prądnicki bread, Tatra goat's cheese and carp from Zator are just some of the products that will be available in every Alma shop under the Małopolski Smak (Taste of Małopolska) brand by the end of the year. Traditional recipes, organic agricultural methods will be encouraged and seasonal producers will get the opportunity to promote their products in every region of Poland.

The deal was signed at a ceremony held in the gardens of Krakow's Archaeological Museum attended by Marek Sowa, the Marshal of Małopolska, Wojciech Kozak, president of the Traditional Products Council, and Jerzy Mazgaj, president of Alma Market S.A.

In a press release, Alma said that one of the main goals of this deal was to promote the region's culinary heritage and support Małopolska's food producers.

There are currently 11 food products from the Małopolska region recognised and protected by European Union laws but another 100 products were on show at the annual Małopolski Festiwal Smaku (Taste of Małopolska Festival) at the end of August, and many of these products will be in Alma stores by December.

Schindler Documents Detailing War-time Plans Sell for 100,000 USD

A letter and a collection of construction plans that belonged to Oskar Schindler have sold at auction for more than 100,000 USD (300,000 PLN).

The documents are from 1943 and 1944 and represent very rare, dated evidence of Schindler's activities at a critical stage of World War II.

The letter, signed by Oskar Schindler, is permission for his Jewish employee, Adam Dzedzic, to go to the Sudetenland to unload and assemble war-necessary machinery.

It is documentary evidence of Schindler's plan to relocate his factory to Czechoslovakia, which allowed him to protect the workers on his list from transportation to extermination camps.

The letter also includes a medical transfer document for the same Adam Dzedzic.

The second lot in the online auction held by RR Auction was a collection of construction plans for Schindler's Krakow factory. One of the folders is labelled "Siemens Bauunion," a building contractor, and contains detailed plans for the construction of the factory itself. Some of the plans have written annotations in an unknown hand.

Historians have described these documents as extremely important for the understanding of events at the Schindler factory. Professor David Crowe of Elon University, North Carolina, told the French news agency AFP that the documents: "Fill in really important gaps in Schindler's history."

Crowe, the author of *Oskar Schindler: the untold account of his life, wartime activities and the true story behind the list*, theorises that Adam Dzedzic's medical transfer was simply intended as a safe way for him to pass between Brunnlitz (now Brněnec) and Krakow in order to collect medical supplies and food, which were hard to find in the Sudetenland.

Crowe also believes that the construction plans show that Schindler intended to enlarge his factory, so that he could accommodate more workers.

The successful bid for the letter was 49,279 USD and an unknown buyer pledged 52,855 USD for the construction plans.

Storm Over Plan to Rename Bus and Tram Stops

The renaming of tram and bus stops across the city has been suspended, after more than 5,000 people signed an online petition protesting against the changes.

The plan was to rename more than 70 tram and bus stops in order to make



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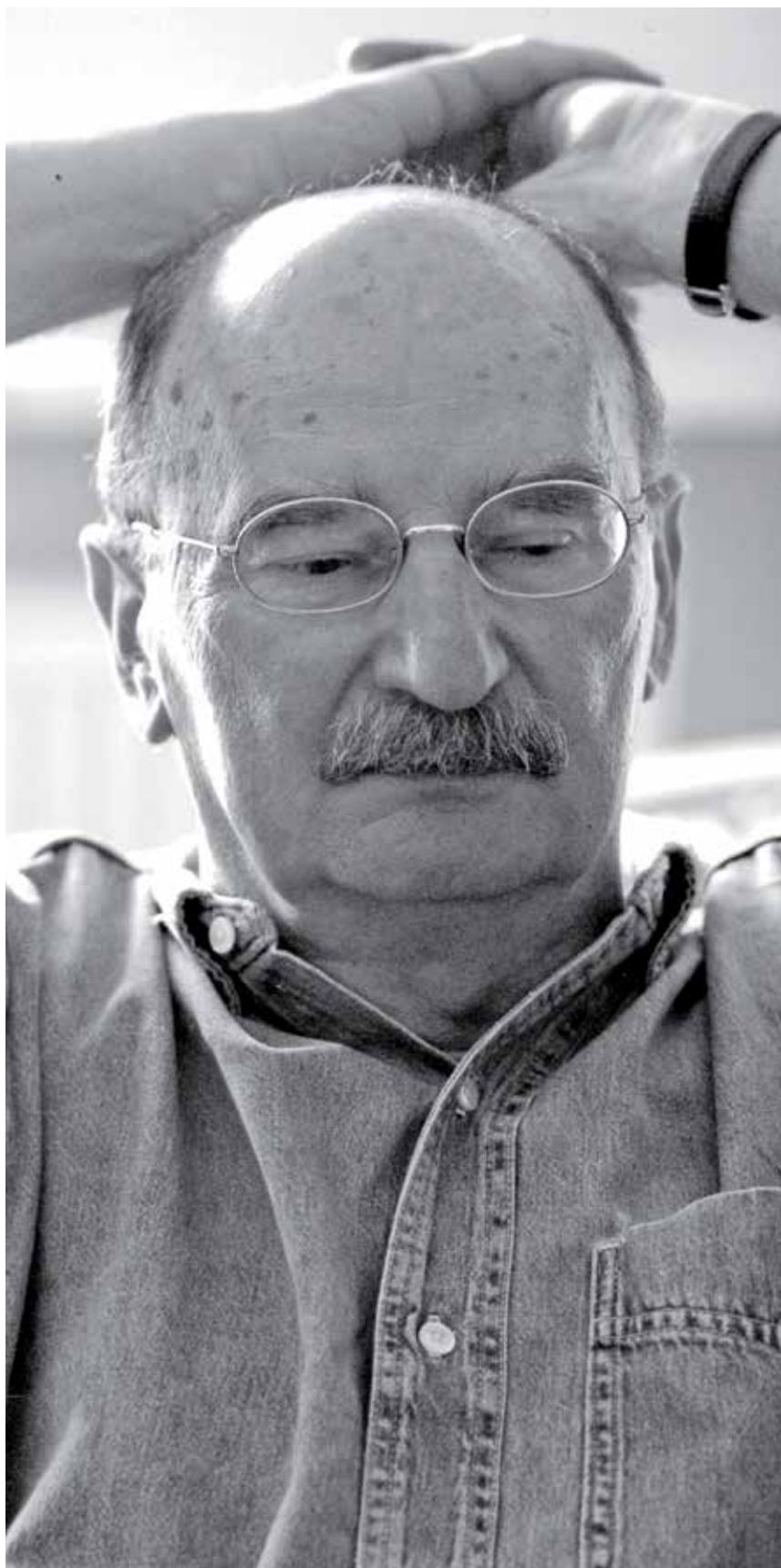
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THE ELEPHANT AND THE UGRUPU BIRD

■ Scotia Gilroy



Sławomir Mrożek (Photo: Andrzej Nowakowski / Instytut Książki)

In August, the literary world lost one of the greats. Sławomir Mrożek, one of the most significant and prolific Polish writers of the 20th century, and a native Cracovian, died in Nice, France, at the age of 83.

It is an indication of Mrożek's stature that he will be the first to be interred in Poland's new national pantheon, in the crypt of Krakow's St. Peter and Paul's Church. The Polish Minister of Culture called Mrożek's output: "A treasure trove of literary conventions and motifs but also a highly original analysis of modern times."

Mrożek's fame is largely a result of the success of his plays, but he was an astoundingly prolific artist with a versatile creativity. In addition to a nearly uncountable number of plays, he also wrote screenplays, drew satirical illustrations, was a brilliant journalist and created grotesque-philosophical prose that literary critic Tadeusz Nyczek has deemed: "One of the most unique pinnacles of post-war literature."

Mrożek grew up in Krakow. He enrolled at the university, but was an unhappy student and never completed his studies. In his early twenties, during the Stalinist era, he wrote articles for *Dziennik Polski* that conformed to the ideological journalism of those times. Mrożek's early zealotry for the Communist regime, and his radical abandonment of it a few years later, followed a trajectory common among many 20th-century Central European writers – youthful infatuation, and subsequent disillusionment with Socialism. He never denied his past. In his autobiography, published in 2006, he wrote: "Being twenty years old, I was ready to accept any ideological proposition without checking it too carefully – the only thing that mattered was that it was revolutionary."

From 1956 to 1960, Mrożek wrote a popular column, accompanied by his own illustrations, in which he mocked the absurdities of daily life in Communist Poland, simultaneously satirizing common journal-

istic forms of the time such as the 'informative telegram.' One of his satirical examples ran as follows: "From the scientific activities of the UNO: The spokesperson for research into the effects of work in agriculture and forestry has declared that the employment of professors to cut down forests does not have any influence on the quality of the timber." At first, Mrożek employed absurdity and satire in his columns to amuse readers, but over time this developed into a sophisticated tool for analysing social and existential issues. He became a mirror for the grim reality of socialism in Poland, reflecting its ridiculous language, its illogical functioning, and the absurdity of living in a squalid, nightmarish landscape that official government propaganda depicted as a strong and prosperous country.

Mrożek's first collections of short stories, *Tales from Bumblebee Mountain* and *Practical Half-Armour*, appeared in 1953. His style developed further in the collections that followed: *The Elephant* (1957) and *The Ugrupu Bird* (1959). He made his debut as a playwright in 1958 with *The Police*, but the breakthrough in his career came in 1964 with his play *Tango* – the first of his works to gain international acclaim.

Mrożek has often been connected to the Theatre of the Absurd, alongside Beckett and Ionesco. For Western authors, the absurd worlds in their works represent a metaphoric reality, but Mrożek's works had roots in the unique social situation of Communist Poland. His use of the absurd was a powerful tool enabling him to comment on the bleakness of Polish reality while evading the Communist censors. It is this that sets him apart.

Mrożek spent a large part of his life in exile, after falling foul of the Communist authorities in Poland. He lived abroad from 1963 until 1996, before relocating to Krakow. Declining health prompted him to return to the south of France in 2008, where he spent the last years of his life. His funeral will take place on September 17th.

NEWS

■ Rita Oliveira

travelling easy, especially for those who are not familiar with the city. Stops as Meksyk, Kabel, Hala Targowa and Mrozowa were going to be renamed Igłomska, Malborska, Aleja Daszyńskiego and Brama nr 2, respectively. Some other well-known stops, such as Jubilat and Bipstral, with names that refer to buildings rather than streets, were also on hit list, the proposal was to rename them Zwierzyniecka and Aleja Kijowska.

The city department responsible for transport infrastructure in Krakow, ZIKiT, said that the intention was to make navigation easier to tourists. However, it is not clear how names such as Brama nr2 or Centralna would have been more helpful than Mrozowa or M1 Nowohucka.

The Facebook group at the centre of the protest, titled "Do not change the names of Krakow's stops" ("Nie dla zmian nazw przystanków w Krakowie"), now has more than 6,500 followers and has shared the dissolution of the plan, which was supposed to go into action next September. In a statement to *Gazeta Krakowska*, a ZIKiT spokesman said that the plan was conceived: "in view of the interest of residents," adding that the department had decided to suspend the changes after receiving numerous comments and complaints

Nude Bible Scholar

The full range of emergency services descended on ul. Grodzka on August 28, after police received reports of a naked man sitting in a car reading a bible. The car, an Audi with Dutch registration plates, was parked in front of St Peter and Paul's Church, and its informal occupant was noticed at about midday.

The ambulance crew in attendance refused to approach the man, on the

grounds that he did not appear to need their help, and police used sniffer dogs to check the car for explosives before extracting its occupant behind a makeshift screen.

At no point did the man acknowledge attempts to communicate with him and he did not resist police.

New Local Trains

Małopolska has signed a deal worth 319zł to purchase 19 new trains for local lines. The deal has been struck in collaboration with the neighbouring provinces of Świętokrzyskie, Silesia and Podkarpackie with vehicle manufacturer Newag SA in Nowy Sacz.

Małopolska will operate six of these trains, which will run on lines running from Krakow to Ostrowiec, Rzeszów and Rybnik. The first three are due to come into operation in the second half of 2014, and the other three in January 2015.

The trains have a top speed of 160 km/h, have 150 seats and are equipped with LED screens for passenger information, baby-changing facilities, Wi-Fi and electrical outlets for passenger use.

New Tram Line for Prądnik Biały

Krakow's city government has announced the first steps in a plan to build a new tram line from the Krowdrza Górka estate to the Górka Narodowa in the Prądnik Biały district.

Construction of the new line, which will be an extension of the existing Fast Tram line in the district, is due to begin in early 2017 and will cost about 200 million złoty. At this stage, the local government is finalising details of the route and opening a process of public consultation.

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ON TWO WHEELS

■ Marcin Hyla



Attention! Officer on Deck

Many Polish linguistic purists will shrug in confusion at the name, but the city of Krakow now has an 'oficer rowerowy' (cycling officer), in fact, two of them. The phrase bears unequivocal military overtones and sounds a bit odd, but no one has yet come forward with a better name for the position of a municipality clerk for overseeing cycling policy.

Krakow was the first city in Poland to have cycling infrastructure bylaws (in 2004, one year before a similar document was adopted in London), but they have never been properly implemented. Many new cycle tracks are of poor quality and cyclists continue to complain loudly. This led many cycling activists to believe that there was a need for an official who would oversee cycling matters. Others argued that a cycling officer would be of little help, since he (or she) would not have the powers to enforce the bylaws. In fact, there are now a dozen cities in Poland with similar posts, but only two or three can honestly claim that their cycling policy is working.

Poland's first oficer rowerowy was employed in Wrocław – a city known for its progressive cycling strategies and strong cycling community, as well as its poor, if abundant, infrastructure. Daniel Chojnacki, who has held the post since 2007 (he previously did the same job in Cork, Ireland), said that, without a strong focus on cycling issues from the city council and the cycling officer, it would not be possible

to implement many innovative projects and ideas. Wrocław is now well known for its advanced stop lines for cyclists, Poland's first large-scale cycle parking programme (there is one bike parking space for every 190 people, almost five times more than in Krakow) and its automated counters for measuring bike traffic.

I asked Marcin Wójcik, Krakow's newly employed cycling officer and a long time cycling activist in Krakow, whether he is nervous about his new job. "I am afraid of mad drivers, but I love new challenges," he said. "I never thought I would ever be a city employee. I have attended many meetings as a cycling activist, but now I believe I will have much more influence."

There is definitely much to be done, although Wójcik warns that the main danger may be unrealistic expectations, both on his part and among the cycling community. There is, however, the chance for huge growth in bike traffic. The evidence from the streets of Krakow is only anecdotal, but Wrocław has witnessed more than 200 percent growth – from 260 cyclists a day at some junctions in 2006 to more than 600 this year. Today, 3.56 percent of all trips in Wrocław are made by bicycle. The last traffic count in Krakow is seriously outdated, and shows cycling making up a mere 1 percent of trips some ten years ago.

Gdańsk is the other Polish city famous for its cycling-friendly policies. More than a decade ago, cyclists persuaded the municipality to implement a cycling infrastructure project, funded by the Global Environment Facility (an opportunity infamously missed by Krakow, where an official invitation letter was lost and the municipality did not bid). Now, Gdańsk runs an EU funded investment project worth 80 million zloty, and their cycling officer accompanies the mayor to many public events – recently the huge VeloCity conference in Vienna attended by 1,400 cycling activists, engineers, politicians and the EU commissioner for transport himself, Mr Siim Kallas.

Such a level of enthusiasm can hardly be imagined in Krakow. Marcin Wójcik cautiously predicts that, by the end of this year, contraflow bicycle traffic may be allowed on more downtown streets. He would like to see the one-way lanes along Aleje Trzech Wieszczów opened first.

Meanwhile, back in the real world, the municipality has decided that a huge lamp post in the middle of newly-built cycle track on ul. Bora Komorowskiego should stay where it is. The lamp post has even been made welcome, with special warning markings and a widening of the track to allow cyclist to pass on both sides, but the track itself is bounded by a massive barrier that leaves little room for manoeuvre and threatens to send cyclists crashing into either the post, the barrier or each other.

While this has enraged local cyclists, a more serious issue went unnoticed. The municipality has just turned down a proposal by the Kraków Miastem Rowerów (Krakow the Cycling City) advocacy group to plan for a crucial cycle track under the newly designed railway bridge in the Podgórze district.

So where is the cycling officer? Stand easy, things may change... or stay exactly the same – this is Krakow after all.

Photo: Marcin Hyla



TEDx Kraków

x = independently organized TED event



■ Agata Lagodzinski

TEDxKraków's main event of the year, their annual conference, will take place on Friday, October 25. This year's event is dedicated to the 'maker' culture, which is populated by coders, hackers, 3-D printers, bakers, artists, and activists.

The culture of Do It Yourself is growing exponentially, not only in Krakow but across the globe, and has gone beyond the traditional, formalised education system. It is something the community encourages people to learn by exploration, play and being open to an increasingly open world. Open source, open hardware, and open data are 'in' and centralised control is 'out.' Today, you can learn anything, at any time and turn your ideas into reality all by yourself with just a bit of imagination and perseverance.

This year's speakers come from all over and bring a plethora of ideas worth sharing. Below, we present a few of them. The rest of the speakers and performers will be announced throughout September on the TEDxKraków's website.

Steve Crawshaw spent many years travelling the world as a journalist and a human rights advocate. Today he is the Director of the Office of the Secretary General at Amnesty International. He is focused on today's real life Don Quixotes – lesser-known heroes who manage to overcome some of the worst crises, ultimately making the world a better place.

Catherine Bracy is currently the Director of International Programs at Code for America, but her past experience includes running the Obama campaign's technology office in San Francisco, working for the Knight Foundation and Harvard's Berkman Center for Internet and Society. She aims to bring citizens and governments closer together through the use of technology and open government movements around the world. Her initiatives have inspired Cracovians to launch initiatives such as Hackathon, which led to the Open Małopolska project (See pages 20–21 of this issue of the *Krakow Post*).

Michał Żołądowski is a medical doctor by day and an asteroid hunter by night. In 2011, he built a remotely controlled observatory in Italy called the Rantiga Osservatorio. Through a combination of public data and a clever algorithm, the observatory has identified over 200 asteroids and is now competing against some of the world's largest professional astronomy teams.

Agnieszka Stach was once a violinist, cellist and vocalist and today she is a law student and a blogger discussing topics such as law in algorithms and creators' law. Her mission is to make law understandable to everyone. She tries to explain law in simple algorithms and relies on her artistic background to help her understand problems that designers, photographers, filmmakers, and musicians face in their work.

The Recycling Band is just one of the musical acts of this year's TEDxKraków event. By making music on instruments made out of trash, the band attempts to draw attention to the global environmental issue of waste and the importance of recycling. They are a true example of the Do It Yourself culture and proof that making something out of nothing is possible. They have made instruments such as bass and acoustic guitars, ukuleles, drums, trumpets, violins and a keyboard out of materials including old wooden doors, tables, water bottles, mattresses, combs, paint cans and buckets.

TEDxKraków is an independently organized version of the TED conference run by a group of volunteers passionate about Krakow. In addition to its annual conference, TEDxKraków also organizes monthly TEDxKrakówCinema, TEDxKids@Kraków and TEDxYouth@Kraków meetings, all with one goal in mind: sharing ideas worth spreading.

Registration for this year's event starts September 1. More information about TEDxKraków 2013 can be found at: TEDxKrakow.com.

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BULL ON THE PAGE

■ Mike Doherty

Speaking to an acquaintance from John Bull's island the other night, he says: "You know what's wrong with the Irish, you never had an empire." I had to put him straight on a few minor points, most importantly that we never needed to play the British at their own game, merely get them to play ours.

With this in mind, some enterprising chap round about Ring's End, Dublin came up with a simple yet stunningly effective idea: If we wanted to banjacks the Brits, we had to get them to pay for it. After all, what is Ireland's greatest cultural export? Yes, got

any beautiful women who happen to cross their path – this being Krakow, that's all of them.

What wasn't expected was that the Irish Theme Pub would be adopted by travellers from all over the world, looking for something safe and familiar in foreign parts. You know the type. They do their tours and see the sights but are neither streetwise nor savvy, equating frequenting local 'lokaly' to entering war zones. The familiar is comforting and the chance to watch the Brits embarrassing themselves gives a feeling of superiority.

The Poles are complaining bitterly, but when aren't they?

it in one – beautifully rich, dark and creamy with an appropriate reverence for the art of patience. With such a recognisable brand in your glass, we had to create an appropriate environment. Thus, the concept of the Irish Theme Pub was born.

With names like Scruffy Murphy's, these hostelries were named to appeal to the long held prejudices of the target audience. Realising the standard was too high to fulfil the mission, the secret Lets Get Revenge on the Brits and Have a Good Laugh at the Eejits at the Same Time committee came to the conclusion that the quality of the products and services on offer were too refined and civilised for the objective.

As everyone knows, Irish jokes are ridiculously simple so the Brits can understand them. It was quickly realised that a certain amount of dumbing down was necessary. Now we have these hostelries serving extra chilled (!) stout and appropriately stodgy fare, reminiscent of the times before the colonials followed the Brits home from all over the world to teach them how to cook.

The Brits loved it, but boy, do they behave badly. Anyone out in Krakow of a weekend can spot these 'gentlemen' a mile off. Swagger is quickly replaced by stagger, fall and gutter. For those with better balance, there is the a mandatory self-fondling of private parts with tongues hanging out, leering at

While the project, funded by the National Development Plan, was considered a success, there were a couple of unintended consequences, one of general interest, the other of interest to the dear readers of this organ.

I recall a close friend on the committee hazarding that Krakow would never be big enough to handle the mass drunkenness necessary for the national embarrassment of Ireland's nearest neighbours. It was decided that the majority of this effort would be centred on Prague, considered large enough to facilitate a project of this size, with satellites in other former Eastern Bloc cities. In Poland, it was to be restricted to Warsaw, which was pleasing to natives and non-natives alike in our beloved city.

How the affliction spread to Krakow is unknown. Some clever Brits (yes, there are some out there) have been organising ram-paging weekends (aka stags) and making good coin out of the naivety of their compatriots. Good luck to them.

Another unintended consequence, not factored into the original equation, was that from our own isle came many similar eejits who foolishly followed the Brits down the Path of National Shame Abroad. The Poles are complaining bitterly, but when aren't they? We apologise most sincerely for the inconvenience.

Mike Doherty presents Bull on the Mike on Expat Radio. Tune in at: www.mixcloud.com/bullonthemike



LOOSE CHANGE

■ Jamie Stokes

When did the deck chair become an acceptable form of seating? Thinking back to the early summer, which seems frighteningly recent, I don't remember ever seeing one in the fragrant beer gardens of our fair city. Now, as the thoughts of alfresco drinkers turn increasingly to cardigans and maybe popping indoors, they seem to be everywhere.

Like agents of a covert alien invasion, they began appearing in ones and twos at first. Blink, and there are suddenly twelve of them. I am The Doctor on this one and I'm telling you, the deck chair is a creeping

ranting geriatric. It was about a disturbing news story that gained almost no attention when it broke last month. On August 14, the National Broadcast Council imposed a 5,000 zloty fine on national broadcaster TVP because it had aired a show in which reference was made to the Pope farting.

Note that this wasn't an hour-long special on papal flatulence through the ages, it was a line in a stand up routine by Abelard Giza. The show, buffered with warnings to ward off religiously sensitive people, had offended some religiously sensitive people who are apparently warning impaired.

The deck chair is a creeping menace we ignore at our peril

menace we ignore at our peril.

The culprit, the wellspring of all things folding and canvasy, is, of course, Forum Przechowanie. There's something uncanny about that place. It emerged, fully formed, in the consciousness of Cracovians at some indeterminate point in early summer. Nobody remembers it opening. One day you'd never heard of it and the next, everyone was going there. It's not natural.

I visited the place with cynicism dialled up to eleven. As I suspected – deck chairs everywhere. Don't you people have any idea how old I am? Even assuming I was able to lower myself into one without precipitating a hilarious collapsing debacle, I'd never get out again. It's almost as if the pub world has turned its back on catastrophically unfit dudes in their 40s, which is a touch unfair since the catastrophic unfitness is largely a result of 20 years spent in pubs.

There is nothing conducive to relaxation in the makeup of the standard deck chair. If I wanted to hover a few centimetres above the ground on a dangerous contraption with no lumbar support, I would do it on the Rynek in expectation of some appreciative gasps and spare change from passers by.

It was as I was fuming over these injustices that I overheard the conversation that was supposed to form the basis of this column before I transformed into a

The Polish law on this is a corker, mostly because it is actually two completely contradictory laws. Article 196 of the Polish Penal Code reads: "Anyone found guilty of offending religious feelings through public defamation of an object or place of worship is liable to a fine, restriction of liberty or a maximum two-year prison sentence." Without a hint of irony, article 25(2) of the Polish Constitution says: "Public authorities in the Republic of Poland shall be impartial in matters of personal conviction, whether religious or philosophical, or in relation to outlooks on life, and shall ensure their freedom of expression within public life." In other words, the constitution protects your right to call the Pope a gassy old wafer-fumbler, right up to the point the court throws you in pokey.

This is not the first the time the faithful have had their pound of fashionable flesh. In 2006, the frontman of Death Metal band Behemoth got into hot water for hassling a bible on stage. The court reasonably concluded that, if you're down with the Lord, listening to Death Metal probably isn't going to make you feel all warm and non-righteous, until the second appeal persuaded them: 'what the hell, convict him.'

There was also something about Doda (remember her?) but I can't reach my Google thngy from this damn chair.

Jamie Stokes is the Managing Editor of the Krakow Post. You can contact / disparage him at: editor@krakowpost.com

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posted: the month in events

Projekt współfinansowany przez Unię Europejską w ramach Małopolskiego Regionalnego Programu Operacyjnego na lata 2007 – 2013

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Matopolska

UNIA EUROPEJSKA EUROPEJSKI FUNDUSZ ROZWOJU REGIONALNEGO

Dofinansowano ze środków Ministra Kultury i Dziedzictwa Narodowego

Projekt współfinansowany z Narodowego Funduszu Rewaloryzacji Zabytków Krakowa

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WWW.MUZEUM.KRAKOW.PL

Exhibitions

Matta: Man and Universe

The National Museum in Krakow is hosting a major new exhibition of the work of the now little known, but highly influential in his day, surrealist Roberto Matta – described by Marcel Duchamp as “the most perceptive painter of his generation.”

When: Until October 11

Where: National Museum, al. 3 Maj 1

Forever Young

Who doesn't want to stay forever young? Live the dream at the last month of this major exhibition presenting the best of “Poland and its art around 1900” through 300 paintings, prints and other objects. For more, see: muzeum.krakow.pl

When: Until September 29

Where: National Museum, Pl. Szczepański 9

A Dim Light

Krakow's Ethnographic Museum is hosting a major exhibition of the photographs of 19th century Polish antiquarian Michał Grim. Now largely forgotten, his photographs of wild-looking rural characters offer an amazing insight into a world long gone.

When: Until December 22

Where: Dom Esterki, ul. Krakowska 46

Library of Games

MOCAK's library (yes, it has one) has just bought a bunch of board games for the use of visitors. Everything from Monopoly to Queue, which recreates the experience of living in the Communist Peoples' Republic. Bring lots of friends.

When: Permanent

Where: MOCAK, ul. Lipowa 4

The Perfect City

A comprehensive history of Krakow's most troubled district – the planned Socialist paradise of Nowa Huta. The exhibition comprises photos, multimedia presentations and documentaries covering 50 years.

When: Permanent

Where: Nowa Huta branch of the Historical Museum of Krakow, os. Słoneczne 16

Sinister History

The ICC describes Tara von Neudorf as “one of the most original and – simultaneously – most censored contemporary Romanian artists. Find out why at this new exhibition of her graffiti-like work. For more information, see: www.mck.krakow.pl

When: Until November 24

Where: ICC, Rynek Główny 25

Traces of Memory

Photographs by the late Chris Schwarz and text by Prof. Jonathan Webber are combined to offer a powerful, moving, but ultimately hopeful insight into the Jewish past and present in Poland. The material took 12 years to compile.

When: Permanent exhibition

Where: Galicia Jewish Museum, ul. Dajwór 18

Territory

Natural elements combined with abstract painted elements and simple forms combined with pure colours. This is what you can expect from the Territory exhibition. Piotr Lutyński's unconventional work is brought to life at the Alfa Gallery.

When: Until September 29

Where: MOCAK, ul. Lipowa 4

Life Under Stress

Natalia Bażowska's work concentrates on the psychology of interactions between living things and inanimate objects. This audio/visual installation centres on a mesmerisingly close-up look at the workings of an artificial heart valve.

When: From September 14

Where: Bunkier Sztuki, Plac Szczepański 3a

Economics in Art

This new exhibition at MOCAK is the third in a series putting artistic endeavour in the context of everyday life. It features work from dozens of Polish and international artists addressing questions such as how value is created and the ethics of success.

When: Until September 29

Where: MOCAK, ul. Lipowa 4

Tempress

Belgian artist Charlotte Beaudry's solo show at MOCAK features more than a dozen paintings and sculptures that provoke associations with the tools of female seduction. Get drawn in, but keep your eye on the exit.

When: Until September 29

Where: MOCAK, ul. Lipowa 4

Lady with an Ermine

Poland's most valuable work of art, Leonardo da Vinci's Lady With an Ermine, is now on display at Wawel Castle. Tickets cost 10zł, but book in advance if you want to avoid queues – only 20 people at a time will be allowed into the room.

When: Permanent

Where: Wawel Castle

Film

Opera at Kijów.Centrum

Kijów.Centrum's long-running season of broadcasts from top opera and ballet venues continues in September with a chance to see the New York Metropolitan Opera's production of *Aida*. For details and other showings: www.kijow.pl

When: September 22, 17:00

Where: Kijów.Centrum, al. Krasińskiego 34

Into the Mind

Krakow audiences will be among the first in the world to see the much-anticipated skiing-zen extravaganza, *Into the Mind*. To be among them for this first taste of winter, get yourself down to Kijów.Centrum on September 28.

When: September 28

Where: Kino Kika, ul. Ignacego Krasickiego 18



Into the Mind (2013) Sherpas Cinema

Future Shorts Festival

Kino Pod Baranami is hosting a one-day festival of award winning short films this September. Among the treats are: *Boneshaker*, *La Huida*, *The Pirate of Love*, *The Hidden Smile* and *Irish Folk Furniture*. See: www.kinopod-baranami.pl.

When: September 19

Where: Kino Pod Baranami, Rynek Główny 27

Kino Kika

Krakow's youngest and cutest cinema, Kino Kika, has gone to great lengths to be child (and parent) friendly. It has been recognised as a 'breast-feeding friendly zone' and has regular shows for parents and tots. More info: kinokika.pl

When: Every day

Where: Kino Kika, ul. Ignacego Krasickiego 18

Music

Krakow Opera

Krakow's very own temple of the operatic arts is hosting a packed schedule in September, including the world premier of *The Mice War*, an opera for children by David Chesky. *The Gypsy Baron*, *Rigoletto* and the *The Devils of Loudun* also feature.

When: Throughout September

Where: Opera Krakowska, ul. Lubicz 48

At the Philharmonic

Krakow's Philharmonic Orchestra and Choir kick off the new season with a performance of *Polish Requiem* by Poland's greatest living composer, Krzysztof Penderecki. Michał Dworzyński conducts See: www.filharmonia.krakow.pl for details.

When: September 28

Where: ul. Zwirzywiecka 1

Film Music Festival

The sixth annual Film Music Festival celebrates those often overlooked musical scores that give your favourite cinematic scenes their emotional punch. For a full schedule of performances and venues, see: www.fmf.fm/en.

When: September 26–29

Where: Various locations

Capella Cracoviensis

Krakow's finest songbirds are on a European tour this September, so if you happen to be heading to Brussels, Lwów, Kiev or Ghent, be sure to look out for them. See: capellacracoviensis.pl for details. They are back in Krakow in October.

When: Throughout September

Where: Numerous venues

Muzeum Etnograficzne
im. Seweryna Udzieli w Krakowie

instytucja kultury
Województwa
Małopolskiego

Research undertaken by Joanna Sosnowska
in Peru (2008–2011)

PALMS AND THE ASHÁNINKA PEOPLE

exhibition
9.08.2013 – 26.01.2014
ul. Krakowska 46, Kraków

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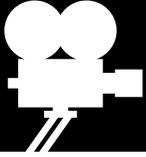
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Future Shorts Festival, Kino Pod



KINO MANIA

Giuseppe Sedia

★★★★★ Go now!

★★★★ See it

★★★ Solid

★★ If you must

★ Avoid

Dzień kobiet (Women's Day) 2012

Starring: Katarzyna Kwiatkowska, Eryk Lubos, Anita Jancia, Dorota Kolak

Directed by: Maria Sadowska

★★★

Looking forward to seeing the Hollywood movie industry produce its first comedy set in a no frills supermarket, Maria Sadowska has tailored the first example of the genre in Poland. The spectacular work-to-rule action organised nationwide by supermarket staff during the hot autumn of 2010 drew public attention to the working conditions of retail store personnel. "We have not had a film with this discussion before, with a strong woman character and the world of the working class. These two elements make this film different," explained Sadowska, who graduated from the Łódź Film School after a successful career as a pop singer. *Dzień kobiet (Women's Day)* is built on the double metamorphosis of Halina

(Katarzyna Kwiatkowska), a single mother who is unexpectedly appointed store manager of a Motylek (butterfly) supermarket, a fictional company with strong echoes of real-life Biedronka – the largest discount chain in Poland. Immersed in the empty rhetoric of corporate training, where she is taught to sacrifice everything in the name of productivity, Halina begins to lord over her former peers who are obliged to accept a back-breaking work schedule under humiliating conditions. After being terminated by her boss (Eryk Lubos), she transforms into lady vengeance out for justice for herself and her oppressed colleagues. Sadowska's feature triumphed at the 22nd Festival of East European Film in Cottbus.



Miłość (Love) 2012

Directed by: Filip Dzierżawski

★★★

Filip Dzierżawski's biopic about Polish supergroup Miłość was born out of a jazz-like improvisation. Miłość are known as the kings of 'yass' – a potpourri of jazz, punk rock, and folk that emerged as a distinctive style in Gdańsk and Bydgoszcz at the beginning of the 1980s. Originally intended to be a reassuring and conventional video compilation of unreleased footage from the band's session with American trumpet guru Lester Bowie, *Miłość* abruptly evolved into something else. The filmmaker became emotionally absorbed by the artistically tormented activity of the band in the 1990s to such an extent that the project grew in a totally different direction. His friendship with

band leader Tymon Tymański allowed him to investigate the band's past from up close. Dzierżawski, indeed, abruptly shifted the focus of his film from musical performance to the fluctuating relationships between five hot-headed musicians, each of them overflowing with personality. A lack of high quality video material from the ensemble's early years has been compensated for with simple snapshots of the band. The film occasionally resembles a talking photo album, enhancing the intimacy of this unorthodox video portrait of a band that covers their story right up to their reunion in 2009. *Miłość* won the main prize at the Krakow Film Festival this year.



Morderstwo (A Murderer) 1957

Directed by: Roman Polański

Morderstwo (A Murderer) accidentally became Roman Polański's debut as a director simply because his beloved autobiographical short feature *Rower (Bicycle)* hadn't been returned to him in its entirety from the Łódź film laboratory. Perhaps in response to this initial disappointment, he took a more detached approach in his second attempt at filmmaking. Described by Polański as a "technical exercise," his first completed film at the State Film School still contains some essential characteristics of the great director's style. Made in just three shots, the

movie portrays the clinical murder of a sleeping man. This very short feature confirms that the Polish-born cinéaste has always preferred to put the public in front of the terror instead of letting them fantasise about what is happening off screen. Moreover, Polański refuses to provide any explanation for the murder, committed by a mysterious figure dressed in a trench coat. When violence is portrayed as meaningless, even a minute and half is more than enough to make viewers shiver.



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march of the dachshund

8.09.2013 - 12.00

Yes, it's exactly what is written on the tin. Dachshund owners and their brisk pets not only from Kraków will be gathered together in a many-legged parade. There will be colorful doggy outfits and many different attractions. Crazy as it may seem, it's something that ought to be seen.

The Parade starts by the Barbican at 12.00 and will proceed to the Main Square. Then - Dachshund Beauty Contest and much more.



SACRUM PROFANUM

16.09-22.09.2013

Sacrum Profanum Festival is an international project that has earned the status of one of the most interesting European music events. The festival presents newest music and is aimed at blurring the line between contemporary music, often treated as difficult and incomprehensible, and the developments of ambitious entertainment and the experimental scene.

MORE INFO: <http://www.sacrumprofanum.com/en>

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS:

- 15.09 - TRANCE/PULSE!
- 16.09 - Brian ENO: MUSIC FOR AIRPORTS
- 17.09 - FIELD RECORDINGS T. Braxton
- 18.09 - AMERICANA S. Reich, P. Glass
- 19.09 - WHERE (WE) LIVE
- 20.09 - ACOUSTICA: Aphex Twin, Autechre
- 21.09 - Frank ZAPPA's music
- 22.09 - POLISH ICONS 2: Lutosławski

6th FILM MUSIC FESTIVAL

26.09-29.09.2013

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS:

- 26.09 - Alberto Iglesias: Musical Frames
- 27.09 - Dreamland – Sounds of Iceland
- 28.09 - The Grand Gala of Film Music
- 29.09 - Matrix Live – Film in Concert

MORE INFO: <http://www.fmf.fm/en>

The Festival of Film Music in Krakow has been entirely dedicated to music created for the needs of the picture. The unique combination of the highest quality of interpretation of film music performed by leading musicians and orchestras, in combination with high quality of film picture, decides on the uniqueness of the event.

The programme of the venture puts its stakes on genre diversity: from reviews of retrospect and exclusive ceremonial concerts in performance, through monographic concerts of chosen and distinguished composers of film music, and finally at mass shows in the open.

SPECIAL EVENTS



EMILIE AUTUMN

Klub Kwadrat
ul. Skarżyńskiego 1
1.09 – 19.00

An American singer-songwriter and violinist. She draws influence for her music from plays, novels, and history. She incorporates various cultural elements into one entity.

🎵 alternative 📍 czyżyny

🚶 OKULICKIEGO 128 139 152 172

L. ŻĄDŁO EUROPEAN ART ENSEMBLE

Piec Art
ul. Szewska 12
2,3.09 – 21.30

Leszek Żądło is a Polish jazz composer, flautist and tenor/soprano saxophonist. His musical output is constituted of over 80 studio albums, radio and TV recordings and many live concerts.

🎵 jazz 📍 center/old town

🚶 TEATR 2 4 13 14 18 20 24
BAGATELA

VLADIMIRSKA

Piękny Pies
ul. Bożego Ciała 9
6.09 – 20.00

A solo project of Canadian singer and accordionist Scotia Gilroy, in 2010 turned into a 6-member band playing guitar, banjo, mandolin, trumpet, saxophone and drums.

🎵 indie folk 📍 kazimierz

🚶 STRADOM 6 8 10 11 13



EDYTA GEPPERT & KROKE

Alchemia
ul. Estery 5
11.09 – 20.00

Edyta Geppert is a well-known Polish vocalist. Together with KROKE she will present a selection of Balkan and Gypsy folk, with a dash of jazz and some Klezmer notes.

🎵 folk 📍 kazimierz

🚶 STRADOM 6 8 10 11 13

BALAY

Piec Art
ul. Szewska 12
12.09 – 21.30

An 'author's project' of Tomasz Boruch and Mag Balay. An interesting, tasty dish of groovejazz and ethnic sounds with a little electronics, seasoned with touching, poetic lyrics.

🎵 ethnic 📍 center/old town

🚶 TEATR 2 4 13 14 18 20 24
BAGATELA

PETER J. BIRCH

Magazyn Kultury
ul. Józefa 17
13.09 – 20.00

A new phenomenon, already recognized nationwide. The gig will promote Peter's debut album – a very conscious and grown-up view of American country folk music.

🎵 folk 📍 kazimierz

🚶 STRADOM 6 8 10 11 13



Z DALA OD ZGIEŁKU

Stary Port
ul. Straszewskiego 27
14.09 – 20.00

„AWAY FROM THE CLAMOR” - an interesting combo of sailor shanties and a bit of good old rockin'. Something for those who enjoy their drinks in a nice atmosphere.

🎵 shanties 📍 center/old town

🚶 TEATR 2 4 13 14 18 20 24
BAGATELA

MATEUSZ PAŁKA TRIO

Piec Art
ul. Szewska 12
17.09 - 21.00

A very own project of the pianist Mateusz Pałka - a young, talented jazz musician. The trio will present his personal creative work along with jazz standards, known and loved.

🎵 jazz 📍 center/old town

🚗 TEATR 2 4 13 14 18 20 24
BAGATELA

OLA BIENKOWSKA QUINTET

Piec Art
ul. Szewska 12 →
18.09 - 21.30

The first ever Pole to have finished the Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts. A very charismatic vocalist, who mesmerizes her audiences with her powerful yet delicate voice.

🎵 jazz 📍 center/old town

🚗 TEATR 2 4 13 14 18 20 24
BAGATELA



THE DOORS TRIBUTE

THE DOORS ALIVE

← Klub Studio
ul. Budryka 4
19.09 - 19.00

UK's no.1 The Doors tribute band, described as "sometimes more 'The Doors' than the real thing." They have already conquered Britain, now they are aiming for the rest of the world.

🎵 tribute 📍 AGH district

🚗 KAWIORY 139 144 159 173

NEKROPARTY vol. 4 - NEKROMANTIX
Rotunda
ul. Oleandry 1
19.09 - 19.00

The NEKROMANTIX are a Danish-American psychobilly band, structured around horror themes. Support: THE HELLFREAKS, CRIMINAL TANGO, HEADLESS BABIES.

🎵 psychobilly 📍 center

🚗 CRACOVIA 8 109 124 134 144

AUGUST BURNS RED +
BLESSTHEFALL + COUNTERPARTS
Klub Kwadrat →
ul. Skarżyńskiego 1
19.09 - 19.00

Three bands (USA, Canada) of a rather heavy disposition. An evening filled with metalcore and screamo. Yummy.

🎵 metalcore 📍 czyżyny

🚗 OKULICKIEGO 128 139 152 172



15.09 - 21.09



J. JAKUBOWSKI, K. JURKIEWICZ
Stary Port
ul. Straszewskiego 27
← 21.09 - 20.00

Shanties, folk, and some more shanties. The two musicians are the authors of many popular songs of the genre, widely recognized within its audiences.

🎵 shanties 📍 center/old town

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TAKTIK

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taktik.muzik@gmail.com

MATEUSZ PAŁKA QUARTET

Piec Art
ul. Szewska 12
25.09 – 21.30

With his musician friends, Mateusz creates his own compositions, inspired by modern American and European jazz artists. Standards and improvisation.

🎵 jazz 📍 center/old town
🚶 TEATR 2 4 13 14 18 20 24
BAGATELA



COAL TOUR 2013:
Leprous, Vulture Industries
Klub Kwadrat
ul. Skarżyńskiego 1
26.09 – 19.00

Two Norwegian bands: progressive rock/metal and black metal. Their lyrical themes are rather dark. It doesn't sound too nice, but that's not what they are looking for.

🎵 prog rock 📍 czyżyny
🚶 OKULICKIEGO 128 139 152 172

SIMEON LENOIR & THE WORLD
TRANS SYSTEM
Stary Port
ul. Straszewskiego 27
27.09 - 20.00

French born, Kraków based performer. World's rhythms and sounds – a celebration of positive energy that can be found within everyone and everything.

🎵 ethnic 📍 center/old town
🚶 TEATR 2 4 13 14 18 20 24
BAGATELA

NEAL MORSE

Klub Studio
ul. Budryka 4
28.09 – 19.00

NEAL MORSE is an American singer, multi-instrumentalist, bandleader and progressive rock composer based in Nashville, Tennessee. In 2002 he became a born-again Christian.

🎵 prog rock 📍 AGH district
🚶 KAWIORY 139 144 159 173

**JAROMIR NOHAVICA**

Rotunda
ul. Oleandry 1
29.09 – 19.00

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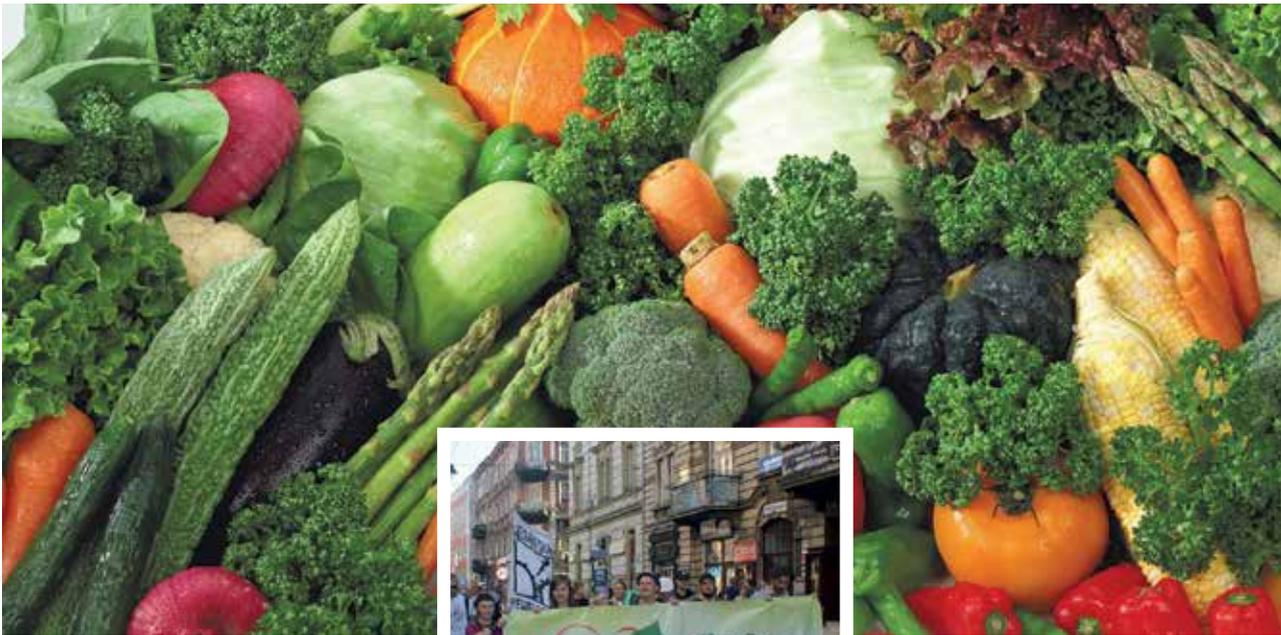
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Healthy Living: Plant Based Lifestyle

■ Magdalena Dudzik



The second Krakow Veggie Parade will fill the city centre on October 12 with hundreds of plant-based lifestyle enthusiasts celebrating and promoting vegetarianism and veganism. The march will start at 1pm at the Barbakan and proceed through the Rynek Główny to Kazimierz before finishing at 3pm with a vegan fest in the legendary Kitsch and Caryca clubs at ul. Dajwór 16.

The first international Veggie Pride Parade was held in Paris in 2001. Since then, similar events have been held every year in cities all over the world, attracting more and more people and increasing media interest. What is bringing these crowds to the streets? As one Krakow Parade organiser told me: "We want to highlight the unjust treatment of animals bred for meat, milk, eggs and fur, and show that there is a more ethical solution – a plant-based lifestyle that is not only more compassionate, but also much more sustainable and healthier, both for us and for the planet."

Are the advantages of a plant-based lifestyle as convincing as its supporters claim? While ethical arguments for giving up animal products are largely dependent on personal views, the health benefits and environmental sustainability of a plant-based lifestyle have been backed by scientific evidence. The number of books and articles on this topic has grown rapidly during the last decade and some interesting documentaries

have been produced, such as *Planeat* (2010) and *Forks over Knives* (2011), which show that most, if not all, of the degenerative diseases that afflict Western societies can be controlled, or even reversed, by switching from animal-based and processed foods to a plant-based, whole food diet, with accompanying improvements in the sustainability of our planet.

Many celebrities have decided to go vegan after experiencing serious health problems, like former US president Bill Clinton, who adopted a plant-based diet after his second cardiac surgery. Some months later, he made headlines looking younger and healthier while talking about the benefits of this major change in his life. Famous film director, James Cameron, went vegan last year after watching *Forks over Knives* and soon became an active advocate of this lifestyle. In June this year, at the National Geographic Society's 125th anniversary gala, Cameron challenged the audience of scientists and explorers to go vegan if they considered themselves true environmentalists. "By changing what you eat, you will change the entire contract between the human species and the natural world," he said.

The list of plant-based lifestyle supporters, experts, books, films and articles seems to have no end. But what exactly does this super beneficial diet consist of? Dr T. Colin

Campbell gives a concise definition of the ideal human diet in his latest book *Whole, Rethinking the Science of Nutrition*: "Eat a variety of vegetables, fruits, raw nuts and seeds, beans and legumes, and whole grains. Avoid heavily processed foods and animal products. Stay away from added salt, oil, and sugar. Aim to get 80 percent of your calories from carbohydrates, 10 percent from fat, and 10 percent from protein." An active researcher, writer and conference speaker at the age of 79, Campbell is a poster boy for his own advice.

The number of vegetarians and vegans is growing at an increasing rate. According to a recent national poll commissioned by the Vegetarian Resource Group the number of vegans in the United States has more than doubled since 2009. There is no such data available for Poland, but the rapid growth of Facebook groups, fan pages and blogs dedicated to veganism and vegetarianism suggests that the lifestyle is gaining popularity here too. For example, *Weganie i Wegetarianie Krakow's* Facebook group has grown from 90 members in 2011 to 700 today, and this is a good place to visit for advice and support if you live in Krakow and would like to start your plant-based life. Alternatively, you could join the October Veggie Parade and Veggie Fest to meet the local vegan community, try plant-based food and have fun. More details at: www.veggie-parade.pl.



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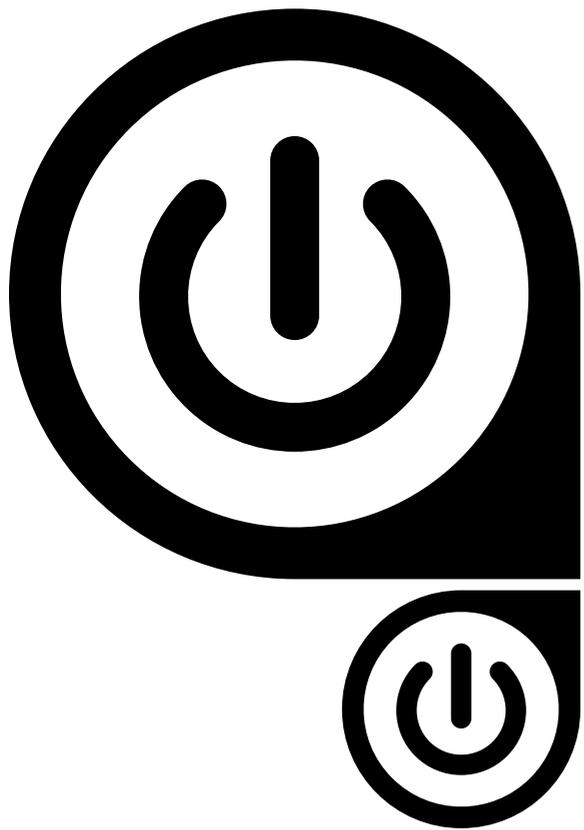
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START ME UP!



Krakow has caught the startup bug, big time. The range of startup groups, accelerators, workshops and other happenings going on in the city can be bewildering – over 150 events so far this year.

As summer winds down and Krakow gets back to work, a new season of startup buzz stirs.

For readers keen to get involved, we present the Krakow Post's essential guide to the startup scene.



Google for Entrepreneurs Krakow (GEK)

www.google.com/entrepreneurs/initiatives

Google for Entrepreneurs' focus is to empower the next generation of startups and entrepreneurs around the world with initiatives such as Startup Weekend, Women on the Web, or by building Startup Campuses. They currently support more than 50 groups in 30 countries. Seeing a need for a physical space for startups to hack, learn and network, Google for Entrepreneurs opened an office space in Krakow in January 2013. They have hosted 28 meetings in their first quarter, including for the Ruby Users Group, Youth in Leadership, MakerSpace and Open Coffee. By bringing hundreds of developers, entrepreneurs and investors together, they quickly became a hub for Krakow's startup community. On October 1, GEK and Innovation Nest will hold their annual week celebrating entrepreneurs. New entrepreneurs will have the opportunity to pitch their ideas and discuss their business ideas with mentors.



Maker Space

makerspacekrakow.wordpress.com/html

'Think, design, make and share,' is the mantra of Krakow's Maker Space. It was formed by a group of socially-conscious and passionate people intent on creating an interdisciplinary community to help solve local problems by designing, prototyping and fabricating solutions. This year, four different groups were formed to address Krakow's four major problem areas: bicycle parking, air quality and pollution, city noise and child safety. Ideas pitched at this year's Małopolska Innovation Expo included a foldable bike parking stand, an acoustic bicycle compass, and the Read-RideKid road safety educational program for children. An event organized by this group called Maker Weekend will take place in October this year.

Entrepreneurial Poland (Polska Przedsiębiorcza)

przedsiębiorca.pl/en/html

Entrepreneurial Poland started nine years ago with a mission to create a development system for Polish entrepreneurs. Three major initiatives were launched: Akademickie Inkubatory Przedsiębiorczości (AIP) provides a platform for testing business models, SeedCapital is one of the simplest investment models in Poland, and Businesslink is a business development accelerator operating in five Polish cities, including Krakow. AIP is now the largest network of incubators in Europe with 40 academic incubators. SeedCapital provides startups with 100,000 zlotys for a 15% return on each investment and has already supported 43 startups. Businesslink, located on ul. Mogińska 65, not only provides an office space for startups to develop their business ideas, but also organizes training, mentoring, and networking for their 'tenants.'



Hive53 started in 2010 as a group that organises specialized events (in English only) and promotes local meet-ups to foster the startup community. For example, their May meeting was hosted by Joel Spolsky, the founder of StackOverflow, Trello and FogBugz. Stay tuned for the next event by checking their website for more details. Last year, Hive53 and Marta Rylko initiated a bi-weekly event called Open Coffee, where entrepreneurs, students and other innovative people come to pitch their ideas, network and find teammates or an investor. Open Coffee is held every other Thursday at 8:00 AM at Google for Entrepreneurs, on the 3rd Floor of Pasaż 13 in the Rynek Główny.



Startup Pirates Krakow

www.startuppirates.org

'Be brave, be crazy, be a Pirate!' is the Startup Pirates' call to action for anyone wanting to become an entrepreneur. The scheme offers one-week accelerator program at locations around the globe. This year in May, it took place in Krakow for the first time thanks to a group of people engaged in the local startup scene. Participants are exposed to training and mentoring that helps them develop and pitch their ideas to investors and successful business leaders. If this sounds interesting, you can either organize the next Startup Pirates in Krakow, or join the next event.

Chance

www.facebook.com/ChanceOnTour

Rafal Han, the founder of Chance, has supported startups such as Duckie Deck, Vocabla, Ciufcia, Futbolowo.pl and Estimote. Earlier this year, he launched a new initiative that involves touring Central and Eastern Europe in a 1986 Volkswagen campervan discovering and learning about local startup communities. The idea is that the most promising startups will be invited to work with Chance and its partners for one week in Krakow as part of Chance Warm Up. Chance also offers one to three months startup coaching under their Chance Academy program.

hub:raum

www.hubraum.com

hub:raum was founded by Deutsche Telekom and now has offices in Berlin, Krakow and Tel Aviv. The initiative provides startups with seed-funding, co-working space, mentoring and access to Deutsche Telekom's corporate assets such as its customer base, technical support and infrastructure facilities. Their Krakow's office brings support to startups from Poland and other Central European countries. They welcome anyone who has ideas and wants to turn them into business ventures.

Innovation Nest

www.facebook.com/innovationnest/

Innovation Nest is an initiative created by Piotr Wilam and Marek Kapturkiewicz to support established or newly-launching high-tech businesses in Poland and abroad. Entrepreneurs can develop know-how, build networks, or find investors through cooperation with Innovation Nest. In addition, Spin, Innovation Nest's school of entrepreneurship, provides intensive two-day trainings focused on teaching Steve Blank's Lean startup principles.

Wytwórnia

www.wytworniakrakow.pl

Wytwórnia is an open space for local makers to get inspired, develop, prototype and produce their product ideas. It was founded by a group of friends with technical, design and art backgrounds and focuses on designing products, interactive installations and graphics. You can visit them at ul. Ślusarska 3.

Bitspiration

www.bitspiration.com

Bitspiration launched in June 2012 and quickly became the most important Internet, startup and technology event in Central and Eastern Europe. Last year, it brought speakers such as Jawed Karim, co-founder of YouTube; Don Dodge, co-founder of Altavista, Napster, and currently a Developer Advocate at Google, and Bridgette Sexton, Global Entrepreneurship Manager at Google. This year, the event consisted of pre-conference workshops and demos as well as presentations from key Internet personalities.

Startup Weekend

krakow.startupweekend.org

Startup Weekend is organised by a network of passionate individuals engaged in growing their local startup communities. Anyone can come to an event and pitch their idea. Attendees then form teams around these ideas and, after 54 hours of business model development, coding, designing and market validation, they are presented in front of key local entrepreneurs. The event provides an opportunity to meet people, join the startup community and, most importantly, learn how setting up a startup really works.

Colab

www.facebook.com/colabpl

COLAB is a co-working space at ul. Berka Joselewicza 21. It is also an inspiring ecosystem in which local entrepreneurs, startup teams, visionaries and investors exchanging ideas and experience. Startups such as Duckie Deck, Notatek.pl and Estimote are already taking advantage of this space.

Global Student Entrepreneur Awards

www.gsea.pl

This year saw the first Global Student Entrepreneur Awards in Poland. GSEA is a global project aimed at promoting entrepreneurship among young people through a competition that enables the winners to execute their business projects. The finalists, who presented their projects on June 3 in Krakow, included Indivia, Misbehave, Nizapomniana Chwila, Nova System and Robocode.pl.

Hackerspace

hackerspace-krk.pl

Hackerspace Kraków is essentially a playground for IT people, where they can meet new people in the same profession, develop new skills and test their ideas. It has a permanent office/space at ul. Radziwiłłowskiej 20/2, where makers, innovators and artists connect and strive to change the world. Everyone is welcome.

WebMuses

www.facebook.com/webmuses

WebMuses are here to expose all interested parties to different Information Technology (IT) topics. They organize monthly meetings, events and workshops to inspire and educate young women that IT jobs can be for girls too. Their most recent event, already their fifteenth, was about test driving development in JavaScript and included a day of interesting workshops called WebMuses Unplugged.

Wenusjanki

www.satus.pl

Wenusjanki brings Polish business women together to share professional experiences. They organize informal events in Warsaw, Krakow and Kielce for all women interested in net-

working with other business women, exploring new fashion, food, and beauty trends, or learning new skills.

SATUS

www.satus.pl

Since its inception in 2005, SATUS has been creating innovative forms of startup investment that minimise risks and maximise returns. Simply put, they connect entrepreneurs with private investors.

Open Małopolska

www.facebook.com/pages/Otwarta-Małopolska

Open Małopolska is an initiative designed to connect people who are passionate about open source and working on it in their free time. The idea is to create an open government in Małopolska. They are always looking for people to become engaged in changing the world.

Lean Startup Circle

www.leanstartupcircle.com

Lean Startup Circle organises informal meetings and workshops around the Lean Startup methodology. By attending their meetings, you can learn how to shorten the product development cycle by adopting Lean principles. Follow their online forum for more information.

Startup Stage

www.facebook.com/StartupStage

Startup Stage is a monthly meeting held at The Stage – ul. Łobzowska 3. The events, touching on different tech business topics such as Growth Hacking, SaaS, and 3D printing, last a few hours and attract hundreds. Find out about the new, autumn season of events by liking them on Facebook.

KrakSpot

krakspot.pl

KrakSpots are free, informal conferences for people interested in keeping up to date with new media. Each event attracts up to 300 fans and pizza and beer are provided. This barcamp was originally formed in 2008 and celebrate their fifth anniversary this year. Their next event is scheduled for October.



Souvenir, Talisman, Toy

Richard W Jackson

The statuettes of Jewish figures that crowd Krakow's souvenir stands often horrify foreign visitors. Usually big-nosed and dressed in Hasidic black, and often clutching coins, they seem to represent the crudest of anti-Semitic stereotypes being sold as objects of fun. Many Poles are taken aback by these reactions, seeing them as harmless traditional talismans. A recent exhibition at Krakow's Ethnographic Museum sought to open a dialogue between these points of view, with interesting results.

The exhibition, titled 'Souvenir, Talisman, Toy,' proved so popular that it was extended through August at the Galicia Jewish Museum in a 'Phase II' that offered a further chance for visitors to interact with the project and to continue a cultural dialogue which began in early June alongside the successful 2013 Jewish Cultural Festival.

Conceived and curated by Erica Lehrer, an anthropologist based at Concordia University in Montreal, Canada, the exhibition sought to understand the history and symbolism of wooden carvings of Jewish figures in Polish culture. The project continues via a website that encourages visitors to submit pictures of Jewish figurines as part of an interactive archive to aid Lehrer and others with their research.

Jewish figurines have a long presence in Polish culture. One purpose of 'Souvenir, Talisman, Toy,' was to act as an intercultural bridge between two perspectives wrapped in the complex history of Polish-Jewish relations. The question is: did the exhibition achieve this feat?

While Jewish opinion has predominantly been that the figurines are overtly anti-Semitic, highlighting Poland's ambivalence towards its Jewish heritage, historically many of these carvings have depicted Jews and Judaism positively. Once treated as talismans among the Polish peasantry, such figures were commonly used in Christmas



Jewish figurine from the collection of the Seweryn Udziela Ethnographic Museum in Krakow.

Photo Marcin Wąsik/MEK

nativity scenes, and are still traded today at Krakow's Emaus Easter fair, as they were in the 19th century.

Today, the Jewish figurines are popular with many Polish tourists but continue to trigger knotty emotions in other groups, particularly the large numbers of Israeli visitors who come to Krakow. Jonathan Ornstein, Director of the Jewish Community Centre in Krakow, praised the exhibition for tackling difficult to discuss issues. When asked whether the figurines are good or bad for Polish Jewry today, he added:

“People who come to Poland with certain preconceptions about Polish attitudes toward Jews take one look at the figurines and have their worst fears confirmed. To me, that's a shame. Poland has made such remarkable strides in dealing with lingering issues of anti-Semitism, I hate that these figurines can easily blind tourists to the progress Polish society has achieved in this area. For many Poles, Jewish life and the image of Jews is frozen in 1939, the last time there was a sizable, visible Jewish presence. The figurines are focusing on an imagined Jewish identity that was never representative of all Jews in Poland.”

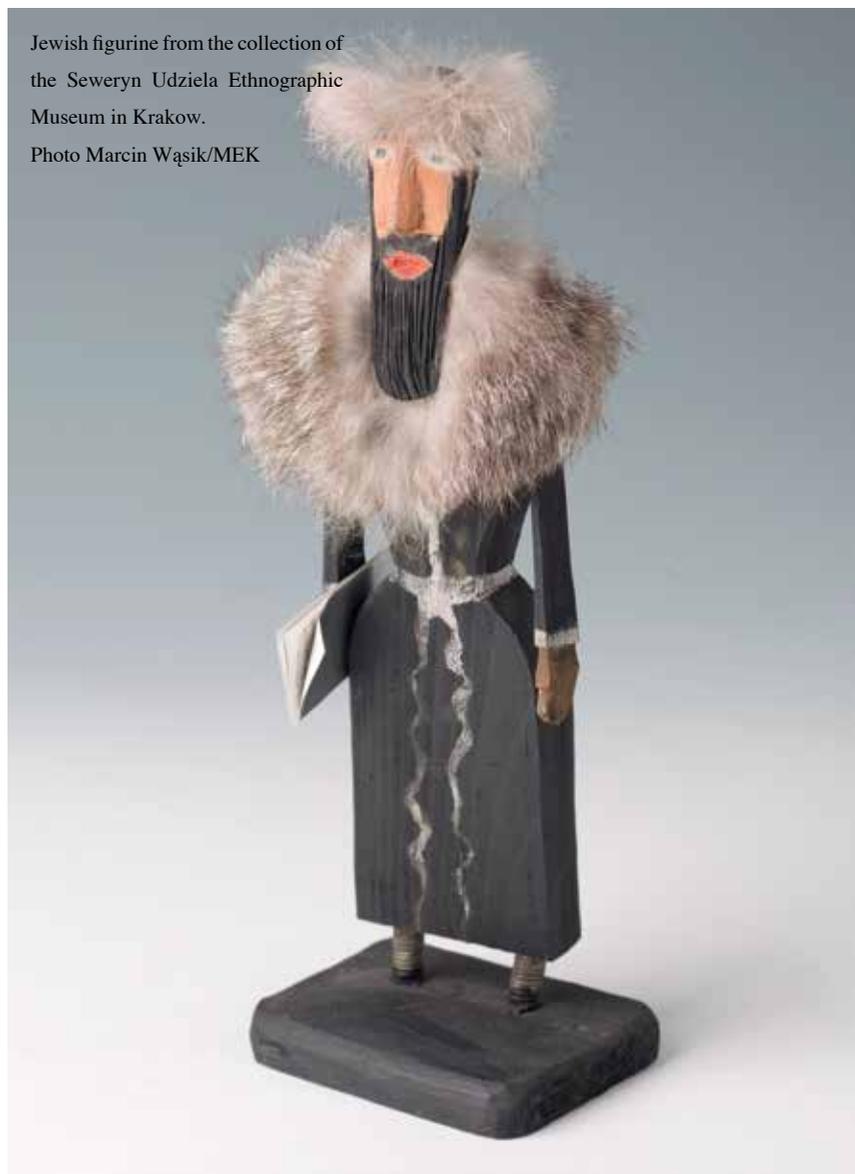
In an interview, Polish carver Józef Reguła, whose work is featured in the exhibition, stated that many American tourists with Jewish and Polish roots buy the figurines as a keepsake of their family history, while Germans have bought them as monuments to a culture lost during the Holocaust.

Reguła, like other sculptors, is a talented artisan. Drawing inspiration from personal Jewish accounts and the work of Polish-born Yiddish writer Isaac Beshevis Singer, his

For many Poles, Jewish life and the image of Jews is frozen in 1939

Jewish figurine from the collection of the Seweryn Udziela Ethnographic Museum in Krakow.

Photo Marcin Wąsik/MEK



Jewish figurine from the collection of the Seweryn Udziela Ethnographic Museum in Krakow.

Photo Marcin Wąsik/MEK



main goal is to translate the diversity of Jewish culture in sculpture. Applying much care to his carvings, he seeks to understand how Jews became a part of culture in Poland, showing the richness and expressiveness of Jewish tradition. “On my shelves,” said Reguła, “Jews and peasants live side by side, and they live in peace.”

When asked whether the exhibition had achieved its aim of opening a dialogue around the figurines, curator Erica Lehrer said:

“From both the press attention, and also my direct observations of people in the galleries and the audiences at the two associated panel discussions I ran, it seems that the goal of creating dialogue worked... the single response that made me feel the exhibit was a success was sent to me by an Israeli woman whose passionate 2010 letter of complaint to the Polish Minister of Tourism I had put on display in one of the galleries. She wrote to me on the opening day: ‘I think it is such a good thing what you are doing in exhibiting these various figurines in a... context which is educational and encourages debate. I watched all the video interviews, which put the horrible figurines I encountered some years ago in a broader perspective, and at times even [a] positive [one]. I still feel that there is also an element of anti-Semitic stereotyping that I find very offensive... I hope that this issue is one of the issues that is being debated and brought to consciousness.’ This more nuanced understanding is exactly what I was going for.”

Lehrer is currently working on an exhibition catalogue, that should be available from 2014, and other versions of the exhibition may appear in cities across Poland. The Krakow exhibit received over 1,500 visitors, so Lehrer hopes this success can be replicated both elsewhere in Poland and abroad. While a divergence of opinion over these figures will continue to exist, Lehrer and the rest of her team can be pleased with the result – based on the many visitors’ comments in the gallery notebooks, the exhibit seemed to make people think in a new way.

Out of Left Field

The Krakow's Post's veteran reporter Giuseppe Sedia joined the Krakow Kings baseball team two years ago, and has discovered some unexpected things about the sport in Poland.

In the conclusion to his presentation at TEDxKrakow 2012, British sociologist and writer, Keith Kahn-Harris, invited the audience to look more closely at the Polish baseball scene as an example of what he likes to call a 'small world.'

Kahn-Harris has a penchant for documenting little-known subcultures and communities, such as Jewish heavy metal bands and water skiers in Luxembourg. During his talk, entitled *Big Fish in Small Ponds*, he confessed to being enraptured by: "What we can learn from these 'small worlds' and curious about the power of the small in a world that is increasingly focused on (and dominated by) the big". But how small is the Polish baseball pond?

"Except for their baseball mitts – bought, like the rest of their equipment, second hand from Cuba – everyone else looked as if they were playing another game," reported the *Chicago Tribune* in September 1987 when Polish American stars Stan Musial and Moe Drabowsky visited the town of Kutno, 120km west of Warsaw, now the home of the European Little League Baseball Center.

Every summer since 1996, national teams from 35 countries in Europe, the Middle East and Africa have competed at the European Little League Baseball Center, the biggest youth complex for baseball in Europe with two stadiums and three training pitches.

Despite this island of baseball heaven, the overall situation is not necessarily idyllic for Polish fans of the bat and ball. According to Arkadiusz Łukomski, contributing editor to the news website *Baseball.pl*: "The Polish Baseball and Softball Federation [PZBall] has been impacted by a significant decrease in public funding over the years."

A limited number of clubs can afford to compete in PZBall competitions. The 'Ekstraliga,' the top division in the country, has just eight teams. "Many sides who haven't managed to enrol in official competitions have solved this problem by forming amateurs leagues," he added.

The signing of Artur Strzałka to the New York Yankees in July 2013 shows that the "talent in the raw," as Moe Drabowsky once described Polish baseball, has gone through tremendous refinements over the last decade. Strzałka is now the first player born and raised in Poland to have signed a professional contract with one of the Major League Baseball clubs.

On the other hand, a number of Polish Americans, including Hall of Famers Stan Coveleski and Al Simmons, have imposed themselves on the sport from the early years of baseball. In this respect, Oscar Bielaski was a trailblazer.



The son of a Union Army officer, Washington-born Bielaski joined the National Association in 1872, at a time when players were still not recompensed and before Polish family names ending in 'ski' were routinely changed to 'sky'. His success was perhaps rooted in a controversial theory that baseball is actually a Polish export.

In his book *God's Playground*, English Historian and Krakow resident Norman Davies argues that modern baseball is the descendant of a mediaeval Polish bat-and-ball game called 'palant'. According to the theory, the game was introduced to the Virginia colony by a small group of Polish settlers at the beginning of the 18th century.

Artur Strzałka was born in Silesia, which, as well as being regarded as the historical cradle of palant, also became the centre of the Polish baseball scene in the 1980s when a group



of Dutch players visited Poland. Since then, the number of teams in this area has been well above the national average, making Silesia a rich hunting ground for talent scouts.

Silesian teams such as KS Silesia Rybnik and Gopardy Żory have recently challenged the supremacy of Stal Kutno, the most successful baseball club in the country, which was established in 1984 by Juan Echevarria, a Cuban shortstop who married a Polish woman while a student in the former Czechoslovakia.

If these revelations mean that Polish baseball is not such a small pond after all, perhaps we need to look more closely at Krakow's baseball scene for a better example of Kahn-Harris' paradigm.

Two years ago, at my late initiation to the game as a newly-minted member of the Krakow Kings, a baseball smacked me in the forehead as I tried to catch it. I felt like a bit of a 'palant,' a word that can also mean 'idiot' in Polish. Fortunately, the Kings have improved more than I have over the past few years.

"Our first training sessions were in the summer of 2007, when a number of aficionados, some of them still active in the club today, gathered on Błonia. Two years later, a group of female Softball players from the University of Arkansas at Monticello visited Krakow and helped us to review the basics," said Jacek Drozd, one of the leading lights of the current squad.

"Albert Hesskew, the former trainer of the Krakow Tigers' football team helped us to assemble the group and became our coach. We didn't even have an official uniform when five players from the Krakow Kings debuted at a friendly match away in Katowice," recalls Drozd.

Hesskew, who arrived in Poland four years ago with a Christian non-profit organisation, recalled early challenges: "The guys had to be careful not to get in trouble with the police going to and from practices" Unless kept in a sports bag, a baseball bat is more likely to be considered a weapon than a piece of equipment on Polish streets.

Despite an early dispute between the football players and the baseball players over the use of the name 'Krakow Kings,' the clubs joined forces in January 2013 to organise an American Sports Day at the University of Science and Technology (AGH) in Krakow. The local lacrosse team also took part in the showcase aimed at promoting sports that are still far from having reached the status of spectator sports in this country.

The potential for growth in the popularity of baseball in Poland is promising, especially in the largest cities. The ever-growing population of expatriates in Krakow provides more chances to recruit talented players and amateurs from abroad. Hesskew has coached players from Cuba, South Korea, Italy, the Czech Republic and the United States, among others.

The Krakow Kings now compete with five other clubs in the recently formed Silesian League of Baseball (SLB), a regional group of death that includes the second teams of the best Silesian professional sides. In July 2013, for only the second time in their history, the Kings defeated Rawa Katowice in the so-called 'A4 Derby,' named after the motorway linking the two cities.

Palant has been played since the reign of Sigismund III Vasa, and was still being played in schools in the 1920s. Perhaps its descendant, like many other Polish émigrés, is on the verge of coming home and settling for good.

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THE PAPER DOCTORS

■ Rita Oliveira

Until very recently in human history, if anything was really important, it was written down, on paper. Paper is so ubiquitous and has been with us for so long, we tend to forget what a miraculously useful technology it is. Not Dr. Tomasz Łojewski. The head of the Paper Degradation and Stability Laboratory at Krakow's Jagiellonian University, Łojewski is one of the world's leading experts on the medium that has recorded everything from your last shopping list to the first drafts of literary masterpieces.

Among the most famous patients that have passed through Łojewski's lab are unique and priceless fragments of Polish and world history, including Krakow's City Charter, musical scores penned by Chopin and Mozart, and drawings by Polish painter, poet, photographer and philosopher Stanisław Ignacy Witkiewicz.

In fact, these important visitors are rather rare at the lab. As Łojewski notes, they are less interested in working with important documents because of the risk of damage in what is, after all, a research

institution. What they really care about is learning as much as they can so that this knowledge can be passed on to other experts who work in conservation every day.

"We support museums and other institutions by training their staff to work with these materials, installing the equipment and dealing with the protocols," said Łojewski. This enables people with no background in the sciences to perform complex conservation tasks.



The Paper Clinic

It all started in 2000, when the government launched a huge project aimed to preserve documents printed on acidic paper. Acidic paper was very popular all around the world between the middle of 19th century and the late 20th century. Unfortunately for historians and archivists, it also tends to degrade rather rapidly, especially when exposed to light or heat.

This presented a huge challenge for Polish conservationists, where acidic paper was used well into the 1990s. Eventually, researchers learned how to deacidify paper, and Poland is now the only country with a mass paper deacidification program in progress.

Today, the Laboratory for Research into the Degradation and Stability of Paper explores a wide range of issues. As well as educational programs (you can take a post-grad course in conservation at the university) the lab also develops analytical tools for paper degradation studies, methodologies for testing ageing and studies

means of mass paper deacidification and passive conservation (altering the atmosphere in storage facilities)

Łojewski's team have developed their own, ground-breaking tools in conservation. One is the 'microfedometer' a device that allows the ageing of paper to be studied without exposing it to damaging light. The machine projects a tiny spotlight, only half a millimetre in diameter, allowing researchers to gauge how a sample will age without exposing the entire document.

The lab has also come up with other innovations that make the lives of conservators easier. At the moment, they are working on active packaging, which uses materials that actively help preserve contents. The goal is to create a type of paper that massively inhibits the growth of microorganisms. They can also disinfect paper by using cold plasma to kill all the microbes on a document. This method can be used in a wide range of other

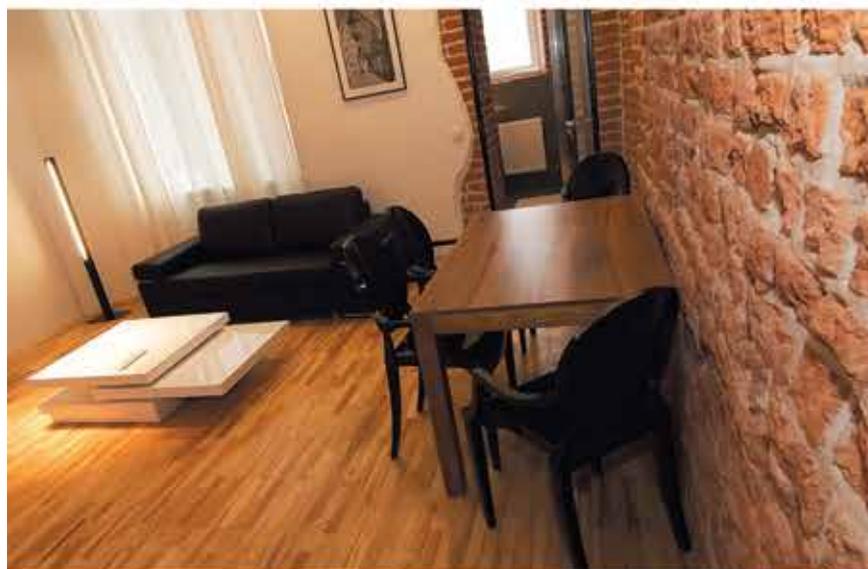
materials, including fabrics and materials used in sculptures.

Perhaps the most significant outcome of the lab's work is that conserving masses of paper is now much faster than before. For example, a book can be treated as a whole instead of having its pages cured one by one. The process has also become a lot cheaper, once an institution has the necessary equipment. Łojewski's lab does not offer a commercial paper treatment service, but he estimates that it costs just 50zł (12 Euros) to treat a book.

The paper we use today has been developed to the point that it is practically eternal (as long as it is not damaged), but there will still be plenty to do for future conservators. As we put ever more monetary and cultural value on old, and vulnerable, documents paintings and drawings, more and more of them will need to be treated and preserved. Łojewski and his lab will undoubtedly play an ongoing role.

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DROP IN : SKANSEN SMAKÓW

www.skansensmakow.pl
32-060 Kryspinów

■ Jamie Stokes



Photo: www.foto-eston.com



Photo: www.foto-eston.com

Skansen Smaków is not the kind of restaurant we usually review in the *Krakow Post*, which is a shame, since it is the kind of restaurant that most Poles actually visit. This epic-scale log cabin on a lake represents a perfect example of a true Polish cultural phenomenon – the *karczma*, or what we would call a country inn or tavern in the English-speaking world.

Like most things in the Polish countryside, Skansen Smaków is a modern interpretation of an old idea. The name is particularly revealing. 'Skansen' is a word that has no direct equivalent in English. It means something like 'heritage museum,' and comes from the Skansen Museum opened in Stockholm, Sweden, in 1891 – a sort of living theme park intended to demonstrate pre-industrial ways of life. Thus, Skansen Smaków, implies a heritage museum of flavours – it's comfort

food multiplied by nostalgia.

The building itself is an amplified version of traditional Góral architecture – the kind of thing that gives architectural purists nightmares, but which real people rather like. The interior is a vast space that glows with golden pine. Everything is made of wood – it's not the kind of place to come if you have a splinter phobia. The tables are long, split logs with full-length benches down each side, perfect for gathering the entire family – dogs, distant uncles and all.

Out back is another large eating area with a view down to Kryspinów Lake that is only slightly marred by the intervening car park. Like everything at Skansen Smaków, convenience and a lack of nonsense take priority – a refreshing attitude if you're more used to the trappings of hip Krakow dining.

The menu, unsurprisingly, promises the

culinary equivalent of a majestic horde of winged hussars sweeping in to relieve Vienna. All the classics are here – *kotlet schabowy* the size of your torso, beer-baked *golonka* that looks like it has been hewn from an extinct species of mega-hog – but there is also fish, pancakes, and plenty of veg. The food comes in huge portions and is, frankly, delicious. The prices, like everything else, are family friendly, with mains ranging from 16 to 25zł and all items on the kids' menu under 20zł.

The back garden features a proper play area, and there is also a play corner inside. Far more useful for kid wranglers is the huge open space in the middle of the restaurant, where future knights and dames of Poland can charge about in full view without getting in anyone's way.

I admit I was skeptical about Skansen

Smaków. For a townie like me, used to restaurants that aim for an urbane, unconcerned chic, it looked kitsch and disingenuous. In fact, I enjoyed it immensely. Skansen Smaków knows what it is and makes no apologies – it's a genuine reflection of modern Poland and modern Poles serving good food in a friendly atmosphere to people living busy lives. If you live in or are visiting Poland, missing this is missing something fundamental about Polish culture that you will never find in the archly-Bohemian cellars of Kazimeirz.

Getting there:

On the road from Kryspinów to the airport. The 209 bus from Salwator goes past the restaurant and takes less than 20 minutes.



SUKCES

A little bit of Polish

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powrót (noun, m)

return

Wrzesień to miesiąc powrotów do szkoły.
September is the month of returns to school.

chłodny (adj. m)

cool (adj.)

Zaczynają się chłodne wieczory.
Cool evenings have begun.

ujawnić (verb, -ę, -isz)

to reveal

Czy ONZ ujawni dowody w sprawie użycia broni chemicznej w Syrii?
Will the UN reveal some evidence of the use of chemical weapons in Syria?

niebezpiecznie (adv.)

dangerously

Bliski Wschód jest obecnie bardzo niebezpieczny..
It is very dangerous in the Middle East right now.

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TALES FROM THE CHALKFACE DEAR LUIZA...

Homework

■ Chris Riley

The new timetables are set, the school smells of floor polish and everyone's desk is tidy. We're ready to begin, though there's one timetable that is still full of gaps - it's the space where each student fills in their homework and I'm sure many wish it stayed that way all year. The surprise is that some teachers, including me, also wish there were more spaces on that timetable.

According to the TV news, many parents are so afraid that their child will fall behind during the summer break that they hire tutors to keep their offspring from forgetting all they've learnt. I'm appalled.

Apparently, research has it that extra tuition can make about .2 of a grade difference for a subject like Maths, but in English the jury is out on whether it makes any difference at all. Apart from the wasted money, that's a lot of sunny days when a student could be swimming, socialising or simply getting bored, wasted on unnecessary book learning. No wonder some children hate school if they never get a break from it.

Don't misunderstand me; homework can be valuable for some learners in some circumstances. It's a no brainer that students coming up to the final exams need to study. In fact, in the pre-university year, the homework timetable is left blank - students and



teachers both know there'll be homework from every lesson.

On the other hand, my heart sinks every parent's evening when some concerned mother or father asks that their treasure gets more homework. I try to explain that homework aims to give the student an activity that will help them to think, rather than fill in masses of paper. The evidence of thinking will occur in the next lesson when they articulate those thoughts or complete the next task. There are times they'll have to do a mundane exercise or (dare I say it?): "Finish off what you started in class."

At the other end of the scale, adult learners, me included, need homework like they need a hole in the head. We're already giving up hours of our lives to make time for the lessons. Who needs a guilt trip about undone homework on top of that?

When we finally sort out those timetable gaps, I'll be giving homework but I won't be surprised if some parents think it's not enough. Still, heaven help the student who tells me: "The dog ate it!"



Dear Luiza,

I really think of myself as an open-minded woman, but I have to admit I am alarmed by my boyfriend's seeming dependency on pornography. I worry it will grow to become an

Dear Possibly Paranoid,

This is not the end of the world, but it is a wake-up-call for both of you. In my experience, when we turn to pornography, it is to avoid some deeper issue. Things are going on that are not sexual at all. Probably emotional, possibly painful. We turn to porn because we feel driven, are under tension, or strain, or we're unhappy, acting as we did, when we were young teenagers.

Maybe he is in a process of change. Just like when he was a teen. Maybe it's just like eating too many cupcakes. Wanting to fill a void. Whatever you think it might be, take a good, honest look at your relationship, even if the reasons could also be outside your relationship, the most crucial thing is that you address the issue. If left unattended, it might indeed make you less and less capable of

Blaming, shaming or denying is not a good idea

obstacle in our intimate relationship— am I being paranoid?

Sincerely, Possibly Paranoid

real intimacy.

Blaming, shaming or denying is not a good idea. Instead, have him humanise whatever he's viewing in the porn. Most men tell me that, once they start to humanise whoever they're watching act out sexual stuff in front of them, it's tougher for them to be turned on. They start to feel their heart more, and it's harder to just go for pure genital release. They also begin to see who they were before they got into pornography. Sometimes I'll have them keep a picture of themselves as child close by. Take a good look at that picture and see if you still want to act out. There are many ways of approaching the issue. I wish you a cool head and a loving heart. If you need a gentle nudge in the right direction, please get in touch.

Yours, Luiza

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18.16	18.34	18.39	18.57
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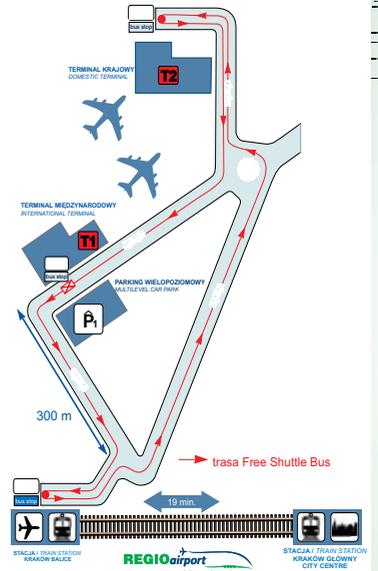
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