Fly Away

John Walczak

The low-cost carrier announced last month that it is suspending all flights from Krakow from Nov. 4 to Dec. 19. It cites low passenger numbers, high fuel prices and airport fees as the reason for its decision. In addition to Krakow, Rzeszów will also have all Ryanair flights suspended and Warsaw will have its Dublin connection grounded during this time. Ryanair founder Michael O’Leary announced that it costs less to keep aircraft on the ground than to fly to these destinations.

Rumours have begun circulating that Ryanair will not return to Krakow after the suspension, and will move to Katowice Airport instead. Aviation industry experts claim that this tactic is an attempt to try and force the airports to lower their fees.

The authorities at Krakow Balice Airport reacted very angrily to these statements. “Ryanair has shown yet again that it is a carrier that doesn’t care about its passengers. Not for the first time it is trying to pass on the cost of its business activities onto airports and passengers and is demanding special treatment. In an ultimatum addressed to the Krakow Airport Authority and also to several other Polish airports, the carrier is demanding the abolition of all airport fees in the November - December period,” said a statement from Krakow Airport.

The new chief executive of Krakow Airport thinks that the information that Ryanair is to leave Krakow for good is a marketing play. He commented, “This isn’t the first such announcement from them and until now none have been fulfilled. It seems as though the airline is playing off airports in southern Poland against each other.”

The withdrawal of Ryanair’s services from Krakow will reduce the number of cities passengers can fly to; however, this may only be temporary as other low-cost airlines are waiting in the wings to take over gaps in the market.

TOMB MAY TELL

Was Poland’s WWII leader assassinated?

Nick Hodge

The Archbishop of Krakow, Cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz, has given his blessing for the tomb of General Władysław Sikorski to be opened.

The general, whose passenger plane crashed in peculiar circumstances 65 years ago, is an iconic figure in Poland, and conspiracy theories about his death have never been quelled.

Sikorski was prime minister of the Polish government-in-exile from September 1939 until his death four years later.

At 11 p.m. on the 4th of July 1943, Sikorski’s plane took off for London on the return-leg of a trip to British Gibraltar. Seconds after climbing into the air, the vehicle plunged into the water. Of the plane’s 16 passengers, only the pilot survived.

An official British inquiry at the time ruled that the death had been accidental. Yet from the outset, there were cries of foul play:

“This catastrophe,” wrote the Polish ambassador to London in his diary, “coming at a turning-point in the war, when the Big Three meeting is apparently at hand, and when vital decisions require to be taken in consultation with us - is a bewildering visitation of Providence; so much so, that Poles everywhere suspect the hand, not of Providence, but of a felonious enemy.”

The results of the Big Three meeting at Tehran in November 1943 served to fuel the suspicions of conspiracy theorists. It has been stressed that Churchill and Roosevelt made it clear to Stalin at

Sikorski’s tomb, undisturbed for the moment at Wawel
Letters
To the editor

RE: We DO Speak English. Really.

Dear Editor,

I’m writing in response to your article entitled “We DO Speak English. Really!” about Polish people’s poor knowledge and usage of English in the Polish service industry. I disagree with the author’s opinion and assumption. In the author’s opinion, everyone in the service industry – for example, waiters, cashiers and shop assistants, etc. – should be able to speak English fluently. If everyone in Poland had a lot of opportunity, money, time and efficient resources for studying English, then maybe everyone in the country would be able to speak English fluently. But, in reality English is still not accessible, cheap or the most important priority for everyone in Poland. It wasn’t so long ago (less than 20 years in fact), that the majority of students in Poland had to study Russian as a second language. Back then very few people in Poland expected that English would become as useful and common as it is today. In only 15–20 years, people’s perception of English and their opportunities to study and use it have greatly changed. A lot more people now can speak English, but our mother tongue is still Polish and it’s not Polish people’s obligation to automatically know and speak English fluently to suit tourists’ needs.

So, a word to the author and other visitors to Poland, next time you’re in a shop and the staff don’t speak perfect English or any at all, be patient and remember you are in Poland, we are trying and considering the very recent changes to our history and society. I’d say we’re doing pretty well.

Beata z Krakowa

If everyone in Poland had a lot of opportunity, money, time and efficient resources for studying English, then maybe everyone in the country would be able to speak English fluently.

The tragic circumstances of the death of General Sikorski should be clarified,” the president said. “The exhumation may help in this matter. It is always worthwhile to pursue the truth.”

Russian sabotage remains an enduring theme. A pivotal issue is the so-called Katyn Affair, which broke three months before Sikorski’s death. In April 1943, the Germans uncovered mass graves of members of the Polish elite. The Russians denied guilt, claiming that it was a Nazi plot. General Sikorski, then in London, called for a Red Cross investigation. Stalin promptly broke off all relations with the Polish government-in-exile. It was not until 1990 that Gorbachev admitted Soviet guilt for the 20,000 Polish victims.

Many conspiracy theorists have argued that Sikorski stood in the way of Russia’s designs on Poland. They hold that the general enjoyed unique prestige amongst the Western Allies, and hence that he was a critical stumbling block.

Much has been made of the fact that the Russian ambassador to London, Ivan Maisky, made a late notice visit to Gibraltar the weekend of Sikorski’s death, and that his plane was stationed a stone’s throw from that of Poland’s leader.

Theories about the elimination of Sikorski have developed in many directions over the last few decades. The finger has been pointed at Russian, British and even Polish hands. Some have claimed that the general was murdered before he actually entered the plane.

Lech Kaczyński, today’s president of Poland, is backing the belated autopsy on Sikorski, as is Prime Minister Donald Tusk.

“Further accusations fly around the figure of Kim Philby. Mr. Philby, a perceived pillar of the establishment, was the head of British Intelligence for Gibraltar at the time of Sikorski’s death. In 1963, he was unmasked as a long-serving double agent, and he spent his last years in Moscow, where he was commemorated as a hero on Russian postal stamps.”

Another theory, currently being developed as a TV series by Polish journalist and historian Dariusz Baliszewski, implicates Churchill himself in the crime. The Churchill theory has been voiced before, the hypothesis being that the British wanted to appease Stalin. As it stands, British Intelligence documents relating to the incident will remain under lock and key until 2043. Baliszewski expands on this theory by implicating Poles in the plot. He says that a clique of high-ranking Poles was unsatisfied with the general’s handling of Polish affairs, and that Sikorski and two of his staff were murdered in the British Governor’s residence, prior to the flight. An enduring mystery is that although the plane crashed just metres from the runway, five of the bodies were never recovered. Likewise, the pilot, a man famed for flying without his lifejacket, was plucked from the water with his lifejacket firmly buttoned.

However, not all observers have been seduced by the conspiracy theories. Professor Norman Davies, widely regarded as the pre-eminent historian of Polish affairs, told the Krakow Post that “none of the conspiracy theories has proved convincing,” adding that no “reputable historian” had ever made a case in favour of sabotage.

Although acknowledging Russian interests in removing Sikorski, Professor Davies was dismissive of British involvement in any alleged attack, saying that “the British went to great lengths to protect the plane from the Russians.” He added that the freeze on British intelligence documents relating to Sikorski was “not discriminatory towards the Poles,” as this was the general status quo regarding intelligence files.

As it was, a third of the passengers on the doomed Liberator plane were British subjects, including two MPs, one of whom, Victor Cazalet, was godfather to Churchill’s daughter Mary. John Colville, Churchill’s former secretary, pointed this out in a letter to The Times in January 1969, describing the allegations as “an absurd fabrication.”

Professor Davies suggests that the tragedy may even have been caused by the most mundane of reasons. A Royal Airforce report conducted immediately after the crash, but not published at the time, attributed the fault to a British soldier who fell asleep while guarding the plane. The report specified that the guard had keeled over, his rucksack slamming into the plane’s controls.

Hardened conspiracy theorists will no doubt refute the British claim, and Professor Davies affirms that “Sikorski’s death is, as it were, unsolved in a final way.” Hypothetically, an autopsy could reveal evidence of foul play prior to the flight. However, in all likelihood, the exact circumstances of the general’s death will remain forever a mystery.

Letters to the editor

The Krakow Post welcomes letters to the editor. Letters for publication should be signed and bear the signatory’s e-mail address and city of residence. The Krakow Post reserves the right to edit letters.

Please send letters to the editor at editor@krakowpost.com, or by post at Krakow Post Ul. Szczepanska 7/4a 31-011 Krakow
It’s Fun to Play at the YMCA...

A report from Krakow’s YMCA summer camp for local children

Robin Das

It is 8:30 am and eight-year-old Sebastian is lobbing a volleyball shot down the court. A group of fellow eight-year-olds is having a riotous time performing handstands, and a five-a-side football match is squaring up to be as tense as the last Poland versus Austria showdown.

Welcome to the YMCA’s “Summer in the City” camp, an adrenaline-charged month of sports, activities and days out for around 50 of Krakow’s youngest citizens, who made it to their headquarters on Ulica Krowoderska every weekday during July. The camp is overseen by the dedicated and resourceful Krakow YMCA Programme Director, Jan Bajger, and supported by Polish assistants and two overseas volunteers who help run the activities and teach the children simple English phrases and words in a fun way.

The camp gives working parents and any family that cannot afford a holiday away from the city an opportunity for their children to enjoy themselves, make new friends and learn some new skills. Each day was structured around a theme: sport, Europe, ecology, Krakow, and fun, helping ensure plenty of variation to keep eager and active minds occupied. Surefire hits included volleyball, outdoor swimming and feeding animals at the Las Wolski Zoo, along with trips to attractions such as Ogród Doświadczalni (“The Garden of Experiments”) and orientation activities in Jordana Park.

Teaching the children life skills was woven into the day’s events. A visit from the Community Police involved the children learning about road safety by dressing up as adults and taking on the roles of pedestrians and cars. Amid the giggles, shouting and racing to be first to cross the ‘street’, a serious lesson was finding its way home.

It was in the early 1980s, upon seeing children idling about, that Jan decided to set up a club especially for youngsters. Gradually it grew and when, in the 1990s, the Polish YMCA was revived (it had been prohibited under communism), Jan took over the running of its Krakow centre. While resources may not be as plentiful as in many children’s centres in the UK or U.S., with their statutory computers and Game Boys, what the centre does have - table tennis, basketball, a huge gym, and even a piece of rope multi-tasking as tug of war and skipping rope - have always proved popular. The YMCA gets no government funding for its camps, so every zloty needs to be raised and accounted for.

“The YMCA is at the forefront of providing activities for children in Krakow,” acknowledged Jan. “Fortunately many organisations are aware of this and some attractions will welcome us for free. A few of the children who come to the camp are from families not so well off and may not have been to the places, such as the museums, that we take them to.”

Jan was also keen to inject an international theme through the camp and for the children to practise their English with the volunteers. This usually happened in chatter when out and about, which gave the volunteers a chance to learn some Polish as well. Holding an “English quiz” even introduced the children to some of Britain’s strange customs.

As well as running “Summer in the City,” the YMCA also organises camps outside Krakow, some held in winter with skiing and snowboarding activities, and others during the summer, teaching dancing and sports.

One thing all the camps have in common is enthusiastic children eager to have a great time - and a director committed to making their time as stimulating and as fun as possible.
Tram TV Launched in Krakow

Adelina Krupski

The Krakow Public Transport Company (MPK) and Novamedia Innovision launched their latest multimedia project early last month with the introduction of 200 TV M televisions aboard 50 new Bombardier NGT6 trams running throughout the city.

Alreadly highly advanced in comparison to its predecessors, with ticket dispensers, recorded voice announcements and digital screens displaying destinations, the Bombardier is now also equipped with 50 cm-wide LCD panels that communicate traffic alerts as well as relevant reports from the police and MPK. An effort to make public transport more enjoyable for passengers, the project cost 2.3 million zloty.

While televisions have been previously installed in Krakow public transport, they were only found on buses, showing advertisements and promotional films. Now, in addition to communicating public announcements, the televisions allow passengers to keep up with current events. A news ticker scrolls along on the bottom of the screen, presenting up-to-date local and global news headlines provided by the Polish Press Agency. Krakow is the first city in Poland to set up this kind of facility.

Despite hindrances on the inauguration day, causing the display of announcements to take as long as a quarter of an hour, the system was built to allow messages to appear on all screens instantly. However, Novamedia Chairman Krzysztof Owczarek stated that urgent releases can be communicated to passengers at any moment, announcing that the slowdown was only caused by tests performed earlier that day and that such delays would not occur again.

The content of the message is conveyed to the TV M displayer, who monitors the signal transfer at the Novamedia headquarters, located in Kalisz. The announcement is then transmitted either through dictation over the phone or via any device that connects to the Internet, such as a computer terminal. Using the Universal Mobile Telecommunication System (UMTS) cellular technology, the tram obtains updates every three minutes.

As for future plans, TV M sales director Milosz Olejniczak stated that new services may be introduced, such as the possibility for passengers to project greetings sent by SMS (text message). However, for MPK, safety remains a priority. Consequently, in addition to the introduction of high-tech screens, MPK has brought out trams with surveillance cameras, which record the activity within the vehicle.

Monitoring systems have already been put in place aboard buses in Krakow and several other major Polish cities. The police have found that the use of cameras has significantly improved safety measures, as it has helped prevent drinking, smoking, theft and recklessness on-board and assisted in the capturing of perpetrators.

Currently, all text displayed on the new TV M screens is in Polish, but this may change in order to include English-speaking residents and tourists, especially as Krakow continues to improve its facilities to meet growing expectations and adoption of a popular European destination.

Sixth European Congress of Analytic Philosophy in Krakow

 Wojciech Załuski

The European Society for Analytic Philosophy (ESAP), and locally the Institute of Philosophy of the Jagiellonian University and the Polish Association of Logic and Philosophy of Science, have organised the Sixth European Congress of Analytic Philosophy in Krakow, which will take place this month. The Congress will be held under the honorary auspices of the Speaker of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland, Bronislaw Komorowski, and the President of Krakow, Jacek Majchrowicz.

Between the 21st and 26th of August around 500 philosophers, logicians and scientists from around Europe and the U.S. will talk about such topics as how to understand and describe human actions, what kind of formal semantics we should use to describe the natural language, and whether the human experience is predictable process, or if mental events exist. These and many more topics will be divided into such sections as “Logic and Computation,” “Philosophy of Language,” and “Philosophy of Science,” to name but a few.

To read more, visit >> www.krakowpost.com

Krakow’s Tourist Top 10

John Walczak

Krakow City Council is proposing a selection of new tourist trails throughout the city. “Visitors to Krakow have ever higher expectations, though they don’t always have time to search by themselves for what they haven’t yet seen, or for what’s worth seeing,” says Katarzyna Gadęk, director of the Council’s tourism office. Among the latest routes on offer are Krakow on a Fork, Green Krakow and Krakow’s Top 10.

Up to now Krakow has had nine regular tourist trails, which are sign-posted at street level and described in written guides and on the Internet. There are the Royal, the Jewish Heritage and the Footsteps of John Paul II routes, to name a few.

For the first time there is a guide to Krakow’s parks and gardens - Green Krakow. This route includes the Botanical Gardens, Wawel Hill, the Planty and others. A map which shows how to get to them all is included.

Members of royal dynasties, the Wawel Dragon, the Lajkonik and John Paul II are amongst those on the route dedicated to famous Krakow inhabitants and characters. Krakow’s Socialist Realism is a trail for those specifically interested in the former Communist era, as it takes in Nowa Huta Steelworks Administration Centre, housing estates in the Nowa Huta district, the monastery in Moglia, the Laznia Nova Theatre and more.

The Krakow Artists Trail provides the opportunity to see places and objects associated with artists such as Jan Matejko, Tadeusz Kantor and Józef Mehoffer, whereas Krakow on a Fork 2008 is devoted to the 99 restaurants which found themselves on the City Council’s ‘Recommend ed Krakow Restaurants’ list.

Krakow’s Top 10 is a four-day trail from the Royal Route, through Wieliczka, Kazimierz and Tyniec. The idea was born at a meeting between representatives of the tourist industry, guides and hoteliers who suggested what would interest tourists. “This is the first such list,” says Katarzyna Gadęk, “and it was compiled after a heated discussion. The Top 10 list is only valid for this year, some of the items on it won’t change, though some will because Krakow has lots of contenders for Top 10.”

The Council’s tourism office is working on more proposals for tourist routes. They include trails through Krakow museums, each one having a different theme, entertainment and routes for children and teenagers. These are expected sometime during the autumn.

The idea behind the free yoga classes is to promote a healthy, active and natural lifestyle. The project is dedicated to hard-pressed and overworked city dwellers and it’s connected with interesting lectures on a healthy lifestyle as well as dance workshops. As yoga is a system of exercises suitable for almost everybody and at every age, the programme of open air yoga is open to both laymen and experienced gurus of the Eastern arts.

The organisation of the campaign held not only in Krakow, but in Warsaw, Sopot, Wroclaw, Lodz and Torun, is Fundacja Biosferis, a non-profit organization whose main goal is to promote a healthy, active and natural lifestyle. Among the events are yoga classes, dance workshops and a few.

The idea of the free yoga classes is to promote a healthy lifestyle. Some of the items on it won’t change, while some will because Krakow has lots of contenders for Top 10.

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Robert Szmigielski is against the missile shield project, while James McNulty defends the defense of Poland.

**A** Wherever George Bush struts, controversy follows. Our favourite chest-bumping, frat-boy President, who had hoped an agreement would be reached regarding his missile shield, has been left with a bitter taste in his mouth; a combination of dissent and disobedience being a flavour he is not accustomed to. Prime Minister Tusk is obviously unaware of unilateral compulsions to military objectives proposed by the United States, and as such, negotiations for the long-debated defense shield have stagnated, and the deal abruptly halted – even with President Kaczynski buzzing around like an irritable fly you just can’t swat. The world's wealthiest country claims that the deal is primarily concerned with Poland's security. A laughable notion from an administration with policies that exclusively follow their own agenda, that still pursues the most disastrous and divisive foreign policy ever implemented by a U.S. government. If Poland's interests are indeed the priority, why was Foreign Minister Sikorski's initial request for an upgrade of Poland's missile technology and adequate financial aid to strengthen defenses, in exchange for a target being slapped on the country, unequivocally turned down?

And if the Polish-American relationship really is that special, what of the refusal to ease visa constraints, in return for blindly following Bush into Iraq? As Defense Minister Klich correctly observes, the Americans treat Poland more like "a distant cousin" than a serious partner.

But let's say a compromise is reached - in the twilight of Bush's term, or during a Mc-Cain/Obama presidency. The move would undoubtedly heighten the risk of an attack on Polish soil. Al-Qaeda's Jihadists, already infuriated that Polish soldiers patrol the streets, will probably not be calmed if this is interpreted as a sign of weakness. The US government may have succeeded in strengthening the ties with the US, but in the process, it has alienated the Polish public. And the Polish-American relations, which have recently suffered from numerous misperceptions, may never recover.

Jumping into bed with the most unpopular American president in history with a few months left in office is akin to walking over a minefield. What if Tusk was to submit to his demands, and the victor of the U.S. presidential run-off in November re-assessed America's foreign policy and decided to abandon the missile shield plans? Poland would have succeeded only in antagonising the Russians, provoking others, and, equipped with archaic military technology, left to bear the consequences that collaboration with Bush entails - while he suns himself on a tropical island with his pal Tony.

Then of course, there's Iran - which, according to Bush, is what this saga is all about. In rhetoric similar to that prior to the invasion of Iraq, Bush claims that Iran poses an imminent threat with its nuclear enrichment programme, despite the numerous denials from President Ahmadinejad, and UN watchdog visits reporting that bomb-development is many years away. Of course, assurances from a president who wants Israel wiped off the map must be taken lightly, but so should words from a president who led the entire nation, and her allies, to war based on blantant lies. Nevertheless, this is not Poland's fault to pick.

The bottom line is: should Poland compromise her safety just to appease a trigger-happy president who, in a final act of aggression, may decide to launch another misguided assault in the Middle East? The answer is obvious, and the consequences potentially disastrous. Regardless, it's time for Poland to step out of America's shadow, and show that this country is no longer a docile sheep from an incompetently-led flock, but a nation capable of making bold and independent decisions; especially if the country is to be taken seriously in Europe. And with Donald Tusk at the helm Poles should be proud that they finally have a Prime Minister that refuses to be bullied and intimidated - let's just hope it continues.

**F** "There are no permanent allies, only permanent interests." Lord Palmerston's dictum should be kept in mind by Polish politicians during the debate about American plans to install a missile defence system in Eastern Europe. For no matter how much Poland feels herself a part of the newly enlarged Europe, or how much she wishes to become a primary American ally, the decision to have the shield clearly goes beyond Warsaw's role in Euro-Atlantic relations.

The physical security of a country has always been the primary interest of every state, and thus it should remain the central purpose of every sound policy. That is why the single most important question in the debate is whether the instalment of those American rockets/interceptors will make Poland more or less secure in contemporary international relations. Having considered arguments against the missile shield, it remains reasonable to claim that there are more pros than cons in Poland's support of the project. The first reason is simple, if not simplistic. The United States is still the biggest kid on the block and though its influence has diminished lately (primarily over Iraq), Washington is likely to play a pre-eminent role on the world stage for several decades to come. This argument does not imply that Poland should be the next American client state, or "another poodle," as the French minister once referred to the British prime minister. It just suggests that jumping on the bandwagon - that is joining the strongest power, has been one of the most popular strategies in the history of homo politicus. In other words, if played wisely, Poland's participation in missile defence might bring Warsaw closer to the U.S. and therefore, to the power centre of contemporary global politics.

Secondly, the reason for Warsaw going for rather than against the concept of missile defence concerns the nature of Polish strategic culture and the experience Poland had with European allies in the first half of the 20th century. To put it bluntly, Europe failed to be Poland's military ally when the hour of reckoning arrived. The United States obviously did not do Poland into either Hitler's or the Soviet Union's domination, but Washington did in fact not prevent Western Europe from the lurking brown-red disaster - a fact that present anti-Americans hate to admit - but it established its military superiority worldwide for years to come. Of course this is a very one-sided picture, but at the same time this is the picture of the U.S. that many Poles love to have before their eyes. This historical experience explains some of Poland's foreign policy manoeuvres. If Europe today has the means to defend itself against its enemies, Warsaw would probably dismiss the idea of having any part of the missile shield on Polish soil.

Yet the case for an agreement does not indicate that Poland has or should have an anti-European Union attitude. Indeed, by now there is little doubt on both sides of the Atlantic that Poles have become more pro-European than pro-American. Besides, the missile shield - if it is to be created with the cooperation of NATO's European countries - might be another (final?) wake-up call for those European nations which share the equally post-modern and naïve belief that war and military instruments of foreign policy can be dispatched to the dustbin of history. It doesn't take a strategist to figure out that if the EU is ever to become a force to be reckoned with on the global stage, Brussels needs to create and implement policy that provides its member countries with a fundamental sense of security.

What is more, a project aimed at establishing elements of the United States' missile defence system in Poland may provide Poland with a perfect strategic balance: on the one hand, the shield will be a small reminder to Russia that the times when Poland was seen in Moscow as a satellite are gone for good. It can also be used as a reviving point for Polish-American relations, which have recently suffered from numerous misperceptions in Washington and Warsaw. Last but definitely not least, a missile defence shield built on Polish soil might send a message stating that Poland has just gained an extra security guarantee. Although Article 5 of the Washington Treaty states clearly that Poland is secured by a collective defensive agreement, the bilateral agreement between Warsaw and Washington would doubtlessly reassure some of the greatest sceptics in Poland. In the era of incoming geopolitical change in international dynamics, this might be just what Poland needs.

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Bronislaw Geremek: 1932 - 2008

A reflection on the life of the Solidarity hero, who died in a car accident near Nowy Tomyśl on the 13th of July at the age of 76

Szymon Urbański

"De mortuis nil nisi bonum" - "Speak no ill of the dead"

The above dictum tends to prompt obituarists to write in a saccharine tone and exaggerate the deeds of the deceased. But let’s just read the names of the people who sent their condolences to the Polish government after the sudden death of Bronislaw Geremek. Among them were: Nicolas Sarkozy, the president of France, Hans-Gert Pottering, the president of the European Parliament, José Manuel Barroso, the president of the European Commission, Vaclav Havel, the former president of the Czech Republic, the Italian president... the list goes on.

They all honour Bronislaw Geremek, a Holocaust survivor, a historian of medieval France, an anti-communist activist, one of the founders of the Solidarity movement in 1980, an architect of the European Parliament and a strong proponent of the European Union. But let’s forget about that for a moment and remember Geremek as a statesman, a man of culture and manners.

Geremek was a key figure in an anti-communist activity. He was constantly ridiculed by the communist press, being referred to as a “professor of medieval France’s social dregs and prostitutes.” However, a thorough knowledge of the social dregs and prostitutes’ morals and customs proved to be quite useful while reading the venomous texts of anti-communist propagandists in 1981, as one of his friends aptly remarked.

Strangely enough, today, Geremek’s most zealous political opponents are his former Solidarity companions, including the Polish president. However, this is quite customary in Poland’s polarised political scene, where minor animosities have turned into fierce hatred, and formerly united oppositionists have become life-long enemies, enmoured of communist defamation methods. It is not uncommon to hear theories spread by the extreme political right and the extreme political left stating that Geremek was a key figure in an ancient universal Judeo-Freemasonic conspiracy to destroy Poland, the last stand of Catholicism in a secularised Europe. Well, the less said about that the better.

Whatever he deserves credit for, Geremek was a representative of the intelligentsia; that unique class of educated people, professionals and artists alike, all aware of their civic duties, working for the country, devoted to the dissemination of culture. These people formed the backbone of the Second Polish Republic after Poland regained independence in 1918. World War II proved to be disastrous for the elite of the Polish nation. The well-known Soviet massacre of Poles at Katyń was mirrored by a parallel extermination of the intelligentsia carried out by the Nazis. Thousands more perished on all fronts of the war. The best of the younger generation, including students and schoolchildren, died in the Warsaw Uprising of 1944. When the Soviets took control of Poland and the rest of Eastern Europe, many Poles decided to stay in exile. Those who returned were persecuted, arrested and often executed as spies.

Some of the remnants of the decimated pre-war intelligentsia tried to survive on the wrong side of an Iron Curtain, still doing their best to oppose the system. These gentle, educated men and women of culture were totally ill-fitted to the boorish and rustic reality of the People’s Republic of Poland, where the only officially acceptable form of a citizen was a spawn of an alliance of workers and peasants. As professors, doctors, and lawyers they assisted, advised and helped defend protesting workers following the tragic events in Poznań in 1956.

On the 11th of July a double-decker coach carrying Polish tourists crashed in northern Serbia, killing six, two of them children. 40 passengers were injured, with twelve left in critical condition. Both drivers survived. Among the 68 passengers, 34 were children returning from a holiday in Bulgaria.

The vehicle was on a stretch of highway close to Subotica, near the Hungarian border, when it turned over. Most of the victims of the accident were transported to a hospital in the city of Novi Sad, whilst others were taken to Belgrade. The ambassador for Poland, Maciej Symanowski, made his way to Novi Sad, where he was joined by Serbian delegates. The Polish government quickly responded by sending a state plane to transport the victims’ family members to Serbia. On the return journey, the aircraft transported some of the injured back to hospitals in Poland.

It is still unclear whether the coach had mechanical problems or whether the accident was caused by human error. Gazeta Wyborcza reports that the prosecutor’s office in Belesta-Biká is handling the case, which will decide whether the driver may be charged for negligently causing an accident resulting in death. The accident marked the first in what has become a yearly spate of holiday bus accidents during the summer season. Two weeks after the coach was destroyed, a Polish bus veered into a ditch off a highway in Italy near Venice. 14 people were injured. The bus driver had fallen asleep behind the wheel in the early hours of the morning.
The United States wants Poland to "immediately enact" legislation on the complex issue of restitution of property confiscated by the Germans and communists during and after World War II. The U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Foreign Affairs endorsed a resolution to this effect on 16th July after being lobbied through American Jewish organisations.

The congressmen want to see an "unbureaucratic, simple, transparent and timely" process that will benefit the now elderly former owners of property, artwork and shares through the prompt and fair return of property, or the payment of compensation. Although the resolution mentions Lithuania, Poland is noted as virtually alone among post-communist countries in having failed to enact restitution legislation.

Poland is the world leader in the number of potential restitution claims, with an estimated value today of 60-100 billion zloty for property appropriated by the Germans during the war, or the communists afterwards. The situation is not helped by the lack of reliable data on how many people were affected, as both passed a prolific amount of legislation that removed property rights and many records were destroyed during the war.

The U.S. has been pressing the Polish government on this subject for two decades, and the congressmen on the committee told Poland's daily Gazeta Wyborcza that despite heavy voter pressure, the resolution could have been much firmer. The congressmen's advisor pointed out that had the resolution been adopted even 10 years ago, the cost to the Polish budget would have been lower, and added that there is no expectation that 100 percent or even 50 percent of the property's value will be returned.

Donald Tusk's team has been drawing up a restitution bill that will be ready by September and should be submitted to Parliament in October. It is thought that it does not foresee the return of actual property but the payment of a proportion (thought to be 20 percent) of its value. It will apply to property taken between 1944-1962 and to all who held Polish citizenship at that moment. Although this won't fully satisfy the property owners, it is clear that it will be impossible for Poland to fund this sum, and Poland's fiscal reality as well as the sentiment of the Polish population, which doesn't understand why today's generations have to bear the costs of German occupation and communist lawlessness.

The US Senate's foreign affairs committee will vote on a similar resolution shortly and if passed, the two resolutions will become the U.S. Congress' official position, but will not result in any more actions being taken towards Poland.

"Although this won't fully satisfy the property owners, it is clear that it will be impossible for Poland to fund this sum of money from its budget when it has so many other urgent social needs to resolve."

The late Jacek Kuroń, Geremek's friend and the future Minister of Labour and Social Policy, used to say with reason: "Do not set the Party headquarters on fire; organise your own ones." This approach is best described by an old joke: "What is the difference between the working class and the intelligentsia? The workers cry: 'We want bread!'; the intellectuals ask: 'Would you please pass the bread roll?'"

If Lech Wałęsa and other strike leaders at the Gdański shipyard were the heart of the Solidarity movement, Geremek, Kuroń and Mazowiecki constituted its brain.

There are but a few of a dying breed still active in Poland's political life these days, most of them, like Geremek, well into their seventies. Today, widespread higher education has given rise to quantity rather than quality, with university graduates of no intellectual background whatsoever, lacking basic knowledge at even primary school level, especially of contemporary history. A quick look at the churlish rabble occupying the Polish Parliament, as well as a youth which tests politics, leaves doubts about the shape of things to come in this country.

The U.S. Government urges Poland to adopt restitution

Ewa Spohn

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Charges Made in Katowice Roof Collapse

Danuta Filipowicz

Twelve people have been charged in connection with the biggest construction catastrophe in Poland. After a two-and-a-half-year investigation in connection with the Katowice Trade Hall roof collapse, two designers, a building inspector, two members of the building’s governing board and seven others were charged. A faulty roof design caused the hall’s roof to collapse under heavy snow in January 2006, according to Marzena Matysik-Folga, a spokeswoman for prosecutors in Katowice.

At that time Poland was experiencing extremely cold weather with heavy snow. On January 28th, 2006, the trade hall was hosting the 56th National Exhibition of Carrier Pigeons, with exhibitors from all over Europe. There were roughly 500 people in the hall just before the collapse. 65 died, including eight foreign tourists from Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, Slovakia and the Czech Republic, and almost 150 people were injured.

According to the investigation, this catastrophe occurred because of design and construction errors, as well as due to negligence by the building’s owners. Two designers of the building, Szczerban K. and Jacek J., face the most serious charges of directly endangering people’s lives. If convicted, they face up to 12 years in prison, Matysik-Folga said.

Bruce R. and Ryszard Z., members of the board, and seven other people were charged with failing to fulfill their responsibilities. Bruce and Ryszard knew that the roof was damaged, however they allowed the fair to take place. If convicted, all of them face up to eight years.

Maria K., county building inspector, faces lesser charges of up to three years in prison because of not fulfilling her duties and unintentionally allowing the catastrophe to occur. In 2002, Maria K. was informed by the local fire department about bending in the roof’s structure, but she neglected to inspect the building’s condition and allowed the hall to remain open for public use.
Katyń Massacre Not to be Investigated

Russian courts block Katyń claims

Justyna Krzywicka

On July 5th the Moscow Municipal Court upheld the decision of a regional court refusing an inquiry into the criminal investigation of the Katyń massacre. Ten families of the victims had appealed to the Municipal Court to have the matter re-opened. The NKVD (Soviet Secret Police), acting on Stalin’s orders, was responsible for the 1940 execution of Polish officers and members of the intelligentsia.

The victims’ families’ Russian lawyer Anna Stavicka is adamant that the descendents may still have strong grounds for a further appeal to the Regional Military Tribunal.

The relatives of the officers are also claiming victims’ family compensation from the Russian state. The judge in the first hearing ruled that compensation was only available directly to the victims themselves. After the unsound ruling, the matter was transferred to the Moscow Municipal Court, where the judge again ruled against the claimants. The families are now appealing to the Military Tribunal for a hearing.

In 1990, Mikhail Gorbachev was the first to make an official admission that the NKVD had been responsible for the Katyń massacre. For decades the Soviet government had blamed Nazi Germany for the executions, as the mass graves had been uncovered by Nazi troops in western Russia, following Hitler’s advance against Stalin.

The Poles were executed at several locations in the former Soviet Union. To this day, over 3,400 victims have yet to be identified, although recent research suggests that they were buried at Bykivnia in what is now Ukraine.

Some 22,000 names make up the four so-called Katyń lists. The crime has gained immense coverage in the media in recent months, largely owing to a new film by veteran filmmaker Andrzej Wajda. The 83-year-old director, whose own father was among the victims, won his fourth Oscar nomination for Katyń, which gained over 3 million viewers in Poland alone. The film has yet to secure a general release in Russia, although Katyń was given two private screenings in Moscow this March.

With regards to recent developments, Poland’s government has been urged by families and politicians to step in and appeal to Russian authorities directly. President Lech Kaczyński has compared the massacre to an act of genocide, although Russia officially denied this charge, following an official military investigation in 2005.

Russia’s Chief Military Prosecutor Alexander Savenkov told a press conference in April 2005 that “the version of genocide was examined, and it is my firm conviction that there is absolutely no basis to talk about this in judicial terms.”

A new episode is uploaded every Thursday on YouTube, after the fathers realised the potential of internet broadcasting and decided to use it for a noble cause. The topics are God, faith, love and also recently controversial subject in the church, such as homosexuality.

The programme is recorded with ordinary digital video camera in the convent rooms in Poznan, without any specialised crew or extra equipment. They don’t make cuts or prepare a scenario - everything is recorded live. All that is needed is a priest (or in this case two) who can speak clearly, plainly, frankly and without any slogans. The short messages are intended to reach youngsters who are reluctant to attend Sunday masses, and are more likely to spend their time surfing the Internet.

The programme reaches a wider and wider audience. The friars had launched a website (franciszkanie.net) before they started a cycle of programmes broadcast on YouTube. “Bez slogań” (“No Slogan”) is a five-minute film sermon where fathers Jakub Waszkowiak and Leonard Bielecki answer questions sent to them by their audience - mainly teenagers who are afraid to ask in person and who are confused by Catholic teachings when confronted with the reality that they know. As the friars declare, they want to show that their life is not composed of elevated language clichés and slogans, but it is based on certain values that they revere. They say they broadcast simple-language, plain messages for a Godly purpose.

The friars are happy with the positive feedback they have received and hope that, with God’s help, the programme reaches a wider and wider audience.
Starstruck
by Soren Gauger

On the Main Market Square, right at the corner where it meets Szczepańska Street, there is a building that bears a marble plaque: “Here lived Goethe from 5-7 September, 1790.” The plaque tells us less about the life of the great German poet than it does about Krakow’s specific provincialism — for if Goethe’s three-day arrival was enough of an occasion to merit a marble plaque, we must unfortunately conclude that this city did not have so very many earth-shattering events to commemorate in the 18th century.

Lord only knows, then, what our children and grandchildren will make of the star laid down at the foot of Wawel Castle this summer to celebrate the arrival of medio-cre Canadian pop phenomenon Celine Dion. Neither musically compelling, nor ground-breaking, nor charismatic, Dion has now for decades been remarkable, nor charismatic, nor ground-breaking, nor compelling, nor ground-breaking. Celine Dion. Neither musically compelling, nor ground-breaking, nor charismatic, Dion has now for decades been remarkable, nor charismatic, nor ground-breaking, nor compelling, nor ground-breaking.

For even in the barren wasteland of radio pop music, Dion’s songs distinguish themselves with their blandest kind of sentimental blandness. Ever since she started to grace Wawel’s majestic hall with her bland, shrug of the shoulders. A persona that could only be met with an indifferent, if scornful, shrug of the shoulders.

I n what appears to be a clear case of head-in-sanditis, British Chief Constable for Cambridgeshire Julie Spence, claims that it is ingrained in Poland’s culture to carry knives, and, in talk reminiscent of Orwell’s authoritarian government in 1984, she also declares that Britain must “educate” the immigrant Polish population on how to behave when on the Isles.

In the statement, made in early June, Mrs. Spence said: “We have had the Iraqi Kurds who carry knives and the Poles and the Lithuanians who carry knives, if it is normal to carry them where you come from, you need to educate them pretty quickly.”

Indeed, the United Kingdom seems to have a problem. Police in England and Wales recorded 22,151 incidents involving knives (250 fatal) during 2007. Last month, during a day of madness, 6 people were stabbed to death in unconnected attacks around England, and only last week an 18-year-old boy was the 21st teenager to die on London’s streets - where a total of 54 people have been stabbed to death so far this year.

Strange thing is, none of the latest tragic incidents involved a person of Polish origin - and if they have, no doubt the tabloids would have screamed it from the rooftops. Maybe Brits are stabbing each other, frustrated at the amount of immigrants in the country...

A small handful of Poles probably do carry blades (one would be naive to think otherwise), as do idiots native to the British Isles, and those from other countries that make up the UK’s rich cultural tapestry — and it should not be tolerated. But, to focus on the Poles is scandalous, and shifting the blame to an easy target. Outrageous comments such as Constable Spence’s do nothing but add fuel to a fire elaborate-ly constructed by convenient toilet roll substitu-tutes such as the The Sun and The Daily Mail, the latter lauding Spence as “an officer prepared to confront uncomfortable home truths.”

An unsurprising conclusion coming from the pur-

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KRAKÓW BICYCLE TRAILS

1. CENTRAL ROUTES
There are plenty of paths within the very heart of Krakow, including the scenic paved paths along both sides of the Vistula.

2. KRAKOW-NOWA HUTA
An easy trail for those looking to just spend an afternoon biking (and see some interesting parts of the city along the way), the trail to Nowa Huta takes you along the Vistula and through the massive Park Lotników Polskich (Polish Pilots’ Park), where you’ll find both the new Garden of Experiments and the Polish Aviation Museum. In Nowa Huta itself, you might want to ditch the bike for a while and explore the insides of Krakow’s communist past.

3. KRAKOW-TRZEBINA
A trail for serious bikers only, as it takes a good six hours one way, after which you might want to take the train back to Krakow, or spend the night and head back the next morning. The main attraction of this trail, besides the scenic landscape views, is the vast Tenczyński Landscape Park, where you’ll find the ruins of the Tenczyn Castle.

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4. KRAKOW-LAS WOLSKI-KRYSPINÓW-TYNIEC

Starting in Krakow’s Salwator district, you’ll bike through two of Krakow’s six mounds and the massive Wolski Woods, which has its own network of trails worth exploring as well as the Krakow Zoo. Heading west you can make a stop to cool off at Krakow’s only proper beach at the man-made Kryspinów Reservoir, before cycling across the river to the historic village of Tyniec, site of the amazing Benedictine Abbey on the Vistula River.

BIKING IT! KRAKOW POST interviews Mike from Cruising Krakow

- KP: How do you rate the bicycle as a form of transport in Krakow?
  Mike: I think the size of Krakow is ideal for biking. It doesn’t matter where you live in Krakow, it’s not too far to get into the centre of the city.
- KP: What about the standards of bike paths in the city?
  Mike: Some of them are good, but if they are good then it’s limited - you’ve got 200-400 metres of continuous nice asphalt, segregated bike path and then you’ve got to join up with the road.
- KP: When on the roads, are drivers generally considerate of cyclists?
  Mike: I wouldn’t say so. Not at all. Taxis like to cut you off, buses as well. I had a bus cut me off on the bridge - it was terrible, he could have killed me. Because it was an accordion bus, once he manoeuvred across then the tail of the bus came in and squeezed me against the railing. So I wouldn’t say they’re considerate at all. But not to discourage you!
- KP: What would be your advice for someone who’s maybe not that comfortable on a bike, or is new to Krakow, and doesn’t know the roads so well?
  Mike: Well firstly to get a hold of a bike map. There’s a free bike map published by the city with bike paths on it. Plus you can bike anywhere in the Old Town and you don’t have to worry about traffic, just people.
- KP: After three years are you still enjoying giving the tours?
  Mike: Well the bike tours take the same route obviously, and the information a lot of the time is the same, but you’re taking different people round all the time so it’s always a little bit different - it’s always nice to be outside.
- KP: Sometimes a strong breeze can inject a new dimension to the tour, right?
  Mike: On one occasion yes. We were cycling along the river and we stopped across the river from the Hotel Forum, right underneath the Church on the Rock, and I was giving my little spiel. In fact I had just finished saying that you shouldn’t swim in the river because you can get a ticket - and come out with a tail - when a gust of wind pushed one of the bikes into the river. As I wasn’t sure how deep it was I quickly threw everything out of pockets and jumped in after the bike, thinking that I was about to lose it. But it turned out that river was no more than about a metre and a half deep, so there was no need to rush. It was a nice treat for the ladies.
- KP: Tell me about the country tour.
  Mike: Because Krakow is in a valley, surrounded by countryside, you don’t have to travel very far - 25 minutes or half an hour on this tour - before you feel like you’re in the middle of nowhere. The tour takes you along the river, along a nice and flat, brand new bike path. Obviously there’s less stopping and less places of historical significance, but the final destination is a Benedictine monastery, and you get a chance to go inside the monastery and see the monks singing. Coming back we take a different route, a little more difficult, and see a bit of Polish forest and get to see some cool Austrian fortresses. Just before we finish we get the chance to see the Twardowski cliffs and see the sun set over the city.
Polish scientists from the Pomorska Akademia Medyczna (Pomeranian Medical Academy) in Szczecin, led by Professor Jan Lubinski and Cezary Cybulski, PhD, have discovered a revolutionary method of defining what type of cancer a patient is prone to. These tests can be performed on anybody who wants to check one’s vulnerability to cancer.

The team found a defect in human genes that is characteristic for many tumors, which could not have been found before using other methods, e.g. analyzing families prone to cancer. The culprit is CHEK2, a gene that is responsible for DNA repair, done automatically before a cell divides. However, if CHEK2 is damaged itself, the cell would not “notice” its own damage and would divide as damaged, thus increasing the risk of developing a tumor further on. Hence, a previously favored theory of exclusive influence of the environment on cancer development has been abolished. According to Prof. Lubinski, a cancer develops if favourable environmental conditions occur and if one is genetically predestined to have one.

A group of 4,008 patients with different forms of cancer was compared with a group of 4,000 healthy people from different cities in Poland. In the Polish population, which is relatively homogenous, three abnormalities were found in CHEK2. Moreover, it turned out that each of these abnormalities occurred two to five times more often in cancer patients than in healthy people.

The experts have discovered and developed “markers,” i.e. gene change types that we inherit when CHEK2 fails to repair DNA before a human foetus is created. Until now, markers have been catalogued for almost all types of breast cancer, 80% of markers for large intestine cancer, 70% of markers for prostate gland cancer and 70% of markers for melanoma.

Although the Polish discovery is not a cure for cancer, similar discoveries are expected to follow and, as Lubinski says, in some time we may know 20, 50 or even 100 similar cancerous gene mutations, which will allow scientists to work out an overall test for tumour vulnerability. The professor hopes that Polish pioneer tests of CHEK2 will play a leading role in these advances.

First attempts to have the discovery patented in the USA have already been made. A detailed report about Polish research has been published in the American Journal of Human Genetics, 2004, 75: 1131-1135.

Unfortunately, Prof Lubinski’s clinic is rather an exception when it comes to the general situation of cancer treatment in Poland. According to Lancet Oncology, Polish citizens have half the chances of recovering from cancer as citizens of the U.S. or Japan, and appeared last on a list of 31 countries with advanced cancer treatment facilities. The differences come from diagnostic possibilities, resulting from expenditure on the latest medical technologies. Although 250 million zloty is spent every year in Poland on fighting cancer, the level of treatment for breast or ovarian cancer is similar to that observed in Holland 40 years ago. Patients have low awareness of cancer risks and rarely perform periodical tests, meaning that they are often diagnosed when it’s already too late. Often health programmes funded by the government are poorly organized and unavailable outside of working hours - and so goes the vicious circle. However, overall the situation in Poland has been steadily improving in the last few years, and recently Poland was found on a list of countries observing the biggest increase of cancer survivors.

Walking around the Planty Park in Krakow last week I noticed someone using the Venus Victrix pose on the steps of the exclusive Hotel Royal: head propped up on hand, luckily no exposed bosom (it was a man), apple apparently already eaten. Thanks to my extensive use of computers my eyesight has suffered. From a distance I thought, “Damn, these tourists get more and more creative with their poses. I should compliment that guy for his cultural literacy.”

Then I got a closer look. It wasn’t a tourist, well, unless he was a Brit (if you’re from Krakow, you know what I’m talking about). The man was sleeping. There was a puddle next to him that my curious eyes trailed toward his crotch. It was totally soiled. Had I wanted to take a cast of his chest for a statue—as Canova is purported to have done with Pauline—then there would have been little or meek resistance. The man was really piss drunk. These kinds of situations make Atheniansus harder to swallow wholesale than a glass of Everclear.

What was I supposed to do in this situation? Should I have hugged the man like St. Francis did with the leper? Would St. Francis have hugged this man? Would that have helped?

Does it make a difference that on second sight he resembled Christ as Ecce Homo more than the Venus Victrix? Who cares about the theoretical realisation that Christianity is more sensitive to these issues than Roman, Greek and all other religions? You just feel helpless. For Christ plays in ten thousand places! But in a puddle of urine? Good luck getting the yellow of that image washed from your memory.

The reaction of art critic Sister Wendy Beckett to Andres Serrano’s Piss Christ came to me like a Good Samaritan in my interpretive ditch. During an interview with Bill Moyers she said Serrano’s photograph wasn’t blasphemous, instead it was a commentary on “what we have done to Christ.” The fact that Sister Wendy’s opinion is a charitable overinterpretation will not concern me here, instead I’ll risk offending a few more sensibilities by saying something that smacks of nostalgia for the Medieval.

But aren’t we better, more sensitive, more tolerant than people from the so-called Dark Ages?
New Life for the Old Bones

Duncan Rhodes


For nearly three decades the tallest building in Krakow (approx. 93m tall) has been the cause of acute embarrassment for the city. Existing as nothing more than an abandoned shell, the 24-storey skyscraper has been dubbed by locals as “Zskleltor” (Skeletor), a wry reference to the ribbed but fleshless villain of the He-Man series, which it resembles.

The history of the building can be traced back to the mid-1960s when a decision was made to construct a modern office, training and conference centre for the Naczelna Organizacja Techniczna (The Supreme Technical Organisation), with construction work finally starting in 1975. Progress slowed however in 1979 with the deterioration of the Polish economy, before halting altogether in 1981. Various attempts have since been made to revive the project but without success, and Skeletor has remained nothing more than a towering icon of communist failure and a sort of anti-symbol of the city, championed by emo kids who enjoyed climbing the structure (illegally) for a cigarette and views of the city.

A change however is in the making. Verity Development won the tender for the building in the second half of 2005, represented by their local minority partners, GD&K Consulting sp z o.o., and since then Verity (who have a controlling 85 percent stake in the project) have begun planning Skeletor’s resurrection. The concept is to renovate the existing tower, whose structure is architecturally sound, and to add two new wings on either side of the skyscraper. The group has already received two of the three outline building permits they need from the city (issued in April 2008) to realise their ideas. Currently they envisage that the tower will be split between an international four star luxury hotel, on the bottom half, and luxury apartments on the top, and that in addition two wings will be dedicated to A-class offices and commercial facilities. Internationally-renowned architect Prof. Hans Kolfhoff has been called in to design the project, which has been titled “Treimorfa” in honour of the three shapes the complex will constitute. The German professor is considered one of the world’s leading architects in designing tall buildings in city centres, and his previous work includes the design of the Daimler Chrysler Skyscraper in Berlin, the Reconstruction of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, also in Berlin, and the “Deutschherrnmufer” Skyscraper in Frankfurt.

It is hoped that Treimorfa will be completed by 2012, in time for the European Championships, and the project could have an enormous impact on the district surrounding Rondo Mogilskie, revitalising the area and attracting more investors instigating what in economic terms is referred to as a “virtuous circle.”

Peter Bradley of Verity Development feels very positive about the success of the project and the impact it could have on Krakow: “[The] Treimorfa Project is a unique opportunity for the historic and beautiful city of Krakow to have a world renowned architect design a spectacular project in an outstanding location. Views from the tower will be unique because there are no other high buildings nearby. Even the views from halfway up the tower are impressive and uninterrupted, while at the very top the panoramic vistas are simply stunning. The location is city centre and just metres from the Botanical Gardens, the newly completed Opera House and a short walk from Krakow’s main railway station and the new Galeria Krakowska shopping centre. The A-class office will be an opportunity for high profile large companies requiring a prestigious address in the centre of Krakow, designed by one of the world’s best architects; not something that has ever been available in Krakow until now.”

New City for a New Poland

As far as planned cities go, Poland’s experiment of the 20th century – Krakow’s Nowa Huta – failed dramatically as an economic project, as did most of the grand communist projects at the time. However, the 21st century is bringing a new type of planned city to Poland, this time with a very capitalist plan.

The small town of Balin, near Chrzanów and Tatrabina and bordering both the Małopolska and Silesia voivodships, will be the future site of a planned ultra-contemporary city for 50,000 residents. “Nowa Wiosta” (New Town) will include modern houses and apartment blocks, as well as hospitals, schools, parks, and of course offices and business centres, all spread over an area of 400 hectares.

The developer, Sultan Ahmed Bin Suyayem, chose the site in Poland for his newest project due to its convenient location between a major academic centre - Krakow - and a major industrial centre - Katowice and the surrounding areas of Lower Silesia, all of which are linked by the A4 highway. The Dubai-based developer is also behind the “World” project off the Dubai coast, which is a series of man-made islands in the shape of a world map.

Al Nakheel Properties will finance the Balin project, working through the Krakow-based Institute of Business Law and Foreign Investments Ltd., which is buying lots from local landowners (at a generous 10 zloty per square metre) at the moment. While one reason the Sultan chose Poland is its already well-educated and dynamic labour force, he hopes that the new city will also be a place for Polis coming back from working in the West.

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Polish Beckham in Police Punch-up

Drunk footballers face charges of assaulting police officers

In an incident that tabloid editors dream about, two former players in the Polish national team were arrested in Mieleno on the night of July 27-28th after getting into a brawl with two police officers. One of the players was none other than Radoslaw Majdan, the former Wisła goalkeeper whose playboy lifestyle he was married to pop princess Doda and not so long ago his red Ferrari was regularly found parked on Plac Szczepański has won him the dubious accolade of “the Polish Beckham.” Indeed, the two have several similarities, with Majdan’s trademark pretty-boy hairstyle and his numerous tattoos, not to mention his on/off wife’s artificially-enhanced hooters likening the two. But whereas the original Beckham has so far limited his violent outbursts to the famous petrolatum kick on Diego Simeone which saw him sent off in the 1998 world cup, Majdan has now become involved in a far greater scandal.

The ruckus took place in the town of Mieleno on the Baltic Sea, after which Majdan, Polonia teammate Święczewski and another man, referred to as Jarosław Ch., were arrested and spent 48 hours in a holding cell in Koszalin. The charges against them include assault on a police officer under the influence of alcohol.

What consequences could the footballers face if convicted? As Majdan is also a Member of Parliament for Donald Tusk’s Citizens’ Civic Platform Party (PO) (beat that Beckham!), he could certainly be dismissed from his position – currently he has been suspended from the Party. At the time of print, the Polonia Warsaw football club has decided not to renew either men’s contracts. Majdan’s contract expired at the end of June, and he was due to sign a two-year contract at the start of August. All three men also face further jail time if convicted of assault and battery.

However, at the moment nothing is certain, as the testimonies of Majdan and Święczewski vary greatly from the testimonies of the police officers. According to Majdan, there was “no aggression” from the footballers’ side: “I understand that a policeman is a person too and he got carried away, he began to abuse him (Piotr Ś.) with gas, but you cannot say that we suddenly began to fight with them.” Several witnesses have partially confirmed Majdan’s view of the events, saying that trouble began when an officer attempted to arrest Święczewski, leading the latter to retaliate violently.

The officers proceeded to allegedly hold Święczewski down on the ground and sit on top of him, prompting a reaction from both Majdan and the third man, leading to their arrests.

While spending time in custody, each man had their blood tested for alcohol and narcotic substances. Święczewski refused a breathalyzer test, while Majdan was found to have 1.5 per mile of alcohol. Majdan denies all charges: “This matter is a farce. I now have to suffer for something I did not do. I do not admit to any of the alleged charges.” He also stated: “None of what is written in the press, that I had a 1.5 percent blood alcohol level, that we were fighting with the cops, is true. This matter is a farce to me. Because I didn’t do anything, I had to spend two days in a cell.” When asked if guilty, he denied all charges: “I have nothing to admit. Maybe only that I had one beer too many. But I was not drunk.”

However, according to Przegląd Sportowy, Majdan won’t stay unemployed for long – apparently Ark Gdynia have already expressed interest in the physically exuberant footballer.

Wisła Get the Jitters on European Stage

Beitar Jerusalem 2 : Wisła Krakow 1

On the 30th July Wisła Krakow landed at Ben-Gurion International Airport and made their way to Teddy Stadium in Jerusalem, hoping to make a bright start to their UEFA Champions League campaign against hosts Beitar Jerusalem.

The Polish champions have typically struggled in Europe, their finest hour taking place way back in the 1978/79 season, when they reached the quarter-finals of the European Cup only to be knocked out by Malmö FF. 3:5. More recently, in the 2005/06 season, Wisła narrowly missed qualifying for the Champions League group stage, after being beaten 4:5 by Greek side Panathinaikos during extra time. With results not living up to the fans’ expectations, the pressure was on for Wisła to turn their European fortunes around in Israel.

Things got off to a good start for the Krakow side when Paweł Brozek managed to get a header to a speculative ball, which the Beitar defender failed to deal with authoritatively. Goalkeeper Tvrko Kale was also to blame: coming for and missing the ball on a high bounce he was left to watch it helplessly as it looped into his own net. The referee rightly judged that the ball had already crossed the line, after a late clearance was made by a back-tracking defender.

After taking the lead however, Wisła were then guilty of not pressing home their advantage, Sobolewski going down too easily in the box when he had a golden chance to make it 2-0. The tide turned on the 60th minute. As half of the Wisła players appealed for a penalty, Beitar’s Michael Zandberg picked out Baruchyan with a superb cross-field ball. Baruchyan was then given much too much room to shoot, scoring with a fierce left-footed drive into the bottom corner of Pawełek’s goal. It was Baruchyan again who compounded the visitor’s misery, linking up beautifully with his team mate to unlock the Wisła defense and slot home the winner in the 79th minute.

As if to confirm that Wisła lack the maturity to go far in this competition Marek Zieniucki committed a needless second bookable offence with two minutes remaining. The midfielder will now be forced to sit out the second leg through suspension. Wisła will host Beitar Jerusalem on the 6th of August.
The Manor and the Missing Talisman

Nick Hodge goes in search of underground legends

Dwarves and talking badgers may contrive to throw us off the scent, but curiously enough, Prince Caspian was partly shot in the Silesian mountains of southern Poland, a world that has its own place in the canon of children’s literature. It was here that one of Poland’s best loved children’s tales took shape, Kłopoty Kacperego Górska, The Troubles of A Gnome, translated into English in 1928 and now in development by Oscar-winning film producer Zbigniew Zmudzki.

Prince Caspian saw the Peven sie children transported back to Narnia, only to discover that thousands of years have elapsed and that the castle which had been their home is a mere ruin. Today, travellers arriving at the village of Górki Wielkie, the real-life setting of The Troubles of A Gnome, are met with no less rude a shock. The 300-year-old manor, home of the gnome Casp - mischievous hero of the Polish tale - is a gaping shell. Wandering around the ruin, it’s hard to imagine that the house still stood seventy years ago. Finch es swoop in, alighting on obso lete arches. Dead leaves twist in the breeze across the floor. There is no trace of the graceful avenue of birch trees that once made up the main drive to the house. Light industry has ar rived. A factory flogging plastic lanterns flanks one side of the manor, a battery chicken busi ness borders the other. It’s a typical scene in today’s Poland.

The pre-war owner of the house, Zofia Kossak-Szatkowska (1889-1968), was one of Poland’s finest authors of historical novels. She lived here with her fam ily until 1939. When the Nazis came, they commandeered the property and the house went up in a blaze in 1945. Kossak had to flee Poland the same year, as the Communists had earmarked her as a troublemaker. A co-founder of Zegota (the Polish Underground’s Council to Aid Jews) and a survivor of Auschwitz, she was a larger than life character who the Par ty simply didn’t trust.

A Return to Roots

In The Troubles of A Gnome, Casp is a venerable fellow who watches over the household, including all of its peculiar sprites, and the many farmyard animals. Although gener ally respectable, he is fond of getting up to mischief. He has a penchant for turning paintings upside down and hiding people’s spectacles. His treasured talisman, Maru, is a magic earring that allows him to turn invisible, shift fiendishly heavy objects, and not least, transport himself through thin air. However, one day the talisman falls into the clutches of a hideous hobgoblin. The whole fate of the manor is thrown into jeopardy. Finally, all the ani mals and sprites must put aside their differences to vanquish the goblin and his minions.

Today, the sorry state of the house seems to fly in the face of traditional cheery endings. But over in what remains of the garden, some fantastical work is afoot. It’s said that only mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the midday sun. But here in the garden a band of students from Krakow’s Arts Academy is braving the heat. Emerging from a 200 metre squared panorama is a scene from Zofia Kossak’s book Puszkarz Urbano, detail ing the Fall of Constantinople in 1452. Alongside, children are creating their own merry masterpiece, a panorama populated with characters from The Troubles of A Gnome. It’s a scene that would have delighted Wojciech Kossak, Zofia’s uncle, as he painted one of Poland’s most famed works of art - The Raclawice Panorama (1894). In mid-August, a second wave of ‘The Kossak Summer of Arts’ begins, this time with interna tional sculptors having a crack
at characters from Kossak’s books. 

Overseeing all this is Anna Fenby-Taylor, the eldest grand-daughter of Zofia Kossak. A soft-spoken lady born in England after the war, she began restoring the property in 2004. “The whole idea of the Summer of Arts was to get people who pass by regularly just to call in and realise that they have got something here that has changed,” she says.

“This was allowed to go to ruin and was in a shocking state ten years ago. But now at least there is something to see, somewhere to relax. We want it to be a place where people come with their friends, their family, and have a pleasant day out.”

Mrs. Fenby-Taylor, supported by Kossak descendants in England and Switzerland, is transforming the hotpotch of battered estate buildings into a new enterprise. The stable-block has been converted into a hostel for hikers. The ice-house now has kitchens and a hall for meetings and dinners.

“If I’d known how much trouble it would be,” she jokes, “I might never have started!”

Fenby-Taylor’s first memories of Poland go back to the early sixties. After Stalin’s death, there was a brief blast of optimism known as the “thaw,” and Zofia Kossak, now ageing, was invited to return to Poland. The regime wanted to be seen to be conciliatory with literary greats, and a ban was lifted on most of Kossak’s books. Not least, the author and her husband were allowed to live in the former gardener’s cottage on the estate – a rare privilege in a country where former squires were banned from going anywhere near their pre-war property. That said, the Party must have soon regretted its decision, as Kossak was one of the first to protest against censorship, and she deliberately turned down a state prize in 1964.

“My grandparents were an interesting pair,” Mrs. Fenby-Taylor recalls, a coy smile lighting up her face. “She was very short. Short in stature, but she was fairly round, and she had a very sweet tooth. She liked pastries and things like that. And although post-Auschwitz she was really just like a walking skeleton, gradually, she put on weight.

“My memories of her go back to a very homely person, very kind, gentle, a person who had presence and charisma. For some reason, one was very happy just being in the same room as her. She was one of these people who put you at ease and made you feel incredibly important and valued.”

These qualities must have proved fundamental in founding the Council to Aid Jews during the war. Although by no means a conventional philanthropist (indeed, Kossak had voiced distinct reservations about the Jewish community), in 1943 she galvanised people to take action, risking her own life and persuading others to do likewise in a bid to save Jews from the Nazi ghettos.

Anna Fenby-Taylor describes her grandmother as “the eternal optimist”:

“I never remember her getting cross. She sometimes frowned when she read a letter, so clearly something worried her. But she had an incredible trust in God, and she took each day as it came.”

Humour was also a help, a characteristic that shines through in Kossak’s books: “She managed to say things with a slight twist,” her granddaughter remembers, “she always had a twinkle in her eye.”

In this light, it’s easy to see the gnome Casp as the fruit of a playful mind. He was a friendly ghost (some say Holly- wood actually took the idea for their film and television series Caspar The Friendly Ghost), intended to help the young Kossak children feel at home in a creepy old house. But talking to members of the family, it soon becomes apparent that Casp was much more than that. “Casp was definitely a member of the family,” Mrs. Fenby-Taylor affirms. “My father, the grown-ups, they all talked about him as if he was a real entity, and someone to be respected. There was a custom of leaving wine for Casp in the evenings, and when my aunt Marysia drunk it one night on the way to bed, thinking it would go to waste, all night she had problems with the guilt. She said that she had an actual physical battle - that there was someone at the end of the bed, pulling it off. She always swore that it was Casp!”

Similar stories abound.

Zofia Kossak noted in her book that Casp was to be the guardian spirit of the manor until the end: “until the foundations go to dust and the house sinks into moss-covered ruins.” The twentieth century may have dealt some brutal blows, but things haven’t got quite that bad yet. The manor’s walls have recently been propped up, and there is talk of further restoration. The garden cottage lives on as a charming museum. And if animated film producer Zbigniew Żmudzki can pull off another hit, Casp could be on the verge of a new adventure - movie stardom.

“It’s a wonderful story” Żmudzki told the Krakow Post, “we think it has the ingredients for a fantastic film.”

For more info about the Kossak Summer of Arts see CL7, or log on to www.zofiakossak.pl
Trips off the Tongue

Grażyna Zawada

Q: Can you please explain the uses of dwa, dwie, etc., and generally when each type of “two” should be used?

A: It’s important to know that Polish numerals inflect for cases and gender (ordinal also for number), and that’s a source of many potential problems for all who want to master Polish, because it requires a lot of attention and focus from a foreigner. To express a numeral properly you need to consider the gender (masculine/feminine/neutral in singular and masculine personal/ non-masculine personal in plural), which grammatical case is needed in a particular sentence structure, and sometimes number (singular/plural). In Polish there are three basic types of numerals: cardinal, ordinal and collective. Cardinal numerals show (as in English) the general number of something you want to speak about, but you need to fit it in a proper case. Number one (“jeden”) has an nominative ending as a noun (ø/-a/-o) and inflects as an adjective in other cases. Number two (“dwa”) inflects only for gender and its most tricky cases are the nominative and accusative:
nomina tive: Dwaj chłopcy/dwie dziewczyny/ dwa krzesta [I tell about...]
accusative: Więć dwie chłopów/dwie dziewczyny/dwa krzesła [I see...]
The rest have one form:
genitive: Na mchach dwu chłopcach/dwóm chłopiek, [... are not here]
dative: Dziękuję dwóm chłopców/dwóm dziewczynom. [I thank...]
instrumental: Idę z dwoma chłopami/dwójnymi dwójkami [I go with...]
locative: Opowiadam o dwóch chłopach/ dziewczynach [I talk about...]

Is Polish really that difficult? Or is that just a myth, an over-used excuse touted by lazy language students?

Let’s find out... Krakow Post introduces a series of brief lessons, which should prove useful when learning this beautiful language, as prepared by a native Polish linguist and teacher.

RETURN TO NEXT PAGE

Language

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TO BE CONTINUED NEXT MONTH...

Confused by Polish grammar? Send your query to editor@krakowpost.com, and our Polish linguist may answer your question in the next edition of “Trips off the Tongue!”
CocoRosie: Something Like an Interview

Thymn Chase

Ten minutes after performing a breathtakingly beautiful and thoroughly energetic set Saturday night at Open'er 2008, I found myself face to face with the two enchantingly eccentric sister sirens of CocoRosie. Upon entering their dressing room I immediately felt that I’d entered some kind of magical alternate realm; children’s instruments, weird toys, pots of acrylic paints, crayons, markers, lip-stick, mascara, neon face paint, glitter and an assortment of costumes and clothes were scattered across the room. Bianca (aka Coco) sat in the middle of the room on a puffy couch and was colouring in a Moleskin journal and Sierra (aka Rosie) was seated in front of a mirror either putting on or taking off some funky make-up. As I settled into a plastic chair I felt a lot of love.

KP: All right, let’s do this thing, let’s hit this.
B: Don’t worry about it.
S: …Ew, maybe not that one. I don’t think I would ever wear anything beige. It’s kind of boring and dull... Bianca you would look terrible as well.
B: Yeah, that’s probably the most f*cking depressing, lifeless and disgusting colour I would ever wear anything beige. It’s kind of boring and dull.
S: Yeah. That’s probably the most f*cking depressing, lifeless and disgusting colour I would ever wear anything beige. It’s kind of boring and dull... Bianca you would look terrible as well.
B: Yeah. That’s probably the most f*cking depressing, lifeless and disgusting colour I would ever wear anything beige. It’s kind of boring and dull.

The inaugural concert of this year’s Pawična Pod Baranami Summer Jazz Festival, the “Saxophone Summit,” on paper should have been a fascinating dialogue between saxophonists Branford Marsalis, Greg Osby, Lee Konitz, Janusz Muniak and Adam Pierończyk. Unfortunately, the programming was too safe to be a real summit, with the first set matching like with like and the second given over to a performance by The Branford Marsalis Quartet.

The concert was opened by Lee Konitz. Arguably one of the finest alto saxophonists ever to have lived, he is revered for his constant search for new challenges. During his long career, he has managed to assimilate all the jazz revolutions, even performing in the 80’s with musical extremist, guitarist Derek Bailey. But he is already in his late seventies and appeared ill at ease as he squinted up at the blinding lights, and anxiously eyed his watch. His partner, Janusz Muniak, who is strongly influenced by former Konitz collaborator, Stan Getz, afforded Konitz too much respect, even withdrawing behind the grand piano at one point to give the older statesman centre stage. It was interesting, however, to see Konitz perform in a range of different combinations with young musicians like pianist, Pawel Kaczmarszyk.

After this slightly disappointing opening, young gun Adam Pierończyk was paired up with Greg Osby, a passer-on of the flame who is best known for creating a raw but relatively undemanding fusion of virtuosic jazz sensibility and what he considers to be the sounds of the ghetto - hip hop and funk breakbeats. So the set was unsurprisingly dominated by the wide array of clinically precise rhythms served up by drummer Krzysztof Dziedzic. And the clothes... Pierończyk’s cheeky black and white striped shirt was nicely offset by Osby’s perfectly tailored grey suit. Similarly, Pierończyk’s trademark darting runs were nicely complemented by Osby’s cool angular playing.

Branford Marsalis is probably best known for his contributions to Sting’s “Englishman in New York” et al. and the scores for the Spike Lee films, Mo' Better Blues and Do The Right Thing. While his younger brother, trumpeter Wynton Marsalis, exploded onto the scene fully-formed in the early 80s, Branford was forced to develop his own voice in the glare of media attention that the outspoken family have often attracted. Criticised in the early days for his inability to “focus an eloquent battery of remarks into a proper speech,” he is now considered to be one of the greatest saxophonists in the world.

And he certainly behaves as if he is. He swaggered onto the stage like a prizefighter before churlishly suggesting that the venue was unsuitable for the music his quartet played and promising that he wouldn’t treat the crowd to “stories” between numbers that they couldn’t possibly understand. Thank God for that. Because when the music was left to speak for itself, his quartet produced music of real fire and imagination underpinned by the extraordinarily sensitive drumming of Marsalis’s long term percussionist, the bull-necked bundle of exploding nerve endings that is Jeff “Tain” Watts.

The second encore finally offered the patient crowd a chance to hear all the saxophonists on the stage at one time. Konitz, in particular, really began to show what he’s capable of. A tantalizing glimpse of what could have been...
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Extra Post

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Coke Live Music Festival previewed
/CL 6

> posted
Concerts, exhibitions & parties
/CL 7, 8, 9, 10
I’ve spent the last few nights in a comfortable bed (my own, before you ask), I’ve been showering under cascades of hot water and I’ve been poising into a spotlessly clean latrine. It’s after this return to normality that I can look back at the Heineken Open’er Festival, distilled now into a score of humorous photos, and say that I had an absolutely fantastic time. Doubtless that, before long, I’ll have filed the festival away, along with family holidays in the south of France and that summer in Spain shacked up with the naughty Natalia, as another fantastic episode in the salal days of my life. If that happens it will be a pleasant trick of memory. The truth – already fading fast - is that I spent most of a hugely uncomfortable weekend looking forward to nothing more than the finishing line.

I really thought I’d cracked it this year. I’d packed three sachets of Alka Seltzer, two earplugs, four boxes of Imodium, a sturdy supply of wet wipes and an inflatable mattress. Killer hangovers, excessive noise, the squits, and bumpy camping grounds - surely I was ready for anything? Anything it turns out, apart from the crippling passageway of Father Time. Whereas a younger Slinky would have treated a nine hour train journey with ill-grace, was thwarted in his attempts to get an early night by the wailing bass of the Beat Stage finally stopped torturing me (around 5:30 am), whereupon I was at last allowed to slip into unconsciousness. Barely three hours later and I was rudely awakened by the sensation of being cooked alive, the morning sun transforming my tent into an innovatively-shaped microwave oven. Frantically I undid the zip and clambered, half-suffocated, and fully drenched in sweat, into day two of the festival. Which brings me to arguably the worst ordeal of the Open’er experience: the showers. The benevolent organisers had kindly doubled the campsite space since two years ago (profits) but neglected to add any extra washing facilities (expenses), meaning that anyone valuing cleanliness had to queue for at least an hour each morning for a five minuteslot in an icy douche. And when I say icy, I don’t mean lukewarm. They were cold enough to induce serious heart palpitations, and as for running the shower over your sweaty bits... it was not a joyful experience.

What with sleep deprivation and the daily water torture, I was in medium spirits at the start of the festival. Erykah Badu certainly seemed a come down after that so I bade her goodnight, determined to feel fresher for the final round of concerts on Sunday.

Maybe it was a half decent snooze for once, maybe it was the pre-concert vodka, or maybe it was because the end was in sight, but on the third night of the festival I was in a surprisingly good mood. Goldfrapp’s melodious refrains were enjoyed with a cold beer and the setting sun, whilst a group of twenty of us gathered for the timeless anthems of Massive Attack. But it was the Chemical Brothers who stole the show. The sound was pitch perfect as big hit followed big hit - “Galvanize”, “Star Guitar” and “Do It Again” blasting into the Baltic air. It’s a sign of a great live band that they play their crowd-pleasers, and no sooner had I expressed a desire for some “Block Rockin’ Beats” than the crowd was stomping away on the grass towards a final crescendo. As the first cracks appeared in the night sky and the majority of the festival-goers filtered home, I was faced with a character-defining dilemma. On the one hand it was the last night and I should be raising hell until they kick me off campus. On the other hand it was already 3 am, I was exhausted by a series of sleepless nights, and my stomach - tormented by a diet of Tel-epizza, ice cream and alcohol - was threatening to give way at any moment. Maybe someone had tinkered with my mushroom Margherita, but suddenly the grey figure of Father Time appeared in front of me and, bating me a toothless sneer, offered me a Zimmer frame for the journey home and an early retirement plan. This was getting ridiculous: “What am I, sissy or Slinky?” In-dignation rose like bile, anger seized my heart, and the Party Spirit coursed through my veins. I gave the old git a mighty kick in the balls and headed straight for the Beat Stage, flipping him the finger as I went. It was the best decision I made all festival. The Hungry Hungry Models were letting rip with all kinds of musical mayhem, and a die-hard crowd of nu-ravers were tearing up the dancefloor in a sweaty, ecstasy-enriched, Heineken-fuelled frenzy. For the first time in three days, I could say unequivocally I was having a @cking good time!

As I trudged home around 6 am, exhausted but in great spirits, I reflected that I only had to endure one more shower cold enough to cryogenically freeze my testicles, two or three more trips to a fly-infested canister full of accumulated human waste peppered with bloody sanitary towels, a five hour wait at Gdynia station, and nine uncomfortable hours on the train itself, before I would be back home safely tucked up in bed. Heineken 2009? ...I won’t book my ticket just yet.

Conceived under the silvery light of a full moon party in Ko Pha Ngan, raised by lotus-eating hippies in Ibiza and suckled on the milk of Eric Morillo’s mixing nipple, Krakow Post proudly presents their nightlife correspondent... the smooth, and ever!so-slightly-slippery, Slinky.

The minute Miss Murphy finished her encore, I rushed back to camp and shivered inside my sleeping bag until the hounding bass of the Beat Stage finally stopped torturing me (around 5:30 am), whereupon I was at last allowed to slip into unconsciousness. Barely three hours later and I was rudely awakened by the sensation of being cooked alive, the morning sun transforming my tent into an innovatively-shaped microwave oven. Frantically I undid the zip and clambered, half-suffocated, and fully drenched in sweat, into day two of the festival. Which brings me to arguably the worst ordeal of the Open’er experience: the showers.

As the first cracks appeared in the night sky and the majority of the festival-goers filtered home, I was faced with a character-defining dilemma. On the one hand it was the last night and I should be raising hell until they kick me off campus. On the other hand it was already 3 am, I was exhausted by a series of sleepless nights, and my stomach - tormented by a diet of Tel-epizza, ice cream and alcohol - was threatening to give way at any moment. Maybe someone had tinkered with my mushroom Margherita, but suddenly the grey figure of Father Time appeared in front of me and, bating me a toothless sneer, offered me a Zimmer frame for the journey home and an early retirement plan. This was getting ridiculous: “What am I, sissy or Slinky?” In-dignation rose like bile, anger seized my heart, and the Party Spirit coursed through my veins. I gave the old git a mighty kick in the balls and headed straight for the Beat Stage, flipping him the finger as I went. It was the best decision I made all festival. The Hungry Hungry Models were letting rip with all kinds of musical mayhem, and a die-hard crowd of nu-ravers were tearing up the dancefloor in a sweaty, ecstasy-enriched, Heineken-fuelled frenzy. For the first time in three days, I could say unequivocally I was having a @cking good time!

As I trudged home around 6 am, exhausted but in great spirits, I reflected that I only had to endure one more shower cold enough to cryogenically freeze my testicles, two or three more trips to a fly-infested canister full of accumulated human waste peppered with bloody sanitary towels, a five hour wait at Gdynia station, and nine uncomfortable hours on the train itself, before I would be back home safely tucked up in bed. Heineken 2009? ...I won’t book my ticket just yet.
Elevating the mundane task of pouring drinks into an acrobatic art form during July was barman and flair artist Mateusz Gaćiarz. A smooth operator who could teach Tom Cruise a thing or two about the art of spinning bottles, Mateusz happily entertains his customers with a dizzying array of juggling acts and party tricks. Catch him at the recently-opened InBlanco club and café.

Q: Where did you learn to flair?
A: From my two colleagues, Przemysław Musiałek and Marcin Dąbek, who are two of the greatest flair artists in the country.

Q: Did you have to practice in your bedroom for a long time first?
A: No, my first time was in a bar, but sometimes I do practice in my bedroom. But it’s not a good idea because it’s easy to break something.

Q: Does it impress the ladies?
A: Yes, of course. Not many people in Poland use flair techniques, so the girls are interested.

Q: What’s your favourite trick?
A: I hold a bottle in my left hand and two shakers in my right hand. I throw the shakers up first, then the bottle, and I catch the bottle in one of the shakers.

Q: What cocktail do you recommend for when you’ve lost your job and want to get really pissed and dance like a maniac?
A: It’s called “Adios Motherf*cker.” It’s 20ml of tequila, 20ml of rum, 20ml of gin, 20ml of vodka, 20ml of Blue Curacao and 10ml of lime juice, shake it, then top up with 7up or Sprite.

Q: What’s your favourite party at InBlanco?
A: Fridays there’s an R’n’B party and on Saturdays is house music. I prefer Fridays.

Q: What’s your top tip for passing the time in Krakow during August?
A: Go to one of the beaches nearby and take a swim.
Famous restaurant on the “King’s Road” from Wawel Castle to Main Square. Traditional old polish cuisine using old recipes and charred beech wood grill.

(Restauracja z atmosferą średniowiecznego Krakowa, na „Drodze Królewskiej” z Wawelu do Rynku Głównego. Zapraszamy w kulinarnej „podróż” do staropolskich smaków. Ogródek z fontanną na dziedzińcu.)

Courtyard garden and medieval atmosphere.
ul. Grodzka 35, Kraków, tel. 012/4213999, tel./fax. 012/4302113
www.podaniolami.pl

Restaurant with unique temperament and Cracow atmosphere! You can eat your dinner in one of the antique carriages…

(To restauracja z włoskim temperamentem i krakowską atmosferą! Można tu zjeść kolację w jednej z karet, wśród uskrzydlonej łodzi rybacyjnej i goralskich sań.
Kuchnia polska, włoskie pasty…i tiramisu!)

“Cherubino” ul. św. Tomasz 15, Kraków, tel. 012/4294007, tel./fax. 012/4294147
www.cherubino.pl

Summer restaurant-boat located in the bend of the Vistula River at the foot of the Wawel Castle.

(Siedząc na górnym pokładzie odnajdą Państwo dawno zapomniane uroki życia nad Wisłą.)

Galar “Pod Aniołami” Zakole Wisły, Bulwary Wiślana vis a vis Hotelu Sheraton, tel. 0691 44 04 03

Coffee house – gallery with the most romantic summer garden in Cracow. The magical atmosphere of that place and original interiors dating back to the XIII century.

(W piątki kabaret „Loch Camelot”)
U Vincenta
ul. Bozego Ciała 12, +48 012 430 6834

If you spend a fair amount of time buzzing around Krakow’s Kazimierz district, the likelihood is you’ll have heard of U Vincenta. The four-table cubby hole of a restaurant on Józefa has, over the years, gained a cult-like status among Krakow residents and tourists alike. Indeed, having been personally frustrated many a time on so-called quiet nights by the discovery of only five customers but no empty tables, the addition of the restaurant’s newest venue on the classy, rejuvenated section of Bozego Ciała was certainly a welcome one, and one that fits nicely with the regenerated feel of the street.

On this otherwise busy Sunday afternoon in Kazimierz, during the district’s annual Jewish festival, we were surprised by the lack of clientele on our visit. We were greeted by an empty restaurant and tables, the addition of the restaurant’s newest venue on the classy, rejuvenated section of Bozego Ciała was certainly a welcome one, and one that fits nicely with the regenerated feel of the street.

We picked our spot and scanned the menu - it turned out to be extensive and populated by a mix of traditional and innovative. As a bonus, you can mix and match pierogi with a range of sauces, bringing an element of creativity to a dish that, by all accounts, is pretty straightforward. We decided to take a walk on the wild side - well as wild as you can get eating pierogi - by going for the unusual. We plumped for the Caesar’s (minced lamb, rosemary and thyme) with, strangely, a Mexican-style salsa.

My partner opted for the Mexican-style pierogi filled with chicken and kidney beans, accompanied by a more standard butter option.

Soon, out came the Caesar’s pierogi, fresh, piping hot and not the slimy, greasy affair that is often passed off at many pierogarnias. For those that enjoy their food with a kick but find much of Polish cuisine lacking a little hit, the Mexican salsa will not disappoint - spicy enough to satisfy even the most fanatic of hotheads. Whether it goes well with lamb or not is, perhaps, questionable, but it will be sure to have you stopping between pierogi to put out the fire in your mouth.

The Mexican-style chicken and bean pierogi were also excellent. A little chilli provided a South of the Rio Grande-style kick that, like the Mexican salsa, will satisfy those with a palette more accustomed to spicier fare. Both the lamb and chicken and bean options provide great twists on the traditional norm and represent a more exciting option for those that have become a little tired of the minced meat or potato and cheese standards. The two options chosen on the day were among the most expensive on the menu and, with a couple of bottles of mineral water, the bill weighed in at a very reasonable 40 złoty. We were mildly tempted by the prospect of pierogi filled with fresh strawberries but ended up sticking to more - perhaps a few chunks of garlic... some pesto... anything. You kept me waiting 25 minutes for my food, but what were you doing? Surely not just cooking pasta and throwing those raw ingredients on it. And to really bring home your feelings towards me, you didn’t bring me a bill. You just made me wait until I gave up and walked to the till myself.

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In this regard, U Vincenta does have its limits - you won’t enjoy a three-course meal there, although perhaps it would be wrong to expect too much of a three-course meal there, although perhaps it would be wrong to expect to. Krakow has enough faux-Italian (and other generic international) restaurants trying to be something they’re clearly not, so it’s refreshing to see that, despite the flashy new locale, U Vincenta sticks to what it knows best - friendly but no-frills service, reasonable prices (that haven’t been hiked up despite the new location) and excellent, wholesome pierogi that, by catering to both adventurous and traditionalist clientele, provide enough variety to keep people coming back time and again. The added bonus of the take-out option is certainly enough to ensure that this satisfied customer will be returning.

Kris Grzegorczyk

Hawełka
ul. Rynek Glowny 34, +48 (0)12 422 0631, www.hawelka.pl

Opened as a colonial goods store in 1876, Hawełka began its career collecting exotic and unique flavours to add to its culinary hub on the main Market Square of Krakow. Transforming into a restaurant, Hawełka’s reputation grew to such proportions that by the end of the 19th century it became an official supplier to the royal courts of Vienna and Greece. Hawełka also became a meeting place for the intelligentsia who came here to drink, talk, and sample the unique delicacies on offer - including their specialty of a unique bread dish made famous by a certain Earl of Sandwich.

These days, rather than continue trailblazing Krakow’s culinary culture, Hawełka has seemingly decided to underline its history by serving only traditional Polish cuisine. I have to admit it’s rather surprising that Hawełka has not decided to really juice its rich lore and bring back all of those exotic ingredients. Really, who would say no to a bit of Algerian cauliflower or Westphalian sausage? Certainly not I.

So while the selection of food is similar to what you might find in any high quality Polish restaurant in Krakow, extra special attention is paid to the quality of ingredients. During my recent trip to Hawełka I ordered the kotlet schabowy (pork cutlet) with boiled potatoes and fried cabbage. While the ideas presented here are certainly rather ancient, it’s the fresh ingredients and the execution that gives Hawełka bonus marks. Not a great meat lover, I’ve always had a small schabowy phobia, as the breadcrumb batter is usually rather soggy and oily with the meat somehow managing to seem like it hadn’t seen a drop of moisture in eons. Luckily the pork at Hawełka was fresh, juicy and tender. The potatoes were as fantastic as boiled potatoes can get (not very, but that’s hardly Hawełka’s fault), and the fried cabbage was to die for with plenty of dill and parsley keeping things interesting. I also sampled the bigos (cabbage stew), which again was another success. The mild cabbage melted in your mouth, and the chunks of pork and sausage inside had an intense and deep flavour.

Overall Hawełka makes for an excellent introduction to Polish classic cuisine, and, with its emphasis on traditional service and the elegant turn of the century interiors, guests will taste a slice of Krakow’s history along with their meal.

Dana Dramowicz

Cafe Botanica
ul. Bracka 9, +48 (0)12 4228980

Oh Botanica, Botanica. How I loved thee. Then you opened your “orangery” and ignored me sitting at my table. In the end I had to serve myself and I felt betrayed... hurt even. I had been visiting you regularly for months. But now with this new conservatory area, you had a new attitude, a new menu, new servers. Today, many months later, I decided to give you another chance, a chance for a real reconciliation. I decided, for old time’s sake, to sit in your older section with the beautiful wrought iron tables, the addition of the restaurant’s newest venue on the classy, rejuvenated section of Bozego Ciała was certainly a welcome one, and one that fits nicely with the regenerated feel of the street.

But I shouldn’t have expected so much, Botanica. As I sat down, none of your staff gave me a menu. I had to get it myself. My friend’s dish arrived very quickly - a slice of delicious quiche-like salmon tarte (I admit I stole a bite). I was forced to watch my companion begin, relish, and finish their lunch - how cruel of you Botanica. Only 15 minutes later did you give me my meal - spaghetti with garlic olive oil and sun-dried tomatoes. In the menu, you had described this as a dish for those watching their waistline, but it turned out to be an enormous bowl of no-effort pasta with plain (not garlic) oil and sun-dried tomatoes. Is this some sort of cruel joke? I know I shouldn’t have expected more - perhaps a few chunks of garlic... some pesto... anything. You kept me waiting 25 minutes for my food, but what were you doing? Surely not just cooking pasta and throwing those raw ingredients on it. And to really bring home your feelings towards me, you didn’t bring me a bill. You just made me wait until I gave up and walked to the till myself.

Maybe I’ll be back again, Botanica. But this time, I’ll just have a snack and a coffee... and I’ll bring my new lover.

Dana Dramowicz
Arriving at the end of August to make the summer seem that much longer, the Coke Live Music Festival is that one last hurrah before it’s back to school - or the office - and out of the sun. Originally taking place on the Błonia Common in the centre of town, last year the festival switched locales to the massive grounds of the Polish Aviation Museum, at Al. Jana Pawła II 39, allowing for an even larger array of festive fun.

While some of the acts are as poppy as the soda that sponsors the event, the festival tends to maintain a good balance between the mainstream and the independent, but not too edgy, genres, throwing in a hodgepodge of Polish bands to keep things unpredictable. 2008 is a promising year for the festival, as huge stars such as Missy Elliott, Sean Paul, Timbaland, and The Prodigy have all signed up to play. The latest big act, announced at the time of printing, are British indie rockers Kaiser Chiefs, and several other bands and DJs are expected to come on board in the weeks leading up to the festival.

For those who have come from afar and would like to hear some local talent, the Polish artists featured include Indios Bravos, The Car Is On Fire, Sokół feat. Pono, Hurt, Marika, Pezet, and Afronental. Also taking to the stage will be the winners of the Coke Live Fresh Noise contest, Apple Tree.

With three big arenas - the Main Stage, Coke Stage and Burn Stage - a camping area, special DJ events, and the “Coke Clinic” where you can take a break and even get a massage, those attending the two days and nights of the festival will have their hands (or should we say ears) full. Tickets are priced at 150 złoty for both days (165 with camping), or 85 for each individual day, and can be found, along with more information, at the festival’s website: www.livefestival.pl

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**22.08.2008 (Friday)**

**MAIN STAGE** - Timbaland, Kaiser Chiefs, Hurt
**COKE STAGE** - Indios Bravos, Pezet, Afronental, Apple Tree, Lack of Eoins
**BURN STAGE** - Angelo Mike, Electricity, Madame Tint, Wookie, Chris Jaxx

**23.08.2008 (Saturday)**

**MAIN STAGE** - The Prodigy, Missy Elliott, Sean Paul, Marika
**COKE STAGE** - Sokół feat. Pono, The Car Is On Fire, Jarecki, Laime Pilina, Sweetsalt
**BURN STAGE** - Neverafter, Beats Friendly, Dudekk, Sympatique, Dio
UKRAINE AND POLAND - TWO NEIGHBOURS
Historically, Ukrainians and Poles haven’t always been best of friends, but these days, old prejudices are beginning to crumble. As it goes, the two countries are booked as joint hosts of Euro 2012, and this August there’ll be a ten day celebration of Polish and Ukrainian culture, right here on the Market Square. Largely aimed at the young, the event will be showcase pop stars from both countries, plus fashion shows, culinary fairs and much more besides.
when - 1st to 10th August
where - Main Market Square

PYROMACHINA: INTERNATIONAL GALA OF PYROTECHNICS
The Blonia Common has seen some epic events over the years. There was Krakow’s first football tournament in 1906, the return of Pope John Paul II to the city in 1979, the cracking concert by Celine Dion in 2008... O.K, the last one may be a bit controversial, but in the first weekend of August, we’ve got something to make up for Madame Dion’s crass assault. Indeed, on Saturday 2nd, pyrotechnical wizards from across Europe will be descending on the common for some flaming frolics. Prepare to trip the light fantastic. Starts 7 p.m. both nights.
when - 2nd to 3rd August
where - Blonia Common

KOSSAK SUMMER OF ARTS
Wayfarers wandering the Beskid foothills should take a pit-stop at the old Kossak Manor in Gorki Wielkie. The Kossak clan had a knack of producing dazzlingly talented artists, and the current generation is laying on a Summer of Arts, echoing the achievements of fruitful branches of the family tree. An epic painted panorama is taking shape in the garden, and sculptors are due to touch down on the 14th, trying their hands at famed characters from author Zofia Kossak’s oeuvre. Concerts spice things up in the evenings, and guests keen to stay the night and enjoy the hiking in the surrounding Beskid hills can stay at the Kossaks’ own hostel, Koss, within the grounds of the manor. The panoramas will be on display throughout August.
when - Throughout August
where - Kossak Manor, Gorki Wielkie (Near Cieszyn)

SPECIAL EVENTS

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where - Kossak Manor, Gorki Wielkie (Near Cieszyn)

33rd Music in Old Krakow Festival
See “Music Box” on CL 8.
when - 15th to 31st August
where - Various

6th Pierogi Festival
Sophisticates may sniff, but for most Poles, pierogi are cherished as the comfort food of choice, much like pasta is by the Italians. This weekend’s the perfect time to try the divisive dumplings. Besides regional chefs competing for the crown of best pirogician, there’ll be jolly concerts of folk and pop bands. The location is yet to be confirmed, but it is likely to be the Maly Rynek, just behind St. Mary’s Basilica.
when - 15th to 16th August
where - To be confirmed

COKE Live Music Festival 2008
Coke Live returns with a 24 carat bling-fest of beats, courtesy of Timbaland, Missy Elliott and The Prodigy. Coke-heads should fly over to the epic Aviation Museum, where all the action will be kicking off. One-day ticket passes come in at 85 złoty, 150 for the full two days. Campers can pay 15 złoty extra for a space at the adjoining campsite. All in all, it should be massive! Also featuring reggae raggamuffin Sean Paul. See the Spotlight on CL6 for more details.
when - 22nd to 23rd August
where - Polish Aviation Museum, Al. Jana Pawla II 39

EXHIBITIONS

Sensualia
Highly anticipated, “Sensualia” is a series of projects presented in an exhibition at Galeria Starmach, organised by eight students from the Jagiellonian University’s curatorial studies department. The multi-media exhibition examines different ways to infiltrate the senses and their ways of mutually influencing each other, stimulating each of the senses one by one. Amongst the featured artists are Dorota Buczkwowska, Monika Drozylska, Ersatz, Eliza Galej, Miho Iwata, Elzbieta Jablonska, Koji Kamoji, Tomasz Malec, Malgorzata Markiewicz, Dariusz Paczkowski, Joanna Rajkowska, Jadwiga Swicka, Leon Tarasewicz, and the “audiovisual group of friends” known as RH+.

Coming soon to the Museum of Art
The educational programme of the Museum of Art in Krakow is growing from year to year, and the upcoming agendas of events will prove that it is here to stay. As always, the museum offers a variety of activities ranging from screenings, to lectures, master classes, guided tours and workshops. This month, the focus will be on the works of the 15th and 16th centuries, with a particular emphasis on the paintings of Flemish masters. A lecture will be given by a specialist on the history of art, followed by a guided tour of the museum’s collection. A workshop will also be held, where participants will learn how to paint in the style of the Flemish masters.

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International Language Centers
Ul. Zwierzyniecka 15a/9a
31-103 Krakow
Poland
Krakow/London/Anliguo/Budapest
Eric Fischl The Krefeld Project: “Bedroom. Scene 7, After the Tantrum”

CRACOVIAN ART AFTER 1945
The Historical Museum is in the throes of a multi-million złoty face-lift at the moment, but there’s still plenty to take a peek at. For the rest of the summer, art lovers can catch this intro to post-war Cracovian art. A key figure - now an international icon - was Tadeusz Kantor, who launched the legendary “Grupa Krakowska II” in this very building back in the 50s. The group exhibited here in the cellar gallery for many years. Besides the avant garde aces, you’ll also find Socialist Realist cuts. These come with earnest titles such as “Table of an Activist,” by Jan Swiderski.

HENRYK STAZEWSKI (1894-1988)
If Abstract Art is your bag, look no further. The National Museum is shining a light on one of the towering figures in Polish modern art, Henryk Stażewski, pioneer and champion of Abstractionism. Stażewski was in the thick of it right from the word go, organising Malevich’s first Polish exhibition in 1927, and lending his support to dozens of other artists who were prepared to take the Abstract plunge. Stażewski’s own canvasses endure as classic cuts from the interwar avant garde.

COLOURS OF THE WORLD
Pauza began life as a bar where arty folks stroked their beards (and stoked their bellies with liberal quantities of beer). Now commandeering the better part of this townhouse on the Royal Way, Pauza is the proud owner of a club, a gallery, a shop and even a miniature cinema. Photography exhibitions are firm favourites, and throughout the summer you can catch Maciej Dyczynski’s “Colours of the World,” which seems straight from the pages of National Geographic. That’s being hosted in the bar, whilst upstairs, the Pauza Gallery is preparing for September’s “Nihon,” a Japanese excursion by Tomek Niewiadomski, beginning on September 4th.

JAN BULHAK (1876-1950)
This is the second part of an exhibition chronicling the career of “the father of Polish photography,” Jan Bulhak. Part one revealed a dreamy, rustic world of manor houses and market towns. However, part two begins in 1944, when Bulhak’s world was falling apart. Repatriated from his home city of Wilno, which was absorbed into the USSR as Vilnius, he witnessed the devastation of Warsaw and then struggled to find a place in the new, communist Poland.

JEWISH ARTISTS IN KRAKOW 1873-1939
The Nazi invasion may have sounded the death knell, but some of the most celebrated names in pre-war Poland were Jews: Julian Tuwim, Marian Hemar, Bruno Schulz, Arthur Rubinstein to name but a few. All these men had their detractors, yet this exhibition reveals that in the cultural orbit, it wasn’t just poetry and music in which Polish Jews shone. Held in Krakow’s oldest surviving synagogue, this exhibition comes under the wings of the Historical Museum of Krakow, and some 150 works of art can be savoured.

ANDRZEJ WAJDA - ETHNOGRAPHIC INVENTORY
Andrzej Wajda is best known to the world as one of the brightest lights in Central European cinema, with some Belgian beauties.
European cinema. Still going strong in his eighties, he won his fourth Oscar nomination in 2008, complementing his lifetime achievement Academy Award in 2000. This exhibition sheds light on a lesser-known strand of the director's career. A longtime amateur ethnographer and painter, Wajda presents here the fruits of many decades interest in the field, ranging from documentary film footage to objects collected on his travels.

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**ETHNOGRAPHIC JOURNEYS**

This August it won’t be necessary to leave town to do a spot of globe-trotting. Krakow’s Ethnographic Museum is laying on a series of workshops for children, transporting youngsters to far-flung corners of the world. Head on over for encounters with India, the Wild West, and Poland itself a hundred years ago.

**EXHIBITIONS AT BUNKIER SZTUKI**

The “Bunker of Art” is always bubbling with bright ideas. Drop in for some artistic inspiration, and maybe a drop of beer at their outdoor bar.

**TRACES OF MEMORY**

There’s no better starting point on the Jewish trail than the Galicia Museum. Founded in 2004 by the late and great Chris Schwarz, the centre offers fresh insights into the 700 year legacy of Jews in Poland. Besides concerts, lectures and book launches, the backbone of the enterprise remains the permanent exhibition, “Traces of Memory,” a vivid evocation of Jewish heritage in the region. Unmissable.

**FIRST STEP...**

Art enthusiasts from across Poland have descended on Krakow to catch this show. The reason? Well, this is the first major collection of Western contemporary art to touch down in the city. The hero of the hour is Rafael Jablanka, owner of the eponymous Jablanka Gallery in Cologne. As one of the most dynamic collectors on the international scene, he’s amassed an extraordinary collection, a princely portion of which is now on show at the National. Decide for yourself whether Warhol is wunderbar or a waste of space. Likewise hot names such as David LaChapelle, Mike Kelley and many, many more.

**THEATRE: JARMARK CUDÓW - FAIR OF WONDERS**

Taking its cue from the colourful medieval fairs of Europe’s great cities, the “Fair of Wonders” is a dazzling slice of open-air theatre. Performed in the courtyard of the Esterka House, a branch of the Ethnographic Museum, this brand new work comes from one of Poland’s most innovative troupes. Blending music and magic, the production is a heady brew that’s sure to intrigue theatre aficionados. Performances start at 7 p.m. on 21st & 22nd August.

**KINOBRANIE: SUMMER PICKS AT POD BARANAMI**

This huge palace was a focus for patriotic Poles during the 19th century era of partition, when the owner styled himself as a would-be king. Nowadays, you’ll find one of the city’s most quirky cinemas. Throughout August, cinephiles can tuck in to a celluloid banquet, with dozens of films for just five zloty a pop. Kinobranie begins with a week of Bollywood and other exotic cuts. Week 2, starting on the 8th, comes under the title “The Queen, The Empress and Other Ladies,” with Stephen Frears’s tribute to Her Madge, as well as Zhang Yimou’s The...
Empress and Bergman’s Persona. Next up, starting August 15th, we’ve got an other-worldly flavour, with films such as The Great Silence, Pan’s Labyrinth, and The Illusionist. Rounding things off, there’s a week of cult classics, including Jarmusch’s Coffee and Cigarettes, Python’s Life of Brian, and Wong Kar Wai’s in the Mood For Love.

Drop by for a full programme.

when - Throughout August
where - Kino Pod Baranami, Rynek Glowny 27

A SUMMER KINDERGARTEN OF CINEMA
Parents looking for something fun for the family need look no further than Kino Kijow, which is hosting some classic children’s films throughout August. Every Wednesday you can catch an animated ace, complemented by readings of fairy tales and all kinds of other interactive surprises. Perfect for a rainy day...

when - Every Wednesday throughout August
where - Kino Kijów, al. Krasinskiego 34

POLISH FILMS IN ENGLISH
During the 1950s, Poland emerged as one of the most dynamic forces in European cinema. That said, finding copies of the classics - with English subtitles - can be tricky, let alone watching one on the big screen. But hold on, as Kino Pod Baranami has come to the rescue with this swagbag of current cuts and golden oldies. On alternate Tuesdays, they’ll be screening some 24-carat gems, beginning on August 6th. First up is Andrzej Wajda’s Chronicle of Amorous Incidents, set in pre-war Wilno. Then on Tuesday August 19th we’ve got the classic comedy Sex Mission (Seksmisja). The programme will continue in September so watch this space for more info.

when - Alternate Tuesdays
where - Kino Pod Baranami, Rynek Glowny 27

CINEMATIC JOURNEYS FOR SUMMER
The cult Kino Mikro has its own feast of films over the summer months. They’ll be focusing on a different part of the world each week, beginning with a journey along the Danube, offering recent hits from Germany, Austria, Romania and Croatia. Next up, the Czechs will keep you in check with their Berlinale delights. But hold on, as Kino Pod Baranami has come to the rescue with this swagbag of current cuts and golden oldies. On alternate Tuesdays, they’ll be screening some 24-carat gems, beginning on August 6th. First up is Andrzej Wajda’s Chronicle of Amorous Incidents, set in pre-war Wilno. Then on Tuesday August 19th we’ve got the classic comedy Sex Mission (Seksmisja). The programme will continue in September so watch this space for more info.

when - Alternate Tuesdays
where - Kino Pod Baranami, Rynek Glowny 27

ROBOTROPICS@KLUB KIJÓW
DJ Diabot presides over a night of house, electro and minimal sounds in part one of Robotropics on the 1st August. If you’ve yet to discover the futuristic interior of Xijów Klub, now is the perfect opportunity to step on down. Catch part two of this party, a fortnight later on the 15th.

when - 1st &15th August
where - Kijów Klub, Al. Krasinskiego 34

MIDWEEK PARTIES IN AUGUST
Don’t know Where2b (www.where2b.org) in August? Check out Prozak on Mondays, Minis-terstwo on Tuesdays, Frantic on Wednesdays and Cien on Thursdays.

when - Throughout August
where - Various Clubs
LEO (Jul 23 - Aug 22)
You’re not quite the one-person act you’d like to be. Hating accountability and despising people who are challenged in the imagination department, you run with ideas, knowing that everything will be ultimately splendid. Other people, however, have been adding up the zoty and are not happy with the result: you’ll have to do some fancy footwork this month to keep your potentially rebellious team in place.

SCORPIO (Oct 22 - Nov 21)
Despite your reputation for ruthless determination, you are still a bit of a softy who needs to know that there are things you can count on: like babcia’s pierogi. Well, these days grannies own nightcides and cavor with toy-boys. This month, you’ll be a bit of a fish out of water, grasping for some sort of familiarity. Remember that you’re an apt-to-sweat type and there should be no trouble sneaking away.

LEO, VIRGO, CAPRICORN, ARIES, SAGITTARUS, PISCES, LIBRA, TAURUS, CANCER, GEMINI, AQUARIUS, SCORPIO, LEO, VIRGO, CAPRICORN, ARIES, SAGITTARUS, PISCES, LIBRA, TAURUS, CANCER, GEMINI, AQUARIUS, SCORPIO, LEO, VIRGO, CAPRICORN, ARIES, SAGITTARUS, PISCES, LIBRA, TAURUS, CANCER, GEMINI, AQUARIUS

ASTRO SELTZER

To play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and every 3 x 3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. There is no guessing or maths involved, just use logic to solve.

Easy

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SUDOKO SOLUTIONS

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5 4 3 | 1 2 3 | 7 8 9
8 9 7 | 5 6 4 | 2 3 1

1 2 3 | 4 5 6 | 7 8 9
6 1 2 | 7 8 9 | 5 4 3
9 5 4 | 3 1 2 | 6 8 7
write here!
write now!

Been there?
Done that?
Got the t-shirt?

Come back and get another one! The funniest, most informative, bar, restaurant or hotel review wins a trip for two back to the city!

www.cracow-life.com