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An occasional electronic collection of news analysis, press reviews, and humor from/about Poland and the Polish community abroad.

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A Return to Normality

I would like to share some observations that I gathered during my two recent visits to Poland in 1993, one in September, and one during Christmas. My impressions are not as fresh and riveting as they were after my first visit in 1991. Since then many things have normalized and become routine in Poland, and my expectations and emotions about Poland cooled down.

First Impressions

Both times I landed at the new Warsaw airport (which is very nice), and both times there was no customs inspection, besides my handing in the currency declaration. At JFK at least a customs dog sniffed me out. A friend picked me up at the airport in his new Mitsubishi Galant. Japanese cars are becoming popular in Poland. This is a great success for the Japanese, because their cars were met with great skepticism even a few years ago.

A lot has improved in Warsaw over the past two years. It is cleaner and more colorful, but most people appear poor. I took the express train to Krakow. It is fast and efficient — a very pleasant experience, even in second class. There are many InterCity express trains, and I highly recommend them. It was hard to find the conservative UPR newspaper *Najwyzszy Czas* (*The High Time*) in kiosks. Maybe because, after much smoke and mirrors, the Ruch newspaper distribution network is still in the hands of former communists? In a kiosk in a small town in Opole (Silesia) a semi-porn magazine is on display next to a Catholic weekly, *Gosc Niedzielny* (*Sunday Guest*). Is the Church really so dominant? There are some nice new conveniences. It is easy to develop high quality color film, but it also costs about as much as in the US. In general the prices for food and basic necessities are lower than in the West, but most industrial and luxury goods are more expensive. Real estate prices in many large cities are comparable with the West.

For a country undergoing a complete reconstruction, there was surprisingly little news on TV about the economy. I would say the public debate on various

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reforms and economic restructuring is livelier in the US. In Poland issues are more hotly debated about personalities, and on who truly represents the Solidarity ethos. On the other hand, the technical sophistication in camera operation and use of video techniques has greatly improved. TV ads are technically sophisticated and slick. Among the most visually stunning ads was one for ZChN (Christian-National Union). Warm and familiar images in slow motion gradually fading into each other: two children playing in the countryside, a cross along a country road, a light at dusk in a country home. At the end a voice: the party of familiar/traditional values. Unfortunately this didn't prevent them from losing the elections.

For a country undergoing a complete reconstruction, there was surprisingly little news on TV about the economy.

The Economy

The economic situation varies widely by geographic regions, sectors, companies and individuals. The free market has already selected some winners and many losers. The problem is that the losers have become a political liability to the whole country, and no one has found a solution for them. Five regions (voivodships) with the most dynamic economies and the lowest unemployment are Warsaw, Poznan, Katowice, Bielsko-Biala, and Krakow. Many rural voivodships, especially in the north, are suffering the most. The private sector is the most dynamic and continues to grow, while the state sector is atrophying or is being slowly privatized. Construction is badly depressed by crushing interest rates (30-40%), while trade flourishes. Inflation continues to decline (now at about 30% per year), albeit very slowly.

The worst is that the Polish economy suffers from structural problems: too many people are employed in agriculture and in obsolete industries, and export is focused on commodities such as coal and copper, whose prices are falling. The trade deficit is growing, especially with the protectionist EC. Subsidies for failing industries are also growing, instead of being spent on developing infrastructure, which could lead to economic growth in the future. There is a lack of industrial policy to prevent further de-industrialization. After some very optimistic plans, there is little progress in improving the communication and transportation infrastructures. There is a lack of consistency and logic in the reforms so far, making it difficult to decisively break away from the corruption of Peoples' Poland (PRL). For example, the average retirement pension (Social Security) is 2.4 MZl (approx. $120/month), which is not bad. But the pension money is distributed unevenly, with some people receiving pensions higher than current average salaries, while others are barely able to survive on pensions. In a private enterprise system government pensions should only guarantee a minimum standard, but not prosperity.

The reforms so far have confirmed what many people knew from the very beginning: those individuals and companies which have skills and assets of market value will succeed. An interesting example is an old textile factory in downtown Bielsko-Biala which went bankrupt after trade with the ex-USSR collapsed. The director realized that the factory owned valuable real estate, suitable for conversion into a trade center. The factory buildings were renovated and leased to merchants, among them to my relatives who opened a private furniture store in Bielsko-Biala. But most factories in small towns don't own such assets. So far nobody has found a way to help the majority of the society, which has little to offer in the new markets, to adapt to the new system.

It is a cliche that many people in Poland are dissatisfied with the economic reforms. People who left their farms to work in state-owned industry invested decades of their lives because they hoped they were building a future living for themselves. They were promised apartments, health care, education, and pensions. Today no one can deliver on the false promises made by the communists decades ago. Now the workers feel cheated because there is no market for their work, and the market value of their enterprises is close to zero. They don't want communism to return, but they want the unwritten "contract" they entered into with the communists to be honored, to some extent at least. They don't reject the market system, but they don't want to be the bankrupt ones in this system.

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But there are positive signs as well: independence from trade with the ex-USSR has been achieved (this helped obtain political independence), there is a strong entrepreneurial spirit, and an increasing part of GDP is being produced by private sector with decreasing emphasis on commodities (coal, steel). The problem is that

the private sector still cannot offset all the jobs lost in the state sector. In general, private businesses are thriving, despite the high interest rates and lack of bank infrastructure. My relatives tripled the size of their furniture warehouse since last year, and it is now the biggest private warehouse in Bielsko-Biala. On the other hand entrepreneurs are upset about smuggling through porous borders, and the lack of consistency in executing taxes and tariffs. The returns on capital invested in private businesses in Poland is much higher than in Western economies because these businesses also represent higher risk. A major task will be to attract capital at reasonable interest rates. The booming stock market is helping to achieve that. So far agriculture has adapted to the market system much better than state-owned industry.

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There is still much work to be done in the area of educating people about market economies. For example, many people and companies don't know how to use credit. Credit and loans are considered as subsidies or handouts. After the reforms began, many inefficient companies took loans from equally inefficient banks, and now both are in deep trouble. There is also a lack of willingness to take risks, to take radical action in the reforms. Most people would like to adapt, but they don't know how to do it. They are too passive and still have illusions that their old jobs can provide them a Western European standard of living. Many still expect the government to intervene and ease the transition. There is an illusion that the reforms in Poland are very radical and they are proceeding very fast. I would say that the restructuring of the Polish economy is proceeding at a slower pace than the restructuring of the US economy. Most people don't understand how quick, deep and radical the transformations in the Western economies are, and how intense is the competition.

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Parliamentary Elections

My first visit last year coincided with the parliamentary election campaign. I felt it was conducted in a fair and civilized way, compared to some of the mudslinging in the US, for example. This time the opinion polls provided an accurate representation of voters' sympathies, and there was no great surprise at the results. The former commies united in the Democratic Left Alliance SLD (= SdRP + OPZZ), the peasants in the Polish Folk Party (PSL), and the post-Solidarity left- wing Union of Labor, (UP) won a large victory, while the liberal intelligentsia: Democratic Union (UD), Liberal-Democratic Congress, (KL-D), and the right: Christian-Nationalist Union, (ZChN), Center Alliance (PC), lost. Only five parties managed to enter into the new parliament: SLD, PSL, UP, UD and Confederation of Independent Poland — Pilsudski populists (KPN). This result represents a defeat of arrogant liberals and right-wingers who believed they were irreplaceable, and that it was their birthright to play endless intrigue in parliament. It also represents a loss of popularity of parties devoted to an ideology (such as Catholicism or economic liberalism), instead of listening to their constituencies. Polish citizens are tired of being preached to and chastised by self-declared leaders of the nation, while at the same time their economic existence is being threatened. They are tired of hearing that there is only one correct way to a free market and democracy. On the other hand the ex-communists are going out of their way to appear non-menacing and humble, and this is one reason for their success.

Most post-Solidarity politicians are bitter and alarmed by the results, but I am not, despite my right wing sympathies. The results will help democracy mature by reducing political fragmentation of parliament and by crystallizing political parties representing different interests and groups in the electorate. The ex-communist government will also disperse any illusions that there exists an easy path of reforms, without hardships. Another positive aspect of elections is that Polish society is regaining a sense of sovereignty, and the voter participation (just above 50%) was satisfactory.

Walesa's position was strengthened by the elections, because many of his opponents on the right were defeated. Walesa obtained an even greater control over the security forces (army and police). He has close personal relationships with the top commanders, and even goes on vacation with them. Now Walesa is the final arbiter of conflicts and the guarantor of Poland's stability. He is the only reputable politician whom the West can trust.

In my opinion so far democracy is working quite well in Poland. Despite the elections, the reforms will continue because the majority of people accepts them. Most people enjoy the opportunities, efficiency and convenience of free markets, despite fanciful claims in front of TV cameras. The political dispute is mostly about the

best way to achieve a transition, and the role of the government in the transition. The return to power of the reformed communists is also not directly threatening the free-market reforms, because the ex-communists are themselves quite wealthy thanks to *Enfranchisment of the Nomenklatura*. I feel that my harsh criticism of the policies of the Mazowiecki government have been vindicated. These policies provided the foundation for a

The [election] results will help democracy mature by reducing political fragmentation of parliament and by crystallizing political parties.

neocommunist party in Poland, and its return to power. On the other hand, some Solidarity intellectuals today conveniently forget that in 1989 the Folk Party voted against Jaruzelski for president, and that their anticommunist position precipitated the creation of the Mazowiecki government and accelerated reforms, while the Round Table reformers were desperately trying to slow the events down. That's why I feel they are hypocrites by calling the Folk Party "postcommunist" and such. In light of this, the Folk Party is not any more communist than the UD.

Poland Entering Europe

At the beginning of the reforms five years ago, there was an illusion that Poland will be accepted into Europe if it is "enlightened" and democratic enough. But despite much effort and success at being enlightened and democratic, Poland is not being accepted into Europe as fast as was once hoped and expected. Actually Russia is given more attention and respect, especially after every crackdown there. Poland once again is searching for its place in Europe, and it is a dangerous time when many things can go wrong in the future. And once again many Poles feel sold out by the West. There is a gradual realization among society and political elites that there will be no rescue of Poland by the West in the style of the lifting of the siege of Vienna by Sobieski. The unilateral opening of borders for foreign goods and foreign (especially ex-Soviet and Romanian) citizens was a mistake. They realize that even the best western friends and allies fight for their own interests. That Poland must find its own path, and that no free-market utopia will automatically solve its economic problems.

Like many times before, Poles have been building illusions around dubious alliances and betting their future too much on the success of a nebulous United Europe. Polish efforts are mostly fiasco because of a misguided concept of Europe. Historically for Poland Europe has meant basically Germany, Bohemia and Austria. That's the source of European ideas for Poland. This hasn't been recognized and this will hamper efforts at integrating with Europe. The EC was not built around some abstract European ideal, but around concrete Franco-German cooperation. The same must be true if Poland is to enter Europe. Fortunately there is less fear of Germany than there was two years ago. Instead finally there is growing realization of the threats from Russia.

After the reforms got under way there were enlightened voices claiming that the Church was harming Polish efforts to unite with Europe. I disagree. There has never been any greater threat of clericalization in Poland than in say, West Germany (where abortion is illegal), or Scandinavian countries (where there are state religions, and citizens pay tax for the national church). During the recent elections I didn't hear any political campaigning in the churches. The claims about political involvement of the Church are exaggerated. I feel that the Church has already passed the test of democracy by adjusting its policies according to public opinion and working within the parliamentary system to secure its own interests. At the same time the Church is avoiding confrontations with any group — it avoids condemnations of godless commies, etc. It is more focused on basic work with the faithful. The clergy is adopting a more casual and direct style.

Despite some anticlerical rhetoric, I don't expect any political party to start a conflict with the Church - they would lose more than they would gain. The peasants are traditionally conservative and Catholic. It is no surprise that the Folk Party has softened its anticlerical position and it has become closely tied to the Church after Pawlak became prime minister. It now appears that the Folk Party will vote for the Concordat already signed by the Suchocka government. On the other hand, unlike Bavaria, Poland lacks the social middle class basis for a strong Christian-Democratic party.

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In general I see no threat of extremism or intolerance in Poland, despite dire predictions in the past. Traditional Polish hostility has been towards all possible groups, like the clergy ("priests have it easy, they need not work..."), the farmers ("peasants get all the breaks, the crops grow by themselves in the fields..."), and of course the Jews ("Jews have it good, they support each other..."). But Polish society is traditionally too passive and docile for this hostility to manifest itself as open aggression like it does in

some Western European countries. Instead I see other evils, such as passivity and envy, hopelessness and confusion.

Epilogue

As I drove to Munich to catch my flight back to NYC, I first crossed into the Czech Republic, and then into Austria. I realized how much catching up Poland has to do. The difference in development is devastating for the Eastern European ego. But nevertheless one can see the continuity in civilization stemming from a long common history. Maybe what is required now is a cooling of heads and a return to another Polish tradition in times of struggle, organic work at the foundations.

Jurek Pawlowski

Polish Affairs

By Marek Cypryk

Transformations of the Political Scene in Poland

We have all cooled down after the parliamentary elections. In fact, the elections caused very little excitement among the electorate. We could have made a better choice, but it could have been worse as well. There were many charlatans among the candidates, and luckily they did not make it to the Parliament.

As a result, new arrangements among the political parties are beginning to emerge. Two tendencies are visible, of consolidation and of dissociation, which can lead to a healthy cleaning-up of the political scene in Poland.

The most visible of the tendencies are the consolidation trends, and those can eventually lead to a reduction of the excessive number of political parties and to their strengthening. The first sign of this trend can be seen in the so-called "right". It is an obvious move, since the main perceived reason for the "right's" defeat in the elections was its fragmentation. The initial agreements point to the creation of two new coalitions: "The Conservatives" (my term - MC) made up of the Conservative Party of Alexander Hall (PK), Christian Left Alliance, SLC (Jozef Slisz), Christian Democratic Party (Laczkowski), Union of Real Politics , UPR (Korwin-Mikke) and "The Christian-National Democrats" of Center Alliance (PC), Christian-Nationalist Union, PL (Gabriel Janowski) and possibly Movement For The Republic, RdR (Olszewski). I have a feeling that those coalitions will not be permanent. They do not result from serious programmatic discussions. People's Alliance (PL) in the "rightist" coalition is a good example: it proposes as strong a state interventionism as the most leftist PSL (or Samoobrona). Besides, those parties have yet to make personnel changes; there are too many leaders and too few chairs. The Democratic Union is also thinking of a coalition. It has recently proposed a merger with Liberal-Democratic Congress, which was accepted.

On the other hand there are centrifugal forces which, paradoxically, can also have a positive effect. Several of the most important parties, most notably Democratic Left Alliance (SLD) and Democratic

Polish Political Parties

Congres Liberalno-Demokratyczny	**KL-D**	Liberal-Democratic Congress
Konfederacja Polski Niepodleglej	**KPN**	Confederation of Independent Poland
Porozumienie Centrum	**PC**	Center Alliance
Porozumienie Ludowe	**PL**	Folk Alliance
Partia Konserwatywna	**PK**	Conservative Party
Polskie Stronnictwo Ludowe	**PSL**	Polish Folk Party
Ruch dla Rzeczypospolitej	**RdR**	Movement for The Republic
Sojusz Lewicy Chrzescijanskiej	**SLC**	Christian Left Alliance
Unia Demokratyczna	**UD**	Democratic Union
Unia Pracy	**UP**	Union of Labor
Partia Chrzescijansko-Demokratyczna	**PChD**	Christian-Democratic Party
Unia Polityki Realnej	**UPR**	Union of Real Politics
Zjednoczenie Chrzescijansko-Narodowe	**ZChN**	Christian-National Union
Samoobrona		Self-Defense
Sojusz Lewicy Demokratycznej	**SLD**	Democratic Left Alliance
- this is a coalition which includes the following:		
Socjaldemokracja Rzeczpospolitej Polskiej	**SdRP**	Social Democratic Party of the Polish Republic
Liga Kobiet	**LK**	Women's League
Zwiazek Komunistow	**ZK**	Communist Union
	OPZZ	(Trade union federation, formed by communist regime in mid-1980s)

Union (UD), are very diverse ideologically. Their forming was dictated by historical and not political reasons. SLD was formed in the "besieged fortress" situation to collect the electorate of the former PZPR. SLD is a remaining fragment of the reform block ("Soliarity National Unity Front") which died tragically during the "Olympus wars". Both parties have leftist and rightist fractions (SLD also has genuine communists). Past indecision and lack of resolve of the UD is the best illustration of this phenomenon. SLD, up to now remaining in opposition, could not show how divided it was, but I believe it will show up soon. The dividing of UD can be catalyzed by its merger with KLD, since the Social-Democratic fraction (calling itself "Social-Liberal" for reasons unknown) may split then. It is even possible that it will join UP, to which it is close ideologically.

The tendencies which I described above can lead to a situation where we will have one strong Social-Democratic party (formed of SdRP, UP and the Social-Democratic fraction of UD), one Centro-Liberal party (made up of UD, KLD and possibly fragments of smaller Christian- Nationalists), the Conservatives and the Christian-Nationalists. Such clarification would be very useful, but in order to be permanent, much programmatic work would be needed. I wish our parties could afford it. In this way every disoriented voter would have four major choices instead of fifteen.

Marek Cypryk *translated by Marek Zielinski*

Polish Affairs

By Robert A. Rose and Joseph Murphy

A Midwestern Law Firm Operates in Poland

Klineman, Rose and Wolf is a medium-sized law firm located in Indianapolis, Indiana. Being in the heart of the United States, we have less contact with foreign operations and fewer clients who do business overseas than is true with a lot of east or west coast American law firms. However, through a series of odd coincidences, our firm has enjoyed the unique position of doing business in Poland for a good number of years.

It all started for us when one of our clients, Curtis Industries, started doing business in Poland under the name of Curtis International in 1983. At that time none of the attorneys in our firm had even been to Poland. It was at the height of martial law there and for the first few years we learned all our lessons the hard way. But we did learn! Through representing Curtis, we had the opportunity to view Poland first-hand from both a lawyer's and a businessman's perspective. After many trips and gradually becoming acquainted with members of the Polish business community, we came to know many Poles who, in spite of the constraints and repression of communism, were very entrepreneurial and most anxious to develop business in their country.

The Warsaw Office

With the overthrow of Communism in 1989, the opportunity presented itself to greatly expand our firm's legal services in Poland. The chances for profit looked good to us since many American businesses were anxious to get involved in the Polish market. These firms would need legal representation. Our experiences with Curtis had given our firm a head start and a big competitive advantage over other American firms who, by comparison, were "just getting their feet wet" in the new capitalistic Poland. As a result, and to build on our experience, we decided to open an office in Warsaw in 1991.

We were really lucky to attract, almost from the outset, a young and energetic Polish lawyer named Tomasz Barylski to join our staff. We had become acquainted with Tomek when he was a staff attorney with the Polish Ministry of Privatization and had gotten to know him as an extremely capable, ambitious, and accomplished attorney with a great future in Poland now that the yoke of communist control was gone. Persuading him to join our firm proved to be a smart move. He knew the ins and outs of the Polish bureaucracy better than most Poles. And best of all, he spoke great English and could help his poor American partners through with all of the horrible *szsces, kszes,* and *przys,* we had to contend with in Polish forms, contracts, and licensing arrangements. Now we don't try to pronounce Polish. We leave that to Tomek!

Our firm's main area of expertise as a U.S. law firm has always been in the business transactions area. In Indiana, we represent many small and medium-sized businesses, banks, financial institutions, and related companies in the formation of new businesses, the financing of businesses, the purchase and sale of businesses, corporate activities, and in commercial real es-

tate transactions of all sorts. In most respects we found that the skills and experiences we had acquired over the years in America translated pretty well when it became necessary to apply them in Poland. Whether it's a matter of dollars or a matter of zlotys, it's still money. But in other respects Poland left us scratching our heads in amazement. It was a good thing we had a lawyer like Tomek, and a client like Zbigniew Niemczynski of Curtis International working with us then helping to smooth our way.

Obstacle Courses

Many U.S., European, and Middle Eastern businesses with money to invest have flocked to Poland in hopes of doing business. Our experience in working with these types of clients in the U.S. made them very easy for us to understand and assist in Poland. Their goals and aims were familiar to us and we had a good idea what they wanted from a law firm. But guiding them through the legal mazes in Poland has not always been easy. In fact, sad to say, it is still not easy for a foreign businessman or firm to do business in Poland. Our experience has led us to conclude that, in spite of the very real desire of many professionals in Poland to adapt to Western ways of doing things, their history has proved to be a formidable obstacle to allowing them to accomplish this goal.

Pan Borowski

Here is an example of how difficult it is to figure out which Pole is the proper one to deal with. One of our clients (who has to remain nameless) recently wanted to explore the possibility of renegotiating its existing joint-venture arrangement with the Polish government. The problem was that it had built a big factory in Poland with the idea of manufacturing its product there. After building the factory, it determined that it would make economic sense to import parts — instead of making them from scratch in Poland — and use the factory to assemble its finished product. Just as many Polish workers would be employed and doing things this way would be more profitable to the client. In order to do this, the client needed to have the tariff rates reduced on the parts it wanted to import. Other foreign companies had been granted similar concessions from the Polish Government, our local Polish attorney did not think that there would be a problem.

We've learned, however, that whenever we are told "No problem!" by a government official, it is time to start worrying about problems.

In order to explore the possibility of a reduction in import duties, we, as attorneys, first had to get necessary approvals from the Ministry of Finance. The guy we needed to talk to was Pan Borowski. Setting up a meeting with him was Step 1. This wasn't easy. But our Polish attorney, working through the Deputy Minister of Finance, Pan Kawalec, finally managed to get a date and a time for the meeting. He advised us that Pan Borowski wanted to discuss matters only with our client's chief of European operations. He wanted to deal with the top man. Sort of a "Summit". Our client's chief of European operations was a guy named Miller. Mr. Miller, unfortunately, was working on another matter in Turkey at the time. We had to locate Miller, make arrangements for him to come to Poland on the appointed date, and make sure he knew all the facts so he could discuss matters knowledgeably with Borowski. Faxes and phone calls taking hours followed. Miller agreed to postpone his meetings in Ankara with the Turks and fly to Warsaw to meet Pan Borowski. Things looked good.

Then things turned bad. Polish politics intervened. First, the Polish Prime Minister fired our local contact, Pan Kawalec because of a problem with a bank in Silesia. Pawlak was in the SLD. Kawalec and Borowski were members of the Peasant Party. The SLD and the Peasant Party were maintaining a shaky coalition. Pawlak's firing of Kawalec infuriated Borowski (who was a bitter political rival of Pawlak's anyway). Pawlak, after giving the boot to Kawalec, left the country for a trip to Western Europe. His timing was good, since rumor has it the Borowski was ready to kill him for sacking his colleague. One of Kawalec's last acts was to confirm to us that Borowski's meeting with Miller was still on. Miller bought his airline ticket to Warsaw.

Meanwhile, Pawlak returned from his trip to the West. Borowski was waiting to greet him at the airport. He had no bouquet of flowers when he greeted him. Pawlak and Borowski then met in a closed conference room at the airport. They were alone together for around an hour. Borowski emerged, angry, and told the press that he had resigned as Minister of Finance due to Pawlak's lack of confidence in Borowski's hand-picked Deputy Minister — Pan Kawalec.

Miller, meanwhile had left Ankara. We managed to reach him in Bulgaria, where he was changing planes, and told him the meeting was off. We told him we'd try to reschedule, if necessary, after a new Minister of Finance was appointed. Miller reportedly spent the night in Sofia and returned to Ankara with a severe case of indigestion. It is unclear if the cause was tainted Bulgarian food or the effects of Polish politics on his psyche.

Our partner Tomek advised us to have a drink. Will Borowski's successor meet with our client? No problem!

Law in Poland

While certainly the most "Western" of all the East European countries, its actual history still shows that Poland has had a very limited exposure to Western ideas of development, capital formation, and the operation in a free enterprise system. It is easy for us, as American lawyers, to forget that up until World War II, Poland was primarily an agrarian society with comparatively little industrial development and sophisticated commercial activity. In some ways, we think the Polish legal system reflects this lack of development.

The Polish legal system is based upon the French system which, unlike the American and English systems, is based upon statutory law compiled into Codes by legal scholars. The American system, like the English, is more experiential. It has developed over the centuries from thousands of judicial decisions in cases and controversies addressing specific problems and controversies. As a result, we have found Polish law to be often very theoretical, providing sound guides in the abstract, but difficult to apply in specific instances or problems. Often it does not provide the certainty and ready answers to problems and questions that the typical Western investor asks when he wants to put a lot of his money into a Polish business venture. Areas of law that are regarded as rather routine or mundane in the West can be real adventures in Poland. Financing the purchase of a house or buying land for a factory are routine matters for an American attorney. They are legal nightmares in today's Poland.

We have also found that the Polish legal system sometimes struggles when confronted with unfamiliar ideas or problems. Part of the difficulty, we believe, lies in the fact that the lawyers, judges, and notarial court personnel that have to make the Polish system function often lack experience with their own Code and making it fit the demands of a modern business economy. For example, the Polish Commercial Code, which forms the basis for all present commercial activity in Poland, was enacted in 1935. Poland had little experience with this Code before being overrun by Nazi Germany in 1939. Then, Poland was incorporated into a Greater Germany and German laws were applied to what little commercial activity that was allowed to take place in Poland throughout the war. After World War II, the communists took over. Then the Commercial Code was suspended and deemed obsolete. Instead, Soviet law was employed as the guide. The 1935 Polish Commercial Code returned with the ouster of Communism, but it is now 1993 and, as you can see, there has been no real opportunity for Poles to become used to working under their own Commercial Code.

In 1989, the playing field was left wide open for new activity to take place in Poland under a legal and commercial system which was virtually untried and untested. Furthermore inexperienced Polish officials and courts were charged with the task of making it work. This makes for what exists in Poland now -- an unregimented and unregulated game, where the rules are being made up as situations arise and in response to the activity presented.

Practicing law in Poland now is what I imagine practicing law in the United States must have been like in the 1800s. In pioneer America, when there were few rules and regulations, people could pretty much follow their intuitions and rely on their innate sense of justice and right and wrong. Written rules were few and there was little government around to enforce them anyway. This made for a great deal of freedom of legal interpretation. Poland is like this in some ways in that there are few rules to go by. The cardinal rule of Polish law seems to be heavy reliance on common perceptions of what is right and wrong and generalized concepts of fairness and equity. But in saying this, it must be remembered that what is considered just and fair by Polish experience is not always the same as it is in the West.

This is sometimes hard for us, as Westerners, to remember. We tend to forget sometimes that Poland, having its own unique history and past experiences, is not the same as America. Americans, especially, tend to be very impatient and feel extremely frustrated with those who do not follow the same modes of conduct as us, who do not share the same sense of what is right or wrong, or that lack our unique sense of urgency.

Cultural Differences

If there is one major cultural conflict that we have found in representing Western clients trying to do business in Poland it is the different sense of urgency between the Western client and the Polish commercial-legal system. Western clients, especially Americans, are used to getting matters agreed to and projects underway and completed in a very short time span. Business here operates on very constricted time schedules. In Poland, were the profit motive is just now starting to be understood, there is just not the same sense of urgency to get things done that we Westerners feel. The concept of the "time value of money" is very foreign to many Polish businessmen and government officials. We have found it very difficult to fully impress upon them the need for urgency and quick resolution of problems for the Western client who wants to invest in Poland. Our firm has almost ten years' experience in Poland, with experienced native Polish attorneys on our staff who "know the ropes." Imagine how much more difficult it is for the foreign

businessman who comes to Poland "cold", lacking in experience, and trying to make the necessary connections to accomplish his goals!

Still, despite our cultural differences, we have found the Polish people to be delightful! They truly desire to be accommodating and they are most receptive of Western ways and want very much to adopt many Western methodologies. But in some ways we have found Poles steeped in a tradition and history which sometimes runs counter to the very methods and techniques they want so much to adopt. From our perspective, we see Poles are finding it is not an easy transition for them to fully adopt, both emotionally and intellectually, to western ways of thinking and action.

One of our biggest problems as attorneys in Poland is making our Western clients realize that doing business there is not the same as doing business in Indiana, New York, California, or Iowa, and that they must accept the fact that Polish methods are different, often slower and less efficient. But more importantly, our clients have to be educated to accept the fact that these methods are in place and have to be tolerated and lived with. The converse is also true. The Polish legal community is becoming more aware of the thought processes and sense of urgency of Western business investors and is beginning to learn to satisfy their requirements. It is our job, as an American law firm doing business in Poland and operating through Polish attorneys on our staff, to see that these two philosophies meld so that Western clients and Polish partners or customers they do business with come away equally satisfied.

Two Farmers

Aside from the intricacies of the law, there is also the "human" factor. The Poles are an interesting people. Here is an example:

A couple of years ago Ford Motor Company wanted us to assemble land for the construction of a new factory Ford wanted to build in Poland. It was rural farmland but no one was quite sure who the owners were. After a lot of work, our Polish office learned that the land Ford needed was owned by 19 different Polish farmers. We decided to make an offer to everyone based on the same price per hectare of land. Just finding the owners was hard. One owner was a 5-year old child living in Denmark. Our Polish attorney, Tomek Barylski had to go to Copenhagen and get a Danish guardian appointed to protect the girl's rights. Then he had to persuade the guardian to accept the proposal.

Most of the other landowners were still in Poland. One of them was a locally prominent farmer. We offered to pay him a premium for his land if he could persuade around 15 other owners to sell theirs. He worked hard and persuaded all but 1 farmer to buy the land. But we couldn't offer that guy more money because we had to promise the other 14 that we would pay everyone at the same rate. This made the 1 guy who wanted to hold out for more money kind of unpopular with his friends. The other 14 started writing him nasty letters for being greedy. Some of them wouldn't talk to him. The farmer that we hired to assemble the land was especially agitated because he was afraid that he would not get his bonus.

The guy who was holding out got tired of all the heat he was getting from his neighbors. Blaming all the criticism that was being directed at him on the farmer we had offered the bonus to, he approached the second farmer one day in the fields. Farmer A (the guy who was holding out for more money) started telling Farmer B (the guy who wanted everyone to sign so he could get his bonus) what he thought of him. Farmer B reciprocated. One thing led to another and Farmer A tried to impale Farmer B with a pitchfork. Farmer B jumped away just in time. Farmer A's pitchfork got stuck instead in Farmer B's tractor tire. It caused damage to the tire.

Farmer B, angry, complained to the police about Farmer A's murder attempt. The police came and took Farmer A away. Our lawyer, Tomek (I think only a Pole would have thought of this) then got the great idea of offering to have Ford pay for a defense attorney to defend Farmer A in his criminal case in return for Farmer A finally agreeing to sell his land at the same price as everyone else. Everything worked out well. Ford got a good lawyer for Farmer A. The lawyer managed to persuade the prosecutor to withdraw his complaint and Farmer A didn't have to go to jail for attempted murder. Farmer B got his bonus. Ford got the land it needed.

One interesting thing did happen at the trial. Farmer A (who, as you can see had a quick temper) tried to hit the Prosecutor during his trial. Although he was not convicted of attempted murder of Farmer B, after his trial, he was charged with assault and battery on the Prosecutor. He wanted Ford to defend him for that too! Ford, however, already had his land by then. I never did hear what happened to Farmer A at the assault and battery trial.

Conclusion

I have tried to furnish a very broad overview of some of the impressions we have come away with after operating a law office in Poland. There are lots of vignettes and anecdotes which I could recount which are both

humorous and sometimes sad that I will be happy to share with you in future articles. We have had great pleasure representing some major western companies operating in Poland including Ford Motor Company, Digital Equipment, Curtis International, McDonald's Corporation, Pepsico, Toyota, and others. Although each experience with each client has been slightly different, I believe most of them who have done business recently in Poland would mention some of things I've tried to discuss here as being part of their overall impression of the Polish business experience.

Despite these criticisms, operating a law practice in Poland is fascinating, challenging, and rewarding. At Klineman, Rose and Wolf - Poland, we are pleased with how far Poland has come and how far we have come with Poland. We are still very, very excited about the prospects for Poland's future. If anyone reading this article has an interest in sharing his experiences with us or has questions about doing business or practicing law in Poland, please do not hesitate to contact one of us [see Notes on Contributors, at the end of this issue - eds.]. We would like also to thank our partner, Stephen E. Plopper, for help in preparing this article.

Robert A. Rose and Joseph Murphy

Polish Affairs

An Exchange On *the Secret Annex*

No Proof, and Counterproductive

In the recent issue of Pigulki Dave Phillips mentioned "the secret annex to the Round Table agreement" which was to protect the old guard (i.e. communists). I've heard the rumor about the secret annex for a long time. Actually, nobody has known this text, nor has provided any evidence of it. In my opinion, such secret annex does not exist at all and the speculations on it are fruitless. They do not offer any deeper understanding of the processes going on in Poland. In particular, all the problems concerning the adaptation to the changes are common for all postcommunist countries no matter whether there were Round Table agreements or not.

- Marek Cypryk

Reply: Look at the record

The secret annex to the Round Table agreement was referred to obliquely during a heated moment in the old Sejm, when communist deputies were obstructing some bit of reform legislation. I believe it was Geremek who noted heatedly that there'd been an understanding on cooperating for reform and that it was upon this understanding that the other side was being protected from the wrath of the general public. The annex might well have been verbal, since publication of a written document containing such an understanding could have discredited both sides in the process. As for the issue of the existence of such an understanding itself, actions and omissions speak louder than words. Far more was done in other Central European countries in exposing past corruption and crimes, and bringing representative perpetrators to justice, than in Poland. Who has been tried for embezzlement, torture and murder amongst the old nomenklatura? The point is not whether a piece of paper exists with symbols on it, but rather that a deal was struck by thieves and torturers with a coalition of people who appointed themselves representatives of Polish society at the time, during which time grassroots calls for discussion of terms for a new social contract were being ignored. The fact that most educated Poles today seem to accept the way the Round Table talks were conducted, and the fact that the workers who gave NSZZ Solidarnosc its substance and duration were simply treated as a nuisance by self-appointed new elites is now considered necessary and good for the future of Poland tells me that Poland will have to look carefully to find the old democratic spirit of its pre-Partition past. Perhaps this is the hierarchical Catholic tradition which I was not raised to embrace or appreciate. Or perhaps this is just politics at the national scale. I'm reminded of the pain inflicted on the survivors of the Argentine "dirty war" (1976-82) which saw countless tortures, rapes and murders of suspected terrorists, friends of terrorists, left-wingers, psychoanalysts, and Jews and college students in general. As a precondition of return to civilian rule, the worst of the monsters must be permitted to rest on their ample rumps, sipping their coffee and enjoying the end of their days; the peace of the country depends on these butchers being allowed to ripen and die in their sleep, even as new mass graves and underwater piles of skeletons are discovered. What a difference a half-century makes.

- Dave Phillips

Letter To The Editor

(Re: Pigulki #15's Exchange on Polish-Jewish relations)

I read the articles on anti-Semitism and anti-Polonism and I would like to tell you of an anti-Polish incident that happened a year ago. It was New Year's Eve and we were spending it with my husband's Isaiah best friend and colleague Frank and his wife Martha, who is a Holocaust survivor and who lost her mother and brother in the camps. Her father survived and they came to America but he died a few years later — I don't know of what but the implication was that his health had been ruined in the camp. There was another couple, our mutual friends, a rheumatologist and his social worker wife, Bill and Liza.

Well, somehow the conversation took an anti-Polish turn and I decided I couldn't let it pass. So I told of how we met this Polish couple, Marek and Joanna in the Adirondacks, and how they had stayed at our vacation house, and how nice and interesting they were. Except for Iris who is a bit timid they all hooted at me and made fun of me for being so easily deceived. I turned to Isaiah for support but, alas, Frank is his best friend and he said nothing. With which I burst into tears — I think as much out of frustration as sorrow, but truthfully I don't remember, but I jumped up from the table — they always gave a just-before-midnight dinner — and ran inside and didn't eat. I didn't have the courage to turn on them and say: "Look, you are generalizing and accusing these people whom you've never met, just as ***you*** *say the Poles do." I had such mixed emotions. I could conceivably understand if Martha said something, but the others? And my husband whom I knew to be genuinely fond of both Marek and Joanna to remain silent? I felt such despair. As if we never could cure the world (and I look at what used to be Yugoslavia and the terrorism starting up in Egypt and I wonder.) Finally it was Martha who persuaded me to return and have some coffee. I never discussed the incident with them again. Oh, with Isaiah yes. I berated him and he admitted he had no excuse beyond the fact that in view of Martha it was inappropriate to speak out.*

I didn't agree. There is always a good excuse for not speaking up. I was frightened when I brought up the issue Polish-Jewish relations during Marek and Joanna's visit, because I liked them and I thought "You will risk offending them and phtt, there goes a nice friendship." But I had to. And much of what Marek told me was indeed totally new to me (As Dave Phillips says — Americans have virtually no sense of history, certainly, unless we are speaking of students at the graduate level, none of Eastern European history. As he also makes clear it ***is*** *a gray area and not easily solved by shouting "right" or "wrong." (Strange too, when I'd seen "Shoah" so many of the peasant faces looked so much like Isaiah's father.)*

I have thought — for we six always get together for New Year's Eve, whether I shouldn't xerox the article and bring it over for them all to read. But now I am honestly constrained by new circumstances. Martha's illness has returned and she has been in treatment for 8 months now. So I can't. But believe me if she recovers I will. These are people who are intelligent and judge themselves to be liberals, but clearly this is a window of fresh air they haven't opened.

20 December 1993
Enid Rubin
New York, NY.

Networks

By Joerg Hertzer

Three Months of Teaching Computer Networks in Poland

From mid-September to mid-December 1993, Joerg Hertzer worked at the Computer Center of the Silesian University in Katowice. During this time he taught Internet Internals and Services in a series of lectures, practical exercises and i ndividual discussions. The following interview by Maciek Uhlig is the full-length version of one which recently appeared in "Gazeta Uniwersytecka" of the Silesian University.

Maciej Uhlig: What exactly was your job in Stuttgart?

Joerg Hertzer: I worked at the Computing Center (CC) of the University of Stuttgart. My main task there was helping users of computer networks with their problems. I also took part in the development of our university network, which included the design of the network and the testing of new technology. After my return, things will change a bit. In part I will work with a CC group to design concepts for better support for workstations, installed in institutes of the University. Their users have come to realize that it takes them too much time to support their systems on their own; therefore they've begun asking the CC for help. The second part of my future work will be in the 'Network Operating Center' for the Scientific IP network in Germany, which will come to Stuttgart in the beginning of 1994. I will develop software to monitor the quality of the German network and of the connections with neighboring countries.

From Glider Acrobatics To Computer Networks

MU: Why did you wish to work at our university and teach net usage?

JH: That's a long story. In earlier days I made glider acrobatics my sport, and I took part in the (West) German championship of 1983. There I had my first contact with people from Poland, because we had some Polish pilots as guests. The following year a group of German pilots was invited for a meeting in Rybnik (very near to the Silesian University). I came with this group and again with a similar group for a second meeting in 1986. During this second meeting two young pilots and the later wife of one of them became the first of my wonderful friends in Poland. This way my contacts with Poland became more and more important to me. Since then I have been to Poland a number of times. I began to learn the language and started to search for some contacts with my working colleagues at Polish Computing Centers. Later I got the idea to work for some time at a Polish University. I wanted to understand better the situation of Poland and of my Polish friends, and also I hoped to provide some help myself. During a visit in the summer of 1992, I asked several Polish Computing Centers if they would like me to work with them for some time. I got the first answer from the Computer Center in the Silesian University, which needed someone to teach network applications.

MU: What is your opinion of your students here? How many individual talks did you have?

JH: Language was a major problem in my lectures and practical exercises. My knowledge of Polish is not good enough to lecture, and because most material on computers is written in English, I decided to teach in this language in coordination with the CC people. Surprisingly not only to me, but also to the people at the Center, a lot of my students did not have enough English to understand me. Therefore, I lost a lot of participants, something which I'm very sad about. This problem can be explained by the fact that historically English has not been very important in Polish schools. Maybe it was a coincidence that people I met earlier in the Polish computing centers usually were quite good in English. Perhaps they are forced at least to read technical documents in English language. On the other hand I also spoke with several physicists here and they also had good command of English. Two conclusions should be drawn from that: I should improve my knowledge of Polish in order to lecture in it later, and something should be done to improve the people's general knowledge of English (and other languages, which may include German). Most participants in my lectures and exercises were employees of the University Library, some came from the Physics Department or the Computer Center, and a few from other parts of the university. The librarians were interested in using the network to get in touch with other libraries around the world, and especially to search computer-accessible library catalogs. The participants were very interested in the topics. They had more problems with the exercises than I foresaw during preparation, because often they had little prior experience with computers. They invested a lot of energy to do the exercises including some extra energy to deal with the very basics of operating a PC. I came away with very good impressions of the participants and I feel sure that they will gain more experience with computers soon. I also consulted with individuals on network-related topics. I had about ten such meetings, sometimes several with the same person. The topics ranged from programming questions to network access to special databases. Usually the persons knew very well what questions they needed to ask to go on with their work. Nevertheless they often had problems in getting the current information from other countries. The computer networks can be of tremendous help here. I also had several discussions with the CC people, mostly on the plans to improve the University network.

The Future Of The Computing Center

MU: Being a user of our network, you must have made some observations. What are they? What should we do now?

JH: Your university local network is stable with a few exceptions. That proves that good work has been done already. Moreover I found that existing problems are well understood by local personnel, but have not been solved because of lack of time. Today the university network is very small. The existing equipment is used very efficiently, often near the limits of its capacity. The network needs to grow in the future. I found the current plans for the future to be quite good, but nevertheless I'm glad that I could help to answer some questions on details. Additional enlargement of computing power in the center is needed. Following the "state of the art" today it should be done with one or several computers running some version of UNIX. For the same reasons it is wise to concentrate on TCP/IP protocol and give up the obsolete EARN/BITNET connection. From my point of view the OSI protocol stack as a whole has no future, but on the other hand TCP/IP is in danger of reaching its limits in the future. Therefore further development of network protocols must be followed carefully. Very few in the Computing Center are familiar enough with computer networks to improve the network and to give proper user assistance. Therefore more people as well as more equipment will be needed, although there has been a good start. The question of personnel includes education! A few in the CC have most of the needed knowledge already; from my contacts with other universities I am sure that all additional know-how is in Poland. Polish universities s

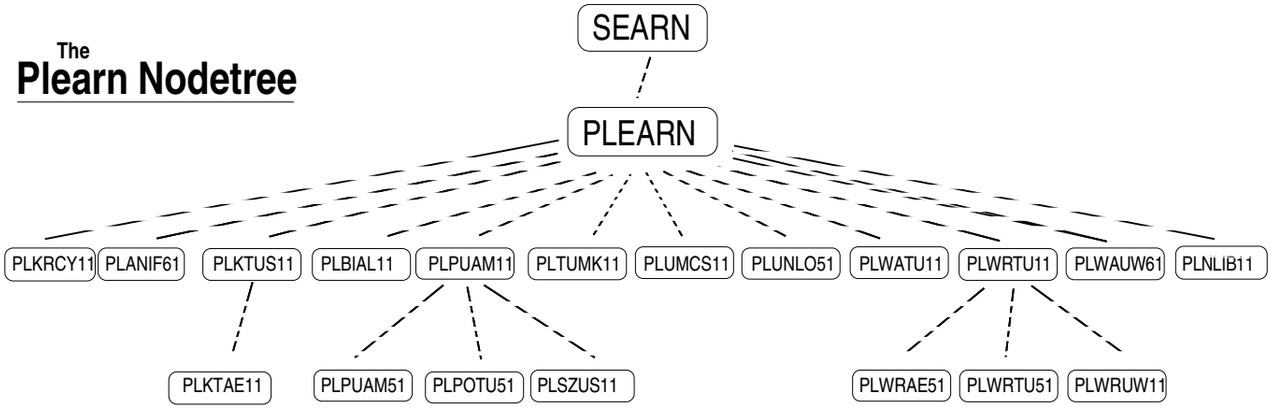
continued on page 27

POLAND *Electronic Contacts*

5 February 1994 updated by Rafal Maszkowski and Marek Zielinski

EARN/BITNET *nodes*

CITY NODE, status, **Institution**, MACHINE, Operating System, Internet address, *Contact person*



BIALYSTOK

PLBIAL11 a **Computation Centre of Bialystok Academic Community at the Bialystok Technical University** BASF 7/38 VM
Alicja Modrzejewska op. 885 224-111 x630 <amodrze@plbial11>

KRAKOW

PLKRCY11 a **Academic Community Computer Center - CYFRONET**
a reinstated EARN node, presently VAX3000, will be moved to SUN
Witold Witkowski, adm. <yawitkow@cyf-kr.edu.pl>

KATOWICE

PLKTAE11 a **Academy of Economics, Computing Center** IBM4341 VM
Henryk Orzel op. 832 588-606 <orzel@plktae11>

PLKTUS11 a **Silesian University, Computing Center** IBM4341 VM
Kasia Stephan, adm. 832 588-211 w.623 <u065@plktus11>
Krzysztof Kurczynski, op. 832 588-211 w.623 <u017@plktus11>

LODZ

PLUNLO51 a **University of Lodz** VAX3300 VMS
Marian Bieniecki, adm. 42 784-176 <mbieniec@plunlo51>
On Internet as krysia.uni.lod.edu.pl [193.59.1.1]

LUBLIN

PLUMCS11 a **Uniwersytet Marii Curie Sklodowskiej** IBM4381 VM
Andrzej Resztak adm. 81 376-240 <resztak@plumcs11>
Jarek Korzen op. 81 376-192 <korzen@plumcs11>
On Internet as plumcs11.umcs.lublin.pl [192.147.37.100]

POZNAN

PLPUAM11 a **Adam Mickiewicz University, Informatics Center** IBM4381
Andrzej Szymczak op. 061 662-492 <as11@plpuam11>
Dariusz Smoczynski adm. 061 662-492 <ds11@plpuam11>
On Internet as plpuam11.amu.edu.pl [150.254.65.15]

PLPUAM51 a **Adam Mickiewicz University, Informatics Center** VAX4000
Andrzej Szymczak op. 061 662-492 <as11@plpuam11>
Dariusz Smoczynski adm. 061 662-492 <ds11@plpuam11>

PLPOTU51 a **Poznan Polytechnic, Computing Center** VAX VMS
R. Jezierski op. 061 782-726 <jezierski@plpotu51>
Z. Borowiec adm. 061 782-726 <njeman@plpotu51>

SZCZECIN

PLSZUS11 a **University of Szczecin, Informatics Center** IBM4341 VM
J. Kolasinski op. 91 788-65 <kolasinsk@plszus11>
Irena Winiarska adm. 91 788-65 <winiarsk@plszus11>

TORUN

PLTUMK11 a **Uniwersytet Mikolaja Kopernika (Nicolaus Copernicus University), Academic Computing Center** IBM4381 VM
Zbigniew Szewczak adm. 856 260-17 w.70 <szewczak@pltumk11>
On Internet as vm.cc.torun.pl [158.75.1.15]

WARSZAWA

PLANIF61 a **Polish Academy of Sciences, Institute of Physics** SUN 4/75 Sparc-2
Piotr Bialokoziewicz 22 437-001 w.259 <bialo@planif61>

PLNLIB11 0 **National Library, IBM4381** VM/SP, pending
temporary: *Andrzej Smereczynski* <oek05@plearn>

PLWATU21 a **Warsaw Technical University, Informatics Center** IBM4341
Janusz Pelc op. 22 217-1512 <ted@plwatu21>
Tadeusz Englert adm. 22 217-1512 <ted@plwatu21>

PLEARN a **Warsaw University, Informatics Center** IBM3090 VM
Central Polish EARN node
Andrzej Smereczynski adm. 22 200-381 <oek05@plearn>
Tadeusz Wegrzynowski dir. 22 263-345 <oak01@plearn>
Marysia Dabrowska postmaster <mary@plearn>
Malgosia Grabowska postmaster <ruda@plearn>
On Internet as plearn.edu.pl [148.81.18.1]

PLWAUW61 a **Warsaw University, Astronomical Observatory** SUN SparcStation SunOS
Andrzej Udalski adm. 22 294-011 <udalski@plwauw61>
Michal Szymanski op. 22 294-011 <msz@plwauw61>

WROCLAW

PLWRAE51 a **Wroclaw Academy of Economy, Computer Center** K-1840 (VAX)
Stefan Zajac dir. 71 681-155 w.486 <stefzaj@plwrae51>
Wieslaw Borowski adm. <borowski@plwrae51>

PLWRUW11 a **Wroclaw University, Informatics Institute** IBM4341
Bogdan Bromirski adm. 71 402-300 <mst-adm@plwruw11>
Marek Stajszczyk op. 71 255-081 w.77 <mst@plwruw11>

PLWRTU11 a **Wroclaw Technical University, Informatics Center** IBM4341 VM
Jarek Kurowski adm. 71 211-018 <jk1@plwrtu11>
Jozef Janyszek op. 71 211-018 <joejancc@plwrtu11>
On Internet as plwrtu11.ci-pwr.wroc.edu.pl [156.17.1.11]

PLWRTU51 0 **Wroclaw Technical University, Informatics Center** VAX VMS

- ***Node status:*** a = *active,* 0 = *non-active.* - ***Contact persons****: adm. = node administrator op. = node operator.*
- ***I****n all EARN nodes there is a postmaster address* POSTMAST@NODE *where one can direct inquiries.*

Internet *addresses*

The list *below is designed as an aid in locating E-mail contacts. Following the handle (eg.* WA01*, see map on page 17) is the* ***domain****. If it is followed by* ***M,*** *one can address E-mail to all as <user@domain>. Otherwise one has to use specific machine addresses, listed under the "Mail:" heading. Contact persons with their E-addresses are listed when known; in many installations you can send inquiries to <postmaster> at a domain or local address. Increasingly common are automated systems answering inquiries about users, like e.g <whois@elka.pw.edu.pl>. Sending the word "help" will hopefully yield detailed instructions. The publicly accesible machines (anonymous ftp, telnet, Bulletin Boards etc.) are listed separately at the end of the "Contacts" section, together with Earn services. The number of hosts in the* pl *domain exceds 6000 now. Some 20% hosts answer ping. This is a rough estimate of a number of machines that are always active. The world average is 28%.*

The Internet domain names *are organized in a tree, and each domain has one or more end-nodes (usually single computers) which are not shown in the map (p. 17. The 'fully qualified domain name' is obtained by travelling along the branches of the tree, from the end-point back to the root. For example* **<ikp>** *at ATM in Warsaw is known to the world as* **<ikp.atm.com.pl>***. Handles refer to the domain tree. Unlike the Plearn connection scheme above, the Internet Domain map does not indicate direct connections between nodes, but only a logical name construction scheme.*

CITY

Institution,Institution, domain,(**HANDLE**),
Contact person, <address>

BIALYSTOK

Bialystok Technical University
<root@gaj.pb.bialystok.pl>
(**BI01**): pb.bialystok.pl

BYDGOSZCZ

Academy of Technology and Agriculture

Institute of Mathematics and Physics
Janusz Szykowny <atrb00@pltumk11.bitnet>
Krzysztof Sobiecki <krzychu@gopher.atr.byd.edu.pl>
Zbyszek Szewczak <zssz@cc.ncu.edu.pl>
(**BY01**): atr.byd.edu.pl
Mail: gopher.atr.byd.edu.pl - i86 KA9Q/MS-DOS

Medical Academy
Zbigniew Piszcz <amb01@pltumk11.bitnet>
(**BY02**): amb.byd.edu.pl

Pedagogical University
Slawomir Grondkowski <wspb06@pltumk11.bitnet>
(**BY03**): wsp.byd.edu.pl

GDANSK

Medical Academy of Gdansk

Computer Center
<postmaster@amed01.amg.gda.pl>
(**GD15**): amg.gda.pl

Polish Academy of Sciences

Institute of Oceanology
Jacek Piskozub <panjp@halina.univ.gda.pl>
<piskozub@ocean.iopan.gda.pl>
(**GD03**): iopan.gda.pl
Mail: ocean.iopan.gda.pl

Institute of Fluid-Flow Machinery
Tadeusz Jankowski <tjan@imppan.imp.pg.gda.pl>
(**GD12**): imp.pg.gda.pl

Technical University of Gdansk
Piotr Maj <postmaster@pg.gda.pl>
(**GD02**): pg.gda.pl ***M***

Faculty of Architecture
W. Leszkiewicz <wlesz@pg.gda.pl>
(**GD07**): arch.pg.gda.pl

Faculty of Civil Engineering
Wladyslaw Grzesiak <grzesw@pg.gda.pl>
Jan Jagiello <jagiell@pg.gda.pl>
(**GD08**): bl.pg.gda.pl

Faculty of Chemistry
Mariusz Krawczyk <adschem@pg.gda.pl>
(**GD09**): chem.pg.gda.pl

Faculty of Electronics
W.J.Martin <wjm@pg.gda.pl>
(**GD10**): elka.pg.gda.pl

Faculty of Electrical Engineering
Krzysztof Snopek <ksnopek@pg.gda.pl>
(**GD06**): ely.pg.gda.pl
Mail: sparc10.ely.pg.gda.pl wat3.ely.pg.gda.pl
wat4.ely.pg.gda.pl

Faculty of Hydrotechnics
Krzysztof Sass <k.sas@pg.gda.pl>
(**GD11**): hydro.pg.gda.pl

Faculty of Mechanical Engineering
Lech Skrzynecki <lskrzyne@pg.gda.pl>
(**GD13**): mech.pg.gda.pl

Faculty of Technical Physics and Applied Mathematics
Ryszard Jan Barczynski <adsmif@mifgate.pg.gda.pl>
(**GD05**): mif.pg.gda.pl
Mail: mifgate.pg.gda.pl rudy.mif.pg.gda.pl

Faculty of Oceanology
Hanna Czerniak <hania@pg.gda.pl>
(**GD14**): oce.pg.gda.pl

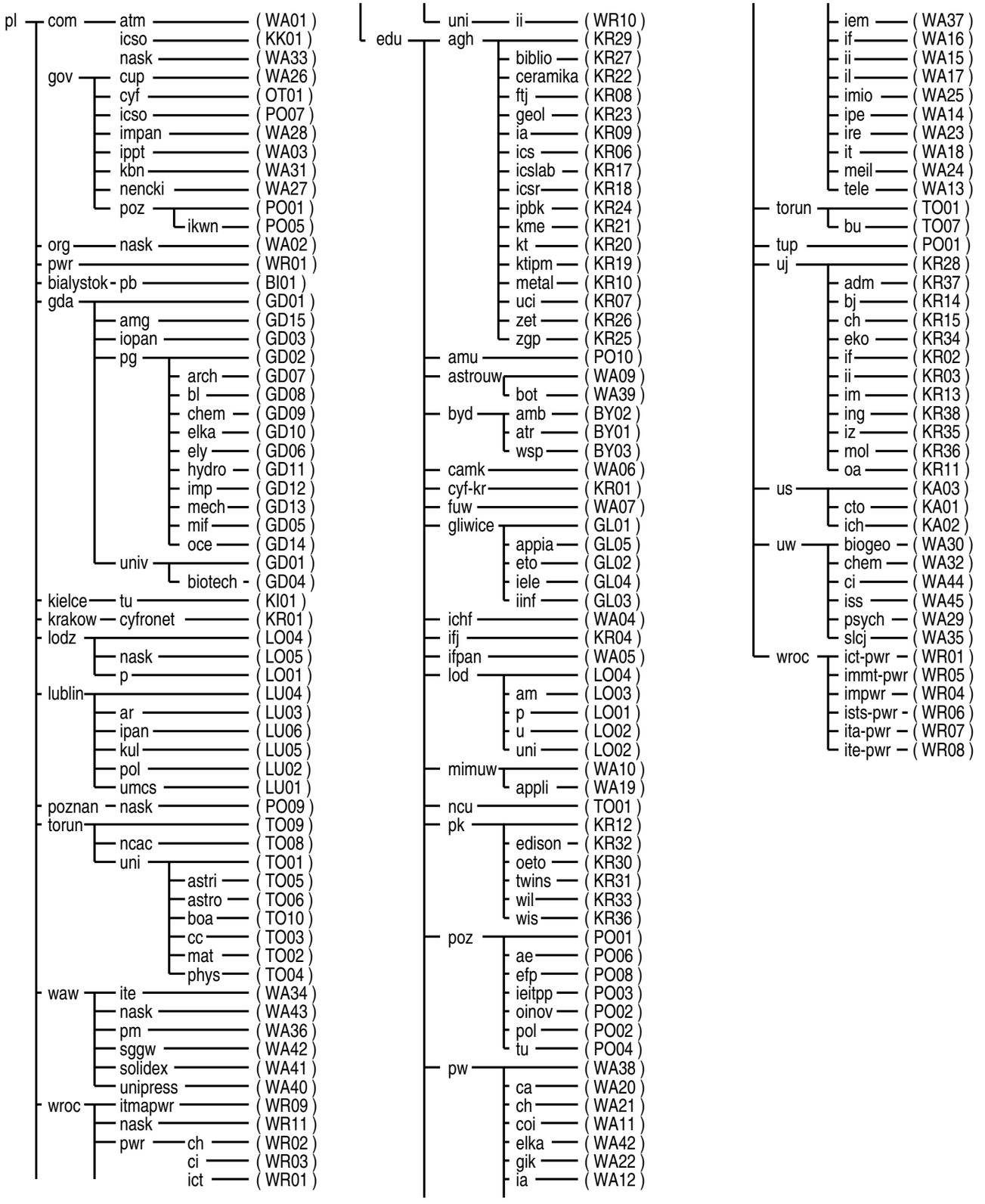
University of Gdansk
Marek Karkowski <marek@halina.univ.gda.pl>
(**GD01**): univ.gda.pl, gda.pl
Mail: halina.univ.gda.pl

Department of Molecular Biology
Bogdan Banecki <banecki@biotech.univ.gda.pl>
(**GD04**): biotech.univ.gda.pl ***M***

GLIWICE

Silesian Technical University
<postmaster@gleto2.gliwice.edu.pl>
(**GL01**): gliwice.edu.pl
Mail: gleto2.gliwice.edu.pl gleto4.gliwice.edu.pl

The **Polish Internet** Domain



Institute of Automation, Industrial Control Group
Jurek Moscinski <moscinsj@appia.gliwice.edu.pl>
(**GL05**): appia.gliwice.edu.pl ***M***

Computer Center
<postmaster@gleto2.gliwice.edu.pl>
(**GL02**): eto.gliwice.edu.pl

Institute of Electronics
Witold Baran <wiciu@boss.iele.gliwice.edu.pl>
(**GL04**): iele.gliwice.edu.pl

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Fidonet addresses

Fido Node	BBS Name	Location	Sysop	Phone	Domain address
2:481/1	SM-Net	Bydgoszcz	Mariusz Boronski	48-52-411222	f1.n481.z2.fidonet.org
2:481/3	POLSUNG	Bydgoszcz	Dariusz Bagnucki	48-52-229402	f3.n481.z2.fidonet.org
2:481/4	ATR BBS	Bydgoszcz	Piotr Michal Kruza	48-52-438629	f4.n481.z2.fidonet.org
2:480/5	BG-EDU BBS	Bydgoszcz	Pawel Krause	48-52-415810	f5.n480.z2.fidonet.org
2:481/2	Technical Univ.	Gdansk	Mariusz Matuszek	48-58-472109	f2.n481.z2.fidonet.org
2:480/25	PiK'us BBS	Gliwice	Wojciech Apel	48-32-374848	f24.n480.z2.fidonet.org
2:486/7	NExter BBS	Katowice	Klaudiusz Staniek	48-32-586007	f2.n486.z2.fidonet.org
2:480/34	The Verbum BBS	Katowice	Marek Gorny	48-32-586903	f34.n480.z2.fidonet.org
2:486/1	Mikrokomputery SA	Krakow	Maciej Piotrowski	48-12-218777	f1.n486.z2.fidonet.org
2:486/2	Mikrokomputery SA	Krakow	Maciej Piotrowski	48-12-217210	f2.n486.z2.fidonet.org
2:486/4	Peter's BBS	Krakow	Piotr Walczak	48-12-362222	f4.n486.z2.fidonet.org
2:486/5	BitART BBS	Krakow	Tomasz Polys	48-12-335486	f5.n486.z2.fidonet.org
2:486/6	QUMAK BBS	Krakow	Jacek Piotrowski	48-12-216273	f6.n486.z2.fidonet.org
2:486/8	COMEX BBS	Krakow	Marcin Gonet	48-12-365054	f8.n486.z2.fidonet.org
2:480/11	SNOOPY BBS	Lodz	Jan Waliszewski	48-42-336573	f11.n480.z2.fidonet.org
2:480/6	RBMeteo_BBS	Poznan	Jaroslaw Bernatowicz	48-61-496107	f6.n480.z2.fidonet.org
2:480/3	PlUUG	Warszawa	Andrzej Mazurkiewicz	48-2-6415876	f3.n480.z2.fidonet.org
2:480/4	MONTH BBS	Warszawa	Andrzej Bursztynski	48-22-291578	f4.n480.z2.fidonet.org
2:480/7	FTI BBS	Warszawa	Michal Szokolo	48-2-6355904	f7.n480.z2.fidonet.org
2:480/10	Home of PCQ	Warszawa	Jan Stozek	48-22-410374	f10.n480.z2.fidonet.org
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2:480/21	AKME BBS	Warszawa	Pawel Miesojedow	48-22-315889	f21.n480.z2.fidonet.org
2:480/23	Galaxy BBS	Warszawa	Jarek Wojcik	48-2-6431010	f23.n480.z2.fidonet.org
2:480/24	G.B.L. Medlink	Warszawa	Michal Szokolo	48-22-497632	f24.n480.z2.fidonet.org
2:480/30	IMPERIAL	Warszawa	Krzysztof Mlynarski	48-22-176658	f30.n480.z2.fidonet.org
2:480/31	OPEN_THE_SKY #1	Warszawa	Andrzej Bacinski	48-22-250263	f31.n480.z2.fidonet.org
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2:480/38	Opus BBS	Warszawa	Robert Trzeciak	48-22-188465	f38.n480.z2.fidonet.org
2:480/39	Rainbow BBS	Warszawa	Krzysztof Korczak	48-22-198337	f39.n480.z2.fidonet.org
2:480/40	The Pal. of Youth	Warszawa	Krzysztof Halasa	48-22-203372	f40.n480.z2.fidonet.org
2:480/41	Time BBS Node 2	Warszawa	Radoslaw Labanowski	48-22-188048	f41.n480.z2.fidonet.org
2:480/20	Mehama BBS	Wroclaw	Ludwig Schuette	48-71-218943	f20.n480.z2.fidonet.org

Publicly accessible *sites and servers*

World Wide Web - use Mosaic with X-Windows or lynx with text terminal:

www.fuw.edu.pl
www.uci.agh.edu.pl

Gophers Select the Gopher from the world gopher list, or use your gopher client with one of the addresses below:

gopher.ae.poz.edu.pl	University of Economics, Poznan
gopher.appia.gliwice.edu	Silesian Technical Univ., Gliwice
gopher.atr.byd.edu.pl	Academy of Technology and Agriculture, Bydgoszcz
gopher.fuw.edu.pl	Warsaw University, Physics Dept.
gopher.gliwice.edu.pl	Silesian Polytechnic, Gliwice
gopher.ia.pw.edu.pl	Warsaw Univ. of Technol., Inst. of Automatic Control
gopher.mat.uni.torun.pl	Nicolaus Copernicus Univ., Inst. of Math., Torun
gopher.uci.agh.edu.pl	University of Mining and Metallurgy, Cracow
gopher.umcs.lublin.pl	Maria Curie Sklodowska University, Lublin
hum.amu.edu.pl	Adam Mickiewcz University in Poznan
ldhpux.immt.pwr.wroc.pl	Inst. of Material Science and Technical Mechanics
mvax.ci.pwr.wroc.pl	Technical University of Wroclaw
plearn.edu.pl	Warsaw University
prelude.iss.uw.edu.pl	Institute for Social Studies, Warsaw University
ruby.poz.edu.pl	Fac of Automatics, Robotics and Informatics, Poznan Politechnic
sabat.tu.kielce.pl	Kielce Technical University

Gophers, cont.

sunrise.pg.gda.pl	Technical University of Gdansk
usctoux1.cto.us.edu.pl	Silesian University, Katowice
vm.cc.uni.torun.pl	Nicolaus Copernicus University , Torun
volt.iem.pw.edu.pl	Warsaw Univ. of Technology, IETiME

Anonymous ftp sites Login as anonymous, give your E-address as password

alfa.camk.edu.pl - Pigulki, GUST archive
copernicus.astro.torun.edu.pl
ftp.nask.org.pl - main Internet router statistics, Pigulki
ftp.appia.gliwice.edu.pl
ftp.cc.uni.torun.pl
ftp.cyf-kr.edu.pl
ftp.fuw.edu.pl - Donosy archive
ftp.mat.uni.torun.pl
ftp.ia.pw.edu.pl - unix docs.
ftp.ict.pwr.wroc.pl
ftp.pg.gda.pl
ftp.uci.agh.edu.pl - Gopher, Pigulki, books, journals, humor, more.
halina.univ.gda.pl
jetta.if.uj.edu.pl - various programs and docs.
ldhpux.immt.pwr.wroc.edu.pl
merkury.atm.com.pl
sabat.tu.kielce.pl
samba.iss.uw.edu.pl - Clipper
sigma.im.uj.edu.pl
sirius.astrouw.edu.pl - Acta Astronomica archive
uci1.ae.poz.edu.pl
titan.coi.pw.edu.pl
zfja-gate.fuw.edu.pl - PA0GRI
zsku.p.lod.edu.pl - Pigulki

Listservs Send E-mail with the word HELP in first line to obtain instructions.

listserv@archimedes.pol.lublin.pl
listproc@fuw.edu.pl
listserv@ia.pw.edu.pl
listserv@if.uj.edu.pl
listserv@nov.iem.pw.edu.pl
listserv@plearn.bitnet = listserv@plearn.edu.pl
listserv@plpotu51.bitnet
listserv@pltumk11.bitnet = listserv@vm.cc.uni.torun.pl
listserv@plwrtu11.bitnet = listserv@plwrtu11.ci-pwr.wroc.edu.pl
listserv@uci.agh.edu.pl

polip-request@zsku.p.lodz.pl (send a polite request, it is a human, not a machine)

- ***A complete listing*** of Polish and Polish interest Network Resources is available. It is posted irregularily to net-l, poland-l, polip, ciuw-l, bial, plotki, decnet-pl, soc.culture.polish and plearn-l and can be retrieved by anonymous ftp and by gopher at poniecki.berkeley.edu and gopher.mat.uni.torun.pl/ftp.mat.uni.torun.pl. HTML version is available a URL=gopher://ldhpux.immt.pwr.wroc.pl/h/www/polskie.html.

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- ***Please send changes and corrections*** to Rafal Maszkowski <rzm@mat.uni.torun.pl>.

Teaching Computer Networks *continued from p. 12*

hould collaborate in network-related education. In my lectures I also described some networks in Germany. One ought to make sure that things are not simply copied. Not everything that is typical there is really necessary in Poland and in some cases may be a waste of money even in Germany. This requires a thorough analysis of what fits the Polish situation. Networks useful in Poland may be much cheaper than some high speed networks in Germany today. I see very good chances for rapid improvement of the computer networks here; the only — but important — problem I see is getting enough money to buy equipment and to pay people.

MU: During the last months you visited some other Polish Universities. What is your opinion on the state of the network development in Katowice as compared to others? What are the reasons of the situation?

JH: Yes, I visited Politechnika Wroclawska, the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun, the Warsaw University and the Central Scientific Computing Centre CYFRONET in Krakow. I also had some contacts in all those universities from before. It may be disappointing, but I have to tell you that the network infrastructure is better developed in all those locations than in Katowice. As far as I can see the reason is that all these universities have a stronger tradition in information sciences. I believe that a lot of people at this university still do not understand the benefits of computer networks for their sciences. They can help forge better international contacts in every science, help scientists take part in discussions, have access to library catalogues, to prepare individual travel and a lot more. Moreover, computer networks are necessary if one wants to use the powerful computers - supercomputers, which will be placed today or in the very near future in some other Polish locations.

Commercial Or Public Domain?

MU: Is network development possible using only commercial software, or should public domain and shareware software also be considered?

JH: Commercial software — mostly of good quality — is available for the low level tasks of the network, eg. transfer of data from one computer to another. In the case of more complex services, like sending mail or access to databases, often better software is in the public domain (sometimes it is only in available in the public domain). Usually for new services the software is first

developed in public domain. Some examples: 'elm', the usually preferred software to read and send electronic mail, is public domain; for 'gopher' there is only public domain software. Therefore public domain software has to be taken into account. When the software for the same task is available both commercially and in public domain, the decision often is difficult: Public domain or shareware software is cheaper, frequently free. In general, public domain software requires some more work to install. The quality varies a lot, but - astonishingly - often you have much better reports on bugs and how to patch them. For commercial software you need - except in case of a short guarantee period - a maintenance agreement to get error support and even then you usually do not hear about the problem until you ask yourself. In public domain software you often get information on errors detected elsewhere automatically via the network, And you don't need to handle the sometimes complicated procedures for licensing. Usually university institutes in Germany prefer public domain software wherever available in good quality. The typical reason is that they want to save some money. Polish universities have even less money to waste and therefore I think they should prefer public domain software too.

MU: How do you see the tasks for a Computing Center in the future?

JH: The time of the classical Computing Center is gone. Years ago the computing power of a university was concentrated in a center. There were boxes as big as wardrobes, the so-called mainframes, consuming a lot of electricity, plus many more boxes with disks, magnetic tapes and other equipment. Today the computing power of this level is much cheaper and a lot of people have similar or even more powerful computers in a very small box on their desk. These computers are usually — or where they are not, they should be — connected with a cable to the world-wide network, giving the user access to information from all over the world. The power which belonged to the Computing Center resides now in supercomputers, which are used to solve problems — impossible to solve earlier — in technology, in physics, in chemistry, in meteorology and in many other sciences. Therefore a very important task for a Computing Center today is to organize the local network of individual workstations and to provide services which did not migrate to the user's desk, or the newly created common network services. Such new services are, e.g., the mail server to distribute electronic mail, servers for access with "ftp," information services like "Gopher," name servers for network protocols and many others. While it would be very uneconomical to equip every university with its own supercomputer, some computing centers will have the task to run such machines; in Poland steps in that direction have already been taken in CYFRONET in Krakow and are planned in Warsaw and Poznan. The other universities — like the Silesian — will need the service of their local computing center to get access to these supercomputers via the country-wide network. In Stuttgart we already have a large number of networked computers in the Institutes. Several years ago their users were becoming more and more independent of the computer center and were happy about that. But since a year or two ago, they found that they invest a lot of time in management of those computers instead of doing their original tasks of research or teaching. Now they are crying for help from the Computer Center in running these machines. In the future more CC help will be needed in selecting the right types, installing, configuration, maintenance, repair, administration and keeping the computers around the university up-to-date.

MU: You have been working in Poland for three months. What are your impressions [about the country in general]?

JH: I mentioned already that I've visited Poland since 1984. Therefore it is difficult for me to determine how far my impressions are based on this stay or on earlier ones. During all of my visits I saw more and more improvements in the situation, but with the really fast changes taking place a lot of new problems came, problems even more difficult because people were not prepared for them. In Poland in 1986, I met the owner of a firm with about 10 employees (as far as I know the upper legal limit in Poland in that time.) Very proudly he called himself a *capitalist*. I am not familiar with the publications of Karl Marx, but sometimes I fear that some Polish entrepreneurs try to behave like what Marx described as being capitalist. Maybe they are more familiar with his theories and have his descriptions in mind. But the free market is different from Marx's description. Employees and customers will not accept such habits and therefore they will fail after some time, but they could cause a lot of damage in the meantime. Poland has one of the oldest traditions of individual freedom around the world. I think this is Poland's most important virtue and also the reason for the political changes of the last years not only in Poland, but in most of Central and Eastern Europe. I also see that these changes have brought fewer improvements in individual lives than people had a right to hope for, and new problems were created. I believe that in the universities and in public services in general a central problem has been wages failing to meet the rising cost of living. I hope for fast changes in this area in Poland, which from my point of view will depend not only on the success of Poland's economy, but also on Poles honestly paying their taxes. In discussions with friends or colleagues at

work here I often had the impression that people tend to be resigned on the situation and future of Poland. Of course my view is from the outside, and that is very different from the view from the inside, but I cannot agree with this resignation. I see that despite of the new problems, a lot of things in Poland have already improved, and therefore I have good hope for more improvement in the future. Moreover such a tendency of resignation is very dangerous: if people think it would make no sense to try to improve something because lack of chances, they will not try. But I think there are chances and everybody here should help. Surely most people can improve only very small details, but a lot of such details will help a lot all together. Even unrealistic dreams can help to improve the situation: They are able to show the right direction for the next steps, and moving this smaller and therefore more realistic step forward helps to come nearer to the final destination. Nevertheless it must be kept in mind what is a dream, and from time to time it must be checked if the dreams really point in a good direction. Another important tradition in Poland is the tradition of strong nationalism, and therefore every Pole (including those living in foreign countries) should see his/her duty to help. If that happens I am sure that things will become better; and although I am not a Pole myself I, hope that I can help during my stay too.

Po Prostu

By Dave Phillips

Zhirinovsky Next Door: out of the collectives' unconscious

Ah Russia. One could argue that Stalin must have had a sense of humor. Who else could murder tens of millions through starvation, torture, execution and exile into wilderness and still, generations later, have old folks complain of modern times, "Ah, at least under Stalin, there was order." Even after his death, he was bringing down the house. He was killing them. What a prankster. Stalin will never be equalled in humorous spirit outside of the German tongue and occasional Pat Buchanan or Rush Limbaugh rug-chewings.

We do have hope for a comic reprise. That laughing twinkle of will-to-genocide has reappeared in the face of Zhirinovsky, who simultaneously likes America and wants to seize Alaska, and who's not above burying radioactive waste so as to poison the Baltic populations, which also host sizable Russian numbers. Move out of the way, Howard Stern. This fellow will get your attention, or he'll say anything and perhaps may even do anything to win it.

The laughing twinkle has also been preserved in the Russian mafias, which have succeeded the Party as the primary vehicle for getting ahead by networking. Martin Cruz Smith's "Red Square" sketches an accessible portrait of these mobs, or should we say enthusiastic entrepreneurs, as they sprawl across East and Central Europe. In the end, Russia may delegate these, um, non-governmental organizations to negotiate with the IMF for greatest effect. We must also pay attention to what may become a major new air service in Russia and Central Asia, run by small groups of armed men who have very low overhead costs and, so to speak, a captive market, at least during the peak holiday season.

With the recent Clinton soft-shoe away from Eastern European security and NATO membership, one can imagine Polish reactions. The Poles have never quite developed the West-European sophistication that graciously accepts powers like Russia invading neighbors, enslaving them, and killing large numbers of inhabitants, in the name of good clean fun. Belvedere Palace, Salon and Huta alike must have been using some well-chosen phrases toward President Clinton (I doubt if "Slick Willie" translates directly, however) as the Administration pushed its Brand X security plan onto the Prague summit, with the help of a Polish-American Chairman of the Joint Chiefs.

Can Americans (for example) fully appreciate Polish feelings of betrayal, and talk of "Yalta II?" Perhaps not. We Americans tend to believe that everyone around the world is just like us, from the safety of two oceans and relatively peaceful neighbors on our borders (excluding Canadian drivers, of course). And, of course, if *we* are not worried about a fascistic dinosaur like Zhirinovsky from the relative safety of our shores, neither should the Poles. Of course, this attitude defies geography, history, and the fact that Zhirinovsky and his party were actually chosen in an open election by a rather large portion of the Russian electorate.

The situation on Poland's west is no bed of roses, either. Skinheads beating, burning and stabbing "foreigners" is hardly my idea of the Germany of Goethe, Bach and Beethoven. The new Nazis in Germany are not only growing, but their electoral allies get votes even while they beat, burn and kill. Could the adherents of a cyclical view of history have a point? Are we going to get that rather sharp point in the back in a few years? I

hope not, but the U.S. for one isn't doing anything to help prevent it. We have defended Bosnia to nearly the last Muslim, and now offer Poland less than Bush gave the Emir of Kuwait. Hint to Dr. Jerzy Milewski: discover oil, preferably in Suwalki, lots of it, quickly, time is running out.

In trying to understand Russia's sense of humor, and the German proclivity toward somewhat exuberant celebrations of diversity, I have to acknowledge that American insularity can be foolish and dangerous. A great example of cultural difference was the incident a couple of years ago when heroic and successful efforts were made in Alaska to rescue two whales trapped in ice. It became an international news story, and the Japanese public were amused that Americans should go to so much trouble for food. One reporter asked a Japanese spokesman whether, after all the efforts to save these noble mammals, they were not in danger subsequently of being harpooned and filleted by Japanese whaling vessels. "Oh, no," the Japanese spokesman replied with great self-control, "We will not kill those two."

Notes on Contributors

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Pigulki

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