

THE KOSOVO@ POST

Edition 10 • August 11 2008

€ 1.00 • WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

OPINION



NAOMI WOLF: CONFRONT AMERICA PG 6

PEOPLE



YANKEE BIKER BOYS IN KOSOVO PG 12

FEATURE



GYPSY ART PG 8 & 9

ARTS



ARTA CONQUERING FILM WORLD PG 13

Serbia's ICJ gambit: the plot thickens

Britain's Ambassador in Belgrade opined that Serbia's attempt to have the legality of Kosovo's declaration of independence assessed by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) is a mistake and represents a challenge for the EU. Legal experts disagree about the legality of the declaration.

On August 3, Ambassador Stephen Woodsworth told Belgrade daily Vecernje Novosti that the British government views Serbia's ICJ gambit as a challenge to the EU's attempts to welcome Serbia as a member. Woodsworth described the Serb stratagem as, "a questionable approach," because it brings into question, "whether Serbia and most of the EU countries are going to be able to continue to work together as partners or if they are going to fall into confrontations."

Woodsworth stated that acceptance of Kosovar independence is not a precondition for EU membership, "The EU, as an organization, cannot ask of Serbia, as a condition of membership, something you don't ask of existing members."

However, backers of Kosovar independence will insist on Serbian capitulation on the matter as a de facto prerequisite for EU membership because applicants must have unanimous support from member states. Should Serbia manage to ascend into the bloc before Kosovo does it could use its veto to block Kosovar membership. An official at the British Embassy in Pristina, who insisted on anonymity, said the best possible solution would be for Serbia and Kosovo to join the bloc simultaneously.

One of the prerequisites for EU membership is that an applicant must subscribe to the rule of law. Serbian government officials argue that efforts to dissuade them from attempting to get the matter before the ICJ is hypocritical, even though any verdict would be of no force. The anonymous official at the British Embassy in Pristina denied the charge, insisting that the declaration is



• Britain's Ambassador in Belgrade Stephen Woodsworth

perfectly legal.

Serbia's Foreign Minister Vuk Jeremic has publicly stated on several occasions that his government hopes to dissuade countries from recognizing Kosovo with a positive ruling from the ICJ. Jeremic told Belgrade daily Blic that his government is engaged in a high priority, concerted, diplomatic offensive around the world to prevent Kosovo's recognition, "Practically, we are present everywhere in the world, so we can talk to as many representatives of different countries," said Jeremiq. According to him, Serb diplomats have insisted on being present at meetings of international political import to impose Kosovo as a discussion topic.

"In addition to our presence in the UN, OSCE and other European organizations, we have participated in summits where Serbia is not a member of the organization, such as South America, the African Union summit, the Islamic Conference, meetings of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Arab League. We have succeeded in holding meetings across the globe and we have been able to maintain Kosovo as a controversial topic at the highest level. I think that in this way we have stopped the efforts of those who support Kosovo's independence and we have prevented the expansion of recognitions for Kosovo," Jeremiq said. Despite Serb efforts, Columbia and Belize recognized Kosovo days after Jeremiq's boasts.

The first

BUSINESS
C H A N N E L

in the region.

“If the opening scene has a village, a dirty vehicle and commercial music, it is not necessary to put yourself into deep thought to know that it is a Kosovar movie.”

Trinity Little at Dokufest | page 14

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY

POLICE	112, 92
FIRE DEPARTMENT	93
AMBULANCE	94
HOSPITAL	038-500-600

IMPORTANT INFO

AIRPORT	038-548-900, 548 430
KEK	038-224-185
Information office	988

PTK

Fix telephony	977
Mobile telephony	038 548 367, 548 777

Taxi Roberti	044-111-999
Taxi Velania	044-225-325
Taxi VIP	044-333-444/049-665-166
Taxi Geti	044 111 555
RADIO Taxi	038-22 00 11

KFOR	038-503-603
UNMIK Head office	038-504-604
MOBILE (IPKO)	049-700-700 / 038-700-70

POLICE STATION

Station 1	038-504-604-5059
Station 2	038-504-604-6748
Station 3	038-504-604-6796
Station 4	038-504-604-2997

BUS STATION

	038-550-011
--	-------------

TRAIN STATION

	038-518-449
--	-------------

KOSOVA RAILWAYS

	038-536-355 / 038-536-329
--	---------------------------

WESTERN UNION

	038-549-840, 044-110 840
--	--------------------------

DHL

	038 245 545, 044 178 042
--	--------------------------

FEDEX

	038 549 655, 044 173 219
--	--------------------------

TNT

	038 247 247, 044 247 247
--	--------------------------

WATER SERVICES

	038-5471-211, 540 621
--	-----------------------

MUNICIPALITY OF PRISTINA

	038-230-900
--	-------------

NATIONAL THEATRE

	038 243 930
--	-------------

DODONA THEATRE

	038 230 623
--	-------------

KOSOVA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

	038-224-229 / 224-741
--	-----------------------

INTERNATIONAL Red Cross

	038-249-114
--	-------------

OMBUDSMAN INSTITUTION IN KOSOVA

"Agim Ramadani"	038-501-401
-----------------	-------------

FLOWER SHOP 'Remember me'	038 245 345 / 044 283 344
---------------------------	---------------------------

RESTAURANTS in Peja

ART DESIGN Center	039-431496 / 039 144-622
-------------------	--------------------------

CALIFORNIA Center	044-348-467
-------------------	-------------

RESTAURANTS in Prizren

SHEHZADE QEBABTORE	Shadervan Square
--------------------	------------------

TRATTORIA DUE FRATELLI	Great italian food
------------------------	--------------------

A. Zurnaxhiu 10	044 198 710
-----------------	-------------

RESTAURANT in Gjakova

RESTAURANT TE JUPAT

Old government	044-129-389
----------------	-------------

Hotel & Restaurant ROMA	044-602-009
-------------------------	-------------

RESTAURANTS in Ferizaj

RESTAURANT ROMANTIKA	+290 28 28 3
----------------------	--------------

RESTAURANT LAUSANE	044 142 397
--------------------	-------------

RESTAURANT TOPILLA	044 287 531
--------------------	-------------

RESTAURANT NATURAL	Sojeve – Ferizaj
--------------------	------------------

	044 205 537, 044 323 378
--	--------------------------

BARS / CAFES in Pristina

APARTMENT 195

Garibaldi	044-410-021
-----------	-------------

AVENUE BAR	Fehmi Agani 48 04-610-210
------------	---------------------------

LOUNGE 19	Garibaldi 19 044-208-092
-----------	--------------------------

LEGERE	Perandori Justinian 2 - Peyton
--------	--------------------------------

	044-221-829
--	-------------

MYC	Garibaldi 21 044-210-325
-----	--------------------------

PHOENIX	Brigada 044 12 45 84
---------	----------------------

PUBLICO	Garibaldi 7 044 62 69 27
---------	--------------------------

STRIP DEPO	Rexhep Luci 038-222-888
------------	-------------------------

CLUBS in Pristina

FLIRT	Youth center of Pristina 049 646 464
-------	--------------------------------------

CUBE	Johan Hahn 2 044-124-584
------	--------------------------

DEPO UCK	044-153-001
----------	-------------

SPRAY	Veternik 044-118-518
-------	----------------------

FAST FOOD in Pristina

BOSNA 2

Mother Theresa	044-375-436
----------------	-------------

BOSNA 4	Perandori Justinijan - Peyton 038-245-919
---------	---

MAXIMUM BURGER	Rexhep Luci 20/1
----------------	------------------

METRO Sandwich Shop

Garibaldi 3/1	044-113-000
---------------	-------------

ROUTE 66

Luan Haradinaj	038-227 225
----------------	-------------

BAKERY in Pristina

LUMI Anton Ceta	044-115 586
-----------------	-------------

HOTELS in Pristina

AFA HOTEL

Aki Kelmendi	038-225-226
--------------	-------------

AMBASSADOR HOTEL

Ardian Krasniqi 1	
-------------------	--

BACI HOTEL

Mother Theresa	038-548-356
----------------	-------------

GRAND HOTEL

Mother Theresa	038-220-210
----------------	-------------

GORENJE HOTEL

Veternik	038-557-700
----------	-------------

PRISHTINA HOTEL

Vaso Pasha 20	038-223-284
---------------	-------------

VICTORY HOTEL

Mother Theresa	038-543-277
----------------	-------------

Hotels in Peja

DONA HOTEL	039-34-470
------------	------------

GOLD HOTEL	039-34-571
------------	------------

PARK HOTEL	044-282-832
------------	-------------

Hotels in Prizren

DARDANIA HOTEL	044-187-264
----------------	-------------

HOLIDAY HOTEL	029-45-002
---------------	------------

THERANDA HOTEL	029-622-292
----------------	-------------

Hotels in Gjakova

4 YJET HOTEL	0390-27-868
--------------	-------------

EUROPA HOTEL	044-400-106
--------------	-------------

JAKOVA HOTEL	044-236-050
--------------	-------------

HOTELS in Ferizaj

HOTEL KRUIJA

Dardani – Ferizaj	
-------------------	--

MOTEL MANI	Old kakanik
------------	-------------

	044 219 249 / 044 143 377
--	---------------------------

MOTEL SOFRA

Ferizaj entrance	044 378 889
------------------	-------------

AIRLINES in Pristina

AUSTRIAN AIRLINES

Mother Theresa	038 242 424/038 548 435
----------------	-------------------------

BRITIS AIRWAYS

Airport of Pristina	038 54 86 61
---------------------	--------------

EUROKOHA

Vellusha e Poshtme 17	038 249 185
-----------------------	-------------

KOSOVA AIRLINES	Nena Tereze
-----------------	-------------

ADRIA AIRWAYS

Airport of Pristina	038 246 764
---------------------	-------------

BELLE AIR

Luan Haradinaj - Garibaldi	
----------------------------	--

	039 225 571
--	-------------

AIR PRISHTINA	Mother Theresa
---------------	----------------

	038 222 099
--	-------------

BANK HEAD OFFICES in Pristina

PRO CREDIT BANK	Skenderbeu 038-240-248
-----------------	------------------------

RAIFFEISEN BANK	UCK No. 51 038-222-222
-----------------	------------------------

BANKA EKONOMIKE	Migjeni No. 7 038-225-353
-----------------	---------------------------

NLB Prishtina	Rexhep Luci No.5 038-234 111
---------------	------------------------------

TEB BANK	Agim Ramadani No. 15
----------	----------------------

	038-230 000, 038-224 700
--	--------------------------

BKT-Banka	Kombetare Tregtare Peyton
-----------	---------------------------

	038-222-910, 222 907
--	----------------------

BANKA PER BIZNES	UCK No. 41 038-244-666
------------------	------------------------

DOCTORS in Pristina

DERMATOLOGIST

Dr. DOBRUNA	Shkendije, (German, English)
-------------	------------------------------

	044 161 317 / 038 535 782
--	---------------------------

EYE SPECIALIST

Dr. MIFTARI	Adem, (German) 044 176 212
-------------	----------------------------

UROLOGE	Dr. DERVISHI Lutfi, (German)
---------	------------------------------

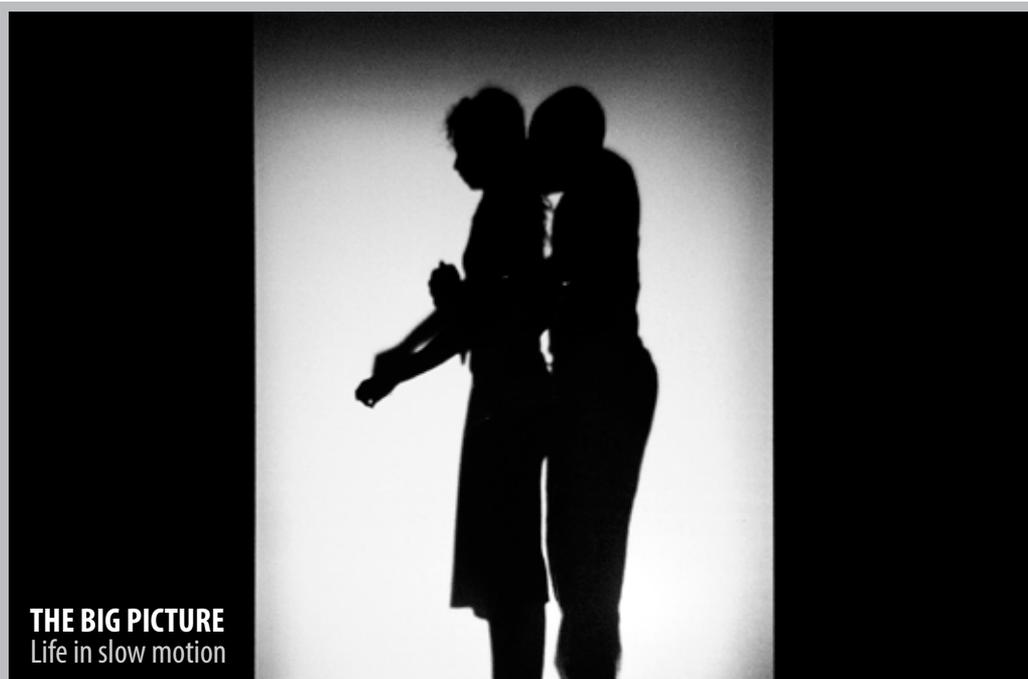
	044 501 699 / 038 551 928
--	---------------------------

DENTIST	Ars Debt Debtat Center (English)
---------	----------------------------------

	044 131 051 / 038 516 520
--	---------------------------

INTERNIST, KARDIOLOGE	Dr. BEKTESHI Tefik (German)
-----------------------	-----------------------------

	044 419 382 / 038 541 901
--	---------------------------



THE BIG PICTURE
Life in slow motion

JETMIR IDRIZI

QUEEN OF THE GYPSIES

*no other 60-year-old
dressed in baggy red pants
baggy red blouse
looking like a two hundred pound
retired belly dancer
could have pulled it off
lamenting in song
she was a 14-tear-old virgin
being sold
to an old man
who already had a wife*

*with a black shawl
covering her head and face
Emma not only cried out her song,
but made all the men
in the audience cry too*

*like an old lover
Emma had lost her legs
her waistline*

not her punch

Paul Polansky is an author, journalist and human rights activist who has lived with Gypsies in Kosovo for 8 years. His van became affectionately known as the Gypsy Taxi, in which he would transport Gypsies here, there and everywhere, especially to hospitals. The stories he collected are the basis for his book of poetry Gypsy Taxi Ciganski Taxi

PHARMACIES in Pristina

GENTIANA LUTEA

Bill Clinton Boulevard - Dardania	
-----------------------------------	--

	044 240 531
--	-------------

Monday - Saturday	08:00 - 21:00 / Sunday 09:00 - 13:00
-------------------	--------------------------------------

BICI

Boulevard I	Deshmoreve te Kombit - Dardania
-------------	---------------------------------

	044 393 585 Monday - Sunday 07:00 - 24:00
--	---

ASPIRIN

Bulevardi i	Deshmoreve te Kombit - Dardania
-------------	---------------------------------

	044 168 228 Monday - Sunday 08:00 - 22:00
--	---

EVI FARM

Nazim Gafurri	044 652 179
---------------	-------------

Monday - Suterday	08:00 - 22:00 / Sunday 09:00 - 20:00
-------------------	--------------------------------------

PHARMACY in Prizren

VIOLA PRIZREN	Xhevat Berisha 029 241 620
---------------	----------------------------

	Open 24 hours
--	---------------

ENTERTAINMENT in Pristina

BOWLING

Shefqet Shkupi 15 - Kalabria	
------------------------------	--

	038- 500 060 / 044-241-251
--	----------------------------

www.Bo-Bowling.com / info@Bo-Bowling.com	
--	--

CINEMA ABC



The Janjevci of Kosovo

According to Kosovo history books, the Croatian town of Janjevo, 34 kilometers southeast of Pristina, was founded in 1303 by traders, miners and craftsmen from Dubrovnik seeking a supply of coal after that coastal republic had run out of firewood.

“Not exactly true,” said Stipe Lukic, a retired Croatian goldsmith whose ancestors came to Janjevo more than 700 years ago. “Although my forefathers were also from Dubrovnik, they actually came to Kosovo in the 11th century. Before coming to Janjevo, my people made coins for the Nemanjic dynasty in Stari Brdo. We were goldsmiths to the Serbian kings. I’m a retired goldsmith.”

There is not a lot of information on Stari Brdo, high in the hills between Grachanica and Gilani. Only stone ruins cover a few acres of what was once an old Roman city, famous for its silver and gold mines. There are documents on Novo Brdo, built on the same place, from the 14th century. But it ceased to exist for all practical purposes after the Turks captured it in 1455 and decapitated most of the male defenders.

Janjevo, however, flourished during the Ottoman occupation as a mining center for lead and silver. During those centuries, the Croatian inhabitants belonged to various classes, from nobility to miners, merchants, goldsmiths, shoemakers, and bricklayers. After the Turkish incorporation of Kosovo in 1455, Janjevo became a typical oriental settlement although allowed to retain its pre-Ottoman privileges as a Dubrovnik colony.

Over the centuries Janjevo also maintained its Croatian heritage and language because of the strong influence of the Roman Catholic church which prevented their assimilation into a wider community. Yet by the 19th century Janjevo had become a mixed population of mainly Croats, Albanians, Serbs and Gypsies. A 1910 census shows that there were a total of 515 homes: 400 Croatian, 75 Albanian, 20 Serbian, 2 Turkish and 18 Gypsy.

Although Janjevo probably always had a Catholic place of worship since its founding in 1303, the present Catholic church was not allowed to open under Ottoman rule until the 17th century. But from that time on, the Roman Catholic religion became more public in Turkish Kosovo especially after the Janjevci started to make an annual pilgrimage to the Virgin Mary in the Catholic church of Letnica in southeast Kosovo. Although the official celebration of the Virgin Mary took place on August 15, the majority of the Janjevo population would depart on July 26th to Letnica, populated mainly by Croatian farmers and cattle-breeders. The Janjevci would stay until August 18 in small huts they made on church grounds, separating their premises with woolen blankets.

It was probably at this time that the Muslim Gypsies became involved in the annual pilgrimage, even taking it over in numbers when it was realized that the Virgin Mary of Letnica was actually a Black Madonna. In old India, the original homeland of the various Gypsy tribes and castes now found in the Balkans, their favorite deity had been Kali, the black goddess of the underprivileged. Although the Janjevci continued their annual pilgrimage to Letnica up to the 1999 war, the Gypsies from all over the Balkans had by then made it their pilgrimage with thousands of families annually setting up their tents there each year. In Janjevo itself, the Gypsies also became the second largest ethnic group making up more than 10% of the population by the 1980s.

In 2000, one year after the Kosovo war, only three or four Gypsy families attended the August 15 festivities in Letnica, mainly the ones I took in my van. But last year, the numbers had once again increased with thousands attending.

But it was not just the increasing number of Gypsies traveling to Letnica that turned the pilgrimage into a Roma festivity. Since the early 1950s, the Croatian population throughout Kosovo had been falling. With industrial development taking place throughout Yugoslavia, especially during the 1970s, many Kosovo Croats emigrated to Zagreb. Not only were the working opportunities better than an isolated village like Janjevo, but education for their children in the Croatian language was much easier. In 1971 there were 3,761 Croats living in Janjevo. By 1991, this figure had fallen to 2,859. But it was during the Albanian-Serbian conflict that most left. Today there are only 232 descendants of the Dubrovnik pioneers still residing in Janjevo.

Ironically, the departing descendants of the Dubrovnik pioneers did not return to Dubrovnik. Most resettled in Zagreb. The reasons: it took 20 hours by car to Dubrovnik, but only 10 to Zagreb; Zagreb was also the biggest city and the most industrialized in Croatia, hence offering the best job opportunities. But it was probably the fall of the Republic of Dubrovnik under Napoleon’s rule in 1806 that cut the umbilical cord to the original homeland of the Janjevci.

Today the Kosovo town of Janjevo is mainly populated by Albanians and Gypsies. The Catholic church still has a Croatian priest, but the new Catholic priest in Letnica is Albanian from Pristina. Although one of the most famous streets in old Dubrovnik is still named Janjevo, few citizens know why. For retired goldsmith Stipe Lukic, more than 900 years of Croatian heritage is coming to an end in Kosovo. But this last of the Janjevci still refuses to leave.

Wednesday’s municipal news included this story: “the campaign to remove street vendors from Pristina’s streets and sidewalks is ongoing. According to municipal officials, inspectors carrying out this task have not faced resistance. However, in several cases street vendors re-appear after inspectors leave the scene. If caught selling again, municipal inspectors will confiscate the vendors’ goods.”

Actually, most of us pedestrians are not too bothered by the sight of the nut sellers, corn roasters, sellers of belts and umbrellas, and what not, adding some color to the drab streets.

However, I can understand the Municipality’s need to collect revenue from licensing these activities because the new Law on Local Self Government requires municipalities to provide many new services and God knows they need more money. The municipality has also closed down many sidewalk cafes that do not have the required licenses. Far be it from me to suggest that the municipality should not enforce the law!

But from this pedestrian’s perspective, what would really provide a boost to local revenues and law and order is to start ticketing cars parked on the sidewalks. This is a black eye for central Pristina - many sidewalks are so clogged with cars that it is nearly impossible to even walk on the sidewalks, forcing many people out onto the street into the paths of other cars. This is really bad for handicapped people, people in wheelchairs, old folks, and children. Many streets in central Pristina were actually designed quite nicely from the old days, with ample, beautiful sidewalks. Of course, this is hard to notice now for all the cars.

As many of us know from other cities, letting cars on sidewalks just degrades street life, and it discourages pedestrians and it never stops. More and more cars are destined for this country and the answer to parking management isn’t letting cars on the sidewalks. For me, I would happily prefer nut sellers to cars on the sidewalks!

Fred Van Antwerp

Cleaning & Maintenance Services

shtëpiaku

citizen’s service shërbimi për qytetarë

044 50 80 50

www.shtepiaku.com

Colombia and Belize recognize Kosovo

Colombia and Belize officially recognized the newly established country of Kosovo early last week. They are joining the ranks of 43 other countries that are supporting the sovereignty of the newest Balkan nation.

According to the official Colombian Ministry of Foreign Affairs statement Kosovo is a unique case, which required specific diplomatic consideration, “Kosovo is a special case that requires a special solution and does not create any precedent for solving conflicts.” Therefore, “The foreign minister of Columbia declares that it recognizes the Republic of Kosovo as a sovereign and



independent state with which it intends to establish diplomatic ties.”

The government of Colombia was been quick to affirm its desire to maintain a good relationship with Serbia as well.

Other South American states likely to follow Colombia in recognizing Kosovo in the near future appear to be Panama, Guatemala and Chile.

The day after the Columbian announcement the tiny Central American state of Belize followed suit. The President of the Republic of Kosovo, Dr. Fatmir Sejdiu, received a letter from the

government of Belize, which notified him officially that Belize recognizes Kosovo as an independent and sovereign state.

The letter read, in part, “We congratulate the people of the Republic of Kosovo for their determination to achieve their independence and commitment to accomplish and respect all democratic processes. Particularly, we welcome the statements of the Government of Kosovo to continue its commitment to implement the United Nations Charter and all principles and regulations in accordance with the international law to keep peace, stability in the region and its commitment to coexist peacefully with its neighbors.”



Thorns and Thistles

by Stephen Schwartz

Reflections of a Balkan Sojourner (2)

Italian diplomat Lamberto Zannier is not the first Special Representative of the UN Secretary General (SRSG) to assume the role of humanitarian-imperialist satrap in Kosovo, but he provides indications that he may be the least sophisticated. Others knew little of Kosovo, but Zannier seems to be ignorant about the world at large.

I have often argued that Kosovar Albanians should form an alliance with the Tibetans and Uighurs. China lobbies for Serbia and against Kosovo's independence, most of the world understands Tibet more clearly than it does Kosovo, and the situation of the Kosovars and Tibetans, in terms of the historic threat to their cultural security, was long identical.

The most impressive example of Zannieresque obliviousness came a few days ago when the SRSG announced his agenda for an agreement between Pristina and Belgrade. We may leave aside for the moment the question of whether such an accommodation is possible right now, much less whether its product would be benevolent.

Zannier has described his meanderings between the two capitals as if they were negotiations between the two countries, when they are nothing of the sort, given that the Kosovar government ignores them.

The most striking element in Zannier's fantasy-camp performance came when, in his August 1 interview with the Kosovar daily Koha Ditore, he blandly stated, in defending the idea that a parallel Serbian customs system could be maintained north of Mitrovica: "There are many examples in the world where states have different customs zones in their territories. I think



I have to mention here China and Hong Kong."

I have no idea whether Zannier has ever been to Hong Kong (HK) or even read about it, though he may have picked up some bad advice from Chris Patten, who a decade ago presided over the handover of Hong Kong to the Beijing regime, and who now expatiates widely on Kosovo.

I, however, have been to Hong Kong, and consider the very suggestion of a parallel between the situation there and that in Kosovo scandalous, to say the least.

First, the homogeneous ethnic populace on both sides of the former international border between the UK colony of Hong Kong and the territory of China proper was and remains Chinese. Is Zannier aware of this fact, and its rather rude contrast with the situation of Serb-Albanian conflict? HK's special status is not dictated by the presence within it of a non-Chinese community, although very small minorities of non-Chinese live there. Rather, the HK customs system within China exists because it is economically advantageous to Beijing. Liquidation of the highly-successful free market system in HK and its immediate absorption into the Chinese state economy would cause an economic earthquake throughout east Asia.

I thought the whole world knew that Hong Kong had created services and infrastructure far superior to that on the mainland. It is absurd to imagine that the Serbs north of Mitrovica possess an advanced economic structure. The criminal policy of operating Trepça without assuring environmental controls appropriate for it speaks eloquently to that issue.

Second, Hong Kong, which was formerly the most intellectually-vibrant Chinese-majority community in the world, must now contend with a Chinese governor accustomed to and clearly intent on limiting political freedom in HK. Does Zannier look forward to an enclave north of Mitrovica in which officials from Serbia would pursue similar policies?

It is especially grating to find Zannier citing a positive example from Chinese policy in the same week when the whole world is watching Beijing's Olympics and a wide section of global opinion has condemned Chinese policies in Tibet and Eastern

Turkestan, the Uighur (Turkic Muslim) majority region the Chinese call Xinjiang. I have often argued that Kosovar Albanians should form an alliance with the Tibetans and Uighurs. China lobbies for Serbia and against Kosovo's independence, most of the world understands Tibet more clearly than it does Kosovo, and the situation of the Kosovars and Tibetans, in terms of the historic threat to their cultural security, was long identical. Does Zannier grasp that pointing to Chinese policies as positive models is not a way to win approval among Kosovars? Perhaps he does not. Perhaps he does not care. Perhaps he imagines north Mitrovica as a special zone within Serbia, not Kosovo.

I have here concentrated on Zannier's apparent ignorance rather than the more obviously-objectionable content in his interview: his belief that a separate Serbian police and judiciary should be established north of Mitrovica. This cannot be described as anything other than partition. Zannier has said that his main concern is to support the demands of Serbs. He has also described himself as "status-neutral."

Zannier is, unfortunately, engaging in a common Italian stereotype, that of personal improvisation of policy. But he is also playing with fire. The European Union's main states are not "status-neutral" on Kosovo; they have recognized the republic. The United States is not "status-neutral" on Kosovo; President George W. Bush has called for removal of UNMIK from Kosovo. As the Kosovar leadership has pointed out, Zannier does not have authority to formulate obligations binding on the government of the Kosovo republic. But he is also apparently blind to the way in which encouragement of partition north of Mitrovica will likely lead to a new war.

Hope and Aid from the UK

The Hope and Aid Direct (H&AD) agency from the United Kingdom is planning to send a convoy of trucks with aid for locals to Kosovo this October. The area that they will be focusing on bringing aid to this trip is the northeastern part of the country, including Pristina.

H&AD has a long-standing partnership with the Mother Teresa Society (MTS) and work to distribute aid in Kosovo to those who need it most regardless of their ethnic background. Their motto is taking aid – not sides.

The charity was founded in 1999 and is staffed entirely by volunteers who raise their own funds. The money raised is used to amass aid and pay for its transportation to regions in need. The bulk of donations are from private citizens, companies, schools, clubs, churches and other organizations.

The volunteers who physically bring the aid often do some kind of humanitarian work whilst in the country. In the past, H&AD has rebuilt schools and renovated

orphanages.

The bulk of the organization's work has been done in Kosovo in recent years but H&AD has also distributed aid in Romania, Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia. They also had a presence in Sri Lanka following the Tsunami in 2004.

Since its inception the organization has brought in over 1,000 tonnes of aid to the Balkans, with the majority coming to Kosovo.

Kosovo has an extreme poverty rate of 18% but it is as high as 22% in areas such as Mitrovica. The country's Social Welfare Department has very strict and dangerously narrow guidelines as to who is eligible for help. For example, only families with children under 5 are eligible for assistance, and once an adult passes the age of 55 they are no longer able to apply for Social Welfare.

If you would like to help H&AD by donating or volunteering go to:

www.hopeandaiddirect.net/contacts/





Top ten reasons to invest in Kosovo?

The Economic Initiative for Kosovo (ECIKS) promotes foreign investment into the country. One of the tools the organization uses is the popular top ten list, in this case the top ten reasons to invest in Kosovo. While I support the work of ECIKS, which is an arm of the Pristina based Investment Promotion Agency for Kosovo (IPAK) I have to say that their list this year has some analytical flaws.

1 Central location in the region

Being located in the heart of the Balkans, Kosovo's capital Pristina is in one-hour driving distance to any neighbouring country. Ongoing infrastructure projects include modern highway connections to Albania, Serbia and Macedonia. By 2009 the driving distance to the Albanian Port of Durres will be reduced to 3 hours. In addition, Pristina International Airport offers air connections to main European capitals.

While it is true that Kosovo is a central Balkan country we are also a landlocked country. There are projections that the driving time between Kosovo and the Albanian ports will be 3 hours once all the planned road works are complete. However, we have a long way to go on the development of proper road infrastructure. The hope that the highway system will be revitalized by 2009 is overly optimistic, the roads will be built but it may take a bit longer than projected.

2 Young, educated, multilingual and dynamic population

Kosovo has the youngest population in Europe. Due to the long international presence, English is just short of an official language. Over 40,000 students at two state and numerous private universities and many Kosovars who have lived and studied abroad are currently guarantying a sufficient stream of highly educated labour.

The data that this statement was collected in 1981 and so it may well be out of date. It is true that 70% of the population is under the age of 35 but to say that they are highly educated is a bit of a stretch. Kosovo has a relatively new education system that was re-established in 2000, and while we have two state universities and many private universities, only the American University in Kosovo is fully accredited.

3 Competitive, flexible and well skilled labour force

Average gross wage in Kosovo is less than 240 EUR. Wages in Kosovo are unburdened by costly social contributions, unlike those in the countries of the region. Through engaging in smaller workshops and private businesses during the 1990s and through vocational training programs established in the last 9 years, Kosovars have gained skills, which are highly appreciated by foreign investors.

I'm critical of this point. The marketable work skills that are needed to attract the new investors are in the technology and financial sectors are not present. All of them employ young people and they used to have their own original training centers, but now they accept people immediately, often hiring an under qualified staff.

4 Modern Telecommunications

Kosovo offers modern telecommunication systems. There are 3 fixed telephony operators and 2 mobile telephony operators, offering the latest and most

modern technologies, including VoIP, GPRS, etc. Three main internet service providers offer stable and broadband Internet, including DSL, Wireless, and Cable, with lower prices than in any other European country.

Kosovo does have a quickly developing telecommunications system, but the industry has expanded because of past foreign investments and there may not be much room for more growth.

5 Modern, EU-compatible legislation

Since 1999 Kosovo's legal system has been re-built and is now completely compatible with the EU legislation. Kosovo has also installed the International Standards for financial reporting. In addition, Kosovo's legislation offers "national treatment" for foreign investors.

This is not entirely true, Kosovo's legislation is based on the old Yugoslavian legislation, as well as the updated UNMIK legislation, with the Ahtisaari plan and the brand new Kosovo Constitution. This means it is far from being modern and also far from being EU-compatible. EU legislation has high standards and our standards are very different. Having said that, we do intend to have similar legislation to minimize obstacles for private investors and production facilities. Kosovo has established a national standard but it is not up to the international standard of financial reporting. We are in the initial stage of adopting all international standards needed for investors.

6 Sound banking system

Kosovo's financial sector has been built on completely new foundations. The Banking and Payments Authority of Kosovo (BPK) is an independent body, which acts as a Central Bank of Kosovo. There are eight licensed banks, two pension funds, 16 other financial intermediaries, 27 financial auxiliaries and nine insurance companies in Kosovo. Six out of eight banks in Kosovo are foreign-owned.

While it is true that there are well-established banks in Kosovo, we are lacking a real financial sector and markets. After the war we started from scratch. We have a banking system, but it's not competitive enough for business development.

7 Currency: EURO

Euro is the official currency in Kosovo, eliminating this way the currency and exchange rate risk. The Euro gave Kosovo a considerable advantage over its competitors in the region by making it more attractive to foreign investment and by bringing financial and macroeconomic stability. It also enabled Kosovo to offer the lowest transaction costs in the region.

Any downside to using the euro is inconsequential when compared to the benefits - no argument.

8 Free access to EU-market and CEFTA members market

Kosovo derives three major benefits from the trade liberalization, namely improved export possibilities, a better investment environment and stable relations with its neighbours. Kosovo is a member of CEFTA and it also benefits from non-reciprocal, customs free access to the EU market based on the EU Autonomous Trade Preference (ATP) Regime. Although the CEFTA agreement opens

up many Balkan countries for free trade with Kosovo, the inability to establish a reciprocally equal trade regime with Serbia is a negative selling point for international investors. Because the Kosovo economy gets much of its income from Kosovars living abroad, government relies on VAT and customs tariffs to fund the country, as opposed to straight income tax, like most countries. But the 10% tariff on imported goods might not be enough to protect Kosovo products.

9 Great investment opportunities

Kosovo is well endowed with natural resources and agricultural land. Sectors of agriculture, food processing, construction, textile, IT, automotive components and energy and mining offer the most opportunities for foreign investors. An interesting opportunity, having in mind the young, multilingual and educated population, is also IT-outsourcing.

This is a valid point. There is a great deal of room to grow for this country.

10 Low tax burden and modern business support institutions

Kosovo has a simple and straightforward tax system. The tax burden is very low:

- Personal Income Tax 0-20 %
- VAT 15 %
- Corporate Income Tax 20%
- Mandatory contributions for employees only 5% of gross salaries

No other country of the SEE can outperform Kosovo in its ability to allow the businesses to enter the market. The Investment Promotion Agency of Kosovo (IPAK) and its office in Vienna offer a whole range of free of charge services for foreign investors.

Although these institutions to promote investments are present, they still need to be developed. The Investment Promotion Agency of Kosovo-IPAK, is established but not yet functioning as it must.

Ejup Qerimi is a former Secretary General of the Kosovo Chamber of Commerce

Përkrahje e Bujqësisë në Kosovë
Podrška Poljoprivrede Kosova
Supporting Agriculture in Kosovo

Wholesale and Retail prices for vegetables, fruits, consumer products, livestock and animal products in all regions in Kosovo

Product	Retail										Wholesale									
	Prishtina	Prizren	Peja	Gjakova	Gjilan	Mitrovica	Ferizaj	(+/-)	Prishtina	Prizren	Peja	Gjakova	Gjilan	Mitrovica	Ferizaj	(+/-)				
Vegetables																				
Cabbage	Avg 0.12	0.13	0.25	0.10	0.22	0.50	0.11	v	0.05	0.04	0.15	0.05	0.12	0.25	0.05	0.05				
Carrots	Avg 0.70	0.60	0.65	0.45	0.65	0.70	0.55	v	0.38	0.25	0.35	0.30	0.45	0.50	0.30	v				
Cucumber	Avg 0.32	0.35	0.23	0.23	0.35	0.50	0.20	v	0.12	0.18	0.10	0.10	0.22	0.25	0.08	v				
Garlic	Avg 1.50	1.95	1.96	1.40	1.65	2.00	1.75	v	1.03	1.35	1.55	1.00	1.45	1.50	1.57	▲				
Leeks	Avg 0.77	1.10	0.95	0.60	0.60	1.00	0.60	v	0.45	0.65	0.50	0.40	0.47	0.80	0.30	▲				
Onions	Avg 0.47	0.45	0.30	0.40	0.37	0.40	0.35	v	0.22	0.23	0.15	0.25	0.25	0.20	0.20	v				
Peppers	Avg 0.60	0.75	0.50	0.83	0.62	1.00	0.45	v	0.35	0.28	0.30	0.52	0.40	0.70	0.30	v				
Potato	Avg 0.38	0.38	0.35	0.25	0.35	0.40	0.25	v	0.18	0.19	0.25	0.10	0.25	0.20	0.18	v				
Tomato	Avg 0.50	0.45	0.35	0.25	0.37	0.50	0.30	v	0.28	0.23	0.25	0.15	0.27	0.25	0.15	v				
White beans	Avg 2.10	2.25	2.40	2.30	2.00	2.00	2.00	v	1.80	1.75	2.00	2.00	1.75	1.50	1.55	▲				
Spinach	Avg 1.13	0.55	0.40	0.58	-	1.00	1.00	v	0.77	0.38	0.20	0.30	-	0.70	0.70	▲				
Green Salad	Avg 0.33	0.23	0.25	0.60	0.45	0.50	0.43	v	0.18	0.13	0.15	0.32	0.27	0.25	0.29	▲				
Green Bean	Avg 0.97	1.10	0.40	1.80	0.80	1.00	1.00	v	0.65	0.35	0.20	1.20	0.62	0.60	0.75	v				
Fruits																				
Apple	Avg 1.67	1.56	1.00	1.92	1.40	1.70	1.70	v	1.32	0.95	0.80	1.50	1.15	1.20	1.10	v				
Mandarin	Avg 1.37	1.25	1.00	1.50	1.40	1.50	1.40	▲	0.97	1.15	0.80	1.10	1.17	1.00	1.00	▲				
Banana	Avg 1.06	0.75	0.80	1.00	1.10	1.00	0.92	▲	0.83	0.73	0.50	0.50	0.95	0.70	0.80	▲				
Grape	Avg 1.27	1.10	1.20	1.50	1.05	1.10	1.01	v	0.90	0.68	1.00	1.00	0.85	0.65	0.63	v				
Lemon	Avg 1.50	1.20	1.30	1.50	1.10	1.10	1.20	v	1.00	0.70	1.10	1.00	0.90	0.65	0.70	v				
Melons	Avg 1.73	1.93	1.40	1.97	1.55	2.00	1.90	v	1.30	1.35	1.10	1.50	1.35	1.50	1.45	v				
Pears	Avg 1.80	2.00	1.50	2.00	1.60	2.00	2.00	v	1.40	1.40	1.20	1.50	1.40	1.50	1.60	v				
Watermelon	Avg 0.47	0.45	0.40	0.50	0.85	0.60	0.55	v	0.32	0.33	0.15	0.30	0.65	0.40	0.23	▲				
Apricot	Avg 0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1.00	0.60	0.60	v	0.35	0.35	0.25	0.30	0.80	0.40	0.25	▲				
Plum	Avg 1.50	1.37	0.90	1.72	1.35	1.50	1.60	▲	1.03	1.10	0.70	1.20	1.15	1.10	1.10	▲				
Walnut	Avg 1.60	1.60	1.00	1.80	1.50	1.50	1.80	▲	1.20	1.20	0.80	1.20	1.30	1.00	1.20	▲				
Peach	Avg 0.17	0.17	0.20	0.18	0.20	0.20	0.17	v	0.09	0.12	0.10	0.10	0.16	0.13	0.12	v				
Consumer Product																				
Milk	Avg 0.85	0.84	0.60	0.80	0.82	0.90	0.91	▲	0.60	0.72	0.35	0.60	-	-	0.87	▲				
Cheese	Avg 3.58	3.15	2.20	3.73	3.32	2.75	2.80	▲	2.30	2.90	1.70	3.33	-	-	2.90	▲				
Eggs	Avg 2.95	2.95	2.80	2.80	2.75	2.66	2.77	▲	2.52	2.70	2.20	2.50	-	-	2.48	▲				
Yogurt	Avg 3.00	3.00	3.00	2.80	3.00	3.00	2.95	▲	2.60	2.83	2.50	2.50	-	-	2.50	▲				
Beef	Avg 0.93	0.94	1.10	0.90	0.94	0.70	0.98	▲	0.75	-	0.80	0.70	-	-	0.85	▲				
Sausage	Avg 1.00	0.99	1.40	0.90	0.98	0.70	1.00	v	0.80	-	1.00	0.70	-	-	0.90	▲				
Bread	Avg 4.99	5.90	4.50	5.83	5.15	5.00	6.00	▲	-	5.25	3.70	5.33	-	-	5.25	▲				
Red Wine	Avg 5.50	6.00	5.50	6.00	5.50	5.00	7.00	▲	-	5.50	4.00	5.50	-	-	5.50	↔				
White Wine	Avg 3.00	2.67	3.20	4.83	3.15	2.66	2.82	▲	-	2.50	4.43	-	-	-	1.95	v				

Note: -All prices are in Euro. -Prices collected on Saturday and Sunday every week. -For all products the average and highest maximum prices publish. -The indicators represent the tendencies of grow up and follow prices compared to last week. -All prices are publish per kg, except milk, yogurt that are in liter, bread(700 gr), eggs are in boxes 30 eggs, and green salad is in bunch.

Dear world, please confront America



by Naomi Wolf



Flying a flag upside down is an internationally recognized sign of distress

official investigations and ensure genuine accountability.

But, while grassroots pressure has not worked, money still talks. We need targeted government-led sanctions against the US by civilized countries, including international divestment of capital. Many studies have shown that tying investment to democracy and human rights reform is effective in the developing world. There is no reason why it can't be effective against the world's superpower.

We also need an internationally coordinated strategy for prosecuting war criminals at the top and further down the chain of command – individual countries pressing charges, as Italy and France have done. Although the United States is not a signatory to the statute that established the International Criminal Court, violations of Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions are war crimes for which anyone – potentially even the US president – may be tried in any of the other 193 countries that are parties to the conventions. The whole world can hunt these criminals down.

An outlaw America is a global problem that threatens the rest of the international community. If this regime gets away with flouting international law, what is to prevent the next administration – or this administration, continuing under its secret succession plan in the event of an emergency – from going further and targeting its political opponents at home and abroad?

We Americans are either too incapable, or too dysfunctional, to help ourselves right now. Like drug addicts or the mentally ill who refuse treatment, we need our friends to intervene. So remember us as we were in our better moments, and take action to save us – and the world – from ourselves.

Maybe then I can fall in love with my country again.

Naomi Wolf, the author, most recently, of *The End of America: Letter of Warning to a Young Patriot* and the forthcoming *Give me Liberty: How to Become an American Revolutionary*, is co-founder of the American Freedom Campaign, a US democracy movement.

Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2008. www.project-syndicate.org

Is it possible to fall out of love with your own country? For two years, I, like many Americans, have been focused intently on documenting, exposing, and alerting the nation to the Bush administration's criminality and its assault on the Constitution and the rule of law – a story often marginalized at home. I was certain that when Americans knew what was being done in their name, they would react with horror and outrage.

Three months ago, the Bush administration still clung to its devil's sound bite, "We don't torture." Now, Physicians for Human Rights has issued its report documenting American-held detainees' traumas, and even lie detector tests confirm they have been tortured. The Red Cross report has

If this is what Americans are feeling, if that is who we are, we don't deserve our Constitution and Bill of Rights.

leaked: torture and war crimes. Jane Mayer's impeccably researched exposé *The Dark Side* just hit the stores: torture, crafted and directed from the top. The Washington Post gave readers actual video footage of the abusive interrogation of a Canadian minor, Omar Khadr, who was seen showing his still-bleeding abdominal wounds, weeping and pleading with his captors.

So the truth is out and freely available. And America is still napping, worrying about its weight, and hanging out at the mall.

I had thought that after so much exposure, thousands of Americans would be holding vigils on Capitol Hill, that religious leaders would be asking God's forgiveness, and that a popular groundswell of revulsion, similar to the nineteenth-century anti-slavery movement, would emerge. To

paraphrase Abraham Lincoln, if torture is not wrong, nothing is wrong.

And yet no such thing has occurred. There is no crisis in America's churches and synagogues, no Christian and Jewish leaders crying out for justice in the name of Jesus, a tortured political prisoner, or of Yahweh, who demands righteousness. I asked a contact in the interfaith world why. He replied, "The mainstream churches don't care, because they are Republican. And the synagogues don't care, because the prisoners are Arabs."

It was then that I realized that I could not be in love with my country right now. How can I care about the fate of people like that? If this is what Americans are feeling, if that is who we are, we don't deserve our Constitution and Bill of Rights.

Even America's vaunted judicial system has failed to constrain obvious abuses. A Federal court has ruled that the military tribunals system – Star Chambers where evidence derived from torture is used against the accused – can proceed. Another recently ruled that the President may call anyone anywhere an "enemy combatant" and detain him or her indefinitely.

So Americans are colluding with a criminal regime. We have become an outlaw nation – a clear and present danger to international law and global stability – among civilized countries that have been our allies. We are – rightly – on Canada's list of rogue nations that torture.

Europe is still high from Barack Obama's recent visit. Many Americans, too, hope that an Obama victory in November will roll back this nightmare. But this is no time to yield to delusions. Even if Obama wins, he may well be a radically weakened president. The Bush administration has created a transnational apparatus of lawlessness that he alone, without global intervention, can neither roll back nor control.

Private security firms – for example, Blackwater – will still be operating,

accountable neither to him nor to Congress, and not bound, they have argued, by international treaties. Weapons manufacturers and the telecommunications industry, with billions at stake in maintaining a hyped "war on terror" and their new global surveillance market, will deploy a lavishly financed army of lobbyists to defend their interests.

Moreover, if elected, Obama will be constrained by his own Democratic Party. America's political parties bear little resemblance to the disciplined organizations familiar in parliamentary democracies in Europe and elsewhere. And Democrats in Congress will be even more divided after November if, as many expect, conservative members defeat Republican incumbents damaged by their association with Bush.

To be sure, some Democrats have recently launched Congressional hearings into the Bush administration's abuses of power. Unfortunately, with virtually no media coverage, there is little pressure to broaden

Kosovo adrift

Based on an Albanian American Civic League fact-finding trip to Kosovo, June 29—July 6, 2008

by Shirley Cloyes DioGuardi

Although Kosovo's independence has been recognized by the United States, it lacks genuine sovereignty. With five entities competing for power, Kosovo is drifting.

Since Kosovo declared its independence on February 17, 2008, it has been recognized by 43 countries; it has a constitution with a majority of laws based on the criteria outlined in the Ahtisaari plan; it has its own multiethnic flag and national anthem; it has established its foreign ministry; it has prepared new passports; and it is currently in the process of establishing security forces with the assistance of NATO experts.

Nevertheless, it is hard to envision how Kosovo is to achieve full economic and political independence with five entities competing for power and reporting to their own chains of command. The United Nations, which should have handed over its mission to the European Union on June 15, became increasingly reluctant to pass on its mandate in the face of Russian pressure, invoking UN Resolution 1244, and the objection of Serbia and seven EU members. On June 12, UN General Secretary Ban Ki-moon sent a letter to Kosovo President Fatmir Sejdiu and Serbian President Boris Tadic, stating that he wanted to "reconfigure UNMIK" and "to place the EU under it." EULEX, the 2,200-member body led by General Yves de Kermabon that is supposed to supervise the police and the judiciary, has yet to fill its ranks (there are only 300 in country) and deploy to the north.

The International Civilian Office (ICO), the 1,800-strong administrative body led by Peter Feith, reports to a steering group of representative powers, and individual members in effect report to their individual home countries. KFOR reports to NATO command, and the troops participating in the Kosovo mission report to their home countries.

Then there is the Kosovo government and parliament, which is being cautioned by the international community to remain patient and which, under the new constitution, must respect the power of the ICO to "sanction and remove any public official and annul any decision or legislation that violates the letter or spirit of the settlement." And finally, there are the Kosovo Serbs, who are being manipulated by Belgrade to refuse integration into the new state of Kosovo.

The alphabet soup of "internationals" seems to lack a clear plan for solving the serious political and economic problems that Kosovo faces. In addition, the ICO, the new lead body, is now in competition with UNMIK. This makes it highly unlikely for decision making to coalesce and that any robust response will be made to Serbia's efforts to undermine the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Kosovo. Until this changes, Kosovo will be independent in

name only.

Serbia, with the backing of Russia, is working to undermine Kosovo's sovereignty and to destabilize the region. The United States must again stand up to both.

Serbia has not accepted independence, international supervision, or the Ahtisaari principles. Through its intensive lobbying efforts challenging Kosovo's sovereignty, there has been a slowdown in the recognition of Kosovo as a new state. Serbia is simultaneously changing the realities on the ground. They are using money to control Kosovo Serbs, 40 percent of whom live above the Ibar River in northern Kosovo and 60 percent of whom live below in enclaves throughout Kosovo. Since the declaration of independence, Belgrade has strengthened parallel structures, including police, judiciary, border control, transportation, telecommunications, and cultural heritage sites. On February 20, Kosovo Serbs, with support from Belgrade, blew up two border crossings in northern Kosovo, Gates 1 and 31, and the border checkpoints of Brnjak,

... it is hard to envision how Kosovo is to achieve full economic and political independence with five entities competing for power and reporting to their own chains of command.

Jarinje, and Mutivode. Last month, on June 28, they established a parliament in the north.

Tom Yazdgerdi, political and economic section chief of the U.S. Embassy, with whom we had an excellent meeting, told us that the United States is sending a clear message to Belgrade that it cannot embrace future admittance to the European Union and at the same time object to EULEX and maintain control over Kosovo Serbs. (More than any other Western factor, the United States is pressing Serbia to accept the independence of Kosovo and to get on with its own democratization.) As a lawyer working for the international community stated, "There will be a full blown political crisis in the European Union if Tadic pursues both tracks."

Nevertheless, Serbian cooperation of any sort is highly unlikely while the Serbs feel that they have Russian backing. Very few want to join the European Union—and certainly not if it means "losing," as they see it. Russia, calling the independence of Kosovo "illegal,"

continues to invoke UN Resolution 1244, even though 1244 neither allows nor disallows independence. Nevertheless, if 1244 is not removed, Serbian parallel structures will get concretized. The United States must again stand up to Russia. Until it does, the European Union will remain divided and Kosovo's status will remain unresolved. With 25 percent of the financial responsibility for EULEX and a troop presence in Camp Bondsteel, the United States cannot afford to take a back seat to Europe at this critical juncture.

The de facto partition of Mitrovica is a reality. The Kosovo government and internationals have not yet been able to take the north under their control, partly because most of the West is once again appeasing Serbia.

The north of Kosovo has effectively separated itself with Serbian support, and is utterly lawless. Serbia's end game has always been the partition of the north. A high-ranking member of the ICO told us that EULEX will eventually deploy, but the timing remains to be seen because of concerns about EU forces coming under attack. As Tom Yazdgerdi rightly told us, "If EULEX does not deploy into the north, we will have problems." But it remains to be seen if the ICO and EULEX have any idea about how to regain control of the north other than by waiting and hoping that Tadic's government's desire to join the EU will yield greater cooperation from the Serbs.

The UN and the Contact Group also seem to be taking this wait-and-see approach. The result is that Belgrade is seizing the opportunity to fulfill its territorial ambitions, continuing Slobodan Milosevic's quest for "Greater Serbia."

As a USAID representative told us off the record, "efforts should be made to gain control over the Serb majority in the south by giving them carrots, while giving Belgrade the stick by challenging the lawlessness of the north on a daily basis and publicly bringing attention to Belgrade's intransigence in the international media." Allowing Belgrade to have enhanced power over the Kosovo Serb community without insisting that it accepts the new reality in Kosovo is an invitation for instability and conflict.

Without intervention by the United States to accelerate the deployment of EULEX in the north, with support from KFOR, the partition will become a reality, and this will open the way for renewed discussion of making the Presheva Valley a part of Kosovo, as it was before the Serbs illegally annexed it in 1956. We met with leaders from several political parties and NGOs in Presheva, Medvedgje, and Bujanoc in Gjilan and received a chilling portrait of the apartheid-like conditions for Albanians there. The Serbian police and military are

engaged in a silent ethnic cleansing in the Presheva Valley. They are deliberately using violent and oppressive tactics in an attempt to drive the Albanian people out of the region, while simultaneously blocking refugee returns.

The Kosovo government is bowing to the international community, when it should be pursuing internal solutions.

The present Kosovo Government appears to be principally concerned with holding on to power. It has yet to put forth a proactive strategy for solving the country's problems and is not moving energetically and systematically in areas where it can exercise power (i.e., obtaining recognition through active lobbying). In some political circles, there is an air of self satisfaction ("we can sit back now that we have independence"). In others, the atmosphere is one of dispirited paralysis ("only the internationals can solve this"), when in reality the international community has little idea of how to move forwards, and, in some sectors, is actually encouraging drift. The only way that Kosovo can succeed is if its government and its people take charge. Otherwise, it will be permanently dependent on the international administration. As former Prime Minister Ramush Haradinaj said, "We need local solutions with international assistance."

Until the international community is willing to establish a properly independent Kosovo state, stability in Southeast Europe will be at risk.

Serbia has been able to slow the process of recognition of Kosovo with the abiding help of Russia.

Through vigorous diplomatic actions in the international arena, on the one hand, and by consolidating political and economic control over the Serb community in Kosovo, on the other, Belgrade is working to weaken Kosovo's February 2008 declaration of independence. On a daily basis it is raising questions in diplomatic circles and in the press about whether Kosovo is capable of functioning as a sovereign, multiethnic state. Belgrade has been helped, to a great extent, by the fact that the international community was unwilling to establish Kosovo as a properly independent state.

Shirley Cloyes DioGuardi is Balkan Affairs Adviser to the Albanian American Civic League.

This article has been edited, by the author, to meet space constraints, from a presentation to the U.S. House and Senate Foreign Relations Committees and was previously published in its entirety in Kosova Sot.

FEATURE

Bajram Mehmeti, internationally renowned Kosovo Romani

by Paul Polansky

Bajram Mehmeti is a 28-year-old Kosovo Gypsy artist who in the aftermath of the 1999 war created, in just one year's time, an astonishingly rich series of more than 100 works depicting the life and culture of the pre-war Roma (Gypsies).

Since I discovered him in 2001 living in a poor Serbian farming village about 15 kilometers southwest of Pristina, Bajram has had solo exhibitions in Switzerland, Austria, Germany, Turkey and India.

I first heard about Bajram from a worker with the International Red Cross in Grachanica. I had gone there to report on an old blind Romani woman living alone who obviously needed help. After taking down her details and address, the Red Cross worker asked if I had ever heard of a Gypsy artist living west of Lipjan. He didn't know his name but had heard of him.

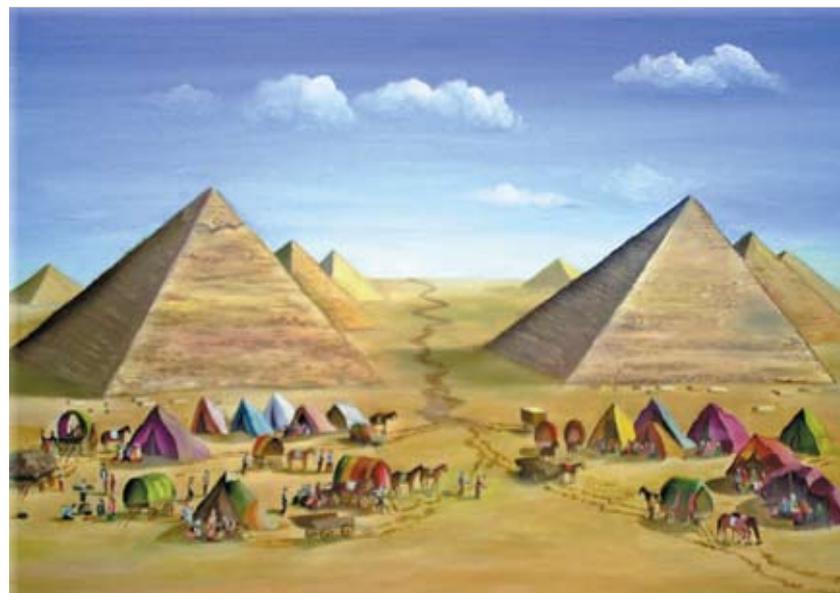
Although I had been living in the enclaves near Lipjan with Gypsy families since July 1999, I had never heard of this artist either. So I sent out to find him with my local Romani interpreter and driver. We visited several villages, always drawing a blank, until we asked my interpreter's Romani relatives in the small village of Lepina, a few kilometers west of Lipjan. They had never heard of

When I met Bajram Mehmeti that day, he had not painted very many pictures up 'til then. He was 21 years old, barefoot, and dirt poor. He lived with his parents, 3 brothers and 3 sisters in a two-room hovel with no indoor plumbing. He said he had taught himself how to draw by copying pictures out of books and magazines.

Because I already had a large art collection in Spain, where I had lived for the past 30 years, I saw a lot of promise in Bajram's sketches. The few paintings he had finished had wonderful colors in the most unusual combinations.

At that time I was living with Roma not only as a human rights activist but also as an anthropologist and poet. I asked Bajram if he would paint his people's customs and traditions if I bought all his materials and then his paintings. He agreed and within a year I had a large collection of his work. But more importantly I had also brought Andreas Meier, one of Switzerland's foremost art curators, out to Kosovo to view Bajram's work.

Director of the Seedamm Kulturzentrum in Pfaeffikon, Andreas immediately recognized Bajram's talent and not only began to prepare exhibitions for



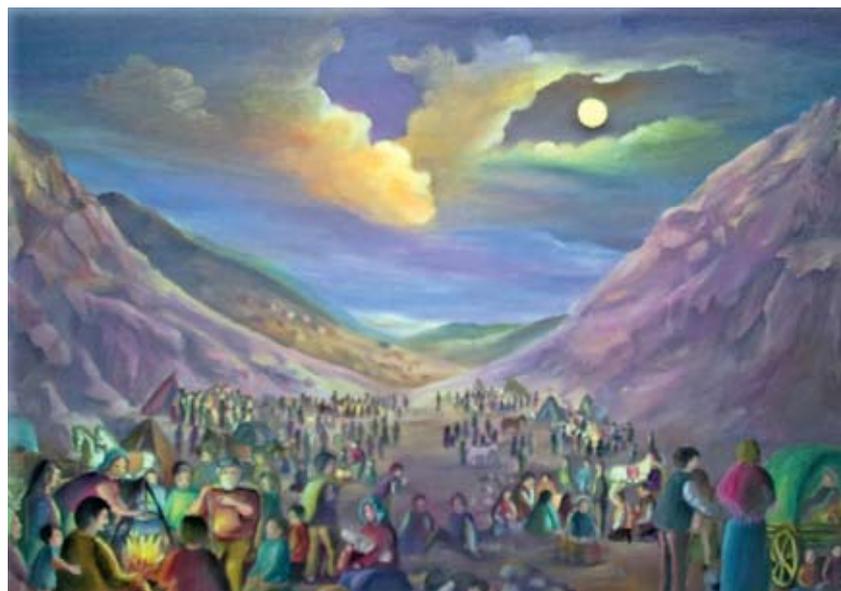
That book, **Bajram Mehmeti, Paintings of a Rom in Kosovo**, co-authored by Andreas and myself was published by Nimbus in Switzerland in 2004.

Bajram's paintings in our book portrayed Gypsy professions (blacksmiths, musicians, etc) and their customs and traditions. Also included were many portraits of his people. Although Bajram had lived and suffered through the 1999 war, especially the NATO bombing and its aftermath, there was not one painting about the Balkan conflict. Andreas described Bajram's paintings as moments of hope, reflecting the past and dreams of better times. "Bajram Mehmeti's pictures are, above all else, witnesses to a centuries-old existence of the Romani culture in Kosovo. In a heartening tone, blocking out all the horror of the recent past and latest events, he informs viewers about this culture and of possible new times. His pictures communicate the hope that prosperity can be found everywhere, if only given the chance."

In a short biography that Bajram wrote for our book, he stated: "There is no art background in my family, although my older sister also draws. I taught her and now she is nearly as good as I am. In some of her work, I cannot tell the difference between her paintings and mine."

Thirty-year-old Farija, Bajram's sister, mainly paints imagined portraits of Romani women, or Romani women at work: baking, cleaning, sewing, chopping wood, looking after children. Although

she is not married (has never had a date because of their isolation), those are her jobs too. But painted in her naive, simple style, one feels the pride and tradition in those household chores.



a Gypsy painter, except house painters. Then a Serb neighbor came by and said yes, he knew him. He lived just behind my interpreter's cousins.

him in Switzerland and Austria but also encouraged me to join him in writing a book about Bajram and his art.

Ku
Pfa
reca
tal
be
exh
in
A
en
join
boo

Internationally painter

Director of the Seedamm Kulturzentrum in Effikon, Andreas immediately recognized Bajram's talent and not only began to prepare exhibitions for him in Switzerland and Austria but also encouraged me to write about him in writing a book about Bajram and his art.



● Bajram Mehmeti

Both brother and sister have the renowned Gypsy eye for colour, for colour combinations that normally don't go together but in their pictures stand out in a refreshing way.

When I showed some of Bajram's work to Tracy Sweet, a highly regarded artist and teacher, in the United States, he couldn't believe the skies in Bajram's paintings. "Skies are the hardest thing for a young painter. This kid's a genius."

"I often go outside to paint," Bajram said. "Maybe three times a week. It's a whole other feeling when I'm painting outside in the fresh air, in the forest or at the lake. Not far from my house is a forest with a river but most of the pictures are painted at home. Much of it I only have to imagine. Many of my portraits come from my imagination. They depict character traits of Roma whom I have once met."

Bajram's works have already been collected by museums in Czech Republic, Switzerland, India, and the United States. Fortunately for Kosovo, Bajram does not like to travel and never wants to leave his homeland. While neighbors and relatives look for ways to escape the hard life in their poor communities, Bajram insists he will never leave Kosovo. "Life in Kosovo gets better with each day," he says with much pride in his country and people.

Bajram's paintings abroad sell for a minimum of 400 euros. In Kosovo he tries to keep his prices in line with the local market, with prices starting at 100 euros for his smallest works. His sister, still learning her craft, sells her paintings for 50 euros. They can be contacted at the following telephone numbers: 061-166-2058; 064-989-9379; and 064-523-8099.



● Bajram Mehmeti's sister, Farija Mehmeti

REGION

Ever increasing gas prices hurting Balkans

Soaring gas prices on the global market are having a serious impact on the Southeast Europe region. All the countries in the region depend on oil imports, and the record-high prices have spurred inflation. Consumers feel their standard of living eroding, while businesses scramble to accommodate higher costs.

Regionally, Turkish consumers have been hit the hardest. They buy nearly the most expensive gas in the world, paying close to 2 euros for a single litre of unleaded gas. Six years ago, a litre cost only 60 euro cents.

A full tank of gas now costs Turks around 105 euros – more than some domestic flight tickets. The net minimum wage, meanwhile, is only around 254 euros a month. Not surprisingly, more and more are coming to rely on public transportation; the first three months of 2007 saw a 10% increase in public transport use.

Another option is to buy a car powered by Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), or transform an existing car to an LPG system, since a litre of LPG costs only 95 euro cents. According to recent statistics, three of every ten cars in Turkish traffic run on an LPG system.

Paradoxically, Turks are emptying their wallets for gas even though the country is nearby the world's largest oil producers and benefits from profitable contracts with them. The main reason is high taxes. In all, taxes from fuel products constitute 13.9% of the country's total tax revenues.

While this may be good for the budget, it is hurting consumers. Gas price increases have triggered inflation, with the rate reaching 10.12%, the first two-digit level in two years.

The same stifling situation can be found across the Balkans - high gas prices, steep taxes, and rising inflation.

Serbia, for example, is one of the ten most expensive states in Europe when it comes to unleaded gas. As of July, one litre of unleaded cost up to 1.42 euros, while a litre of Eurodiesel costs 1.38 euros.

As in Turkey, a major reason is taxes. The taxes on gas account for a whopping 50% of fuel prices in Serbia, experts say. Moreover, the state-controlled company Serbian Oil has a de facto monopoly over oil processing in Serbia. Due to its outdated technology, oil-processing costs are among the highest in Europe.

Serbia must now either find a way to lower costs, conserve energy or use alternative fuels. Meanwhile, high inflation, currently at an estimated 15%, is increasing pressure on the government to take action. The authorities, however, have not committed to lowering taxes.

Tadic says Serbia to continue search for Mladic, Hadzic

Serbia's President Boris Tadic said last week that Serbia will continue to search for notorious war crimes fugitives Ratko Mladic and Goran Hadzic, despite protests by ultra-nationalists following the arrest of Radovan Karadzic. This was Tadic's first public statement since Karadzic's capture, which sparked a number of death threats against him.

He added that Serbia would continue co-operating with The Hague war crimes tribunal. "Today nobody can say that Serbia is not ready to apprehend those wanted by The Hague and show its full determination to co-operate with the institution. Those who intend to exercise additional pressure on Serbia (to arrest Mladic and Hadzic) are knocking on open doors because Serbia not only demonstrated its will and resolution but also took concrete measures to guarantee its co-operation," Tadic said.

As for Serbia's EU prospects, Tadic said Belgrade will continue to pursue its EU bid, which he described as being in the country's, "highest national interest." He reiterated, however, that Serbia would not pursue it in exchange for recognition of an independent Kosovo. "If someone thinks that this pro-European government will give up defending national interests for the sake of European prospects, they are wrong," he said.

Gas suppliers in Albania also point to taxes, particularly their 20% VAT, as a key contributor to their ballooning prices. In June alone, the country saw a 6.8% hike in gas prices, according to the Albanian Institute of Statistics. In July, Eurodiesel reached 1.36 euros per litre.

A handful of companies control Albania's gas market, and prices seem to be going in only one direction - up. Even when the prices on the international market decrease, this is not usually reflected in the Albanian market.

Many experts claim that the Albanian government is using the money collected from the taxes on rising gas prices to reduce the budget deficit. As in Serbia, authorities have made no move to lower the taxes to ease the misery of consumers.

Nearby Macedonia has also seen sharp price increases in recent months. A litre of 95 octane Eurostar petrol now costs 1.26 euros per litre, 98 octane Eurosuper costs 1.28, and Eurodiesel goes for 1.24 euros per litre.

Besides making driving more costly, the rising prices are also affecting the cost of central heating. The company that provides central heating to the capital, Skopje, has already filed for permission from the Regulatory Commission to jack up its prices by close to an extraordinary 60%, the biggest hike in heating prices ever recorded in Macedonia.

To cushion the shock, the government has put forward a number of measures, including lowering tolls and vehicle registration fees, or charging trucks less for staying in clearance terminals. But the authorities have not yet considered lowering existing taxes, a move called for by the opposition.

In Romania, diesel oil is more expensive than gas. The only Romanian producer is PETROM, in which the Austrian OMV group has a majority share. A litre of ECO Premium 95 now costs 1.14 euros and unleaded premium 1.13 euros. A litre of Top Euro Diesel 4 goes for 1.24 euros, while a litre of Eurodiesel 4 is 1.22 euros. Romania has a robust auto sales market, and experts believe the trend will continue, although Romanians may shift their interest towards cars that cost less to fill up.

Romanian President Traian Basescu has called on political parties to work together to find a solution, both for rising gas prices and skyrocketing food prices. One proposal has been to reduce the VAT on either gas or food. But as in other countries, resistance can be expected. Such a solution requires adoption by parliament, and unions are already complaining.

-SEE Times

Embassy Row

ALBANIAN EMBASSY
Address: Hekurudha 1, Qyteza Pejton
Pristina 10000, Kosovo
Phone: +381 (0) 38 248 368, 248 208
Fax: +381 (0) 38 248 209
E-mail: misioni_shqiperise@hotmail.com

AUSTRIAN EMBASSY
Address: Fan S. Noli 2 – Arberia
Pristina 10000, Kosovo
Phone: +381 (0) 38 249 284, 249 285
Fax: +381 (0) 38 735 735
E-mail: austria@kujtesa.com

BELGIAN LIAISON OFFICE
Address: Taslixhe 1, 23/A
Pristina 10000, Kosovo
Phone: +381 (0) 38 734 734
Fax: +381 (0) 38 735 735
E-mail: pristina@diplobel.fed.be

BULGARIAN EMBASSY
Address: Ismail Qemali 12 – Arberia
Pristina 10000, Kosovo
Phone: +381 (0) 38 245 540
Fax: +381 (0) 38 245 543
E-mail: dbpristina@abv.bg

CHINESE CONSULATE
Address: Ismail Qemali 47 – Arberia
Pristina 10000, Kosovo
Phone: +381 (0) 38 248 508
Fax: +381 (0) 38 249 126

CROATIAN LIAISON OFFICE
Address: Fehmi Agani 68 – Arberia
Pristina 10000, Kosovo
Phone: +381 (0) 38 223 978
Fax: +381 (0) 38 223 979
E-mail: ured.pristina@mvpei.hr

CZECH REPUBLIC EMBASSY
Address: Ismail Qemali 31 – Arberia
Pristina 10000, Kosovo
Phone: +381 (0) 38 248 776, 225 860
Fax: +381 (0) 38 248 782
E-mail: pristina@embassy.mzv.cz

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Address: Rruga e Kosoves 1,
Pristina 10000, Kosovo
Phone: +381 (0) 38 51 31 321,
51 31 322, 51 31 323
Fax: +381 (0) 38 51 31 305
E-mail:
ec-liaison-office-kosovo@ec.europa.eu

EUROPEAN UNION (ICO / EUSR PT)
Address: Ahmet Krasniqi – Arberia
Pristina 10000, Kosovo
Phone: +381 (0) 38 20 44 201
Fax: +381 (0) 38 20 44 210

**EUROPEAN UNION
PLANING TEAM FOR KOSOVO**
Address: Mbretresha Teute 21
Pristina 10000, Kosovo
Phone: +381 (0) 38 51 39 300
Fax: +381 (0) 38 51 39 333
E-mail: info@eupt-kosovo.eu

DANISH LIAISON OFFICE
Address: Mother Theresa 2
Pristina 10000, Kosovo
Phone: +381 (0) 38 248 709

DUTCH EMBASSY
Address: Ekrem Rexha 17 – Arberia
Pristina 10000, Kosovo
Phone: +381 (0) 38 224 610, 224 665
Fax: +381 (0) 38 224 665
E-mail: pri@minbuza.nl

FINNISH LIAISON OFFICE
Address: Eduard Lir 50 – Arberia
Pristina 10000, Kosovo
Phone: +381 (0) 38 243 098
Fax: +381 (0) 38 232 863
E-mail: diplo@fin-kos.org

FRENCH EMBASSY
Address: Ismail Qemali 67 – Arberia
Pristina 10000, Kosovo
Phone: +381 (0) 38 224 588
Fax: +381 (0) 38 224 588

FYR-MACEDONIA LIAISON OFFICE
Address: 24 Maji 121 – Arberia
Pristina 10000, Kosovo
Phone: +381 (0) 38 247 462
Fax: +381 (0) 38 247 463
E-mail: macedonialiaison@mail.net.mk

GERMAN EMBASSY
Address: Azem Jashanica 17 – Arberia
Pristina 10000, Kosovo
Phone: +381 (0) 38 254 500
Fax: +381 (0) 38 254 536
E-mail: info2pris.auswaertiges-amt.de

GREECE LIAISON OFFICE
Address: Ismail Qemali 68 – Arberia
Pristina 10000, Kosovo
Phone: +381 (0) 38 243 013, 247 370
Fax: +381 (0) 38 245 533
E-mail: grpristina@hotmail.com,
grpristina@mfa.gr

HUNGARY EMBASSY
Address: 24 Maji – Arberia
Pristina 10000, Kosovo
Phone: +381 (0) 38 247 763
Fax: +381 (0) 38 247 764
E-mail: prs.missions@kum.hu

ITALY EMBASSY
Address: Abdullah Shabani 3 – Arberia
Pristina 10000, Kosovo
Phone: +381 (0) 38 244 925
Fax: +381 (0) 38 245 434
E-mail: segreteria.pristina@esteri.it

JAPANESE LIAISON OFFICE
Address: Rexhep Mala 43
Pristina 10000, Kosovo
Phone: +381 (0) 38 245 433, 249 995
Fax: +381 (0) 38 245 434
E-mail: japankosovo@yahoo.com,
jlopr@yahoo.com

LUXEMBOURG LIAISON OFFICE
Address: Metush Krasniqi 14 – Arberia
Pristina 10000, Kosovo
Phone: +381 (0) 38 226 787
Fax: +381 (0) 38 226 787
E-mail: lux_kosovo@ipko.net

MALAYSIA LIAISON OFFICE
Address: Bedri Shala 48 – Velania
Pristina 10000, Kosovo
Phone: +381 (0) 38 243 467
Fax: +381 (0) 38 243 464
E-mail: mwprishtina@mwprishtina.org

NORWEGIAN EMBASSY
Address: Fidanishtja – Arberia
Pristina 10000, Kosovo
Phone: +381 (0) 38 248 010
Fax: +381 (0) 38 248 202
E-mail: norwegianliaisonoffice@ipko.net

ROMANIAN LIAISON OFFICE
Address: Azem Jashanica 25 – Arberia
Pristina 10000, Kosovo
Phone: +381 (0) 38 246 272
Fax: +381 (0) 38 246 273
E-mail: office@romanian-office.ipko.org

RUSSIAN CHANCERY
Address: Eduard Liri 20 – Arberia
Pristina 10000, Kosovo
Phone: +381 (0) 38 247 112
Fax: +381 (0) 38 247 113
E-mail: ruschanemb@kujtesa.com

SAUDI ARABIAN LIAISON OFFICE
Address: Hotel Grand, Pristina
Pristina 10000, Kosovo
Phone: +381 (0) 39 249 203

SLOVAK LIAISON OFFICE
Address: Ismail Qemali 63 – Arberia
Pristina 10000, Kosovo
Phone: +381 (0) 38 240 140
Fax: +381 (0) 38 249 499

SLOVENIAN EMBASSY
Address: Anton Ceta 6 – Aktash
Pristina 10000, Kosovo
Phone: +381 (0) 38 246 255
Fax: +381 (0) 38 246 256
E-mail: slovenianliaison@yahoo.co.uk,
mpi@gov.si

SWEDISH LIAISON OFFICE
Address: Ekrem Rexha 6 – Arberia
Pristina 10000, Kosovo
Phone: +381 (0) 38 245 795
Fax: +381 (0) 38 245 791
E-mail: SwedishOffice.Pristina@sida.se

SWISS EMBASSY
Address: Adrian Krasniqi 11
Pristina 10000, Kosovo
Phone: +381 (0) 38 248 090
Fax: +381 (0) 38 248 078
E-mail: pri.vertretung@eda.admin.ch

TURKISH EMBASSY
Address: Imzot Nik Prela – Ulpania
Pristina 10000, Kosovo
Phone: +381 (0) 38 548 557
Fax: +381 (0) 38 548 559
E-mail: tco.pristina@yahoo.com

UNITED KINGDOM EMBASSY
Address: Ismail Qemali 5 – Arberia
Pristina 10000, Kosovo
Phone: +381 (0) 38 249 559, 249 801
Fax: +381 (0) 38 549 799
E-mail: britishoffice.pristina@fco.gov.uk

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA EMBASSY
Address: Nazim Hikmet 30 – Arberia
Pristina 10000, Kosovo
Phone: +381 (0) 38 59 59 3000, 549 516
Fax: +381 (0) 38 549 890
E-mail: ConsularPristina@state.gov

RICE ON FOOD

Kosovo National Kitchen: Burek

SELECT BISTO
BY SHANNON RICE

Restaurant Location & Contacts
Bosna, Rruga Mulla Idriz Gjilani #35
Dardania – Kurriz | **038 552 327**

When we travel back home, people often want to know everything about Kosovo but when it comes to food, how easy is it for us to describe the ‘Kosovar national kitchen?’ If we were to choose some of the most popular Kosovar dishes, what would they be? In the coming months I hope to not only explore many of the fantastic international restaurants around Kosovo but also to share experiences with Kosovar food and perhaps even share some recipes!

After years of observing local friends and colleagues it seems like one of the favourite and most commonly found meals comes in the form of burek. Simply described, Kosovo burek is an elongated filled pastry that can be sweet or stuffed with a variety of different meats or cheeses. The most commonly found burek in Kosovo comes filled with ground beef, feta cheese, potato, or spinach.

The origin of burek is the topic of great debate so I won’t even venture into guessing or saying who invented it. However, burek seems to have come to Kosovo during the Ottoman times. The burek dish can be found all over the Balkans in many different forms and spellings as well as shapes from spiral bun shapes in Bosnia to the long stick-like version in Kosovo.

In my years in Kosovo I’ve had both wonderful and horrible burek. With my varied experience I couldn’t help but wonder if my meandering through the streets of Kosovo had ever led me to experience the best burek, so I decided to ask the experts. In a rough survey of Kosovar friends, basically every single person mentioned one burektore in Pristina and I discovered that one of the most popular restaurants is hidden along the tunnel of Dardania.

I had previously been introduced to burek in the Bosna burektore located on Mother Theresa and also frequented the Bosnas found in Pejton but I did not know one existed in Dardania. According to the Kosovars, Bosna Burektore in Dardania is far superior to the other sister restaurants and has maintained their level of quality through the years. So away I went with rough directions of how to navigate the tunnel to discover the best burektore in Pristina, which are shared at the end of this article.



One of the first things I noticed was that Bosna is a noisy, fast-paced, fast-food type of restaurant. Waiters yell the orders over the counter to the chefs and food is constantly being laid out and whisked away to the outdoor or tiny indoor seating areas. There appears to be a constant change of patrons at the tables and just as we were getting ready to give up on getting a seat, three tables became available. Go for the authentic seating, I urged, so we opted for sitting at a low marble table on little brass ‘kiddie’ stools. It seemed that an international crouching down to eat at one of the little tables and thoroughly enjoying a plate of burek was quite a novelty to the Kosovars dining at Bosna, as I’m not sure that many internationals have ventured into the Dardania location.

When you order up a plate of burek, the ‘burek master’ slices off a portion from the pan, quickly weighs it to make sure you are receiving the appropriate portion (1/2 kg), and slides it onto a shiny metal platter. An enjoyable way to eat your burek is to grab a container of yogurt and either dip your burek in it or, as I like to do, pour a bit on the top and drink the rest. A plate of burek will cost you a measly 1€ or 1.30€ if

you elect to have the yogurt as well.

Besides burek, Bosna also serves up hamburgers and qebaps but burek is definitely their specialty and must be tried. Honestly, it would be a shame to leave Kosovo without trying really good burek and experiencing the hustle and bustle of a burektore.

To find Bosna in Dardania, turn into the tunnel from Bill Clinton Boulevard and continue until the last parking area on the right. The burektore can be found along the tunnel side of the parking area. Expect to wait a few minutes for a seat but be patient, as the customer turnover is phenomenal and it won’t be long before you can grab a chair!



FOOD & DRINK GUIDE

PRISTINA RESTAURANTS

BISTRO ODYSSEA
Perandori Justinian - Peyton
044-556-444

CANTINA MEXICAN
Qamil Hoxha 7/1
044/ 049/ 038 - 710 710

COUNTRY HOUSE
044-444-710

DE RADA
UCK, No 50
038-222-622

GORENJE RESTAURANT
Vetemik
038-557-700

GRESA
Fehmi Agani 23
038-245-841

HANI I 2 ROBERTEVE
Luan Haradinaj – Youth
Center of Pristina
044-112 609 / 044- 117 219

HOME
Migjeni 27
044-336-336

MOZAIK
Sulejman Vokshi, H1
038-247-63

MUMTAZ MAHAL
Indian Restaurant
Ahmet Krasniqi - Arberi
044 114 726

PANNE VINO'S
Fehmi Agani, No 10
044- 177 899

PINOCCHIO
24 Maj, No115
044-202 952

PISHAT
Qamil Hoxha 11
038-245-333

PJATA
Gazmend Zajmi, No1
038 220 739

PURO
Vetemik
044-658-515

RINGS 2
Luan Haradinaj
038-244-290

RRON
Vetemik
044-347-777 / 044 141-215

SELECT BISTRO
Fehmi Agani 1/1
044 694 811

TIFFANY'S
Fehmi Agani
044-350-550

TOKYO BAR
Bekim Berisha, No2 –
Arberia
044 988 578, 044 373 537

VILLA GERMA
Germa's Park
044-517-741

XIX
Luan Haradinaj, No2
044-300-002

BARS/CAFES

APARTMENT 195
Garibaldi
044-410-021

AVENUE BAR
Fehmi Agani 48
04-610-210

LOUNGE 19
Garibaldi 19
044-208-092

LEGERE
Perandori Justinian 2 -
Peyton
044-221-829

MYC
Garibaldi 21
044-210-325

PHOENIX
Brigada
044 12 45 84

PUBLICO
Garibaldi 7
044 62 69 27

STRIP DEPO
Rexhep Luci
038-222-888

CLUBS

FLIRT
Youth center of Pristina
049 646 464

CUBE
Johan Hahn 2
044-124-584

DEPO
UCK
044-246-707

SPRAY
Vetemik
044-118-518

FAST FOOD

MAXIMUM BURGER
Rexhep Luci 20/1

ROUTE 66
Luan Haradinaj
038-227 225

METRO SANDWICH SHOP
Garibaldi 3/1
044-113-000

BOSNA 2
Mother Theresa
044-375-436

BOSNA 4
Perandori Justinian - Peyton
038-245-919

BAKERIES

LUMI
Anton Ceta
044-115 586

SARANDA
Nazim Gafurri

FERIZAJ RESTAURANTS

ROMANTIKA
290 28 28 3

LAUSANE
044-348-397

TOPILLA
044 287 531

NATURAL
Sojeve – Ferizaj
044 205 537, 044 323 378

PEJA RESTAURANTS

ART DESIGN
Center
039-431496 / 039 144-622

CALIFORNIA
Center
044-348-467

PRIZEN RESTAURANTS

SHEHZADE QEBABTORE
Shadervan Square

TRATTORIA DUE FRATELLI: GREAT ITALIAN FOOD
A. Zurnaxhiu 10
044 198 710

GJAKOVA RESTAURANTS

RESTAURANT TE JUPAT
Old government
044-129-389

HOTEL & RESTAURANT ROMA
044-602-009

Hi mom! We're in Kosovo

No, you *don't* have to send money because these are the most generous people in the world

by Arley Smude and Steven Hollenkamp

Everybody endures certain moments in their life where something becomes blatantly clear; they realize that it might be time for a change. Although these thoughts become present, often times they are not acted upon. But sometimes they are, and it's a beautiful thing. We are in our early twenties and decided it was time for an adventure. Fortunately for us, an adventure was feasible. Fortune favors the bold. We began our journey in northern Greece on the 22nd of July, 2008.

Our goal was to ride our newly purchased bicycles across the Balkans and arrive in Budapest in time to catch flights to Bangkok, Thailand and Seoul, South Korea on the 27th of August. The expectations of the trip were pretty unknown; not much was certain more than a physical challenge. There is this interesting novelty that comes from embarking on a journey knowing it will change your life, but not having the slightest clue as to how this change will take place.

We made our forecasts to our parents of how the trip would progress, hoping to assuage the fears which developed as they realized their kids were about to ride through an unknown world while sleeping in cornfields and showering in rivers along the way. Deep down we knew though, our rational assessments at predicting this voyage would be futile.

We reached the southern Albanian border at dusk after our first day of biking through the Greek mountains. Between the two of us we knew two things about Albania: the capital is Tirana and it is a former communist country. We had our passports stamped by a lone border guard sitting in a small building with only an outdated computer and empty bookshelf behind him. His hand had enormous swelling, something that appeared to be permanent. It was dark now. As soon as we passed through the gate the pavement ended and an uphill rock road began. We walked our bikes up the road and into the unknown.

We saw only goats, small fox-weasel-like creatures scurrying in the distance and more stars in the sky than we knew were visible with the naked eye. This setting, although romantic when described, was frightening in the moment. The tires from the bicycles slid around as we shoved them through the rocks just as the lights from the border station faded out of sight. "What have we gotten ourselves into?"

We just wanted to take a bike trip, test our strength and will, and learn a vague part of the world through experience rather than Wikipedia. There have not been many times in our lives when we've felt

perhaps we were over our heads, but this was certainly one. There is nothing scarier than the unknown, nor more exciting. We ended up sleeping in what was once a building. Now it is just a concrete

foundation with four partial walls, likely a product of the Enver Hoxha regime.

That morning, just eight hours after we questioned whether we were surrounded

by one of the more dangerous places we'd ever been, we quickly learned of the true nature of Albania. They are a kind and humble people, ready to share with the world their history and stories. Lacking a common language, we realized how much can be conveyed with smiles and hand motions.

It didn't take long for word of our presence to spread in this small village. Our favorite memory was taking shots of homemade grape whiskey at ten in the morning. "Gezuar!" we said with an elderly grandpa. His thick fingers were worn and aged; these "burek" logs told a thousand stories with just a handshake. We played soccer with some children, fixed our bikes and got on our way. Because the area lacks maps and internet access, it took us three days before we came to terms with the topography of this land. It has been a perpetual, sweaty, heart racing feat of redemption. We love it.

It took us ten days to bike through Albania and arrive in Macedonia, three days through Macedonia and we've been in Pristina since. We've learned many lessons in that time, one being that if you bike through someone's country they adorn you with whatever they have. There have been mountains, oh so many mountains. Our bikes are poor quality. And the wind, somehow, always seems to be blowing against us.

But nothing has slowed us down more than the kindness of the Albanian people. If a 75 year-old Albanian man offers you a cup of coffee, no matter your plans for biking a hundred kilometers that day, you take it. They gave us fruit, honey, drinks, and helped us with anything we needed from directions to bike maintenance.

A bright future lies ahead for Albania and Kosovo. This is obvious to us for one reason. The reason is not for its abundant resources or developing infrastructure, no, it's much simpler than that. It is because of peoples' generosity; which is a telling indicator of the potential to transform into a flourishing democracy.

Today is the 9th of August; our trip is exactly half over. The greatest surprise thus far has been the personal connection that has developed between us and the political transformation that has taken place in the Balkans. We were not in Kosovo on February 17 of this year, and we were not alive for most of Enver Hoxha's reign. But we still feel it. We see it. In the people we meet, through the cities we ride through, we understand what has happened here, and we will never forget it.



Arta Dobroshi and *Lorna* storm the world's film festival circuit

The Silence of Lorna, starring the young Kosovar actress Arta Dobroshi as Lorna, continues its success at international movie festivals across the world.

After the successful debut at the Cannes film festival in France (where the film was nominated for the Golden Palm Award) and Karlovy Vary in the Czech Republic, The Silence of Lorna rolled into the New Horizons Festival in Poland.

After the premier presentation of The Silence of Lorna, critics highly evaluated the work, hailing it as one of the most artistic European movies in a long time.

According to one critic, The Silence of Lorna contains a superb narrative subject and plot twists that are imbued with typical artistic features and combined with common European sensuality, which satisfies an audience with diverse sensibilities.

The Belgian brothers, Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne, always give audiences a remarkable impression of their unique style and rich characters and The Silence of Lorna is more proof of their brilliance.

Lorna is an Albanian that lives in Belgium. She dreams of opening up a fast food restaurant but she does not have enough

money or legal residence. She meets Cloudi, a man with a history of drug abuse and decides to marry him. Her life intertwines with the tragic paths when she begins an affair with a Russian criminal, linked to organized crime. The Russian criminal eventually begins to coerce her to give more drugs to her husband so she can marry the Russian afterwards.

However, the situation changes as the Russian criminal involved in a plot with his Russian mafia pals reveals his real intentions, ruining the life of the innocent Albanian.

Arta Dobroshi went down under after New Horizons for the Melbourne International Film Festival. This festival is the largest in Australia and is popular the world over, attracting many Hollywood actors and directors.

Arta Dobroshi is the first Kosovar actress to walk the red carpet at Cannes. During an interview for the Kosovar dailies she was quoted saying that she felt like, "a real princess." Arta elaborated about her 'someone pinch me, I must be dreaming' state saying, "Fans and journalists enjoy my performance and demand to have a glimpse of what I have to say, calling my name 'Arta, Arta, Arta'"



Yo, photogs - Germany wants you to give them your best shot

Photographers who believe they can capture the close relationship between Germany and Kosovo in an image are encouraged to give their best shots to the German Embassy in Kosovo.

The embassy is holding a photography competition that opened August 1 and closes August 31.

"The motives should convey an up-to-date image of Kosovo and, at the same time, have a clear connection to Germany. This, for instance, could be a German license plate, a German flag, German slogans or any other motif which immediately makes the viewer think of Germany," reads a press release from the embassy.

The embassy's media department explains, "The aim of this competition is to document the intensive relations between Kosovo and Germany with the help of the photographs. Many Kosovars have lived over a shorter or longer period in Germany themselves, others have relatives living there. Hence we want to show this close connection through photographs."

The Germans make it clear that they are more than willing to encourage participants to seek out the unusual, "We hope to offer the

participants an opportunity to reflect on the German-Kosovar relations from a different perspective than the usual economical and political standpoint. Thus, every participant

will have the chance to illustrate their perception through a good shot. Therefore, we would also like to emphasize that we are expecting the photographs to come

from all over Kosovo."

The contest is open to professionals and hobbyists. A panel of judges chosen from the embassy's cultural department, "will select the twelve most powerful images," which will be used for a 2009 calendar. Those photos will also be displayed on the embassy's website. "In case of a draw within the jury, the German Ambassador will take the final decision." Winners will be awarded photo books.

"The most important criteria will be the both the quality of the shot and the persuasiveness of the short description on why the motif is making the close relationship between Germany and Kosovo visible," reads the release

The photos should have a minimum dissolution of 2048 x 1536 dpi and be submitted in .jpg - format with a short description, explaining why the image represents an up-to-date image of Kosovo and why, for the viewer, the connection to Germany becomes obvious.

All photos have to be sent to the German Embassy via e-mail to info@pris.diplo.de.



DARK SIDE OF THE MOON Trinity Little

Beautiful Prizren in the jumble of Dokufest

The city of Prizren is one of the oldest cities in Kosovo, having existed since Roman times. To be more precise, Prizren has been recognized as a city since the second century A.D. At that time, as it was presented on the geographical maps of Ptolemeu, Prizren was known as Theranda. After several centuries it was known as Petrizën, which is where the name Prizren is derived from. PRI meant "fortress, town". Once, Prizren was the capital of Kosovo and it was the center of Kosovar culture and intellectualism. This was Prizren under the occupation of the Ottoman Empire. In addition to its antique beauty, oriental architecture and historical monuments, today's Prizren has one other thing for which other cities envy it. This other thing is Dokufest, the movie festival that is becoming known around the world.

Dokufest was held, for the seventh time, in Prizren from August 4 – 10. During these days the city was overcrowded with not only movie fans but with tourists who were enjoying the beauty of the city. There are a lot of reasons why you should be in Prizren next year for Dokufest. The international movies screened during Dokufest are a welcome break from the typical fare served up by Hollywood and that, in and of itself, is reason to book the trip.

But an even bigger reason is to introduce ourselves to Kosovar produced movies and share them with people from around the world. Perhaps this is the main reason for Dokufest. Our culture is presented through movies to the entire world in this small ancient city. The festival has changed over its seven years and keeps getting better. Some changes have been enormous. This festival began, as does everything, as an idea. It was to be a small festival but even small festivals can cost a lot of money. Dokufest has grown in size and stature enough to attract the sponsorship it needs to continue to improve and grow. But when will government support other great small festivals? When will our small festivals be recognized by the government and given the financial assistance they need and deserve? Will we always have to play the role of mendicant for cultural happenings?

Are our screenwriters and directors are so ignorant that ignorance is the only thing they see?

The participants at the Dokufest this year were from all over the world, internationals and Kosovars. Many of this year's participants also participated in previous years. This was the case with two English brothers, Nigel and Klive Humberstone, who performed music during the screening of *The Passion of Joan De Ark*, a 1928 documentary which interpreted the poetry, essays and life of Artonin Artaud. It is natural that this beautiful city would draw the two brothers back because they compliment each other.



Besides international documentaries, this year's festival presented works by a large number of Kosovars. Domestically produced movies were not hard to distinguish. If the opening scene has a village, a dirty vehicle and commercial music, it is not necessary to put yourself into deep thought to know that it is a Kosovar movie.

You don't need much brain to realize that it's difficult to make art in Kosovo. Artists everywhere struggle financially but more so in Kosovo. Compared to other forms of art, film production is expensive but movies are the best medium to reflect the conditions and culture of a country.

Our directors and artists face financial difficulties every day. But I came to realize over the festival that they also lack ideas. It seems that our directors and screenwriters have only one idea to present us to the world – a poor nation, always in search of itself, always chasing dreams and dashing them at the penultimate moment (Sausage bar); uneducated and eager to emigrate for only one reason – money (on the lake);

I was not exposed to so much as one line of clever dialogue in any of the Kosovar films I saw at Dokufest this year.

Are we really a nation like that? Or are our artists just unprepared, irresponsible and so devoid of creativity that every movie has to be about a sausage, a cow and/or ignorance? This country of ours, where history has left its marks, is full of compelling plot lines. Are our screenwriters and directors are so ignorant that ignorance is the only thing they see?

The audience at Dokufest is increasing from one year to another. But is the audience really attracted by the competition, are they really movie fans, or are they just coming for the parties?

The last movie shown on the third night

was *The Passion of Joan de Ark*. The movie was shown with a bit of delay which proved to be too much for the impatient "movie fans" who fled the open air cinema in droves. The only justification for walking out on that film is having to travel a long distance to get home that night and it was close to midnight, so some can be absolved. But I wish those who left had taken with them some of the inconsiderate idiots who stayed behind who preferred conversation to the film.

The crowds at that point were outside, in the bars of Prizren and the cinema was

nearly empty. In the peoples faces I saw a kind of enthusiasm. They were drinking, celebrating but there were only a few of them discussing the films they had seen. For a moment I was wondering, are there more fans of Prizren or of Dokufest?

I asked some peoples about this - whether they were fans of Prizren or Dokufest - and they were both winners, the beautiful Prizren and the jumble of Dokufest

And, while I was turning back home I thought: there is no competition in art.

Grand Hotel Prishtina

E-mail: info@grandhotel-pr.com | reception@grandhotel-pr.com
Address: Mother Theresa, 10000 Prishtina, Kosova
Tel: +381 38 220-210 / 220-211 / Ext: 359 Fax: +381 38 248-138

FUN & GAMES

S	G	O	T	L	A	R	O	E	G	A	T	S	
I	A	L	A	A	L	O	B	D	E	R	A	P	
L	L	E	B	S	T	A	O	D	N	E	M	A	
L	L	O	L	S	E	D	E	P	I	T	N	E	C
				E	B	O	R	R	E	S	A	R	E
A	H	P	L	A	S	C	S	I	D				
D	E	L	A	T	S	A	E	S	S	B	B	E	
D	R	E	N	E	G	R	E	M	T	I	A	W	
S	B	A	D	R	A	G	S	R	E	D	L	E	
				S	E	L	O	S	T	E	E	L	S
D	E	T	S	E	N	T	S	E	R				
A	N	I	T	R	E	C	N	O	C	S	D	N	A
R	A	L	E	V	E	U	G	A	M	O	O	L	
T	C	E	L	E	L	L	I	B	E	L	S	I	

last week's answers |reversed|

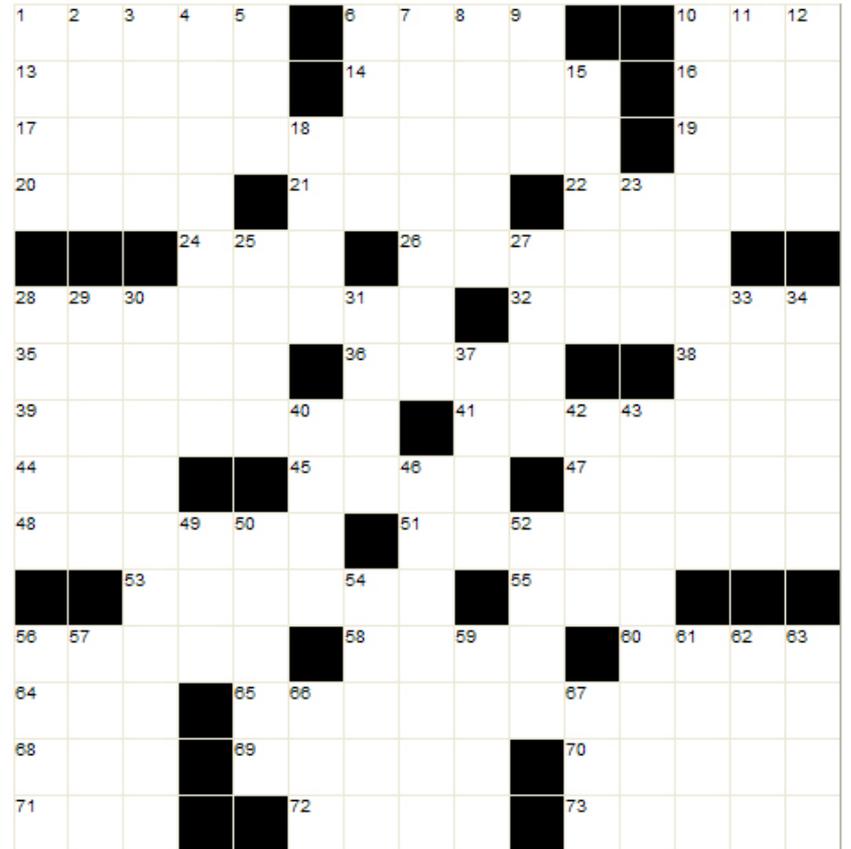
ACROSS

- 1: Spoiled kids
- 6: Indication
- 10: Menlo Park monogram
- 13: Eagle's nest
- 14: Per ____
- 16: Building wing
- 17: Bring back together
- 19: Nice handle
- 20: Borrrring
- 21: Like Richard and Yorick?
- 22: Walks in water
- 24: Pindar product
- 26: Declare with positiveness
- 28: Get close to
- 32: Worshiper
- 35: Flying solo
- 36: Ancient Egyptian emblems
- 38: Winter ailment
- 39: Farm alarm
- 41: Bony
- 44: Choose
- 45: Motion-carrying votes
- 47: Battery terminal
- 48: Empty ____
- 51: Recent arrivals in the world
- 53: Early on-line protocol
- 55: Amethyst or tourmaline
- 56: Rolling musician?
- 58: Little bit
- 60: Black, to a bard
- 64: Seek favor with
- 65: Cord in some backyards
- 68: Hole punch
- 69: King or queen
- 70: Coppers in Coventry
- 71: Mag. submissions
- 72: Adolescent
- 73: Mixed in

DOWN

- 1: Insulting remark
- 2: Tape spool
- 3: 'Cessa di più resistere,' for one
- 4: Two-bit gamblers
- 5: Go down
- 6: Starch from palms
- 7: Tactical advancements
- 8: Knot in a tree
- 9: Kook
- 10: Novice Boy Scout
- 11: Burn soother
- 12: Boulevard liners
- 15: Acted kittenish?
- 18: Olympic weapon
- 23: In the past
- 25: South Beach, e.g.
- 27: Glasgow girl
- 28: Big businessman
- 29: Choose the window instead of the aisle?
- 30: Ottomans
- 31: Not one
- 33: Duck
- 34: Sneaky stratagems
- 37: Sit before a lens
- 40: Make money
- 42: Rational
- 43: Like some porcelain pieces
- 46: Permit
- 49: Half a score
- 50: Campaign poster plea
- 52: Type of arch
- 54: Be a ham
- 56: Did the butterfly
- 57: Expensive car trips?
- 59: '____ Came You' (1974 Dionne Warwick and Spinners chart-topper)
- 61: Tough spot
- 62: Formerly
- 63: Exigency
- 66: Like cherries jubilee
- 67: Resort hotel

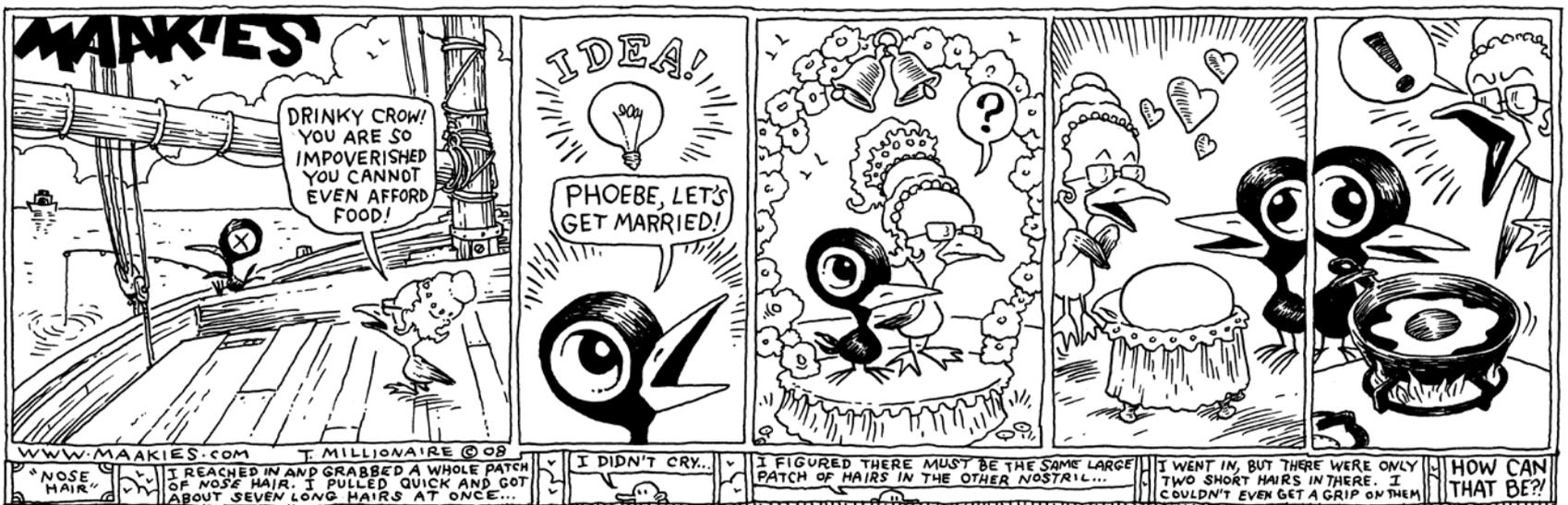
CROSSWORD



Advertise in **THE KOSOV@ POST**

Nobody reaches the expatriate and diplomatic community living in Kosovo more effectively than the *Kosov@ Post*.

Phone Ariana Osmani at 038 225 895 or email to her at ariana.kpost@gmail.com for a media package.



BMW Diplomatic Sales



www.autoavangarde.org

Sheer
Driving Pleasure

It is not a question of diplomacy.
There are simply no compromises
when it comes to driving pleasure.



BMW Diplomatic Sales.
At home the world over.

Auto Avangarde
Merita Salihu
+381 (0) 38 601 053
+381 (0) 38 601 054
merita.salihu@autoavangarde.org
PRISHTINE

