

american SOKOL

Volume CXIII, Number 11

DECEMBER 1992

Czechoslovak Christmas Tradition SVATY MIKULAS



In Czechoslovakia, the tradition of Saint Nicholas (Svaty Mikulas) has always played an important role. The Christmas season begins on December 5 and ends with a visit of the Three Kings (Tri Kralu) on January 6.

Legend has it that Saint Nicholas descends from heaven on a golden cord. He is accompanied by an angel garbed in a pure white robe, while the devil (cert) is dressed in black. The devil carries a switch and rattles a chain, while the angel consults a large book which lists the names of all good children. As soon as the children hear Saint Nicholas coming,

they run to the table and begin saying their prayers. If they know their prayers and have behaved throughout the year, they receive gifts of apples, nuts, gingerbread and candy. The devil, lurking in the background, stands ready to punish the mischievous children with his switch and distributes his special gift of coal.

St. Nicholas, the gift-giving saint, died on December 6. What would normally be a day of sad remembrance has been transformed into a day of joy through the goodness of the saint himself, for through his kind acts and undying generosity, his memory is present in the hearts of all. Many children throughout the world still hang their stockings to receive the blessings of Saint Nicholas.

As Christianity spread across the European continent, so did the legend of Saint Nicholas. It was in France at the beginning of the 12th century that the custom of bringing gifts in the name of Saint Nicholas may have originated. Nuns of the convents in the central provinces began the practice of leaving gifts, secretly, at the homes of poor families with small children on Saint Nicholas Eve, the 5th of December. These gifts were fruits, nuts and oranges from Spain, which in those days were considered luxuries.

Saint Nicholas is also known around the world by many other names. Svaty Mikulas, San Nicola, Pere Noel, Sinterklass, Sonnerklass and Kriss Klingle are just a few names that he is known by in other countries. The final transformation into Santa Claus, as we here in the United States know him, was made at the hand of American writers and illustrators, especially Thomas Nast. ~ Sis. Jane Sterba

New Feature! Pg. 5
The Sokol Educator

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EDITOR - PATRICIA SATEK

1922 S. 57th Avenue, Cicero, IL 60650-2143
708-863-7978

Copy for publication must be received by the
10th of the month prior to published month.

CALENDAR of EVENTS

DECEMBER

- 31 Sokol Greater Cleveland New Year's Eve Dinner/Dance
31 Sokol Minnesota New Year's Eve Party
31 Sokol South Omaha New Year's Eve Dinner & Dance

JANUARY

- 16 Sokol Berwyn Spaghetti Dinner
17 Sokol Women of Little Ferry Pancake Breakfast
22-24 Central District Progressions Clinic at Sokol Tabor

FEBRUARY

- 6 Sokol St. Louis BOI Barn Dance
6 Sokol Brookfield Spaghetti Dinner

FEBRUARY

- 6-7 Eastern District Competition at Sokol Baltimore
14 Sokol Milwaukee Jaternice Dinner
21 Sokol Stickney Pancake Breakfast
27 Sokol Minnesota Sibrinky
27 Sokol Brookfield Exhibition

MARCH

- 13 Sokol Tabor Exhibition
14 Sokol W. Suburban Exhibition
20 Sokol Stickney Exhibition
21 Sokol Slavsky Exhibition
27 Sokol Berwyn Exhibition

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY DATES

- July 24 Sokol Milwaukee 125th Anniversary

A.S.O. FAX: 708-795-0539

Our Sokol Credo

*To build a healthy and beautiful human body,
To cultivate a harmonious and total person,
To develop firm character, a well-rounded disposition and
A love of truth and justice;
To produce strong, lovely and honorable people,
That is the goal of a Sokol education.*



*"Zdravé a krásné lidské tělo — souladné vypěstění celého člověka,
povahy ucelené, neoblomné, pravdymilovné a spravedlivé —
lidé silní, krásní a dobří — to je cíl sokolské výchovy."*

From Your Editor...

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

NA ZDARI
Sis. Patricia Satek
1922 S. 57th Avenue
Cicero, IL 60650-2143

*Happiness
isn't something you
experience; it's something
you remember.*

❖ Oscar Levant



FOR THE RECORD

Minutes of the October 27, 1992
meeting of the A.S.O. Executive Board

The meeting was called to order by President Borvansky at 7:30 p.m. and the pledge to the flag was recited. Members present were Bros. Borvansky, Michalek, Babka and Satek in the office and Bros. Masek, Dalton, Kalat and Podhrasky on teleconference. Also Sis. Pros, Sedlacek, Pajeau, Wojcik, Filipello, Satek, Jurew and Kourim in the office and Sis. Kalat and Dalton on teleconference. Bros. Milan and Lebloch were excused, as they were representing the ASO in Czechoslovakia.

The minutes were approved with the following corrections: Bro. Milan gave items to the Sokol Hall of Fame, Bro. Milan is paying his own way to the meeting in Czechoslovakia and Bro. Masek is looking into Sokol Karel Jonas membership.

The office has received the minutes of Sokol San Francisco, Central District, Northeastern District and the Directors Newsletter. Sokol Stickney requested to borrow the bust of Tyrs for their 65th Anniversary. Sis. Kourim moved to let them borrow the statue, seconded and passed. Other mail and correspondence was appropriately taken care of in the past month.

Sis. Kalat sent a written report. She highlighted the recent District Directors Conference. Bro Masek moved to go forward with the recommendation to develop a pin for Directors (Unit, District and National), seconded and passed.

Sis. Pros moved to accept the final report forms from the Western District for Technical Materials at \$261.45 and the 1992 USGF Coaches Congress at \$1,255.66,

seconded and passed. Bro. Babka moved to accept final report forms from the Northeastern District for 1991 USGF Coaches Congress at \$308, USGF dues for Women's Director at \$60 and the 1992 USGF Coaches Congress at \$358.40, seconded and passed. Bro. Satek moved to accept the final report forms from the Central District for USGF Junior Olympic Material at \$891.05, 1992 ASO Instructors Course at \$4,545 and Safety Certification Course at \$120, seconded and passed. Sis. Satek moved to pay Bro. Kalat \$8.66 for Boys' Gymnastic Skills Video editing, seconded and passed. Sis. Satek moved to continue our affiliation with the USGF as recommended by the conference, seconded and passed. Bro Babka moved to postpone approving the 1993 District Directors Conference in the Central District area until Bro. Satek returns with more information after the Central District Annual Meeting, seconded and passed.

An ASO Instructors School in 1993 is still being considered. The Slovak Sokols will have a beginner school in Barryville, NY in August.

Sis. Sedlacek reported she talked at the District Directors Conference. She encouraged the BOI to make sure juniors become members of their respective units. This can only increase membership. This quarter is coming in slow and nine units had increases in the first and second quarters.

Since both Bro. Lebloch, Education and Bro. Milan, Publicity were in Europe, there was no report from these two committees.

Sis. Satek reported the October issue is out. She has received two books on Sokol. Looking for ideas for the November issue.

Sis. Pros reported on the financial office. Working on Sokol Karel Jonas membership. They will probably join T.G. Masaryk. Bro. Satek moved to accept the five remaining member of Sokol Karel Jonas into T.G. Masaryk and dissolve Sokol Karel Jonas, seconded and passed. Ordered new 50-Year Pins and they have increased in price. Bro. Babka moved to let Sis. Pros look into new membership application forms that would have three copies on NCR paper, seconded and passed.

Sis. Wojcik reported that the forms for financial statements for districts will go out with the mailing for the new unit rosters. Bro. Masek attended Sokolice Crete's 100th Anniversary. He had a Foundation meeting on October 7, 1992 and the minutes are being sent to the office. They are working with the John Hancock firm to obtain two donations from individuals in the Omaha area, they are trying to answer questions of people that have asked questions about the fund and donations and setting a list of priorities for the coming year. Sis. Kourim attended the Benefit with Senator Judy Baar Topinka and is working on pattern for folk dance costume.

Bro. Borvansky attended the Benefit and the Houby Day Parade. He went to Northern Illinois University to talk to the professor there that wants to start a school to train people to be physically fit. Professor Thomas would like to use the

Continued on Page 10

Unit ID Ribbons

Does everyone from your Unit have an Identification Ribbon to wear for the 1993 Slet? They are available from the ASO Office at a cost \$1.25 each and must be ordered in groups of 25 from each unit. Shipping and handling will be extra. Allow at least 8 weeks to have them printed. **DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO ORDER!**

Unit ID Posters for XVIII Slet

Sokol Ceska Sin, as requested by the Central District BOI, has designed posters for the Slet welcoming each of the various units that will be attending the Slet. If your unit would like their poster personalized with a specific unit logo, please send the logo to Jenny Smetana, 6754 Wolff Road, Medina, Ohio 44256-9429. She will be happy to provide further information on this project by phone at 216-722-5474.

Correction

In last month's publication I incorrectly implied that individual members would receive Quilt raffle tickets to sell. Books of raffle tickets are being sent to Units only. Raffle tickets are available by request from the ASO Office.

~ Editor

SLET SOUVENIRS AVAILABLE NOW!

Looking for a perfect holiday gift for your favorite Sokol? A sampling of XVIII American Sokol Slet Souvenirs are NOW AVAILABLE from the ASO Office. Additional items will be added to the offering closer to the Slet, but for now you can select from the following:

| | | Quantity | Size |
|------------------------|---------|----------|-------|
| Lapel Pins | \$3.00 | _____ | |
| 3x4" Embroidered Patch | \$3.00 | _____ | |
| T-Shirts | | | |
| (Adult S, M, L, XL) | \$8.00 | _____ | _____ |
| (Adult XXL) | \$9.00 | _____ | _____ |
| Sweatshirts | | | |
| (Adult S, M, L, XL) | \$12.00 | _____ | _____ |
| (Adult XXL) | \$13.00 | _____ | _____ |

Name _____

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Clip this article and use it as an order form! Mail order to:

AMERICAN SOKOL ORGANIZATION

6424 West Cermak Road

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ATTN: SOUVENIR COMMITTEE

You will be billed for cost of items, PLUS shipping charges!



The Sokol Educator

Bro. Paul C. Lebloch. A.S.O. Educational Director

EQUALITY, FREEDOM, BROTHERHOOD!

The foundation of the Sokol idea is the equality of all among all, not merely in the matter of physical drill, but in life altogether. The equality among the Sokols is not merely an equality of rights and duties, it is also an equality in showing respect and having mutual regard one for the other.

The form of address "brother," "sister," is not, however, a mere outward token of equality; it is also the expression of a more profound sentiment — that of brotherhood. Brotherhood, and especially Sokol brotherhood, is something more than mere equality. It means not only that all brothers and sisters are mutually equal, but also that they help one another. Sokol brotherhood not only implies the postulate of equality, but also a conscious abandonment of privileges arising from birth, property and education. It does not lay emphasis upon demanding equality and brotherhood from those who enjoy some higher position, but upon such persons, voluntarily and of their own initiative, stooping down, as it were, in brotherly love to equality with those who are placed lower: the rich to the poor,



ROVNOST·VOLNOST·BRATRSTVÍ·

the educated to the uneducated, the leader to the subordinate. Not to demand equality, but to give it — that is the sense of Sokol brotherhood. A second and no less important sense is that this equality be granted to others without compulsion, voluntarily, with conscious pleasure and from affection towards them.

Sokol brotherhood, then, is equality and affection, not merely in words, but in deeds. If we are fond of a person, we are always glad to help him whenever help is necessary. From equality and brotherhood grow freedom, independence and personality. All that a Sokol undertakes, he undertakes of his own free will, voluntarily and

freely, without compulsion. Freedom and independence do not, of course, mean libertinism, anarchy or chaos. The freedom of the Sokols reposes not merely in their voluntarily accepting all the obligations which the Sokol principles imply, but also in all of them of their own free will entirely submitting themselves to all that the Sokol idea demands of them. A further important token of the Sokol system, then, is the voluntary discipline displayed by all its members.

Equality, freedom and brotherhood (the watchword of the French Revolution), discipline and morality are the first and main element of the Sokol idea.

Excerpted from "Sokol Ceskoslovensky," Praha 1932.

SOKOL NEW YORK'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY

October 2-4, 1992 saw the culmination of a year's effort in preparations of observing the 125th Anniversary of Sokol New York.

Originally founded on October 13, 1867 as Telocvicna Jednota Sokol, the unit went through a unification with the ladies' unit and numerous locations before finally settling in its current Sokol Hall on East 71st Street in the Yorkville section of Manhattan.

At one time, the unit boasted over 400 members and from its ranks came not only regional and national Sokol champions, but also participants in the U.S. Olympic competition. The unit and its members, both native-born and those born in Czechoslovakia, have twice seen the old country suffer under alien domination, have seen two world wars, a depression and other global and social happenings. Members volunteered in the various military conflicts; some paying the supreme sacrifice. Through these years, the unit continued their programs and activities.

In its expansive days, the unit boasted gymnastic programs, fencing, boxing, amateur shows, concerts, lectures, dances, a lending library and a fife and drum corps. For years, it owned and operated Camp Sokol, a summer retreat set in the hills of the Connecticut River Valley.

October 2 saw an "open house" evening, with historical and cultural displays and photographic exhibits. Many former members and gymnasts once again found themselves at 420 East 71st Street to relive old memories.

Saturday evening, October 3, saw an extended cocktail hour and buffet dinner with 380 persons in attendance. A delegation from Sokol Kutna Hora presented our refurbished banner, which had been totally redone in the old country. Presenting proclamations to the unit was Honorable Charles Millard, Councilman for the Yorkville area. Also in attendance to socialize with us and greet us in a formal manner was the Honorable Dr. Edward

Kukan, Ambassador of the Czechoslovak Federated Republic to the U.N. Representatives of all other Sokol groups in the area, as well as Sokol members from New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Florida, Maryland, Washington D.C., Maine, Illinois, Ohio, Canada and Czechoslovakia were also in attendance.

The evening proved to be a grand reunion and homecoming for almost everyone there. Many had not seen each other for years. Dancing followed the dinner.

Sunday saw the presentation of a typical gymnastic exhibition followed by a cold buffet. The festivities started on Friday and Saturday evenings, continued through Sunday afternoon, with many reluctant to leave.

As we close out the final business of our 125th Anniversary, our ideals and principles remain the same: "Physical Fitness Through Gymnastics" - "A Sound Mind In A Sound Body." Na Zdar!

~ Bro. Edward Babor

Bohemian Funeral Directors' Assn. 1992-93 Merit Award

The Bohemian Funeral Directors' Association, in conjunction with the Central District of the American Sokol Organization, has awarded its 1992-93 Merit Award to Christopher Jon Stahulak of Sokol West Suburban and Nichelle Jeanne Pajeau of Sokol Stickney. Both were also recipients of the American Sokol Merit Award.

The two award winners were pre-

sented with a check for \$300 by Bro. Vaclav Zenisek, Sis. Mildred C. Pinc and Sis. Linda P. Modes.

The Bohemian Funeral Directors' Association presents these awards annually to two Sokol members from the Chicago area of the Central District to help these students pursue their education goals.

Sis. Pajeau is specializing in Physical Therapy and Sports Medicine

at the University of Iowa and Bro. Stahulak is specializing in Business at Michigan State.

Members of the BFDA include President John Starek, Frank Becvar, J. Linhart & Sons, John Budilovsky, Charles Marik, Moravec FH, Jos. Nosek & Sons, George Schubert, Svec & Sons, Ivins FH and Frank Marik.



AMERICAN SOKOL ORGANIZATION

GYMNAST

DECEMBER 1992

Editor: Frank H. Michalek — 10 S. 020 Lorraine Dr., Hinsdale, Illinois 60521



Does your gym need good competent qualified instructors?

If the answer is yes! then plan now to attend or send potential future instructors to the 1993 National Instructor School sponsored by the American Sokol Organization. The Central District will be hosting this instructor training school immediately following the XVIII ASO Slet. The course will last ten days and cover all three levels, beginners, intermediates and advanced. The course will start Sunday June 27th and end Wednesday July 7th, 1993. Further details and applications will be forthcoming in future issues of the *Gymnast*.



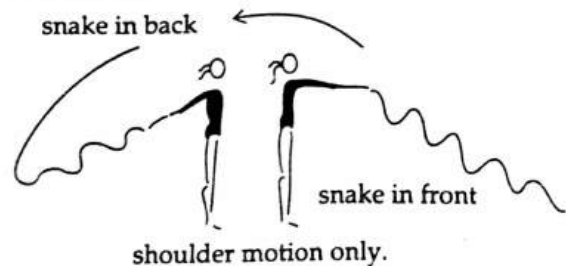
Ribbon

The ribbon is attached to a stick on a swivel connection (so that it doesn't get tangled).



The ribbon for preschool children should be about 3 meters long and for juniors 6 meters long. Don't use a ribbon with a lot of 'finish' — can be a regular ribbon. The ribbon is the Friendly Snake, Herbie. 'Pointer Finger' — the method of holding.

1. Activities

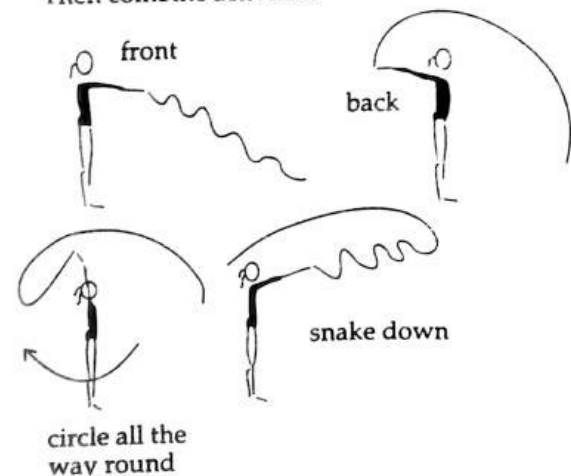


Then perform this in a circle so it is "snake all the way round," then change hand. Try a figure 8 with the snake motion.

2.Z's

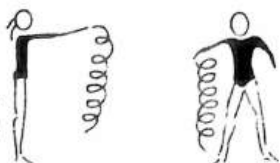
Make zig-zags or Zs. Call this the little snake. Get the children to make the motion through the wrist, not the shoulder.

Then combine activities.



3. Stir the pot

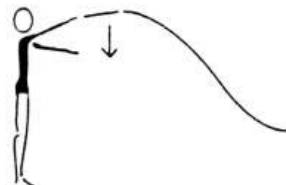
use the wrist
stir the pot all the way around — children circle round.



4. Tossing

Drop stick from upper hand to lower hand.

Then toss up to the other hand.



5. Toss and catch

Hold at the 'join' (between stick and ribbon) in left hand and hold end of stick in right hand.

Let go of stick with right hand slightly swinging left arm. Then let go with left hand to catch end of stick with right hand.



Notes taken by Meg Warren at the 1991 USGF Congress in Indianapolis, Indiana. This was published in the *Newsletter* of the British Gymnastics Coaches, #1, 1992. U.S. subscribers are welcome—overseas subscriptions are £10*. Send your check to Meg Warren, Association of British Gymnastics Coaches, Sherwood House, Hinckley Road, Burgage, Leicestershire LE10 2AG.

*£10's is approximately U.S.\$18.00. Meg suggests that you go to the bank and get a £10 note to include with your subscription.

What does Sokol mean to me?

By *CHRIS STAHULAK* — Merit Award Recipient
Sokol West Suburban, Darien, IL

Sokol is gymnastics. Sokol is my second family. Frank Michalek is my second father and Mike Michalek, a brother. Sokol has given me the opportunity to show my leadership qualities and help expand them. The kids I teach are a big part of my life. Sokol has given me a sound mind and a fit body. In fact, my physical therapist thinks that it is my gymnastics training and my coaching ability that has made my physical and emotional recovery from an injury possible. Sokol has challenged me, and I have answered each challenge, met and exceeded expectations. Sokol expanded my horizons beyond Chicago because of Sokol I've seen Canada and parts of the U.S. I have met my best friends at Sokol functions and they are all over the U.S. from N.Y. to Texas. The Laznowski's and people like Bro. Rome and Bro. Joe Varsalik, Bro. Bob Liptak, Bros. Bryan and Scott Pracko and Bro. Dave Harlan and Sister Linda Filipello exemplify true Sokols (and many others). Their determination, strength and talent for teaching has always been a role model for me. Sokol has molded me into the person I am today. Sokol has rounded me into a full individual, made me physically fit, sound in mind, strong in spirit, a leader, a competitor, a dedicated friend, solid instructor and a Sokol. Sokol has been my parent, my family, my coach, my boss, my teacher, my challenger, and will be my companion for a life time. Sokol is no ordinary organization and because of it I'm no ordinary person, I'm a Sokol proud, tried and true. The friendships and the experience will last me a lifetime.

The following changes and corrections to the material in the 1993 American Sokol Slet Manual have been identified. This set of changes is designated "**CHANGE SET - A**". **PLEASE UPDATE THE APPROPRIATE MATERIALS IN YOUR SLET MANUAL ACCORDINGLY:**

HOOP DRILL

Since the Women's Hoop Drill has already been performed at national and international Slets for the past few years and the ladies who normally perform the number would prefer to dedicate their efforts to preparing the new calisthenics, etc. for this year's Slet, the Women's Hoop Drill has been dropped from the 1993 Slet Program. This section of the Slet Manual may be deleted.

FOLK DANCE

Folk Dance -- Page 2 of 10 -- 'Formation' paragraph should read:

Formation: On the first note of Kalina, all turn a quarter turn R to stand side by side, hands joined sidearm downslant. First MAN and last WOMAN free hand also sidearm downslant. Lead MAN standing to left of center of imaginary circle (Fig. 2).

Folk Dance -- Page 7 of 10 -- 'Part B - Measure IX - B' should read:

IX B. Stand closeleg facing CCW in LOD form arch with C, joined hands uparm outward. B - L hand joined with A - R hand with C.

MARCHING COMPETITION

Note: In the September, 1992 issue of the American Sokol, the article on the Slet indicated "Teams participating... may be any combination of 6 men and women who are NOT participating competitively in any other event...." Although this event was instituted to provide an activity for otherwise non-competitor adults, it is not limited to non-competitors. Competitors may also participate in this event.

Marching Competition Rules and Information -- Page 1 of 2: ADD:

- ♦ All competitors **MUST** perform the appropriate calisthenics during the Slet program.

RHYTHMICS

Rhythmics -- LEVEL 5 Ribbon -- Page 7 of 10 -- Last paragraph should read:

Roll up over the LEFT knee to a deep lung \cup RIGHT and extend LEFT leg back.
RIB: swing through front from RIGHT to LEFT; LEFT hand catches ribbon near stick and arms move to side middle, ribbon hangs across chest.

JUNIOR GIRLS AND WOMEN ARTISTIC GYMNASTICS ROUTINES

NEW ARTISTIC GYMNASTIC ROUTINES/DIVISIONS HAVE BEEN SPECIFIED FOR WOMEN which **REPLACE THE WOMEN'S LEVEL 2 AND WOMEN'S LEVEL 4** contained in the distributed Slet manual. **THESE MODIFIED ROUTINES ARE FOR WOMEN ONLY.** They have been designated:

WOMEN'S MODIFIED LEVEL 2
WOMEN'S MODIFIED LEVEL 4

The new routines are the same as those performed by Women's Low A and Women's Intermediate Divisions for the Indianapolis and Toronto Slets. Copies of these routines will be distributed to all holders of the 1993 Slet Manual. Direct any questions to your Women's District Director.

REPEATING: THESE NEW ROUTINES AND DIVISIONS ARE FOR WOMEN ONLY and REPLACE WOMEN'S LEVEL 2 AND WOMEN'S LEVEL 4

**JUNIOR GIRLS AND WOMEN
ARTISTIC GYMNASTICS ROUTINES**

(continued)

Level 2 – Page 1 of 9 – Vault:

#2 - Stretched Jump Off is the designated vault.

Delete #3 - Tuck Jump Off

Level 2 – Page 2 of 9 – Vault:

Delete #4 - Straddle Jump Off

Delete #5 - Stretched Jump with 180° Turn Off

Level 4 – Page 2 of 12

a) BACK PULLOVER is the designated mount

Delete: b) RUN OUT KIP –

Delete: c) GLIDE KIP –

Level 5 – Page 1 of 13 – Vault – Paragraph E :

ADD: #8. Failure to place both hands on the horse

VOID

ADD: #9. Run-approach without executing the vault(BALK)

*touching the springboard or horse

VOID

Gymnast is allowed 3 approaches, without penalty,
to successfully complete a vault.

* successful vault on fourth approach receives
a penalty of .50.

Level 5 – Page 6 of 16 – Balance Beam – #13 Assemble'...

BOX: 3rd penalty should read: Feet not coming together UPON landing

Level 5 – page 6 of 16 – Balance Beam –

#16 - 180° Passe' Turn to 180° Pivot Turn...

4th line should read:

Stretched Left leg extends from rear to sideward-diagonally downward at 45°. Execute 90° of the turn, then bend Left knee sideward, outward in passe' position, toe touching Right ankle. Lower right heel.....

Illustration: The last figure is incorrect. The Left leg should be extended forward.

Level 5 – Page 11 of 13 – Floor Exercise – #16 Stride Leap:

Two running steps forward -Left, Right. Delete last Left.

Level 6 – Page 1 of 16 – Vault – Paragraph E :

ADD: #8. Failure to place both hands on the horse

VOID

ADD: #9. Run-approach without executing the vault(BALK)

*touching the springboard or horse

VOID

Gymnast is allowed 3 approaches, without penalty,
to successfully complete a vault.

* successful vault on fourth approach receives
a penalty of .50.

Level 6 – Page 3 of 16 – Uneven Bars – #3 Clear Hip Circle 30°....

BOX: 4th penalty: Hips touching bar as upswing finishes

Level 6 – Page 9 of 16 – Balance Beam – #11 Assemble'...

BOX: 3rd penalty should read: Feet not coming together UPON landing

FUTURE SOKOL LEADERS FUND

Purpose: To train and educate young people to assure able administrators, the best of idealistic instructors and educational directors for Sokol Units and Districts.

In Memory of Jeanette Berquist, from Sokol Townites Social Club, Town of Lake\$25.00

In Honor of Stanley Barcal's 80th Birthday
From Charles & Gloria Schultz, Bess & Bill Kostecki, JoAnn Schultz\$25.00

1992 Central District Presidential Recognition Award Recipients

The Central District annually honors two members with its prestigious "Presidential Recognition Award." Receiving the award at this year's Central District Annual Meeting were Sis. Ann Basta, Sokol Havlicek-Tyrs and Bro. Fred Kala, Sokol Berwyn. Recipients are nominated and voted on by the Presidents of units in the Central District and the District President. The awarded plaque reads: "*Presidential Recognition Award – For exceptional services within the American Sokol Organization, Central District and Home Unit Sokol ____, Presented this 8th Day of November, 1992.*"



Nutcracker Celebrates 100th Anniversary

One hundred years ago, on December 18, 1892, ballet's most popular work, Nutcracker, premiered at the Maryinsky Theater in St. Petersburg, Russia. The story was based on Alexander Dumas' version of E.T.A. Hoffmann's The Nutcracker Prince and the Mouse King. Despite a brilliant score by Tchaikovsky (his last for dance), and choreography by the team of Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov that produced Swan Lake, the work had a troubled beginning and was not seen again for nearly two decades.

The first production to be presented outside of Russia was at London's Sadler's Wells Ballet in 1934, choreographed by Nikolai Sergeyev, former regisseur of the Maryinsky, who brought the Stepanov notation out of Russia. This presentation is also noted for the debut of Dame Margot Fonteyn as a snowflake.

The first full-length American production of Nutcracker,

which launched this holiday tradition, was presented by the San Francisco Ballet on December 24, 1944. It was choreographed by the company's director William Christensen, who, never having seen a complete Nutcracker, sought the advice of George Balanchine and Alexandra Danilova who shared their memories with him.

Balanchine's first production for the New York City Ballet, which premiered November 3, 1954, assured the ballet's place as a Christmas tradition. A movie version of the current New York City Ballet production is scheduled for Fall 1993.

Nutcracker currently received more than 120 productions annually across the country and, according to Dance/USA

Journal, the Christmas classic is responsible for more than a third of the earned income of many U.S. dance companies.

~ From: *Dance Heritage Coalition, 11/92*



The End of the Modern Era

By Vaclav Havel

Continued from Front Cover.

The end of Communism is, first and foremost, a message to the human race. It is a message we have not yet fully deciphered and comprehended. In its deepest sense, the end of Communism has brought a major era in human history to an end. It has brought an end not just to the 19th and 20th centuries, but to the modern age as a whole.

The modern era has been dominated by the culminating belief, expressed in different forms, that the world – and Being as such – is a wholly knowable system governed by a finite number of universal laws that man can grasp and rationally direct for his own benefit. This era, beginning in the Renaissance and developing from the Enlightenment to Socialism, from positivism to scientism, from the Industrial Revolution to the information revolution, was characterized by rapid advances in rational, cognitive thinking.

This, in turn, gave rise to the proud belief that man, as the pinnacle of everything that exists, was capable of objectively describing, explaining and controlling everything that exists, and of possessing the one and only truth about the world. It was an era in which there was a cult of depersonalized objectivity, an era in which objective knowledge was amassed and technologically exploited, an era of belief in automatic progress brokered by the scientific method. It was an era of systems, institutions, mechanisms and statistical averages. It was an era of ideologies, doctrines, interpretations of reality, an era in which the goal was to find a universal theory of the world, and thus a universal key to unlock its prosperity.

Communism was the perverse extreme

of this trend. It was an attempt, on the basis of a few propositions masquerading as the only scientific truth, to organize all of life according to a single model, and to subject it to central planning and control, regardless of whether or not that was what life wanted.

The fall of Communism can be regarded as a sign that modern thought – based on the premise that the world is objectively knowable, and that the knowledge so obtained can be absolutely generalized – has come to a final crisis. This era has created the first global, or planetary, technical civilization, but it has reached the limit of its potential, the point beyond which the abyss begins. The end of Communism is a serious warning to all mankind. It is a signal that the era of arrogant, absolutist reason is drawing to a close and that it is high time to draw conclusions from that fact.

Communism was not defeated by military force, but by life, by the human spirit, by conscience, by the resistance of Being and man to manipulation. It was defeated by a revolt of color, authenticity, history in all its variety and human individuality against imprisonment within a uniform ideology.

This powerful signal is coming at the 11th hour. We all know civilization is in danger. The population explosion and the greenhouse effect, holes in the ozone and AIDS, the threat of nuclear terrorism and the dramatically widening gap between the rich north and the poor south, the danger of famine, the depletion of the biosphere and the mineral resources of the planet, the expansion of commercial television culture and the growing threat of

regional wars – all of these, combined with thousands of other factors, represent a general threat to mankind.

The large paradox at the moment is that man – a great collector of information – is well aware of all this, yet is absolutely incapable of dealing with the danger. Traditional science, with its usual coolness, can describe the different ways we might destroy ourselves, but it cannot offer us truly effective and practicable instructions on how to avert them. There is too much to know; the information is muddled or poorly organized; these processes can no longer be fully grasped and understood, let alone contained or halted.

We are looking for new scientific recipes, new ideologies, new control systems, new institutions, new instruments to eliminate the dreadful consequences of our previous recipes, ideologies, control systems, institutions and instruments. We treat the fatal consequences of technology as though they were a technical defect that could be remedied by technology alone. We are looking for an objective way out of the crisis of objectivism.

Everything would seem to suggest that this is not the way to go. We cannot devise, within the traditional modern attitude to reality, a system that will eliminate all the disastrous consequences of previous systems. We cannot discover a law or theory whose technical application will eliminate all the disastrous consequences of the technical application of earlier laws and technologies.

What is needed is something different, something larger. Man's attitude to the

world must be radically changed. We have to abandon the arrogant belief that the world is merely a puzzle to be solved, a machine with instructions for use waiting to be discovered, a body of information to be fed into a computer in the hope that, sooner or later, it will spit out a universal solution.

It is my profound conviction that we have to release from the sphere of private whim such forces as a natural, unique and unrepeatable experience of the world, an elementary sense of justice, the ability to see things as others do, a sense of transcendental responsibility, archetypal wisdom, good taste, courage, compassion and faith in the importance of particular measures that do not aspire to be a universal key to salvation. Such forces must be rehabilitated.

Things must once more be given a chance to present themselves as they are, to be perceived in their individuality. We must see the pluralism of the world, and not bind it by seeking common denominators or reducing everything to a single common equation.

We must try harder to understand than to explain. The way forward is not in the mere construction of universal systemic solutions, to be applied to reality from the outside; it is also in seeking to get to the heart of reality through personal experience. Such an approach promotes an atmosphere of tolerant solidarity and unity in diversity based on mutual respect, genuine pluralism and parallelism. In a word, human uniqueness, human action and the human spirit must be rehabilitated.

The world today is a world in which generality, objectivity and universality are in crisis. This world presents a great challenge to the practice of politics, which, it seems to me, still has technocratic, utilitarian approach to Being, and therefore to political power as well. Many of the traditional mechanisms of democracy created

and developed and conserved in the modern era are so linked to the cult of objectivity and statistical average that they can annul human individuality. We can see this in political language, where cliché often squeezes out a personal tone. And when a personal tone does crop up, it is usually calculated, not an outburst of personal authenticity.

Sooner or later, politics will be faced with the task of finding a new postmodern face. A politician must become a person again, someone who trusts not only a scientific representation and analysis of the world, but also the world itself. He must believe not only in sociological statistics, but also in real people. He must trust not only an objective interpretation of reality, but also his own soul; not only an adopted ideology, but also his own thoughts; not only the summary reports he receives each morning, but also his own feeling.

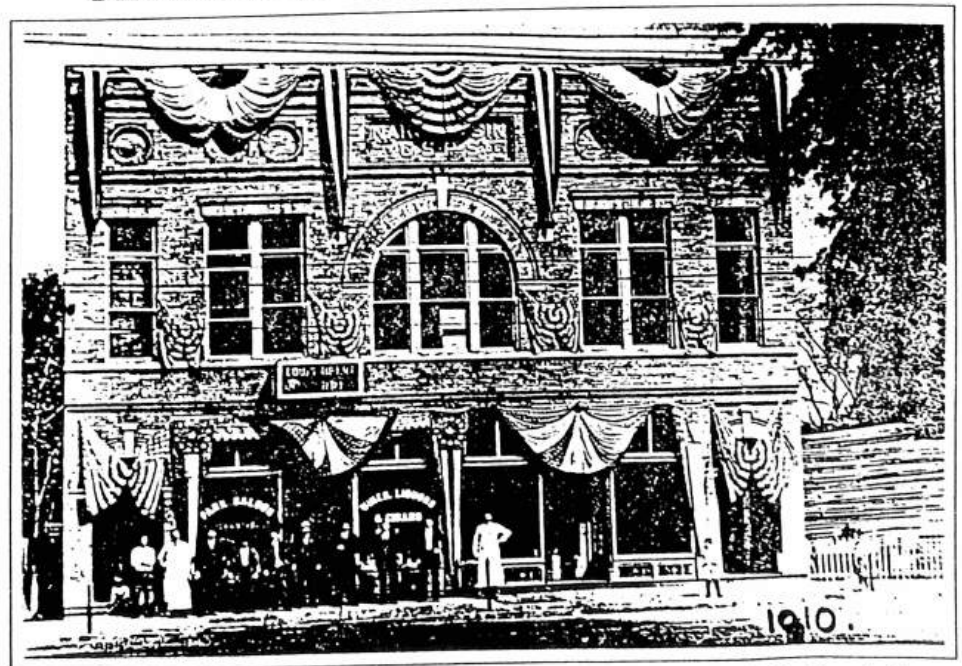
Soul, individual spirituality, firsthand personal insight into thing; the courage

to be himself and go the way his conscience points, humility in the face of the mysterious order of Being, confidence in its own natural direction and, above all, trust in his own subjectivity as his principal link with the subjectivity of the world – these are the qualities that politicians of the future should cultivate.

Looking at politics "from the inside," as it were, has if anything confirmed my belief that the world of today – with the dramatic changes it is going through and in its determination not to destroy itself – presents a great challenge to politicians.

It is not that we should simply seek new and better ways of managing society, the economy and the world. The point is that we should fundamentally change how we behave. An who but politicians should lead the way? Their changed attitude toward the world, themselves and their responsibility can give rise to truly effective systemic and institutional changes.

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October 27, 1992 ASO Executive Board Minutes (continued)

library resources of the Sokol and the Turners. Bro. Borvansky attended the 125th Anniversary of Sokol New York and had a wonderful time.

Sis. Filipello gave a written report. The Houby Day Parade was a success. Many people attended in uniform and marched before and after a van with Sokol marches playing, so that the gymnasts kept in step. There followed a discussion of the Benefit evening with Senator Judy Baar Topinka. In spite of many setbacks, the affair was a success and a profit was realized. Sis. Filipello will be meeting with Senator Topinka after the elections to work on Corporate sponsorship. The video about Sokol being done out at Naperville Sokol is moving along and will be finished shortly.

Sis. Kourim reported on the 1993 Slet. The seals are at the printer and will be mailed out as soon as possible. Management and repre-

sentatives of the BOI will meet with the two high schools and finalize contracts. Sis. Wojcik moved to accept the ticket prices recommended by the Slet committee, seconded and passed. Ticket prices will be as follows:

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|----------|
| <i>Opening Ceremony</i> | | |
| \$6 Adult | \$3 Child | |
| <i>Friday Evening Social</i> \$8 | | |
| <i>Banquet</i> To be decided. | | |
| <i>Volleyball Finals</i> \$5 | | |
| <i>Gymnastic Finals</i> | | |
| \$6 Adult | \$4 Youth | |
| <i>Awards Ceremony</i> | | |
| \$8 Adult | \$4 Youth | |
| <i>Slet</i> | | |
| \$8 Adult | \$4 Youth | \$12 Box |

The program book letter is ready and will be sent out soon. The Banquet details are coming together, souvenirs should be ready before the holidays, plate design is at the manufacturer, quilt raffle has been sent out, housing information

is in publication, publicity is going out in the United States, Canada and Europe and there was a discussion about musicians for the Slet. There was also a discussion about the possibility of gymnasts coming from Europe this time and what our responsibilities would be as far as housing and admission to events.

Since there are so many bills at this time, Sis. Pros asked to borrow some funds from the Future Sokol Leaders Fund. Bro. Babka moved to allow Sis. Pros to borrow up to \$10,000 from the FSLF to pay bills and then return money as soon as 4th Quarter fees come into the office, seconded and passed.

Due to the financial situation of the organization, it was decided that the annual Christmas party will be a "pay your own way" this year.

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.
Sis. Nancy Pajeau, Secretary

ASO UNIFORM DEPARTMENT "WHITE ELEPHANT SALE"

The Uniform Department of the American Sokol Organization is holding a "White Elephant Sale" to help clear some of the shelves in the National Office.

All items are brand new, never used. Everything in the sale is priced at \$2.00. We will keep the sale open until the end of the year 1992 or until all the items have been sold. The following are available:

- Discontinued **Red Shorts with White Stripe** on side, formerly used in the Tots' Class. We have 12 Small, 11 Medium, 54 Large

and 6 Small Adult.

- **Navy Blue Cotton Shorts**, formerly used by the 1st and 2nd Class Boys. 4 Small (6/8), 17 Large (14/16), 8 Waist 36"/38".
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- **Red Cotton Shorts**, formerly used in Tot's Class. 2 - 24", 11 -

26", 8 - 28" and 11 - 30".

- **American Sokol Gymnastic T-Shirts**, used for the Slet in Europe to identify American Sokols. 16 Small, 23 Medium, 64 Large and 36 X-Large.

These items can all be purchased from the Uniform Department of the American Sokol Organization, 6424 W. Cermak Road, Berwyn, IL 60402. Shipping and handling are extra. Orders will be taken by phone or by FAX. Phone: 708-795-6671. FAX: 708-795-0539.

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| Dr. Josef Scheiner (He carried out Tyrs ideas.) | \$2.50 | Plain Pin (No Year) | \$5.00 |
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| | | 50-Year Pin (Gold-Filled) | \$32.00 |
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