

PARTING IS SUCH
**SWEET
SORROW**

As Czechs and Slovaks separate, their two states will be hard-pressed to maintain their identities.

(This article originally appeared in Financial Times, Wednesday December 30, 1992. It was written by Anthony Robinson.)

It all began with a war of words over a hyphen," recalls Rudolf Filkus, who will be Bratislava's first ambassador to Austria when the Czech Republic and Slovakia go their separate ways on January 1. He was referring to the bitter debate over the name of post-communist Czechoslovakia, which followed the brief euphoria of the "Velvet evolution" three years ago.

Czechs from the historic provinces of Bohemia and Moravia, who make up two-thirds of the dying federation's 15.6m population, thought it would be sufficient to drop the word "socialist" from the official title of the federal state and add a hyphen to create a simple "Federal Republic of Czecho-Slovakia."

Continued on Page 8.

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10th of the month prior to published month.

CALENDAR of EVENTS

FEBRUARY

- 21 Sokol Detroit Annual
Membership Meeting
- 21 Sokol Stickney Pancake
Breakfast
- 27 Sokol Karel Havlicek Borovsky
- Ennis, TX "SOKOL \$10K
GIVEAWAY" For Info: P.O.
Box 205, Ennis, TX 75120
- 27 Sokol Minnesota Sibrinky

MARCH

- 12 Sokol Naperville Exhibition
- 13 Sokol Tabor Exhibition
- 14 Sokol W. Suburban Exhibition
- 20 Sokol Stickney Exhibition
- 21 Sokol Slavsky Exhibition
- 27 Sokol Berwyn Exhibition
- 28 Sokol Tabor Pancake
Breakfast

APRIL

- 17 Sokol Brookfield Exhibition

A.S.O. XVIII SLET
June 23-27, 1993

**A.S.O. INSTRUCTORS'
COURSE**
June 28-July 7, 1993

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...

The Slet grows ever nearer and things are heating up on all fronts. If I might switch hats for just a moment and speak to you as a member of the A.S.O. B.O.I., I would remind you all to communicate any and all Slet information to all interested individuals. Post information in your gymnasiums. Leave copies

of this magazine lying about for parents to read. When was the last time you heard complaints about receiving too much information?

NA ZDARI!

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

*Nothing is more
fairly distributed than
common sense; no one thinks
he needs more of it than he
already has.*

♦ Descartes

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.

From Western Fraternal Life Association	\$3,125.00
In Memory of Deceased Members Sokol Schenectady	\$50.00
In Memory of Bro. Ed Hlinka and Bro. Charles Hlinka From Lillian Ujka	\$14.00
In Memory of Bro. Anton Studnicka, Sokol Chicago From Dorothy A. & Brad I. Erickson	\$30.00
From Edwin & Anne Halik	\$10.00
In Memory of James Basta, Son of Bro. George & Sis. Anna Basta From Mildred C. Pinc & Linda P. Modes	\$10.00
From Bernie & Ellie Babka	\$10.00

LIBRARY & ARCHIVES FUND

In Memory of Bro. Anton Studnicka, Sokol Chicago From Rose & Stanley Barcal	\$20.00
From Dorothy A. & Brad I. Erickson	\$30.00

GENERAL FUND

In Memory of Bro. Anton Studnicka, Sokol Chicago From Betty Studnicka, Family & Friends	\$50.00
From Dorothy A. & Brad I. Erickson	\$40.00

SOKOL GREATER CLEVELAND RECOGNITION DAY BANQUET



In the Fall of 1987, Sokol Greater Cleveland held their first Recognition Day Banquet to honor those who have been members of Sokol 50 years or longer. Recently, on October 11, 1992, a second Recognition Day was held. The dinner was attended by approximately 160 brothers and sisters, as well as family and friends of the honorees. The program included a presentation by members of the children's, junior and senior classes.

Sokol Greater Cleveland has 95 members of 50 years or more, the longest being Sis. Christine Kunasek with 80 years. There were 58 sisters and brothers who were able to attend and be recognized in person. The others, who are either in nursing homes or living out-of-town, were also recognized. Each honoree was presented with a special certificate. It was a privilege to honor these dedicated Sokols.

~ Dorothy Cummings

SLET SOUVENIRS!

XVIII American Sokol Slet Souvenirs are already selling briskly. They are AVAILABLE NOW 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	_____	
3x4" Embroidered Patch	_____	
T-Shirts		
(Adult S, M, L, XL)	_____	_____
(Adult XXL)	_____	_____
Sweatshirts		
(Adult S, M, L, XL)	_____	_____
(Adult XXL)	_____	_____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone Number _____

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

AMERICAN SOKOL ORGANIZATION
 6424 West Cermak Road
 Berwyn, Illinois 60402
ATTN: SOUVENIR COMMITTEE

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

For information on Slet Commemorative Plates, see Page 10.

ATTENTION ALL UNIT DIRECTORS...
Did you complete and return your Slet survey?

IMPORTANT!

BE SURE TO PAY
 CLOSE ATTENTION
 TO ALL MAILINGS
 REGARDING THE XVIII
 A.S.O. SLET.
**COMMUNICATION
 IS THE KEY TO
 SUCCESS!**

Unit I.D. 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.

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!**

Report from the Executive Director

Sis. Lynda Filipello

Agent for Change

The inauguration of the "President for Change" is now complete. Next on the agenda are the changes. What will these changes be, for whom and how many will they affect and benefit and what will they cost in tax dollars, are but a few of the questions on many minds today. We, as an organization, might do well to view this national mood as an opportunity to initiate some changes to insure our leadership in the 21st century.

First on the agenda is to define what is change, as in the reverse of the "but we've always done it this way" brand of thinking? Some people so respect (or fear to change) a method, that they will go to great lengths to insure that the tradition continues, even if it means the destruction of the very system they are protecting. Change for change sake is not the recommended way, either. However, if what you once found successful is no longer working, then it is time to seriously *change* your ways.

The first step in changing is to recognize that a change is necessary and then to identify what

needs to change. First on the agenda is to list what programs have continued to be strong in your unit. If they continue to nourish your membership, then develop the program to greater enrollment. What new, innovative programs have you established in the last few years? What is new in the physical fitness field that you could adapt into your present programs?

Do you have enough currently trained personnel to just maintain your present program? How many new personnel will you need to increase your membership? What training programs will you have to invest in to keep pace with demands? How well are you serving the community through your programs? Could you offer more programs for seniors who are retired and in need of local, moderately priced exercise and social programs? What about all those latch-key children in the neighborhood? After-school programs scheduled every day could answer these needs and provide more funding for the unit.

These types of programs, designed for children and seniors, could qualify for corporate and government funding.

Parents of gymnasts will also appreciate a program designed for their needs. Ask your parents first if they exercise regularly. If so, what types of programs are they most interested in. If not, how can you help them get started in a program that would benefit them most? Ask a professional exercise specialist to help you start a program in your gym. Sokol programs and non-Sokol programs can successfully be operated within the unit.

A Sokol gym should have physical activity from morning through evening, so that everyone can benefit. This will be a major change for many units, but there will be multiple rewards as a result of accepting this challenge. We, as an organization, must first learn to *accept change*, and then, *adapt* to it. The winds of change have begun to settle. Let us become agents for change by gathering up our assets and reinvesting in ourselves.

BREATHING TO REDUCE STRESS

When prehistoric humans were in danger of attack, their breathing became shallow as they prepared to run or fight. Today, we still have the same stress response. When modern tensions build, deep breathing counteracts the stress response. Deep breathing is a great natural stress releaser anywhere, any time.

Sitting or lying down, breathe in slowly through your nose, thinking "in." Let the air escape slowly through pursed lips, thinking "out." Do deep breathing for two minutes or more. To increase relaxation, imagine breathing in ocean air or the scent of flowers. Take time to "stop and smell the roses."



FOR THE RECORD

Minutes of the November 24, 1992
meeting of the A.S.O. Executive Board

The meeting was called to order by President, Charles Borvansky, at 7:30 p.m. Members present were Bros. Borvansky, Babka, Lebloch and Michalek in the office and Bros. Milan, Masek, Dalton and Kalat on teleconference. In the office were Sis. Pros, Kourim, Jurew, Filipello and Pajeau and Sis. Dalton and Kalat on teleconference. Sis. Wojcik, Satek and Sedlacek and Bros. Satek and Podhrasky were excused. October minutes will be deferred until January meeting.

The office has received Central District October and Annual Meeting minutes, District Directors' Conference minutes, Eastern District September minutes and the Director's Newsletter. Correspondence was read and appropriate action was taken.

Bro. Michalek read the BOI report. Final assessment forms were reviewed. Northeastern District \$640 for Safety Certification course, \$60 for USGF Membership and \$735 for Safety Certification course and Pacific District \$1781.78 for Instructors' Course. Bro. Lebloch and Milan reported on their trip to Prague. There is much work to be done on the 1994 Slet. The ASO BOI will conduct a 3-day workshop on the 1994 calisthenics immediately after the 1993 Slet, with representatives from the COS. The BOI is continuing to work on all aspects of the 1993 Slet. They presented a fee schedule for approval. Individual competitor package would be \$32, children's competition \$10, second event, like rhythmic competition \$5, gymnastic

team \$25, Volleyball \$75 for seniors and \$40 for juniors, marching team \$20 and special number \$25.

Bro. Lebloch moved to pay bills for final assessment forms, seconded and passed. Bro. Babka moved to accept recommended fees for Slet events from the BOI, seconded and passed.

Bro. Lebloch recommended that we start looking into having tours to Prague in 1994. We should look into each district to see what travel agencies would give us the best deal.

Bro. Kalat moved to approve the 3-day clinic after our Slet and will continue to look into housing and other expenses, seconded and passed.

All Merit Award transcripts have been turned in to the office.

Bro. Babka moved to read BOI recommendation of special assessment changes and copies will be sent to board members with Bros. Michalek and Borvansky and Sis. Pros and Wojcik to look over financial changes, seconded and passed.

Bro. Lebloch reported on his trip to Prague and will give excerpt for the publication. The ASO received a certificate from the COS and it will be on display in the office. We need to print more tri-folds.

Bro. Milan was also in Prague and felt we were well-represented. Took the video and written test of the 1993 calisthenics. A new unit in the Southern District will be Sokol Taylor in Taylor, TX. There may be new units in LaGrange, Austin, Temple and San Antonio, Texas. He has taught a course at Sokol Corpus Christi and attended the USGF meetings.

The auditing committee looked over the books and found them to be in order. Bro. Lebloch moved to continue to use Seldon Fox as our outside auditing firm, seconded and passed. Sis. Pros has been working on getting the ASO 1993 Slet Seal and the latest publication into the mail.

Bro. Masek reported on the Foundation meeting of October and November. A discussion followed on who will be approached to build up the funds in the Foundation Fund. The agreement was to try inactive units and not individuals.

Sis. Kourim attend Sokol Stickney's 65th Anniversary celebration. The uniform department bills are all paid up and money is coming into the office in a more timely fashion.

Bro. Borvansky attended the 100th Anniversary of D.A. Sokol and the 65th Anniversary of Sokol USA.

Sis. Filipello has received an additional \$410 in donations after the Benefitevent. She is still working closely with Senator Judy Baal Topinka's office to obtain funds for our many projects. She is contacting the McDonald Corporation and Waste Management. She is working with Sokol Naperville to videotape a history of Sokol to be used to give to corporations for donations and to advertise our organization.

Sis. Kourim reported that the Slet Committees are working. The seals are almost mailed out and the poster art work is ready for the Publicity Committee. The quilt raffle money is coming into the office and other tickets will be printed in January. The letter for the Program Book will go out in January and the plans for

Continued on Page 11



AMERICAN SOKOL ORGANIZATION

GYMNAST

FEBRUARY 1993

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



PLAN AND PREPARE FOR OUR 1993 SLET "SOKOL SOARS"

Our 1993 American Sokol Organization XVIII Slet, to be hosted in the Chicagoland area is around the corner. All the paper work is done and calisthenics, gymnastic apparatus routines, dance, rhythmic, and other events including various competition rules have been disseminated. The headquarter hotel will be the Marriott-Oakbrook, in Oak Brook, Illinois, on 22nd Street just a couple of blocks east of Route 83.

Sokol units and lodges around the country, Canada, and Europe are making their plans to prepare for this festive occasion. Many of the calisthenics have been tested at different districts around the United States, and the response has been very favorable. We know you will be pleased to perform them at the 1993 Slet. Units and lodges are culminating their fund raising activities and making the necessary plans for travel and lodging.

This year will be first time that the Town of Naperville, in Illinois will be the primary host of most of our Slet competitions. Naperville is a quaint town about 35 miles west of Chicago, and located just south of Illinois Interstate-88. It is the home of Sokol Naperville, the youngest unit in the Central District, and is presided by Brother Will. Sokol Naperville is also the proud home of our new Executive Director Sister Linda Filipello.

The opening ceremonies on Wednesday and the Slet exhibition on Sunday will be conducted at the Morton High School facilities in Berwyn, site of many past national Slets conducted in the Central District.

The Competitions will be held at Naperville Central High School. The Marriott-Oak Brook Hotel is located about mid-way between Berwyn and Naperville. Some of the Sokol gatherings will be conducted at local Sokol halls in addition to the awards night and banquet held at the Marriott-Oak Brook.

The XVIII Slet will provide activities for all with the introduction of new competitions in marching, childrens gymnastics, and possibly Senior Masters volleyball, if enough teams respond favorably to our survey for this event. All units and lodges should respond as soon as possible to the survey letter that was sent out from the National Office.

Immediately following the Slet we will conduct a multi-level National Instructors School for ten days at the beautiful campus of the Chicago School of Osteopathic Medicine, located in Downers Grove, Illinois about ten minutes from Oak Brook. Director of the School will be Brother Bud Benak, past director of many national schools and current District Director of the Western District. The school will be conducted from June 27th to July 7th, 1993, and will premiere the introduction of our new Sokol Manual prepared by Brother Steve Banjak and his committee. Brother Banjak is the current National Director of Sokol USA, along with Sister Chris Yatchusan Women's National Director.

Cont. on page 196

CHICAGO COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHY SITE OF 1993 NATIONAL



Athletic and Recreational Facilities

The athletic complex on the campus includes:

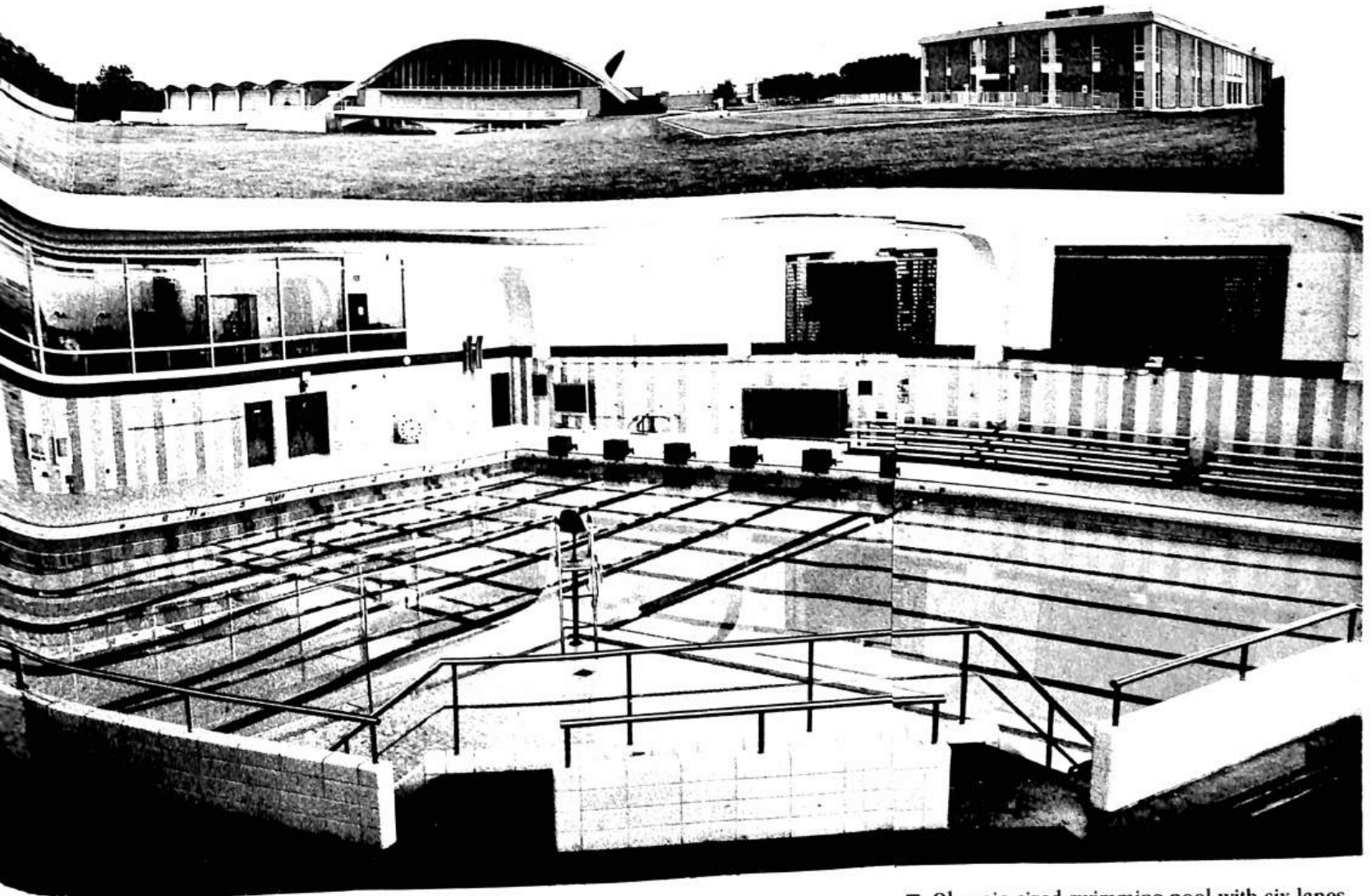
- Gymnasium with full basketball court and two volleyball courts. The facility is equipped with a finished hardwood floor and set up year-round for activities such as volleyball, basketball, wrestling, karate and indoor soccer.

- Weight room with state-of-the-art equipment
- Aerobics room with several rowing machines, stationary bicycles, treadmills, a nordic ski machine, and a versa climber.



MEDICINE, DOWNERS GROVE, ILL.

STRUCTORS COURSE



- Olympic-sized swimming pool with six lanes and depth from 4 to 12 feet. Full length daily lockers are also available.



PLAN AND PREPARE FOR OUR 1993 SLET — *Concl. from p. 193*

Following the Slet we are also planning to have a three day clinic with introduction and instruction of calisthenics prepared for the 1994 Slet in Prague, Czech Republic. Instructors will be here from Europe and this will be conducted at the same site of the National Instructors School.

In addition to an assembly of many sister organizations at the Slet such as: Sokol Canada, D.A. Sokols, Sokols Abroad, Czechoslovak Sokols and others, representatives of these various organizations will be meeting for a post Sokol Slet Forum to plot our course into the next century.

The Slet Committee's ultimate goal is to provide everyone with a Slet experience they shall not forget. The Slet co-chairs Brother Charles Borvansky and Sister Jackie Kourim have been working very diligently, and exerting every effort to make this Slet experience an indelible one. Working close with the Slet Committee are the Central District Directors Sister Linda Filipello, and Brother Joseph Placek.

To record this historical occasion for posterity, and being one of the last in the twentieth century, a Committee will be preparing a post Slet Memory Book (Památník) of photographs, articles, Slet competition results, champions, past Slet champions, and some historical tributes.

All in all the American Sokol Organization extends a heartfelt invitation to all to put aside the last week in June and come join us for the XVIII ASO Sokol Slet. Nazdar!

GYMNASTICS JUST ISN'T FUN ANYMORE

Concluded from last issue

Unfortunately, at these times some coaches withdraw attention from the gymnast once the crisis point is past. The message received is that once the youngster is hurt and can't "contribute," his/her value is diminished. This kind of behavior does the same subtle damage to a gymnast's self-worth as favoring some members of the team at the expense of others.

All of the issues discussed so far are factors that lead to discontentment and may lead to the decision to quit gymnastics. Many athletes deal with these kinds of problems successfully every day to some degree. Yet the loss of talented children seems to have accelerated.

Professional Coaching

It is your author's opinion that the primary cause and ultimate responsibility for this rests with the professional coach. Dedicated kids have a great deal of resiliency in dealing with school, peer and parental pressures. But when these given factors are combined with an unhappy training environment and a negative coach-gymnast interaction,

the pressure to leave becomes dominant, irrespective of the child's personal drive or potential ability.

As pointed out earlier, the most critical factor identified with leaving a sport is the gradual erosion of the psychological satisfaction and general good feeling (fun) associated with participation. Again, this has nothing to do with a "hard work" focus, but is related to an insensitive working relationship where the adult ego takes priority and talented kids are driven without any regard or awareness of the fact that they are basically just children. They may be gifted for sure, but at the core these gymnasts are trusting youngsters who are hungry for praise and have had little time on the planet to develop the armament needed to deal with sarcasm, negativism and assaults on their self-esteem. Such attacks are most often launched by a fiercely competitive adult bent on winning at all costs.

The pressure, both internally and externally, that coaches feel to produce is very real. In the long run, however, programs devoid of fun and a positive atmosphere usually fail to produce and eventually self-destruct. Unfortunately, the extraction

of joy that accompanies such programs not only diminishes the talent pool but also hurts youngsters in the process.

The implications of the Carnegie Report (see reference) need to be taken very seriously indeed. This includes paying real attention to the needs of children that involve matters outside of the gym such as school and social life. Clearly gyms are not guidance clinics, but they should provide a flexible organizational structure that gives out-of-gym issues some degree of priority when appropriate. Overall there has to be an ongoing awareness of the need to keep "fun" in the experience without reducing quality.

It is not enough to pay lip service to coaches' needs to be more cognizant of the psychological and developmental issues of childhood and adolescence. Strong measures need to be introduced to ensure that these principles are in fact put into daily practice.

Program goals and coaching approach should be monitored on a regular basis by knowledgeable owners, directors or consulting experts in the area. Any national professional coach-development system must take into account these non-physical variables and recognize their importance, equal to that of the technical growth of our coaches. IG

1) Reference: Carnegie Report, Seefeldt, Ewing, "Technique Magazine," March 1992, Vol. 12, No. 3, Pg. 5.

Dr. Massimo has been involved in gymnastics since 1950 as a competitor, judge and sports psychologist. Currently, he is the chief psychologist for the Newton Public Schools in Newton, Mass. Correspondence can be sent to: 100 Walnut St., Newtonville, MA 02160.

*T'was a week before Christmas and
without much remorse,
The dancers went singing as we
plotted our course:*

*Seventeen singers climbed into our
sleighs,
Music and hats ready, we were on our
way.*

*Each stop we came to, we readied our
songs,*

*The door was opened when the bell
went ding, dong.*

*Voices were heard as the singing
began,*

*Some sang the words, others went
Hummmmmmm.*

*Surprise and amazement brought
tears to some eyes,*

*Excitement
and
pleasure
were
followed by
sighs.*

*Four to five songs
were sung at all
the sites,*

*It was hard to read
with very little
light.*

*Cookies were tasted
and some holiday
cheer,*

*Cleaned up the glasses
and we were back in
gear.*

*Each stop was a story we
soon were to find*

*That carolling was some-
things folks didn't mind.*

*So people beware when
Christmas is near,*

*The DANCERS turned
SINGERS, may soon reappear.*

Sokol Greater Cleveland Folk "Singers?"



come a holiday tradition for the dance group. It also becomes a mystery trip for the singers, since only a couple of people know which doorstep they will be turning up on.

Each stop brought its own story, from helping someone taste test her fresh batch of cookies and bakery right off the cookie sheets, to having a Rottweiler stand and watch in amazement from the

doors opened, the singing would start, 3-4 selections would be sung and they would finish with a rousing rendition of "We Wish You A Merry Christmas" in Czech and English.

The only unfortunate part of it is that it would be virtually impossible to stop at each and every Sokol's house in one evening. Thus, the tradition continues. Some stops found no one home, but that only means you could be on their list for a future trip. The group then winds up its goodwill trip at one of the dancer's home to eat, drink and be merry. The evening also include a rousing game of "Guesstures".

But the main focus of the evening was accomplished and that was to bring a little bit of cheer to some of their Sokol members. By doing this, they hope to keep alive the common bond that they have with their ancestors and to strengthen the times within their Sokol family. The group is very proud of itself for what was done that evening and on evenings past.

~ Howie Wise & Dolly Baca

sidewalk. A certain someone was listening to Christmas songs on his car radio when suddenly it changed to Czech. When he finally looked into his rearview mirror, what to his wondering eyes did appear, but 16 red-hatted singers and their wonderful leader. Some people were stunned, others were pleased. Some sang along, while others just took it in. They were on the road for five hours that evening, making stop after stop and covering some 70 miles. As the

As the poem says, for the fourth time in five years, the Sokol Greater Cleveland Czech Folk Dancers traded in their dancing shoes for Santa Claus hats (including a pointed one due to extra starch). Their goal, as always was to bring glad tidings of joy to members of their Sokol family by singing Christmas Carols. This journey of good will has be-

PARTING IS SUCH

Continued from Front Cover.

Months of anguished debate later, the hyphen idea was dropped and both sides finally approved a renamed Federal Republic of Czechs and Slovaks. By then, however, no one could ignore the depth, or at least the decibel level, of Slovak resentment. It is the bitter fruit of centuries of subservience to powerful Hungarians under the Hapsburg empire, only to be followed by seven decades of playing second fiddle as junior partner to the more populous, richer, ethnically closer, but condescending Czechs.

It took the emergence of a stocky former boxer with a communist past to channel Slovak resentments into a nationalist movement, the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia (HZDS), which promised to make Slovaks master in their own house and respected abroad. For Mr. Vladimir Meciar, the HZDS leader, victory in last June's general election was seen as a mandate to negotiate a new and more equal relationship with the Czechs and to pay off old scores against Czechoslovakia's morally superior federal president, the playwright Vaclav Havel.

But the general election which elevated Mr. Meciar in Slovakia confirmed a very different kind of politician as leader of the neighboring Czech lands. Many Slovaks identify Mr. Meciar as the personification of "Janosik," the rustic hero of Slovak folk history. But no one could confuse Mr.

Vaclav Klaus, the spiky, punctilious economist who won the Czech elections, with Good Soldier Sveik, the obstinately dim-witted but good-natured scourge of Hapsburg officialdom in whom many Czechs see aspects of themselves.

Over the past six months, these two men have sealed the fate of Czechoslovakia. With legalistic precision, they, and a handful of senior officials, have worked out highly detailed divorce papers on 26 complex subjects, ranging from the division of the federal army to apportioning the foreign debt. They have also agreed to maintain a customs union and the free movement of goods and people after independence. The two states will also have separate central banks and ultimately separate currencies after a probably brief initial period with a common currency.

Within months, possibly weeks, the old Czechoslovak crown will be split into Slovak and Czech crowns. They will begin life with equal value, but most observers expect a substantial devaluation of the Slovak crown within a few months. The general principle followed in these talks has been a division of assets and liabilities on a 2:1 ratio, reflecting the population split.

Both sides appear proud of the unprecedentedly civilized manner of their divorce arrangements and both leaders have expressed nothing but mutual respect and esteem in public. There is a nagging

feeling, however, especially in Slovakia, that the wily Mr. Klaus caught the former Slovak pugilist off-balance at their first meeting and retained the psychological advantage through subsequent sparring rounds.

From the start, Mr. Klaus made clear that the Czechs had no intention of bankrolling Slovak independence, and would consider only a strengthened federation or a split. "Better a quick divorce than a messy marriage," was the uncompromising message that Mr. Meciar brought back from his first talks with Mr. Klaus. There was never any suggestion that Prague would emulate Belgrade, which 18 months ago sent federal troops into Slovenia in a half-hearted attempt to keep the small republic within the now defunct Yugoslav federation.

Economically, there is little question that Slovakia's best hopes for a prosperous future lay in remaining firmly attached to the powerful Czech locomotive. A glance at the map of central Europe explains why. Prague is 200km west of Vienna and the Czech lands were the most industrialized part of the Hapsburg empire. Between the wars, Czech industry was a technically proficient as Germany's. After the divorce, the Czech republic will be firmly anchored in western Europe, while Slovakia will retain only a narrow border with Austria and be hemmed in by Poland, the Ukraine and Hungary.

SWEET SORROW

The danger is that both halves of the soon to be divided federal state will be hard pressed to maintain their future identities. So linked is the new Czech state with the German-speaking core of Europe that some Czech wits suggest that their new state should be called East Germany. Mr. Klaus Kinkel, the German foreign minister, was reportedly not amused when a Czech journalist shared the joke with him at a recent Czech-German summit meeting.

The spiritual fathers of the Czechoslovak state, mainly Czech and Slovak émigrés in Pittsburgh and other American industrial towns during the first world war, sold the idea of the new dual nation to President Woodrow Wilson as a Slav bulwark to reduce German influence in post-war Europe. Now the Czech republic risks ending up as little more than an extension to the German economy.

Northern Bohemia, with its busy industrial towns like Teplice, even looks like Germany, with solid round-turreted houses and sturdy factories. This is no coincidence. Until 1945, this area was the German-speaking Sudetenland whose 3m inhabitants were used by Hitler in 1938 to justify the first partition of pre-war Czechoslovakia which, when ratified by the infamous Munich Agreement, sealed Czechoslovakia's fate for 50 years.

While the new Czech republic will be surrounded by prosperous

Germanic Europe, and working full-out to fulfill the rising demand for cheap industrial goods produced by Bohemian workers at wages roughly 10% of German levels, Slovakia, where unemployment at 12% is already four times the Czech level, will become Europe's new frontier with the east.

Nowhere is this uncomfortable reality clearer than at the Russian market on the outskirts of Kosice, the principal city of eastern Slovakia. Here, on a frozen muddy field, thousands of Ukrainian, Russian and Vietnamese stand in the bitter wind to display their pathetic wares - grubby underpants, rusty deodorants spray cans, used car parts, plastic flowers, cheap homemade alcohol. Groups of Slav imitation Rambos indicate where, for the equivalent of a few dollars, pistols, Kalashnikov rifles and ammunition are for sale.

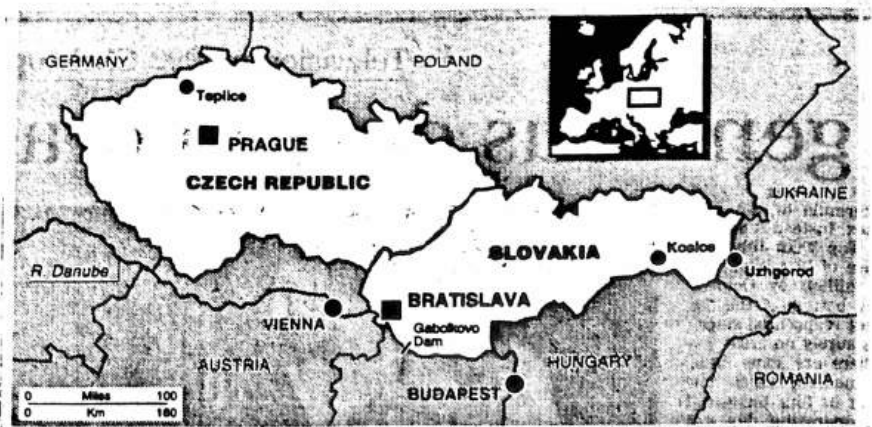
The vulnerability of Slovakia to economic and political instability in the countries to its south and east can also be clearly seen at the east Slovakian Steel Works (VSZ), which is the main employer in

Kosice and the surrounding area. The Czech-built plant's output of cheap, high-quality sheet steel has already attracted anti-dumping measures from the European Community. Now its entire output is threatened by a shortage of Russian-supplied fuel in Ukraine.

VSZ depends on a regular supply of enriched iron pellets from Krivoi Rog in south-eastern Ukraine and Russian gas supplied by pipeline under Ukrainian soil. Now, Krivoi Rog is short of diesel fuel and VSZ is having to send a fleet of diesel tankers on a 2,000km round-trip shuttle service to the Ukrainian city so that trucks can load rail wagons with pellets for VSZ.

Without these pellets, much of the downstream manufacturing capacity of Slovakia would be crippled, including the big tank and arms factories. These were hobbled by the federal government's virtual ban on arms exports, but have been given approval by Mr. Meciar to compete for a 300-tank order from Pakistan and other potential deals in Africa and the Middle East.

Continued on Page 10.



XVIII Slet Commemorative Plate

THE SLET COMMEMORATIVE PLATES HAVE ARRIVED and are selling well. The design, as shown, has the girl in a red leotard and the boy with blue shorts and white shirt. They are surrounded by linden leaves in various shades of green. The Sokol emblem is red and below, in red, is printed - XVIII American Sokol Slet 1993.

The plates are numbered 1 through 300. Only 300 plates were produced. The price of each plate is \$25.00, plus cost of shipping and handling or it may be picked up at the Sokol Office. *Order early!*

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PARTING IS SUCH SWEET SORROW *(continued)*

Kosice, with large Hungarian, Ruthenian and Ukraine minorities, is a city which has traditionally looked to Prague to counterbalance what it sees as the dangerous centralizing tendencies of Bratislava and retain links with western Europe.

Mr. Dusan Klinger, publisher and chief editor of Slovensky Vychod, the principal local newspaper in Eastern Slovakia, was a dissident during the communist regime. He articulates the fears of many Kosice intellectuals that, with independence severing these old ties, democracy, freedom of speech and prosperity will slip away from a region which voted heavily for Mr. Meciar's opponents at the elections.

But the approach of independence is also being greeted nervously in the Slovak capital, which, with its complement of newly refurbished foreign embassies, government

buildings and parliament, should be the main gainer from Slovakia's new sovereign status. Bratislava's baroque old town, dominated by its austere square castle overlooking the River Danube, is less than 70km from Vienna and will soon be connected by improved road and rail links.

Until now, Slovakia has attracted less than 10% of the \$1bn which has flowed into Czechoslovakia since 1990 and Volkswagen's new Audio station-wagon assembly plant in the industrial suburbs is the main single foreign investment. But joint ventures with Austrian companies are the most numerous, and Mr. Meciar's team hopes to build a Mexican-style industrial freeport close to the Austrian border to attract inward investment.

The hope is that future links with Vienna will prove more fruitful than the long and subservient connection with Budapest. But it is

hard to escape the conclusion that Slovakia, with more than 600,000 ethnic Hungarians, will need to build friendly relations with Hungary, with whom it has been in a bitter dispute over the Gabčíkovo dam on the Danube river, as well as with the Czech republic itself.

Just before Christmas ('92), Poland, Hungary and representatives of the future Czech and Slovak republics signed a free-trade agreement linking the Visegrad 4. This is the grouping named after the Hungarian town where two years ago the central European countries agreed to coordinate their eventual entry into the EC.

Many Czechs and Slovaks hope that full membership of an enlarged EC by 2000 will allow both states to come back together, still as sovereign countries, but within the overarching compass of a wider EC whose eventual contours still have to be defined.

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11/24 ASO Executive Board Minutes (continued)

the banquet are almost finished. The exhibit at the CSA building is almost set and the souvenirs are listed in the publication and will be ready for sale. Housing information will be in the November issue of the publication, as will ordering information for the plates. Still need to finalize contracts with the two high schools and then get insurance. The courtesy booth will be manned at all times and have information about everything with the Slet and the local area. The Southern District is making banners for the participating units' flags. There have been some problems

with the Management Committee, but hopefully this will be resolved. There is a possibility of a German tour coming to the U.S. for the Slet.

Bro. Lebloch moved to take a full-page ad for \$100 in the Czech National Council of America book, seconded and passed.

The Uniform department has some red and some navy shorts with the Sokol emblem that could be sold as souvenirs.

Bro Michalek donated a fitness book that he received as a gift. Meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Sis. Nancy Pajeau, Secretary

THE VOICE

Reader Quips, Comments & Queries

Was a portion of the December 1992 article "The End of the Modern Era," by Vaclav Havel, missing? It began by stating "Continued from Front Cover."
~ George Snajd,
Edina, MN

From the Editor: The article was originally placed to begin on the front cover and continue on an inside page of the magazine. When I changed the cover to "Svaty Mikulas" and moved the entire Havel article to the inside, I inadvertently forgot to remove the reference back to the front cover. No part of the article was omitted in the move and I apologize for any confusion.

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