



GYMNASTIC ASSOCIATION SOKOL
SAN FRANCISCO
EDUCATIONAL AND PHYSICAL
ORGANIZATION



P.O.Box 4006, Menlo Park, CA 94026-4006



VĚSTNÍK

SPRING

2004



1 rehot žerdě prvního praporu od J. Alánesa.

Slavnost rozvinutí prvního praporu, zhotoveného Josefem Mínesem, se uskutečnila 1. června 1862 v přeplněném sále Apolla za účasti mnoha významných českých vlastenců. Matka praporu Karolína Šnětlí přonesla slavnostní projev o poslání Sokola, který chce povznést vlast opět na stolec bývalé slávy. Po ní zatloukaly do žerdí ozdob-

né hřebíky kmotry praporu paní K. Fügnerová, M. Riegrová (roz. Palacká), J. Thurn-Taxisová a další. Přítomní pronesly hesla vyjadřující poslání nového spolku: Lásky k vlasti, Bratrství, Neohroženost, Pravdivost, Svoboda, Svornost, Vytrvalost, Jaro-rost, Lidskost, Ráznost, Sfédnost, Čest a sláva. Přítomní tato hesla sborně opakovali. Po předání zástavy praporečnickům zahájil Tyrš veřejné cvičení, při němž zazněly poprvé české pově-ly. Slavnost vyvrcholila odpoledním výletem do Krče.

Křivoklátsko je krajem, který se zapsal do dějin sokolstva. Když se stal Miroslav Tyrš vychovatelem u továrníka Barthelmuse v Novém Jáchymově, pravidelně zde cvičil a začal se zabývat českým tělovýchovným názvoslovím. V myslivně Na Kráži u Svaté, kde se sešel Tyrš s Fügnerem, se pak často konaly srazy sokolů, stejně jako v blízkých Hudlicích, rodišti Jungmannových. Tyto tradice se v posledních letech obnovují.

SOKOL SAN FRANCISCO OFFICERS 2004

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Zupa Representative: Paul Burda, Frank Dlask (ex-officio), Peter Linhart,
Ivanka Linhart

Sokol Legal Advisors: James Frolik Jr. Attorney, Ondrej Kojnok Attorney

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND SOKOL DUES

- March 5, 2004** Honoring the birthday of the first President of Czechoslovakia
T.G.Masaryk Dinner Dance in Basque Cultural Center in
South San Francisco
- March 7, 2004** Masaryk anniversary, there is a committee delegated from Sokol to
put the wreath at his bust in Golden Gate Park in San Francisco
- May 22, 2004** Sokol all day picnic at Chabot Lake in Castro Valley.
- August 15, 2004** Sokol Picnic is planned for in Chevron Recreation area in
Richmond thanks to Ms. Jindra Stroleny. However it will be limited
to 50 Sokol participants. Every and each participants on first come
bases has to report his or her name.
- October 22, 2004** Celebration of Independence. Basque Cultural Center S.S.F.
- December 4, 2004** Sokol members Annual Meeting 10AM
St. Nikolas Party 2 PM
- December 30, 2004** Happy New Year 2005 Celebration and Dance Party

Thank you, for your contributions!

V. Jilka	\$ 5.00	F.&A. Picha	\$50.00
Jindra Strolena	\$16.00	A. Frolik	\$25.00
Jindra Strolena	\$75.00	D. Vernak	\$25.00
E. Sullivan	\$25.00	F. M. Miksa	\$50.00
		TOTAL	\$271.00

BROTHERS AND SISTERS: IT'S TIME TO PAY 2004 DUES !

Please send your check or Money Order to the address below with the stub below. Cut the end of this stub for your records. Your kind attention to this matter will be greatly appreciated. We believe that this billing is self-explanatory for everybody. Please, discard it if your dues are already paid.

Sokol Gymnastics Association Sokol San Francisco
P.O. Box 4006, Menlo Park, CA 94026-4006

SEND WITH YOUR PAYMENT:

2004 Dues are \$25

Membership Dues \$.....

Donation/Contribution.....

Name:.....

Address:.....

City:.....State:....Zip:.....

KEEP FOR YOUR RECORDS:

Sokol San Francisco Dues 2004

Date sent:.....

Check No:.....



GYMNASTIC ASSOCIATION SOKOL SAN FRANCISCO
EDUCATIONAL AND PHYSICAL ORGANIZATION

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

P.O.BOX 4006, Menlo Park, CA 94026-4006

Date: _____

Sokol: _____ Sokolice: _____

Name: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip+4: _____

Res. Phone: _____ Bus Phone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

☐

Married

☐

Single

Date of Birth: ____/____/____

U.S. Citizen?

☐

Yes

☐

No

If No, legal resident?

☐

Yes

☐

No

City, State, Country of Birth: _____

Spouse: _____

Children: _____

Please, list other clubs, organizations to which you belong: _____

Sponsor: _____

STATEMENT: I affirm that I am loyal to the government of the United States of America and that I am not a member of any subversive organization. If admitted to membership of the American Sokol, I promise to be governed by the by-laws in all my activities on behalf of said organization. I represent that to the best of my knowledge and belief the answers to the statements contained in this application are full, complete and correctly recorded. I understand that this application shall be the basis for and a part of any insurance contract issued.

Signature of Applicant: _____

The Sokol Story

The story of the Czech people is a story of faith, it is a story of perseverance, it is a story of always striving, of involvement and of helping one another. It is a story of being the best that we can be. It is an ages old story with a long history even before the birth of Sokol.

As president for American Sokol I will make sure that new chapters continue to be written and that all our members are satisfied with my choices and work. Because of this desire I want to keep all members involved with the decisions that we now face.

As a member of Sokol for all of my life, I know just as well as you that we can see the need to build on our strong foundations, yet improve our organization.

The spirit of the Olympics teaches us that we can learn from the friendships with other cultures. To keep this friendship alive, along with the Sokol spirit, I suggest that we organize multicultural slets that celebrates our shared values.

As someone once said,

"Our children are our future, and our future is now."

I feel that those moving words are more important than ever. It is true our children are our future and we have to start now to make them interested and excited about Sokol. To make this happen we need to organize more activities so that they'll want to be involved. With that said, I think there should be more camps, get togethers, and more competitions.

As most of you know there are clubs in the United States that don't have enough funding or people to start activities for everyone. I would make sure that we address this issue. I would send them representatives who could organize activities appropriate for their members, age groups, and finances. They of course will become the seeds for the formation of new active and energized units.

I think it would be a good idea to be more active in our communities. It would be a good idea to volunteer in our communities, do things like clean up, volunteer at retirement homes, may be hospitals, wherever we may be needed. Because Sokol should be a club where we not stay within our club boundaries but one, where we need to get out there and grab hold of our community, take charge, and help out.

We all share the Sokol ideal, to this end, it would be nice to bring all the Sokol units together, nation wide and world wide, by having all the districts create a fabric square representing their concept of Sokol and create a giant quilt of all the submitted squares, and when its finished have it circulate around to each district so that everyone may see the quilt for a certain amount of time before it sent off to the next recipient. Of course, we would share this creation with our communities to raise the public awareness of our Sokol ideals.

As American Sokol president I will make sure all Sokol continues to be fun and enjoyable for everyone, I think that many great things may be accomplished throughout my term and I'm hoping that through our members and through all of Sokol that one day all of Sokol will be well known throughout the world as a as recognizes hospitality group is always embracing new friends as members and looked upon as an organization that celebrates differences as well those that share our story. It would be wonderful to have people come into our organization knowing that it's fun, knowledgeable, and a friendly group who will accept you. Lastly I would like to add that being American Sokol president would be great, knowing that I made a difference in our organization. Thank you for your time and I hope you are as thrilled with me as president of American Sokol, as I am today, knowing that I'm involved, inspired and committed to authoring new and even more exciting chapters in the Sokol story. Thank you.

Allyson Miller

It is difficult to evaluate all of the good work and support given to the Unit by the officers and members who are deserving of our thanks. Our SOKOL work is not only for this Unit, but also for the whole Sokol Organization. Above all, we want to promote and continue the Tyrs Sokol ideas and the Masaryk ideal for democracy and co-existence.

George Spanek Sr.
Former President of Sokol San Francisco

Just What Is Aerobics?

Since Kenneth Cooper coined the word "aerobics" in the late 1960s, little did he know it would become a household phrase by the 90s. The word appears on magazine covers, TV commercials and even your paper boy's mother says, as she breathlessly runs up your driveway, "Well, I've had my aerobics for today."

What exactly is aerobics? Aerobics literally means, with oxygen for life. As living creatures, we depend upon oxygen for life. Aerobic activities increase our ability to take in, process and utilize life-giving oxygen. All of your body is involved in aerobic training but the heart and lungs are the target organs of aerobic conditioning.

How do you define an aerobic workout? To qualify as "aerobic", you must meet the following criteria: Your activity must be continuous! You must be able to do it non-stop for a minimum of 15 minutes. Stop and start activities don't qualify. Your activity must be rhythmic, involving the regular use of the large muscles of the body. Running, stepping, bicycling, dancing, fast walking are good examples. Your activity must produce increase in body temperature, pulse rate and respiration rate. This generally is accompanied by perspiration production (or "glowing" in the Ladies'!



General instructions

Move slowly in and out of stretch position.
Breathe normally.
Stretch until you feel gentle tension, not pain.
Do not overstretch.
If you feel pain stop the exercise.
Hold each stretch for 3-6 seconds.
Do not bounce.
Repeat each exercise 3-6 times.
Alternate sides and focus on symmetry

(If you have a history of neck or spine problems consult with your physician prior to initiating any exercise).

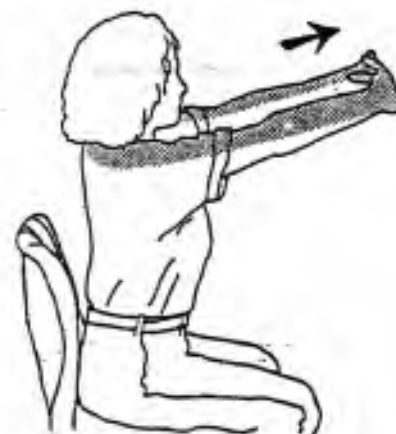
- #1 If you are going to try cross-country skiing, start with a small country.
- #2 I joined a health club last year, spent about \$400. Haven't lost a pound.
Apparently you have to show up!
- #3 It is best to exercise early in the morning before your brain figures out what you are doing.
- #4 I like long walks, especially when they are taken by people who annoy me.
- #5 I have flabby thighs, but fortunately my stomach covers them.
- #6 The surest advantage you receive from exercising every day is that you die healthier!
- #7 It is well known that for every mile that you jog . . . you add one minute to your life. .
If you do this faithfully, this enables you, when you reach the age of 95 years to spend an additional 5 months in a Nursing Home at \$5,000 per month.

STRETCHING

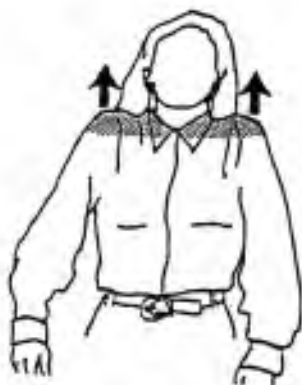
Extend your right arm above your head
 Reach down with your left arm as you reach up with your right arm
 Point your fingers
 Hold 10 seconds
 Repeat other side
 If you do this stretch standing, keep your knees slightly flexed
 Breathe easily
 Stretches shoulders and arms



Sit or stand, arms hanging loosely at your sides
 Tilt your head sideways, first to one side, then the other
 Keep your shoulders relaxed downward during the stretch
 Hold 5 seconds each side Stretches sides of neck



Interlace your fingers, then straighten your arms out in front of you
 Palms should be facing away from you
 Feel the stretch in your arms and through the upper part of your back (shoulder blades)
 Hold stretch 10 seconds
 Stretches shoulders, arms, wrists, and fingers



This is a good stretch to use at the first signs of tightness or tension in the shoulder and neck area.
 Raise the top of your shoulders toward your ears until you feel a slight tension in your neck and shoulders
 Hold this 3—5 seconds, then relax your shoulders downward into normal position
 Think: «shoulders hang, shoulders down»
 Stretches shoulders and neck

Place your hands palm-to-palm in front of you
 Push one hand gently to the side until you feel a mild stretch
 Keep elbows up and even
 Hold 5—8 seconds
 Stretches wrists, forearms, and hands



From above stretch, rotate palms around until they face more or less downward
 Go until you feel a mild stretch
 Keep elbows up and even
 Hold 5—8 seconds
 Stretches wrists, forearms, and hands

Place your hands palm-to-palm in front of you
 Move hands downward, keeping your palms together, until you feel a mild stretch
 Keep elbows up and even
 Hold 5-8 seconds
 Stretches wrists, forearms, and hands



Sit Or stand with your arms hanging closely at your sides
 Turn your head to one side, then to the other
 Hold 5 seconds, each side Stretches sides of neck

Sokol dinner dance March 5th, 2004

Sokol dance on March 5th offered our Czech and Slovak community a welcome opportunity to meet friends, enjoy a good dinner, to dance and exchange the latest news. Too bad so many familiar faces were missing. The great distances we have to travel, poor health and old age prevented many a faithful member and friend to attend. Eighty members and friends of Sokol listened to the lively music of Joe Dimitrowich and his Alpine band. At our request we've heard less of German and more of Czech tunes. Individual requests for favored song were graciously accommodate.

Professional dancing duo of Olga Sofia Pogreb and Peter Cook performed four dances, adding more class to our get-together. In a way it was a double edged sword: we got some inspiration to help improve our dance steps, but comparison between the limited skills of some of us to the demonstrated perfection was slightly depressing. Watching them, the words of our dancing instructor in Prague too many years ago resonated in my ears: "Gentlemen, make lo...ng steps!"

Aware of our characteristically Czech dislike for long speeches, there was a brief reminder, why we are gathering around: Birthday of our first president Tomas Garrigue Masaryk (1850-1937).

For those, who did not want to listen, but were interested, Georgina Teyrovska invested a couple of hours of her time to compile and print a short summary of Masaryk's life, both in Czech and in English, and made them available to anyone present. I am afraid not too many were taken.

Just a little bit of excitement was added by drawing for 15 raffle prizes, we have had some lucky members, winning more than one price. The snake dance was meant to break the ice, for there are some shy dancers, needing a little bit of arm-twisting to participate. The chicken dance, in a truly international rendering, generated a lot of smiles on our faces.

If we can judge by the unsolicited comments and generally cheerful attitude of most guests, our last dance was one of the most successful ones. There is plenty to make the Basque Culture Center popular: ease of parking (free), tables for ten, accommodating large groups, good size dancing floor and generally pleasing environment. Thanks to all who contributed by organizing and as importantly - participated in this event. Let's face it: Sokol is the only organization giving the area's Czechs and Slovaks the opportunity to practice polka, to meet friends from far-away places and to communicate in their native languages. Sokol organization is sponsoring these gatherings led by feeling responsibility for organizing activities nobody else is willing to do. Despite lingering suspicions, Sokol is not making money, but losing it on every event. We all can help by inviting others to join Sokol as members or, at least, patronizing all events. The overhead is mostly fixed. If we could divide the cost by 200 attendees, instead of 80, we might make some money to finance more activities. Any remaining doubts about the bottom line can be easily dispelled - just come to a Sokol meeting and check the books! (Good opportunity to see how meticulously is our Financial Secretary, Brother Burda, keeping the score.) The meetings are held in Burlingame, every second Tuesday of the month, at 7:30 PM. Any and all members of Sokol are welcome!

May you all prosper until the time we meet, again,

Zdenek Vernak.

VĚSTNÍK SCHEDULE:

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Deadline for Spring publication February 28 with a publication date or March 31st,

Deadline for Summer publication May 31 with a publication date or June 30th,

Deadline for Fall publication August 31 with a publication date or September 30th.

Thought you'd find this interesting about democracy:

At about the time our original 13 states adopted their new constitution, in the year 1787, Alexander Tyler (a Scottish history professor at The University of Edinburgh) had this to say about "The Fall of The Athenian Republic" some 2,000 years prior.

"A democracy is always temporary in nature; it simply cannot exist as a permanent form of government. A democracy will continue to exist up until the time that voters discover that they can vote themselves generous gifts from the public treasury:

- From that moment on, the majority always votes for the candidates who
- promise the most benefits from the public treasury, with the result that
- every democracy will finally collapse due to loose fiscal policy,
- (which is) in most cases, followed by a dictatorship."

"The average age of the worlds greatest civilizations from the beginning of history, has been about 200 years. During those 200 years, these nations always progressed through the following sequence:

- From bondage to spiritual faith;
- From spiritual faith to great courage;
- From courage to liberty;
- From liberty to abundance;
- From abundance to complacency;
- From complacency to apathy;
- From apathy to dependence;
- From dependence back into bondage."

Paul A. Burda

Why the English Language is Difficult to Learn

The bandage was wound around the wound.
The farm was used to produce produce.
The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
We must polish the Polish furniture.
He could lead if he would get the lead out.
The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
He paid much more than a quarter for a quarter slice of pie.
Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.
A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
I did not object to the object.
The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row the boat.
He was too close to the door to close it.
The buck does funny things when the does are watching.
A seamstress & a sewer fell into the sewer.
The farmer taught his sow to sow.
The wind was too strong to wind up the sail.
After number of injections, my jaw became number.
Finding a tear in the [painting, she shed a tear.



Prezident Masaryk se starostou Scheinerecem na VIII. sletě (1926)



Starosta ČOS Bukovský provádí prezidenta Masaryka na sletišti (1932)



Prezident Beneš se starostou Bukovským na sletu (1938)

HOLDY PREZIDENTŮM

Již od mládí docházel T. G. Masaryk do Sokola Pražského a pak do pozdního věku doma „sokoloval“. Za první války dostal do Ameriky od dr. Scheinera sokolský příspěvek na podporu odboje. Vysoce oceňoval podíl sokolů na vzniku legií. Jako prezident ČSR se opíral o sokolstvo a povolal přední sokolské osobnosti na pomoc při organizování naší nové

armády po roce 1918. Během tří sletů (1920, 1926 a 1932) byl častým hostem v prezidentské lóži na sletišti a vždy přijal sokolskou delegaci na Pražském hradě. Sokolové mu darovali pozlacenou zvětšeninu odznaku „Na stráž“ (1920), broušenou vázu navrženou prof. Drahňovským (1926) a pamětní medaile ČOS (1932). Dáremi pana prezidenta sokolstvu (1926) byla vlajka, zhotovená dle návrhu prof. Kysely. Během IX. sletu přijal T. G. Masaryk sokoly naposled. Ve Vladislavském sále převzal pamětní medaile ČOS a věnoval sokolstvu bustu dr. Miroslava Tyrše od



Sokolská delegace pozdravila prezidenta Masaryka na Hradě při IX. sletu (1932)

sochaře Josefa Mařatky. Na tisíc praporů se mu poklonilo při průvodu na Staroměstském náměstí.

Prezident dr. Edvard Beneš sledoval slety již jako ministr zahraničí. V bouřlivém roce 1938 přijal na Hradě od sokolů bronzovou sochu Republiky od J. Brůhy a předal jim prapor navržený opět prof. Kyselou. (Po válce připnul na tento prapor válečný kříž I. stupně za odbojovou činnost Sokola).

Pro úplnost uvádíme, že XI. slet v roce 1948 navštívil i prezident Klement Gottwald, chystající již tehdy likvidaci Sokola.



Přijetí sokolské delegace na Hradě (1994)

Během přijetí připnul prezident stuhu na prapor COS

Iakmile byl Sokol v roce 1990 obnoven, navštívili zahraniční i naši sokolové prezidenta Václava Havla v Lánech. V předvečer XII. sletu přijal pan prezident sokolskou delegaci na Pražském hradě a pak odjel do USA, odkud se urychleně vrátil, aby mohl shlédnout sletový pořad na Strahově.



◀ *Prezident Václav Havel zdraví cvičence na XII. sletě (1994)*





DEPARTMENT OF SLAVIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES
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Vážení přátelé,

katedra slavistiky na UCLA pořádá výzkum zaměřený na jazyky menšin žijících v Los Angeles a jeho blízkém okolí. V rámci tohoto projektu budeme zkoumat také češtinu.

Jde nám o to, do jaké míry se čeština v podmínkách menšinového jazyka zde v Los Angeles používá a jakým vývojem prochází, tedy jak se mění.

Věříme, že výsledky našeho výzkumu prospějí české komunitě v několika směrech:

Poznatky získané z tohoto výzkumu budou uplatněny při výuce češtiny pro krajanů.

Výuka českého jazyka a kultury probíhá na obou akademických pracovištích, která na výzkumu spolupracují: na katedře slavistiky v UCLA a na filozofické fakultě Univerzity Karlovy.

Chceme přispět k tomu, aby se mateřský jazyk nebo jazyk zděděný po rodičích pěstoval či alespoň udržoval.

Usilujeme o to, aby zejména nová generace, která vyrůstá v anglickém jazykovém prostředí, získala širší povědomí o jazykových, literárních a kulturních kořenech svých předků.

Chceme pomoci dětem krajanů, které si češtinu osvojily jen málo nebo vůbec ne, aby se řeč svých rodičů či prarodičů naučily.

Věříme, že svým konáním přispějeme ke Sblížení a posílení kontaktů uvnitř české komunity v Los Angeles a blízkém okolí.

Dr. Ilona Kořánová

Margita Fuchsová
Generální konzulka
ČR v LA

Katedra slavistiky UCLA
Katedra bohemistiky FF UK

Prof. Michael Heim
vedoucí katedry slavistiky

S případnými dotazy se prosím obračejte na
koranova@humnet.ucla.edu nebo na telefonní číslo (310) 267 7490

NEWS

Film director Karel Kachyna dies

Famous Czech film director Karel Kachyna died at the age of 79 on Friday. Kachyna was one of the most productive Czech film directors after World War II, having produced dozens of feature films, some of which were censored by the Communist regime. In 1999, he received a special award at the Karlovy Vary international film festival for outstanding contribution to world cinematography.

Cameraman Miroslav Ondricek tabbed for 2004 ASC International Achievement Award

Czech cameraman Miroslav Ondricek is going to receive the American Society of Cinematographers International Achievement Award on Sunday evening in Los Angeles, California. Mr Ondricek will be the second artist from Central and Eastern Europe to receive the award. After finishing his studies at the Prague film school FAMU, Mr Ondricek first worked on documentaries in the 1950s. The prolific cameraman began his film career with the emergence of what was known as the "New Wave" of Czechoslovak film in the early 1960s when he cooperated with director Milos Forman. Mr Ondricek joined Milos Forman in the United States in 1970 and together they created such films as *Hair*, *Amadeus* and *Valmont*. Mr Ondricek earned Oscar nominations for *Ragtime* in 1982 and for *Amadeus* in 1985.

Economics Report

Czech GDP accelerated in 2003 in year-on-year terms. Czech consumer prices subsided in February. The unemployment rate in the Czech Republic has reached an all-time high. The Czech construction sector began the year with a 15 percent year-on-year jump. Japanese automotive company Asmo is to start production at its new plant in the town of Zruč nad Sázavou.

For full version, please go to: <http://www.radio.cz/en/article/51586>

After joining the EU, the Czech Republic will abandon its trade policy in favour of a common trade policy directed from Brussels. This will mean a loss of some trade benefits, including the GSP benefits granted by the United States. On the other hand, the move will present new opportunities for Czech firms in other parts of the world.

For full version, please go to: <http://www.radio.cz/en/article/51587>

Czech National Bank wants to keep inflation at 2-4 percent until euro adoption

The Czech National Bank has said it wants inflation to remain between 2 and 4 percent from the beginning of 2006 until the adoption of the single European currency, the euro, expected at the end of the decade. The last inflation target set by the Czech National Bank in 2001 predicted a gradual fall in inflation from 3-to-5 percent in 2002 to 2—to-4 percent at the end of 2005. The Czech National Bank has been setting inflation targets since 1998.

GDP figures for 2003 slightly higher than expected, real wages up 6.7%

The Czech Republic's gross domestic product grew by 2.9 percent last year, according to figures released on Wednesday by the Czech Statistical Office. Growth was slightly higher than analysts had predicted. Meanwhile, gross wages grew by 6.8 percent last year, while real wages grew by 6.7 percent.

North Korea interested in Czech involvement in relieving tension on Korean Peninsula

The Speaker of the North Korean Parliament Che Te-bok has met his Czech counterpart Lubomir Zaoralek in Prague to discuss potential Czech involvement in relieving tension on the Korean Peninsula. According to Mr Zaoralek, North Korean politicians believe the Czech Republic could interpret the position the North Korean government would like to hold in international dialogue more accurately than other countries. The prime ministers of South Korea and Japan have approached the Czech Republic before ask for Czech assistance in solving the tension between North and South Korea. The Czech Foreign Ministry has taken steps towards the re-opening of the Czech embassy to Pyongyang which was closed in the early 1990s.

Countdown to Europe

How is life going to change for ordinary Czechs after EU accession? What will it mean for foreigners who visit the Czech Republic or want to work and live here?

The movement of labour

By Dita Asiedu

When the Czech Republic joins the European Union, its citizens will not only benefit economically but they will also be able to enjoy the advantages of travelling, studying and working in the Union without restriction. Or at least that was the argument used by the Czech government to convince its citizens to vote in favour of EU membership, and it worked. With an unemployment rate of ten percent, the country's younger generation hopes to have the opportunity to work freely elsewhere, while learning a new language and

gaining international experience in the process. After a long period of preparation and accession talks, the Czech Republic is finally to become a fully-fledged member of the EU on May 1st this year. In this week's Countdown to Europe, we ask Tomas Vyprachticky from the Czech Foreign Ministry's EU information centre Euroskop, how free the movement of labour will really be:

Even at the beginning of the accession negotiations, it was pretty clear that some of the current EU member states, especially Austria and Germany will not open their labour markets to the new members. But on the other hand, there were some countries that promised new members that they would open their labour markets to them and give up the possibility to apply for a transition period for the free movement of labour. These included the United Kingdom, Ireland, Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands, and Italy. But these promises were made to be broken and with the exception of the UK and Ireland, all these countries withdrew their promises. So if any citizen of the Czech Republic intends to work in the EU he will need a work permit except in the UK and Ireland.

Will there be no restrictions at UK there?

"No restrictions for the genuine workers. Neither Great Britain nor Ireland is afraid of the people from the new member states who really want to work. The only people they are afraid of are benefit abusers. So, if someone wants to work in the UK, he will arrive and the only thing he will have to do is to fill out a form and send it to the Immigration and Nationality Directorate at the British Home Office. After this registration, he has the right to work and reside in the UK. As long as he works for twelve months at one employer, he will have the right to get the residence permit and then access to social benefits and things like that. As far as Ireland is concerned, we still do not have the exact information from them. "What about the other way around? What if someone from abroad (an EU country) would like to work in the Czech Republic?"

We do not know yet. According to the Accession Treaty has the right to apply for a reciprocal issue if some of the current member states should have the transitional period. So, theoretically it is possible that citizens of all the current member states except those of Britain and Ireland will need a work permit. This is not probable but we still do not have a definite statement from the Czech government except from the Labour and Social Affairs Minister who said that the Czech Republic would not give up its right to apply for a transitional period in advance."

For general information on the rules and regulations on employment and other areas in the European Union, visit the website <http://citizens.eu.int>

Hyundai Mobis Plans to Invest EUR 130 Million in Slovakia

Seoul, March 11 (TASR-SLOVAKIA) - South Korea's largest auto parts producer Hyundai Mobis plans to invest some €130 million (\$153 billion) into the construction of a new production plant in Slovakia, local on-line daily Korea Herald reports.

According to the Korea Herald, Slovakia agreed to provide the Hyundai Mobis with the same package of the investment incentives as it offered to Kia Motors.

Kia Motors, which was acquired by Hyundai in 1998, will build a €700 million production plant near northern Slovak city Zilina which should employ some 2,400 people and turn out around 200,000 cars a year from the end of 2006.

The contract between Slovak government and Kia Motors is expected to be signed next Wednesday, March 17.

"In the beginning, the Slovak government planned to provide the incentive package only to the Kia car-maker. Eventually, we have achieved the same benefits following an agreement with the government," the on-line Korean daily was told by a Hyundai Mobis official.

Like in the case of the Kia Motors, the package offered to Hyundai Mobis includes free provision of lands and tax benefits up to 15 percent of the total investment. The 15-percent limit is set by the regulations of the European Union which Slovakia is due to join in May.

The new Hyundai Mobis plant should be located next to the Kia plant and their construction should be carried out simultaneously.

Established in 1977 as Hyundai Precision Industry, the Hyundai Mobis has been for several years the major auto parts supplier to Hyundai and Kia, selling them around 90 percent of its total production.

Tchajwanská firma Tatung

chce investovat 5,5 milionu dolarů (téměř 150 milionů korun) do výstavby výrobního závodu na jihozápadě České republiky. Továrna bude vyrábět televizory s obrazovkami z tekutých krystalů i z plazmy a osobní počítače, uvedl tchajwanský internetový server DigiTimes.com.

Br. Dr. Desider Slavoj

Za svojho pobytu v júli 2003 v Piešťanoch na Slovensku som sa dozvedela, že prveho Augusta budú usporiadané dve významné udalosti vo Smežanoch u Spišskej Novej Vsi týkajúce sa nášho člena (Sokola) D.E.Slavoja zo San Francisca, rozhodla som, že sa tejto udalosti zúčastním čo som aj urobila.

Prvá udalosť bolo zhromaždenie vedúcich miestnych kultúrnych a politických činiteľov, ktorí za vedenia Ing.Ladislava Vranu, Dr. Antona Kreta a Starostu Ing. Michala Kotradyho slávnostne uverejnili knihu "Našinec v cudzine". Obsah knižky popisuje skúsenosti Slavojovcov ako politických emigrantov (Švajčiarsko, Austrália, USA) ako jeden prípad zo mnoho tisícov obetí z bývalého komunistického Československa.



Dr.Slavoj poklepal kladivom pamätnú kamenú tabuľku

Pre druhú udalosť sa všetci účastníci sobrali pešo z radnice cez námestie na stavenisko Základnej Umeleckej Skoly ZUŠ. Po inšpekcii základov a hlavných múrov stavby Dr.Slavoj poklepal kladivom pamätnú kamenú tabuľku a tým symbolicky oficiálne potvrdil započatie stavby, ktorá podľa plánu ma byť dokončená do júna 2004.

Na tejto škole sa bude miestna mládež učiť jazyk anglický a nemecký, hudbu, spev, spoločenské tance a používanie electronicých počítačov, hlavne pre komunikačné účely. Finančným sponsorom tohto vzoruhodného podujatia je Dr.Slavoj.



Dr.A.Kret, Ing.L.Vrana a manželkami a H.Pyšná

Prajem si aby mal ďalších nasledovníkov.
Helena Mrowka/Pyšná Woodside,CA



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**For those of you who watch what to eat, here is the final word
on nutrition and health.**

It's a relief to know the truth from all those conflicting medical studies:

1. Japanese eat very little fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.
2. Mexicans eat a lot of fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.
3. Africans drink very little red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.
4. Italians drink excessive amounts of red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.
5. Germans drink a lot of beer and eat lots of sausages and fats and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.

CONCLUSION: Eat and drink what you like. Speaking English is apparently what is killing you.

Last one from our friend Jan Wolf who does not know how to play golf



