

# The Post-Eagle

An Independent Weekly Newspaper

VOLUME 45 - NUMBER 48

NEW JERSEY - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2006

\$.75



## Father & Daughter Complete 3rd Marathon

- Page 4

## Polonia's Man of the Moment

(See Editorial)

- Page 2

## Nativity Story Has Message For Teenagers

- Page 3

## Kulick, First Woman In Bowling

- Page 12

## Winter Cheer Slavic Style

Christmas Revels Returns

- Page 5

Book Series

## Korbonski's

The Jews & The Poles In WWII

- Page 6

## Polish Literature

Gained But Not Lost In Translation

By Ewa Bronowicz

- Page 7

## Polka Notes

- Pages 9-11



www.polboston.com

Newspaper  
2nd Class Mail -  
Date Mailed 12-1-2006

# Polonia Challenges

## David Ives' Play, "Polish Joke"

**MICHIGAN** - Msgr. Stanislaw Milewski of the Orchard Lake Schools, Paul Odrobina representing the Polish American Congress and the Polish National Alliance, Jurek Rozalski of the *Polskie Rozmaitosci* Polish radio show, Dr. Thaddeus Radzilowski of Piast Institute, and Karen Majewski, Hamtramck mayor and executive director of the Polish American

### Why? Why the "Polish Joke"? What is the source of this bigotry?

Historical Association, merit applause and support for persuading the administration of University of Detroit Mercy to take the following actions while David Ives' "Polish Joke" is being performed on campus over three weekends, November 17-December 3.

First, the program that is being distributed to the audience includes a one page commentary by Dr. Thaddeus Radzilowski. Second, the audience and passersby will see a display about Poland and Polonia in the lobby. Third, following the three 3:00 pm Sunday performances, members of the theater department will participate in discussions about the play with the audience. These initiatives clearly fulfill the spirit of "equal time."

Furthermore, over the remainder of the academic year, University of Detroit Mercy agreed to schedule a series of lectures on Poland, Poles, and Polish Americans.

The present political context prevents the *farceur*, David Ives, from seeing "Polish Joke" go unchallenged by an increasingly assertive Polish American community.

Please read Professor Thaddeus Radzilowski's article printed above right which the University of Detroit Mercy published in the "Polish Joke" program brochure. All who see David Ives' play can read Professor Radzilowski's comments.

- John D. Czop  
Activist, Action Polonaise  
(the anti-racist movement to enact a U.S. Congressional Resolution to correct American public opinion about the role of Poland and the Poles during the World War II Judeocide.)

## Poland and Polish Americans

In *Polish Joke*, David Ives creates a mythical Polish American culture whose key icons are a 1934 Czech Polka and a Russian Saint. The Polish immigrant experience is radically different. Despite discrimination and prejudice, Poles were resilient and innovative as they reshaped landscape and culture and built new American communities. In Detroit they created 29 neighborhoods out of raw farmland before 1930. Polish Americans founded 1000 parishes, 800 schools, 20 colleges and universities, several seminaries, dozens of hospitals in America, as well as theaters, halls, banks, fraternal societies, newspapers, and businesses in every community they built. Their churches, their neat homes with characteristic flower gardens, their music and celebrations and their children brought life and beauty to some of the ugliest industrial neighborhoods in the country.

Poles took to America with gusto and optimism despite the obstacles they faced. The first generation wrote thousands of novels, short stories, and plays in Polish about life in America. Their labor and intelligence built the new industrial order and their willingness to fight for human dignity humanized it. The 600,000 Polish Americans who came over to the union movement were the largest ethnic group in the CIO unions. It would have failed without them. During World War II, the community sent a greater percentage of its youth to serve than any other American ethnic group. Today, as prejudice falls, Polish Americans are found in all areas of American life.

Ives' Poland, to which his hero becomes recon-

ciled is equally mythical. It is not the Poland that produced a culture that is one of only a handful of World Class Modern Cultures. Born in the Renaissance, that culture unified a multi-national, multi-religious Commonwealth based on the elective kingship, Europe's largest electorate, local and national parliaments, civil liberties, and religious toleration. Its spokesmen argued in the highest councils of Christendom that no person should be deprived of life, liberty or property because of religion and no one should be forced to convert. The indomitable horsemen of the Commonwealth held Europe's Eastern gate for centuries against Islamic invasion. The heir of this culture, Modern Poland, as well as several other states, were reborn in our time out of the Commonwealth. When it fell in the 18th Century to her autocratic neighbors, it was because it had become the center for modern new ideas of liberty and democracy. Poland's 1791 Constitution was the second in the world after the U.S. Constitution.

Kept alive by its Catholic faith, and devotion to liberty, and patriotism, Poland resisted monarchical empires, Nazism, and Communism to emerge in our time as a key actor on the world stage. It is hard to imagine the history of the world in our time without Solidarnosc and John Paul II.

Given this history, audiences of David Ives' *Polish Joke* should be driven to ask a question not raised in the play: Why? Why the "Polish Joke"? What is the source of this bigotry that so cripples his protagonist?

- Thaddeus C. Radzilowski, Ph.D.  
President of PIAST INSTITUTE

## Polish Troops To Defend Democracy In Afghanistan

30.11.2006 - Defense minister Radoslaw Sikorski has said that Poland gained in rank at the just concluded NATO summit in Riga, due to the nation's willingness to be involved in the mission in Afghanistan.

The main reason for this has been the decision to increase the Polish contingent for operations in Afghanistan. Presently there are only some one hundred Polish soldiers in Afghanistan, but plans have been approved for deploying over one thousand troops more at the start of next year.

Countering reservations con-

(PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 16)

## Congressman Lipinski Applauds President's Support For Expansion of Visa Waiver Program

WASHINGTON, D.C. - On Thursday (November 30), Representative Dan Lipinski commended President Bush's statement supporting the expansion of the visa waiver program to countries in Central and Eastern Europe. The visa waiver program, which currently applies to 27 countries, allows visitors from those nations to enter the United States without a visa for up to 90 days.

"I'm glad to see that President Bush has finally gotten behind this issue," said Lipinski. "The countries of Central and Eastern Europe are some of America's strongest allies, aiding us in the fight against terrorists. And they've made heroic strides in strengthening their

democracies and economies. Making travel to the United States a little easier for the citizens of these nations is the least our country can do to show our appreciation."

Congressman Lipinski is a leading advocate in Congress for issues relating to Central and Eastern Europe. He is a co-chair of both the Poland Caucus and the Caucus on Central and Eastern Europe. He is also a cosponsor of several pieces of legislation that would extend the visa waiver program to Poland.

"Hopefully President Bush's statement gives this issue momentum going into the new Congress,"

(PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 16)