

The voice- Of Slovenia

Year 2 No 16 December 2001

**Media Seminar
Slovenia
September 2001**



*Mitja Meršol - Editor /Delo/,
Stanka Gregorič and
Dragica Bošnjak*



With dr. Dimitrij Rupel, Minister for Foreign Affairs



*Elica Rizmal at RAI
television in Trieste*



*dr. Zvone Žigon and
Magdalena Tovornik*



*At the University Library
in Ljubljana*

**Adrian Vatovec and
Vlado Kreslin
Play with Fire**



Dear Stanka,

I have pleasure enclosing a preview CD of Vlado Kreslin performing one of my compositions called Play with Fire. The recording took place in Adelaide last year when Vlado was here with his band as the headline act for the Victor Harbor Folk Festival, an event that attracts some 10,000 people.

Play with Fire has a rhythm and blues feel about it with added central European texture as only Vlado and his musicians can uniquely muster. As author Richard Flanagan says about Kreslin's stature in the musical world -

'... a musician of such standing that everyone who comes to central Europe - from Dylan to RĚM - plays with him ...' The Age, Melbourne, December 30, 2000. It was certainly a pleasure to work with Vlado in the studio. Thanks must go to Helena Drnovšek Zorko from the Slovenian Embassy in Canberra for arranging the introduction with Vlado.

The preview CD of Play with Fire has been sent to some radio stations in Australia and American university/college radio stations. The song is being well received. Other versions of the song are in the pipeline for later release.

*Yours sincerely,
Adrian Vatovec
Adelaide, October 23, 2001*



**Science Prize Reward
Australian Excellence
For achievement in the
life science,
MINISTER'S PRIZE
dr. Boštjan Kobe**

The Science Prizes are a national tribute to excellent and dedicated work and are part of the Government's ongoing commitment to supporting and promoting the important contribution made to our daily lives by Australian innovations in science and technology.

The Prime Minister and Minister for Industry, Science and Resources presented the 2001 Science Prizes to the winners during a gala dinner in the Great Hall of Parliament House on 25 September 2001.

Australia's premier science award, the \$300,000 Prime Minister's Prize for Science, was won this year by Emeritus Professor Donald Metcalf of The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, Melbourne, for his life-saving white blood cell research.

The Science Prizes also celebrate the efforts of Australia's young scientists who are 35 years of age or younger.

The \$35,000 Malcom McIntosh Prize for Achievement in the Physical Sciences was awarded to Dr Peter Bartlett who, while researching at the Australian National University in Canberra, made significant advances in discovering how a computer can do what so many living creatures can do: learn.

The \$35,000 Minister's Prize for Achievement in Life Sciences was awarded to Associate Professor Bostjan Kobe of the University of Queensland, for his invaluable research in exploring the shape of basic building blocks-proteins.

2001 Winners:

- 2001 PRIME MINISTER'S PRIZE FOR SCIENCE
Emeritus Professor Donald Metcalf,
AC FAA FRC

- 2001 MALCOLM MCINTOSH PRIZE FOR ACHIEVEMENT IN THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES
Professor Peter Bartlett

- 2001 MINISTER'S PRIZE FOR ACHIEVEMENT IN THE LIFE SCIENCES
Associate Professor Bostjan Kobe

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR DR. BOŠTJAN KOBE

The 2001 Minister's Prize for Achievement in Life Sciences is awarded to Associate Professor Bostjan Kobe, of the University of Queensland, for his groundbreaking work which is helping to piece together the jigsaw of how our cells work.

The 35-year-old Associate Professor is doing so by exploring the shape of basic building blocks-proteins. There is enormous potential for this work. Associate Professor Kobe's research will be invaluable for developing highly-targeted drugs that can manipulate what a protein does and, as a result, successfully fight off deadly viruses like HIV.

Piecing together the jigsaw by solving the three-dimensional structure of proteins is detailed and time-consuming, but important work. Proteins perform many important functions in every cell in every organism. The way protein molecules interact with one another controls the way all living things grow and reproduce. 'Each type of molecule has a complex three-dimensional shape which influences how they behave. If we can learn exactly how they are shaped, we will be able to use this information to work out ways of regulating how they function', explains Associate Professor Kobe.

Each protein has pockets and grooves that determine how it fits, binds and reacts with other proteins and molecules within a cell.

'Once we have determined the structure, we can use it as a template to help us design drugs that may manipulate how a protein functions. This information will help us fight the viruses that attack our cells, like HIV. By understanding the shapes of the molecules that enable a virus to function, we can design chemicals that will find and bind onto the right pockets or grooves to interfere with and stop the virus', he says.

Through his work, Associate Professor Kobe has made major research contributions in protein structural biology. He is helping us understand the nature and regulation of protein interactions, and the control of cellular processes.

Associate Professor Kobe is taking on this challenge through a process called protein crystallography: 'We need crystals because when we put them in an X-ray beam, we get something called a diffraction pattern. From this we can calculate the structure and get a three-dimensional shape of the protein.'

By introducing new ways of crystallising proteins, Associate Professor Kobe's innovative work is stretching the boundaries of X-ray crystallography.

'This is like a big microscope where we look in the finest detail at how things fit and from there we begin to understand how they work together,' he says. 'It's complicated because so many different proteins work together-we have decades of research ahead of us before we will see the full, integrated picture. For example, we know that the whole human genome has thousands of proteins, but the real challenge we face is that we only actually know how a fraction of them work.'

Associate Professor Kobe is inspired by the work of others in the same field, including Australian scientists in Melbourne who developed the flu drug, Relenza.

'It is an exciting area to be involved in. We're looking at three-dimensional shapes of molecules that no one has seen before-we're the first scientists to see them in such incredible detail. Of course, you have to go through a lot of work to make a discovery, but not knowing exactly what you will find tomorrow excites me', he says.

Associate Professor Kobe already has an outstanding publication record for a young researcher, with papers in the top scientific journals of the field. For example, the prestigious international journal Nature published an article on his work in December 1999.

Associate Professor Kobe's passion for scientific discovery began as a young child in Slovenia. After studying chemistry there, he worked in the United States where he obtained his PhD. He was more recently at St. Vincent's Institute of Medical Research in Melbourne, before last year moving to the University of Queensland's Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and Institute for Molecular Bioscience.

'I will continue to work in this field. I am happy at the University of Queensland. The environment is dynamic-I believe that Brisbane is on its way to becoming a major centre for science.'

Of the Minister's award, Associate Professor Kobe says: 'It's the biggest recognition I have had so far and it means a lot. To be selected out of a crowd of so many very good scientists is a great honour. Science is a rewarding profession in many ways, but in other ways it can be tough, so it's important for the profession to be recognised like this. It also helps the general community understand the contribution science makes. I believe the community is embracing and showing interest in science more and more, but awards like this make science more public and help everyone better understand the benefits.'

27TH Annual Slovenian Concert FUSION 2001

By Lenti Lenko

The 27th annual Slovenian concert was held this year on the 6th of October at the Slovenian Religious and Cultural Centre in Merrylands NSW. Once again, Slovenians from different parts of Australia got together to show off their talents and abilities no matter what their age as these concerts are now also open to people of all ages and not just the youth.

There were 33 different acts ranging from poetry recitals, solo and choral singing and folklore dancing to various bands, solo instrumental performances and dance items. As always our proud Slovenian youth showed us their abilities to the fullest. There are so many talented names I would love to mention however space unfortunately does not permit this! One name I will mention however is our young 6 year old Mathew Bratina from Melbourne who put on a fantastic show both at the concert and the next morning in church and stole everyone's hearts in the process!

A group of dedicated people got together a number of months in advance to organise this very major annual event in the Slovenian community calendar. It is important to note that the majority of the organisers were not born in Slovenia but are proud of their Slovenian heritage and want to do something positive for the Slovenian community in Australia and that is why they got involved. They must all be congratulated from the sound, lighting and backstage crew through to the program designers. Here I must mention the 2 lovely ladies who did such an excellent job of comparing the evening in both Slovenian and English - Michelle and Julie Bracar.

Once again all of us who live in different parts of this great land were able to get together and catch up with old friends from different states we had not seen in a while (or only chatted to via email!). After the concert the band Domači Fantje put on a bit of a show even though it was already late in the evening. Here I must say that it was an honour to be able to have played my new button accordion recently bought from Slovenia with Australia's three top button

accordion maestros, Peter Grivic, Rudi Crnčec and Frank Petelin. It was pleasing to see so much young talent on the stage particularly from our 2nd and 3rd generation Slovenian youth. Of course our 1st generation folk also showed us what they are capable of! All in all, no matter what our abilities we all gathered together to once again show our community that whether born in Slovenia or Australia, we are proud of our Slovenian heritage, culture, music and language.

The next morning a special youth mass was celebrated at St. Rapheals church in Merrylands with our very own Pater Ciril Bozic (whom we are very fortunate to have with us again in Australia!) giving an inspirational homily to everybody present. After mass, we gathered in the hall for a BBQ lunch and then it was time to depart for the long trip back to Melbourne.

The theme for this year's concert for 'FUSION'. And this concert, (like all other past concerts) really showed this to the fullest - a FUSION of Slovenia and Australia, a FUSION of the old and the new and a of course a FUSION of different people who lead very differing and varying lifestyles in different part of this God blessed country of Australia who came together from near and far to keep the Slovenian spirit and tradition alive and kicking!

As a Melbournian I would sincerely like to thank all the Sydneysiders for their extreme kindness and hospitality during our stay with you in Sydney. In particular with thank Pater Valerijan Jenko for his deep sincerity and kindness!

Next year's concert will be held in Melbourne and we already look forward to playing kind hosts to all of you from all around Australia who will visit us in Melbourne in 2002.

Once again:

'ISKRENE CESTITKE!' to all of those who helped in any way to make FUSION a success!

Media Seminar

Slovenia, September 2001
 By Evelyn Kojc and Lenti lenko

Our names are **Evelyn Kojc** and **Lenti Lenko** and we both live in Melbourne, Australia. We are involved in Slovenian youth radio once a month on 3zzz in Melbourne and occasionally also on SBS radio. We were both fortunate enough to be chosen to visit Slovenia and attend a conference for Slovenian journalists from around the world which was organised and sponsored by the Ministry for Information of the Republic of Slovenia and the Ministry for Slovenians living abroad.

A letter was sent to all the organizations within Australia inviting those involved in the Slovenian media to apply for the seminar. We were required to send a resume to the Slovenian Embassy in Canberra where it was then forwarded to the relevant authorities in Slovenia who then choose the candidates for the seminar. Eight people were chosen from Australia - **Evelyn Kojc, Lenti Lenko, Elica Rizmal, Tania Smrdel, Rosemary Poklar, Stanka Gregoric, Florjan Auser and Meta Lenarcic**. We were amongst twenty-four people chosen from countries where Slovenian migrants live, Germany, Sweden, Canada, USA, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Argentina, Switzerland and of course Australia.

Our seminar began on **Monday 3 September 2001** and concluded on Saturday 8th September 2001. On the Sunday evening we arrived at our hotel and gathered for an introductory dinner which brought together all of the candidates. In addition, we were informed of the coming events for that week and the opportunity to meet the 2 seminar leaders, **Tatjana Lesjak** and **Dr. Zvone Zigon**. We were all from different countries but it was immediately apparent how we each had the same story to tell.

The first morning began with a formal introduction from **Tatjana Lesjak** and **Dr. Alja Brglez** who is the director of the Ministry for Information. Each of us then had the opportunity to introduce ourselves and briefly outline the work we are involved with, within our respective Slovenian Communities and our hopes of achievement at the conclusion of the conference. Hereafter we were addressed by four speakers - **Janja Bozic Marolt, Grega Repovž** - President of the journalists working inside Slovenia and **Tomaž Perovič** - director of the Informative program POP TV in Slovenia. These people spoke of their work within their organizations and the public's attitude towards their work.

That afternoon, we visited the main headquarters for the newspaper **Delo**. Here we were introduced to **Managing Director Mitja Meršol, Vlado Schlamberger** and a well-known journalist, **Dragica Bošnjak**. We were also given an incite to **Delofax** (A shorter version of the newspaper), which will allow us to extract archived articles from the newspaper over the Internet. That evening, 'naša mladina(!)', myself, Lenti and Tania Smrdel, headed to Ljublanski Trg where a concert was held featuring many well known local bands. It was attended by thousands of young Slovenians (and three Australian Born Slovenians!!!), which ended in a very entertaining evening.

On **Tuesday** morning we visited **Radio Slovenia**. This, we must add, was the most informative and valuable sessions within the conference. Its relevance related to the type of work we are involved in here in Melbourne. The guest speakers spoke of their different radio stations, which, we found to be very different to the system we have here in Australia. In Australia a company or organization owns one radio station which has one frequency, whereas Slovenian radio stations own many frequencies that belong to the one station. Radio Slovenia has one frequency that covers the news, the second a current affairs and the rest cater in areas including music, culture and entertainment. A guest speaker represented each of the separate programs and they each spoke about their audiences and their preparations towards their programs. One speaker spoke of the correct (and incorrect!) use of Slovenian pronunciation and grammar. We in turn began a very passionate discussion of our understanding of the Slovenian Grammar. This was of much interest to those involved in all facts of media how little or great their Slovenian vocabulary was. That afternoon we were divided into two groups with one heading for **Radio Ognjišče** and the other to **RTV Slovenia**. I, Evelyn went to RTV Slovenia and as a group we spent the first two hours with the director of RTV Slovenia and his colleagues. Our discussions rotated around our involvements within our Slovenian communities and how we foresee the future of this work. We made many contacts and also gained much needed information for improving our television programs on Channel 31 in both Sydney and Melbourne. We were then given a tour of the station and were exposed to the equipment they utilize for the production and modifications of their programs.

Lenti, attended **Radio Ognjišče**, where **Franci Testernjak**, the main program director showed the group around the station and described how they produce their programs and the type of audience they cater for. Radio Ognjišče is not a government owned radio station but has much support in Slovenia and is broadcast all over the world via the Internet. This radio station has often struggled to remain on air but with the support of the general Slovenian public, it has remained alive. Because the content of the programs wholeheartedly support Slovenian Ideals, in particular, promoting different types of Slovenian music new and old they have become a very popular station. We were also interviewed about the seminar, which was to be broadcast on one of the weekend programs, and later discovered that **Delo** featured an article about the seminar in that day's paper. That evening we met at a restaurant in Ljubljana for dinner and was the first official gather with the other candidates after knowing each other for a couple of days. We all had similar stories to tell of the Slovenian communities living in each of the countries we came from.

Wednesday was a very hectic day. This was the day where we visited a number of Slovenian government institutions including **STA (Slovenska tiskovna agencija)** or the Slovenian Press Agency, the **Ministry for Information**, the **Foreign Ministry**, the "Urad" for **Slovenians living abroad** and the **Slovenian Defence Ministry**. We also spent time inside the **Slovenian Parliament** where we gained much valuable information about the running of the country and how they have been coping since Slovenia became an independent country in 1991. That afternoon we were given an informative lecture about Slovenia's bid to join the European Union and much discussion regarding Slovenia's possible future membership into this international organization was addressed. The Slovenian government conveyed confident remarks to their amalgamation in the EU as well as NATO. However, whether the majority of Slovenian citizens support this move remains to be seen. We met with a number of important Slovenian political figures including the **State Secretary for Slovenes Abroad**, the **Minister for Foreign Affairs dr. Dimitrij Rupel** and the **Slovenian Defence Minister dr. Anton Grizold**. Overall, we were given the distinct impression that Slovenia's recent transition to democracy and independence has continued to move forward in a very positive light!

Thursday morning, Evelyn decided to have a bit of a sleep in right on the day we were told not to be late on the bus as we were taking the long (for Slovenians!) 1.5 hour journey to Primorska. We arrived at the head

We wish to thank Urad Vlade za informiranje and Urad za Slovence v zamejstvu in po svetu for organizing this outstanding seminar and for their fantastic hospitality during the whole week. Their kindness will never be forgotten and we have returned with positive outlook towards our work within the Slovenian community in Australia. - Evelyn and Lenti



Evelyn Kojc and Tania Smrdel
 Foto: F.A.



Lenti Lenko Foto: F.A.

quarters of the newspaper **Primorske novice** where we were given a run down on its operation and the impact of its paper around the Primorska region of Slovenia. Next we visited **Radio/Televizija Koper** where again, we entered much discussion into the work they are involved with and the work we do within our own communities. We then visited the main cathedral in Koper, which we must say was one of the most beautiful churches in Slovenia. **Bishop Metod Pirih** who has also visited us in Australia works as the main bishop in the Primorska region. He gave us an interesting speech about the history of the cathedral. The organizers of the seminar kindly enough organized a **boat trip on the Adriatic Sea**, which took us from Koper down to the Croatian border. It was a fantastic and relaxing trip. We were given a delicious lunch which was particularly enjoyed by Lenti!!!! Upon arriving in **Piran** we settled into our hotel. We then walked up the hill to the local church where again we learnt about the history of its origin. Next, we visited yet another church in town where we viewed an amazing slides show highlighting the history of the Piran region. After this, we were invited for a beautiful outdoor dinner where we ate, drank and danced the night away. Yes the weather was absolutely fantastic! /Cont./

On **Friday** morning we headed into Italy (Trst) where we visited the headquarters for the newspaper *Primorski dnevnik*. We got the opportunity to meet the director **Bojan Brezigar**, well known Slovenian personality in Italy **Sergej Pahor** and Slovenian Ambassador for Slovenia in Italy **Jadranka Šturm Kocjan** as well as other local representatives. Information addressing the impact of their newspaper on the Slovenian minority in Trst and surrounding regions was relayed to us. It was very interesting to see that even though Trst falls under the country of Italy, a prominent Slovenian presence is still very much noticed. We then also visited the local **Slovenian radio and television station RAI**, where we received a tour through the premises. We were then very fortunate to be taken to a beautiful restaurant in Repentabor for one of the most delicious lunches we have ever had! We then all walked off the marvelous meal up the hill to observe the gorgeous scenery. Later we were taken to see a well known landmark called the **Kraska Hisa** which was a house made from the Kras stone very prominent throughout this region. Hereafter, it was time to take the long (1.5 hour!) journey back to Ljubljana but only after we got the opportunity to stop at the local duty free shop just over the border to get some good bargains!

Saturday marked the last day of our seminar. We gathered in the hotel with our two group leaders and were fortunate enough to have amongst us **Magdalena Tovornik** - State Secretary for Slovenes Abroad.

As a group we had a general discussion regarding our achievements during the seminar and then finished the week with yet another delicious lunch which everyone very much enjoyed particularly, yet again, Lenti! It was nice to see such a community spirit pervading amongst all of us and in addition, have made a number of contacts and friends whom we will stay in touch with for a long time. Our two main seminar leaders, **Tatjana Lesjak** and **Dr. Zvone Zigon** did an **absolute superfluous job during the whole week**. Both of us can honestly say that all the organizers put a **200% effort into ensuring that the seminar was a huge success!** We have been able to come back home and share information with the Slovenian community here regarding how Slovenia is fairing in the world. Of course, we also gained valuable insight into how we can improve our work within our community here in Australia, be it in radio, television or in print. This seminar was a fantastic experience, which we will never forget. We can only urge others involved in Slovenian media to apply for any future seminars that may be held years to come.

NEWS STA

Ljubljana – A total of 250,000 Slovenes **have used the Internet** in October, show surveys conducted by the Ljubljana Faculty of Social Sciences as part of the project on the use of the Internet in Slovenia. 450,000 Slovenes use the Internet at least once a month, and 660,000 Slovenes have used it at least once.

Ljubljana – **Peter Lazar** from Sostanj, northern Slovenia, is the first contestant ever to answer all 15 questions of the Slovene TV quiz, a version of world-famous **Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?**, and win SIT ten million (EUR 45,500). The show, hosted by famous Slovene TV presenter Jonas. The final, 15th question of the quiz, was the following: *"The main character in Dostoyevsky's novel The Idiot, Prince Myshkin, suffered from the same disease as the author. Which disease was it?"* Among four options, Lazar, with the help of a phone call, correctly chose "epilepsy" and became Slovenia's first "millionaire".

Maribor – The winner of this year's **"Večernica"** award, granted by the Maribor-based daily *Vecer* for the author of the best youth novel in 2000, is **Feri Lainšček** and his book **"Mislice"**, published by the Franc-Franc publishing house.

New York – **Slovene President Milan Kučan** addressed the 56th General Assembly of the UN in New York, condemning the terrorist attack on the U.S. and expressing a need for co-operation in creating a world of peace, liberty, solidarity, security and less violence.

Ljubljana – After 11 September, we writers have to fight once again for the freedom of expression and pluralism of opinions, **Veno Taufer**, president of **PEN Slovenia** wondered at a forum organised to mark 75 years since Slovenia became member of PEN, the international fellowship that unites poets, playwrights, editors, essayists and novelists.

Trieste – The Italian national statistics institute ISTAT has finally put into print the **census forms in the Slovene language**, so that the Slovene minority living in Italy is to receive them in the coming days. The move comes after the minority protested against receiving forms for this year's census in the Italian language only. Unlike the previous two censuses, when ISTAT provided forms in Slovene, this time Slovene text was enclosed only for assistance.

This move was quickly criticised by the Slovene minority, seeing it as a move which curtails the rights of the Slovene minority.

Bucharest/Ljubljana, 14 November – In what is perhaps **Slovenia's greatest sporting success ever**, its national football team qualified for the 2002 World Cup in Japan and South Korea. The Slovene team managed to draw the second-leg playoff match against Romania 1:1 (0:0) in Bucharest, thus winning the two-leg playoff 3:2 on aggregate.

Ljubljana – Slovene inventors received **16 awards** at the 51st IENA invention show in Germany's Nuernberg. The Slovene team, put together by the Slovene Business Inventions Network (SPIM), took part in this show for the ninth time this year, winning two gold, eight silver and five bronze medal, as well as a special award.

Aljosa Pajk won gold for his solar roof tile, while **Stane Ocepek** of the furniture manufacturer SVEA Zagorje received the gold medal for inventing a special fireproof element for the kitchen extractor hood. The special award was conferred to **Viktor Bitenc** for his fireplace furnace. The traditional IENA show, which was underway from 1 to 4 November, was organised by the company AFAG from Nuernberg.

Ljubljana – Almost 74 percent of Slovenes believe that the government should ensure that the two state-owned banks - **NLB and NKBM** - remain in **Slovene ownership** following the completion of privatisation. More than 92 percent of the 706 polled persons also indicated that they expect the government to give preference to a domestic buyer over a foreign one.

Ljubljana – Judging by the number of quality certified organisations, Slovenia is above the **European average**, somewhere at the level of France and Germany, **Jozko Cuk**, President of the Slovene Association for Quality, said in Portoroz at the outset of a conference on quality, which he said was an opportunity for some 400 participants to get to know all aspects of quality.

Piran – The Slovene coastal town of Piran will be the set for the **Greek-French-Slovene co-produced feature film "Lilly's Story"**. The film is set in the mid-70s when Greeks fled from their country that was under dictatorial rule. Piran was the place where they met every summer, as it reminded them of Greece due to the sea, the sun and the joyful colours. In that time, Piran was homeland for them.

Ljubljana – **The new Guide to Slovene Orthography**, a reference book of contemporary Slovene language, hit the shelves, almost 40 years since its last edition was published. The 1,800 pages of the sixth edition contains orthography rules and a dictionary of over 130,000 entries.

Ljubljana – The greatest military threat nowadays is terrorism, and it is clear that NATO members are most exposed to it, therefore Slovenia's accession to NATO would be a strategic mistake, **Luka Juri**, President of the Young Forum of the parliamentary United List of Social Democrats (ZLSD) said.

Juri explained that the Young Forum will organise a conference next spring at which they will try to convince the ZLSD, which is strongly in favour of Slovenia's NATO membership, that NATO accession is harmful.

Ljubljana – Credible information points to the first case of **mad cow disease** in Slovenia, said Agriculture Minister **Franci But** and the head of the Slovene Veterinary Administration, **Zoran Kovac**. According to three repetitions of a quick analysis, a five-year old cow from a farm in the Upper Savinja Valley, northern Slovenia, has been infected with BSE.

Trieste – Vatican authorities have given a green light to start a process for eventual **beatification of Slovene priest and public worker Jakob Ukmar**, a member of the Slovene community in Trieste, NE Italy.

Ljubljana – Slovenia saw a labour force of 886,047 people in September, 786,213 of which were persons in paid employment, up 0.5 percent from August and 1.7 percent more than in September 2000, the National Statistical Office said. Registered unemployment was at 11.3 percent, up 0.2 percent over the previous month. A total of 99,834 persons were registered as unemployed in September, which is up 1.7 percent over August and down 2.3 percent over September 2000.

Willemstad – The Slovene chain of **casinos HIT** from Nova Gorica opened its first casino abroad on the **Caribbean island** of Bonaire in the Netherlands Antilles. Casino Caribe is part of Plaza Resort, the largest tourist complex on the island with over 200 accommodation units on a five-star level. Plaza Resort is owned and run by the Van der Valk family that holds around 80 hotels in the Netherlands and around the world.

Ljubljana – **Slovenes Make up for Almost Half of Europe's Drunk Drivers**. Slovenia has taken part in an action of the European network of traffic police (TISPOL) that resulted in confiscation of 355 driving licenses because of intoxication all over Europe in the recent days. As much as 150 of these licenses, or 42 percent, were confiscated in Slovenia, said the Slovene Police.

Ljubljana – **Ela Peroci**, one of the most popular Slovene authors of children books, **died** at the of 79 in Ljubljana.