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PAPPAS NAMES LOUISE VOLZ, 100, HONORARY DEPUTY TREASURER



Cook County treasurer Maria Pappas names Louise Volz (left) an honorary Cook County deputy treasurer. Pappas congratulated Volz on turning 100 years old on January 4, 2009. Volz was an original member of a chorus group called Lyra Gesang Verein, where she was president. The chorus merged with the Schubert Men's Chorus and became the Shubert-lyra. She is an active member of the Chorus and holds the honorary title of Ehrenprasident

Little City's 'Night on the Red Carpet' draws rave reviews for third straight year



While "Slum Dog Millionaire," Sean Penn and Kate Winslet were garnering the most coveted Oscars for 2009, more than 250 friends, family and supporters of Little City Foundation were enjoying their own celebration at the "Night on the Red Carpet."

Little City's Oscar party was a smash hit for the third year in a row, as guests joined in the food, fun and other special festivities during the Feb. 22 event, which was held at the Lincolnshire Marriott Resort. The fundraiser raised more than \$60,000 for Little City.

The evening's celebration began at 6:30 p.m. with a "Red Carpet Review," where guests were interviewed by a Joan Rivers lookalike. "Cher" also made a guest appearance later in the evening, bringing a lot of laughs from the audience with her

"leggy" look.

All of the fun activities were captured by paparazzi clicking away on their cameras. To view the photos from the evening, go to Little City's website at www.littlecity.org.

As part of the evening's events, a special proclamation was presented to Alex Gianaras of Lake Forest in honor of his father, Alec K. Gianaras, who was a longtime President of Little City's Board of Directors. Mr. Gianaras recently passed away, and Little City announced at the event that the organization would be naming a new award in his memory. The award will be given for the first time at Little City's 50th Anniversary Dinner next November. (continued p. 2)

Orpheus Hellenic Folklore Society – 20th Year Anniversary Event

In the spring of 1989, a group of approximately 15 young adults came together, on Chicago's North side, who shared a common interest in Greek folk dancing. Eventually, this group evolved into a performing dance troupe, complete with authentic costumes, instructors and an official name: The Orpheus Hellenic Folklore Society (OHFS). As word spread about OHFS, its membership began to expand, as did its repertoire and reputation in the Chicagoland area. By 1995, the Lyra newsletter was in circulation, and the OHFS website made its debut, shortly thereafter, in 1997. In 1999, ten years after its inception, OHFS opened its doors to the Greek youngsters of Chicago, and established the OHFS Youth Group with only a handful of members.

mances, workshops, lectures, publications and its website.

In the interest of keeping the material fresh and members on their toes, the troupe participates in folk dance conferences, seminars, workshops and lectures, across the country and abroad. The troupe also competed in the Folk Dance Festival (FDF), sponsored by the Greek Orthodox Diocese in California. In addition, OHFS' directors regularly present lectures in numerous educational institutions, as well as demonstrations revolving around the topic of Greek folk dance and song.

For over three years now, OHFS has been collaborating with the Chicago Hellenic Choir (CHC), directed by Eftihia Papageorgiou, practicing and presenting a variety of traditional



Flash forward to 2009. The Orpheus Hellenic Folklore Society has enjoyed great success as a professional folk dance troupe. Adult enrollment boasts over 60 members, while the Youth program fills to capacity with more than 100 new and returning members annually. There are two large practice venues in the Northern suburbs, and a storage facility which houses over 250 elaborate, traditional Greek folk costumes, shoes and accessories.

Since its inception, OHFS has travelled to Greece three times: Thessaloniki, Athens (Odeon of Herodotus Atticus Theater at the foot of the Acropolis) and, most recently, Kalamata, Messinia in the summer of 2007. The land that "started it all" continues to motivate and inspire OHFS' directors and members alike. The lucky members who participated in these trips will attest to the "magical" experience of performing in the motherland, and gaining a better, priceless understanding of their heritage and culture.

Recently, OHFS debuted its newly revamped music ensemble, featuring professional instructors, and a variety of traditional folk and brass band instruments. The music group supports the troupe during various presentations, but also performs on its own. The music group has performed at the annual Orpheus Vasilopita events, the Greek American Rehabilitation Center and at the Orpheus Youth Group's End of the Year Event. Since Greek folk culture is best expressed when all three major elements (dancing, singing and music) are presented live, the music ensemble assists OHFS in fulfilling its mission of perpetuating Greek folk culture and traditions.

The Orpheus Hellenic Folklore Society is a non-profit, tax exempt organization and its official functions are carried out by its Board of Directors. The mission of OHFS is to perpetuate the rich history and traditions of Greek folk dances, songs and music. OHFS continues to fulfill its mission by educating its members and audiences through dance and music perfor-

and modern Greek songs, adding another dimension to the dance troupe. OHFS and the CHC have joined forces on numerous occasions to perform at various events and venues including, the Hellenic Museum, CHC Spring Concerts, the FDF competition, OHFS Vasilopita celebrations and Kalamata, Greece.

Through the years, OHFS has made over 700 appearances, both near and far. The troupe has traveled throughout the Chicagoland area and surrounding states, and as far as Canada and Greece. Media credits include appearances on such networks as ABC, CBS, NBC, PBS, and FOX, as well as the troupe's 2002 appearance on the Oprah show. Furthermore, OHFS has the distinction of representing Greece by performing in the 1994 World Cup opening ceremonies, at Soldier Field in Chicago, in front of 65,000 fans, including U.S. President Clinton and an estimated worldwide television audience of over 1 billion!

The spring of 2009 represents a very special milestone for the Orpheus Hellenic Folklore Society, namely, its 20th anniversary. On, Saturday, April 25, at 7:00 pm, a special program will be presented at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie. This special, celebratory program will feature the OHFS adult and youth group members, performing folk songs and dances in a variety of colorful, authentic, one-of-a-kind costumes. The dancers will be accompanied by members of the OHFS music ensemble, the Chicago Hellenic Choir and special guest performers from Greece. An audio visual presentation will feature highlights from the past twenty years and patrons will also enjoy various OHFS exhibits as well as several other surprises. Join the Orpheus Hellenic Folklore Society as they take a look back and celebrate 20 years of song, dance and memories, and help cheer them on as they embark on another 20 years full of culture, heritage and even more memories!

www.ohfs.org

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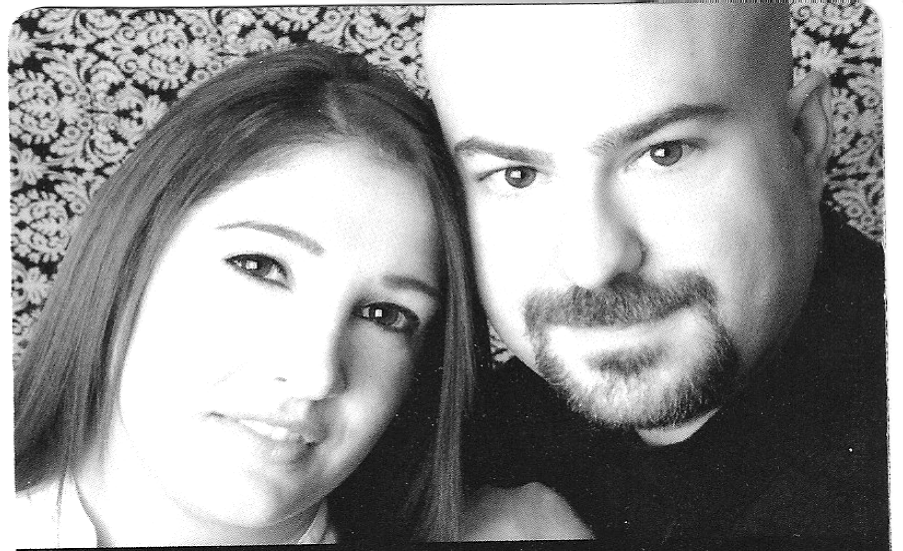
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CONGRADULATIONS!



*To Alexia Economou and Evan Houpis for their engagement.
The wedding bells will sound July, 4 2009 at Saginaw, Michigan.*

LITTLE CITY (continued from p.1)

Night on the Red Carpet guests also had a chance to purchase special silent auction items, including weekend packages and paintings by artists of Little City.

The big raffle for the evening went to Gail Dooley of Chicago, who won a mink jacket. Other top raffle winners were Jackie Sondell of Northbrook, who won a diamond heart necklace, and Kathy McGrath of tal Lake, who won a diamond pearl necklace.

Jackie Sondell also was the winner of the "Pick the Oscar Winners" contest. For her efforts, Jackie received a pass for a year's worth of movies along with a luxury chocolate gift basket. Taking second in the contest was Carole Bellows of Wilmette, while Andrea Hockfield of Long Grove placed third. Both received an Academy Awards Memorabilia Book. Fourth place went to Barb Jeffers of St. Charles, who won a handcrafted photo album from The Stationary Station.

For the third straight year, Wachovia Securities was the presenting sponsor for the gala, which was co-chaired by Little City Board members Rob Samson and Dana Gerber Poncher, both of Deerfield. Other major sponsors for the Night on the Red Carpet were Lawson Products, Foodstuffs, Jimmy and Eleni Bousis, Jay Garber, Rogers and Hollands Jewelers, Athena Sarris and Eleni Tzotzolis.

Other committee members who created a great evening of entertainment were Eve Albert, Eleni Bousis, Neil Cooper, Devra

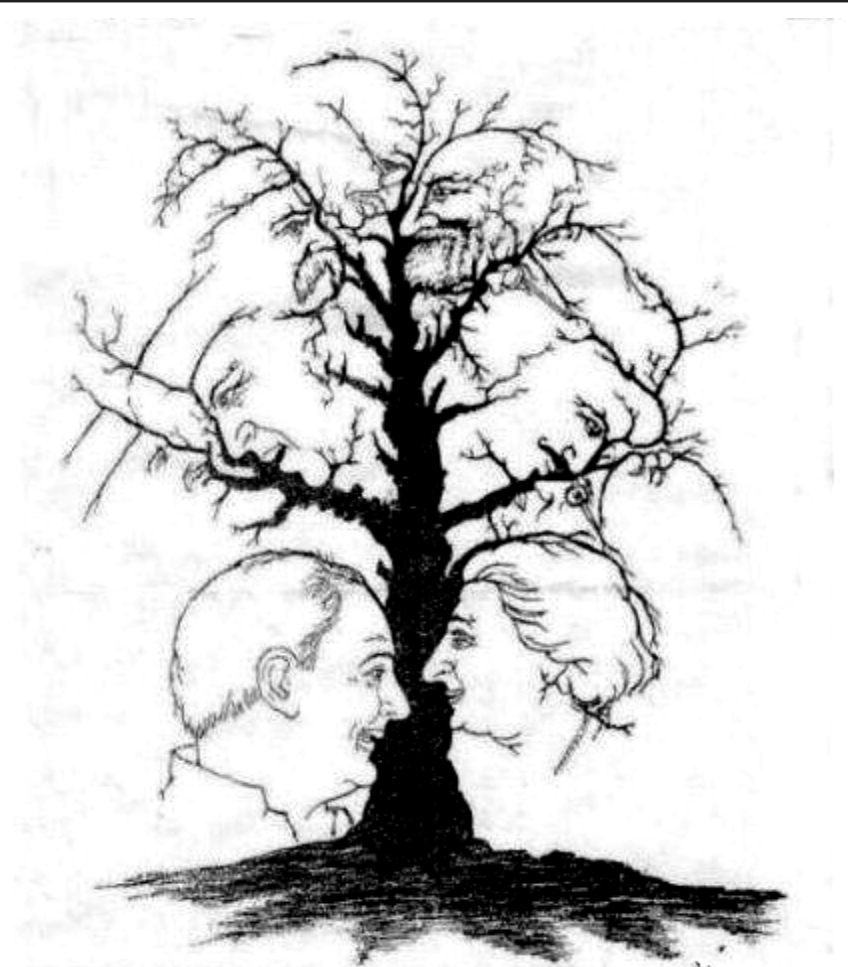
Gerber, Jeff Lyon, Charlie Margolis, Lisa Neimann, Julia Rendon, Julie Samson, Kaye Seeber and Homero Tristan.

About Little City

Established in 1959, Little City Foundation is committed to developing innovative and personalized programs to fully assist and empower people with disabilities in all stages of life. Little City offers a variety of residential options for children and adults, as well as vocational and employment opportunities. Programs and services include a special needs foster care and adoption program; in-home support to families raising a child with developmental disabilities; a full complement of recreational activities, including Special Olympics competition; a Resale Shop that provides employment for people with disabilities; and an award-winning Center for the Arts program that features visual, performance, media and fabric arts. The organization has a 56-acre campus in Palatine and offices in Chicago.

CAPTION FOR PIC "NRC 3423"

Alex and Mary Gianaras of Lake Forest (center) accept a proclamation that was presented in honor of Alex's father, Alec K. Gianaras, who passed away in December and was a longtime Board President for Little City Foundation. Taking part in the presentation, which was made at Little City's "Night on the Red Carpet" Oscar party on Feb. 22, are Dana Gerber Poncher of Deerfield (far left) and Eleni Bousis of Northbrook.



To test your intelligence:
If can find 0 - 5 faces - idiot
If can find 6 - 7 faces - stupid
If can find 8 - 9 faces - normal
If can find 10 - 11 - very normal
If can find 12 - 13 faces -genius

**HOW MANY
FACES DO YOU
SEE?**

GOLFERS, READ IT AND WEEP!

The Gospel According to St. Titleist

1. Eighteen holes of match play will teach you more about your foe than 18 years of dealing with him across a desk. **Grantland Rice**

2. Golf appeals to the idiot in us and the child. Just how childlike golf players become is proven by their frequent inability to count past five. **John Updike**

3. It is almost impossible to remember how tragic a place the world is when one is playing golf. **Robert Lynd**

4. If profanity had any influence on the flight of the ball, the game of golf would be played far better than it is. **Horace G. Hutchinson**

5. They say golf is like life, but don't believe them. Golf is more complicated than that. **Gardner Dickinson**

6. If a lot of people gripped a knife and fork as poorly as they do a golf club, they'd starve to death. **Sam Snead**

7. Golf is a day spent in a round of strenuous idleness. **William Wordsworth**

8. If you drink, don't drive. Don't even putt. **Dean Martin.**

9. If you are going to throw a club, it is important to throw it ahead of you, down the fairway, so you don't have to waste energy going back to pick it up. **Tommy Bolt**

10. Man blames fate for all other accidents, but feels personally responsible when he makes a hole-in-one. **Bishop Sheen**

11. I don't say my golf game is bad, but if I grew tomatoes they'd come up sliced. **Arnold**

Palmer

12. My handicap? Woods and irons. **Chris Codioli**

13. The ardent golfer would play Mount Everest if somebody would put a flag stick on top. **Pete Dye**

14. I'm hitting the woods just great; but having a terrible time getting out of them! **Buddy Hackett**

15. The only time my prayers are never answered is playing golf. **Billy Graham**

16. If you think it's hard to meet new people, try picking up the wrong golf ball. **Jack Lemmon**

17. It's good sportsmanship to not pick up lost golf balls while they are still rolling. **Mark Twain**

18. Don't play too much golf. Two rounds a day are plenty. **Harry Vardon**

19. Golf and sex are the only things you can enjoy without being good at either of them. **Jimmy DeMaret**

20. May thy ball lie in green pastures, and not in still waters. **Ben Hogan**

21. If I hit it right, it's a slice. If I hit it left, it's a hook. If I hit it straight, it's a miracle. **All Us Hackers**

22. The difference in golf and government is that in golf you can't improve your lie. **George Deukmejian**

And Finally

23. Golf is a game invented by the same people who think music comes out of a bagpipe. ~ Lee Trevino ~

SOME OF THE BEST KNOWM GEORGE BUSH-ISMS

"I can press when there needs to be pressed; I can hold hands when there needs to be—hold hands."—on how he can contribute to the Middle East peace process, Washington, D.C., Jan. 4, 2008

"I welcome you all to say a few comments to the TV, if you care to do so."—Inviting visiting Irish dignitaries to address the media, Washington, D.C., Dec. 7, 2007.

"If you've got somebody in harm's way, you want the president being—making advice, not—be given advice by the military, and not making decisions based upon the latest Gallup poll or focus group."—New Albany, Ind., Nov. 13, 2007.

"And I will explain the need to reform a confirmation process that is making it more difficult to persuade decent and intelligence people to accept the call to public service."—Washington, D.C., Nov. 15, 2007.

"The decisions we make in Washington have a direct impact on the people in our country, obviously."—New Albany, Ind., Nov. 13, 2007

"In other words, he was given an option: Are you with us or are you not with us? And he made a clear decision to be with us, and he's acted on that advice."—on President Pervez Musharraf, Crawford, Texas, Nov. 10, 2007

"I don't particularly like it when people put words in my mouth, either, by the way, unless I say it."—Crawford, Texas, Nov. 10, 2007

"We're going to—we'll be sending a person on the ground there pretty soon to help implement the malaria initiative, and that initiative will mean spreading nets and insecticides throughout the country so that we can see a reduction in death of young children that—a death that we can cure."—Washington, D.C., Oct. 18, 2007

"All I can tell you is when the governor calls, I answer his phone."—San Diego, Calif., Oct. 25, 2007.

"My hearts are with the Jeffcoats right now, that's what I'm thinking."—After meeting with California wildfire victims Kendra and Jay Jeffcoat, San Diego, Calif., Oct. 25, 2007.

"I fully understand those who say you can't win this thing militarily. That's exactly what the United States military says, that you can't win this military."—on the need for political progress in Iraq, Washington, D.C., Oct. 17, 2007

"You know, a trucker, if he's interested in moving through Northwest Arkansas in expedition fashion, will pay a little extra money to be able to do so."—explaining how toll roads can generate funds for highway maintenance while helping motorists move quickly, Rogers, Ark., Oct., 15, 2007

"I got a lot of Ph.D.-types and smart people

around me who come into the Oval Office and say, 'Mr. President, here's what's on my mind.' And I listen carefully to their advice. But having gathered the device, I decide, you know, I say, 'This is what we're going to do.' "—Lancaster, Pa., Oct. 3, 2007

"You know, when you give a man more money in his pocket—in this case, a woman more money in her pocket to expand a business, it—they build new buildings. And when somebody builds a new building somebody has got to come and build the building. And when the building expanded it prevented additional opportunities for people to work."—Lancaster, Pa., Oct. 3, 2007

"All of us in America want there to be fairness when it comes to justice."—Washington, D.C., Sept. 20, 2007.

"As yesterday's positive report card shows, childrens do learn when standards are high and results are measured."—New York, Sept. 26, 2007

"We're also talking to different finance ministers about how we can send a message to the Iranian government that the free world is not going to tolerate the development of know-how in how to build a weapon, or at least gain the ability to make a weapon."—Washington, D.C., Sept. 20, 2007.

"I feel strongly that there ought to be fair justice."—Washington, D.C., Sept. 20, 2007

"There is no question that there is some unsettling times in the housing market."—Washington, D.C., Sept. 20, 2007.

"Thank you for being such a fine host for the OPEC summit. I appreciate—APEC summit."—addressing the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, Sydney, Australia, Sept. 7, 2007.

"I'm going to try to see if I can remember as much to make it sound like I'm smart on the subject."—answering a question concerning a possible flu pandemic, Cleveland, July 10, 2007

"I cannot look a mother and father of a troop in the eye and say, I'm sending your kid into combat, but I don't think we can achieve the objective."—Washington, D.C., July 12, 2007.

"More than two decades later, it is hard to imagine the Revolutionary War coming out any other way."—Martinsburg, W. Va., July 4, 2007

"I've heard he's been called Bush's poodle. He's bigger than that."—discussing former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, as quoted by the Sun newspaper, June 27, 2007

"Amnesty means that you've got to pay a price for having been here illegally, and this bill does that."—discussing an immigration reform bill, Washington, D.C., June 26, 2007.

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NEWS FROM GREECE

PM addresses youth group conference

Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis on Saturday addressed a ruling New Democracy youth organisation (ONNED) conference in the western town of Agrinio on the issue of "Environment, Green Energy and Long-term Development".

Karamanlis praised ONNED cadres on their decision to start their conference from a provincial town, stressing that it is an "act of symbolism and significance".

"We have received your message; the new generation is our country's major advantage. You are showing us the way to the future; the way of dialogue and cooperation; the way of national unanimity; the way that sets aside petty politics to join all young people's common visions".

Regarding government's policy on environment, Karamanlis said that from 2004 the government has been implemented a new developmental model, adding that "We are implementing a strategy that combines development with environmental protection. The fact that the National Framework Package grants 4.9 billion euros for works and actions for environment's protection is a major example of our efforts."

Earlier, he spoke at the Aetoloakarnania prefecture's Industrial Chamber, where he noted that "we are proceeding with responsibility, calmness and seriousness. We are determined to transform the international challenge into a national opportunity; all together, and determined to win this battle for the sake of all Greek citizens".

Karamanlis also noted that the international economic crisis exerts pressure on all financial institutions, and that nobody can ignore this reality. "Nobody can act as an outside observer;

nobody can involuntarily harm the collective interest. Conditions do not permit petty politics. They do not allow divisive practices and, furthermore, do not permit any relaxation".

The prime minister called business owners to show greater social responsibility and the due respect to their employees.

Referring to government's plan to exit the crisis, he said that it is based on development, even with low rates of growth during this difficult year, "the gradual reduction of the fiscal deficit and support to the weaker incomes, within the limits of our economy."

Karamanlis also referred to the government's plan to cope with unemployment. "We are implementing coordinated actions aimed to help 200,000 unemployed to find jobs by the end of the year."

PASOK on PM's comments

Main opposition PASOK party spokesman George Papaconstantinou on Saturday referred to Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis' visit to Agrinio.

"Society has turned its back to Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis. His visit to the local hospital reminds Greek people the dysfunction and degradation of the National Health System. His visit to a construction site of Ionia highway reminds them of the cutbacks in state's investments and the abandoning of the region during his governance. His speech to producer groups makes it clear that he doesn't have a plan against the crisis and of course his presence at New Democracy's youth organisation reminds us that entire he prefers his party's audience."

Concerning the last poll results, Papaconstantinou said they indicate citizens' disapproval of Karamanlis' governance.

FM: ND a large democratic party

Foreign Minister Dora Bakoyannis, who is visiting northern Greece, said that "the extremes are extreme and by comparison ruling New Democracy is a large democratic party representing the centre and the right."

She was answering a press question referring the Popular Orthodox Party (L.A.OS).

Referring to the vandalism against stores, banks and cars in Athens and Thessaloniki, a day earlier, she stressed: "We are really worried and we are determined not to permit to such groups to destroy people's property and to devastate the image of the country".

The statements were made after the conclusion of Bakoyannis' meeting with the members of ND's coordinating committee in Thessaloniki in the presence of Macedonia and Thrace Minister Stavros Kalafatis, Deputy Interior Ministers Costas Gioulekas, Yannis Ioannidis and other officials.

OA's ground service to MIG

Marfin Investment Group (MIG) on Saturday announced that it will also purchase state-run Olympic Airways' ground handling service, after an earlier suitor, Swissport, failed to finalise a deal for the unit.

Development Minister Costis Hatzidakis said the deal between Swissport and MIG was not completed within a set deadline that ended yesterday.

"Negotiations between the state and MIG

Obama at March 25 event

US President Barack Obama will attend the event held at the White House on March 25, to honour the anniversary of Greece's Independence day.

Obama is expected to refer to the values of Greek democracy and independence as well as of Greek-US relations. Archbishop of America Demetrius will speak on behalf of the expatriate Greek communities after previously holding a private meeting with Obama.

Greece keeps close watch on Turkish exercise in Aegean

Greek armed forces were on standby yesterday with the launch of a Turkish military exercise in the Aegean involving the participation of the USA, Britain, the Netherlands and Belgium. According to sources, Greek authorities fear that sections of the exercise constitute an attempt by Ankara to consolidate territorial claims in the Aegean. The fact that the four countries participating in the exercise have reportedly sent vessels, and not aircraft, is encouraging, sources say, as this would not facilitate possible attempts by Ankara to conduct violations of Greek air space. The exercise is scheduled to run until March 29.

Tea warning

Greece's food safety watchdog warned yesterday that a brand of tea that claims it can help people lose weight may be circulating on the market illegally. The Hellenic Food Authority (EFET) said that Paiyouji tea, which is made in China but is widely available on the Internet, contains phenolphthalein, a laxative that has been banned due to concerns that it is carcinogenic. The tea also contains sibutramine, which is an appetite suppressant that can cause high blood pressure and may pose a risk to people with heart problems. EFET has advised any consumers who have bought the tea not to imbibe it and to contact the authority.

Asian tiger mosquitoes arrive in the capital

An aggressive breed of mosquito, which can carry potentially deadly viruses, has been spotted in the capital, according to scientists who have pressed the government to take action to curb the spread of the insect.

The Asian tiger mosquito – a native of Asia, Africa and South America that has yellow stripes on a black body – can carry West Nile virus and dengue fever, which can both provoke fatal illnesses. A team of experts from Athens's Benakio Institute of Phytopathology and the Agricultural University of Athens have called for a "comprehensive approach to solving the mosquito problem in our country to avert serious public health issues."

Though the Asian tiger mosquito was spotted in Thesprotia and Corfu in 2004, no action has been taken to eradicate it. It is thought the mosquitoes reached Greece via ferries arriving at the busy port of Igoumenitsa.

Attempt to end Acropolis row

An ongoing dispute between Culture Ministry contract workers and the government, which has led to the Acropolis being shut five times in the last two weeks, could be on the way to being solved but at a cost of more than 9 million euros. The government tabled an amendment in Parliament yesterday that seeks to address at least in part the grievances of the ministry employees who work at the Acropolis and other ancient sites as well as museums.

The contract workers had staged their protest because dozens of them had not been paid over the last few months due to a change in the way that public finances are managed.

Their other main grievance is that they have only been hired on two-year contracts and now that these have come to an end, they face being left jobless. The public servants are asking for permanent jobs. The amendment tabled in Parliament yesterday stops short of providing the protesters with jobs for life but it states that anyone who had completed two full years of employment by November 1, 2008, would be given a contract for another year with the option of extending it another 12 months. However, the legislation clearly states that there is no guarantee that the Culture Ministry will offer its employees a permanent deal at the end of that period.



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A letter from the Boss:

To All My Valued Employees, There have been some rumblings around the office about the future of this company, and more specifically, your job. As you know, the economy has changed for the worse and presents many challenges. However, the good news is this: The economy doesn't pose a threat to your job. What does threaten your job however, is the changing political landscape in this country. However, let me tell you some little tid-bits of fact which might help you decide what is in your best interests. First, while it is easy to spew rhetoric that casts employers against employees, you have to understand that for every business owner there is a Back Story. This back story is often neglected and overshadowed by what you see and hear. Sure, you see me park my Mercedes outside. You've seen my big home at last years Christmas party. I'm sure; all these flashy icons of luxury conjure up some idealized thoughts about my life.

However, what you don't see is the BACK STORY. I started this company 28 years ago. At that time, I lived in a 300 square foot studio apartment for 3 years. My entire living apartment was converted into an office so I could put forth 100% effort into building a company, which by the way, would eventually employ you. My diet consisted of Ramen Pride noodles because every dollar I spent went back into this company. I drove a rusty Toyota Corolla with a defective transmission. I didn't have time to date. Often times, I stayed home on weekends, while my friends went out drinking and partying. In fact, I was married to my business — hard work, discipline, and sacrifice.

Meanwhile, my friends got jobs. They worked 40 hours a week and made a modest \$50K a year and spent every dime they earned. They drove flashy cars and lived in expensive homes and wore fancy designer clothes. Instead of hitting the Nordstrom's for the latest hot fashion item, I was trolling through the discount store extracting any clothing item that didn't look like it was birthed in the 70's. My friends refinanced their mortgages and lived a life of luxury. I, however, did not. I put my time, my money, and my life into a business with a vision that eventually, someday, I too, will be able to afford these luxuries my friends supposedly had.

So, while you physically arrive at the office at 9am, mentally check in at about noon, and then leave at 5pm, I don't. There is no "off" button for me. When you leave the office, you are done and you have a weekend all to yourself. I unfortunately do not have the freedom. I eat, and breathe this company every minute of the day. There is no rest. There is no weekend. There is no happy hour. Every day this business is attached to my hip like a 1 year old special-needs child. You, of course, only see the fruits of that garden — the nice house, the Mercedes, the vacations... you never realize the Back Story and the sacrifices I've made.

Now, the economy is falling apart and I, the guy that made all the right decisions and saved his money, have to bailout all the people who didn't. The people that overspent their paychecks suddenly feel entitled to the same luxuries that I earned and sacrificed a decade of my life for.

Yes, business ownership has its benefits but the price I've paid is steep and not without wounds. Unfortunately, the cost of running this business, and employing you, is starting to eclipse the threshold of marginal benefit and let me tell you why: I am being taxed to death and the government thinks I don't pay enough. I have state taxes. Federal taxes. Property taxes. Sales and use taxes. Payroll taxes. Workers compensation taxes. Unemployment taxes. Taxes on taxes.

I have to hire a tax man to manage all these taxes and then guess what? I have to pay taxes for employing him. Government mandates and regulations

and all the accounting that goes with it, now occupy most of my time. On Oct 15th, I wrote a check to the US Treasury for \$288,000 for quarterly taxes. You know what my "stimulus" check was? Zero. Nada. Zilch.

The question I have is this: Who is stimulating the economy? Me, the guy who has provided 14 people good paying jobs and serves over 2,200,000 people per year with a flourishing business? Or, the single mother sitting at home pregnant with her fourth child waiting for her next welfare check?

Obviously, government feels the latter is the economic stimulus of this country. The fact is, if I deducted (Read: Stole) 50% of your paycheck you'd quit and you wouldn't work here. I mean, why should you? That's nuts. Who wants to get rewarded only 50% of their hard work? Well, I agree which is why your job is in jeopardy. Here is what many of you don't understand ... to stimulate the economy you need to stimulate what runs the economy. Had suddenly government mandated to me that I didn't need to pay taxes, guess what? Instead of depositing that \$288,000 into the Washington black-hole, I would have spent it, hired more employees, and generated substantial economic growth. My employees would have enjoyed the wealth of that tax cut in the form of promotions and better salaries. But you can forget it now.

When you have a comatose man on the verge of death, you don't defibrillate and shock his thumb thinking that will bring him back to life, do you? Or, do you defibrillate his heart? Business is at the heart of America and always has been. To restart it, you must stimulate it, not kill it. Suddenly, the power brokers in Washington believe the poor of America are the essential drivers of the American economic engine. Nothing could be further from the truth and this is the type of change you can keep.

So where am I going with all this? It's quite simple. If any new taxes are levied on me, or my company, my reaction will be swift and simple. I'll fire you and your coworkers. You can then plead with the government to pay for your mortgage, your SUV, and your child's future. Frankly, it isn't my problem any more. Then, I will close this company down, move to another country, and retire. You see, I'm done. I'm done with a country that penalizes the productive and gives to the unproductive. My motivation to work and to provide jobs will be destroyed, 20 and with it, will be my citizenship. So, if you lose your job, it won't be at the hands of the economy; it will be at the hands of a political hurricane that swept through this country, steam rolled the constitution, and will have changed its landscape forever. If that happens, you can find me sitting on a beach, retired, and with no employees to worry about....Signed,THE BOSS John Dunay

"The problem with socialism is that you eventually run out of other people's money." Margaret Thatcher.

People sleep peaceably in their beds at night only because rough men stand ready to do violence on their behalf. - George Orwell -

Junk alert for space station crew

The crew had to move into the Russian Soyuz capsule

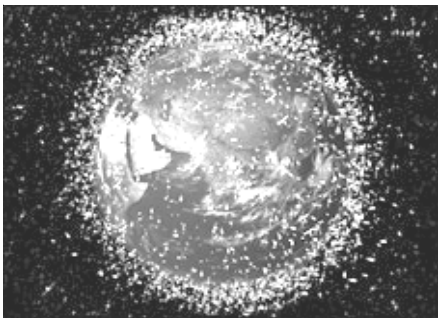
The crew of the International Space Station has been forced to shelter in the Russian Soyuz capsule after a close call with a piece of space debris.

The three crew members are now out of danger and have returned to the ISS, Russian mission control officials told Reuters news agency.

Nasa said news of the debris threat had come too late for flight controllers to move the space station out of the way.

The scare comes just over a month after two satellites collided over Siberia.

Officials said the decision to move the astronauts had been a precaution and that the prob-



ability of an impact with the ISS had been low.

The space station's operating rules require crew members to be evacuated when debris is detected within a set distance.

Russian Yuri Lonchakov and Americans Michael Fincke and Sandra Magnus took refuge for about nine minutes in the Soyuz TMA-13 escape capsule.

Tiny fragment

"The crew have returned to the station. They are in absolutely no danger and the debris has already passed by the station," a spokesman for Russia's mission control said after the incident.

Nasa Spokesman William Jeffs says the evacuation was a rare event. "They didn't even close the hatch between the station and the Soyuz."

They were told the time of closest approach to the station would be 1639 GMT (1239 EDT).

The debris was about 1cm (0.3in) in size and part of an old "payload assist motor" that was previously on either a Delta rocket or on the space shuttle, Nasa public affairs officer

Laura Rochon told journalists.

"The crew is safe and back in the space station and they are resuming normal operations," Ms Rochon added. A Nasa spokesperson told BBC News that the space agency had been notified about the possible threat last night. The short lead time forced officials to move the crew into the capsule rather than manoeuvring the space station out of the way.

Two Americans and one Russian are aboard the station. The reason for the short notice is unclear, but the small size of the object and its erratic orbital path may have been factors.

"It's a bit like a swarm of bees in a beehive up there," said William Jeffs, a spokesperson at Nasa's Johnson Space Center in Houston, "the trajectories can sometimes be erratic."

It is unclear how many times crew members had been told to enter the Soyuz, but officials said this was "not the first" occasion. Flight controllers have moved the ISS eight times over the past 10 years in order to avoid debris.

Growing threat

Objects in orbit travel at tens of thousands of kilometres per hour. At these speeds, even a small piece of debris can knock out a satellite or, potentially, cause damage to the space station.

Experts recognise a growing threat to satellites and manned spacecraft from orbital debris and several events over the past three years have drawn attention to the problem.

On 10 February, the US Iridium 33 communications satellite collided with Cosmos 2251, a retired Russian intelligence comms sat.

Space debris (Esa)

About 18,000 objects bigger than 10cm are orbiting Earth. The chances of such an event had been estimated at millions or billions to one. The impact produced two expanding clouds of debris in intersecting orbits.

In January 2007, China caused international alarm when it destroyed one of its defunct satellites in a missile test. The US military estimates that this event created 2,500 new pieces of debris in orbit.

In total, there are said to be about 18,000 pieces of orbiting junk larger than 10cm in size.

On Wednesday, Nasa postponed its launch of the space shuttle Discovery from Florida when a hydrogen leak was detected during fuelling.

If the president vetoes it, they can pass it over his veto if they agree to.

It seems inconceivable to me that a nation of 300 million cannot replace 545 people who stand convicted — by present facts — of incompetence and irresponsibility. I can't think of a single domestic problem that is not traceable directly to those 545 people. When you fully grasp the plain truth that 545 people exercise the power of the federal government, then it must follow that what exists is what they want to exist.

If the tax code is unfair, it's because they want it unfair.

If the budget is in the red, it's because they want it in the red.

If the Army & Marines are in IRAQ, it's because they want them in IRAQ.

If they do not receive social security but are on an elite retirement plan not available to the people, it's because they want it that way.

There are no insoluble government problems.

Do not let these 545 people shift the blame to bureaucrats, whom they hire and whose jobs they can abolish; to lobbyists, whose gifts and advice they can reject; to regulators, to whom they give the power to regulate and from whom they can take this power. Above all, do not let them con you into the belief that there exists disembodied mystical forces like "the economy," "inflation," or "politics" that prevent them from doing what they take an oath to do.

Those 545 people, and they alone, are responsible.

They, and they alone, have the power.

They, and they alone, should be held accountable by the people who are their bosses.

Provided the voters have the gumption to manage their own employees.

We should vote all of them out of office and clean up their mess!

Charlie Reese is a former columnist of the Orlando Sentinel Newspaper.

What you do with this article now that you have read it..... Is up to you.

545 vs 300,000,000

By Charlie Reese

Politicians are the only people in the world who create problems and then campaign against them.

Have you ever wondered, if both the Democrats and the Republicans are against deficits, WHY do we have deficits?

Have you ever wondered, if all the politicians are against inflation and high taxes, WHY do we have inflation and high taxes?

You and I don't propose a federal budget. The president does.

You and I don't have the Constitutional authority to vote on appropriations. The House of Representatives does.

You and I don't write the tax code, Congress does.

You and I don't set fiscal policy, Congress does.

You and I don't control monetary policy, the

Federal Reserve Bank does.

One hundred senators, 435 congressmen, one president, and nine Supreme Court justices 545 human beings out of the 300 million are directly, legally, morally, and individually responsible for the domestic problems that plague this country.

I excluded the members of the Federal Reserve Board because that problem was created by the Congress. In 1913, Congress delegated its Constitutional duty to provide a sound currency to a federally chartered, but private, central bank.

I excluded all the special interests and lobbyists for a sound reason. They have no legal authority. They have no ability to



The Constitution, which is the supreme law of the land, gives sole responsibility to the House of Representatives for originating and approving appropriations and taxes. Who is the speaker of the House? Nancy Pelosi. She is the leader of the majority party.

She and fellow House members, not the president, can approve any budget they want.

Obama vows to renew US

By KevinConolly

There was an extraordinary standing ovation as Mr Obama made his way to the podium across the crowded floor of the chamber that refused to die down as he stood acknowledging the cheers and preparing to speak.

It was not, I should say, one of those soaring flights of oratory we heard from Barack Obama after the primaries of Iowa or South Carolina

But it seemed to draw its strength from other - nobler - emotional fuels too. In part it was a legislature saluting the extraordinary achievement of an African-American man in winning the presi-



dency.

And it was also a nation in crisis uniting behind the leader to whom it falls to find a way forward. At times it was hard to believe that Mr Obama was a relative newcomer in a room filled with political veterans.

He has acquired a presidential authority with extraordinary speed, aided by a demeanour which even on the most nerve-wracking nights in the hardest of times is extraordinarily cool and unflappable. It seemed too that Mr Obama has sensed that many Americas are frightened by the depth of the current recession and bewildered by the speed with which it descended.

This felt like an attempt - and a convincing one - to persuade them that he has fully understood the crisis, and can see a way ahead.

Ringin appeal

It was not, I should say, one of those soaring flights of oratory we heard from Barack Obama after the primaries of Iowa or South Carolina or on the day he won the presidency.

It was an elegantly written narrative of how America worked its way into its current state of crisis, a clearly-argued prospectus for how Mr Obama thinks it can work its way back out, and a ringing appeal to the traditional American values of hard work and innovation.

Mr Obama is sometimes accused of being pro-

fessorial in tone, but he seemed to me to do a good job of explaining how the financial system arrived at the brink of collapse, not sparing some American people from their share of the blame: "People bought homes they knew they couldn't afford from banks and lenders who pushed those bad loans anyway."

That is a good, if familiar, description of how the sub-prime mortgage crisis infected the global financial system, but where I thought Mr Obama's speech was particularly effective was in going on from there to explain why he is proposing to use taxpayers money to bail out those self-same banks.

He knows that is not popular, but equally, he knows that you will not see any signs of life in the American economy until the lifeblood of credit is once again flowing through its veins.

That means helping banks, even if the American people currently feel more like kicking out their bankers than bailing them out.

As Mr Obama summed up his argument: "It's not about helping banks, it's about helping people."

There was plenty of detail in the speech about the need for healthcare reform, and green energy - big campaign themes on which Mr Obama now plans to legislate and a nod towards foreign policy too.

On Iraq, where America still has a huge and costly military operation, there was little detail but this intriguing pledge: "I will soon announce a way forward in Iraq that leaves Iraq to its people and responsibly ends this war."

And the overall tone of the speech to the wider world was positive and clearly designed to signal a break with the diplomatic style of the Bush administration.

Churchillian

The buzz phrase was: "A new era of engagement has begun." Here too, as with the economy, Mr Obama knew where the applause was to be found, and he did not hesitate to go looking for it.

The speech was frequently punctuated with standing ovations - none more enthusiastic than when he declared simply: "It is time for America to lead again."

It was elegant and precise rather than dramatic for the most part, but it finished with a Churchillian flourish about letting our children's children remember that in response to the crisis of 2009, Americans did something "worthy to be remembered".

You might almost say that of this speech too - that in its reassuring approach to the exercise of the presidency it was worthy to be remembered alongside the oratory that helped win Mr Obama the job in the first place.

Guantanamo inmate 'joins Taleban'

President Obama has vowed to close the controversial prison

A former Afghan inmate at the US prison in



Guantanamo Bay prison

Guantanamo Bay has joined the Taleban's high command in Pakistan, UK government officials say.

They say Mullah Abdul Kayum Zakir, who was released last year, is now closely involved in planning attacks on British and other Nato forces in Afghanistan.

They say he is operating with impunity from the Pakistani city of Quetta.

The Pentagon says more than 10% of 520 inmates released so far have returned to what it

calls terrorism.

It says this complicates efforts to release and repatriate those still being held.

US President Barack Obama has long vowed to close the controversial Guantanamo Bay detention centre.

Lord Carlisle's warning

British government officials say Mullah Abdul Kayum Zakir was handed over by the Americans in the spring of 2008 to the Afghan authorities, who briefly imprisoned him in Kabul.

But from there he was released and promptly made his way over the Pakistani border to rejoin the Taleban and its leadership.

Since then, says a US counter-terrorism official, he has had a hand in doing some very bad things.

Meanwhile, Lord Carlisle, the British government's independent reviewer of anti-terrorism laws, warned on Monday against imposing control orders on former Guantanamo inmates if they came to Britain.

He said it was over-simplistic to assume that control orders would be appropriate or even lawful against people simply because they had been detained elsewhere.

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Acting Mayor Bob Callero is committed to maintaining NILES' reputation as a great place to live and work. A Niles resident since 1958, Bob has served on the Police & Fire Pension Board since 1975, as a Village Trustee since 1995 and as Acting Mayor since August 2008.

"As a partner in a local CPA firm for 45 years, I've learned how to cut budgets and do more with less. I will fight to keep Niles taxes low, institute cost controls and continue great services including our NILES Free Bus."

Trustee Louella Blaine Preston has lived in Niles for over 30 years and has served as Trustee since 1985. She has fought for open and honest government and enhanced intergovernmental relationships especially through the NORTHWEST MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE.

"I'm an attorney and a former school teacher and administrator. With ethics as my focus, I will continue to work to implement a more open and transparent government for our Village."

Local businessman Andrew Przybylo has lived in Niles for 28 years and has served as Trustee since 1989. A strong believer in public service, he serves at the Cook County Zoning Board of Appeals.

"As a long time business operator at the White Eagle Banquets, I know full well the frustration of residents when their homes and basements flood. I want to develop a long term plan to keep the flood waters out of Niles basements."

Zoning Board Commissioner George "Kappy's" Alpogiannis will bring another businessman's approach and innovation to the Niles Village Board. A 10 year Niles resident and Zoning Board member since 2001, he knows that a healthy business climate means a stronger Village.

"I'm a successful business man. I know keeping businesses in Niles and filling vacant storefronts means more revenue for the Village and less pressure on homeowners to plug the gaps. I will work to retain great senior and family services."

Vote for the CONTINUING ECONOMIC STABILITY Party on April 7th

The National Hellenic Free Press, after an extensive research, endorses George "Kappy's" Alpogiannis for Trustee in the "Continuing Economic Stability Party" for the elections of April 7th in Niles, Illinois. George, after a couple of unfortunate events that happened during his high school years, he turned out being a successful businessman and a compassionate person. He enjoys working with young people and providing them with a positive atmosphere to enable them to become good citizens and future leaders in the communities they live in. He is very active in his parish of St. Haralambos and recently he became the president of that parish. In May of 2001 he was appointed to the Niles Plan and Zoning Board of Appeals and is a chairman of the Niles Sister Cities program with Nafplion, Greece. He said "I will continue to run on my record as a successful businessman, devoted family man, and active citizen in the Niles Community".