

NATIONAL HELLENIC FREE PRESS GREEK AMERICAN NEWSPAPER



VOL. 25

NO. 305

CHICAGO, IL.

OCTOBER, 2009

PAPPAS HONORS GREEK STAR NEWS PAPER FOR 105TH ANNIVERSARY



Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas presents an award of excellence in her office to Maria Bappert, who has worked for the Greek Star newspaper for 29 years, and to honor the paper's 105th anniversary. "A substantial number of people depend on you for information and engagement in the community. Your work is of great importance not only to them, but to all who believe that written communication makes society better. Thank you for your dedication, and best wishes as you continue on your honorable and vital work," Pappas told Bappert.

Leader vote troubles ND

Conservatives struggle to agree on how next party president will be elected

New Democracy continued to debate yesterday when a party congress should be held to elect a new leader and who should have the right to vote in such an election, despite current president Costas Karamanlis apparently insisting that he will step down on November 7 no matter what.

Karamanlis came under more pressure yesterday to ensure that all ND members are given the chance to vote for the next leader, not just congress delegates.

Some 4,800 delegates took part in the last party congress two years ago and under New Democracy's constitution, they would be the ones to vote on November 7, which is when Karamanlis has proposed the meeting should be held.

The former prime minister held talks yes-

opening up the process to more people but expressed concern that the party's rules should not be disregarded.

"Any agreement to broaden the electoral body, so that the voice of grass-roots supporters can be heard, finds me in agree-



ment," she said before adding, "We have a constitution and it's not a piece of scrap paper that can be changed to suit needs at any given time."

The third high-profile candidate expected to run for ND leader, former Culture Minister Antonis Samaras, also indicated that he was not troubled by which voting process would be adopted. "I accept any agreement, be it for a small or large playing field, as long as the integrity of the process is safeguarded."

One option open to the conservatives is to hold the congress on November 7 and – instead of electing a new leader – agree to change the voting process and set a new date for the election.



terday with one of the leadership hopefuls, Dimitris Avramopoulos, who is in favor of conservatives around Greece being given the chance to choose the party's next president.

"The proposal to allow the grass roots to elect the next leader is what the people expect," said the former health minister.

One of the other leading contenders for the job, ex-Foreign Minister Dora Bakoyannis, backed in principle the idea of

Era of transparency heralded

George Papandreou and his team of ministers disperse after a group photo at Parliament yesterday, shortly before attending handover ceremonies at the departments where they took over from outgoing New Democracy officials.



In a first for Greek politics and an attempt to prove that he wants to do things differently to previous governments, Prime Minister George Papandreou yesterday allowed his first ministerial meeting to be broadcast live on television before his newly appointed Cabinet assumed its duties.

Papandreou, who will also be acting as foreign minister for the time being, and his 13 other ministers were sworn recently before the first meeting of a ministerial council, which included the 21 deputy ministers and two alternate ministers who have been named in the government.

In keeping with tradition, Papandreou addressed his new team, but in an apparent sign of a new spirit of transparency in government he allowed television channels to broadcast the event live.

"The mandate we have received is to turn things around, to change the way the country is governed and to bring some dignity to the relationship between the state and citizens," Papandreou told his ministers, some of whom took notes while others preferred simply to listen.

Papandreou gave his ministers a one-week deadline to assess the problems at their ministries and report back to him. The new premier, unlike his predecessor Costas Karamanlis, intends to hold regular meetings of the ministerial council, not just the Cabinet, sources said.

Papandreou said that Interior Minister Yiannis Ragousis would soon be announcing measures relating to the way that ministers take official decisions and the subsequent publica-

tion of these on the Internet, which was one of PASOK's campaign pledges designed to improve transparency. The prime minister also heralded an effort to simplify Greece's laws, which is a task that is being undertaken by State Minister Haris Paboukis.

Papandreou stressed to his ministers the need to combat corruption, which he said had reached "pandemic levels." "We have to become the catalysts for change, not the apologists of power," he said, ordering his ministers to dismantle any committees operating under their ministry's auspices, identifying them as being too closely linked to political parties and a drain on financial resources.

However Papandreou did not stop there. He then invited Ombudsman Giorgos Kaminis into the meeting to present some of the problems that people encounter in their everyday dealings with the public sector in particular. This part of the meeting was also televised.

Kaminis stressed to the new government that each change of administration should not lead also to a wholesale change of personnel in the civil service and that it was important to hold on to people that were doing their job properly.

The head of the watchdog said that the Ombudsman's office had repeatedly informed ministers in the past about its concerns but this rarely led to any action being taken.

Kaminis also underlined the need for the government to tackle the immigration problem and suggested that a temporary "halfway" solution needed to be found for undocumented migrants living in Greece, whereby they would be given the right to receive health and social care without fear of being arrested.

Sources said yesterday that Papandreou's appointments had generally been welcomed within PASOK and that there was no sign that they would cause any internal unrest.

However, the prime minister's decision to abolish the Macedonia-Thrace Ministry was slammed by the leader of the Popular Orthodox Rally, Giorgos Karatzaferis, who said that this was a victory for Matthew Nimetz, the UN mediator in Greece's name dispute with the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Turning the page

By Nikos Xydakis

George Papandreou's new Cabinet has made a very good first impression. To a public weary of the same old faces, addicted to the public persona of its politicians and thirsty for new images, the new faces of government are a tonic, especially as far as the younger and women ministers are concerned. The new government's first success has, therefore, been on the public relations front and the image it is putting forth is that George Papandreou's PASOK is severing ties with the brutish PASOK of the 1980s and even more so with the hated PASOK that played with the stock market and left its morals at the door in 2000-04. On the other hand, the public profile paraded before us strikes a chord with the middle and upper classes of modern Greek society. The more technologically and stylistically savvy 30- to 40-year-olds will find more qualities in the new ministers with which they can identify, even if the sympathy runs only skin deep. After all, we live in an age of images and semantics – action, effort, results, conflicts and/or possible failures will come later. Basically, people are tired and disappointed. They are pessimistic and cannot take anymore doom and gloom. They need a good dose of optimism, a little bit of hope. They are also at a point where they will believe promises, however shallow they are, as long as they provide some momentary relief. The winter season proper began last week. Restaurants and bars are buzzing with people; theaters, galleries and cinemas are presenting new things, the entire city is buzzing. And, under cover of darkness, the police are reclaiming the gray zones of Athens, just a few hours after the Cabinet met with the Ombudsman. Quietly, with its inherent problems but also its virtues, the country is turning a new page.

National Hellenic FREE PRESS

Publisher:

SOTIRIS REKOUNIS

EDITOR: DENISE REKOUNIS

LAYOUTS: JĪĆÍ RĂĖÏUĖŚ

CONTRIBUTORS: DR. STAVROS BASSEAS, JOHN REKOUNIS
DENISE REKOUNIS, DR. JORDAN TSOLAKIDIS, CHRIS MERENTITIS

MARYANNA SPYROPOULOS, ATTORNEY AT LAW

THE PLATFORM OF THE "FREE PRESS":

1. To defend all who are unjustly attacked.
2. To applaud the achievements of all our people.
3. To support the ideas of the Greek Orthodox Faith.
4. To promote the use of the Greek Language.
5. To extend the knowledge of Hellenism, Greek culture and traditions.
6. To encourage all worthy community causes.
7. To further the just causes of the people of Greece.
8. To uphold the Greek Cypriot cause.
9. To assist all Greek-American fraternal, cultural, patriotic and religious organizations.
10. To install Americanism in the Greek-American community.

LAW OFFICE OF MARIYANNA SPYROPOULOS



**180 N. LASALLE ST.
SUITE 1801
CHICAGO, IL. 60611**

**PHONE: (312) 456-8005
FAX: (312) 456-8006**

ENTERTAINMENT LIVE

By Denise Rekounis



In Movie News

According to studio estimates issued on Sunday, "G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra" sold about \$56.2 million worth of tickets during its first three days since opening on Friday, the fourth-biggest August debut of all time. The toried Venice Film Festival is updating its awards lineup by offering a prize for the best 3D movie of the year. Organizers said in a statement Saturday that nine films will compete for the new award at the festival's 66th edition on Sept. 2-12.

American Idol Drama

Paula Abdul may have left "American Idol," but could a move to "Dancing With the Stars" be in her future? Such a move would find Paula switching from singing to dancing - something that she, a two-time Emmy award winner for Outstanding Choreography, is well versed in. The star announced via Twitter earlier this week that her "Idol" days were over after eight seasons on the show, but she hasn't nailed down her next move yet. After the news that she'd be leaving "Idol," Paula told The Associated Press later in the week that she was fielding a number of options.

Will Quentin Tarantino make his "Kill Bill" series a trilogy? The "Inglourious Basterds" director said he's planning on it during a recent appearance on the Italian talk show "Parla con Me" - but he's waiting until 2014.

And in the ongoing Polanski Battle... The film director agreed to pay his sexual assault victim \$500,000 to settle a lawsuit 15 years after he fled the United States, according to court documents provided to media outlets Friday.

Polanski and the victim, Samantha Geimer, reached the deal in October 1993. The terms of the settlement were confidential, but the amount was disclosed in court documents because of a two-year struggle to get Polanski to pay. Court records do not indicate if Polanski, now 76, ever paid.

AND LOOK OUT FOR A CHUNKIER JIM CARREY...

The comedian has promised to gain 40-50 pounds for his role as Curly in "The Three Stooges" — more than the 30 Matt put on for "The Informant!" — and he showed off a chubbier figure on Thursday night at UCLA's 2009 Visionary Ball in Beverly Hills.

in celebrity baby news... Salma Hayek may be a few years removed from giving birth, but returning to the set for the first time since welcoming daughter Valentina in August 2007 still wasn't easy. But taking on her role as Madame Truska in "The Vampire's Assistant" was easier for the actress to tackle for one big reason - it was a small part.

AND... Angelina Jolie met with Iraqi refugees in Syria on Friday and urged the world not to forget the plight of those among them who cannot return home because of the trauma they suffered and the country's instability. Jolie visited Syria in her role as a goodwill ambassador for the United Nations' refugee agency, UNHCR, and was accompanied by her partner, Brad Pitt, the agency said. Tens of thousands of Iraqi refugees have returned home from Syria and other neighboring countries over the past year, but many more are unable or unwilling to return to a country still shaken by violence.

PLUS Italy's main animal rights group has asked prosecutors to stop further screenings of Giuseppe Tornatore's new film "Baaria" because it features the gruesome slaughtering of a bull. The head of the National Association for Animal Protection (ENPA), Carla Rocchi, filed a complaint saying the scene in Italy's film choice for the Academy Awards — in which the bull is first struck with an ice pick and then has its throat slit while still alive — amounted to "senseless cruelty."

FINALLY...IN THE CONTINUING LETTERMAN DRAMA An ex-"Late Show" intern unmasked herself Saturday as one of David Letterman's former flings - and sources revealed the randy funnyman keeps a bachelor pad atop the Ed Sullivan Theater. "I was madly in love with him at the time," said Holly Hester. "I would have married him. He was hilarious."

The NYU alum, who it appears went on to become a top Hollywood producer, told TMZ.com that the relationship started in the early '90s when Letterman called and asked her on a date to the movies. A year-long, secret romance ensued, she said, until the funnyman called it off because of their age difference.

www.thechicagogreekhours

Obama Says He’s ‘Surprised’ and ‘Humbled’ by Nobel Prize

President Obama was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday for his “extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples,” a surprising honor that came less than nine months after he



made United States history by becoming the country’s first African-American president. President Barack Obama spoke after winning the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize on Friday. The award, announced in Oslo by the Nobel Committee while much of official Washington — including the president — was still asleep, cited in particular the president’s efforts to rid the world of nuclear weapons. “He has created a new international climate,” the committee said. For Mr. Obama, at 48 one of the nation’s youngest presidents, the award is an extraordinary recognition that puts him in the company

of world leaders such as Mikhail S. Gorbachev, who won for helping to bring an end to the cold war, and Nelson Mandela, who sought an end to apartheid. But it is also a potential political liability at home; already, Republicans are criticizing the president, contending he won more for his “star power” than his actual achievements.

Appearing in the Rose Garden, Mr. Obama said he was “surprised and deeply humbled” by the committee’s decision, and quickly put to rest any speculation that he might not accept the honor. Describing the award as an “affirmation of American leadership on behalf of aspirations held by people in all nations,” he said he would accept it as “a call to action.”

“To be honest,” the president said “I do not feel that I deserve to be in the company of so many of the transformative figures who have been honored by this prize, men and women who’ve inspired me and inspired the entire world through their courageous pursuit of peace.”

The news shocked people in Oslo — where an audible gasp escaped the audience when the decision was announced — and in Washington, where top advisers to Mr. Obama said they had no idea it was coming.

The prize will be awarded in Oslo on Dec. 10, and the White House said Mr. Obama would attend the ceremony. Mr. Gibbs said the president told him that he would donate the prize money, roughly \$1.4 million, to charity.

In perhaps a reflection of the awkwardness the prize has created within the White House, there was no air of celebration or flood of congratulatory telephone calls. Mr. Gibbs said he did not know if the president had heard from any of his predecessors. And the spokesman declined to share the president’s precise reaction to the news, saying only that Mr. Obama was “very surprised.”

More Turks using Greek language to open doors

More Turks are using Greek language to open doors. Students show growing interest in classes. Turkish graduates of summer courses are seen at Aristotle University’s School of Mod-



ern Greek in Thessaloniki. Turks are showing increasing interest in learning Greek, judging by enrollments at Aristotle University’s School of Modern Greek. Until two years ago, German students were the largest group among the students from more than 60 countries. Now it is Turks, representing 19 out of a total of 280 who attended the monthlong summer school at AU. The Turks are also a strong presence in the language preparation course for Erasmus scholars, 22 out of 94. “There has been a growing intake of Turkish students in recent years,” commented the school’s director, Theodora Kalli, who said they showed a preference for universities in Thessaloniki and Crete. Some study in the Modern Greek departments of Istanbul and Izmir universities, while others study subjects related to Greek art and history. Among those studying Greek for academic and professional reasons are Serap Gios, 26,

who studied Ancient Greek in Ankara and is now studying Ancient Greek and Roman literature; Mariva Tabus, 23, who has studied Ottoman history and wants to do a doctorate on women’s movements in the 19th-century Ottoman Empire; and architect Milker Sumartas, 29, who is studying the architectural heritage of Tenedos. “Language opens doors,” Nezhil Ohrun, 39, who teaches at a university in Eskisehir, told Kathimerini. His family came from Hania in Crete, and he grew up listening to stories about friendships between Turks and Greeks. He is one of the forces behind the Greek-Turkish Short Film festival that will take place in Thessaloniki next spring. Among the Turks who learn Greek for purely sentimental reasons is Hassan Gris, 38, from Izmir, who has roots in Thessaloniki and Kavala. Even though none of his family spoke Greek, he came to the conclusion that it was “the most beautiful language in the world.”

And Vanessa Nastaoglou, 20, a Christian whose father is Greek and mother Armenian, is taking Greek back to Hatay on the Syrian border where she lives. Suley Hussein, 32, a member of Komotini’s Muslim community, has lived in Istanbul since she was 8. Next time she renews her Greek passport she doesn’t want to have to speak English.

Gris said there aren’t many opportunities to learn Greek in Turkey. Orhon believes Greeks should promote their language. According to Mariva, lots of people in Turkey would like to learn Greek but there is a lack of schools and teachers. There is also a growing demand from Turkish universities for cooperation with their Greek counterparts, which includes the teaching of Modern Greek. For the past four years, Thessaloniki and Canakkale universities have cooperated to have Greek academics teaching Greek to Turkish students. Enrollments are high, with 97 students in the spring semester of 2009.

Outlook for honey not so sweet

The use of pesticides by crop farmers and the repercussions of climate change are having an increasingly negative impact on the production of honey in Greece as well as many other countries in the broader region. The increasing tendency by farmers to spray their crops with chemicals is currently the big-



gest problem, according to Andreas Thrasyvoulos, professor of apiculture at Thessaloniki’s Aristotle University. He said that the widespread use of pesticides had resulted in the dwindling of potential sources of pollen. “A few years ago 10 percent of Greek honey came from cotton flowers but that is no longer the case,” Thrasyvoulos

said, noting that beekeepers are now avoiding cotton plantations due to the liberal use of pesticides there by farmers. The problems caused by climate change are equally real though less imminent, according to experts. “The dry spells caused by climate change have affected crops by limiting their pollen production, which ultimately means less honey in hives,” Thrasyvoulos said. He and other apiculturists are now proposing that Greece consider implementing measures to offset the losses suffered by the sector due to the impact of pesticides and climate change, which is expected to have a serious impact on Greece’s environment over the next 10 years. European Union subsidies for boosting Greece’s apiculture sector are in the region of 5.4 million euros a year, according to official estimates. Some experts are proposing that Greece follow the example of Israel which has started cultivating special pollen-rich crops to offset the losses to its honey production caused by the reduced pollen production of other crops. A reported increase in the bee populations of Greece and other European countries has not helped counter the problems posed by climate change and pesticides, according to experts who say that the chief scourge is that of low pollen production by crops.

Armenia to sign historic accord with Turkey

Members of the Armenia’s Dashnaktsutyun political party hold a protest and hunger-strike against the terms of a Swiss-brokered deal on normalising Armenian-Turkish relations in Yerevan on 15 September, 2009.



Turkey and Armenia are preparing to sign a historic agreement normalising relations between them after a century of hostility. But the deal has been met by protests in Armenia, where many people say it does not fully address the 1915 killing of hundreds of thousands of Armenians. The two countries remain deeply divided over the killings under Ottoman rule during World War I.



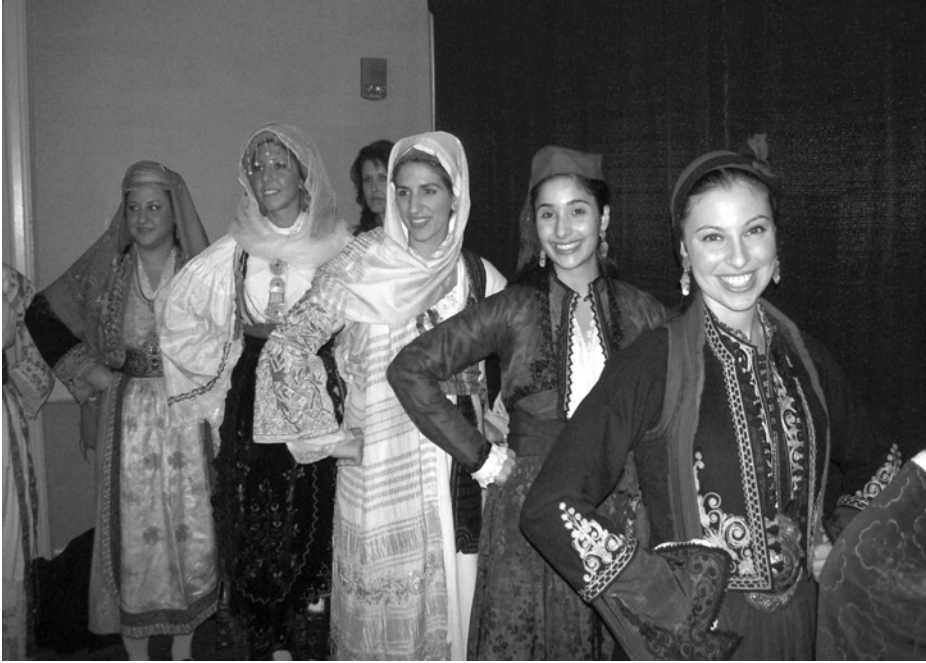
Armenian protesters say the killings must be fully acknowledged

The accords are due to be signed after months of Swiss-mediated talks. US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is among the dignitaries expected to attend the signing in Zurich, Switzerland. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner and the EU’s High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, Javier Solana, are also expected to be at the ceremony. Several thousand people protested on Friday in the Armenian capital, Yerevan, saying that Turkey should recognise the 1915 killings as genocide before ties are restored.

“The international recognition of the Armenian genocide will be hindered by this signature, or ratification,” said Vahan Hovanissyan, a member of parliament for the nationalist Dashnak Tsutyun party. One protester said he was not opposed to the opening of the border, but was “against the setting up of a commission that will allow Turkey to further postpone declaring the killings as genocide”. **Open borders** Hundreds of thousands of Armenians died in 1915, when they were deported en masse from eastern Anatolia to the Syrian desert and elsewhere. They were killed by Ottoman troops or died from starvation or disease. **Hillary Clinton** Hillary Clinton is expected to attend the signing ceremony in Zurich. Armenians have campaigned for the killings to be recognised internationally as genocide - and more than 20 countries have done so. Turkey admits that many Armenians were killed but it denies any genocide, saying the deaths were part of the widespread fighting that took place in World War I. A roadmap for normalising relations between Turkey and Armenia was agreed in April. Under the accords expected to be signed on Saturday, the two countries will resume diplomatic ties and open their shared border. The agreement also calls for a joint commission of independent historians to study the genocide issue. Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan has said the deal will still need parliamentary approval in Turkey and Armenia after being signed by their foreign ministers. It is in the best interest of both countries that they forget about the past and start a new era in their relationship

Turkey closed its border with Armenia in 1993 because of its war with Azerbaijan over the disputed region of Nagorno Karabakh. The anti-protocol activists are struggling to make their voices heard. Most Armenians seem to feel their country has been too isolated since the Turkish border closed in 1993 and are ready for it to reopen, says our correspondent. But even those in favour of the border reopening feel that they have not been properly consulted by the government, he says.

REPORTAZ FROM AMERICA'S GREEK DANCE AND CHORAL COMPETITION(October, 9, 10, 11)



Costumes (stoles) fashion show by Dora Stratou Dance theatre



The female group of "Nefeli" Dancers from Tononto, Canada



The "NEOLAEA" dance group from Chicago, Illinois



The "Cretan Youtth Dance Group from Chicago.



The "OMEGA" dance Group frm Fort Wayne.



The Panamerican Hellenic Dancers from Florida providing their own music



The "Lavrys" Dance Group from Astoria N. Y., Male section.



The Lavrys Dance Group from Astoria N.Y. Female section

Plant Your Roots in Greece

The Birthplace of Olympic Ideals
& Universal Spirit



Plant Your Roots in Greece

To Reverse the Loss of Greece's Forests

A HELLENIC AMERICAN NON-PROFIT, NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

Under the Auspices of Hellenic-American National Council and SAE U.S.A. Region

Ecology and Volunteerism are notions that were coined in Ancient Greece. The worldview of the Ancient Greeks was based on the principle that nature is sacred and that human beings are not the result of a creation but a part of the evolutionary, in a sacred way, creation.

The "Plant Your Roots in Greece" Foundation, promotes the spirit of reconciliation of the modern man with his natural environment in combination with the Olympic ideal of volunteerism. In collaboration with groups of volunteers, students, athletes, fire fighters, citizens, and hunters and with the regional Municipal Authorities, it has reforested Greek regions affected by fire and natural disasters.

Trees are a source of life, a sign of civilization. You too can contribute and help Greece become green again, the sacred land where the great pan-humanitarian values were coined. Plant a tree in your name or the name of a beloved one. Make the dream come true.

"Plant Your Roots in Greece Foundation", is a non-profit tax-exempt organization, incorporated in Washington DC.

2155 WEST 80th Street CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60620-5315 Tel. (773) 783-5555

Fax: (773) 994 5037 E-mail: tgshanc@aol.com

Plant Your Roots in Greece

Yes, I will join the "Plant Your Roots Program" to reforest the Greek mountains and countryside.

Special Donations

☐ \$20 - 2 Trees (Minimum donation) -Name _____

☐ \$50 - 5 Trees

☐ \$100 - 10 Trees

☐ \$1000 - A "Grove" of 100 Trees

☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms.

-Address _____

Tel.: _____

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ for _____ trees.

Make checks payable to: "Plant Your Roots in Greece Foundation, Inc."

2155 W. 80th Street, Chicago, IL 60620 U.S.A. or Deposits in Greece:

TRAPEZA PISTEOΣ, Acct. #143-0021-01-03-7288 or

EUROBANK Acct. #: 0026.0012.39.0100763237

Send Certificate of Appreciation to: _____ Mr. _____ Mrs. _____ Ms.

Name _____

Address _____

To Honor/In Memory of (circle one) _____

Ad sponsored by T.G.S. Petroleum Inc.

NEWS FROM GREECE

Taliban in talks to free teacher

Athanasios Lerounis, a Greek volunteer teacher abducted from his home in northwestern Pakistan early last month, is alive and well and negotiations for his release are moving forward, the local Chitral Times has reported.

A delegation of elders from Pakistan's Bumburet Valley who visited Afghanistan for talks with the Greek teacher's Taliban kidnappers announced that Lerounis is safe and that his abductors have dropped their demand for a ransom of 2 million dollars, the newspaper said. However, the kidnappers have reportedly said they will only release the teacher if Pakistani authorities approve the release of three Afghan Taliban leaders, the elders learned.

Four of the six-member delegation have remained in the mountainous Afghan province of Nuristan, where Lerounis is being held captive, to continue negotiations with the Taliban kidnappers while the other two have returned to Pakistan, the report added.

Lerounis has been working as a volunteer teacher for a humanitarian organization in Pakistan since 1995.

University rankings

The rector of Athens University, Christos Kittas, yesterday called on the state to "show more trust" in the institution after it was named in the top 200 universities in the world in an annual list. Athens University moved up 23 places to 177th in the Times Higher Education and QS Top Universities rankings. "We are in the top 1 percent of all tertiary education institutions in the world despite working in very diffi-

cult conditions." Harvard was ranked the world's best university.

Papandreou holds talks with Erdogan

Prime Minister George Papandreou and his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan discussed all issues concerning Greek-Turkish relations during their meeting here



on Friday afternoon.

The meeting lasted for over an hour and the Greek prime minister's impression, as he informed the reporters of the Greek mission and Greek correspondents in Turkey, was that Erdogan has the political will to help solve problems but, as he stressed, he must turn this into acts.

Papandreou outlined for his Turkish counterpart the message he sent to the Turk-

ish people in a statement earlier in the day, a message that he termed "simple and understandable" and pointed out to Erdogan that "we have proved that we want good relations with Turkey and we support its European course."

However, he added, "Turkey must also take the steps that Europe requires so that its accession course can move forward."

The Greek prime minister said that all this will also be evaluated at the EU Summit, and replying to a question on whether there is the possibility of Greece exercising a veto at the European Union summit in December, he noted that all the tools will be on the table.

In any case, as Papandreou stressed, it is an important date and the evaluation that will be taking place there will be serious.

Papandreou made special reference to the issue of Cyprus, pointing out to Erdogan that he supports the efforts of Cyprus President Demetris Christofias for a new agreement to be reached on the Cyprus issue in the framework of UN resolutions and the *acquis communautaire*.

He called on his Turkish counterpart to also support Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat "to contribute in turn to the finding of such a solution."

Also raised during the discussion, were the issues of Turkish infringements and violations in the Aegean, and Papandreou mentioned that he noticed there as well some intention of a change in stance on the part of Turkey and pointed out, in parallel, that Greece "lost two considerable opportunities in 2004 and 2005 to promote a solution to

issues preoccupying the two countries."

Replying to a question, Papandreou observed that the European Commission's informative note on December's Summit is not positive for Greece and that he had a telephone conversation on this issue with Commission President Barroso.

Papandreou revealed Greece's position on the points included in the Commission's text, while he intends to meet the Commission's President soon.

The Greek prime minister was also questioned on a report in the Turkish press according to which he intends to propose a peace pact to Turkey and replied that "it is still early."

Papandreou was asked whether his proposal on the accession of the Western Balkans to the European Union in 2014 is also a milestone for the accession of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) and Kosovo.

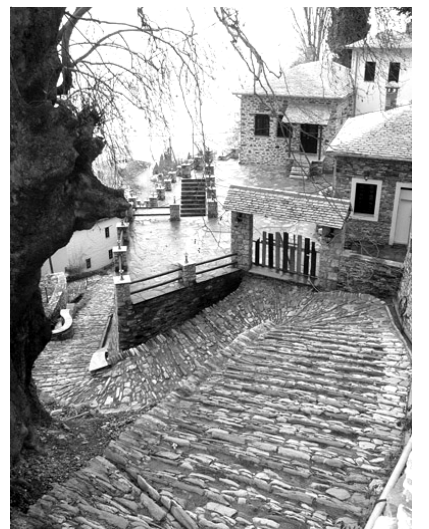
Papandreou pointed out that for Kosovo the solution must be found with a consensus between the two sides and that the prospect of the accession of the Western Balkans can help solve such problems. The same applies to FYROM, he added.

Referring to his trip to Turkey in general, Papandreou said that he wished to give a sample of the foreign policy that Greece will follow from now on, with initiatives and the country's presence that will give the feeling that there is a diplomacy with aims, a vision and practical results.

Caption: Newly-elected Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou, who also holds the foreign ministry portfolio, participated in the SEECP informal foreign ministers' in Istanbul on Friday. ANA-MPA

Environmental Education Center in Makrinitza

The Environmental Education Center in the picturesque village of Makrinitza on Mt Pelion overlooking the Pagasitikos Bay in Magnesia Prefecture, central Greece, has been



in operation since 1999, focusing on raising environmental awareness among the youth.

Furthermore, it is involved in the materialization of environmental education programmes for primary and secondary education schools, the publication of informational material and the creation of pilot programmes-guides for schools.

Roughly 24,000 pupils and 4,000 educators have already visited the center, housed in the Vatsareas-Mavrakis Mansion, a four-storey building dating back to 1830. ANA-MPA.

Deficit flirting 12% mark

Greece's public deficit reached 10 percent of GDP in the nine-month period between January and September 2009 and looked set to rise to 12 percent of GDP by the end of the current year, Bank of Greece governor George Provopoulos said on Friday.

He made the statement after emerging from a lengthy meeting with Finance Minister George Papaconstantinou, also attended by Deputy Finance Minister Filippos Sahinidis and the general director of the Public Debt Management Agency Spyros Papanikolaou.

www.thechicagogreekhours.com



GREEK ISLANDS

BEST WISHES FROM AMERICA'S MOST POPULAR GREEK RESTAURANTS

CHICAGO
200 S. HALSTED
(312)782-9855

LOMBARD
300 E. 22ND ST.
(630)932-4545

MONEMVASIA WINERY



MALVA OIL CO.



Imported
exclusively for the
Greek Islands
Restaurants.

Please visit us
for a delicious
meal, and don't
forget to
purchase your
wine, extra virgin
olive oil, Greek
honey, oregano
and more...

PICTURES FROM THE WORLD



Visitors look at a huge model of the city of Shanghai displayed at the Urban Planning museum in Shanghai. After the 2008 Beijing Olympics, China is planning to stage the Shanghai's 2010 World Expo, the largest World's Fair to date. The six-month exhibition starts on May 1.



Austrian-born bodybuilder and actor Arnold Schwarzenegger points one hand out as he flexes his torso on Muscle Beach, Santa Monica, California, 1966. Schwarzenegger was elected governor of California 8 October 2003, ousting the incumbent, Gray Davis, three years before his term was due to end. It is the first time in the state's history that a governor has been sacked mid-term.



Filipino residents stand on top of a roof due to high floods in Carmen, Pangasinan. Dozens of landslides in the rain-soaked mountains of the northern Philippines killed more people, as a lingering storm and excess water from dams turned a portion of one province into "one big river," officials said.



Latvia-Greece 5-2 and Gekas the scorer of 4 goals! Greece, with this great victory, has many hopes to be at the world soccer cup games in South Africa.

Education Normal

“Are you ever afraid that homeschooling your kids will make them, um, oddballs?” We were staring into the campfire. The kids had all been tucked more or less comfortably into their sleeping bags, and we parents were savoring the opportunity to talk. With the cool night crowding us closer to the fire, the conversation was lively, though tinged by a reflective mood.

As anyone who is the parent of small children will know, the conversation eventually turned to kids. Soon we were talking about how to raise godly children in a culture that, in many ways, seems intent on undermining their faith. And not only their faith. Many of today’s cultural forces create impediments to a sound education as well as a solid faith. These must be resisted. But that persistent question remains.

Books versus TV

Are we raising kids who won’t fit in? I have asked this of myself regularly over the past few years. My wife and I are educating our three boys at home. We don’t watch television (only an occasional video). We emphasize books. We read to the kids and make them memorize poetry. We pray together on our knees. In many ways, our kids are culturally ignorant. They don’t know about Disney World. The other day, my five-year-old asked, “Who is Mickey Mouse?”

So I guess the answer to the question has to be yes. But the “yes” is a qualified one, for when one considers the concept of “odd,” one should ask, “compared to what?” This moves us in a helpful direction, for if “normal” is merely what everyone else does, then what is normal changes with the times. What is odd in one time might not be odd in another. On the other hand, if “normal” refers to a proper way of being human, and if human nature is unchanging, then what is odd, in the sense of being opposed to the majority, may in fact be normal.

As we consider exactly what, in our culture, sets the odd kids apart, it seems to me that the clearest and brightest line can be drawn when we ask the following question: Will your kids be raised primarily on books or on television? To put it another way: Will your children be educated in a logocentric environment, where the written and spoken word is the primary conveyer of meaning, or will they ingest most of their information through electronically generated images?

Now, of course, emphasizing books over television is not the entire story, for books vary in quality and there are plenty of books that cultivate misshapen virtues and a cynical view of life. But I think it is safe to say that parents who make the effort to emphasize books as a way of life will generally be those who have been powerfully moved by books themselves. They have experienced the wonder and joy and goodness of certain books and will introduce these to their children even as one introduces a family member to a much-loved friend.

But setting the content of the books aside (for only a moment), those whose minds are shaped by an ongoing encounter with language will develop mental habits that include patience, perseverance, the ability to think abstractly, and an imagination that does not require the constant stimulation of external images. The imagination of the reader (guided by the author) creates the images, whereas the child raised on television merely imbibes what has already been fully rendered by the camera.

More than Rules

There are two facets to educating a child well. The first is to recognize that education is not merely the accumulation of facts, but that it has an unavoidably moral aspect. A suitable education must do more, therefore, than simply teach facts, even moral facts. Education must seek to cultivate the moral imagination of the child, for reducing moral education to a list of rules is bound to fail.

For one thing, just as it is impossible to make laws to cover every conceivable situation, so, too, it is impossible to create a moral code that does the same. The complexity of human life precludes the sort of detailed arrangement that would reduce moral and legal reasoning to the mechanical application of myriads of rules. Judgment is a necessary part of moral decision-making, and judgment must be cultivated through practice. And an important part of this practice comes through encounters with historical and literary characters.

Another reason why moral education cannot be reduced to a set of rules is that lists of

rules fail to move the imagination. They do not elicit the aid of that spirited part of the soul of which Plato writes. Consider which of the following would educate a young person more effectively: (1) a rule stating, “Be brave,” or (2) the story of Leonidas at Thermopylae or Henry V’s St. Crispin’s Day speech.

Stirring a child to aspire to noble thoughts and deeds is a central role of education. The example of Our Lord is instructive: He educated his disciples by telling them stories.

Centered on the Word

The second facet of a sound education is developing in the child a logocentric view of reality. Holy Scripture is accessible only to those who are literate. God has revealed himself through the words of Scripture, wherein we read that “In the beginning was the Word.” Christ is the Logos. God did not give us a Sacred Picture Book. He gave us words by which we, via our imaginations, can gain access to eternal truths.

This is not to say that we cannot and do not employ visual images to depict sacred truths, for the telling of a parable is itself an exercise in creating a mental picture that illustrates what is true. But if our children are raised primarily on visual images, if they do not cultivate the mental disciplines necessary to access truth via language, then the Holy Scriptures will remain opaque, the creeds and confessions of faith will be meaningless recitations, and hymn lyrics will be merely pleasant-sounding rhymes to accompany occasionally pleasant-sounding music.

While the ultimate aim of education is to cultivate the souls of children toward godly virtue, a secondary but related end is the preservation of civilization. The foundations of our civilization, so long in their development, bought at such a high price, are being attacked in many quarters and are simply ignored or taken for granted in others. If we ignore the past, if we fail to grasp the invaluable and delicate gift we have received, if we fail to pass this love on to our children, then civilization itself is in jeopardy.

And our particular civilization, for which the spoken and written word has been such a central part, cannot be perpetuated by those who are not both literate and loving. That is, stewards of our civilization must possess well-cultivated language faculties capable of grasping complex and abstract ideas and concepts. But the ability is not sufficient, for these stewards must also have a deep love for that which they have inherited. Their well-formed moral imaginations will not be duped by cheap goodness or half-truths or paltry beauties. They will love that which is best and seek to improve that which is wanting.

Normal Children Needed

If a proper education is to accomplish or at least to seek to accomplish these tasks, then a normal child is one whose moral imagination is well formed, whose soul is oriented toward a love of logos and the Logos, and who knows and loves the best of his own civilization. Such a child will, perhaps unwittingly, become a steward of the good, the true, and the beautiful. In a world where normal is considered odd, such children are desperately needed.

Several years ago, when I was away at a conference, my wife took our three young sons out to eat. It was a family restaurant; still, apparently so families wouldn’t have to talk with each other, televisions were positioned at strategic points around the room. Now, children who don’t watch much television seem almost hypnotized when they encounter it. It is extraordinarily difficult for them to ignore. So with the television hovering overhead, my wife struggled to maintain a conversation with three young boys who were craning their necks to see the screen.

Somewhere in the course of dinner, an episode of The Simpsons came on, and this episode just happened to include a spoof on Homer (the Greek poet, not Bart’s dad). Our oldest son, Seth, who was six at the time, soon pointed and exclaimed, “Mom! That kid is pretending to be Odysseus!” He didn’t know Bart and Company, but he did know Homer. Score one for normal.

Mark T. Mitchell teaches political theory at Patrick Henry College in Virginia. He is the co-founder of Front Porch Republic.



Iran: is a deal on the way?

It's only weeks ago that the US, France and Britain announced that they'd discovered a hitherto unadmitted Iranian nuclear facility near the religious centre of Qom.

Recently, in Geneva, during more than seven



hours of talks, Iran seemed to be keen to defuse what looked like becoming a major new bone of contention.

According to a "senior US official", Iran has accepted a proposal - not about the Qom plant but about a much older one in Tehran - that, if implemented, "would be a positive interim step to help build confidence". (The full US background briefing is available here.)

The key questions were: would Iran agree to allow UN inspectors free access to the Qom plant? And would it agree to a proposal that it should export its known stocks of low-enriched uranium (LEU) to Russia, where it would be further enriched to allow it to be used for medical purposes but not for weapons?

The answers to both questions appear to be Yes. The New York Times reported: "Iran's agreement in principle to export most of its enriched uranium for processing — if it happens — would represent a major accomplishment for the West, reducing Iran's ability to make a nuclear weapon quickly and buying more time for negotiations to bear fruit."

By the way, a word about the people the Iranians were talking to yesterday. They are sometimes described as the E3 + 3 (in other words, three European nations - Britain, France and Germany - plus three others: the US, Russia, and China), or as the P5 + 1 (the five permanent members of the UN Security Council - the US, Russia, China, Britain and France - plus one other: Germany). It adds up, of course, to the same thing.

And just a thought about sanctions. Iran has been told that it has until the end of the year to satisfy the Security Council that it's not secretly developing nuclear weapons, or face the threat of tighter UN sanctions.

But if you look back at what sanctions did to Iraq under Saddam Hussein, or Zimbabwe (Southern Rhodesia as it was then) under Ian Smith, or Cuba under Fidel Castro (49 years and counting), it's evident that sanctions rarely do what they're designed to do.

And Iran has a neighbour, Iraq, with a very long border and a government that is more than friendly. No wonder many Western diplomats feel that the carrot may work better than the stick.

US First Lady 'slave roots' found

The White House has not yet commented on the research..

Research into the family of US First Lady Michelle Obama has revealed that her great-great-grandmother was a slave given away at the age of six.



According to genealogist Megan Smolenyak, the girl was described in papers only as "negro girl Melvinia".

In her early teens, working as a slave on a farm in Georgia, she was made pregnant by an unknown white man.

The son she gave birth to around the year 1859, Dolphus, was Michelle's great-great grandfather.

Megan Smolenyak, whose discoveries have been detailed in the New York Times newspaper, said she was not surprised by what she

discovered.

"But the fact that just 15 years after the death of Dolphus, one of his descendants was born who would end up in the White House, that is startling," she said.

'Intermingled'

The circumstances of Melvinia's first pregnancy are unclear, according to Ms Smolenyak. On the 1870 census, she is listed as having three mixed-race children, one born four years after emancipation.

When you research a family, some call more loudly than others - it's like they want to be found. "If you do African-American research that is not surprising at all - a lot of people don't appreciate how intermingled we are," Ms Smolenyak said.

According to her 1938 death certificate, the identity of Melvinia's parents was "unknown".

The White House has yet to comment on the research but Ms Smolenyak said she hoped the details of great-great grandparents Michelle Obama had perhaps not even heard of would "resonate".

She described how the slave girl and the son she bore seemed to want to be discovered.

"When you research a family, some call more loudly than others - it's like they want to be found. It was Melvinia and her son, Dolphus, that clearly wanted to be found," she said.

Peace an illusion, says Israel FM

Israeli border police check the ID of a Palestinian man in occupied East Jerusalem

Dropping comprehensive peace moves would suit Israel's plans for Jerusalem

Israel's foreign minister has said there is no chance of an early solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and told people to "learn to live



with it". Avigdor Lieberman does not lead Israeli peace negotiations, but his statement casts a pall over latest US diplomatic efforts to revive negotiations.

Envoy George Mitchell is in the region, spearheading Obama administration efforts to relaunch negotiations. Talks are stalled over the issue of Jewish settlements on occupied land. Mr Mitchell is due to meet Mr Lieberman and Israeli Defence Minister Ehud Barak on Thursday, and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas on Friday. Reports quote US officials saying the visit was unlikely to conclude with a resumption of talks.

But the envoy said before a meeting with Israel's president: "We're going to continue with our efforts to achieve an early relaunch of negotiations... because we believe that's an essential step toward achieving the comprehensive peace."

In a radio interview, Mr Lieberman said people who thought Israel and the Palestinians could reach a deal "do not understand reality and are sowing illusions". "We have to be realistic - we will not be able to reach agreement on core and emotional subjects like Jerusalem and the right of return (of Palestinian refugees," he said. "I am going to say very clearly - there are conflicts that have not been completely solved and people have learned to live with it, like Cyprus."

His suggestion was a long-term interim deal

to ensure prosperity, security and stability and leave tough questions until later.

Policy proposal

Mr Lieberman's comments are broadly in line with a policy proposal from within the Israeli foreign ministry leaked to the Israeli press on Thursday.

The document, which the BBC has seen, says: "Creating expectations that a comprehensive solution to the conflict can be reached might lead again to disappointment and frustration that will sour our relations with the US and Europe, and cause a violent reaction among the Palestinians.

"We can reach a interim agreement between the sides without solving the core issues such as Jerusalem, right of return and borders - that is the maximum which realistically could be attained and it's very important to convince the US and Europe of this."

The Foreign Ministry said the reports about the policy proposal were "partial leaks from internal documents" and the leaks were regrettable. It said Mr Lieberman had "requested a survey of existing policy and possible recommendations" as part of a "comprehensive discussion on Israel's foreign policy".

Stalled talks

The Obama administration has been struggling for months to pressure Israel to freeze settlement construction on occupied land, a key Palestinian demand for restarting talks. Israel has countenanced a temporary limit on construction in the West Bank, but not in occupied East Jerusalem. The fate of East Jerusalem and Palestinian refugees have not been the subject of the latest peace efforts.

Palestinians and Arab states say there must be a just and fair solution to these issues, while successive Israel governments have sought to keep all of Jerusalem under their control and argued that a right of return for Palestinian refugees would mean the end of the Jewish majority in Israel.

President Barack Obama called the refugees' situation "intolerable" but has not backed their right of return. Jerusalem in recent days has been the scene of rising tensions and sporadic clashes, focused on access to the al-Aqsa mosque compound, known to Jews as the Temple Mount, a flashpoint site in the Old City.

PM launches diplomacy offensive Papandreou has meetings with Turks

Prime Minister George Papandreou listens to Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu during talks in Istanbul yesterday that touched on Cyprus. The EC is sending Austrian diplomat Leopold Maurer to help with UN Cyprus talks.



Prime Minister George Papandreou, a seasoned diplomat who has also taken the helm of the new government's Foreign Ministry, yesterday held talks with his counterparts in Turkey on his first trip abroad since coming to office at the beginning of this week.

Papandreou, who was a frequent visitor to Turkey during his stint as foreign minister under the previous PASOK government from 1999 to 2004 and played a significant role in the rapprochement between Greece and Turkey following powerful earthquakes in the two countries in 1999, took the opportunity yesterday to reassure Turkish government officials of Greece's backing for Ankara's bid to join the European Union but also stressed that

this support is not unconditional.

The Greek premier described a meeting with his counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan as "very friendly" and "significant," noting that the Turkish leader had expressed his intention to work toward solving Greek-Turkish disputes in the Aegean as well as the Cyprus problem. Papandreou, who met his Turkish counterpart in Istanbul on the sidelines of an informal meeting of Balkan ministers, reassured Erdogan that Turkey had Greece's support but noted that "it must take the steps being demanded by the EU if the accession process is to progress."

Asked by reporters whether Greece would make use of its veto at a scheduled EU summit in December when Turkey's progress as a candidate state is due for assessment, the Greek premier noted that "all the tools of foreign policy are on the table." Papandreou also had talks with Turkey's Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu and with Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomaios, the spiritual leader of the world's Orthodox Christians, who is based in Istanbul.

The Greek premier stressed the "urgent" need for a settlement to the Cyprus problem.

"We must free Cyprus of the walls which have no place in the European Union," Papandreou told reporters, referring to a demarcation line dividing the island's Turkish and Greek communities.

"If we are successful, this will be a sign for the whole world, a sign for peace, said Papandreou who is due to travel to Nicosia on an official trip on October 19.

www.thechicagogreekhours.com



Phones: 847.965.5264

847.965.5254

Cell: 847.942.0115

Fax: 847.965.6242

OLYMPIC ROOFING, INC.

SPECIAL FLAT ROOFING
INDUSTRIAL • RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL
HOT TAR ROOFING • FIBERGLASS
NEW INSULATION ROOFING
• SINGLE PLY ROOFING • RUBBERIZED ROOFING
FREE ESTIMATES



SPYROS HOMBITAKIS

8229 N. WAUKEGAN RD
NILES, IL 60714