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NEWSMAKERS



On Sunday, November 7, 2009, Little City Foundation celebrated its Golden Anniversary dinner, during which Mrs. Eleni Bousis was honored with the Sidney L. Port Legacy Award for her tireless and active participation in supporting the Foundation. Pictured above are Q Dimitris and Eleni Bousis with Secretary of State Jesse White.



From L. to R. Dinner Emcee Tom Negovan, Jesse White, Secretary of State, Eleni and Dimitri Bousis and unknown to the editor dignitaries.



Over 700 people were invited to the Dinner at Fairmont Chicago, Millennium Park.

Vaccinations by example

By Nikos Xydakis

Recent data reveal that swine flu is nearing epidemic proportions in Greece as it has in other countries. At the same time, and with the vaccination drive expected to begin soon people in Greece are skeptical of the jab and remain hesitant about receiving it.

A recent poll by Public Issue suggested



that two in three Greeks will not be getting the vaccine. Health professionals such as doctors and nurses, who are considered the best informed, emerged as the most negative about the effects of the inoculation. So, what is going on? Ukraine has been hard hit; the Swedes are vaccinating themselves in droves and the French health minister received hers on TV to set an example for the eight in 10 reluctant residents of France. Why are Greeks resisting? Maybe the answer lies in the hys-

teria of the outbreak's early days, generated largely by the media. Or it could be a healthy distrust of the pharmaceutical industry and its lobbying power. The potential side effects of the vaccination, which even experts accept, may be yet another reason, while we could also add the Greeks' proclivity for always seeing a conspiracy lurking in the corner.

Now, however, with a pandemic knocking at the country's door, inoculation is no longer a matter of personal choice, it is one of public safety for the entire population of the country. A swine flu pandemic would stretch intensive-care units beyond their limits, tax the entire healthcare system and deal a blow to school and public life generally.

At this point, the decision-making process should not be left to the individual. Someone needs to take responsibility for having every vulnerable member of society vaccinated so that we can limit the scope of the outbreak and the number of victims. In a democracy, those who should take responsibility are the heads of state and civil servants, and they should be leading the rest of the population by example. Ministers, MPs, hospital chiefs and school principals should all get in line for the jab, and then, maybe, everyone else will follow.

PROSPECTS OF SANCTIONS ON IRAN

SINGAPORE — President Obama and President Dimitri Medvedev of Russia expressed dissatisfaction Sunday with Iran's response to a nuclear offer made by world powers, raising the prospect that sanctions may be the next step in the West's ongoing efforts to rein in Tehran's nuclear ambitions.

The two men, meeting during an Asia-Pacific summit conference in Singapore, also made progress in efforts to negotiate a replacement for a key arms control treaty between the United States and Russia that is set to expire in December, U.S. administration officials said.

While White House officials acknowledged that a new pact to replace the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, or START, will be ratified soon, they said they expect to reach a "bridge" agreement that will preserve the status quo until a new treaty is approved.

Also, Mr. Obama and other world leaders decided to put off the difficult task of reaching a climate change agreement at a global conference scheduled for next month, deciding instead to make it the mission of the Copenhagen conference to reach a less specific, "politically binding" agreement that would punt the most difficult issues into the future.

The discussion with Mr. Medvedev was the fifth such meeting for Mr. Obama since he took office vowing to repair America's relationship with Russia, and U.S. officials expressed satisfaction Sunday with their progress so far.

"I have found, as always, President Medvedev frank, constructive and thoughtful," Mr. Obama said after the meeting.

"The reset button has worked," he added, alluding to the administration's early promise to "reset" the bilateral relationship after several years of bickering over a variety of issues from missile defense to Kosovo.

With the START treaty set to expire soon, the Obama administration is searching for ways

to have weapons inspectors remain in Russia to keep American eyes on the world's second most formidable nuclear arsenal. In the absence of a treaty or a legally binding "bridge" authority, U.S. inspectors would be forced to leave Russia when the treaty expires. Likewise, Russian inspectors would have to leave the United States.

On Iran, administration officials said, Mr. Obama and Mr. Medvedev discussed a timetable for imposing sanctions if Tehran and the West do not soon agree on a proposal in which Iran would send its enriched uranium out of the country, either for either temporary safekeeping or reprocessing into fuel rods.

"Unfortunately, so far at least, Iran appears to have been unable to say yes to what everyone acknowledges is a creative and constructive approach," said Mr. Obama, sitting next to Mr. Medvedev. "We are running out of time with respect to that approach."

Mr. Medvedev also alluded to running out of patience. He said that while a dialogue with Iran was continuing, "we are not completely happy about its pace. If something does not work there are other means to move the process further."

The talks between Mr. Obama and Mr. Medvedev occurred on the sidelines of two major regional economic summit meetings in Singapore, during Mr. Obama's first trip to Asia as president. He has taken to referring to himself as "America's first Pacific president," a phrase he first used during a speech Saturday morning in Tokyo.

Mr. Obama is seeking on this trip to ensure that U.S. ties to the Asia-Pacific region remain firmly cemented, despite disparities in economic growth and the rising influence of China.

On Sunday he became the first American president to meet with Myanmar's military leaders when he attended a summit meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, also being held in Singapore.

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Publisher:

SOTIRIS REKOUMIS

EDITOR: DENISE REKOUMIS

LAYOUTS: JĪĆÍ RĂĚÏUĚŚ

CONTRIBUTORS: DR. STAVROS BASSEAS, JOHN REKOUMIS
DENISE REKOUMIS , DR. JORDAN TSOLAKIDIS, CHRIS MERENTITIS
MARYANNA SPYROPOULOS, ATTORNEY AT LAW

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2. To applaud the achievements of all our people.
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4. To promote the use of the Greek Language.
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6. To encourage all worthy community causes.
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8. To uphold the Greek Cypriot cause.
9. To assist all Greek-American fraternal, cultural, patriotic and religious organizations.
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Citizens for Mariyana Spyropoulos * P.O. Box 64457
***Chicago, Illinois 60664-0457**
Telephone: (312) 286-8808
*** e-mail mariyana@mariyana4cleanwater.com**
*** website mariyana4cleanwater.com**

ENTERTAINMENT LIVE

By Denise Rekoumis

In movie news..

Oscar hopeful "Precious: Based On The Novel 'Push' By Sapphire" was a hit with audiences recently.

The gritty inner-city drama, executive produced by **Oprah Winfrey** and **Tyler Perry**, made \$1.8 million at 18 theaters in its first weekend of limited release, according to Variety. The film scored an average of \$100,000 per theater — reportedly a record.

By contrast, **Jim Carrey's** "A Christmas Carol," which won the weekend box office with \$31 million, averaged around \$8,600 per theater in 3683 locations.

Jennifer Lopez has reportedly filed a lawsuit against ex-husband **Ojani Noa**, according



to TMZ. The site reported that J.Lo filed papers in LA County Superior Court on Friday regarding Noa's planned film, "How I Married Jennifer Lopez: The J.Lo and Ojani Noa Story," as well as his alleged intentions to market "11+ hours of previously unseen home video footage." The footage reportedly includes "sexual situations" from the former couple's honeymoon.

Lopez is reportedly suing for \$10 million for breach of contract, citing a previous confidentiality agreement between the two.

ALSO

Chris Brown is speaking out after ex-girlfriend Rihanna's explosive interview with Diane Sawyer for "Good Morning America" and "20/20."

"While I respect Rihanna's right to discuss the specific events of February 8, I maintain my position that all of the details should remain a private matter between us," the singer said in a statement to MTV News. "I do appreciate her support and wish her the best. I am extremely sorry for what I did, and I accept accountability for my actions. At this point, I am taking the proper steps to learn about me and grow from my mistakes. I only hope that others in similar situations can learn from our experience as well. Abuse of any kind is always wrong. The rest I leave it to God."

In her interview, which aired in full on Friday, Rihanna discussed in detail her assault by Chris, telling Diane, "He had no soul in his eyes, just blank."

"I was battered. I was bleeding. I was swol-

len in my face," she continued. "There's nothing you can do or say to make somebody do that to you. That's just on them."

And in the ongoing Jackson drama..

Michael Jackson's father is seeking an allowance from his son's estate to help cover expenses that exceed \$15,000 a month, according to court documents filed Friday. The request seeking an unspecified amount for **Joe Jackson** was filed by lawyer Brian Oxman, who said there was no apparent reason for the administrators of the estate to not seek an allowance for the Jackson family patriarch.

Taylor Jacobson, the blond, sometimes-combative assistant to the eponymous celeb-stylist of Bravo's The Rachel Zoe Project, has parted ways with her employer of four years. "Taylor Jacobson is no longer with Rachel Zoe, Inc.," a rep for Zoe confirms to Usmagazine.com.

Pourquoi? A source close to the situation asserts that she was fired. Another source adds cheerfully: "It was time to move on. She's going to pursue independent styling."

Indeed, Jacobson announced the news this morning in an email to friends, saying she was "saddened and exhilarated," and had "decided" to "go off and style on my own." Currently on hiatus, the reality show has not yet been picked up for a third season.

No one knows better than **Yoko Ono** how far celebrity activism has come in the last 40 years.

With late husband John Lennon she sparked a generation of celebrity cause campaigning with their 1969 "Bed-In" honeymoon to demonstrate for world peace as the Vietnam War raged.

From Live Aid, Band Aid and even Farm Aid in the 1980s to Bono's tour of Africa with U.S. Treasury Secretary Paul H. O'Neill earlier this decade, pop-star involvement in everything from politics to poverty reduction is ubiquitous.

But it wasn't always that way.

"When John and I were sort of talking about world peace and love and all that kind of thing, bed-ins, etc, you know people were just laughing at us," Ono told Reuters. "But now I think that everybody is involved because we just know that we have to do something about this world."

Ono has now teamed up with Hard Rock International for an "Imagine There's No Hunger" campaign. Like her earlier initiatives, music is as central, including a song by Lennon, but its use has evolved to accommodate the online generation.

A soldier from Chicago who was shot three times during the **Fort Hood** rampage, has told relatives that he was the gunman's first victim. **Nate Hull** said Saturday that his brother, 21-year-old Najee Hull, has had surgery, and one bullet is still lodged in his leg. Meanwhile, multiple media outlets reported that a second wounded victim has ties to Illinois. Military social worker Dorothy Carskadon of the Madison (Wis.) Vet Center, also was shot by suspected gunman Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan. Carskadon, 47, originally from the Rockford area, was in stable condition, the Wisconsin State Journal reported. Two of the murdered soldiers in Thursday's massacre also hailed from Illinois. They were Pfc. **Michael Pearson** of Bolingbrook and **Francheska Velez** of Chicago, both 21.

Hasan, the gunman, was wounded by police and remained hospitalized Saturday at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio.

Turtles Are Casualties of Warming in Costa Rica



Hundreds of newly hatched sea turtles that were released on a beach in Playa Junquillal, on Costa Rica's Pacific coast, quickly made their way into the sea. All seven species of sea turtles are considered endangered, some critically.

Obama affirms commitment to Asia

President Obama welcomed a bigger role for China.

US President Barack Obama has welcomed a bigger role for China on the world stage and pledged to pursue greater co-operation with Asian countries. Speaking in Tokyo, he said the US would not be "cowed" by North Korea's nuclear threats and that his commitment to the security of Asia was "unshakeable".

Mr Obama also called on Asian leaders to pursue balanced economic growth. Early on Saturday, he flew to Singapore for an Asia-Pacific economic summit a few hours earlier



than planned.

His trade representative Ron Kirk, who is already at the Apec meeting, says the US wants barriers to trade and investment removed to promote an open global trade system. Mr Obama will round off his week-long Asian tour with stops in China and South Korea.

'Strong China'

Calling himself America's first "Pacific president", Mr Obama told the gathering in Tokyo that Washington's commitment to the region's security was "unshakeable" despite fighting wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

He said the US did not seek to "contain" China's rising power, and pledged to pursue

"pragmatic co-operation" with Beijing on issues of mutual concern.

"The rise of a strong, prosperous China can be a source of strength for the community of nations," Mr Obama said.

He warned that he would not waver from raising human rights concerns with Beijing, but did not mention specific concerns, such as Tibet.

He sought more assistance from China to thwart the ambitions of North Korea, and warned there would be tough, unified action by the US and its Asian partners if Pyongyang failed to abandon its nuclear weapons programmes. Mr Obama again called on North Korea to return to six-party talks on the issue.

'Sustained growth'

On the issue of economic co-operation, Mr Obama challenged Asian countries to break their dependence on exports to the US and to pursue "balanced" and sustainable economic growth. "We must strengthen our economic recovery, and pursue growth that is both balanced and sustained," he said. "We simply cannot return to the same cycles of boom and bust that led us into a global recession." He said the US would pursue a new economic strategy that would mean "saving more and spending less".

He urged Asian leaders to break their dependence on exports to the US market and to open up their markets to speed up a global economic recovery.

Mr Obama arrived in Tokyo on Friday and met Japanese Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama. The two leaders agreed on the need to renew their countries' strained alliance and pledged to work quickly to resolve a dispute over the US military base in Okinawa.

Time 'running out' on Iran talks

Russia and France would process uranium for Iran under the deal

The leaders of the US and Russia have warned Iran that time is running out for talks over its nuclear programme.

President Barack Obama said Iran had failed "so far at least" to respond positively to a deal to send enriched uranium abroad for reprocessing.

Russia and France have offered to do this. Russia's Dmitry Medvedev said he was unhappy with the pace of talks, adding "other means" could be used.

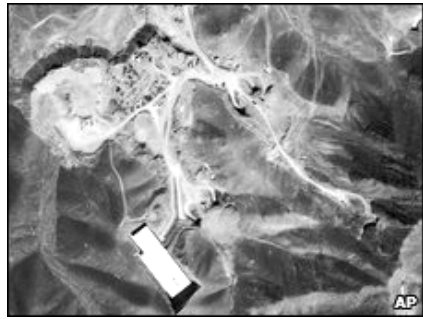
The West suspects Iran wants to build weapons, but Tehran rejects this.

It says its programme is entirely peaceful.

Guarantees

Under the plan brokered by the UN nuclear watchdog, the IAEA, and agreed by Russia, the US and France, Iran would send about 1,200kg (2,600lb), or 70%, of its low-enriched uranium, to Russia by the year's end for processing.

Subsequently, France would convert the uranium into fuel rods for use in a reactor in Tehran



A satellite image of what analysts believe is the facility at Qom

that produces medical isotopes.

This is seen as a way for Iran to get the fuel it needs, while giving guarantees to the West that it will not be used for nuclear weapons.

Iran has raised "technical and economic considerations" with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and has missed deadlines to respond.

"Unfortunately, so far at least, Iran appears to have been unable to say yes to what everyone

acknowledges is a creative and constructive approach," Mr Obama said after meeting Mr Medvedev on the fringes of a summit of Asia-Pacific leaders in Singapore.

"We are running out time with respect to that approach," Mr Obama warned.

Mr Medvedev said: "Thanks to joint efforts the process has not stopped but we are not completely happy about its pace. If something does not work there are other means to move the process further."

NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE

Mined uranium ore is purified and reconstituted into solid form known as yellowcake

Yellowcake is converted into a gas by heating it to about 64C (147F)

Gas is fed through centrifuges, where its isotopes separate and the process is repeated until uranium is enriched

Low-level enriched uranium is used for nuclear fuel

In depth: Nuclear fuel cycle

He did not specify - but officials have previously mooted the idea of further sanctions.

"Our aim is clear - a transparent nuclear programme rather than a programme which causes others' concern," Mr Medvedev said.

Iran revealed the existence of a secret nuclear facility in September.

Iran says its nuclear programme is for purely peaceful purposes but the revelation of the existence of the new plant, near Qom, had increased fears in the West about Tehran's intentions.

Mr Obama's administration has set an end-of-year deadline for serious progress towards a comprehensive solution.

Correspondents say Russia and China are reluctant to agree to new Security Council sanctions, so a coalition of countries, including the EU, might take action themselves.

Iran is already subject to UN sanctions, including financial scrutiny and restrictions on arms imports, for keeping secret its uranium enrichment activities at its Natanz plant

Tampa police: Marine reservist attacked Greek priest he mistook for terrorist

Tampa police: Marine reservist attacked Greek priest he mistook for terrorist.

Greek Orthodox priest Alexios Marakis, visiting from Massachusetts, is loaded into an ambulance in Tampa Monday evening after police say he was attacked by a Marine reservist.

Marine reservist Jasen Bruce was getting clothes out of the trunk of his car Monday evening when a bearded man in a robe approached him.

That man, a Greek Orthodox priest named Father Alexios Marakis, speaks little English and was lost, police said. He wanted directions.

What the priest got instead, police say, was a tire iron to the head. Then he was chased for three blocks and pinned to the ground — as the Marine kept a 911 operator on the phone, saying he had captured a terrorist.

Police say Bruce offered several reasons to explain his actions: The man tried to rob him. The man grabbed Bruce's crotch and made an overt sexual advance in perfect English. The man yelled "Allahu Akbar," Arabic for "God is great," the same words some witnesses said the Fort Hood shooting suspect uttered last week."That's what they tell you right before they blow you up," police say Bruce told them.

Bruce ended up in jail, accused of aggravated battery with a deadly weapon. He was released Tuesday on \$7,500 bail. Marakis ended up at the hospital with stitches. He told the police he didn't want to press charges, espousing biblical forgiveness.

But Tuesday, Bruce wasn't saying sorry.

The two men are a year apart in age, and a world apart in life experiences. Father Michael Eaccarino of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Tarpon Springs says Marakis, 29, entered a Greek monastery as a teenager and became a priest nine years ago. He is studying theology at Holy Cross, a Greek Orthodox school in Massachusetts, and traveled to Tarpon Springs two months ago to work on his master's thesis. He has taken a vow of celibacy.

Eaccarino says the visiting priest got lost Monday after ministering to the elderly in a nursing home.

Jasen Bruce, 28, enlisted as a reserve Marine as a teenager, was discharged honorably when he finished his contract, and enlisted again this March. He has never been deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan, a Marine Corps spokesman said. He got married last month in full dress uniform.

Bruce is a sales manager for APS Pharmacy in Palm Harbor. His blog entries tout the benefits of increasing testosterone and human growth hormones. He was charged with misdemeanor battery in 2007 for hopping over the bed of a tow truck and shoving its driver. He pleaded no contest.

Economy puts pressure on PASOK

New survey shows government's popularity has slipped amid growing concern about country's finances.

Just five weeks after PASOK was voted into power, a new opinion poll shows that the proportion of people disappointed with the government is greater than those who are satisfied with it.

The Public Issue survey conducted on behalf of Kathimerini and Skai TV and Radio indicates that 55 percent of Greeks are dissatisfied with the Socialist administration, compared to 40 percent who are happy with what George Papandreou's government has achieved in its brief stint so far in power.

The percentage of people who think the country is headed in the wrong direction has increased to 60 percent from 54 percent last month, while those who think things are going well has fallen from 34 to 29 percent, according the monthly poll.

A possible reason behind PASOK's sliding popularity is the deteriorating economic figures. The poll certainly indicates that the state of the economy is the main concern for Greeks at the moment.

Seven in 10 respondents said they are

Online photo galleries depict him flexing big muscles wearing little clothing. An exterior surveillance video of Tuesday's chase captured the two men in motion, said Tampa Police Department spokeswoman Laura McElroy:

"You see a very short, small man running, and an enormous, large muscular man chasing after him." This is what police say happened at 6:35 p.m. Monday:

The priest's GPS gave him the wrong directions, leading him off Interstate 275 and into downtown Tampa. He followed a line of cars into a garage at the Seaport Channelside condominium to ask for help.

He found Bruce, whose back was turned, bending over the trunk of his car, and he tapped his shoulder before saying, in broken English, "please" and "help."

That's when Bruce reached for the tire iron. Police say that by the end of the chase, he had hit the priest four times. Hours after his release from Orient Road Jail on Tuesday, Bruce stood silently as his attorney, Jeff Brown, told his version:

The bearded man wearing a robe and sandals was clearly trespassing in the garage. In a sudden move, the stranger made a verbal sexual advance and grabbed Bruce's genitals. The Marine defended himself. And immediately, he called 911 as he chased him. Brown said the police initially called the Marine a "hero" and said the priest was "mentally ill."

He called the police's account "one-sided" and said the department should investigate a sergeant he said made derogatory comments about the Marine's military background.

Police said that sergeant is, himself, a veteran. They say that the priest was disoriented when they found him at the corner of Madison and Meridian avenues, but a translator at Tampa General Hospital helped him communicate. And that the GPS corroborates the priest's story. When police arrived at Bruce's apartment at 1:30 a.m., before they had mentioned charges, he had already called an attorney.

Television news stations showed the priest's photo on Tuesday and mentioned what the Marine said he did. If the priest had watched, he wouldn't have understood it.

He'd spent the day in great spirits, his fellow priest said. His main worry was that he inconvenienced the others who had to care for him. Then, a man named Jerry Theophilopoulos got in touch with him. He's a lawyer, speaks Greek and served as a former board member of the church. The lawyer said he told the priest what the Marine said. Marakis was stunned. His eyes grew wide. He said it was a lie.

more worried about the economy than anyelse. Unemployment (43 percent) is the next biggest concern. As a result, 63 percent of those questioned believe that there will be more frequent strikes and protests over the next few months.

Speaking in Parliament yesterday, Papandreou admitted that the future of the Greek economy was “in the balance” and said that a number of reforms would have to be made.

However, despite the growing concern over the economy and a slip in popularity, Papandreou and his government do not have to start worrying about their futures just yet. According to the poll, 56 percent of respondents think that the PASOK leader is the most suitable person to lead the country.

Also, the internal struggle in New Democracy means that voters are not currently looking upon the conservatives as a serious alternative in government. In fact, the poll indicates that only 30 percent of those who voted for ND in the October 4 general elections have a positive opinion of the party at the moment.

LITTLE CITY FOUNDATION GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY DINNER



The philanthropist couple, Mr. and Mrs John and Eva Apostolou



Paula Rekoumis, Eleni Sotos and Mr and Mrs. Louis Palivos.



From L. to R. Jesse White, Secretary of State, Leo Raptakis R.I. State Senator ,Anastasios Petrovas and mr. White's Assistant, Leo Loutsios.



Eleni Bousis thanking her family and her husband for encouraging her to dedicate herself to philanthropic causes.







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NEWS FROM GREECE

Smoking ban is re-examined

The ban on smoking in most bars and cafes is not being adhered to nor applied properly, the government said yesterday, adding that it is launching a review of the law that was passed earlier this year after pressure from the European Union.

Health Minister Mariliza Xenogiannakopoulou said that she had noted "great gaps in the application of the smoking ban" and would be re-examining the legal framework supporting it.

At the end of last month, it was revealed that state inspectors had received more than 2,500 complaints about people violating the ban. It also emerged that some 2,200 cafe and bar owners in Athens had applied to turn their venues into all-smoking establishments but that none of the paperwork had been processed by authorities, in most cases because the applications were incomplete.

Xenogiannakopoulou said she wants to address such problems. According to the law, which came into effect on July 1, premises smaller than 70 square meters will henceforth be either exclusively smoking or nonsmoking. Those that decide to allow smoking must have their operating licenses revised, have adequate air-conditioning units installed and display a special sticker determining their status.

Larger establishments must restrict smoking to a separate section of their premises, exceeding not more than 30 percent of the surface area. Live music venues must separate smokers from non-smoking patrons with the use of a 2-meter-high glass wall.

As for offices, businesses employing fewer than 50 workers are obliged to ban smoking on

the premises. Companies employing more than 50 people have the right to maintain smoking rooms.

Meanwhile, the president of the National Coordinating Committee against Smoking, Panayiotis Behrakis, recommended yesterday that the government not allow any exceptions to the law and ban smoking in all public places.

He also suggested that the price of cigarettes, which in Greece is lower in than many other European Union countries, should be increased with the main aim of reducing the number of youngsters who smoke, which is also particularly high in Greece.

Suicide leap from Acropolis

A young man fell to his death from the Acropolis hill in Athens shortly after 10 a.m. yesterday in what appeared to be suicide, police said.

The man, who was not identified but who police said was aged between 25 and 30, appeared to take a running jump from the eastern side of the ancient citadel as tourists looked on in shock.

According to police, suicide leaps from the 150-meter-high Acropolis are very rare but have occurred in the past.

Police reported a similar incident late on Monday night when a woman jumped from the balcony of her room on the third floor of the Hellinis Hotel, which is situated on a road leading off central Syngrou Avenue. The woman, who was not identified, was transferred to the hospital where she was said to be in a stable condition yesterday. Police said

they had ruled out foul play and that the incident was almost certainly an attempted suicide.

Thessaloniki metro workers break through

Italian and Greek workers hold up their national flags to celebrate the arrival of a tunnel-boring machine at the first station on Thessaloniki's



metro route, at the city's Aristotle University. Deputy Infrastructure, Transport and Networks Minister Yiannis Magriotis congratulated workers on completing the first step of a 9.6-kilometer metro route.

ND leadership race: Avramopoulos backs Samaras

With the campaigning in main opposition New Democracy (ND) in full swing in the run-up to the November 29 election for a new party leader, former health minister and past Athens mayor Dimitris Avramopoulos, who recently pulled out of the race for the party leadership, on Tuesday

announced that he was putting his backing behind former culture minister Antonis Samaras, one of the three remaining candidates for the ND presidency. The other two candidates are former foreign minister and one-time Athens mayor Dora Bakoyannis, and current Thessaloniki prefect Panagiotis Psomiadis.

Avramopoulos announced his decision in a joint appearance with Samaras.

"I stand at his side and back his candidacy," Avramopoulos said, adding that "the selection of Antonis (Samaras) leads to greater cohesion, secures the unity, of a party of institutions and principles, of an open party with a democratic operation".

Avramopoulos said that some cadres had "greatly and deeply hurt" the party's voters "and we need to bring them back", and criticised past attitudes, "personal mechanisms" and "behind-the-scenes operations" that cost the party dearly. He said his decision "has nothing to do with personal sentiments and bargaining".

"ND is one, and united. The needs of the times demand policies that do not stand on individuals. They require unanimity, solidarity and common work," he added.

Avramopoulos further said that his proposal for the election of the party leader by the ND grass roots had been "a first step for an open democratic party without personal mechanisms", adding his belief that "we need to select a politician with political terms, and I agree with Antonis Samaras that we must convince the voters who left to return with our attitude and our work".

Referring to the center field of the political spectrum, Avramopoulos explained that this was not a geographical concept but is determined with political characteristics.

Samaras, in turn, warmly welcomed Avramopoulos' decision, adding that, at the ND extraordinary congress held last weekend, which opened the vote for the party leader to the entire body of the ND registered members, "we proved that our unity is not in danger, and we will turn this unity into a hope for victory".

Axios Delta wild horses threatened with extinction

The wild horses living in the region of the Axios River Estuary, northern Greece, have originated from domesticated horses that were freed by their owners in the early '60s and managed to survive and reproduce, coexisting with other farm animals.

A total of 67 wild horses have been registered in the region, including 13 young animals, and according to the Greek Society for the Protection of Indigenous Species of Farm and Domestic Animals their number is smaller compared to the previous decade.

However, the existing population appears to be in good condition but the fact that the stallions outnumber the mares is an indication that they are faced with problems that threaten their reproduction. The shrinking mare population is most likely due to human intervention considering that many horses are



captured and moved to other areas.

The region's wild horses are of average size (1.45 - 1.55 meters tall) bearing strong similarities with the domesticated horses in Thessaly and Mt Pindus and the British thoroughbreds.

One of Greece's, and Europe's most important wetlands, and situated on the western shoreline of the Thermaic Gulf just five kilometers from Thessaloniki, the Axios River Delta is protected under the Ramsar Convention. It has a wealth of fauna and flora, and is home to more than 270 bird species, 60 of them rare and/or threatened, which find shelter in the wetland. It is also an important habitat to wild horses and water buffalos, as well as species threatened with extinction, such as the European ground squirrel, the European otter and Hermann's tortoise.



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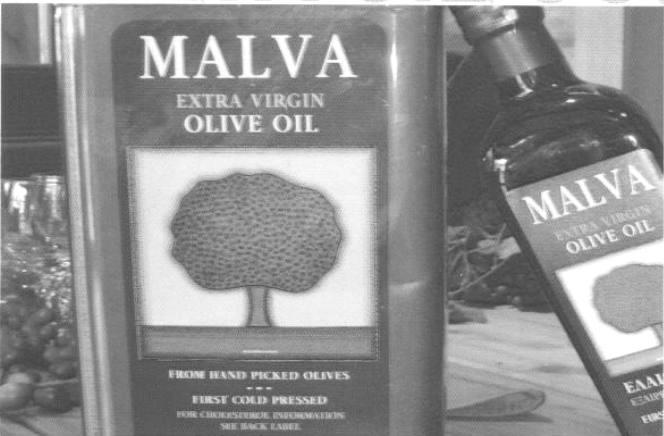
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Retiring “is new lease of life”

Most people feel younger and healthier soon after retiring, a study of French workers has found. Researchers looked at 15,000 employees over the best part of a decade, and found they felt up to 10 years younger within months of retirement. The greatest improvements in perceived health were among those who came from a poor working environment. Those who were in high-status, high-satisfaction jobs showed the least change, The Lancet study reports. The researchers asked employees from the



French workers felt their health improve on retirement

French national gas and electricity company to rate their own health up to seven years before retirement and up to seven years after. The team, from Stockholm University and University College London, found that the number reporting their health as below par fell from 19% in the year before retirement to 14% in the year after. This, they calculated, corresponded to a gain in health of eight to 10 years. Keep on working The authors suggest that improving people's working conditions is essential if the burden of perceived ill-health is to be minimised at a time when societies are moving towards keeping people in the workforce for longer. Our findings should cause concern for policy makers attempting to persuade workers to stay longer in the workforce "Arguably the best option is to redesign working life for older workers to make it healthier and more satisfying than at present," said lead researcher

Dr Hugo Westerlund, of the Stress Research Institute at Stockholm University. This, he said, would "hopefully achieve improved occupational health and quality of life, increased productivity, and a larger proportion of the population in work". Other research has found that the actual health gap between the lowest and highest paid occupation groups widens on retirement. A study of thousands of British civil service workers found the average physical health of a 70-year-old who had been a high earner was similar to the physical health of a low earner around eight years younger. But US research has also highlighted health benefits of staying on in work in some capacity, be it on a temporary or part-time basis. Dr Johannes Siegrist from the University of Dusseldorf wrote in an accompanying editorial that the implications for policy of the French study were convincing. "If poor quality of work reduces health and wellbeing of aged workers and reduces the participation of this age group in the labour force, efforts need to be directed towards improving healthy work at the level of single organisations and companies, and at the level of national labour and social policies." Andrew Harrop of Age Concern and Help the Aged said: "While many people can't wait to retire, others want to continue working in later life, whether it's because they enjoy their jobs or to boost their retirement income. "Working into later life will bring many benefits to our economy and to the individual, but this will only be achieved if employers are willing to adapt to older workers' changing needs. "More flexible working, particularly to take account of more chronic health conditions that are suffered in later life would also give employees the confidence to continue working into later years."

Police shake-up on cards Minister to reform ‘1950s-style force’ with focus on organized crime, terror links

Citizens’ Protection Minister Michalis Chrysochoidis yesterday heralded the radical restructuring of the country’s security police, which he said was in desperate need of modernization to address “an explosion in violence and lawlessness” and crack down on the organized crime that fuels

to recruit new, highly trained staff including economists, accounting experts and IT specialists to ensure that the new force runs smoothly and is more cost-efficient. The key focus of the new security police will be organized crime and its connections to domestic terrorist groups, the minister said. He added that jailed convicts will also come under greater scrutiny, noting that “the root of the problem is in jails.” “Organized crime and its connections run through the entire structure of our society and threaten to blow our social stability into the air,” Chrysochoidis said, using unusually strong language. In a related development yesterday, Chrysochoidis received the written resignation of the central Port Authority’s chief, Vice Admiral Theodoros Rentzeperis. The Port Authority commander is alleged to have objected to the repercussions of the new government’s decision to transfer the competences of the now defunct Merchant Marine Ministry to the new Economy, Competitiveness and Merchant Marine Ministry and the Citizens’ Protection Ministry. According to sources, Chrysochoidis rejected Rentzeperis’s resignation and is to meet with him today.



these scourges. Meanwhile, sources revealed that the minister aimed to remodel the Attica police headquarters along the lines of the US Federal Bureau of Investigation or Britain’s Scotland Yard, investigating serious crimes across the country. It is likely that the Greek force’s counterterrorism unit would be merged into this new reformed Attica police force, the same sources said. “We have a police force that is stuck in the 1950s,” Chrysochoidis said, noting that he aimed

Sarkozy posts Berlin Wall photo

A 34-year-old Sarkozy appears to wield a small pickaxe in his Facebook photo French President Nicolas Sarkozy has posted on Facebook a picture of himself at the

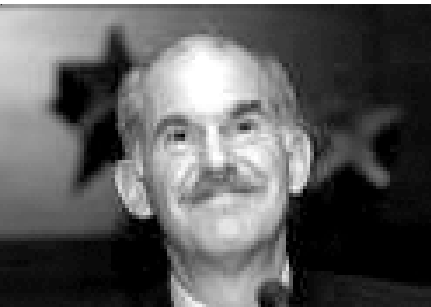


Berlin Wall, saying he had chipped away at it with a pickaxe. Mr Sarkozy joined world leaders in Berlin to mark the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Wall on 9 November. The image shows Mr Sarkozy, then a 34-year-old French MP, standing before a graffiti-covered section of the wall A caption dates the photo "9 November 1989", but the man who took it said it was definitely from the following day. "I was the photographer and that picture was definitely taken on 10 November 1989,"

Paul Clave - who was at the time a representative for French interests in Berlin - told the BBC. 'Enthusiastic crowd' In the caption, the French president says he arrived in West Berlin with a group of French politicians on the morning of 9 November, crossed Checkpoint Charlie to the East, and headed for the Brandenburg gates. "An enthusiastic crowd had gathered to welcome the looming opening of the Wall," he writes under the picture, posted on Sunday. "We then headed for Checkpoint Charlie to see the eastern side of the city and finally confront this wall and I was able to take a pickaxe to it," he writes. "The night continued in a climate of general enthusiasm: the German people were reunited, heralding the end of the Cold War and the beginning of a period of great freedom in Europe," he says in comments translated from French. "It is this freedom that we are still defending in Europe and that we are celebrating 20 years on," writes Mr Sarkozy. However, French commentators point to a possible mix-up of the dates. They say news of the collapse did not come until late in the day on 9 November, and West Berliners did not begin attacking the Wall until the following day.

PM sets sights on Cyprus wall

Attending the events in Germany to mark the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, Prime Minister George Papandreou yesterday called for the last wall still dividing a European city, Nicosia, to be brought down.



“As Greeks and as Europeans, we can shout: ‘Tear down the last wall,’ the one that divides Cyprus into two,” he said. “There cannot be a Europe with walls and occupation armies. The Europe of freedom, a united Europe cannot tolerate this.” Papandreou raised this and several other issues in a brief meeting in Berlin with US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Sources said that during the half-hour meeting, Papandreou explained to Clinton that his government is attempting to inject a new momentum into its

foreign policy but that there are some set national positions on certain issues that have to be recognized. The Greek prime minister and foreign minister informed Clinton of the ongoing contact he has enjoyed with Turkish Premier Recep Tayyip Erdogan, underlining that Athens is ready to build on the initial contact between the two sides. A specific issue that was raised was that of the state of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Istanbul, especially as Clinton recently met with Ecumenical Patriarch Vartholomaios. Papandreou assured Clinton that Greece wants to play an active role in helping countries in the western Balkans join the European Union and suggested that a time line should be drawn up leading to their accession in 2014. However, the PASOK leader underlined that, in order to join the EU, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) will first have to resolve its name dispute with Greece. Papandreou said that Greece is not willing to back down on its position that FYROM has to settle on a composite name with a geographical determinant. On the Cyprus issue, the Greek premier said he backed the discussions between the island’s two communities and suggested that Turkey’s bid to join the EU should be linked to its obligations vis-a-vis Cyprus.



Europe's revolution 20 years on Berlin Wall being broken down

The year 1989 reshaped the world. Its news stories - from Tiananmen Square to the fall of the Berlin Wall - are now historical landmarks. BBC Diplomatic Editor Brian Hanrahan watched many of the events at first hand, and has been retracing his steps this year to talk to those involved and consider the long-term implications.

It was a baffling year - neither predictable nor inevitable. For those of us in the thick of it, there was a constant struggle to make sense of what we were seeing. Even those with the power to shape events were taken aback. The outcome was not what they had bargained for.

It was a year in which power was transferred away from repressive communist leaders who tolerated no questions or debate about their policies to mass movements which swept away governments and rewrote the map of Europe.

Only China resisted the momentum of change by brutally suppressing demonstrations.

And at times Europe nearly toppled over into mass bloodshed. One night in October I saw East German troops armed and ready to fire on street demonstrators. Only a loss of nerve in the East German politburo prevented a horrendous massacre.

in decline.

I predicted it would crumble from the edges - a long-drawn-out process that would take many years.

Only in October did the real truth become clearer. With the communists already out of office in Poland, and East Germans fleeing in their tens of thousands through Hungary's newly-opened borders, the Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, visited East Berlin.

I discovered from West German intelligence that Mr Gorbachev had told the East German leader, Erich Honecker, that the Soviet Army would not back him if he used force against the demonstrators.

How they had access to such a sensitive conversation goodness knows, but the implications were clear. Brian Hanrahan's original BBC report on Gorbachev's visit to Berlin in October 1989.

The Soviet satellites were now on their own. It was a total turnabout from the decades in which Soviet tanks had repressed dissent in East Germany, Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

This was partly because the Soviet Union could no longer afford to support them, but more importantly because Mr Gorbachev be-



But at the beginning there was little to indicate that we were witnessing the collapse of communism, and the end of the Cold War.

I have looked back through my notebooks and can find not a mention of the round table talks in Poland which began in February and would eventually lead to Eastern Europe's first non-communist government. Few thought it worth remarking on.

The struggle between Poland's communists and the Solidarity movement had been under way for a decade, and from London this looked like another cynical manoeuvre intended to keep the Polish communists in power. That is certainly what the communists intended.

On their own

In London our attention was focused on Afghanistan. The Red Army was abandoning its ill-starred attempt to control the country and retreating. We - the watching diplomats, journalists, and politicians - were trying to interpret what this meant for future Soviet ambitions.

Was it a tactical retreat, or a permanent change of policy?

Brian Hanrahan's original BBC report on the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan in February 1989.

Fresh from three years living in Russia, I had my own theory. I had seen the depths of the economic crisis on Moscow's streets - poor food, shoddy housing, and roads that would disgrace the third world - and believed this was an empire

lied it unnecessary.

Reformed communism, he thought, would be popular and Stalinist repression was no longer needed at home or abroad. He was wrong. But his rejection of violence, and moral courage in facing down a hard-line Soviet establishment, ensured the year ended far more peacefully than it might have done.

1989: EUROPE'S REVOLUTION

February: Polish government starts round table talks with Solidarity.

March: First genuine election in the USSR

May: Hungary removes electrical fencing from border with Austria.

June: Solidarity wins Polish election.

August: Millions of protesters in Baltic states form human chain to demand autonomy from Moscow.

September: Hungary allows East German refugees to cross into Austria.

October: Thousands attend peaceful protests in Leipzig.

November: Fall of Berlin Wall

December: Romanian dictator Ceausescu executed / dissident **Vaclav Havel** becomes president of Czechoslovakia

Poland acquiesced and struck the best deal it could with Solidarity.

But East Germany was attracted by the example of China. The communist government there had ruthlessly cut down demonstrators in Tiananmen Square under the eyes of the watch-

UNMARKED police cars and the *77

Everyone knew about the red light on cars, but not the *77. It was about 1:00 p.m. In the afternoon, and Lauren was driving to visit a friend. An UNMARKED police car pulled up behind her and put his lights on. Lauren's parents have always told her never to pull over for an unmarked car on the side of the road, but rather to wait until they get to a gas station, etc.

Lauren had actually listened to her parents advice, and promptly called *77 on her cell phone to tell the police dispatcher that she would not pull over right away.

She proceeded to tell the dispatcher that there was an unmarked police car with a flashing red light on his rooftop behind her. The dispatcher checked to see if there were police cars where she was and there weren't, and he told her to keep driving, remain calm and that he had back up already on the way.

Ten minutes later 4 cop cars surrounded her

and the unmarked car behind her. One policeman went to her side and the others surrounded the car behind. They pulled the guy from the car and tackled him to the ground. The man was a convicted rapist and wanted for other crimes.

I never knew about the *77 Cell Phone Feature, but especially for a woman alone in a car, you should not pull over for an unmarked car. Apparently police have to respect your right to keep going to a safe & quiet place. You obviously need to make some signals that you acknowledge them (i.e. Put on your hazard lights) & call *77 like Lauren did.

Too bad the cell phone companies don't generally give you this little bit of wonderful information. *Speaking to a service representative at Mobility confirmed that *77 was a direct link to State trooper info. So, now it's your turn to let your friends know about *77.

US judge bans Christian car plate

A mock-up of a similar number plate prepared for use in Florida.

South Carolina's plate was similar to the one rejected for use in Florida. A US judge has or-



dered South Carolina not to issue a vehicle number plate with a Christian image and slogan.

The state legislature had approved a licence plate with a cross in front of a stained glass window and the words "I Believe" written along the top.

District Judge Cameron Currie said that the plate violated the First Amendment, which enshrines the separation of church and state.

A similar bid by a group in Florida last year did not pass state lawmakers.

'Unconstitutional'

The case was brought by Americans United, which backs the separation of church and state, on behalf of several individuals and Hindu and American-Arab groups.

It began after Lt Governor Andre Bauer helped pass legislation allowing the number plate in early 2008. Describing it as a "freedom of speech issue", he argued that given the state already permitted 103 speciality vehicle plates it was "ridiculous" that there was not one for Christians.

According to local media reports, several hundred people had registered to buy the plate. But Judge Currie ruled that the law amounted to state endorsement of a particular religion.

And she hit out at Mr Bauer, saying: "Whether motivated by sincerely-held Christian beliefs or an effort to purchase political capital with religious coin, the result is the same.

"The statute is clearly unconstitutional and defence of its implementation has embroiled the state in unnecessary (and expensive) litigation."

UK renews offer over Cyprus land

A UN-administered boundary currently separates Cyprus

Britain is "formally renewing" an offer to hand over half of its sovereign territory in Cyprus to facilitate a peace deal, the United Nations says.

Britain controls 3% of territory on Cyprus,

ment.

Cyprus was split in a Turkish invasion in 1974 which was triggered by a brief Greek-inspired coup.

The Greek and Turkish Cypriot sides restarted peace negotiations in September 2008.

The offer would be for a handover of 45 square miles, just under half of the 98 square miles (254 sq km) that Britain now controls.

'Boost process'

BBC world affairs correspondent Mike Wooldridge said the British government first made its conditional offer in 2003, before modifying it in 2004. The same offer has now been repeated.

There are two British bases in the British sovereign territory.

It is understood they would both continue in operation after the handing over of the territory.

The Greek and Turkish Cypriots restarted peace negotiations in September last year, and it is understood that the British government hopes that renewing this offer now could give "a bit of a boost to a process that seems to lack movement".

The Turkish Cypriot leader since 2005, Mehmet Ali Talat, favours reunification and membership of the EU for the whole island but he will soon be facing a new election.

The National Unity Party, which favours reunification with Turkey, won parliamentary elections in the Turkish-held area in April of this year.




The divided town of Famagusta,

which was a UK colony until 1960 and has since seen conflict between Greek and Turkish Cypriots.

The renewal of the offer came as the Cypriot president Demetris Christofias arrived on a visit to London.

Downing Street said it would issue a statement after he met Gordon Brown.

"The offer would be conditional on a comprehensive agreement being agreed by the leaders of the two communities and then accepted by a majority of their populations and formally ratified by both sides," the UN said in a state-



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