

# NATIONAL HELLENIC

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## Greece bond issue clears test of investors' confidence

Greece has raised 1.56bn euros (\$2bn; £1.3bn) in an over-subscribed bond issue that was a key test of investor confidence in the debt-laden country.

The issue is Greece's first debt sale since Sunday's agreement by eurozone countries to provide Athens with a financial safety net if it defaults.

However, Greece had to agree to pay a higher rate of return to investors to get the latest bond issue away.



Greek firemen protesting

The yield on 12-month bonds was 4.85%, and on 6-month notes it was 4.55%. This compares with a yield of 2.2% paid on 12-month bills, and 1.38% on 6-month bonds, in an issue it made in January. Greece's debt management agency had originally sought to raise 1.2bn euros from the issue.

Ben May, an economist at Capital Economics, said the issue looked "pretty successful" and was likely to ease some immediate concerns among investors about Greece's financial health.

"It's a positive endorsement of the [eurozone] bail-out measures that went out over the weekend," Mr May said. "But clearly the yields are still very high... so it does not really change the underlying position that Greece has very tough times ahead."

### Solvency challenge

It is thought that Pacific Investment Management (Pimco), the world's biggest investor in bonds, may have shunned the issue.

Mohamed El-Erian, Pimco's chief executive, had earlier told the Reuters news agency that the eurozone's rescue package did not ad-

dress Greece's fundamental crisis.

"Markets have signalled that Greece faces both refinancing, or liquidity challenges, as well as stock of debt, or solvency challenges," Mr El-Erian said.

"Based on what we know right now, we would not be a buyer [of the Greek bonds]. We are very cautious toward Greece and we are in a 'wait and see' attitude and we would like to see greater evidence of adjustment on Greece," he said.

Greece must raise about 11bn euros by the end of May to refinance maturing debt and interest charges. Its overall 2010 borrowing need is 53bn euros. Some analysts believe the latest bond issue went smoothly because the treasury bills have short maturities.

However, Greece is soon to raise another 10bn euros via longer-term bills, which will test investors' appetite for locking in their money for a longer period.

On Sunday, eurozone countries and the International Monetary Fund agreed a 30bn euro standby aid package that Greece can call upon should its financial crisis worsen.

However, legendary US investor George Soros said on Tuesday that the move was "just a little step" and that Greece could still fall into a "debt spiral".

### 'Borrow freely'

The country's finance minister, George Papaconstantinou, said the government would continue to tap the markets for money, rather than draw on the package.

"Our aim remains - and I believe we will continue to do it - to continue to freely borrow from the markets, as we did today," he said.

"I stress that the Greek government has not requested the activation of this [aid] mechanism, despite that fact that it is immediately available if required," he added.

But many analysts believe Greece's heavy debt burden means it will eventually be forced to call on the emergency funds. Capital Economics' Mr May believes there is "a strong chance" of this happening.

## Skopje's Award for its Racist Behavior and the Treaty of St. Germain-en Layé of 1919: EU Application of Double Standards on the Name Issue

By Marcus A. Templar

In Business Law, the principle *nemo dat quod non habet* means that no one may give what one does not have; nevertheless, this principle goes a little further. This rule stays valid regarding stolen goods, even if the bona fide purchaser does not know that the seller has no right to claim ownership of the object of the transaction. Thus if goods are stolen, the buyer does not get ownership even if there was no indication that they were stolen. Accordingly, the consequence of the above principle is that a person who does not own property, that is a thief, may not confer the stolen property to another person except with the true owner's permission. The same applies in International Law.



The legal status of each country is that of an artificial person. In the case of the name dispute between Skopje and Greece, the UNSC resolutions have indicated that because Greece complained that the name Macedonia, its derivatives, and its property – historical, social, and even spiritual- belongs to Greece by inheritance, Skopje may not bear the same name without the permission of its owner. Since the owner does not allow any country to bear it, Skopje had to find another name for the country and its derivatives. Considering countries as artificial persons, we may apply the above to relations among them. The UNSC agreed with Greece's contention and proceeded to adopt resolutions that constitute legal documents.

Resolution 817/93 urges the parties to continue to work together to arrive at a speedy settlement of their difference while both countries carry out negotiations under the auspices of the UN Secretary General, with the objective of finding a mutually acceptable solution to the name issue. Skopje has accepted and it will use the provisional name "The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" or "FYROM." The Interim Agreement between Greece and the FYROM explains the relation of these countries in a form of do's and don'ts during the negotiation period.

The Skopjans assert the right to self-determination allowing them to call their country whatever they want. The right of self-determination applies in terms of a country's independence, not in terms of its name, especially when the same name infringes on the human rights of other people. On September 8, 1991, Skopje exercised that right, which was never offered to Cyprus by its British occupiers.

Skopje has sued Greece alleging that Greece is in violation of article 11 of the Interim Agreement because she had persuaded other UN members that Skopje did not meet the spirit of good

neighborly relations. Nevertheless, pertinent to the matter, Skopje had not applied to join NATO as FYROM, but as "Macedonia" invoking internal constitutional arrangements. According to International Law, "no country may invoke internal constitutional arrangements to avoid its international obligations." Besides, no organization, no country, and no court may force Greece to abandon its national rights, national interests, and national security, as Greece understands them.

Officials of NATO and EU countries consider the name dispute that Greece has brought up as preposterous, although they were the same countries who were terrified by the name German thus depriving the Austrians of their own German ancestry. When the UNSC encouraged the two countries to negotiate an acceptable by both countries name for the FYROM, it did not create a precedent, but it employed one from the Peace Treaty of St. Germain-en-Layé of 1919. Upon the end of WWI and the abdication of the Kaiser in November of 1918, the Provisional National Assembly of Austria, representing the new state called Republik Deutschösterreich or "German-Austrian Republic," formed the Provisional Government of German Austria. The allies, fearing future ramifications of the inclusion of the word German in the title of the new republic, insisted that Austria change its name removing the term "German" from it. Thus according to the provisions of the Peace Treaty of St. Germain-en-Layé, signed on September 10, 1919, Austria appears under the title Republik Österreich or Austrian Republic. The website of the Austrian parliament explains in detail the reasons and the fears of the allied powers regardless of the fact that Austria did not consider those fears valid ([http://www.parlament.gv.at/EN/AP/PA/TURN/GESCH\\_6/Gesch6\\_Republic-E\\_Portal.shtml](http://www.parlament.gv.at/EN/AP/PA/TURN/GESCH_6/Gesch6_Republic-E_Portal.shtml)).

The reality is that those countries, which at present find Greece's position on the name issue ridiculous, were the same countries that objected to the term "German Austrian" in the title of the new republic being terrified of the consequences. On October 17, 1919, four days after the Constituent National Assembly adopted the treaty, the name of the state was changed to "Republic of Austria." The consequence of the name change, which the Allies imposed on Austria, was that it affected any name derivatives.

Conversely, the FYROM not only ignored the UNSC resolution 817/93, it actively launched a vigorous diplomatic and lobbying campaign, oftentimes lying that the dispute was over and that Greece had accepted for other countries to call the new state "Macedonia" as it is in the case of Guatemala's recognition. In some cases, Skopje's newly found friends did its bidding as it is in the case of Kenya. Skopje even returned documents back to the sender because their country's name was "Macedonia" as in the case Hungary; and the list can go on and on. The fact that EU and NATO countries ignore the principle *nemo dat quod non habet*

(Continued page 3)



About 700 people who died in a massive earthquake in north-west China recently have been cremated outside the worst-hit town, Jiegu. After being blessed by chanting Buddhist monks, the bodies were placed in a trench and set alight. The number of people known to have been killed in Qinghai province has risen to 1,144, officials say. Another 417 are still missing and 11,744 have been injured, a rescue spokesman told the Xinhua news agency. Tibetans traditionally perform sky burials, which involve chopping a body into pieces and leaving it on a platform to be devoured by vultures.

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# ENTERTAINMENT LIVE

By Denise Rekoumis

In movie news, "Date Night," a romantic comedy starring sitcom staples Steve Carell and Tina Fey, narrowly claimed an early lead at the weekend box office in North America, according to preliminary sales data issued on Saturday.

The 20th Century Fox film earned \$9.3 million during its first day of release across the United States and Canada on Friday, just ahead of last weekend's champion "Clash of the Titans" with \$8.4 million, said tracking firm Box Office Mojo.

The studios will issue estimates for the three-day period on Sunday morning and Warner Bros.' "Clash of the Titans" could well repeat at



No. 1 if male youngsters outnumber the couples targeted by "Date Night." Both are on track to earn in the mid-\$20 million range for the weekend.

"Date Night" stars Carell ("The Office") and Fey ("30 Rock") as a suburban couple pursued by crooks in a case of mistaken identity. The film was directed by Shawn Levy ("Night at the Museum") and generally liked by critics.

"Clash of the Titans," the latest action film to jump on the lucrative 3D bandwagon in the wake of the success of "Avatar," has earned \$92 million after its first eight days. Friday sales slid a hefty 68 percent from opening day, in line with expectations for the epic.

Rounding out the top five were former champion "How to Train Your Dragon" with \$7.1 million in its third weekend of release; and the Miley Cyrus drama "The Last Song" (\$3.6 million), and filmmaker Tyler Perry's sequel "Why Did I Get Married Too?" (\$3.5 million), both in their second weekends.

Also, on her return to Saturday Night Live, Tina Fey resurrected her Sarah Palin impression to once again lampoon the ex-Alaskan gov-

ernor. And, well, don't look for the ex-governor to turn up anytime soon as a guest on 30 Rock.

Wearing a classic Palin updo, a black leather jacket, and an American flag pin, Fey previewed a new slate of programming on the fake Sarah Palin Network. The programs included Tea Party Wheel of Fortune, Are you Smarter Than a Half-Term Governor, Dateline: To Catch a Levi Johnston, and Hey Journalist, I Gotcha!, which used re-edited news footage to show Palin outsmarting Katie Couric.

And, in celebrity relationship news, Glee's Jane Lynch has confirmed that she is engaged.

In January, the New York Times' Carpetbagger blog reported that she and longtime girlfriend, psychologist Lara Embry, were tying the knot in May. But her rep shot down the report, telling Access Hollywood that "Jane is currently in a relationship and there is n But at a Glee event Saturday at the Grove in Los Angeles, Lynch, 49, told UsMagazine.com the reports are correct.

"Yes, yes, it's true!" she told Us.

Actress Dixie Carter - best known for her role as Southerner Julia Sugarbaker on Designing Women - passed away Saturday morning. She was 70.

Her cause of death was not disclosed. Carter - who also appeared on Broadway - earned an Emmy nod in 2007 for a guest role on ABC's Desperate Housewives.

She is survived by husband of 26 years, actor Hal Holbrook, and two daughters from a previous marriage.

And in Jersey Shore news, the second season of "Jersey Shore" will kick things off in Miami before the crew heads back to Seaside Heights - but according to the New York Post, the return's not entirely by choice.

Is Miami a fist-pump-free zone? Mike "The Situation" Sorrentino, and the rest of the cast have been spotted out and about in the Florida hotspot over the last few weeks, but according to the Post, they're not winning over new fans.

And, in reality TV drama, a Los Angeles court has granted temporary custody of the children of former Survivor producer Bruce Beresford-Redman to their grandparents, according to The Associated Press.

Bruce Beresford-Redman is a suspect in the death of his wife, Monica Beresford-Redman, who was found dead Thursday in Cancun, Mexico. Local authorities released Bruce Beresford-Redman from detention Friday, but he is still not allowed to leave the country as the investigation continues.

Custody of the two children, ages 5 and 3, was given specifically to Bruce Beresford-Redman's parents, a source tells the AP.

# NEWSWEEK LIVE

By Denise Rekoumis

In local news, a commercial airplane that took off from O'Hare International Airport had to return after a warning light in the aircraft was activated, prompting another maintenance check before it can be safely used for travel. The plane, United Airlines Flight. No. 638, took off from O'Hare at 8:53 a.m. (Central Time) and was scheduled to arrive at Orlando International Airport at 12:34 p.m. (Eastern Time), said United spokesman Mike Trevino. The plane returned to O'Hare shortly after takeoff. The plan was carrying 130 passengers, many of them children.

Also, Chicago police are investigating a shooting in the Northwest Side's Belmont Cragin community that left one person wounded.

The male victim was shot in his upper right leg about 6 a.m. in the 5700 block of West Belden Avenue, his condition wasn't available but his injuries were stabilized, police said. He was being treated at Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center.

The shooter is described as a short male teen, wearing a gray sweatshirt. The shooter remained at-large this morning.

And, Chicago's Polish community — the largest in the world outside Warsaw — reacted in shock and horror to a plane crash Saturday that killed 97 people, including Polish president Lech Kaczynski, several Polish political and religious leaders and a respected Chicago artist.

It's devastating," said Dr. Marek Rudnicki, who had friends on the plane who had fought with him against Poland's former Communist government. "Just imagine, half of the government of the country is gone in one second."

Rudnicki said the crash adds to Poland's long history of tragedy.

Zygmunt Matynia, Chicago Consul General of Poland, called the crash "unfathomable."

"I still cannot believe it," Matynia said. The president and his wife, Maria, were sched-

uled to come to Chicago next month for Polish Constitution Day.

In world news, the political standoff in Bangkok intensifies following the worst civil violence in nearly 20 years, with protesters standing their ground on the streets of Bangkok and the government ignoring their demand to step down and call new elections.

In fierce running battles late into the night, the military failed to dislodge anti-government demonstrators who have been camping out for nearly a month, leaving the administration with few options to end the increasingly destabilizing confrontation.

The death toll rose to 21, with nearly 900 wounded, after a night of chaos filled with tear gas, gunfire and explosions in which both sides, armed and aggressive, ended weeks of scrupulous nonviolence. With both the military and the protesters bloodied and angry, it was not clear what moves would come next after three years of turmoil that has included a military coup, months of competing protests and the closure of Bangkok's airports.

And, Uganda enlists former rebels to end the war. In an unorthodox strategy that could help end this seemingly pointless war, the Ugandan Army is deploying special squads of experienced killers to track down the L.R.A.'s leader, Joseph Kony, one of the most wanted men in Africa, who has been on the run for two decades.

These soldiers, like Commander Makasi, are former L.R.A. fighters themselves, and just about all of them were abducted as children. They recently surrendered and are now wading through black rivers and head-high elephant grass across three of the most troubled countries in the world — the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Sudan — where the last remnants of the L.R.A. are believed to be hiding. They say they know all of Mr. Kony's tricks.

Some critics may not think this wise, putting so much trust in men whose moral compass had been turned upside down for so long.

But the Ugandan government is desperate to finish this conflict, which ravaged northern Uganda and killed thousands.

# How Old Is Grandpa

Stay with this — the answer is at the end. It will blow you away.

One evening a grandson was talking to his grandfather about current events.. The grandson asked his grandfather what he thought about the shootings at schools, the computer age, and just things in general. The Grandfather replied, “Well, let me think a minute, I was born before:’ television ’ penicilline polio shots’ frozen foods ’ Xerox contact lenses ’ Frisbees and ’ the pill There were no: credit cards ’ laser beams or ’ ball-point pens Man had not invented: ’ pantyhose ’ air conditioners ’ dishwashers ’ clothes dryers ’ and the clothes were hung out to dry in the fresh air and ’ man hadn’t yet walked on the moon

Your Grandmother and I got married first and then lived together. Every family had a father and a mother. Until I was 25, I called every man older than me, “Sir”. And after I turned 25, I still called policemen and every man with a title, “Sir.” We were before gay-rights, computer-dating, dual careers, daycare centers, and group therapy. Our lives were governed by the Ten Commandments, good judgment, and common sense. We were taught to know the difference between right and wrong and to stand up and take responsibility for our actions.

Serving your country was a privilege; living in this country was a bigger privilege.. We thought fast food was what people ate during Lent. Having a meaningful relationship meant getting along with your cousins. Draft dodgers were those who closed front doors as the evening breeze started. Time-sharing meant time the family spent together in the evenings and weekends-not purchasing con-

dominiums. We never heard of FM radios, tape decks, CDs, electric typewriters, yogurt, or guys wearing earrings. We listened to Big Bands, Jack Benny, and the President’s speeches on our radios. And I don’t ever remember any kid blowing his brains out listening to Tommy Dorsey. If you saw anything with ‘Made in Japan ‘ on it, it was junk The term ‘making out’ referred to how you did on your school exam... Pizza Hut, McDonald’s, and instant coffee were unheard of...We had 5 & 10-cent stores where you could actually buy things for 5 and 10 cents. Ice-cream cones, phone calls, rides on a streetcar, and a Pepsi were all a nickel.

And if you didn’t want to splurge, you could spend your nickel on enough stamps to mail 1 letter and 2 postcards. You could buy a new Chevy Coupe for \$600, but who could afford one? Too bad, because gas was 11 cents a gallon.

In my day:’ “grass” was mowed,’ “coke” was a cold drink, ’ “pot” was something your mother cooked in and ’ “rock music” was your grandmother’s lullaby. ’ “Aids” were helpers in the Principal’s office, ’ “chip” meant a piece of wood, ’ “hardware” was found in a hardware store and ’ “software” wasn’t even a word.

And we were the last generation to actually believe that a lady needed a husband to have a baby. No wonder people call us “old and confused” and say there is a generation gap. and how old do you think I am? I bet you have this old man in mind...you are in for a shock! Read on to see — pretty scary if you think about it and pretty sad at the same time. Are you ready ????? This man would be only 59 years old.

Bob Tisman

## Skopje’s Award for its Racist Behavior and the Treaty of St. Germain-en Layé of 1919: EU Application of Double Standards on the Name Issue

By Marcus A. Templar

(From page 1)

is absolutely inconsequential to them.

The officially sanctioned Macedonism raise Skopje’s nationalism to the highest level with every single day that passes. The “Macedonian” prayer written and produced by Niche Dimovski, vice-president of the World Macedonian Congress, was shown on national TV (i.e. MTV) of the FYROM had God telling the “Macedonians,” “[f]rom you, Macedonians, descendants of Macedon I conceived the white race. All that stretches over to the Japanese sea is conceived from you [sic] gene.” Furthermore, in the prayer God said to his flock calling all the white men on the planet Macedonoids. To this day not one official of the FYROM or the Skopjan diaspora has condemned this racist nine minute video.

Besides the propaganda issue of “Macedonians in bondage,” the FYROM government published the history book of the “Macedonian Military” that includes the history of ancient Macedonia and an army associated with Skopje’s perception of ancient Macedonia. To be exact, the Military Academy of the FYROM funded the book, which after Greece filed a demarche, the government of the FYROM withdrew, but it is now on sale by the author. Simultaneously, the Slavic pupils and youth have been constantly bombarded with anti-Hellenic propaganda through their school-books, the Press, and its diaspora. In the course of history of any institution of the country, any argument of ancient Macedonians being Greek has been prohibited and it is punishable by law. Yet, not one Skopjan official or scholar has ever provided a single piece of evidence, let alone proof, for their allegedly inherited Macedonism.

The Falkland’s War started because of similar publications appearing in Argentina placing the mentality of the Argentinean people in a state that encouraged the regime to attack a British territory. A whole generation of schoolchildren had been taught that the Malvinas i.e. Falklands were Argentinean territory. The government had even issued postage stamps proclaiming the islands part of the Argentinean Republic. Argentine maps labeled the Islands as “occupied territory.”

Nonetheless, the problem is wider than the

simple name Macedonia. The Slav inhabitants of the FYROM who have nothing to do with the ancient Macedonians, have changed the names of streets to ancient Macedonian ones (i.e. Greek names), they have been erecting statues of ancient Macedonian heroes (i.e. Greek names) and they are building monuments and naming them after ancient Macedonian kings (i.e. Greek names). Another absurd fact is that although they claim that Alexander the Great was not Greek, they consider him descendent of the mythical hero Heracles concealing the fact that Hercules is the Roman name for Heracles who was definitely an Achaean Greek! The penultimate outlandish thing that remains is to change their own language to “ancient Macedonian” (i.e. the language of the katadesmos of Pella), which was a mixed Northwest Doric dialect with Aeolic elements.

Instead of foreign governments pressuring Skopje to stop the violation of the letter and the spirit of the Interim Agreement, they pressure Greece under the pretext of Skopje’s instability! Have they forgotten that Skopje’s disregard for her own signature has become the modus operandi of the country? Skopje has done the same with the Ohrid Agreement and in this manner it keeps contributing to its own instability.

Would the same EU/NATO officials that recklessly support the FYROM’s ultra-nationalistic path conclude a contract with someone knowing full well that s/he negotiates in bad faith violating pacta sunt servanda? Foreign governments violate the principle nemo dat quod non habet because they are indifferent and do not want to see the upcoming problems which they will create when they sign the document of Skopje’s ascension to the EU. They politically equate the victim (Greece) to the villain (Skopje) and then proceed to assist the thief to keep the stolen goods, the name Macedonia, along with its derivatives and its heritage, stumping on the principle nemo dat quod non habet and Athens remains silent. WHY? Perhaps Athens is unwilling to think outside the box and consequently connect the dots.

# PROOF THAT THE WORLD IS NUTS?

In Lebanon , men are legally allowed to have sex with animals, but the animals must be female. Having sexual relations with a male animal is punishable by death.

(Like THAT makes sense.)

In Bahrain , a male doctor may legally examine a woman’s genitals, but is prohibited from looking directly at them during the examination. He may only see their reflection in a mirror.

(Do they look different reverse)

Muslims are banned from looking at the genitals of a corpse. This also applies to undertakers. The sex organs of the deceased must be covered with a brick or piece of wood at all times. (A brick?)

The penalty for masturbation in Indonesia is decapitation. (Much worse than ‘going blind!’)

There are men in Guam whose full-time job is to travel the countryside and deflower young virgins, who pay them for the privilege of having sex for the first time.

Reason: under Guam law, it is expressly forbidden for virgins to marry.

(Let’s just think for a minute; is there any job anywhere else in the world that even comes close to this?)

In Hong Kong , a betrayed wife is legally allowed to kill her adulterous husband, but may only do so with her bare hands.

The husband’s illicit lover, on the other hand, may be killed in any manner desired.

(Ah! Justice)

Topless saleswomen are legal in Liverpool , England - but only in tropical fish stores.

(But of course!)

In Cali , Colombia , a woman may only have sex with her husband, and the first time this happens, her mother must be in the room to witness the act. (Makes one shudder at the thought.)

In Santa Cruz , Bolivia , it is illegal for a man to have sex with a woman and her daughter at the same time.

(I presume this was a big enough problem that they had to pass this law?)

In Maryland , it is illegal to sell condoms from vending machines with one exception: Prophylactics may be dispensed from a vending machine only in places where alcoholic beverages are sold for consumption on the premises.’ (Is this a great country or what? Well,.... not as great as Guam !)

Banging your head against a wall uses 150 calories an hour. (Who volunteers for these tests?)

The ant can lift 50 times its own weight, can pull 30 times its own weight and always falls over on its right side when intoxicated.

(From drinking little bottles of ???) (Did our government pay for this research??)

Butterflies taste with their feet.. (Ah, geez.)

An ostrich’s eye is bigger than its brain. (I know some people like that.)

Starfish don’t have brains. (I know some people like that, too.) And, the best for last?

Turtles can breathe through their butts. (And I thought I had bad breath in the morning!)



In terms of geography, Mt. Athos, the eastern of the three ‘legs’ of Halkidiki, is not the ‘heart’ of the Macedonian terra firma; in terms of culture, however, the Athonian monastic community has been the spirit of Macedonia for more than 1,000 years.

Since the Middle Ages this peninsula has shared the fate of Macedonia: the glory of Byzantium, Ottoman domination, numerous revolutions, defeats, disasters, looting, hope and despair, and eventually Greek liberation,



following the Balkan War in 1912.

Throughout this lengthy period, in times of war and peace, the Athos monasteries have never ceased to strongly influence the culture and spiritual life of the orthodox world and the region of Macedonia in particular.

Within this site you will find a fully guided tour, not only to the past, but to a vivid and flourishing ecclesiastical community.

Mount Athos is the oldest monastic republic still in existence. Located on the Athos peninsula of Chalkidiki, in the Greek part of Macedonia, it was officially established in 963, when a monk named Athanasios the Athonite built the Monastery of the Great Lavra. However, anchorites had been living at the northern end of the Athos peninsula since the middle of the ninth century. In the centuries that followed, twenty monasteries were built, together with a number of smaller communities known as sketae. Nowadays, many monks live in kellia, kalyvae, kathismata, and hesychasteria, which are various forms of small monastic communities or hermitages. The administrative center of Mount Athos is the village of Karyes.

As time went by, three forms of monastic

life evolved: coenobitic, idiorrhythmic, and solitary. The coenobitic rule is characterised by discipline, and the monks come together for worship and meals. In the coenobitic monasteries, the monks rise an hour after midnight to pray, alone in their cells at first and then all together in the main church, the katholikon, where they remain until daybreak. They then eat together in the refectory. The meal is followed by prayers, and the monks withdraw to occupy themselves with the tasks assigned to them by the monastery. No-one is exempt from work, not even the hegumen (abbot). After mid-day, the monks sleep or rest. In the late afternoon, they gather in the church again for the evening liturgy (esperinos), and they then go to the refectory, if it is not a fast day. The last liturgy of the day follows (apodeipnon). The monastery gates are closed, and the monks retire to their cells, where they read, pray, and sleep.

The idiorrhythmic way of life came about as a result of the Ottoman conquest and the attendant imposition of harsh taxes on the monks, as also the establishment of the sketae. In the sketae and the idiorrhythmic monasteries, the monks organise their own time, dividing it between prayer and work in accordance with their personal needs. They come together for the Divine Liturgy only on Sundays and feast days; on ordinary days, each fulfils his religious obligations in the chapel in his own kalyva, or hut.

The solitary life is the most difficult of all. The monks who have chosen to be hermits live in complete solitude in caves or rudimentary dwellings on precipitous slopes or cliff sides. They eat as much as they need to stay alive, work to keep their minds alert, and devote all their time to prayer. Occasionally, they go to the nearby monasteries to receive communion.

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# NEWS FROM GREECE

## Activation of EU support mechanism "not an issue"

Finance minister George Papaconstantinou on Friday stressed that there is no issue of activation of the EU support mechanism for the Greek economy, in statements to the press after a meeting with prime minister George Papandreou.

"No issue of activating the mechanism has been put forward. The mechanism is a very important safety net. These recent days, specification of the mechanism is taking place, as had been planned, in a follow-up to the EU Summit decision," the minister explained.

## Samaras blames gov't for rising spreads

Main opposition New Democracy (ND) leader Antonis Samaras sharply criticised the government during an address at a regional meeting of his party in the northwest city of Kozani on Friday, held ahead of the 8th party congress.

He accused the government of being responsible for the skyrocketing spreads and, referring to his party, clarified that he will not allow a return to introversion, while no disunity will be tolerated.

Nevertheless, Samaras admitted that when ND was in office it "made mistakes and omissions", stressing however, that "they were nothing compared to the performance of the current PASOK government."

## Countries unite for repatriation of looted cultural heritage

Twenty-six countries, among them Greece, have joined forces in a coordinated campaign for the return of their stolen antiquities, during an international conference in Cairo this week on recovering stolen ancient artefacts from abroad attended by antiquities officials, deputy culture ministers and museum directors.

The first step of the initiative is to draft a catalogue containing the priority stolen antiquities that the countries are demanding be repatriated, while the conference delegates also discussed proposals and recommendations that will be submitted to United Nations' cultural body, UNESCO, aiming at amendment of a 1970 convention banning the ownership or export of stolen antiquities acquired after that date in order to facilitate the repatriation of the antiquities to their countries of origin.

Seven delegate countries -- Egypt, Greece, Guatemala, Libya, Nigeria, Peru and Syria -- of the 22 countries in attendance at the Cairo conference, have already submitted their lists with the antiquities designated as "top priority" they seek to be returned, while the remaining countries have a month to submit their own lists, according to Egypt's antiquities

chief Dr. Zahi Hawass, secretary general of the country's Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA).

For Greece, the priority continues to be the return of the Parthenon Marbles from the British Museum, which it has been campaigning for over the past 30 years.

Announcing the expanded campaign at a joint press conference with the officials from the US, Greece and Italy, Hawass noted that "Greece was fighting alone, and Italy was fighting alone", but "now, for the first time, we are united...we will fight together".

Greece's representative Elena Korka, who heads the country's cultural heritage protection directorate, told reporters that the Cairo conference "shows the importance many countries place on this matter and enables us to join forces".

## Gul, Erdogan receive Droutsas

Turkish President Abdullah Gul and Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Thursday received Greek Alternate Foreign Minister Dimitris Droutsas, following the conclusion of the latter's working visit here.

The Greek delegation's contacts in the Turkish capital on Thursday aimed to ensure the intensification of "exploratory contacts" with the goal of delineating the Aegean's continental shelf within a "reasonable period of time", and if this is not possible, then recourse to the International Court at The Hague being the next step.

The purpose is for the next round of exploratory contacts to take place before the Turkish prime minister's visit to Athens in mid-May.

According to Greek officials, Athens reiterated that the framework for such talks is absolute respect for territorial integrity, sovereign rights and international law, referring to the latter as essential preconditions for the two countries' substantive rapprochement.

It was also stressed in the talks that Turkey must fulfill commitments towards the European Union, as well as all its member-states, including the Republic of Cyprus.

Droutsas also met with the chairman of the Turkish national assembly's foreign policy committee, Murat Mercan.

## Tax bill ratified in principle

The taxation bill was ratified in principle and for its articles at the Parliamentary Economic Committee on Thursday.

The main opposition New Democracy (ND) party voted in favour of about a third of the articles, while it reserved judgement on some others at the Plenum. The Radical Left Coalition (SYRIZA) voted against in principle and for all, calling in parallel for stricter clauses concerning living criteria and reserved judgement for each of the articles at the Plenum, after examining the changes announced by Yiannis Papaconstantinou. The Popular Orthodox Rally (LAOS) party reserved judgement both in principle and on the articles, while the Communist Party of Greece (KKE) stated that, although it agrees with some of the arrangements in the bill, it votes against all, expressing its opposition to the Finance ministry's bill that is "distinguished by the tax exemptions that it anticipates for the big capital and the big debtors."

## Environment Min. in Paris

Environment, Energy and Climate Change Minister Tina Birbili met in Paris on Thursday with her French counterpart Jean-Louis Borloo.

Their meeting focused on the promotion of bilateral cooperation in the sectors of environmental protection and energy.

They also expressed support to the efforts for a global agreement in the UN convention of climate change to take place in Mexico at the end of the year.

Accompanied by the presidents of Public Power Corporation (PPC) and DE.PA natgas utility, Birbili had contacts with the representatives of companies active in the energy sector, including GDF SUEZ, EDF Energy, AREVA, for talks on strategic cooperation issues.

## Trichet on Greek spreads



European Central Bank President Jean-Claude Trichet on Thursday declined to comment on the skyrocketing spreads for Greek 10-year bonds, while noting that a joint EU-International Monetary Fund aid programme for Greece outlined by euro-area leaders on March 25 was a "workable statement."

He also emphasised that there was no issue of Greece not being able to make its payments, while it was up to Athens to activate the support mechanism.



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# Slavomacedonian male names of FYROM-Skopje

Miltiades Elia Bolaris

The Slavs begun arriving in the south Balkans sometime around the end of the 6th and the beginning of the seventh century AD.

A well orchestrated attempt is being propagated out of Skopje to portray the Slavic presence in Macedonia as eternal, going back to the ancient Macedonians, who were a Greek tribe, and to the Paionians who were an ethno-linguistic group akin to the Greeks. Their theory is that the Slavs are Macedonians, not the Slavomacedonians Slavs, and that the original Slavic homeland was not in the Pripjet marches of Byelorussia and Ukraine but in Macedonia. This, obviously has no bearing on history, archaeology and forensic linguistics and it makes a travesty out of everything that is commonly accepted by the academic community world wide.

A famous or infamous proponent of pseudo-macedonism is Mr. Aleksandar Donski, a self proclaimed "professor of History". He has written numerous books or should we call them propaganda treatises, where his repeating motto is that the modern Slavomacedonians, the Slavonic speaking "Slavomakedonci" of FYROM are the autochthonous Macedonians who have saved in their language many of the names of the ancient Macedonians.

In a series of articles under the general title: "Macedonian names and MakeDONSKI pseudo-linguistics, we have time and again uncovered the faulty shallowness of these claims that cannot hold their own against any serious attempt to disprove them. Whenever History is replaced by propaganda, the people against whom propaganda is directed are on the losing side, intellectually and otherwise.

A crime has been committed against the people of the former Yugoslav Republic of Makedonija, a crime of the BIG LIE against their own self identity. This may sound like a harsh statement, but it is precise. What makes this BIG LIE more unacceptable is not that is merely portrays a false self image on the people of FYROM, which is bad enough in itself. What complicates the Macedonian name issue is that by adopting a false identity, the pseudomacedonian Skopjans want to elevate what was the fringe of the ancient Macedonian kingdom (and barely qualifies as Macedonian geographically and historically) and pass it as Macedonia proper, denying the Macedonian identity from the Macedonian Greeks who have all the reasons of history and language supporting them.

What is even more reprehensible is that by adopting a pseudo-Macedonian identity, the Skopians then turn and "demand" the liberation of the rest of "their" Macedonia. Irredentism, based on true or fake "historic rights" is what makes the volatile Balkans flare up into eruptions of hatred and killing from time to time. The use of Balkan ethnic hatred by "outsiders" as it happened during the 1990's break up of Yugoslavia, is what fuels the outlandish demands of Albanian Kossovar-Tetovar and Slavomacedonian-Skopian ultra-nationalism. They can see that "anything" is possible, even the capture of Thessaloniki, Greece's million strong, second largest city as a capital of a Slavonic "Makedonija".

In this light, pseudo-scientists in the pay of Skopjan propaganda, characters of the type of Aleksandar Donski, Aristotel Tendov and Tome Boshevski among others, do not seem as ludicrous as they firstly appear, but their pseudo-macedonism takes on its truly sinister irredentist flavor.

In this article we will not try to disprove the alleged "Slavic" character of some ancient Greek or Thracian name in Donski's pseudo-Macedonian candy box. We will instead look at the true character of the modern Slavomacedonian male names and what they tell us about the true identity of the Slavic speaking inhabitants of FYROM.

In the 1996 "Orthodox Calendar", published by the Synod of the so called "Macedonian Orthodox Church" we find the list of male names used in FYROM. It is inappropriately misnamed (something to be expected in this misnamed country). "Macedonian names of Biblical Origin". As we will show, there is very little "Macedonian" and very little "Biblical" in the names below.

What is a "Macedonian name"? Are we to call Macedonian names the names that appear in ancient Macedonian history, after the Greek-speaking Macedonians conquered this land sometime around 800-750 BC? If this is a proper description, then Macedonian names, are all the names that appear in the literary, historical and epigraphical record of ancient Macedonia, since this is the Greek tribe that gave their name to this land. Over ninety five percent of these names are Greek, with some Paionian and some Thracian names appearing here and there. The vast majority of these names appear in every other dialect of Greek speaking areas around the Hellenic speaking world. Are the names Alexandros and Philippos and Aristoteles "Macedonian" names? While the most famous persons carrying these names are unquestionably Greeks of Macedonia, these names also appear as everyday Greek names in every other part of Greece, and the Hellenic speaking world and not only in Macedonia. Ptolemaios, Antiochos, Hephestion, Lysimachos are not names exclusive to the Hellenic-speaking Macedonians.

With the arrival of the Romans, initially and with the Slavs, the Albanians and the Turks in Macedonia much later on, their Latin, Slavonic, Albanian and Turkish or Arabic names arrive in Macedonia with them. Should these names now be re-named "Macedonian"? My position is that if we are to be scientific and precise then we must properly call these names

"Roman, Slavic, Albanian or Turkish names common in Macedonia" at such and such time period.

The names of the ancient Macedonians were as Greek as any Peloponnesian, Thessalian, Ionian or Sicilian Greek name with some names being exclusively used in their dialect, which is something common to all other Greeks but also to all spoken and live languages around the world.

Biblical names, are names that appear in the bible, and as such are traditionally called the names that are Hebrew in origin. The New Testament, besides Hebrew has several Greek names and some Roman names too. Hebrew names start appearing in Macedonia with the arrival of Christianity in the first century AD and this is well documented in the funerary epigraphical record. This is also the time that the Thracian names start fading away and eventually they disappear by the 4th c AD with only ancient Greek and Christian (Greek, Latin and Hebrew) names surviving.

Let us now look into this list of names common among the Slavomakedonci and see how "Macedonian" they are. We classify these names according to the original linguistic pool from which they are derived.

- \* Latin names: 18 names or 6.16%
- \* Slavonic names: 128 names or 43.83%
- \* Hellenic/Greek names: 103 names or 35.27%

Instead of trying to "prove" an unprovable and wholly fictitious Balkan and Macedonian autochthony, using the ancient Greek names of the ancient Macedonians as a fake spearhead (foolishly attempting to explain them as Slavonic in nature), the Skopian propagandists should at some point make an effort to gain some crumbs of their long ago lost seriousness by sitting down and trying to explain the flood of Hellenic names in their own onomastics: more than one in three names, fully 35.27% of Slavomacedonian names are Hellenic in origin.

Instead of trying of claiming (un-historically) that the two Byzantine monks from Thessalonike, in the imperial diplomatic service, the nobles Constantinos-Cyrillos and his brother Methodios were Slavs, they should try to be as grateful to the Greek nation (as all the other Slavs are, starting with the Russians), for the gift of Christianity and Graeco-Roman (Byzantine) civilization that their progenitors received from the Greeks. A whopping 35.27 of the Slavomacedonian male names, proves the point as to who influenced whom, after all.

As far as onomastics go, Greek names account for over 95% of the ancient Macedonian names, over 90% of modern Macedonian Greek names and over over 35% of modern Slavomacedonian male names. Slavonic names account for almost 44% of all modern Slavomacedonian male names while there is not a single one, I repeat, NOT A SINGLE ONE Slavonic name in the modern Greek (Macedonian or other) onomastics whether ancient (that would be a historical joke) or in the modern Greek one.

Here we treated only the male Slavomacedonian names. We will revisit this issue again with the female names common among the Slavomacedonians of FYROM-Skopje. As for the last names, the fact that such well known Slavomacedonian names as Gruevski, Chervenkovski and Milososki rhyme perfectly well with Jaruzelski, Brzezinski, Lempitski, Moskovski, Malinovski and Sibirski tells us volumes about the closest linguistic relatives of the Slavomacedonians. I have not seen many Poles, Czechs, Slovaks or Russians claim descent from the Greek-speaking ancient Macedonians, after all: they are serious about their self esteem and very much comfortable and proud about their Slavic self-identity not to play havoc with it. If only their Yugoslavian (= south Slavic) cousins from Skopje would do the same, instead of acting like adopted Balkan orphans tragically searching for their long lost roots, the Macedonian name issue would not be here.

Pseudo-Macedonism, as we have proven time and again, is based on a Big Lie, a fake identity imposed on an essentially Slavonic nation; Slavonic in language and culture, though not necessarily in DNA or ethnic descent, which is mixed and it matters very little in identity anyway. Pseudo-Macedonism is a transformational travesty in the most literal sense of the world and this is not an insult, it is a political description.

# Koraes Elementary School Celebrates Greek Independence Day!



On Sunday March 21, 2010, Koraes Elementary School, affiliated with SS Constantine and Helen Church in Palos Hill, celebrated Greek Independence Day. The students dressed in traditional Greek customs, performed patriotic Greek songs, performed traditional Greek dances and also told the story of how Greece won their Independence from Turkish Ottoman Rule on March 25th 1821. Pictured sitting from left to right, Mr. John Arvanetes (Parish Council President), Father Panteleimon Dalianis (Presbyter), Father Byron Papanikolaou (Protopresbyter), Father Nicholas W. Jonas (Pastor), Mrs. Mary Zaharis (Principal), Mr. Leo Bazanis, Koraes School Board Chairman, Mr. Tom De Medeiros (Pastoral Assistant), pictured on stage the Preschool, kindergarten, first grade, fourth grade and eighth grade classes.

# THE WORLD IN PICTURES



**Polish president's plane crashes**  
Poland's President Lech Kaczynski and scores of others are killed as their plane crashes in Russia after hitting trees in foggy weather.



# Who are the Taliban?

The Taliban are active in both Afghanistan and Pakistan Recent years have seen the re-emergence of the hardline Islamic Taliban movement as a fighting force in Afghanistan and a major threat to its government. They are also threatening to destabilise Pakistan, where they control areas in the north-west and are blamed for a wave of suicide bombings and other attacks. The Taliban emerged in the early 1990s in northern Pakistan following the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. A predominantly Pashtun movement, the Taliban came to prominence in Afghanistan in the autumn of 1994. It is commonly believed that they first appeared in religious seminaries - mostly paid for by money from Saudi Arabia - which preached a hard line form of Sunni Islam. The Taliban's promise - in Pashtun areas straddling Pakistan and Afghanistan - was to restore peace and security and enforce their own austere version of Sharia, or Islamic law, once in power. In both countries they introduced or supported Islamic punishments - such as public executions of convicted murderers and adulterers and amputations of those found guilty of theft Men were required to grow beards and women had to wear the all-covering burka.

# Vatican defends Pope in paedophile letter row

The Vatican has defended the Pope against allegations that he was responsible for delaying Church action against a US paedophile priest.

A spokesman said the claims, which stem from a letter signed by Benedict XVI when he was a senior Vatican official, had been taken out of context.



AP published a letter, signed by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger in 1985, resisting Stephen Kiesle's defrocking. The Vatican says he was exercising due caution before sacking the priest.

A leading British Catholic commentator said the issue had exposed an ongoing power struggle between senior Vatican cardinals that started during the papacy of Pope Benedict's predecessor, John Paul II.

### Series of scandals

In the letter, Cardinal Ratzinger - who was at the time the head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which has responsibility for tackling abuse by clerics - said the "good of the universal Church" needed to be considered in any defrocking, AP reported.

The Vatican claims the letter must be considered in its true context of a lengthy exchange of correspondence between California and Rome about defrocking an American priest who was a known child molester.

The Pope's critics claim that he stalled and left unanswered for years letters concerning alleged cases of sexual abuse by priests.

American bishops are coming under increasing pressure from their flocks to explain why the Church in Rome did not take more robust action or took no action at all. So they are releasing confidential documents which put the future Pope's lack of action in a bad light. The Vatican insists that the Pope was only exercising due caution before sacking a priest for sexual misconduct.

A Vatican spokesman said the letter was part of a long correspondence and should not be taken out of context. "The press office doesn't believe it is necessary to respond to every single document taken out of context regarding particular legal situations," said the spokesman, Fr Federico Lombardi.

He acknowledged that the Church had lost public trust and said Church law could no longer be placed above civil laws if that trust were to be recovered. This is an abrupt change of tone by the Vatican, says BBC religious affairs correspondent Robert Pigott.

Officials had previously accused critics of trying to smear the Pope personally and only last weekend said he should ignore petty gossip directed at him, our correspondent adds.

The Catholic Church has been hit by a series of child abuse scandals in recent years, including in Ireland, the US, Germany and Norway, and has faced criticism for failing to deal adequately with the problem.

On Friday, the Vatican urged Catholic dioceses around the world to co-operate with police

investigating sex abuse allegations against priests.

The Vatican says the Pope is willing to meet more victims of clerical abuse, while the Church is set to publish an internet guide as to how bishops deal with accusations of sexual abuse.

AP said Fr Kiesle was sentenced to three years of probation in 1978 for lewd conduct with two young boys in San Francisco.

### ALLEGATIONS FACING POPE

In 1980 as archbishop of Munich and Freising, then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger unwittingly approved housing for a priest accused of child abuse; a former deputy later said he made the decision. Cardinal Ratzinger failed to act over complaints during the 1990s about US priest Lawrence Murphy, who is thought to have abused some 200 deaf boys in Wisconsin

Cardinal Ratzinger allowed a case against Arizona priest Michael Teta to languish at the Vatican for more than a decade despite repeated pleas for his removal.

Cardinal Ratzinger resisted the defrocking of California priest Stephen Kiesle, a convicted offender, saying "good of the universal Church" needed to be considered.

The Pope's supporters say he has been unfairly blamed for cases handled by junior staff, and that he has been proactive in addressing child abuse.

It said the Oakland diocese had recommended Fr Kiesle's removal in 1981 but that that did not happen until 1987.

A Vatican attorney said Kiesle was not accused of any misdemeanour during the period.

Cardinal Ratzinger took over the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in 1981.

AP says the 1985 correspondence, written in Latin, shows the cardinal saying that Kiesle's removal would need careful review.

Cardinal Ratzinger urged "as much paternal care as possible" for Kiesle.

Kiesle was sentenced to six years in prison in 2004 after admitting molesting a young girl in 1995. Kiesle is now 63 and is on the registered sex offenders list in California.

### Power struggle

While the scandal has prompted calls for the Pope's resignation, a columnist for Britain's leading Catholic newspaper said Cardinal Ratzinger had actually wanted to crack down hard on paedophile priests in the 1980s.

1985 letter with Cardinal Ratzinger's signature. This court... deems it necessary to consider the good of the Universal Church together with that of the petitioner

Pope willing to see abuse victims

Clifford Longley, a columnist for The Tablet, said the cardinal was thwarted by other senior Vatican figures who wanted to cover up the sex-abuse crisis, until he was given overall control of the issue in 2001.

"Ratzinger was thwarted on several occasions... by people surrounding the Pope, and indeed possibly by John Paul II himself, who did not appear to be taking the situation anything like as seriously as Ratzinger," said Mr Longley.

Since Benedict XVI was elected as Pope in 2006, things had changed radically, added Mr Longley, but the power-struggle was ongoing.

The Vatican has ruled out any possibility of a papal resignation over the scandal.

# His Eminence Metropolitan Iakovos Tonsures Young Men of Parish of Saints Constantine and Helen to the Office of Reader



On Sunday, March 14, 2010, His Eminence Metropolitan Iakovos of Chicago tonsured 12 young men as readers in the Orthodox Church. At the conclusion of the Divine Services on this day, the young men were brought forward facing the royal doors, where His Eminence read the following prayer over them:

*"O Lord God Almighty, elect these Thy servants, and sanctify them; and grant unto them, with all wisdom and understanding, to practice the study and reading of Thy divine words, preserving them in a blameless course of life. Through the mercies and compassions and love for mankind of Thine Only-begotten Son, with Whom Thou art blessed, together with Thine All-holy, Good, and Living Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages."*

The position of reader in the Orthodox Church is a great honor for our young men to receive – and is really the first step in the progression to the diaconate, and priesthood. We pray that our new readers will heed the words of the prayer that is read over them and go forward to study the words of Holy Scripture with greater zeal and application. Young Men receiving this honor: Panayiotis Hasiakos, Telly Dionysios Visvardis, Demitrios Andrikopoulos, Athanasios Davelis, Andreas Skarpathiotis, Nicholas Jonas, Evangelos Theodoropoulos, Vasileios Vergados, Leonidas Apostolos Bezanis, George Chialdikas, Antonios Kladis, Yianni Petropoulos. For more information about this and other activities call the Church office at 708-974-3400.

KOSTAS KOUTSOGIORGAS FROM "THE GREEK ISLANDS" SUGGESTS

## Recipes from Chef MD's BIG BOOK OF CULINARY MEDICINE, Author John La Puma, MD and Rebecca Powell Marx

### ROASTED RED PEPPER, WINE AND RED LENTIL SOUP



Prep Time: 10 minutes Cook Time: 30 minutes

#### INGREDIENTS

1 Tbs Olive Oil, 2 Large Organic Carrots, thinly sliced, 1 Medium Yellow Onion, chopped, 1 1/2 tsp Jamaican Jerk Seasoning, 3/4 Cups Red Lentils, 1 Cup Dry White Wine, 1 Cup Water, 2 Cups Packaged Roasted Red Pepper Soup, 1/2 Cup 2% Greek-Style Strained Yogurt.

#### PREPARATION

Heat the oil in a large saucepan over medium-high heat. Add the carrots, onions, and jerk seasoning; cook for 2 minutes, stirring fre-

quently. Stir in the lentils to coat with oil. Stir in the wine and water; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer uncovered for 10 minutes. Stir in soup; return to a boil. Cover; simmer for 15 minutes or until the lentils and vegetables are tender. Ladle into shallow bowls; top with yogurt. Yields: 4 1 1/2-cup servings.

### PAPAYA FILLED WITH GINGERED BLUEBERRIES

Prep Time: 10 minutes Cook Time: 0 minutes

#### INGREDIENTS

1/4 Cup Low-Fat Berry-Flavored Kefir, Such As Lifeway Brand, 1 Tbs Finely Chopped Crystallized Ginger, 1/8 tsp Ground Cinnamon, 2 Cups Blueberries (Organic Preferred), 2 Ripe Medium Papayas, 1/4 Cup Chopped Pecans, Toasted.

#### PREPARATION

Combine the kefir, ginger, and cinnamon in a small bowl. Add the blueberries; toss lightly. Cut the papayas in half lengthwise; scoop out and discard the seeds. Fill the papaya hollows with blueberry mixture; top with pecans. TIP Serve with soup spoons to eliminate the need to peel the papaya first. Use the spoon to scoop into the ripe papaya, leaving behind the skin.



Virtually all of Europe's major airports remain closed as a huge plume of volcanic ash drifts south and east across the continent from Iceland. Millions of air travellers are stranded across Europe after some 16,000 flights were cancelled on Friday. Britain and Ireland have re-imposed flight bans, warning of "worsening" conditions throughout Saturday.



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