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Scholars Address the Greek Genocide and Diaspora, and Discuss US Foreign Policy



Rosemont, IL. On Sat., November 6, the 3rd annual Academic Conference on the Pontian and Anatolian Greek Genocide held at the Westin Hotel and hosted by the Pontian Greek Society of Chicago, featured five scholars who addressed the events surrounding the first genocide of the 20th Century. The conference was moderated by George Shrinian, Executive Director of the International Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies of the Zoryan Institute.

In his introductory remarks, Mr. Shirinian emphasized the Greeks, Armenians, Assyrians, and other groups that have experienced genocide have much to teach the world. The world has been unwilling to intervene, and genocide and ethnic cleansing still occur today. These violations of human rights cannot be forgotten or overlooked because when any group's right are trampled, no one is secure. He urged Greek-Americans to support scholarly research of the Pontian and Greek experience; most now is not funded, either publicly or privately. The papers presented at this conference will be published in a book so these original works will be available for generations to come.

Tessa Hofmann, PhD, Freie Universität, Berlin, Germany, opened the conference with "The Genocide against the Christians in the Late Ottoman Period 1912-1922." She presented the events that led to the genocide of 3 million Christians, the first time in modern history where a state had turned against its own citizens. Military defeats and reforms imposed by foreign powers proved humiliating to the nationalist self-image of the Turks while the loss of lands in the Balkans and the presence of Christian minorities were considered threats to the very existence of the crumbling Ottoman Empire. The Ottoman government's response was to create a Muslim Turkish state by any means necessary, the result of which was the elimination of non-Muslims from the nation.

Alexander Kastrinakis, PhD candidate, Aristotelian University, Thessaloniki, Greece, presented "In Adam's Exile; the Consequences of an Anticipated Crime and the Idealized Search for Greece." The exodus from ancestral lands was examined through the experiences of a Pontian family from Trebizond. The family left Pontos for Odessa in the Ukraine, relocated to Jerusalem in what was then Palestine, and finally immigrated to Greece. Mr Kastrinakis examined the state terrorism of the late 19th Century that culminated in 1918 with the Kemalist campaign to deprive the last Christians of their citizenship.

Harry Psomiades, PhD, Professor Emeritus of Queens College and the Graduate School of the City University of New York, presented "Greece in Asia Minor; the Greek Naval Bombardment of Samsun, June 7, 1922." In the year prior to the bombardment, the Allied Powers had deprived Greece of its belligerent rights under International Maritime Law to blockade an enemy port. The bombardment did not stop the flow of war materials to the Kemalists, who then declared the Pontos a war zone and increased their massacre of the Greek inhabitants.

William Samonides, PhD, Historian and Professor Emeritus of Harvard University, presented "Where Did Everybody Go? The Diaspora of Asia Minor Hellenes in the early 20th Century." Those who left first went primarily to Greece and Russia. Many Asia Minor Greeks also immigrated to the United States, Canada, Germany, and Australia. To this day, there remains a Greek-speaking population in Turkey that practices the Muslim faith. Samonides defined the features of the five types of diaspora and discussed the changes in US immigration policies that imposed a 100 person per year quota on immigrants from Asia Minor following World War I that was not lifted until after World War II.

The conference's final presentation was by Robert J. Pranger, PhD, a private consultant with extensive experience in public policy with the Department of State and Department of Defense in Washington, DC. His paper "US Policy Obstacles in Recognizing the Genocides of Christian Minorities in the Late Ottoman Empire: Challenges and Opportunities" gave extensive examples of how Turkey has played a central role in the Middle Eastern foreign policy of the US and Europe. Because Turkey is a valued ally, it has been able to advance its version of events and quash any official accusations of its participation in the genocide of its Christian citizens.

Historians and students understand the power in studying history. Ron Levitsky, retired middle school teacher, reminded the audience that history shapes today's world for good or ill. Revisionist history and denial by Turkey of its role in the genocide of Greeks, Armenians, and Assyrians has been supported by the democratic governments that profit from political and business alliances with Turkey.

Each year, the Pontian Greek Society of Chicago continues its efforts to inform the general public about the Greek Genocide. The Society's activities include hosting conferences, participating in educational workshops, and re-printing books related to the Greek experience in Asia Minor during the first quarter of the 20th century. Information for these and other events is posted in the Upcoming Events section of the Society website: www.pontiangreeks.org. For more information, contact George Mavropoulos at (630) 303-4361 or by email at gmavropoulos@hotmail.com.

Germany tightens airport security over attacks threat

Extra security measures will remain in place until further notice, the interior minister

Germany is increasing security at airports and railway stations in light of "concrete indications" of terrorist attacks being planned for the end of November.

Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere said

again being used to foment extremism

* March 2010: four men jailed for planning explosions and attacks on US soldiers in Germany

* 2006: A Moroccan student in Hamburg, Mounir al-Motassadek, convicted in connection with plotting the 9/11 attacks

* Germany reconsiders terror risk

One of the bombs was despatched via the German city of Cologne but was intercepted in the UK.

The Yemen plot showed "the adaptation."

The Yemen plot showed "the adaptability and the persistence of terrorists in pursuing their aims," Mr de Maiziere said, and also underlines "the reliability of some leads".

Germany would not allow international

terrorism to constrict its way of life or liberal culture, he said.

Last year, twelve militants vanished from Hamburg, some to resurface in Northern Pakistan where at least one, but not all were killed in an American drone attack.

Some of the new security measures would be clearly visible, Mr de Maiziere said, but others would not.

The BBC's Stephen Evans in Berlin says that a month ago, Germany was dismissive of American warnings of attacks. That feeling has now gone.

Germany, which has nearly 5,000 troops in Afghanistan, has never experienced an attack by Muslim militants.

But officials say the country has a significant Islamist community, and militant links to Germany appear to be growing.

For example, the key operatives who carried out the 9/11 attacks on the US in 2001 were based in Hamburg. In July 2006 militants placed suitcases with homemade bombs on two trains at Cologne station. They failed to detonate.



it followed a tip-off from another, unnamed country.

Germany had information on "sustained efforts" by Islamist extremists to carry out attacks, he said. He said the extra security would remain in place "until further notice".

"There are grounds for concern, but not for hysteria," Mr de Maiziere told a news conference in Berlin.

The federal police force has been ordered to step up checks at airports and train stations, he added.

Yemen connection

Mr de Maiziere said Germany had received a tip-off after two parcel bombs were intercepted en route from Yemen to the United States last month.

Terrorism linked to Germany

* October 2010: four German Islamists killed in US drone attack in northern Pakistan, believed to be part of a group which vanished from Hamburg in 2009

*August 2010: Hamburg mosque linked to 9/11 attacks closed down on suspicion it is



It took just 32 seconds to extinguish faith in the airship and the hydrogen that once buoyed the Hindenburg, which erupted in a fatal inferno 73 years ago. Now hydrogen is being dropped again by the aviation industry. But this time the promised "green" fuel for powering flights of the future has been quietly shelved in favour of biofuels and more fossil fuel-sipping aviation. And while hydrogen as a potential "greener" fuel for foreseeable flights gets dumped worldwide, airlines and aircraft manufacturers are also jettisoning their once radical ideas for such hydrogen-burning, sci-fi-like, cryoplanes. Should we be concerned?

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ENTERTAINMENT LIVE

By Dionysia Rekoumis

A rep for John Travolta has denied rampant reports stating that the star has flown home from Australia after he reportedly received word that his pregnant wife, Kelly Preston, had gone into labor.

"The story is 100 percent false," John's



rep told Access Hollywood on Sunday.

According to Australia's Herald Sun, the 56-year-old actor was scheduled to appear at a charity event in Perth on Saturday evening, but cancelled at the last minute to fly his plane back to the states.

John, an ambassador for Qantas Airlines and avid pilot, had been in Australia celebrating the airline's 90th anniversary, but had previously told reporters he may have to cut his trip short.

Also, sources confirm to UsMagazine.com that the singer, 30, became engaged to beau Eric Johnson on Thursday, just days after Us broke the news that her ex-husband, Nick Lachey, popped the question to Vanessa Minnillo, his love of nearly five years. Simpson and Lachey, 37, split in 2005, after three years of marriage.

The singer's rep confirmed the couple's engagement to Us on Sunday.

And, It's a girl for R&B superstar Ne-Yo and his actress girlfriend Monyetta Shaw!

The "Beautiful Monster" singer welcomed his first child, whom they named Madilyn Grace, Friday night in Atlanta — nearly six weeks earlier than expected.

And, LeAnn Rimes' ex-husband is engaged, according to a new report.

Dean Sheremet reportedly proposed to his live-in girlfriend, Sarah Silver, on Friday morning, according to Us Weekly.

"They were having a nice morning together and the moment felt right, so he proposed," a source for the mag claimed. "They're planning on a summer wedding in NYC."

Dean, a 29-year-old chef at NYC's Nobu 57, reportedly proposed with a 3-carat "beautiful antique ring," set in white gold.

MUSIC
Two of Jon and Kate Gosselin's eight

children have been expelled from their Pennsylvania private school, People reports.

Collin and Alexis Gosselin, both 6, are now being homeschooled. Despite media reports of violence and bullying, a source told the magazine that the situation has been "grossly overstated" and that the kids are "going through a challenging time."

And, Grobanites rejoice! The incredibly talented Josh Groban stopped by Access Hollywood Live on Friday to chat about his new album, "Illuminations," and revealed a fact that is sure to thrill the ladies: he's single!

"I am a single man at the moment, yes," Josh told Access Hollywood Live's Billy Bush and Kit Hoover, when asked about the current status of his love life.

The 29-year-old smooth-voiced sensation — who has sold more than 20 million albums worldwide - wrote 11 of 13 songs on his new album, and said that the self-penned tracks were largely inspired by his personal experiences.

"How many girls are going to come out of the woodwork [thinking you wrote specific songs about them]?" Kit asked Josh.

Finally in local news,

Three people are dead, and five were wounded in shootings and stabbings within seven hours between this past weekend.

The men — identified by the Cook County Medical Examiner's office as 29-year-old David D. Goodson and 30-year-old Oscar Harris — were found about 6:45 p.m. Saturday in the 2000 block of West 70th Street, police said.

An autopsy determined both men died of multiple gunshot wounds, and the deaths were ruled homicides, according to the medical examiner's office.

The person who notified authorities said the men inside the parked silver 2003 Infiniti "hadn't moved" the past two days and thought police should check on them, police said.

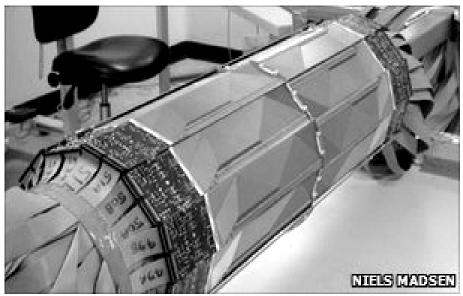
And, Michael McCarthy's red crutches slammed on the concrete stairs as the teenager ascended every step leading to the top of the Willis Tower

McCarthy, 14, who was born without legs, climbed the 2,109 steps leading to the 103rd floor of the iconic Chicago skyscraper this past weekend. He was one of about 2,500 climbers who participated in SkyRise Chicago, which was raising funds for The Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago.

McCarthy, of the North Side, who has received care from the institute for about 10 years, said he wanted to prove to people that having a disability shouldn't stop you from achieving greatness

"I wanted to show people that if a kid with no legs can do it, anyone can do it," he said. "Don't let anyone push you down."

McCarthy, who plays hockey and does karate, said he climbed up and down stairs at the karate school he attends in Glenview to prepare for the daunting climb.



Antimatter atoms have been trapped for the first time, scientists say. mResearchers at Cern, home of the Large Hadron Collider, have held 38 antihydrogen atoms in place, each for a fraction of a second. Antihydrogen has been produced before but it was instantly destroyed when it encountered normal matter. The team, reporting in Nature, says the ability to study such antimatter atoms will allow previously impossible tests of fundamental tenets of physics.

The current "standard model" of physics holds that each particle - protons, electrons, neutrons and a zoo of more exotic particles - has its mirror image antiparticle.

The antiparticle of the electron, for example, is the positron, and is used in an imaging technique of growing popularity known as positron emission tomography.

However, one of the great mysteries in physics is why our world is made up overwhelmingly of matter, rather than antimatter; the laws of physics make no distinction between the two and equal amounts should have been created at the Universe's birth.

Clinton pushes for New Start nuclear treaty vote

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has called on the US Senate to ratify a new nuclear arms treaty with Russia, a day after Republicans threatened to block ratification efforts.

"We can and we must go forward," Mrs Clinton said during a trip to Congress.



Mrs Clinton appeared with Democratic Senator John Kerry and Republican Senator Richard Lugar

The treaty would reduce both countries' nuclear arsenals and allow each to inspect the other's facilities.

Republican Senator Jon Kyl said on Tuesday the new treaty should not be voted on this year.

The Obama administration is worried that failure to vote on the pact may undermine one of its key foreign policy achievements - better relations with Russia.

'Continuing threat'

Mrs Clinton spoke alongside Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman John Kerry and Republican Senator Richard Lugar in a rare public appearance at the US Capitol, urging the Senate to ratify the treaty in response to a "continuing threat that is posed to our country".

"We can, and we must, go forward now on the New Start treaty during the lame duck session," Mrs Clinton said, referring to the time between November's congressional elections and the January start of the new Congress.

"This treaty is the best way to reduce and address threats in our country," Mr Kerry said.

It is "ready to be voted on", Mrs Clinton added.

But without Senator Kyl's support, Democrats will probably be unable to secure the remaining Republican votes needed to ratify the treaty in the current Senate.

The Obama administration needs eight Re-

publican votes to reach the 67 needed to ratify the treaty - but that number will increase to 14 when the new Congress convenes in January, as the Republicans won more Senate seats in the mid-term elections.

Senate Republicans have said they need further reassurance about America's deterrent capability after Start.

New Start was signed by US President Barack Obama and his Russian counterpart Dmitry Medvedev in April and replaces the the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty of 1991, which expired in December last year.

New Start commits the former Cold War enemies to reducing the number of deployed strategic warheads and delivery vehicles each has, and establishes a compliance and verification regime.

Mrs Clinton's comments come a day after Vice-President Joseph Biden warned the US that failure to ratify a new nuclear arms control treaty with Russia would "endanger our national security".

Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said officials in Moscow hope the US Senate will find the time to ratify the treaty this autumn

"We have taken note of Senator Kyl's comment. It's not our business to interfere in the procedure of agenda agreement and the Senate's work," Mr Ryabkov said.

"I would like to remind you that the Russian leadership's line that the ratification processes in Russia and the US should be synchronised remains fully valid."

TREATY LIMITS

* Warheads: 1,550 (74% lower than the 1991 Start Treaty and 30% lower than the figure of 2,200 that each side was meant to reach by 2012 under the 2002 Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty (Sort))

* Launchers: 700 deployed intercontinental and submarine-launched ballistic missiles, and deployed heavy bombers equipped for nuclear armaments

* New limit on delivery systems less than half current ceiling of 1,600

HOW CATS DRINK

A Study of Cat Lapping Adult cats and dogs are unable to

Adult cats and dogs are unable to create suction in their mouths and must use their tongues to drink. A dog will scoop up liquid with the back of its tongue, but a cat will only touch the surface with the smooth tip of its tongue and pull a column of liquid into its mouth.











It has taken four highly qualified engineers and a bunch of integral equations to figure it out, but we now know how cats drink. The answer is: very elegantly, and not at all the way you might suppose. Cats lap water so fast that the human eye cannot follow what is happening, which is why the trick had apparently escaped attention until now. With the use of high-speed photography, the neatness of the feline solution has been captured. The act of drinking may seem like no big deal for anyone who can fully close his mouth to create suction, as people can. But the various species that cannot do so — and that includes most adult carnivores — must resort to some other mechanism. Dog owners are familiar with the unseemly lapping noises that ensue when their thirsty pet meets a bowl of water. The dog is thrusting its tongue into the water, forming a crude cup with it and hauling the liquid back into the muzzle. Cats, both big and little, are so much classier, according to new research by Pedro M. Reis and Roman Stocker of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, joined by Sunghwan Jung of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and Jeffrey M. Aristoff of Princeton. Writing in the Thursday issue of Science, the four engineers report that the cat's lapping method depends on its instinctive ability to calculate the point at which gravitational force would overcome inertia and cause the water to fall. What happens is that the cat darts its tongue, curving the upper side downward so that the tip lightly touches the surface of the water. The tongue is then pulled upward at high speed, drawing a column of water behind it. Just at the moment that gravity finally overcomes the rush of the water and starts to pull the column down — snap! The cat's jaws have closed over the jet of water and swallowed it. The cat laps four times a second — too fast for the human eye to see anything but a blur — and its tongue moves at a speed of one meter per second.

In the Remote Pacific, Glimpses of Pristine Corals



A team of scientists is in the midst of a monthlong research cruise in the Line Islands, an archipelago in the remote central Pacific. According to many metrics, these islands are among the most isolated on the planet, and they depend on the already-remote islands of Hawaii as nearest port of refuge. (Mind you that Honolulu is more than 1,200 miles to the north of us.) They are here to study the ecology of coral reefs, taking a holistic perspective of each of the major biological players on the reef—the fish, corals, algae, and even the bacteria and viruses—and estimating how fast each of these groups grows.

Opposition to Power Line at a Fjord



NORHEIMSUND, Norway — Change comes hard around these deep fjords on the west coast of Norway. When the first hotel went up in this town in 1857, the pious townsfolk protested: hotels brought drinking, they feared, and loose women. Workers built foundations for a power line in Kvamskogen, near the Hardanger fjord region. So it is not surprising that they are firmly against the latest development hereabouts, the construction of a huge high-tension line from hydroelectric plants in the mountains above the fjords to cities on the coast, particularly Bergen, the country's second largest. If the power line is built on pylons, as its planners wish, it will pass in the mountains above Norheimsund; if it is strung along the floor of the fjord, as opponents of the overhead line want, it will enter the water in the town's small port.

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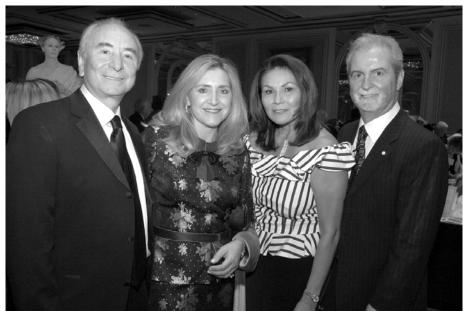
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NATIONAL HELLENIC MUSEUM FALL GALA CELEBRATES HISTORY

CHICAGO - The National Hellenic Museum celebrated the construction of its new building with



NHM Vice President Peter and Ethel Parthenis, NHM Board Member, John and Mae Calamos .

a landmark gala that broke fundraising records for both museum operations and new building capital. Nearly 600 guests attended the black-tie event, "The newest thing in ancient history," on Saturday evening, October 23, at the Hilton Chicago.

The Museum is beyond the halfway point on construction of its contemporary, state-of-the-art, \$15 million building at 333 South Halsted Street in Chicago's Greektown neighborhood. The new



Consul General of Greece, Anasstasios Petrovas, NHM President, Aris Halikias

National Hellenic Museum is slated to open in late fall 2011.



FOX news anchor Anna Davlantes

Approximately \$1 million was raised for the museum, with just over \$500,000 of the total going toward museum operations. The Karabots Foundation of Fort Washington, Pennsylvania, represented by Nick and Athena Karabots, made a surprise pledge of \$200,000 to the capital campaign to meet a matching challenge grant from the Halikias family received by the museum just days before the event. Naming rights in the new museum were also secured from John and Martha Cannis and George and Lori Voutiritsas.

The evening began at 6:30pm with guests enjoying signature cocktails and passed hors d'oeuvres while they bid on silent auction items. Performers from Lookingglass Theatre's Hephaestus dazzled the crowd by appearing as statue-like Greek gods.

Consulting chef Jimmy Bannos Jr., of the Purple Pig Restaurant, provided the dinner, featuring contemporary Mediterranean flavors centered around small plates. The Purple Pig was recently voted one of the top 10 restaurants in America by Bon Appétit Magazine. During the meal, guests danced to the sounds of Public I band. Avli Restaurant of Winnetka contributed a

whipped yogurt and honey dessert and the Pan-Hellenic Pastry Shop, newly reopened after the Greektown fire, provided traditional Greek pastries. Following dinner, the Museum held a live auction with items ranging from trips to Crete and Athens to a jet-set weekend at the US Tennis Open, to game tickets for the Stanley-cup winning Blackhawks. Afterwards, guests moved back onto the dance floor for traditional Greek dancing provided by the John Linardakis Orchestra.

Gala co-chairs were Vicky and Nick Kournetas. The young couple spoke to the audience on both the challenge and opportunity presented in chairing this event. "Our parents have done their part – in

fact, they've done more than their part. It's our generation's turn to pick up their torch and carry it into the future."

They urgedyoung people to remember that their heritage asks them to demand a better world. "That is why we need this Museum. To instill a sense of pride and knowledge of our ancestry and to truly understand what it means to be of Hellenic heritage."

National Hellenic Museum Executive Director Stephanie Vlahakis said, "3,000 years ago Homer started spreading stories throughout the ancient world. Today he has his own Facebook page." Vlahakis used the point to emphasis how the new museum would tell the story of Greek history through the words of storytellers past and present while revealing the influence of Greek culture on our world today. "No other civilization has so profoundly shaped who we are and how we live," Vlahakis stated.

Museum President Aris Halikias spoke to the evolution of the institution, saying that he first became



NHM Vice President, Tom Skallas; NHM Executive Director Stephanie Vlahakis

interested in the National Hellenic Museum because it was created to preserve the history of the Greek immigrant experience, and he connected with that experience on a personal level. "But as the museum evolved it became clear that the Greek story could not be limited to a snapshot in the history

Ancient Greek boys: Adam Gallios, Matthew Gallios, Graham Weygandt

of Greek culture," Halikias explained. "My first motivation was to honor my parents. Now my motivation also includes educating my children so that they will know where they have come from and who they are."

President Halikias also introduced the National Hellenic Museum's 2010 Life Trustees: Dr. Mary Dochios Kamberos and James M. Mezilson. Both were honored for their early and passionate commitment of time and resources to the museum. Dr. Kamberos was the first million-dollar donor and James Mezilson worked tirelessly for many years to bring the Museum from idea to reality.

The National Hellenic Museum is the only major museum in the U.S. to immerse visitors in the story of Greek history from ancient times to today. Its mission is "connecting generations through Greek history, culture, and art."

Visitors to the new National Hellenic Museum will experience the journey of Hellenic culture through the words of storytellers from Homer and Herodotus to

Nicholas Gage and Jeffrey Eugenides. Immigrant history will be brought to life through the shared experiences of Greek immigration to America with pictures, artifacts, and oral histories. The Museum will also exhibit contemporary artists, reflecting the contributions of a new generation of storytellers.

Poised to be one of Chicago's top cultural offerings and the new anchor of Greektown, the National Hellenic Museum is a world-class facility that will attract visitors from all over the globe.

Sent by: Kristen Bishop

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NEWS FROM GREECE

PM in Paris for Socialist International session

Prime Minister, PASOK party President and Socialist International (SI) President George Papandreou will chair the sessions of the Socialist International's Council that will be held in Paris on November 15-16.

The Council's opening will be addressed



by OECD Secretary General Angel Gurria and the President of the French Socialist Party Martine Aubry, while Papandreou's address will follow.

Three main issues will be discussed dur-

ing the Council: Global economy: planning a viable recovery for the benefit of all; handling the repercussions of climatic change: an urgent need for a substantive agreement in light of the Cancoon Conference and overcoming conflicts: strengthening democracy and security

While in the French capital, the premier will have a meeting with President Nicolas Sarkozy. The session of the Socialist International's Council coincides with the start of the French Presidency at the G-20.

In the next meetings of the G-20, many issues will be discussed that preoccupy the socialists, such as the adoption of a global tax for monetary transactions and for "green growth", the balancing of the monetary system and the better coordination of international organisations for recovery from the economic crisis sooner.

During the Council, the prime minister will be having a bilateral meeting with the French Socialist Party's president, as well as with other leaders who will be attending the Council.

The Council will be held at the OECD's building and will be attended by about 400 leaders and representatives from the Socialist International's member parties.

Neglect becoming more visible

Over the past few days, parts of Athens have been plunged into chaos as a number of traffic lights have stopped working at different junctions around the capital, creating even greater problems on the roads and extremely dangerous driving conditions.

The excuses issued by the ministers responsible have been varied, and, more often than not, completely ridiculous.

It is obvious that the easy populism with which the contracts with Siemens – the company that installed most of the Athens traffic light system and is responsible for its upkeep – were annulled, in combination with a failure to coordinate a solution with different state services, have led to more than 50 traffic lights at busy intersections being out of order.

The situation, meanwhile, is only expected to get worse, as authorities have already noted that there is a shortage of spare parts.

Someone needs to step in and solve this problem because, apart from being extremely dangerous, it tells us that the state mechanism has frozen and is incapable of settling even the simplest of matters.

Ireland tries to avoid following the Greek route to fiscal rescue

Despite moral support from EU, bailout might be needed.

A laid-off worker holds up a placard in the main shopping area in Dublin, Ireland, yesterday. Ireland's Finance Minister Brian Lenihan said yesterday that the economy was well funded until summer and the government did not need to resort to the European Financial Stability Fund. Ireland needs to establish a four-year economic plan to cut the deficit and pass a December 7 budget, he added.

Ireland is in talks to receive emergency funding from the European Union and it is likely the former «Celtic Tiger» will become the second eurozone country after Greece to require a rescue plan, sources said yesterday.

Irish borrowing costs have shot to record highs this week on concerns about the country's ability to get a deficit swollen by bank bailouts under control, as well as worries private bond holders could be forced to shoulder part of the costs of any bailout by taking «haircuts» on their holdings

Government officials in Dublin have denied repeatedly in recent days that they plan to tap EU funds and a Finance Ministry spokesman said after the Reuters story was published that Ireland had made no application for aid.

Eurozone sources told Reuters that aid discussions were under way, however, with one official saying it was «very likely» Ireland would get financial assistance from the EU facility set up after Greece was forced to seek aid in May.

«Talks are ongoing and European Financial Stability Facility (EFSF) money will be used, there will be no haircuts or restructuring or anything of the kind,» one eurozone source said. A second source confirmed the talks.

The spreads between Irish 10-year bond yields and German benchmark bunds have rocketed to highs of nearly 700 basis points over the past two weeks on fears of haircuts but they narrowed to around 580 basis points after the Reuters story.

The euro, which has also suffered from currency bloc jitters, came off its highs of the day to trade around \$1.37.

Pressure on Irish and other peripheral eurozone debt had eased slightly earlier in the day after France, Germany, Italy, Spain and Britain issued a statement at a Group of 20 summit in Seoul that confirmed holders of existing euro debt would not take a hit.

But borrowing costs remain sky-high and the pressure on Ireland's fragile banks may have forced the government to enter aid talks even though it is fully funded until mid-2011 and does not face the same liquidity crisis that confronted Greece earlier in the year.

Going to the EU for aid would represent a humiliating setback for a country that posted some of the best growth rates in the 16-nation eurozone in the bloc's first decade of existence.

The global financial crisis, weak regulation of the banking sector and a property bubble fueled by rock-bottom interest rates eventually caught up with Ireland. This year its deficit is projected to total 32 percent of gross domestic product, easily the highest in Europe.

Jean-Claude Juncker, the chairman of the Eurogroup forum of eurozone finance ministers, said the EU was following the situation in Ireland very closely but that it was up to Ireland to decide whether to seek support. He said there was no immediate reason to think Ireland would ask for aid.

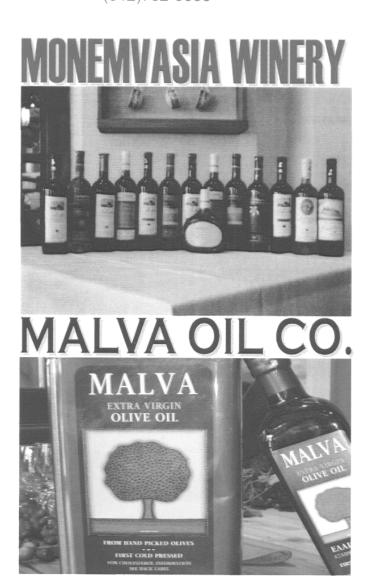
Earlier yesterday, Irish Prime Minister Brian Cowen blamed Germany for aggravating Ireland's woes by pushing the idea of asset value reductions for private bond holders in a future rescue mechanism that Berlin wants in place by 2013, when the EFSF facility expires. Although Germany has made it clear the new mechanism would only apply to debt issued after that date, the plan spooked investors.



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Ann Margaret....

Vietnam Woman Of The Year," story.

Richard, (my husband), never really talked a lot about his time in Viet Nam , other than he had been shot by a sniper. However, he had a rather grainy, 8×10 black and white photo he had taken at a USO show of Ann Margaret with Bob Hope in the background that was one of his treasures.

With that, she pulled Richard across the table and planted a big kiss on him. She then made quite a to-do about the bravery of the young men she met over the years, how much she admired them, and how much she



A few years ago, Ann Margaret was doing a book signing at a local bookstore. Richard wanted to see if he could get her to

sign the treasured photo so he arrived at the bookstore at 12 o'clock for the 7:30 signing.

When I got there after work, the line went all the way around the bookstore, circled the parking lot, and disappeared behind a parking garage. Before her appearance, bookstore employees announced that she would sign only her book and no memorabilia would be permitted.

Richard was disappointed, but wanted to show her the photo and let her know how much those shows meant to lonely GI's so far from home.. Ann Margaret came out looking as beautiful as ever and, as second in line, it was soon Richard's turn.

He presented the book for her signature and then took out the photo. When he did, there were many shouts from the employees that she would not sign it. Richard said, "I understand. I just wanted her to see it."

She took one look at the photo, tears welled up in her eyes and she said, "This is one of my gentlemen from Viet Nam and I most certainly will sign his photo. I know what these men did for their country and I always have time for 'my gentlemen."

appreciated them. There weren't too many dry eyes among those close enough to hear. She then posed for pictures and acted as if he were the only one there.

Later at dinner, Richard was very quiet. When I asked if he'd like to talk about it, my big, strong husband broke down in tears.. "That's the first time anyone ever thanked me for my time in the Army," he said.

That night was a turning point for him. He walked a little straighter and, for the first time in years, was proud to have been a Vet. I'll never forget Ann Margaret for her graciousness and how much that small act of kindness meant to my husband.

I now make it a point to say 'Thank you' to every person I come across who served in our Armed Forces. Freedom does not come cheap and I am grateful for all those who have served their country.

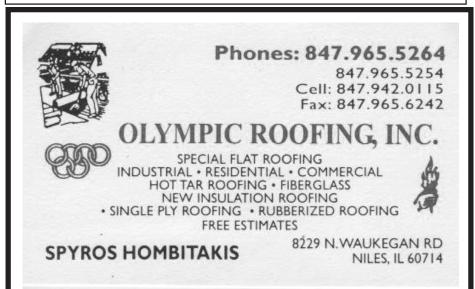
If you'd like to pass on this story, feel free to do so. Perhaps it will help others to become aware of how important it is to acknowledge the contribution our service people make.



The Dry Chaco, a semi-arid lowland area that stretches into Argentina, Bolivia and Brazil, is one of the few places where there are still isolated groups of Ayoreo people. These tribes have never had contact with the outside world. The team of British and Paraguayan biologists and botanists hope to find undiscovered species of plants, insects and animals in the region.

They hope the expedition will help to draw attention to the need to protect the habitat, which is under threat from the expansion of logging and intensive agriculture.

But Benno Glauser, director of Iniciativa Amotocodie, told BBC News that any contact with tribal groups during the trip could have "fatal consequences".



PICTURES OF THE WORLD



Five presidents met in the Oval Office in January 2009, living proof of the active post-White House lives that presidents now lead As President George W Bush's memoir hits US bookstores, it seems that the American public is now viewing his presidency in a more favourable light. The BBC's Katie Connolly explores why Americans look so fondly on their former leaders. When George W Bush boarded the presidential helicopter for the final time on a frosty January morning in 2009, the crowds gathered on the Washington Mall for Barack Obama's inauguration booed and yelled colourful epithets as his chopper passed overhead. Mr Bush was deeply unpopular at the time. While his approval rating after the 9/11 attacks was the highest in history, by October 2008, his favourability had tumbled to a low of 25%.Now, less than two years after he left office, Americans appear to be looking upon Mr Bush a little more fondly. According to Gallup polling data, Mr Bush's approval ratings have increased by 10 points - from 35% to 45% - in the 18 months following January 2009.In an October poll, CNN found that only 47% of Americans thought Mr Obama was a better president than Mr Bush, compared to 45% who favoured Mr Bush. In 2009, Mr Obama was preferred by a margin of 23 points.



he Burmese military authorities have released the pro-democracy leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, from house arrest.

Appearing in front of thousands of jubilant supporters outside her home in Rangoon, Ms Suu Kyi said they had to work in unison to achieve their goals.

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Alexandria Kardasis is an experienced attorney in the Chicago area. Her many years of courtroom experience handling a variety of civil issues before many judges makes her a sought after litigator and counselor. She has an incredible winning record for successful outcomes for her clients. It's no wonder that her peers recognize her as one of the top attorneys to handle your claim of personal injury of which she specializes in. Alexandria Kardasis has offices in Northbrook and Evergreen Park. She is accessible to discuss your concerns and she is your greatest advocate. She has trained many other successful attorneys. It makes sense to call her now. There are many attorneys out there but not enough GREAT ones. She speaks fluent Greek. Call now!.

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Obama warns nations not to rely on exports to US



President Barack Obama: "We don't want to lose the opportunity to create new jobs back home" President Barack Obama has said no nation should rely on exports to the United

He was speaking in Yokohama in Japan on the sidelines of the Apec summit. Mr Obama said countries with a large surplus must take steps to boost domestic demand - in an apparent reference to China and Japan.

Chinese President Hu Jintao said his country was trying to increase domestic consumption, but any currency adjustments would come gradually.

The leaders of 21 nations are taking part in the meeting of the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation forum (Apec), with talks focusing on ways to establish a free trade area in the region. It follows a G20 summit in Seoul, which highlighted disagreements among members over trade imbalances.

Addressing business executives in Yokohama, President Obama said the economic crisis had shown the limits of depending on US consumers and Asian exporters to drive growth." Going forward, no nation should assume that their path to prosperity is simply paved with exports to America," he said.

He added that healthy competition need not cause rifts between nations.

"There's no need to view trade, commerce

China-Japan talks

The BBC's Roland Buerk in Yokohama says the Apec meeting may have helped to resolve a row between Japan and China.

Relations have been tense since early September, when a Chinese trawler and Japa-

or economic growth as zero-sum games, where one country always has to prosper at the expense of another."

Hu reaffirmed Beijing's commitment to

ments an important task in ensuring macroeconomic stability," he said.

The BBC's Roland Buerk in Yokohama says the Apec meeting may have helped to

patrol ships collided near disputed islands

since the row began.

Iraq's great balancing act

By Jim Muir

Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri Maliki Mr Maliki has relentlessly gathered support to remain prime

It has taken a record amount of time and it is not quite there yet, but Iraq is at last within sight of pro-



ducing a government after elections on 7 March. Under the constitution, Prime Minister re-designate Nouri Maliki has 30 days to form a new administration. If he cannot do it within that deadline, President Jalal Talabani then must ask someone else to

In parliament on Thursday, the president pledged to nominate Mr Maliki, but he has up to 15 days do that in official form and will wait until after the Eid al-Adha holiday next week. So, Iraq should have a new government by 26 December at the very latest.

In theory, because the basics of a power-sharing deal have been agreed, it should be fairly plain sailing. But it has been a bitter struggle every inch of the

So, further haggling and hitches over the details of cabinet formation can be expected, and it would not be surprising if the process continued right down to the last minute, as has happened so often here. The process got off to a rocky start on Thursday, when Iyad Allawi and many of the 91 members of his secular but largely Sunni al-Iraqiyya bloc marched out, casting in doubt the "national partnership" label being attached to the proposed government.

It seemed likely that the rift would be patched up. At the first meeting of the previous chamber, a number of angry hard-line Sunni MPs also walked out, without lasting effect.

Balancing act

But the incident underlined the touchiness of Mr Allawi and his bloc, fighting to establish some kind of equal clout within the new power structure, despite the fact that Mr Maliki gradually and relentlessly accumulated support until his claim to retain his position became irresistible.

Al-Iraqiyya came out two seats ahead of Mr Maliki's State of Law coalition in the polls, encouraging Mr Allawi to assert that it was his right to lead the new government. Supporters of Shia cleric Moqtada Sadr hold up his picture in Sadr City Moqtada Sadr's decision to support Mr Maliki was

At first, there seemed a good chance that Mr Allawi could put together a coalition bringing together Shia factions opposed to Mr Maliki - Ammar al-Hakim's Supreme Council and Fadhila - and a Centre Bloc, which controls 10 seats.

Along with the Kurds - who hold the balance that would have formed a majority. After months of deadlock when it seemed that it could swing either way, the balance slowly began to tilt towards Mr

That is when the militant young Shia cleric, Moqtada Sadr, whose website only two months earlier had been openly attacking Mr Maliki, announced his support for the incumbent - adding another 40 seats to his coalition portfolio. Mr Sadr has been resident in the Iranian holy city of Qom for several years, and it was widely assumed in Baghdad that he had succumbed to Iranian pressures.

In the intervening weeks, there were further straws in the wind. The Fadhila party announced that it was backing Mr Maliki. Then the Centre Bloc did the same. Numerically, it still did not add up to would need the support of the Kurdistan alliance,

But the Kurds, while refraining from openly endorsing Mr Maliki, showed signs of leaning in his direction, not least because he went further than MrAllawi in accepting the 19-point list of demands laid out by Kurdish leaders. So Mr Allawi found his position slowly eroded as support ebbed towards the incumbent.

Having lost hope of winning the prime ministerial post, he apparently turned his sights on the presidency - but the Kurds, king-maker in the current configuration, have their grip firmly on that post, in the shape of the incumbent Jalal Talabani.

So Mr Allawi faced the dilemma of settling for $less\ or\ pulling\ out\ of\ the\ structure\ altogether\ -\ which$ would almost certainly have meant the disintegration of his alliance, made up of numerous mainly Sunni political, tribal and regional factions, some of which would almost certainly have been wooed by Mr Maliki to join his administration and provide it with Sunni cover. Mr Allawi was cornered when the Supreme Court set a deadline for parliament to convene a session at which it was constitutionally bound to elect its own speaker, a step that would imply prior agreement on all the other top posts, including that

Al-Iraqiyya circles grumbled suspiciously that Mr Maliki might have had a hand in producing the Supreme Court decision.

Then, out of the blue, Saudi Arabia threw Mr Allawi a potential lifeline, offering to host a gathering of the Iraqi factions in late November. Mr Allawi is extremely well in with the Saudis, while Mr Maliki emphatically is not. Now it was the turn of Mr Maliki's camp to hint darkly that Mr Allawi may have had a hand in prompting the ill-timed Saudi initiative.

It failed to get off the ground, because by that time there was already a home-grown initiative spearheaded by the President of the Kurdistan Regional Government, Masoud Barzani, which led to a series of meetings for factions to work out their $disputes. \ By \ the \ time \ the \ parliamentary \ session \ was$ imminent, Mr Allawi had been comprehensively

Protracted drama

His hopes for a real share in power are now pinned on the ''National Council for Strategic Policies" which has been offered to him or his assign.

Al-Iraqiyya had tried to establish it as a body with powers equal to those of the prime minister, especially in security issues - a concept resisted by Mr Maliki's camp which argued that it would make for weak government.

In the talks leading up to the parliamentary meeting, it was apparently agreed that unanimous decisions by the council would be binding, though given the balanced composition the body will doubtless have, unanimity may be rare.

Its powers may well be one of the main political battlegrounds in the coming period. It may provide a tribune from which Mr Allawi will snipe at Mr Maliki, whose patience may wear thin if his rival starts trying to make serious inroads into his powers.

In the run-up to the parliamentary session that kicked the government formation process off, Mr Allawi's aides did not hide their gloom. "The Iranians have lined everybody up, and the US is just giving way," said one insider.

That summed up the widespread perception that Iran has been quietly working behind the scenes to assemble support for Mr Maliki, while the Americans have been floundering without a coherent policy.

Single goal

In the opening phases of the protracted drama, Washington seemed to be more focused on preparing for the withdrawal of its troops than on trying to influence the outcome of Iraq's political struggle.

But Mr Maliki's sudden alliance with Moqtada Sadr - whose militia battled with US forces several times - and the perception of growing Iranian influence, appeared to spook Washington into action, trying to bolster Mr Allawi as a counterweight and arguing for genuine power-sharing.

But any tack the Americans took did not seem to work. It has been widely reported in Baghdad that they tried to pressure the Kurds into giving up the presidency to Mr Allawi, but failed.

Were the Americans involved in prodding the Saudis - one of their staunchest regional allies into launching their embarrassingly doomed initiative? If so, it betrayed a woeful misreading of the Iragi situation.

With US troop levels down to 50,000 non-combat personnel, and the remainder due to leave by the end of 2011, American clout and influence are seen as dwindling assets, weakening the position of pro-Western players on the Iraqi scene, such as Mr Allawi. Was it in the hope of reversing those perceptions that US Defence Secretary Robert Gates suddenly announced earlier this week that Washington was open to keeping troops beyond 2011 if requested by the Iraqis? Like the Saudi initiative, that too came out of the blue at a time when the security challenges facing Iraq are certainly less daunting than they have been.

Official US statements normally stress the commitment to getting the troops out, and laud the growing proficiency of the Iraqi armed forces.

Mr Allawi's circles seemed to believe they had "international" guarantees for the powers of the new strategic council as well as other demands of Mr Allawi's coalition relating to such issues as de-Baathification.

If those guarantees are purely American, that could be a recipe for a proxy struggle focused on the council, in addition to the personal rivalry between Mr Allawi and Mr Maliki.But could it be that Iran is also a partner in furnishing those guarantees? Uniquely placed to mediate a solution, Mr Barzani sent his three top advisers to Tehran where they met senior Iranian leaders immediately before attending the parliament meeting in Baghdad on Thursday.

If Iran is indeed co-operating in that way, it would be a hopeful sign for the stability of the new administration once it is born. While Iran may have been instrumental in persuading some of the factions to back Mr Maliki, that does not necessarily mean his new government will turn out to be an Iranian puppet - which the last one clearly was not.

Taking the podium after Mr Obama, Mr

gradual currency reform and balanced trade. "China will continue making encouraging a balanced international balance of pay-

China-Japan talks

resolve a row between Japan and China.

Relations have been tense since early September, when a Chinese trawler and Japa-

in the East China Sea.

President Hu held talks with Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kan on the sidelines of the summit - their first one-to-one meeting

Eggs with the oldest known embryos of a dinosaur found Prosauropods are the first dinosaurs to and they auickly be-

Palaeontologists have identified the oldest known dinosaur embryos, belonging to a species that lived some 190 million years ago.



An artist's impression of what the dinosaurs might have looked like

The eggs of Massospondylus, containing well-perserved embryos, were unearthed in South Africa back in 1976.

The creature appears to be an ancestor of the family that includes the long-necked dino once known as Brontosaurus.

This project opens an exciting window into the early history and evolution of dinosaurs The study in the Journal of Vertebrate Pa-

leontology also sheds light on the dinosaurs' early development. The researchers used the embryos to reconstruct what the dinosaurs' babies might

have looked like when they roamed the Earth. Having studied the fossilised eggs, the team, led by Professor Robert Reisz of the University of Toronto Mississauga in Canada, discovered that the embryos were the oldest ones ever found of any land-dwelling vertebrate.

'This project opens an exciting window into the early history and evolution of dinosaurs," said Professor Reisz.

diversify extensively, and they quickly became the most widely spread group, so their

biology is particularly interesting as they represent in many ways the dawn of the age of dinosaurs."

'Awkward' bodies

Massospondylus belonged to a group of dinosaurs known as prosauropods, the ancestors of sauropods - huge, four-legged dinosaurs with long necks.

Having studied the tiny (20cmlong) skeletons, the researchers noted that the embryos were almost about to hatch - but never had the

Embryos of Massospondylus While the embryos are only about 20cm long, the adults are thought to have reached some five metres in height.

Interestingly, the report says, the embryos looked quite different compared to the adult

Once hatched, the babies would have had rather long front legs, meaning that they would have been walking on all fours rather than on two legs like the adults.

The embryos' heads were also disproportionally big, but it is believed the adult Massospondylus, which were about five metres in length, had relatively tiny heads

The little ones' anatomy would have changed with age. The paper stated that the rather awkward body of the embryos suggested that just like humans, the hatchlings would have required parental care - and if in this case, it would be the earliest known example of parental care.