

NATIONAL HELLENIC

FREE PRESS

GREEK AMERICAN NEWSPAPER



VOL. 28

NO. 318

CHICAGO, IL.

JULY--AUGUST, 2011

Koraes School Graduation 2011



On Thursday, June 9th, Commencement Exercises took place for the 95th Class of graduates from Koraes Elementary School at Saints Constantine and Helen Church. Koraes is the Elementary Day School operated by the Greek Orthodox Parish of Saints Constantine and Helen in Palos Hills, IL.

This celebration was especially honored by the presence of His Eminence Metropolitan Iakovos of Chicago. Also present were the Parish Priests, Father Nicholas Jonas, Father Byron Papanikolaou and Father Tom De Medeiros, as well as the Parish Council President, John Arvanetes, the Parish Chairman of the Board, Theodore Argiris, the School Principal, Mary Zaharis, and other dignitaries.

Uplifting speeches were heard from the Valedictorian Nikolaos Atkinson and the Salutatorian Paul Davenport. All gave inspiring speeches pertaining to the education they received at Koraes. Keynote address was given by recent Koraes Graduate Dr. Lee Koliopoulos inspiring the bright future that the graduates seek ahead.

The graduating class of 2011 were: Nikolaos Atkinson, Evan Baniewicz, Paul Davenport, James Karitsiotis, Jacqueline Loupakos, Athanasios Makris, Dimitrios Pettas, Andonia Marie Subsits, Evangelos Vouris.

For information about any activity at Saints Constantine and Helen Church, please contact the Church office at 708-974-3400. For information about any activity at Koraes Elementary School, please contact the School Office at 708-974-3402.

ROD BLAGOJEVICH'S CONVICTION

CHICAGO (AP) — Rod Blagojevich, who rode his talkative everyman image to two terms as Illinois governor before scandal made him a national punch line, was convicted of a wide range of corruption charges, including the incendiary allegation that he tried to sell or trade President Barack Obama's Senate seat.

sion. A status hearing to discuss sentencing was set for Aug. 1.

Two legal experts speculated that Blagojevich would probably receive around 10 years in prison, with little chance that he would get more than 15.

Former prosecutor Jeff Cramer estimated



The verdict was a bitter defeat for Blagojevich, who had spent 2½ years professing his innocence on reality TV shows and later on the witness stand. His defense team had insisted that hours of FBI wiretap recordings were just the ramblings of a politician who liked to think out loud.

After hearing the verdict, Blagojevich turned to defense attorney Sheldon Sorosky and asked "What happened?" His wife, Patti, slumped against her brother, then rushed into her husband's arms.

The verdict capped a long-running spectacle in which Blagojevich became famous for blurting on a recorded phone call that his ability to appoint Obama's successor to the Senate was "f—ing golden" and that he wouldn't let it go "for f—ing nothing."

The former governor spoke only briefly with reporters as he left the courthouse, saying he was disappointed and stunned by the verdict.

Blagojevich, who has been free on bond since shortly after his arrest, becomes the second straight Illinois governor convicted of corruption. His predecessor, George Ryan, is now serving 6½ years in federal prison.

The case exploded into scandal when Blagojevich was awakened by federal agents on Dec. 9, 2008, at his Chicago home and was led away in handcuffs. Federal prosecutors had been investigating his administration for years, and some of his closest cronies had already been convicted.

The verdict provided affirmation to U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald, one of the nation's most prominent prosecutors, who, after the governor's arrest, had condemned Blagojevich's dealings as a "political crime spree."

"The jury sent a loud and clear message that Governor Blagojevich committed very serious crimes shaking down a children's hospital, trying to sell a Senate seat and demanding cash campaign contributions in advance before signing a bill," Fitzgerald said. "This is a bittersweet moment."

Mentioned at times as a possible future FBI director, Fitzgerald pledged to retry the governor after the first jury deadlocked on all but the least serious of 24 charges against him.

This time, the 12 jurors voted to convict the 54-year-old Blagojevich on 17 of 20 counts after deliberating nine days. He also faces up to five additional years in prison for his previous conviction of lying to the FBI.

Judge James Zagel has barred Blagojevich from traveling outside the area without permis-

that Blagojevich would get between six and 12 years. Another former assistant U.S. attorney, Phil Turner, guessed closer to six years.

Jurors said the evidence that Blagojevich tried to secure a high-paying, high-powered position in exchange for the appointment of Obama's successor in the Senate was the clearest in the case.

They also acknowledged finding the former governor likable. "He was personable," Juror No. 103 said. "It made it hard to separate what we actively had to do as jurors."

After his arrest, Blagojevich called federal prosecutors "cowards and liars" and challenged Fitzgerald to face him in court if he was "man enough."

In what many saw as embarrassing indignities for a former governor, he sent his wife to the jungle for a reality television show, "I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here," where she had to eat a tarantula.

He later showed his own ineptitude at simple office skills before being fired on Donald Trump's "Celebrity Apprentice."

To most Illinois residents, he was a reminder of the corruption that has plagued the state for decades.

Blagojevich seemed to believe he could talk his way out of trouble from the witness stand. Indignant one minute, laughing the next, seemingly in tears once, he endeavored to counteract the blunt, greedy man he appeared to be on FBI wiretaps. He apologized to jurors for the four-letter words that peppered the recordings.

He clearly sought to solicit sympathy. He spoke about his working-class parents and choked up recounting the day he met his wife, the daughter of a powerful Chicago alderman. He reflected on his feelings of inferiority at college where other students wore preppy "alligator" shirts. Touching on his political life, he portrayed himself as a friend of working people, the poor and elderly.

Other times, when a prosecutor read wiretap transcripts where Blagojevich seems to speak clearly of trading the Senate seat for a job, Blagojevich told jurors, "I see what I say here, but that's not what I meant."

Lead prosecutor Reid Schar started his questioning of Blagojevich with a quick verbal punch: "Mr. Blagojevich, you are a convicted liar, correct?"

"Yes," Blagojevich eventually answered after the judge overruled a flurry of defense objections.



US debt limit: Obama says sides are 'still far apart'

Democrats and Republicans remain "far apart on a wide range of issues" in budget talks aimed at averting a looming default on US government debt, President Barack Obama has said. Mr Obama spoke after concluding a meeting with congressional leaders and said talks would resume on Sunday. The deadline to raise the \$14.3tn (£8.9tn) US debt ceiling is 2 August. Republicans have demanded steep reductions in the US budget deficit as the price of a debt increase. "All the leaders came here in a spirit of compromise and of wanting to solve problems on behalf of the American people," Mr Obama told reporters on Thursday following morning discussions at the White House with senior Republican and Democratic House and Senate leaders. "Everybody acknowledged that in order to do that, Democrats and Republicans are going to be required in each chamber" for an eventual vote.

NATIONAL HELLENIC FREE PRESS

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THE PLATFORM OF THE GREEK PRESS

- 1.To applaud the achievements of our ethnic group
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- 3.To promote the preservation of the Greek language
- 4.To encourage all worthy Community causes
- 5 To assist all the Greek-American fraternal, cultural patriotic and religious organizations
- 6.To install Americanism in the Greek-American community
- 7.To advance the just causes of Hellenism.
8. To promote the ideals Greece has given to humanity.

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PAPPAS DETAILS IMPACT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEBT ON COOK COUNTY TAXPAYERS

***\$108 Billion Total Debt amounts to \$63,525
per household in Chicago
and \$32,901 for suburban households.
Stunning Municipality Debt Brought to Light***

Cook County taxpayers are on the hook for a staggering amount of local debt, according to figures presented by Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas recently. Cook County's numerous local governments face mounting debts totaling more than \$108 billion. And, for the first time, specific figures have been collected for municipal unfunded pensions obligations totaling in excess of \$25 billion, almost a quarter of debt countywide. The total figures translate into an average debt-perhousehold in the city of Chicago of \$63,525, and \$32,901 in the suburbs.

At a gathering of more than 50 business, civic and community leaders at the Civic Federation, Pappas disclosed the alarming figures collected through the County's Debt Disclosure Ordinance (DDO).

"We knew that debt and unfunded pension obligations were serious problems at the state and federal level and assumed that a similar pattern would follow at the local level. But, quite frankly, I was stunned by the depth of the crisis for local governments," said Pappas. "This goes well beyond big cities, where you expect financial challenges. These fiscal problems permeate townships, villages, school districts, park districts, fire protection districts and more, and the taxpayers are on the hook."

Specifically, the total \$108 billion in debt comes from the county's various taxing districts:

AGENCY TYPE	QUANTITY	TOTAL DEBT
Municipality	119	\$61,052,985,289
Education	160	\$20,510,421,394
County	2	\$18,173,343,462
Sanitary	13	\$4,398,506,156
Park	88	\$3,216,716,581
Fire	30	\$302,945,577
Township	29	\$277,525,109
Library	49	\$226,049,670
Special		\$154,183,703
Grand Total	498	\$108,312,676,941

Cook County Debt Disclosure Ordinance.

"For years I've had people stop me, call me and write me with one simple question: 'why are my taxes going up?'" said Pappas. "After years of hearing the question, I went to the Cook County Board of Commissioners and asked it for this ordinance."

In 2009, Treasurer Pappas proposed and the Cook County Board enacted the Debt Disclosure Ordinance requiring all 553 primary governmental agencies in Cook County to report their yearly budget and their debt. After reviewing that information, Pappas went back to the County Board in January and asked for an amendment requiring these governmental units to report, for the first time, their pension liabilities and their unfunded pension liabilities.

"We wanted to know how much money we owe our retirees, and how much of that money we don't have," Pappas said.

This is the first time data on unfunded pension obligations have been collected for local governmental entities—and the results were startling: Cook County municipalities and taxing districts reported total pension liabilities of over \$50 billion, but the unfunded pension liabilities total \$25 billion, an amount that represents nearly a quarter of the total countywide debt. Unfunded pension liabilities are the pensions promised to retirees for which an agency doesn't have the money.

The Pew Center and the U.S. Government Accountability Office report on government retiree benefits asserts that, to be considered healthy, pension plans should be funded at 80 percent or higher. Using this benchmark, only about one-quarter of the taxing districts in Cook County are adequately funded at 80 percent or higher. And 75 percent are considered underfunded at less than 80 percent.

"It's like, if I were the Surgeon General, I'd say that 75 percent of our governments are morbidly obese," said Pappas. "I don't think there's any one cure for the debt problem, just like I don't think there's one cure for obesity."

Finding Solutions

To solve the problem, each governmental entity needs to be looked at separately by citizens and elected officials. While there has been a great deal of debate about solutions at the federal and state levels, Pappas is focused on local government. Rather than offer any single cure-all, she called on agencies to look at their internal operations from the top down and identify ways to save money and reduce debt. And she called on other counties around the state and the nation to use the Debt Disclosure Ordinance model to better gauge their own financial conditions and provide that information to their citizens.

"This is not just about federal and state governments. Homeowners need to understand when they vote for a local bond deal what the financial burden is for their children. This is about educating them," said Pappas. The Treasurer's Office analyzed the top 50 residential property tax amounts in each municipality from 1996 to 2009 and saw an increase on average of 121 percent. This means residential property owners are bearing enormous increases and wallets are stretched.

The Treasurer called for the state legislature to require all real estate brokers to disclose to prospective homeowners the "credit card debt" – how much local government owes – affecting any home before they purchase the property. Pappas also said she would go to the Cook County Board again to refine the ordinance based on the figures she released today to deal with the following:

- 1) Requiring the 55 agencies that did not report their figures to upload their reports.
- 2) Requiring each agency to report the rate of return on which its figures were based – a five percent or eight percent rate of return.
- 3) Requiring agencies to report other post-employment benefits (OPEB), such as retiree health insurance.

The average person likely looks at pension liabilities and thinks only of annuity payments to retirees. However, health insurance premiums and other post-employment benefits, or OPEB, are an increasing issue in applicable plans. Unlike regular pension funds whose obligations are offset by employer and employee contributions, OPEB have no funding source and no assets to back them up. The revised ordinance would require that all agencies provide their total OPEB figure and the population within each agency's boundary in order to get a better idea of the direct impact to the residents saddled with this debt. Without the information for these three points, there is a possibility that the \$108 billion debt could actually be worse. Pappas pointed to efforts her office has taken in addressing these issues. She recommended that other agencies consider her two-pronged approach to reform as a starting point. "Eighty percent of all government expenses are personnel related. We reduced our headcount by 54 percent since 1998 through attrition, reduction in staff," said Pappas.

SOMETHING WRONG
WITH “ENOSIS”

WE HAVE RECEIVED A LETTER FROM ANGIE VERROS, TREASURER OF “ENOSIS” WICH WE PUBLISH AS IS (PHOTOGRAPHIC COPY.)

Sotiris Rekoumis

From: lapata lapata [lapata42@yahoo.gr]
Sent: Friday, July 01, 2011 6:41 PM
To: undisclosed recipients:
Subject: What is wrong with "ENOSIS"?

www.enosis.org

June 10, 2011
Barry Goldberg
Charitable Trust Bureau
Illinois Attorney General
100 West Randolph Street, 11th Floor
Chicago, IL 60601

Dear Mr. Goldberg:

Per our conversation today, I am writing to provide you with additional details you requested regarding the following non-for-profit organization:

Federation of Hellenic American Organizations of Illinois – “ENOSIS”

As Treasurer of the organization and according to our bylaws, it is my responsibility to act as the Finances Manager of the Federation (article 12.9). To provide you with some background details, the Federation of Hellenic American Organizations of Illinois – “ENOSIS” has seven (7) bank accounts at three different banks – MB Financial, Republic Bank & Brickyard Bank. The accounts are as follows:

MB Financial:
• Building Fund Account - 107496901
• Fire Relief Fund Account - 107527201
• Hellenic Heritage Account - 105515801

Republic Bank:
• Building Fund Account - 1174000277
• General Funds Account - 1170001963
• Parade Account - 1170001969

Brickyard Bank:
• Building Fund Account - 13969201

I was elected Treasurer of the Organization on November 14, 2010. I became an authorized signer with each of the banks in January, 2011. At that time, knowing that I would be responsible for reconciling and keeping finances in order of approximately \$100,000, I suggested that we consolidate the accounts. As a matter of fact, I suggested that we consolidate the bank accounts at each and every meeting, but to no avail.

At our May 9th meeting, we once again discussed finances and this time it was suggested that we do consolidate the bank accounts immediately because the initial Building Fund (totaling approximately \$114,000) should have never been split into three (3) separate accounts (currently totaling approximately \$99,000). We agreed that I, as Treasurer would perform my due diligence and come back to the board at our next meeting and provide them with a few banks to work with and make our decision at that time. Our next board meeting was scheduled for May 23, 2011.

On May 10th, I contacted our CPA who confirmed that the initial Building Fund Account should have never been split into three (3) separate accounts. He also confirmed that money should have not been borrowed from the Building Fund Accounts as well (I believe this occurred prior to my election). He also told me that this could cause serious problems for the Organization and if there were not enough funds to cover what was owed to the Building Fund Accounts, that the Organization would most likely be dissolved. At this time, the balances in all other accounts were approximately \$8,000.

On May 20, 2011, in order to prepare for our upcoming meeting, I logged into MB Financial website and noticed that only one account was active (Parade Account -5801 with a balance of \$281.46). The other 2 accounts (Building Fund Account -6901 & Fire Relief Fund – 7201) were missing. To my knowledge, the most recent balance in the Building Fund Account was \$38,618.29 and the Fire Relief Fund Account was \$500.00. I then logged into Republic Bank website where I saw various transactions had occurred in all three (3) accounts. As I began to examine each transaction, I noticed that three checks (copies included) were forged:

Check # 1094 payable to Pegasus on May 6, 2011 in the amount of \$6,150.00
Check # 1095 payable to Durham School Services on May 6, 2011 in the amount of \$846.00
Check # 1096 payable to EXPi Printing on May 6, 2011 in the amount of \$1150.00

On May 24th, I went to MB Financial and was told by the Banking Center Manager that the President of the Organization had gone into the bank on May 17th and requested cashier checks made payable to Chase for the following totals: \$38,618.29 & \$500.00. I asked for copies of the cashier checks and she would not provide me with them.

I then called Republic Bank in order to notify them of the forged signatures. The woman that I spoke with told me that they only require one signature on their checks – since one of the two signatures was legitimate on the three (3) checks mentioned above, she could not do anything. She advised me to contact the police department. She also provided me with all of the documentation they have on file.

During the time frame May 20 – present, I periodically checked the balance at Brickyard Bank. On May 24th, I called the bank and they reassured me that no transaction could occur without two (2) signatures. On June 10th, I logged into Brickyard Bank website and saw that on June 9, 2011, a check in the sum of \$20,134.21 was issued with two (2) signatures. The first signature was the President’s – the second signature was unrecognizable. Upon discovering this withdrawal, I immediately called that bank and they told me that three (3) people went into the bank sometime last week and added another authorized signer to the account. The woman that I spoke with also told me that she thought I was one of the three that went into the bank. At that time, they also made the withdrawal.

Copies of bank statements, receipts and check images along with other documentation are enclosed.

I can make myself available if you have any further questions and/or concerns.

Sincerely,
Angie Verros
Treasurer



Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh has appeared on TV for the first time since being badly burned in an attack on his palace last month.

He did not move his arms, and both his hands were bandaged. Mr Saleh has been undergoing treatment in Saudi Arabia since 6 June following the attack, which officials said was caused by a bomb.

Yemen has been rocked by months of unrest, with protesters calling for Mr Saleh’s resignation. He has refused to step down and has resisted several attempts at mediated solutions. ‘Successful operations’ NIn Thursday’s address aired on Yemen’s state TV, the president said that dialogue was needed to resolve Yemen’s problems. He said he welcomed power-sharing, but stressed that it should be “within the framework of the constitution and in the framework of the law”.

Chicago-Based Heartland
Institute Reacts to
Blagojevich Guilty Verdicts

Former Illinois governor Rod Blagojevich was found guilty today on 18 of 20 counts in his corruption trial in federal court.



“Former Illinois governor Rod Blagojevich may be the only convicted politician who never took an illegal dime on the charges involved.

“Blagojevich talked a lot about trading official acts for campaign contributions, memorialized on wiretap recordings, but never closed the deal on the involved charges. Prosecutors emphasized they didn’t have to show money changed hands, saying talk about crime is enough for guilty verdicts. The jury evidently agreed.

“Federal criminal laws criminalizing mere talk about committing crime, but without requiring actual overt conduct, ought to be repealed. They enable federal prosecutors to usurp the role properly belonging to state prosecutors – such as enforcing state bribery laws – which do require actual criminal conduct.

“Blagojevich was stupid for talking about linking gubernatorial acts and campaign contributions, but being stupid shouldn’t be criminal.”



Arrivals up by almost 10 percent

International arrivals rose 9.5 percent on an annual basis in the first six months of the year, according to the Association of Greek Tourism Enterprises (SETE), bringing the total to 4.2 million.Excluding the 3 percent drop at Athens International Airport, terminals outside the capital registered a record rise of 15.9 percent, led by Rhodes (up 33.2 percent) and Kos (31.1 percent).SETE argues that the rise is a result of the unrest in North Africa, the tension between Israel and Turkey, the reduction in value-added tax in accommodation prices in the visa system in Russia.

Investors sought for
land registry



Investors sought for land registry Ministry heralds bid to form partnerships with investors from Greece and abroad. After years of trying to establish a comprehensive record of landownership on its own, Greece has decided to hand part of the task of creating a complete land registry to private companies.

Environment Minister Giorgos Papaconstantinou said on Thursday that the government would seek to form partnerships with investors, including those from abroad, who are willing to help draw up Greece’s as yet incomplete cadastre.

”We have to look at cooperating with the private sector,” he said. “If we continue at the current pace, the registry will not be completed on time. We are in discussions about how we might attract investment from other countries so the project can speed up.”With the help of European Union funding, Greece first launched the project to record the use and ownership of land in 1995, but it ran into repeated delays and government indifference.

Both the previous New Democracy government and the current PASOK administration have tried to kick-start the project, with only limited success.

The cadastre could play a significant part in the government’s privatization scheme when it comes to selling or leasing public land, whose ownership might be in dispute.”We are examining a number of options, even the participation of a strategic partner in the share capital of the land cadastre,” Papaconstantinou said .

Sources said that companies have expressed an interest in conducting the land surveys necessary for the details of property ownership to be recorded on the cadastre. The next phase of the project is due to focus on parts of Evia, Viotia and Attica.

During Thursday’s news conference, Papaconstantinou confirmed his plans to proceed with a scheme to allow owners of illegally built properties to pay a fine that would protect those homes and offices from demolition. The details of the scheme have yet to be agreed.

30th Anniversary Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago Jr. Olympics

A Weekend of Christian Athletic Fellowship



On May 27-29, nearly two thousand youngsters representing thirty-three parishes, ages 7-18 participated in the 30th Annual Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago Junior Olympics. Parishes from Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Missouri, Iowa,

and Helen Church, Palos Hills, IL, Fotini Karas of St. Sophia Church, Elgin, IL and George Sotos of St. Nectarios Church, Palatine, IL who each received \$500.00 scholarships.



and Minnesota were all represented during this joyous event of Christian Athletic Fellowship.

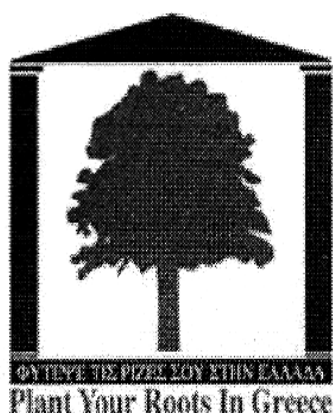
The Junior Olympics were hosted, once again, by the community of SS. Constantine and Helen in Palos Hills, Illinois. With the assistance of over 150 volunteers, the 30th annual Junior Olympics was another success. Glory be to God!

The Opening Ceremonies were held early on May 29th and God truly shined brightly in the spirit of the participants and spectators gathered. It was a fabulous sight to see all 33 parish teams enter the field proudly holding their colors and sharing in the spirit of Christian fellowship and competition. His Eminence Metropolitan Iakovos of Chicago officially began the Olympics with prayer and his blessings. The ceremonies featured many of the traditions of the ancient Olympic games, an Archery exhibition commemorating our veterans for Memorial Day, and concluding with the lighting of the torch saluted by fireworks and music and balloons.

Participants competed in several different sports on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, including basketball, volleyball, swimming, soccer, tennis, softball, track and field, 10K run, chess, checkers, backgammon, bowling, wrestling, table tennis and more. Approximately eight hundred medals were awarded.



Planning for the 31st Annual Junior Olympics will begin towards the early portion of 2012. For more information regarding the Metropolis of Chicago Junior Olympics, contact your local Greek Orthodox Parish or Mr. Chris Avramopoulos, Director of Registration at 773-626-5400 or Fr. Tom De Medeiros, Director of Publicity and Volunteers, Mr. Jim Stavrou, Director of Operations or Fr. Nicholas Jonas, Spiritual Advisor, at 708-974-3400. Also visit us on the web at www.stconstantinehelen.org/jrolympics.html for picture galleries and more information. SS. Constantine and Helen Church is located at 11025 S. Roberts Road, Palos Hills, Illinois.



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To Reverse the Loss of Greece's Forests

Someday our descendants will see the rich, lush mountains of Greece, and that will be our living legacy to them. Make the dream a reality... "Plant Your Roots in Greece"

Since ancient times—even more so now—the value of trees to Greece has been immeasurable and their loss has been heartbreaking. "Plant Your Roots in Greece" offers you a unique opportunity to become an integral part of this splendor now and forever.

Today the enemy of Greece's forests is not warfare but forest fires which, with subsequent erosion, create a vicious cycle of forest and loss soil. Where mountains were once lush, they are now barren, the rich soil washed away, the once plentiful flora and fauna gone. The Greek government has recognized the critical problems and is committing major resources to this reforestation effort.

The Plant Your Roots in Greece Foundation

The program will be a magnitude unmatched since the Greek American community came to Greece's assistance after the devastation of World War II and the subsequent Civil War. The program centers around the ability of anyone, of Greek descent or not, or anyone who is concerned and wishes to restore Greece's natural splendor, to plant a tree in Greece in their name or in the name of a loved one or friend.

Be a Part of History

At a minimum donation of \$20 for two trees, including an inscribed certificate, the program is affordable to all. It is expected that millions of trees can be planted through this program and there will be vast forests in the name of individuals, associations and corporations as a manifestation of their love for Greece.

In addition to tree planting, an aggressive program of fire-fighting has been instituted and in 1999, for the first time in millennia, reforestation exceeded destruction from fires.

The first forest was planted in Sounion in 1999 with the help of the Federation of ENOSIS and was named the "Forest of Illinois." Since then, several plantings have taken place in the area of Sounion. Trees have also been planted on the island of Samos, Samothrace, at Ancient Olympia, Vouliagmeni, Kalavryta, Arcadia, Delphi, Maniaki, Thraki, Crete, Messinia, Serres, Arta, Dion Pierias, Penteli and Patras.

Matching Funds from the European Community

It is the single largest environmental program in the European Union for Greece and will be one of the most massive efforts in history involving the planting and cultivation of seedlings.

The government of Greece has also arranged with the European Union for the EU to match on a one-to-one basis the dollars generated through the Plant Your Roots program. Thus, for every tree we plant, the EU will match funds for four additional trees.

ORDER FORM

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

- ☐ \$20 - 2 Trees (Minimum donation)
- ☐ \$50 - 5 Trees
- ☐ \$100 - 10 Trees
- ☐ \$1,000 - A "Grove" of 100 Trees
- ☐ \$5,000 - A "Glen" of 500 Trees
- ☐ \$10,000 and more as donation

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ for _____ trees

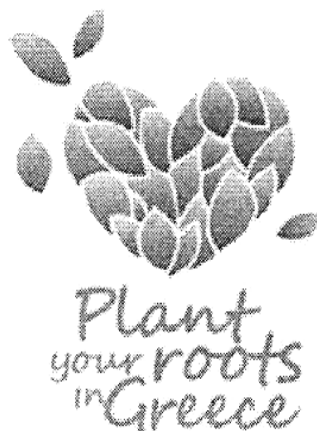
Make checks payable to:
Plant Your Roots in Greece Foundation Inc.
801 West Adams Street, Suite 235
Chicago, IL 60607

Deposits in USA:
Chicago Community Acct. # 459-0070-59
IBAN: 07004158

Deposits in Greece:
Alpha Bank Acct: # 143-0021-1-037288
Eurobank Acct: # 0026.0012.39.0100763237

The trees will be planted in honor of or memory of anyone you designate. All gifts will be acknowledged with a beautifully inscribed certificate of classic green elegance of the Greek mountains. Please indicate in whose honor or memory the gift is being made and the name and address of the person who should receive the certificate.

Plant Your Roots in Greece Foundation is a not-for-profit, tax exempt organization under the auspices of SAE / USA and HANC, offers contribution opportunities both to those who wish to support primarily victims of fire and those who wish to contribute to reforestation.



NEWS FROM GREECE

PM’s effort to check violence fails

A bid by Prime Minister George Papandreou to curb a trend of escalating violence by demonstrators, particularly against politicians, appeared to fall flat recently after his political rivals refused to back the formation of a cross-party committee to discuss the problem. Parliament Speaker Filippos Petsalnikos announced that the matter would be addressed by an existing cross-party transparency committee.

The original proposal, submitted to Petsalnikos by Papandreou on Wednesday, was rejected almost immediately by opposition parties. The main conservative opposition New Democracy conceded that the issue merited discussion but rejected Papandreou’s suggestion. “The government cannot keep choosing the easy option of setting up cross-party committees for every issue that arises,” ND spokesman Yiannis Michelakis said.

The Coalition of the Radical Left (SYRIZA) — which many government officials have accused of instigating assaults against ruling party cadres — stated outright that it would not participate in a cross-party committee discussing violence. The Communist Party was negative too, claiming that Papandreou’s initiative signaled “new repressive measures against the people.” Smaller parties such as the centrist Democratic Alliance and the Democratic Left were reportedly more open to the original proposal. Government spokesman Ilias Mossialos

insisted that the problem was very serious and suggested the government had inside information about further violent attacks. “We have indications that there will be an escalation in tensions,” he said, adding, “These issues must be discussed, and very soon.”

Trichet firm on no default for Greece

ECB chief also criticizes rating agencies as central bank raises interest rate The European Central Bank remains adamantly opposed to any form of default for Greece, whether whole or partial, ECB president Jean Claude Trichet said on Thursday. Trichet



stressed that the bank’s position had not changed and it was opposed to a partial default or any form of credit event that would

present message of the governing council,» Trichet said. He spoke against a background of warnings from credit rating agencies that a mooted debt rollover for Greece with voluntary participation by private bank creditors might still trigger a selective default rating. “It is clear that there is an element of procyclicality which is embedded in the functioning of the credit rating agencies that is not optimal,» Trichet said. “It’s also clear that a small group, a small oligopolistic structure, is not what is probably desirable at the level of global finance,» he added. Trichet said that the ECB disapproved of a decision by Moody’s rating agency to slash its ratings on indebted Portugal to junk status, roiling financial markets concerned that the eurozone debt crisis is spreading from Greece to other countries. The ECB raised interest rates for the second time this year on Thursday and signalled further policy tightening to come to tackle inflation despite the eurozone’s intensifying debt crisis. But it offered help to hard-pressed Portugal after ratings agency Moody’s downgraded its debt to junk status this week, committing to keep providing it with liquidity. “We will continue to monitor very closely all developments with respect to upside risks to price stability,» Trichet told a news conference after the bank raised interest rates by 25 basis points to 1.5 percent. Economists said before the news conference that use of that phrase would signal a further rate rise in 2011, likely to be in the last three months of the year.

Dazzling end to ‘phenomenal’ Special Olympics

The 2011 Special Olympics came to an impressive conclusion in Athens on Monday evening. The Panathenaic Stadium witnessed the closing ceremony of the Games that graced the



city as well as the Special Olympics movement and involved as many as 7,000 athletes from 180 countries around the world. The ceremony had «The History of the Child from Antiquity to Today» as its main theme, and involved cinematography, painting and photography. Major names from the Greek music scene participated as volunteers, adding to the effect of the spectacular ceremony that lit up the Athens night. “This was a phenomenal Special Olympics,» the head of the movement, Timothy Shriver, told Kathimerini. «There were great events in all venues. As we had said before the start, the Special Olympics has come home to the birthplace of sports,» he added. The next Special Olympics will be the Winter Games scheduled to take place in South Korea in 2013.

Lasithi: Inspiring Cretan beauty

Island’s most understated district has served as the muse of poets and filmmakers. Crete’s easternmost district is not usually thought of as representative of Greece’s largest island, but Lasithi’s beaches, gorges and caves have nothing to be ashamed of and give the area a character of its own.

The district derives its name from the oval-shaped Lasithi plateau, stretching over dozens



of square kilometers in the western part at an elevation of more than 850 meters and dotted with some 10,000 windmills.

The district is replete with ancient sites and monuments — from centers of the Minoan civilization to Venetian castles and Byzantine monasteries. It also has about 1,300 caves, 40 gorges, five other plateaus, the famous Vai palm-tree forest, which is a national park, as well as picturesque villages still off the tourist map but also some of Greece’s foremost deluxe hotel resorts. The contrasts extend to the district’s three major towns, Aghios Nikolaos, Ierapetra and Siteia, which share no similarities.

Aghios Nikolaos, the much-visited main town of about 10,000 in Mirabello Bay which is named after a 9th-century chapel, is postcard pretty with its lagoon, Voulismeni, connected to the sea and two islets opposite in the bay. Boats will take you further north to the island of Spinalonga (“long thorn” in Italian), opposite the famous resort of Elounda and noted for its triangle-shaped Venetian castle built in 1579. The castle is an excellent example of medieval fortifications and was one of the last places in Crete to fall to the Ottoman Turks. Southwest of Aghios Nikolaos is the main village of Kritsa, where Jules Dassin filmed “Celui qui doit mourir,” based on Nikos Kazantzakis’s novel “Christ Recrucified,” in 1957. There is no land ownership here: The shepherds, who hold their annual fete on the first weekend after August 15, all rent the land from the Municipality of Kritsa. Finds of prehistoric hippopotamus and dwarf elephant jaws have been reported. The 20,000 residents of Ierapetra, Europe’s southernmost city, located on the southern coast of Crete, mostly work in agriculture — evidenced by the vast expanse of vegetable-growing greenhouses — rather than tourism.



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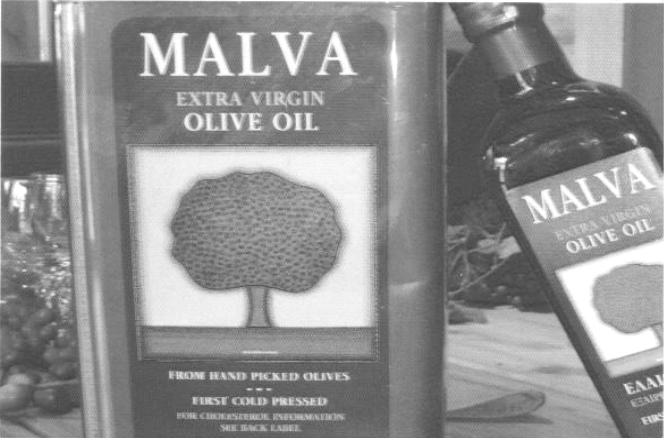
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Same-sex marriages legal in New York



Governor Andrew Cuomo made same-sex marriages legal in New York on Friday, a key victory for gay rights ahead of the 2012 presidential and congressional elections.

New York will become the sixth and most populous U.S. state to allow gay marriage. State senators voted 33-29 on Friday evening to approve marriage equality legislation and Cuomo, a Democrat who had introduced the measure, signed it into law. "We reached a new level of social justice," he said.

Same-sex weddings can start taking place in New York in 30 days, though religious institutions and nonprofit groups with religious affiliations will not be compelled to officiate at such ceremonies. The legislation also gives gay couples the right to divorce.

But New York's Catholic bishops said they were "deeply disappointed and troubled" by the passage of the bill. "We always treat our homosexual brothers and sisters with respect, dignity and love. But we just as strongly affirm that marriage is the joining of one man and one woman," the state's Catholic Conference said in a statement. New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, an advocate for gay marriage who lobbied state lawmakers in recent weeks, said the vote was an "historic triumph for equality and freedom."

ELECTION ISSUE

President Barack Obama, who attended a fund-raiser in New York on Thursday for Gay Pride Week, has a nuanced stance on gay issues. Experts say he could risk alienating large portions of the electorate if he came out strongly in favor of such matters as gay marriage before the 2012 elections.

During the 2008 election, Obama picked up important support from Evangelicals, Catholics, Latinos and African-Americans, some of whom oppose gay marriage, which has become a contentious social issue being fought state-by-state.

In California a judge last year overturned a ban on gay marriage, but no weddings can take

place while the decision is being appealed. It could set national policy if the case reaches the U.S. Supreme Court.

Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont and the District of Columbia allow same-sex marriage, and Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois and New Jersey approved civil unions. The first legal same-sex marriages in the United States took place in Massachusetts in 2004.

But gay marriage is banned in 39 states.

In New York a recent Siena poll found 58 percent of New Yorkers support gay marriage, while nationally the U.S. public is nearly evenly split, with 45 percent in favor and 46 percent opposed, according to a Pew Research poll released last month.

New York City's marketing and tourism group NYC & Company said it was gearing up to turn the city into "the gay weddings destination." "The new legislation is good news for the City's \$31 billion travel and tourism industry," said NYC & Company Chief Executive George Fertitta.

A key sticking point had been over an exemption that would allow religious officials to refuse to perform services or lend space for same-sex weddings. Most Republicans were concerned the legal protection was not strong enough, so legislative leaders worked with Cuomo to amend his original bill.

However, fears of a slew of litigation arising from a possible religious exemption to New York's proposed same-sex marriage law are not borne out by experience with similar laws in other states, legal experts say.



Kalymnos: Take the plunge Known for its sponge divers, this Dodecanese island has a rich cultural past to brag about as well Kalymnos, the fourth largest of the Dodecanese islands (111 square kilometers) in the southeastern Aegean, is mentioned by Homer as one of the Kalydnes islands that took part in the Trojan War. Kalymnians are in fact known to have a knack for daring, as testified by their long sponge-diving history and shaped perhaps by the island's rough, barren landscape.

LOCAL COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS

Hellenic Veterans Memorial Dedicated

Hellenic Post 343 dedicated the Hellenic Veterans Memorial at Elmwood Cemetary in River Grove, IL on July 4th. The building of the memorial has been the focus of the Hellenic Post 343 for the past few years.

National Hellenic Museum receives \$100,000 donation;

With just a few months before the opening of the National Hellenic Museum, the AHEPA Chapter 78 of Merrillville, Indiana pledged a total of \$100,000 for the new museum. Join AHEPA Chapter 78 and be a part of a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to create an institution that will transform minds and shape the future. A gift to the National Hellenic Museum will celebrate both Hellenism and the Greek American experience for generations. Your contribution will help build this incredible new Museum and ensure that it fulfills its mission into the future. There are many ways to help — learn more here

The popular Kouzina event returns!

Join the National Hellenic Museum for 3 days in an epicurean celebration of the culinary arts! Experience: The Nation's Finest Chefs, a diverse marketplace of Greek products and a preview of the new National Hellenic Museum. Sample and Savor: Unique Mediterranean foods, as well as premium wines, olive oils, cheeses and many more authentic delicacies from Greece. For more information about Kouzina please contact the National Hellenic Museum at 312 655-1234.

Hellenic Foundation to participate in Bank of America Chicago Marathon

Hellenic Foundation is proud to be participating in the upcoming Bank of America Chicago Marathon that will take place in Chicago on October 9th. Hellenic Foundation is happy to announce that they will be hosting a group of runners from the TELMISSOS Marathon running group which will be traveling 5,500 miles to Chicago all the way from Marathonas, Greece to participate in this great event. A series of exciting events will take place around the October 9th Bank of America Chicago Marathon as we welcome the TELMISSOS Marathon running group. For biographies about the runners and to learn about how to help 'sponsor' a runner please visit our website at www.hellenicfoundation.org. The Hellenic Foundation is also excited to announce its fall gala that will take place the evening of October 9th! Save the date!

Greek Film Fest Chicago! announces open call for entries

Greek Film Fest Chicago! celebrating Hellenic Story Telling, has announced a call for entries for the upcoming festival, to take place September 29 – October 2, 2011. Short- and feature-length entries produced within the last five years by international filmmakers of Greek descent are now being accepted for admission. Films about Greece and/or Hellenism by non-Greek filmmakers will also be considered. The film festival is a movement begun in early 2011 by the group FilmHellenes, with a mission to showcase Greek films in the Chicago and surrounding communities by embracing Greek filmmakers worldwide. The festival will include selections of recent narrative features, documentaries, shorts and animation, along with thematic discussions; promote the Greek language and the ecumenical humane values of Hellenic heritage within the Greek community and beyond; inspire the newer and older generations of Greek-Americans and reunite them with Greek speech heard as it is spoken today, through the cinema; create synergy with, and support other Greek organizations in the Chicago area; and support the universal values of freedom of expression and thought that are fundamental to good cinema.

The board of the not-for-profit (pending) FilmHellenes is comprised of notable individuals of Hellenic descent with considerable experience in film and the humanities. They include president and co-founder, filmmaker Niko Franghias, writer-director of EmberFrames; vice president and co-founder, DePaul associate professor Alex Papadopoulos; secretary/treasurer Terry Jacobs of EmberFrames; Dino Vlahakis, owner of the Pickwick Theatre in Park Ridge, Ill; Zoe Iltsoopoulos Borys, Fletcher Cameras' general manager; director's rep and producer Valerie Gobos; Tom Tzouras, historian at the National Hellenic Museum; Professor Zizi Papacharissi, head of the University of Illinois/Chicago Communications Department; Daily Frappe co-founder/marketing director, Kyriakos Mello; banker Dimitris Kostopoulos, also a Greek language teacher at the Hellenic American Academy; Art Andros, architect and City of Chicago project manager; and Takis Theotokatos, director of cultural programming at the Hellenic American Academy.

For consideration, films should fit under one of four categories: Hellenic Current (recent narrative features, short subjects, animation, feature and short length documentaries); Flashes of History (historical documentaries); Young Ambition (student entries); and Incredible Adventures (films for children). A special program category, Chrysotheke, (by festival invitation only) will be saluting films that are putting Greece on the map. Deadline for submissions for the 1st Greek Film Festival Chicago is August 1. For complete submission guidelines and entry forms, please email submissions@greekfilmfestchicago.org.

Education - Greek Language Boot Camp

"Multilingual Chicago is now offering Greek classes for kids 1-4 years old and their parents or caregivers. Our classes are full immersion and activities include traditional games, songs, music, movement and laughter! Class meets on Wednesdays from 10:00 to 11:00am. Contact us to schedule your trial class! Carolina Legg, Kids Program Coordinator at 773-292-7676 or kids@multilingualchicago.com.

Are you planning a trip to Greece? would you like to learn the basics of the language or refresh what you already know? Consider our 7 hr Greek Bilingual Boot Camp on July 24th, from 10:00am to 5:00pm. For more information contact Jennifer Yang, 773-292-7676, jennifer@mlchicago.com" More on their site here

HUBS Skokie Patio is now open

Hub's Restaurant was established in 1976, and ever since is, Just A Family Business Where Quality Still Counts. Delicious food, fast service, friendly faces, reasonable prices, and a whole lot more are what you can expect when you stop in at Hub's Restaurant. Conveniently located in Skokie at 3727 W. Dempster, phone (847) 677-7695, they feature outstanding home cooking in a relaxed atmosphere, prepared and served fresh every day. For more information about Hub's Restaurant, [click here](#).

(Continued on page 8)



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The IMF and Madame Managing Director



Christine Lagarde said the IMF must better reflect the shifting balance of power in the global economy

Christine Lagarde is surely the first synchronised swimmer to take one of the top jobs in international finance.

She is also the first woman, which is a novelty that the staff of the institution clearly relish. The new managing director's "town hall meeting" with staff on her first day in the job, on Tuesday, was full of people and by all accounts plenty of goodwill.

But the IMF can't rely on goodwill alone, in fact sometimes it needs to inspire the exact opposite.

Aside from that missing Y chromosome, Christine Lagarde is not a novelty at all. Though there are 187 countries in the IMF, five of the 11 managing directors have been French and all have been European.

When I interviewed her after her press conference today, I asked Lagarde whether she felt uncomfortable that her nationality had been a large factor in her getting the job. Was it something in the wine perhaps that made French people better-suited to the job of running the Fund?

Well, she said, the wine did give people greater longevity, and she intended to be in the job for five years. As for the rest of it, she was looking forward, not back. Change of subject.

I'm tempted to say, fair enough. After all, it's not only the unusually rapid and united support of European governments that got her this job. I've now been told that China and Brazil also played a key part.

Hours after her candidacy was announced, the Chinese called her privately to offer their support. Days later, the Brazilian finance minister made it known to the Europeans and the US that Brazil would not be getting behind an alternative, emerging market candidate.

From that point on, Lagarde's coronation was assured. Even the Americans could not have changed the result. (And, as we know, they didn't try.)

So when she says, as she did in our interview, that she did not see herself as a purely European candidate, those are not (just) empty words.

Yet, there is no getting round the fact that European governments put her where she is today. Now she must decide whether she will return the favour in her approach to the crisis in the eurozone.

Most economists, in fact, any serious observer of the situation, says there will be no solution without a major reduction in the debt of the governments in trouble, particularly Greece. Martin Wolf has a stab at the numbers involved in his latest column in the FT. The only question is whether private investors will bear the loss or European governments will, not to mention the IMF, which now has so much of its balance sheet tangled up in Greece, Portugal and Ireland.

In her interview she told me there would need to be a more comprehensive solution than has been attempted in the past, and said that European governments' approach in the past had been too ad hoc. It's easy to say, but she didn't give much indication how she would force such a solution in practice.

Governments often need the IMF to be the outsider, forcing them to do what they lack the political will to do on their own.

Plenty of people wonder whether she can possibly take that approach in the eurozone, when only days ago she was negotiating on the other side. But as she said herself, with her typical grasp of English cliché, "the proof of the pudding will be in the eating".

LOCAL COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS

(Continued from page 7)

Marmalade opens up in Chicago

A new breakfast concept restaurant has opened up on the north side of Chicago called Marmalade. (Seems that this is the trend lately eh?) Marmalade is located in the former location of La Sabra Restaurant, the restaurant is located at 1969 W. Montrose Ave in Chicago, IL. The restaurant is open every day from 7 AM to 3 PM. Their website is under construction but check back for updates.

Gaitanos at Katerina's.

Chicago's Greek Troubadour, Vasilios Gaitanos performs the Classic Elliniko Songbook. His haunting interpretations of timeless compositions awaken our philosophical passions about life. Joined by Special Guest, the Lovely Demetra Gaitanos. \$10 Cover - Chicago, IL July 30th. Source: DailyFrappe.com

PICTURES OF THE WORLD



Pyeongchang has been chosen to host the 2018 Winter Olympics.

The South Korean candidate was selected by the International Olympic Committee in the first round of voting ahead of Munich in Germany and Annecy in France. Pyeongchang received 63 of the Committee's 95 votes, well ahead of Munich's 25 and Annecy's seven. It is a case of third time lucky for Pyeongchang, which lost to Vancouver and Sochi respectively for the right to host the 2010 and 2014 Winter Games. "This is one of the happiest days for our country, our people and millions of youth[s] dreaming of winter sport," said Pyeongchang bid chief Cho Yang-ho. People were out on the streets in the early hours of the morning to hear the announcement. After two failed bids and a decade of waiting, the celebrations they've bottled up for years were expressed with concerts and fireworks. The opportunity to develop a new market for the Winter Games in Asia was seen as the real jewel of this presentation. Korea promised access to some 600 million young Asians, and the chance to develop a new culture of winter sports here. Only Japan has hosted the Winter Games before, and it's only the third time the Games have been held in Asia. South Korea's president said earlier this week he saw it as "his duty" to bring the Games back for Asia. Tonight, for many Koreans, it just feels like pleasure.

Profile: Dominique Strauss-Kahn

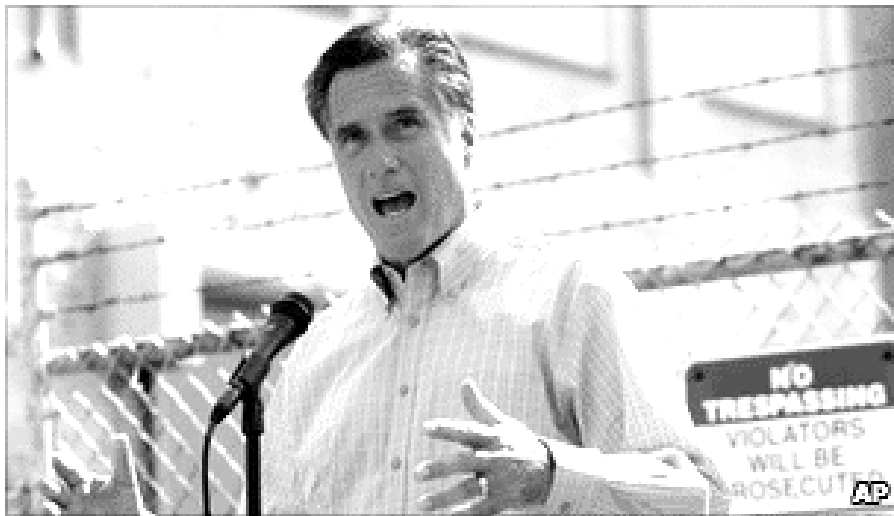
Revered for his economic acumen and admired for his political nous and powers of persuasion, Dominique Strauss-Kahn has made a name for himself in the grandest salons of international finance. Once an academic, once a French finance minister, the 62-year-old head of the International Monetary Fund was described as charming and witty by those who studied and worked with him.



His appointment as IMF chief in 2007 came a year before the descent into global financial crisis heralded an unprecedented period of instability.

Since then he was widely credited with transforming the US-based IMF into a key player in the unfolding financial and economic turmoil back in Europe. With eurozone members struggling to agree on the best way to fix the damage - and limit the contagion - from the crises in Greece, Ireland and Portugal, the IMF, and Mr Strauss-Kahn, had come to the fore.

Given his high profile, Mr Strauss-Kahn had come to be seen as a realistic and popular potential challenger to Nicolas Sarkozy for the French presidency in 2012. But charges of attempted rape in a New York hotel have brought all that to a halt, for now. 'Seduced with words' Born in 1949 to left-wing Jewish parents, Mr Strauss-Kahn spent his early years in Morocco, leaving with his family after a devastating earthquake in 1960. He studied law and economics in Paris during and after the famed protests of 1968, eventually becoming an academic known for his diligence and professionalism at the University of Nancy and, later, the University of Paris. His economics emphasised the practical, overlooking the most radical ideas of the Vietnam student movement while sympathising with the anti-war aims. In person, Mr Strauss-Kahn also confounded the expectations of those who saw academics as fusty, bookish sorts. His easy charm won him fans on the lecture circuit, and his reputation for good looks and a way with words followed him around for most of his career. "He seduced with words," one French journalist told the BBC earlier this year. He is also known to enjoy a lavish lifestyle. He drew around \$500,000 (£307,000) annually in salary and expenses from the IMF and his legal team told the court he has a net worth of roughly \$2m.



Mitt Romney raises \$18m for Republican 2012 run

Mitt Romney Mr Romney spent about \$45m of his own money on his 2008 campaign - and could fund his 2012 bid. Presidential hopeful Mitt Romney's bid for the 2012 Republican nomination raised \$18.25m (£11.4m) in the second quarter of 2011, his campaign said. The haul appears to cement the former Massachusetts governor's status as the early frontrunner in the race for the Republican nomination, analysts say. His three nearest rivals in the Republican effort to unseat President Barack Obama each raised about \$4m. Mr Romney's take was \$3m less than the same period in 2007, when he also ran. The final deadline for submitting fundraising totals for the period running from 1 April to 30 June is 15 July. But Mr Romney's campaign released its unofficial totals on Wednesday.

"Voters are responding to Mitt Romney's message that President Obama's policies have failed and that we need new leadership in Washington," the campaign's national finance chairman Spencer Zwick said in a statement. "Our fundraising for the second quarter represents the strong support Mitt Romney has across the country." Meanwhile, the Washington Post that reported the \$4.1m raised by former Utah Governor and Ambassador to China Jon Huntsman included "a major personal donation". Among Mr Romney's other Republican rivals, Congressman Ron Paul, former Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty raised \$4.5m and \$4.2m, respectively, the Washington Post reported. Former House of Representatives Speaker Newt Gingrich, whose campaign has suffered major staff defections in recent weeks, took in about \$2m, Politico reported - but his campaign is also said to be some \$1m in debt. Mr Romney, who lost a bid in 2008 for the Republican presidential nomination, leads in early polls. The first contest of the 2012 primary season will be held in Iowa in February.