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SOLD-OUT GALA FOR HELLENIC AMERICAN ACADEMY REINFORCES COMMU- NITY COMMITMENT



Co-Chairs Ms DEnise Ditka, Mrs Effie Goudanis and President Jim Logothetis. HAAGala-Elios Photo.

Overwhelming AGAPE was on display this Valentine's Day weekend as Hellenic leaders and phil-Hellenes in the Chicagoland area rallied in their unwa-



Honoree Mrs. Chrysso Sarris with family making her acceptance speech HAAGala-Elios Photo.

Creating human ears...with a 3-D printer!

In Shakespeare's Julius Caesar, Marc Antony spoke these famous words: "Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears." That was then, but this is now: Researchers have actually found a way to create human ears...with a 3-D printer!

I know this sounds like science fiction, but the technology is real, and it has the medical community ecstatic. Of course, they aren't using the same printers and materials you'd find at Staples.



Let me explain what happened: Researchers have been trying for years to create living tissue and organs to meet the overwhelming demand for organ transplants. So recently, a team of researchers at the Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine used a special 3-D printer called an Integrated Tissue-Organ Printing System. And instead of ink, they "printed" using a mixture of living cells and a biodegradable polymer. Printer nozzles form the tissue into the correct shape, and create a mold to hold the tissue together until it hardens.

Using this system, they "printed" a partial human jawbone, some human muscle tissue...and cartilage for a human ear! And these bones and tissue are not made with plastic or metal. They are made with actual living human tissue.

Scientists have been using 3-D printing technology to make metal and polymer artificial bone implants for a while now. But this breakthrough takes us one giant step closer to what used to be science fiction: Printing fully-functioning human organs. In fact, Dr. Anthony Atala, who headed the study, said, "With further development, this technology could potentially be used to print living tissue and organ structures for [human] surgical implantation." Imagine: We could someday be able to print a functioning heart or a liver. Now, they haven't implanted the 3-D "prints" into humans yet.

They have, however, placed small bits of the synthetic 3-D parts into rats and mice. Within a few weeks, the implanted synthetic tissue had merged successfully with the real tissue...and was healthy and functioning normally. The next step will be to create living tissue using cells from different parts of the human body. And when they are ready to try it on humans, they will create tissue using cells from the person getting the implant.

Again, it all sounds like science fiction. But if we could "print" functioning tissue and organs, it would revolutionize organ transplants. As you know, there are always long waiting lists for donor organs. But what if your doctor could print a replacement bone or organ for you, partially made with your own cells so your body won't reject it? Who knows how many lives could be saved? Just think, you wouldn't need to wait for someone's misfortune to get an organ that could save your life.

Now, it sounds like a great solution for the growing problem of scarcity of donor organs, but maybe it's not a simple solution. For instance, do you think there are any ethical questions or lines that would be crossed by creating and "printing" human body parts, even if they used your own tissue Bill Sharpe

(Continue p. 3)

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THE PLATFORM OF THE GREEK PRESS

- 1.To applaud the achievements of our ethnic group
- 2.To support the ideas of the Hellenic-Christian tradition
- 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.

The Mathematics
of Life

In school, we learn a lot of useless math. However, in the school of life, there are some formulas that may hold true, such as these interesting mathematical formulas - just don't take them too seriously, in my experience, I never did use much of the math I learned in school anyway...

OFFICE ARITHMETIC puzzle
Smart boss + Smart employee = Profit
Smart boss + Dumb employee = Production
Dumb boss + Smart employee = Promotion
Dumb boss + Dumb employee = Overtime

ROMANCE MATHEMATICS gender
Smart man + Smart woman =Romance
Smart man + Dumb woman = Affair
Dumb man + Smart woman =Marriage
Dumb man + Dumb woman = Pregnancy

SHOPPING MATH sale
A man will pay \$2 for a \$1 item he needs.
A woman will pay \$1 for a \$2 item that she doesn't need.

General Formulas:
HAPPINESS To be happy with a man, you must understand him a lot and love him a little.To be happy with a woman,you must love her a lot and not try to understand her at all.

LONGEVITY
Married men live longer than single men,
but married men are a lot more willing to die.

PROPENSITY TO CHANGE
A woman marries a man expecting he will change,but he doesn't.A man marries a woman expecting that she won't change,but she does.

GENERAL EQUATIONS & STATISTICS
A woman worries about the future until she gets a husband.(Then she worries about the husband...)A man never worries about the future until he gets a wife.A successful man is one who makes more money than his wife can spend.A successful woman is one who finds such a man.

DISCUSSION TECHNIQUE
A woman has the last word in any argument.nything a man says after that... is the beginning of a new argument.

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EU-Turkey deal fails to
stem refugee flight to
Greece

They waved, cheered and smiled, elated to have made it to Europe at dawn on Sunday in a packed blue rubber motor boat.

The 50 or so refugees and migrants were among the first to arrive on the Greek island of Lesbos on day one after an EU deal with Turkey designed to close the route by which a million people crossed the Aegean Sea to Greece in 2015.

Exhausted but relieved, the new arrivals wrapped their wet feet in thermal blankets as volunteers handed out dry clothes and supplies.

Reuters witnesses saw three boats arrive within an hour in darkness in the early hours of Sunday. Two men were pulled out unconscious from one of the boats amid the screams of fellow passengers and were later pronounced dead.

Twelve boats had arrived on the shoreline near the airport by 6 a.m. (0400 GMT), a police official said.

Under the European Union deal with Turkey, all migrants and refugees, including Syrians, who cross to Greece illegally by sea from Sunday will be sent back to Turkey once they are registered and their asylum claims have been processed.

In return, the EU will take in thousands of Syrian refugees directly from Turkey and reward it with more money, early visa-free travel and progress in its EU membership negotiations.

Among the arrivals on the seaweed strewn beach on the south of Lesbos was Syrian Hussein Ali Muhammad, whose studies were interrupted after the war began. He said he wanted to go to Denmark to continue university. Asked if he was aware of the European decision, he said:

"I know that. I hope to cross these borders. I hope I complete my studies here (in Europe), just this. I don't want money, I just want to complete my studies. This is my message."

Muhammed, who worked odd jobs in Turkey to pay a smuggler to bring him across, said he did not want to go back.

"I worked very, very hard in Turkey, I collected the money to come here ... It's very dangerous and not good."

Another arrival, 30-year-old computer engineer Mohammed from Daraa in Syria, said he hoped to stay in Greece until he found a way to be reunited with his wife and son in Germany.

NATURE'S MIRACLE TRIO

LEMON



AIDS WITH DIGESTION

ANTI-INFLAMMATORY

HELPS WITH NAUSEA

IMMUNE SYSTEM BOOSTER

CANCER FIGHTER

DETOX

GINGER



AIDS WITH DIGESTION

ALKALIZES THE BODY

BURNS FAT

IMMUNE SYSTEM BOOSTER

KIDNEY HEALTH

DETOX

GARLIC



ANTIBACTERIAL

ANTI-FUNGAL

ANTISEPTIC

IMMUNE SYSTEM BOOSTER

CANCER FIGHTER

WOUND HEALING

The Most Important Lessons You'll Learn



1. One of the most important thing everyone needs to learn in this life is to love themselves. Not simply loving, but loving without conditions. It doesn't mean being egotistical, it means forgiving yourself when you make mistakes (after all, you're human). It means appreciating what's good about yourself. It also means being able to love others with all your heart, because your heart knows what true love is. These 13 mental exercises will set you on the right path to truly loving yourself.
1. Remind yourself what you love about you Many allow their mistakes to rule their lives rather than their triumphs. The first thing you must remind yourself of is how great you are.
2. You can plan for the future, but you have to *live* in the moment There is a saying that goes: "People make plans and God laughs". Even if you try to plan each step in your life ahead of time, there are always surprises and opportunities, and if you don't pay attention – they might just pass you by. Live in the now, enjoy what you have, it might be gone tomorrow.
3. Forgive yourself for past mistakes We all make mistakes, some big, some small. The most important thing is to be able to forgive yourself for these mistakes. Remember that your mistakes don't define you, they just make you human. Most importantly, you come away with a lesson. But the most important thing to keep in mind is - we ALL make mistakes, each and every day. We can all be a little better, a little stronger or faster or wiser. Do what you can, and forgive yourself for the rest.
4. Change what you know needs to be changed If there's something you enjoyed doing but now takes all your energy away, it may be time to stop doing it. By sticking to old habits from pure inertia, you end up stuck in the same place, never making any progress. Keep doing what makes you happy and gives you energy, and avoid things that don't empower you. Don't be afraid of change, it may be hard in the short-term, but in the long-term, nothing is more important than you finding satisfaction in this life.
5. Do (at least) one thing that makes you happy every day Sounds corny, right? And yet how many of us forget to take a happy moment for ourselves? Between work, family obligations, paying bills, and so on, we lose track of what makes us happy and can spend days, and even weeks without doing something that truly delights us. Despite what some might tell you, everybody needs their "me time", where they devote their time to something that brings them joy. There's nothing selfish about taking care of your own needs. This is what gives you the energy to spend on others the rest of the time.
6. Don't be afraid of new things and new opportunities Instead of fearing the unknown, embrace it. You'll learn more about yourself and may even discover a hidden talent. The future is littered with possibilities, so don't squander yours. Life is dull if you stick to the same set of actions. Try things that scare you and find out how many different colors and tastes life has to offer, if you are willing to take that brave step. And it *is* brave, because change is hard. But it's also what makes us feel most alive.
7. Listen to your gut feelings and don't lie to yourself A person who speaks with integrity has a powerful presence. Leave the storytelling for bedtime. Once you're honest with yourself, you can also listen to your own advice. We often lie to ourselves, break promises and disappoint ourselves in ways we would never inflict on others. It's important to treat yourselves with the same respect and commitment you give so freely to others.
8. Believe in yourself! "Oh, back to corny again," you may be thinking. That doesn't matter, because if you don't believe in yourself, eventually no one will. People believe you know yourself best, and if you keep putting yourself down and doubting your own strengths, so will others. So hold your head up high, and don't be ashamed to feel proud, to go for what you want without fear of failure. You have power and abilities, so believe you can use them to achieve your goals.
9. In your life's story, you're the writer, not the reader So often in life it seems we are being dictated the course of our day, as if a giant hand is tossing us about from event to responsibility. Get ahead of the game, try to put yourself in positions where you set the tone of your day, and you decide where you'd like to take it. Remember that others are feeling this way too. We're all fighting to lead our lives instead of being led by them. Be pro-active and show the world you can take control of your day and lead it, instead of being led
10. Be present in your life, you don't get another chance. Living in the moment is not the same as being present. Being present means paying attention to what is happening. It means appreciating the full significance of what is happening to you and around you. Life is more than just the moments you experience and remember; it's every second of every day. You are alive all the time, every breath, every step. So once in a while, lift your head up, look around you and try to be present in this moment, to *FEEL* it, sense it and love it, as a moment in time that belongs to your life story.

SOLD-OUT GALA FOR HELLENIC AMERICAN ACADEMY REINFORCES COMMUNITY COMMITMENT

(From page 1)

vering support of the Hellenic American Academy at the school's sold out gala on February 13, 2016.

Widely recognized for excellence across its Day School, Greek Language and cultural programs, leaders of the Greek-American community stood firm in their commitment to the Academy, one of the oldest and biggest Greek Orthodox schools in America. The evening included dinner, dancing and a silent and live auction. The exciting live auction kept guests on their feet and bidding. One of the highlights of the auction was the presentation of an Olympic Torch carried in the 2004 Athens Olympics. This live auction item was a wonderful symbol of the school's work which passes the torch of Greek heritage, faith and education from generation to generation.



Mrs. Marilyn Tzakis Mrs. Angie Maglaris Mrs. Mary Spyratos Mrs. Ann Rappa. HAAGala-Elios Photo.

The Academy honored The Dan Kuesis Family with the school's Heritage Award. The Kuesis family thanked all those committed to Greek American causes and encouraged everyone to stand with the Academy and stay focused on the pure AGAPE required to perpetuate the ideals and traditions we all have been privileged to call our own.



Members of the Hellenic American Academy Faculty @ Staff.

Michael and Chrysso Sarris were honored with the school's Service Award. Both are passionate about the noble cause of the Academy and the wonderful teachers, staff and administrators who serve it with love and pride. Their moving speech included a thank you to the countless men and women who have given so tirelessly to this school for over a century to ensure that each succeeding generation of children has the opportunity to truly know and love our beautiful heritage and faith in an environment committed to excellence.

"We are so blessed. The generosity and AGAPE of our supporters is truly amazing. It is the collective efforts of our sponsors, dedicated volunteers and committed faculty, staff and students that makes our school and this gala event such a success," said co-chairs Effie Gountanis and Denise Ditka. "We feel proud to be part of the Hellenic American Academy family and we will not give up. The commitment of our families and supporters is an inspiration to us all".

Proceeds from the evening will be used to support The Hellenic American Academy's excellent programs which have been recognized by the University of Crete as a model of outstanding Greek education, including the dual-language Socrates Day School where students are routinely receiving top scores in national standardized testing, as well as a robust Greek language program which serves pre-school through high school and a diverse Greek cultural program.

Enrollment is now open for the 2016-17 school year and the 2016 summer camp. For more information (including financial incentives at our Day School), please contact the school directly at 847-317-1063 or visit www.hellenicamericanacademy.org. Come find out what makes Hellenic American Academy stand apart!



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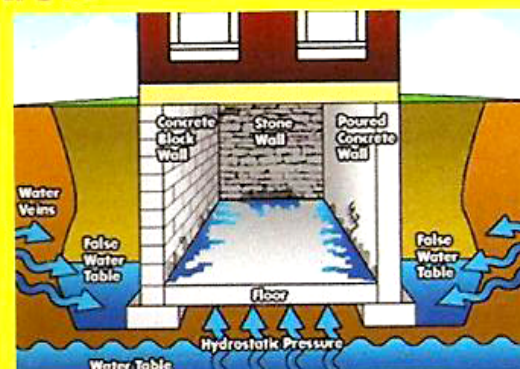
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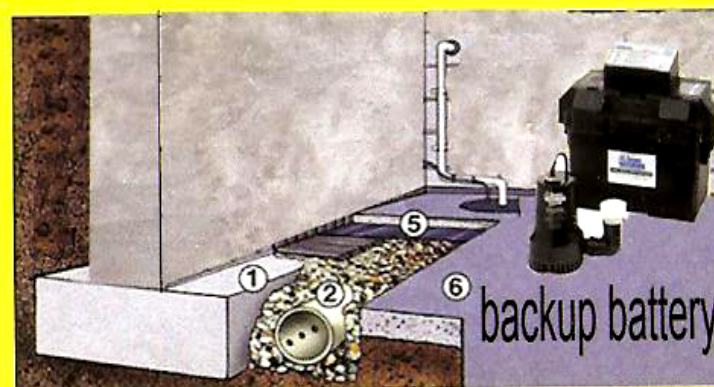
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Hilarious Jokes About Men and Wives

Many people say that men and women are opposites. Others hold the notion that they compliment each other, while others believe them to be both. Despite it all, we cannot help but be a little comical about the differences between the two sexes, so if you agree with us on this, the following short jokes will surely have you bursting into laughter!

Marriage is like a public toilet. Those waiting outside are desperate to get in...*While those inside are desperate to come out.*

Wife: "Why are you home so early?"Husband: "*My boss said go to hell!*"

Doctor: "How's your headache?"Patient: "*She's out of town.*" Compromising does not mean you are wrong and your wife is right. *It only means that the safety of your head is much more important than your ego!*

It is said that when a woman closes her eyes, she sees the person she loves the most. *But when a man does that - the slide show begins....*

Whisky is a brilliant invention.*One double and you start feeling single again.*

Wives are magicians...*They can change anything into an argument.*

There are 3 kinds of men in this world: Some remain single and make wonders happen, some have girlfriends and see wonders happen.....*the rest get married and wonder what happened.*

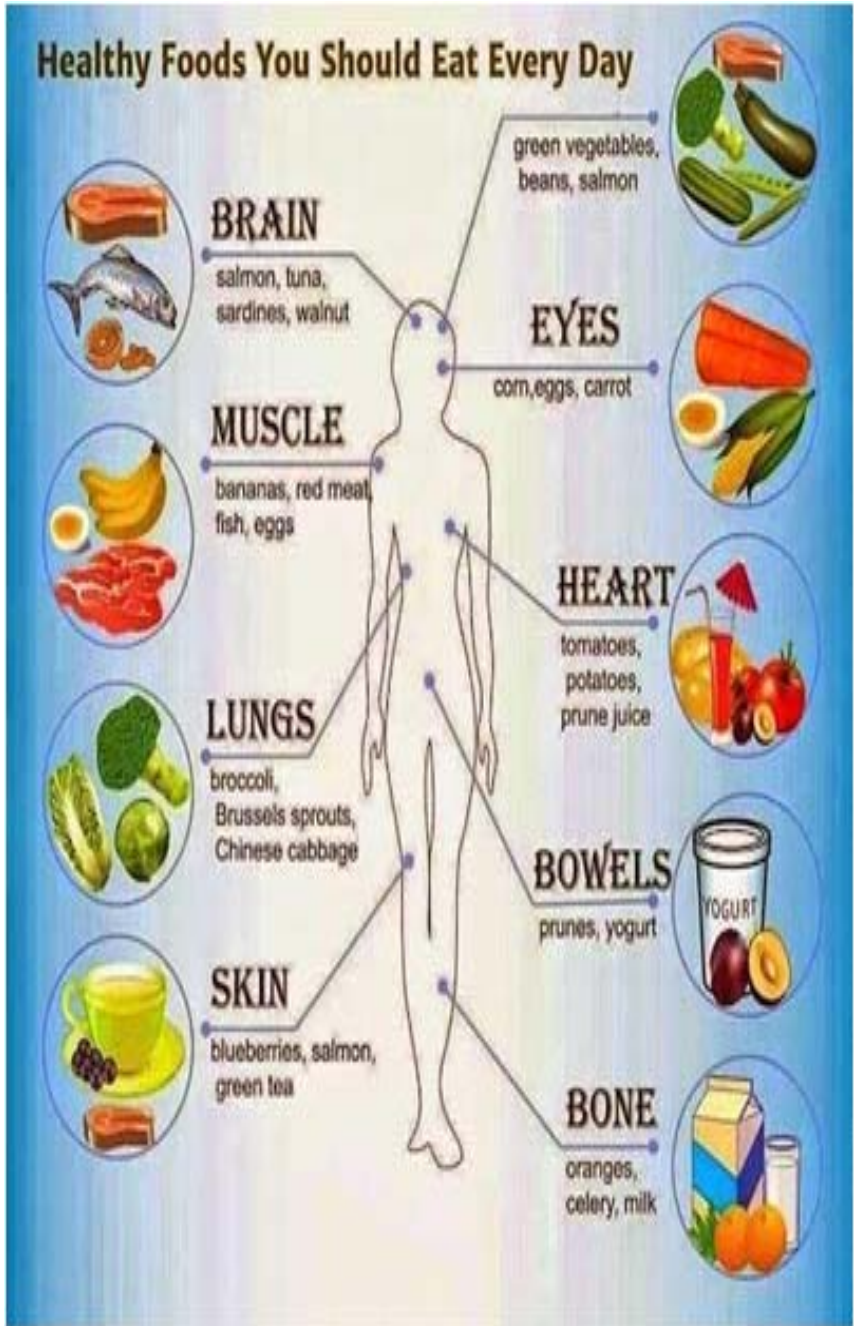
Q- Why can't women drive well? A- *Because there are too many mirrors in a car that distract them.*

Q- Why can't Women stand a day in a Jungle? A- *There are no shopping centers.*

Q: How can you save a dying woman?A: *Tell her about a 90% sale going on somewhere.*

Q: If a Woman is quiet, which day is it?A: *Who cares, just enjoy that day!*

Women live a better, longer and more peaceful Life, compared to men. Do you want to know why?A very smart man replied: *Women don't have a wife!*



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NEWS FROM GREECE

Prosecutor claims minister interfered in investigation

Appeals court prosecutor Georgia Tsatani, who was responsible for investigating businessman Andreas Vgenopoulos, has alleged that Alternate Justice Minister Dimitris Papangelopoulos put pressure on her to suspend her probe and return the case file to the anti-corruption prosecutor’s office.

Tsatani told judicial authorities that Papangelopoulos accused her of trying to cover up for some of the individuals involved in the case. The prosecutor claims the minister made indirect threats against her and that she has evidence of his phone calls to her.

Papangelopoulos has responded with a letter to Parliament Speaker Nikos Voutsis denying that he ever discussed details of the case with Tsatani. He confirmed that he asked her to hand back the case file but insisted that this was because she did not have the right to take on the investigation in the first place.

Supreme Court President Vassiliki Thanou announced last week that she would investigate Tsatani’s recent decision to shelve her probe into Vgenopoulos and the 2013 collapse of Laiki Bank in Cyprus, where he was chairman. Cypriot authorities questioned the suspension of the investigation

Turkey disputes Greek sovereignty via NATO patrols

Turkey is disputing Greece’s territorial



sovereignty over a string of tiny islands and a part of its air space over the Aegean Sea, according to a confidential document, obtained by Kathimerini, that was submitted to NATO’s Military Committee last month.

The 17-point document, which is expected to further strain relations between the neighboring countries, was submitted on February 15, during heated discussions between Greece and Turkey over the terms of deployment of a German-led NATO patrol in the Aegean to stem the flow of refugees.

It was the first time that had Turkey disputed Greek sovereignty via an official NATO document. Turkey’s demands from the Alliance included replacing the term “Aegean air space” with “NATO air space” and refraining from using the Greek names of several tiny islands “that may be seen as the promotion of national interest” – an apparent reference to 16 small islets whose Greek sovereignty has been repeatedly disputed by Ankara.

Turkey also disputed Greece’s 10-mile national air space and demanded permission to enter the Athens Flight Information Region (FIR) without submitting flight plans. It further requested that NATO ships do not dock at ports of the Dodecanese islands in the southeast Aegean and claimed supervision of almost half the Aegean Sea for search and rescue operations.

The terms of the NATO patrol in the Aegean were agreed on February 25 after overcoming territorial sensitivities of the two neighbors. The agreement stipulated that the two countries would not operate in each other’s territorial waters and air

space. According to several NATO diplomats, one of the stumbling blocks had been where Greek and Turkish ships should patrol and whether that would set a precedent for claims over disputed territorial waters.

Gov’t prepared to tap BoG cash reserves again if necessary



The government, the country’s creditors and the local market are increasingly concerned as to how long Greece’s cash reserves will suffice before the country defaults. As long as there is no agreement on the country’s first review of its third bailout program, the 5.7 billion euros scheduled for disbursement to Athens at the start of the year will be delayed further.

While on previous occasions it was pressure from the creditors on the government to backtrack from its “red lines” that delayed the review’s progress, this time it is the disagreement between the eurozone and the International Monetary Fund that has seen the monitoring being put off.

In this context, government officials say the state is capable of meeting its obligations until the end of May or even June. However, it will impossible for the state coffers to cover the bond maturing in July, when Greece must hand over some 2.8 billion euros the European Central Bank.

Before then, Athens must also cover debts of 3.8 billion euros to its creditors in the period from March to June, with Finance Ministry officials saying this is possible, although the public coffers do not necessarily have the funds required for that – this means that there are ways for the state to find the money that will prevent it from going bankrupt by June without the tranche from the bailout program. This serves to answer reports in foreign media according to which Greece will not be able to handle its cash requirements.

In fact, if Greece does not collect any more tranches from the third bailout program this spring, the cost for the real economy will be heavy again, following a similar ordeal last year: The state’s expired debts will grow considerably and the government will need to resort to using all kinds of cash reserves available at the Bank of Greece. The same kind of solutions were employed last year, when Yannis Varoufakis was at the helm of the Finance Ministry, and the real economy is set for another blow in terms of liquidity.

The aim is for the country to avoid bankruptcy and for the government to obtain some more time in its bid to achieve a better outcome in its protracted negotiations with Greece’s creditors.

Restoring good will

The meeting Friday called by President Prokopis Pavlopoulos between Greece’s political party leaders to discuss the growing refugee crisis ahead of Monday’s special summit in Brussels produced some basic consensus on a national policy line, while indicating that the leftist-led government is finally adopting a more pragmatic approach to


developments.
Friday’s talks however exposed another problematic fact: Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras and opposition leaders are separated by a big yet genuine lack of trust.
This is not your usual, politically expedient distance between casual partisan foes. The size of the chasm is, in fact, unprecedented in Greece’s recent political history.
The only way to remedy this is for Tsipras to change his style of governance. He must abandon the risky political moves and tactical maneuvering that can only cause damage at the time when national understanding is imperative.

A VOICE OF DESPAIR TO THE GREEK AMERICANS

WHERE IS YOUR SENSE OF BELONGING? WHERE IS YOUR EMPATHY TOWARDS YOUR OWN NATION? GREECE IS FINISHED!!! GREECE WILL BE DESTROYED!!! YOUR OWN GENES!!! YOUR OWN BLOOD!!! YOU ARE THE SECOND MOST POWERFUL ETHNIC LOBBY IN THE USA AND YOU ACT LIKE BYSTANDERS, YOU ARE WATCHING YOUR OWN NATION, YOUR OWN BROTHERS AND SISTERS, YOUR RELATIVES TO SUFFER AND YOU ARE DOING NOTHING AT ALL!!! WHY YOU ARE SO ALIENATED FROM YOUR OWN COUNTRY? THE REFUGEES ARE DESTROYING THE GREEK TOURISM AND THE GREEK ECONOMY!

THE GREEKS ARE NOW ONE OF THE POOREST NATIONS IN THE WORLD! COUNTRIES LIKE AUSTRIA ARE HUMILIATING THE GREEK LEADERSHIP ON A DAILY BASIS AND YOU ARE SILENT! THE GREEK PEOPLE ARE DYING FROM EXTREME POVERTY AND YOU ARE STILL SILENT!!! DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE SHARING OF THE SAME GENES MEANS? DO YOU KNOW THAT IN YOUR VEINS THERE IS GREEK BLOOD? IN YOUR VEINS THERE IS THE BLOOD OF MAYBE THE OLDEST CIVILIZATION IN THE WORLD, YOU ARE THE ANCESTORS OF THOSE WHO ARE THE FOUNDERS OF THE MODERN WORLD, AND YOU LET YOUR OWN GENETIC RELATIVES, YOUR OWN BROTHER AND SISTERS TO LIVE IN HUNGER AND IN MISERY!!! HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THIS? DO YOU FEEL PROUD? DO YOU FEEL THE MISERY IN WHICH YOUR OWN NATION IS LIVING AND DYING? HOW DO YOU FEEL KNOWING THAT THE COUNTRY OF YOUR ANCESTORS WILL BE DESTROYED SOON? HOW DO YOU FEEL THAT INSTEAD OF HELPING YOUR OWN BROTHERS AND SISTERS YOU CHOOSE TO DO NOTHING AT ALL? WHERE IS YOUR INFLUENCE ON THE US ADMINISTRATION? WHY YOU ARE THE GREEK LOBBY AT ALL? THIS IS THE END FOR GREECE! GAME OVER!

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Ecumenical, Yes; Ecumenism, No.

By: Louis A. Palivos

Days prior to Jesus Christ's Trials, Crucifixion, and Resurrection, He prayed for His disciples,

"I do not pray for these alone (disciples) but also those (church) who will believe in Me through their word. That they all may be one, as You Father, are One in Us, that they also may be one in Us..." Jn. 17:20-21.



After His Resurrection, Jesus Christ gave His disciples, *then and now*, their marching orders, the Great Commission:

"Go therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded to you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Mt. 28:19-20.

Furthermore, Jesus Christ commanded His disciples to, "Go into all the world and teach the Gospel to every creature." Mk. 16:15.

Broadly defined Ecumenism is the unity of all religions, which are incongruous and contradictory to Jesus Christ's teaching, under the umbrella of love, peace, fellowship, tolerance

and respect.

There is a robust movement toward Ecumenism. Is Ecumenism aiming at Christian Unity on the basis of doctrinal agreement? Have we agreed to unity based on mutual acceptance and respect but not on truth? Jesus Christ makes the bold claim, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life..." Jn. 14:6. In the face of Jesus Christ's profound claim, what unity can be achieved outside the parameter of His claim?

Oh, let us not forget dialogue. Where is dialogue leading? To get to know one point of view from another point of view? To love each other more by getting to know each other more? Does dialogue lead to what Jesus Christ commanded His disciples to strive for the unity of *One*? Does dialogue lead to the fulfillment of the Great Commission and the teaching of the Gospel?

Have we reached unity by which we agree to not disagree?

Did the Protestant Church leave the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church? Did the Catholic Church leave the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church? Did the Orthodox Church leave the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church? Did so many other Churches leave the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church? When one studies the horrible historical events, too many to write about, one must ask the above questions! History proves disunity, hate and wars. However, Jesus commanded His followers to be *One* in love and in truth. His *faithful* followers have been *One*. His *faithful* followers manifested unity, *agape*, and obedience.

Here is a most profound statement to ponder! Perhaps *The Church*, from the time of Jesus Christ Ascension to His Second Coming, was, is and will be *One*! What a shock this statement may be to those who believe that membership in this Church or that Church or any religion is an automatic ticket to salvation!

Issues of infallibility, primacy, uniatism, Filiogue, recognizing Mohammed as a prophet, acceptance of post the seven or nine Ecumenical Councils pronouncements, the exclusive claims of salvation, equating the Koran to the Holy Scripture, equating Buddhist and Hindu holy writings to the Holy Scriptures, purgatory, created grace, yin/yang, nirvana, universal authority, temporal authority, united order, seeker-friendly, seeker-sensitive, purpose driven, people of faith, Zen, kabala, the social gospel, redeeming the earth, the Green Bible, Bodhisattva, the Talmud, the Hadith, and New Age, are not the Gospel and do not unify.

Ecumenism seeks to move people from conflict to coexistence, from coexistence to collaboration, from collaboration to sharing, from sharing to communion! How noble! However, Ecumenism does not seek to take persons to Jesus Christ!

Yet, Believers of all sorts and of every office *must* strive for Ecumenical obedience to Jesus Christ's commands.

Less we alleged Christians fall to Jesus Christ's words, as related to the Centurion (a gentile), "I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!" Lk. 7:9. Or, the Canaanite (a gentile) woman when Jesus exclaimed "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire!" Matt. 15:28. Could the Lord say what He told the Israelites of their lack of faith to the Church today? Yes He does!

We need to be extremely careful engaging in Ecumenism; because, "And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?" II Cor.6:15. However, we must be Ecumenical; because, "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12.

"Better a praiseworthy war" says St. Gregory of Nazianzus, "than a peace separated from God." The war will be for our soul, by the cosmos, our flesh and the enemy.

Let's be Orthodox in *The Church*, Math. 16:18, in the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church and in the "Phronema ton Pateron", i.e., the Spiritual and Holy Fathers and Mothers.

In so far as to how to treat our neighbors, the Good Samaritan parable, Lk.10:30-37, has settled this matter! We are to practice mercy, compassion and *agape*!

In so far as to those who have not heard of Jesus Christ, both the above encounters with the Centurion man and the Canaanite women shed light on faith and salvation. Another Centurion, Cornelius, a gentile, feared God, Acts 10:22, fasted, prayed and gave alms, God honored, Acts 10:30-31. Also, Paul states that the gentiles will be judged by their conscious, "God will judge the secrets of men." Rom. 2:15-16. Lastly, God who is Holy must dispense perfect justice to all humans. There is hope and grace!

Crunch time for SYRIZA

So what is the makeshift refugee and migrant camp at Idomeni in northern Greece after all? Something that should be reviled as a modern-day concentration camp or something that does the country proud? Two government officials,

Interior Minister Panayiotis Kouroublis and Culture Minister Aristides Baltas, do not appear to disagree, even though the descriptions they have put forward are diametrically opposed.



The "modern-day Dachau," according to the former, has been created because the countries at Greece's north closed their borders. Idomeni is a source of pride, according to Baltas, because the camp represents the solidarity and support that Greeks have shown toward the refugees, in contrast to the callous disregard displayed by our northern neighbors.

Either way, both blame others for the terrible conditions under which migrants and refugees continue to languish.

Greece has become a "warehouse of souls," to use the prime minister's term, because we are such good people and have such a high level of humanity, these officials appear to be saying, as though emotions determine the deals between countries and ensure that terms and rules are respected.

The comments made by top-ranking government officials about the crisis that has broken out within the coalition (over Migration Minister Yiannis Mouzalas's "Macedonia" slip), triggered by nothing at all really, project the image of a leadership that is completely distanced from reality.

Ruling SYRIZA continues to behave like a party that's polling at 4 percent. It did the same last year during the period of the "proud negotiations" after its first electoral victory, when the prime minister and certain overhyped ministers wandered the European continent like peddlers of miracles or wannabe reformists.

In the year-and-a-half of dramatic developments that have ensued and after an entire repertory of arguments was invented and expended, SYRIZA is choking on its own contradictions as the country drowns in the quagmire it created. The time for populism at no cost has passed. Greece will never be as it was in 2014 again. SYRIZA's fate has become intrinsically linked to that of the refugees and migrants trapped within Greek borders. Just as they refuse to return to their countries, to conditions of war, slaughter and famine, so the government is equally intransigent. It has nothing to go back to. It will have to manage brand-new procedures and policies, multiple responsibilities and daring and dangerous initiatives. It will have to govern, irrespective of the percentage it has or thinks it has.

5 ADVANTAGES OF DRINKING WATER IN THE MORNING

#5 - Drinking water on an empty stomach purifies the colon making it easier to absorb nutrients.

#4 - Increases the production of new blood and muscle cells.

#3 - Helps with weight loss. Drinking at least 16 ounces of chilled water can boost your metabolism by 24% in the morning.

#2 - Glowing skin. Water helps to purge toxins from the blood which help keeps your skin glowing and clear.

#1 - Balances your lymph system. These glands help you perform your daily functions, balance your body fluids, and fight infection.