

Athens⁺Plus

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Opera idol Rolando Villazon

The Mexican tenor is set to perform arias and Spanish melodies at the Athens Concert Hall. **Page 31**



Out at last Logicomix

Launched Monday and already a best-seller, this graphic novel grapples with logic and madness. **Page 14**



Clytemnestra Bonus shows

The Martha Graham Dance Company responds to popular demand and adds another two performances. **Page 28**

Government on edge over graft probe

Parliament approves inquiry into monastery land swap, as Roussopoulos tenders resignation

State Minister Theodoros Roussopoulos, who has been implicated in the Vatopedi property scandal, resigned on Thursday, less than 24 hours after MPs unanimously voted to form an investigative committee to probe the affair. Deputies were also due to decide on Fri-

day whether to launch a preliminary judicial inquiry into the land deal between the state and the monastery, which could uncover offenses by high-ranking government officials. The minister's resignation could trigger a Cabinet reshuffle. **Pages 2, 4-5**

INTERVIEW ANDREAS GIANNAKOULAS

Crisis management – a state of mind

The global financial crisis has clearly taken its toll on many people's bank balances, but now many are wondering what kind of effect it will have on the mental well-being of those who are feeling the heat.



Athens Plus booked a session with Andreas Giannakoulas, a psychoanalyst and professor at Rome's La Sapienza University, to find out more about the implications of the crisis for everybody's state of mind. **Page 13**



CLASSTRUGGLE A student demands more funding for state education during Tuesday's general strike. On Thursday, the EU court ruled that Greece must fully recognize private degrees. **Page 7**

Advice on fighting wildfires disregarded

Experts in aerial firefighting gathered in Greece this week for a conference specially organized with the devastating wildfires of 2007 in mind, but there were no government representatives present to hear the advice, Athens Plus has learned. Scientists, firefighters, environmentalists and forestry experts put forward suggestions about how Greece could improve its approach toward tackling forest fires. But organizers were disappointed that the government did not accept invitations to attend the event. **Page 6**

High-tech & handmade

Spain's luxury casual-wear brand Custo Barcelona has been adopted by international stars like Brad Pitt and Julia Roberts. Co-founder Custo Dalmau explains to Athens Plus why. **Page 23**

Ancient technology Cracking the code

Salvaged more than a century ago, scientists have finally unlocked the secrets of the Antikythera mechanism – keep up with their latest findings at the Ionic Center. **Page 44**



Net closes Chance lost

Panathinaikos's Champions League hopes are hanging by a thread after it was held to a draw by Werder Bremen. **Page 20**



Ioannina Lakeside

In the heart of Epirus, this intriguing city boasts a long and eventful history, as well as imposing landscapes. **Page 42**



Final stretch Thessaloniki's Dimitria Festival offers a variety of rich pickings in its last weeks **Pages 24-25**

This week **24.10.08 – 30.10.08**



Environment

Athens has some way to go before it beats the smog problem, says a study on European cities' air quality. **• Page 6**



International

British PM Gordon Brown calls for an investigation into claims that the Conservative Party solicited donations from a Russian tycoon. **• Page 8**



Opinion

Strip searches in the street: Is this the outcome of Greece's failure to develop a coherent immigration policy? **• Page 9**



Business

The government is said to be in intense negotiations with manufacturers and retailers to contain the rising prices of consumer products. **• Page 10**



Books & Ideas

John Cleave's digital sketches of Istanbul celebrate the ancient splendors and modern attractions of the city. **• Page 15**



Sports

Craig Rocastle, a new addition to Thrasyvoulos Fylis that has helped the team shine, talks about playing soccer in Greece. **• Page 21**



Visual Arts

Two very different artists, David Claerbout and Ulrich Ruckriem, take a similarly fresh look at their media in an Athens exhibition. **• Page 27**



Gastronomy

One-of-a-kind pulses: The best lentils in Greece are harvested on Lefkada using traditional rituals and sold by word-of-mouth. **• Page 33**



Cinema

Corinth's first international film festival: over 100 entries and a competition for the Golden Pegasus. **• Page 35**



TV news

Pop sensation Sakis Rouvas will be representing Greece once more at Eurovision, this time in Moscow. **• Page 38**



Around Greece

Combine a whitewater ride with scenic views and a dash of history while rafting along the Arachthos River. **• Page 43**



On the case: Four boxes containing documents from the judicial investigation into the Vatopedi property deal are wheeled into Parliament on Wednesday. The documents were to be photocopied and given out to each of the 300 MPs, ahead of Friday's parliamentary vote on whether to launch a preliminary judicial investigation into the affair. [Eurokinissi]

EDITORIAL

Piety gone sour

Greece is the home of great political theater. From the invention of democracy 2,500 years ago to the ritual protest marches to the US Embassy that have marked the years since democracy's most recent incarnation in 1974, the people and their leaders have been players in the long epic through history. But even by those historical standards, the current performance in Athens has to rank among the most bizarre. The allegations of politicians colluding with monks to defraud the state of some 100 million euros in property and taxes brings together two of the estates that have governed Greece through the ages. If we add to this judiciary, which in the past two weeks has appeared to be seriously compromised by its close relationship with the other two, we see that the Vatopedi scandal, as it has become known, strikes right at the heart of Greece's power structure. And yet, the story is still nebulous – more the product of suggestion and insinuation than hard facts.

On Friday, Parliament is to vote on a proposal made by PASOK for a preliminary judicial inquiry into three government ministers who allegedly expedited the Vatopedi Monastery's exchange of relatively worthless lagoonside property for choice real estate that the monks sold for a huge profit. Two days earlier, Parliament voted unanimously to hold a ju-

dicial inquiry into whether any government officials are culpable in the affair. The government had backed that proposal. The difference with Friday's vote is that here three ministers are named as being under suspicion. Seeing as State Minister Theodoros Roussopoulos, who was also the government spokesman and who resigned on Thursday, is the principal target, the vote is loaded in symbolism – and danger for the government. Roussopoulos had been Prime Minister

Big player
Roussopoulos has been seen as the eminence grise of government policy, exerting undue influence way beyond his brief

Costas Karamanlis's right hand since he was hired as New Democracy's spokesman in 2000, four years before the party returned to power. He has been seen as the eminence grise of government policy, exerting undue influence way beyond his brief. True or not, the claims come with the position. So Roussopoulos is the target of opposition parties, but also of many disgruntled ND deputies who feel sidelined. The former minister, however, is tied to the scandal chiefly because of his close relationship with the head monk of Vatopedi, Ephraim.

Whether this helped the monks multiply the assets of the splendid Mount Athos monastery is not clear. But it was enough to place Roussopoulos at the center of the crisis. If he is found to be involved in the Vatopedi shenanigans, the chief interest will concern whether Roussopoulos got anything in return or if he was just another politician doing his bit to help a monastery. Such pious officials are a dime a dozen in Greece, where the Church and state and parts of the judiciary are still tangled in an unholy alliance.

Karamanlis fears that enmity for Roussopoulos may lead some ND MPs to break ranks on Friday and vote for the PASOK proposal. As ND has 152 seats in the 300-seat House, losing this vote would have forced the premier to call snap elections. Roussopoulos's resignation and ND's abstention from the vote averted this. And so, as the rest of the world tries to find ways to deal with the huge confidence crisis rocking its markets and the coming recession, in Greece we may have a political crisis because of the sorry outcome of the dangerous liaisons between Church, state and judiciary. The performance is gripping, but it is a dangerous diversion.

GET IN TOUCH
Readers are invited to send their views and comments to editor@athensplus.gr.

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20+ events in 7 days



Dance & musicals

- 1 Gades's 'Carmen'**
Antonio Gades's acclaimed modern flamenco production of "Carmen" is opening at the Badminton Theater in Goudi on October 30, for a brief run of shows until November 2. For tickets, call 21.884.0600 or log on to www.ticketnet.gr.
- 2 Multi-'Medea'**
Fifteen years on, Dimitris Papaioannou's reworked big hit returns as "Medea 2," which will be at the Pallas Theater for an extended run until December 7.
- 3 Marlowe meets Hercules**
Co-produced by Art House and the Syn Athena theatrical company, "Detective Story: the Myth of Philip Marlowe Hercules," a surreal musical comedy, returns to the Art House (46 Constantinoupoleos, Gazi).
- 4 The Producers**
Stamatis Fasoulis directs the smash hit by Mel Brooks and Thomas Meehan, which premiered to sold-out performances on Broadway in 2001, at the Aliki Theater (4 Amerikis, tel 210.321.0021) for a second season.

Cinema

Fnac, at The Mall in Maroussi, continues its mini-tribute to French filmmaker Francois Truffaut, organized in collaboration with Cinema magazine, with a free screening of "Le Dernier metro" on Monday, October 27, at 7 p.m.

The Artika theater company presents a screening/performance titled "0 to 3 Years Old in Prison," which looks at the lives of children born to female inmates, at Kinky Kong (6-8 Avramiotou, Monastiraki), on October 28 at 10 p.m. Admission is free of charge.

Don't miss the tribute to Latin-American films at the Aphaia cinema in Kallithea, which ends on Sunday, October 26, or the panorama of Greek documentaries that is running to October 29. **Page 35**



Events



- 1 Comic-making marathon**
Cartoonists must produce a 24-page comic book written, drawn, and completed in 24 consecutive hours. This year's comics marathon will be hosted at Bios (54 Pireos) on October 25. To sign up, log on to info@comicworld.gr or call 210.495.7843 and 210.685.6070.
- 2 Athens Street Day**
This event brings together artists, performers, musicians, acrobats and other fun-loving types in Syntagma, Monastiraki and Kapnikarea squares to do their thing on October 25.
- 3 Thessaloniki Fringe**
The annual Thessaloniki Fringe event is being held at the Principal Club (tel 2310.428.088) on October 24 and 24, featuring Polish stand-up comedy duo the Worms, UK funnyman Danny Robins and the Brooklyn Funk Essentials in Balkan soul, jazz, funk and ska.
- 4 Nights of laughter**
The Athens Comedy Club (48-50 Aeolou, tel 210.331.1009) is opening officially on Friday, October 24, with a lineup of five comics on stage.

Music

- 1 Psarantonis**, one of the more frenzied exponents of the Cretan musical tradition, will be demonstrating his mastery of the Cretan lyre (lyra) at the Stavros tou Notou/Apenanti venue in Neos Cosmos (14 Frantzi), starting October 30.
- 2 Mixing synth-pop** and rock music, the Baltimore-based three-piece act Trans Am performs in Athens at the Gagarin 205 club (205 Liosion) on October 28. **Page 30**
- 3 It's going** to be a wild night at the Jazz Upstairs venue in Bar Guru Bar (10 Theatrou Square, Psyrri), with a dance party featuring DJ sets Krazy Baldhead, the Flying Lilis Brothers, Jimmy Jib, Kormoranos and more. Admission is free.
- 4 Local** "surf rock-Latino" band Earthbound will perform at the Gagarin 205 club (205 Liosion) on October 25 at 10 p.m. Tickets are 16 euros.



Exhibitions

- 1 Fashion** designer Vasso Consola presents garments from her "Ama_Zone," fall-winter 2008-2009 collection at the Eleni Marneri Creative Gallery (3 Agathoupoleos, tel 210.861.9488). Complemented by jewelry created by Maria Mastori, the exhibition runs to November 8.
- 2 The first** Greek museum dedicated to the radio opens at Lafko, Pelion, on Sunday, October 26, at noon. The museum's permanent collection showcases 100 radios from the private collection of Wilfred Schoeps. For information, call 24230.65046.



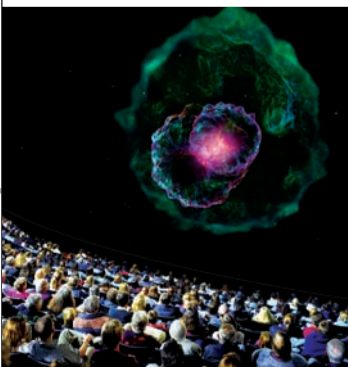
Theater



- 1 Northern trio**
The National Theater of Northern Greece presents "AristoFUNes" and "Eleni" at the Lazariston Monastery and "Kithairon: The Secret Garden" at the theater of the Macedonian Studies Society.
- 2 Berlin 1989**
Following a successful run last year, Dimitris Generalis's "Berlin 1989: Stories of a City," based on his novel and adapted and directed by Aris Troupakis, returns to the Aplo Theater and premieres on Tuesday, October 28.
- 3 Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk**
"Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk," Martha Frintzila's stage adaptation of Russian writer Nikolai Leskov's 1865 novel, is back at the Neos Cosmos Theater until January 4, 2009.

Education

- 1 The Hellenic American** Union offers an intensive theater master class on "Text Analysis" from January 7 to 10, 2009. Applications will be accepted until November 12. For information, call 210.368.0071.
- 2 Learn** about the Big Bang theory and other exciting events that formed the universe in which we live, at the Eugenides Planetarium (387 Syngrou & 11 Pendelis, Palaio Faliron, tel 210.946.9600).



Visual arts

- 1 Urban prayers**
For his first solo show, Adamantios Kafetzis presents a series of photographs taken at different places of worship around Athens and paintings inspired by those visits. On display at Kappatos Gallery in Monastiraki (6 Aghias Irinis), until November 15.
- 2 Children's portraits**
Selections from Nikos Politis's collection titled "Photographs of a Special Day" are on display at the municipal exhibition hall in Kozani (5 Megdani), in western Macedonia. The exhibition, which is organized by the Photography Museum of Thessaloniki, runs to November 16.
- 3 Pop double bill**
Iceland's acclaimed pop artist Erro is in town for a joint exhibition with Belgium's Jean-Jacques Deleval. Best known for his colorful, jam-packed collages, Erro's postmodern work defies the dividing line between high- and lowbrow while Deleval's work is based on the use of pinup photos and famous cartoon characters - most prominently Betty Boop. At Fine Arts Kapopoulos in Alimos (62 Poseidonos) until November 2.
- 4 Play on scale**
The first solo exhibition by Leonidas Papadopoulos at the Batayianni Gallery in Psyrri (20-22 Aghion Anargyron) is made up of three-dimensional works and runs to November 20.



Vatopedi developments

September 8

Supreme Court prosecutor Giorgos Sanidas orders new probe into property deal after preliminary investigation suggests state's interests were harmed. Sanidas indicates ministers were "misled."

September 14

Reports reveal that the Vatopedi assets have been frozen. The monastery says it will return any money from property sales to the state.

September 15

The government announces it will be revoking all the official decisions that led to property being transferred to the monastery, which has since sold some buildings, including one in Athens's Olympic Village, and land to investors.

September 18

Probe into swap deal begins as the government claims that the groundwork for the agreement was laid in the period 1998-2003, when PASOK was in power.

September 19

Monks hold an emergency meeting on Mt Athos to discuss the Vatopedi affair as it emerges that Katerina Peleki, the wife of former Merchant Marine Minister Giorgos Voulgarakis, acted as a notary in the deal.

September 23

Kathimerini reveals that the Vatopedi Monastery sold some of the land it received as part of the deal for 41 million euros earlier this year.

September 30

The Vatopedi Monastery issues a statement saying it had not taken part in "any illegal transaction or act" and that the properties exchanged had been chosen by the state and that the state-appointed evaluators had also set the value of the land.

October 13

A third prosecutor, Efstathia Spyropoulou, is appointed to the investigation.

October 14

The two original prosecutors, Ilias Koliouis and Eleni Sotiropoulou, resign and indicate that their request for the case file to be sent to Parliament was blocked by their superiors.

October 15

Faced with allegations of intervention in the judiciary as well as attempting to cover up the affair, the government asks for Parliament to form an investigative committee.

October 22

Parliament unanimously approves motion to set up a panel of 23 MPs to probe the case further.

Probe into property deal strikes at heart of the government

Minister resigns ahead of parliamentary investigation of monastery land swap



Theodoros Roussopoulos, who held the positions of state minister and government spokesman, had been the target of criticism. [ANA]

BY NICK MALKOUTZIS

New Democracy faces one of its most crucial tests since coming to power four years ago, after the resignation of State Minister Theodoros Roussopoulos on Thursday, as MPs prepared to vote Friday on whether Parliament should launch a preliminary judicial investigation into the property deal between the Vatopedi Monastery and the state.

The affair has rocked the government as it points to corruption at the highest levels as well as attempts by members of the government to influence the judiciary.

Roussopoulos, also the government spokesman, had been implicated in setting up the land swap and was heavily criticized by the media and opposition parties despite claiming that he did nothing wrong.

He said that stepping down but remaining as a conservative deputy would allow him to defend himself against the allegations.

It was announced that Interior Minister Prokopis Pavlopoulos would take over at the Ministry of State as well, while alternate spokesman Evangelos Antonaros would take on Roussopoulos's role as the main press representative.

Roussopoulos's resignation came ahead of Friday's secret ballot, which takes place in the wake of a



Roussopoulos's resignation paves the way for Karamanlis to conduct a Cabinet reshuffle, which he hopes will allow the conservatives to put the scandal behind them



PASOK leader George Papandreou argues his point in Parliament. [Eurokinissi]

midnight vote on Wednesday when Parliament decided unanimously to allow an investigative committee of deputies to examine the land swap, which allegedly left public coffers some 100 million euros short and taxpayers footing the cost.

"The government has lost the people's trust; it is bankrupt, sinking day by day," said PASOK leader George Papandreou during Wednesday's debate. "Our country cannot and must not sink with it."

Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis did not get the chance to respond as he was not at the parliamentary debate. It was also decided on Thursday that New Democracy would abstain from Friday's vote, meaning that the motion was unlikely to get the 151 votes it needs to be passed.

Although the setting up of a parliamentary committee will be uncomfortable for the government, a preliminary judicial inquiry would pose far more acute problems.

The latter would have far greater powers – on a par with those of a prosecutor – and could result in any ministers or ex-ministers being named as suspects and charged.

As things stand, the committee approved by Parliament on Wednesday would consist of 23 MPs and is set to begin its probe on October 30. It will have until December 15



Parliament has been buzzing with

to conclude its investigation.

The ruling conservatives actually requested that the committee be formed. The move came after two prosecutors – who had been investigating allegations that state property included in the swap deal was seriously undervalued, while land belonging to the Mount Athos monastery was overvalued – resigned from the case.

Prosecutors Ilias Koliouis and Eleni Sotiropoulou tendered their resignations on October 14 after alleging they had concluded their investigation earlier this month but that their superiors blocked it from reaching Parliament.

The pair said they found evidence that there was involvement in the deal at a ministerial level. Only Parliament has the authority to investigate possible offenses by members of the government.

The resignations prompted a storm of criticism centering around allegations that the government was leaning on judicial officials to cover up the affair. Papandreou called it a "judicial coup." Within 24 hours of Koliouis and Sotiropoulou stepping down, the conservatives became only the third government in more than 30 years to request a parliamentary investigation – a move that they hoped would prove they are not trying to hide anything.



activity this week as MPs debated and voted on whether they should investigate the property deal further. [Eurokinissi]



Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis is considering a Cabinet reshuffle but it is unclear if this will happen now or if he will wait until December. [AFP]

The Vatopedi affair could prove a watershed for the government as it has far-reaching implications in several areas. Apart from the obvious issues it raises about the practices of the 1,000-year-old monastery, one of the largest in the monastic community of Mt Athos, there are also serious questions being asked about the government's relationship with the country's top judges and prosecutors.

However, the gravest implications appear to lie on the political front. PASOK wants the preliminary judicial investigation to examine the roles of former Agricultural Devel-

opment Minister Evangelos Basiakos, current Deputy Foreign Minister Petros Doukas as well as Roussopoulos.

The Socialists claim the latter was the "moral instigator" of the allegedly corrupt deal. At a time when New Democracy has slipped behind PASOK in the polls, this strikes at the very heart of the government, as Roussopoulos, who was ND's spokesman for the last eight years, was one of Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis's closest aides.

To many, he was the glue that bound the government together and revelations that he met regu-

larly with the head Vatopedi monk, Ephraim, while the deal was being put together were extremely damaging.

Roussopoulos's resignation paves the way for Karamanlis to conduct a Cabinet reshuffle, which he hopes will allow the conservatives to put the scandal behind them.

The government spokesman did not go without a fight. He admitted on Wednesday that he had a long-standing relationship with Ephraim, but also pointed out that six PASOK ministers had made significant donations to the monastery between 1997 and 2001.

He told Parliament he was the victim of "an unprecedented attack and political cannibalism" before launching an attack on Papandreou. "We belong to different worlds: You were born the son of a prime minister, I was born the son of a postman," he said. "Whatever I have achieved has been the fruit of my hard work and as a result, I have nothing to fear... but I do worry about the future of this country if you and your terrible machinations ever come to power."

The Vatopedi affair has put the government on the defensive and even a reshuffle may not be enough to rescue its fortunes, as speculation grows that it may be forced to call snap elections.

Treading through a legal and political labyrinth

A guide to the rules governing this complex case

BY **GIORGOS BOURDARAS**

The political posturing and various legal interpretations surrounding the Vatopedi land exchange case have created a lot of confusion about what is going on and what the next steps might be.

The eight questions and answers that follow should help shed some light on this complicated case.

1 Why does Parliament have to vote on two different types of investigation?

An investigative committee (Article 68 of the Constitution) simply looks into a case and decides whether any politicians are involved, so that it can inform Parliament of its findings. However, a pre-judicial inquiry (Article 86) has the same powers as a prosecutor, examines the possible guilt of specific ministers or deputy ministers and decides whether they should be charged, in which case a Special Court is set up.

2 Could justice have sorted this out without needing to refer the case to Parliament?

Absolutely not. According to the Greek Constitution, only Parliament has the authority to bring charges against those who committed crimes while serving in the government. If, during an investigation, evidence pointing to wrongdoing by members of the government is found, the case has to be submitted to Parliament immediately without any second thoughts or interference.

3 Did this happen in the current case?

It's not clear. The resignation of the two prosecutors has raised suspicion about interference from members of the government. The government and the prosecutors' superiors deny this was the case.



The prime minister is seen during a visit to Mount Athos last year. [ANA]

4 For the pre-judicial inquiry to be approved, 151 MPs need to vote in favor. Can we expect any surprises during Friday's vote in Parliament?

There are only 148 opposition MPs, so there should not be any surprises. However, it is a secret ballot, so PASOK is hoping that this will prompt some of the so-called rebels within New Democracy to use it as an opportunity to express their opposition to the leadership of Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis or even the particular ministers under scrutiny. Three conservative deputies would have to defect to the other side for the motion to be carried.

5 If, as expected, the bid for a pre-judicial inquiry to be held is rejected on Friday, can a new request be made in the future?

In theory, yes, but only if new evidence has come to light. According to parliamentary regulations, a new request cannot be made based on the same facts.

6 Do the current procedure and the delays mean that the statute of limitations may result in the possible suspects never being charged?

Certainly, if time is being wasted. Crimes are expunged if five years pass from the date on which they were committed or if two full sessions of Parliament pass without any decision as to whether charges will be brought against any minister.

7 Who might be affected by the statute of limitations?

To start with, if any ministers of the pre-2004 PASOK governments are found to be culpable, no charges will be brought against them. The same is true for members of the New Democracy government that was in power between 2004-2007 if no charges have been brought by June or if there are elections before then, as Parliament is currently in its second full session, which will end in June next year.

8 What lessons can we learn from similar situations in the past?

The signs are not encouraging. Over the last 34 years, there have been 34 requests for a parliamentary investigation. Only 14 of these were accepted. Only one of these succeeded in discovering any ministerial involvement when looking into a wire-tapping scandal in 1996. This prompted a pre-judicial inquiry to be set up. In all other cases, the committees ended up producing a range of inconclusive reports – one for each party that was represented on the panel of MPs.

ENVIRONMENT

Aerial firefighting experts descend on Greece

Wildfire prevention and control solutions sought by 22 countries

BY YVETTE VARVARESSOU

Greece's environment officials were conspicuous by their absence at a conference held in Athens this week on aerial firefighting, the first of its kind, bringing together experts from 22 countries.

"What sparked the idea for this first conference on aerial firefighting was the Greek fires of last year," said Ben Drew of Tangent Link, the conference organizer.

"We decided to bring together leading exponents of aerial firefighting. Some really important conclusions were reached on how to fight wildland fires."

One of those conclusions was the need to balance aerial and ground forces.

"It's better to have both. You need aerial assets to stop fires from encroaching into towns; not only helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft but unmanned craft for firespotting."

Another focus was the need for cross-border cooperation.

"At the moment, countries tend to think only about their own conditions, but sometimes they have to ask for help from other states. This is a global problem and it is going to get worse," warned Drew.

Christopher Allen, of the European Commission's Directorate General for Environment's Civil Protection Unit, was there to lead



Firefighting needs to be balanced between aerial and ground forces. [ANA]

Common foe Wildfires are 'a global problem and it is going to get worse'

a panel discussion on the potential for cross-border aerial firefighting rapid-reaction squadrons.

Conference speakers from Greece included Deputy Commander of the Athens Fire Service Colonel Dionysios Vorisis and Major Christos Economou of the Hel-

lenic Air Force, who is a test pilot for Bombardier 415s and a flight instructor.

Scientists included Professor Milt Statheropoulos of the European Center for Forest Fires, who addressed the issue of air pollution from wildfires, and Dr Gavriil Xanthopoulos of the National Agricultural Research Foundation's Institute of Mediterranean Forest Ecosystems and Forest Products Technology, who spoke on balancing ground with aerial

firefighting. "The level of funding devoted to aerial resources needs to be balanced with the firefighting capability of ground forces," Xanthopoulos said.

"The example of Greece, where a huge aerial fleet assembled over the Peloponnese in 2007, but lacking adequate support from ground forces was unable to prevent the worst fire disaster in Greek history, and similar experiences in other parts of the world support concerns for the futility of one-sided, total fire suppression," he added.

But there were no government representatives on hand from Greece.

"As the host country, and one which has had the most appalling time with forest fires, they seem to have failed to get the point," said Drew.

Tony Morris, a founder of the Wildfire Research Network, said it was troubling that the government had not showed up.

"Your country has hosted this remarkable gathering of people from all over the world because of what Greece suffered last year and the people that perished (in the fires)," he told Athens Plus.

"The world is suffering from wildfires that have seen the greatest increase in the last 50 years. A lot of people don't want to admit it, but this is global warming," Morris warned.

The smog that is cutting years off our lives

Air pollution in major cities is responsible for the early deaths of thousands of people

BY TANIA GEORGIPOULOU

In July 1987, during a particularly bad heat wave, the average number of deaths in Athens shot up from 50 a day to 75. Now, an epidemiological study carried out by Athens University in 22 European countries indicates that air pollution dramatically increases the incidence of cardiovascular and respiratory diseases among the inhabitants of major cities.

Exposure to microparticles means Europeans' average life expectancy will be reduced by as much as 5.5 months by 2020, when an estimated 271,000 people will die a premature death from cardiovascular diseases.

The same year, exposure to increased levels of ozone in the atmosphere will lead to about 20,000 early deaths.

When microparticles in the atmosphere increase by 10 mil-



A thick pall of smog over Athens in September this year. [ANA]

Grim future In 2020, life expectancy will drop by up to 5.5 months

ligrams per cubic meter of air for a period of two days, the mortality rate rises by 0.6 percent and, if that increase persists for a month,

by 1.6 percent, according to the program conducted by the university's medical school.

"Although these percentages might seem small, we are talking about thousands of people who die an early death because of atmospheric pollution," said Professor Klea Katsouyanni, who headed the program.

The study concerned PM10 microparticles. European legislation puts the acceptable limit for PM10 particles at an average 50 mg per cubic meter over 24 hours. Over a year, that limit should not be exceeded for more than 35 days.

In Athens it is not rare to find levels of up to 10 mg over that limit. In fact, levels over 50 mg appear for half the year. Their effects are even more dangerous in cities with higher temperatures or denser traffic.

Thankfully, reducing the level of pollutants can have equally dramatic results for the better.

"In Dublin, the sale of coal was banned in 1990, resulting in a 50 mg reduction per cubic meter of smoke in the atmosphere to 15 mg," said Katsouyanni. "Overall mortality was reduced, particularly that caused by cardiovascular and respiratory disease."

IN BRIEF

Island rainwater collection



Water reservoirs to collect and channel rainwater are the focus of a pilot program involving municipal buildings on the islands of the Cyclades, which are among the driest parts of Greece, as part of a Rainwater Collection Program launched this month by the Coca-Cola Hellenic Bottling Company and the Coca-Cola Company in cooperation with Global Water Partnership as part of the firm's Water Mission, which began in 2006.

The technology used to collect rainwater from roofs and other surfaces ranges from simple containers to water reservoirs and underground cisterns, all originating in practices used by ancient civilizations in Greece and North Africa and which even today are used as sources of drinking water in rural areas.

The islands of Naxos, Paros, Tinos and Syros have been chosen for the pilot program because of their limited rainfall, geology, sparse vegetation and the effects of human activities, all factors that have contributed to water shortages. Apart from water collection, the program also includes training for local technicians and services, as well as information campaigns for the public and schoolchildren.

Anti-building campaign pays off



The Laconia building authority has shut down construction work on a private home being built in Simos, on the island of Elafonisos, after inspectors sent to the site discovered illegal excavation work.

Meanwhile, the Molai building authority in the Peloponnese has revoked its approval for the construction of a wall around the site, as it was found to be positioned less than 500 meters from the shore, which is forbidden by law. The Gytheion justice of the peace is continuing a preliminary investigation into whether public officials may have abused their powers in granting permits in connection with the site. The moves follow public concern that the area, which is of particular natural beauty, could fall victim to construction interests, a campaign that was taken up by Skai TV and Radio.

EU court says Greece must recognize private degrees

Franchise colleges hope thousands will benefit from immediate action by the government

Greece could be forced to fully recognize the qualifications obtained by thousands of students from the various private colleges that operate in the country after a European Court of Justice ruling made public on Thursday.

Immediate effect
'Greece is now obliged to straight away fully recognize the degrees obtained by some 25,000 students'

The court found that Greece acted against European Union legislation by not putting the degrees from private colleges on a par with those obtained from state-run institutions, which has implications for the types of jobs that graduates can apply for as well as the level of their salaries.

EU rules require private qualifications to be afforded the same levels of recognition.

The government has been expecting the ruling for some time, but Education Minister Evripidis Stylianidis said that he would study the court's decision before deciding on his next move.



Students protest the lack of state funding for education during a general strike on Tuesday, 48 hours before an EU court ordered Greece to recognize degrees from private colleges. [EPA]

However, the head of the Hellenic Colleges Association, Constantinos Karkanias, said that the ruling should lead to immediate action.

"Greece is now obliged to straight away fully recognize the degrees obtained by some 25,000 students over the last 20 years," he said.

The ruling did not please some university students who protested in front of the EU's offices in central Athens on Thursday amid

fears that the decision could lead to the state-run education system being marginalized.

Groups representing lawyers, doctors and other professional groups have also expressed fear that Greece's adoption of the EU regulation would lead to a swelling of their ranks, which, they say, are already too full.

In July, the government unveiled a draft law aimed at regulating the private college market. The colleges, some of which op-

erate as franchises of British or American institutions, sprang up in the 1990s but fell into a legal no-man's land and operated under the supervision of the Development Ministry.

Meanwhile, pupil lockouts continued at dozens of state high schools around the country this week. It is estimated that some 300 schools remain shut with teenagers' demands ranging from more funding to a wider range of choices at school canteens.

Athens angered by report about US-FYROM 'pact'

But Greek stance in talks 'consistent'

Foreign Minister Dora Bakoyannis stressed last week that Greece would maintain "a consistent position" in its negotiations with the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) on the name issue, despite allegations of secret cooperation between Skopje and Washington on the matter.

Bakoyannis's comments came after the Greek press published excerpts of what appeared to be a confidential US government document saying that Skopje and Washington have been in "secret talks."

The extracts, published in last Sunday's *Ethnos*, say Greece should be bypassed on the issue of a supposed Macedonian identity and language.

"The language and nationality would be called 'Macedonian,' but this could be handled tacitly perhaps as an annex... or in some other internal UN document not subject to Greek re-



Foreign Minister Dora Bakoyannis is holding her ground on the Macedonia name dispute. [Eurokinissi]

view/approval," the text reads. The document was reportedly sent from the US Embassy in Skopje to the US State Department in July, well before UN envoy Matthew Nimetz made his proposal to envoys from Athens and Skopje earlier this month.

Late Thursday, Nimetz rebuffed the press reports, saying he had "followed the same protocol since 1999."

Billboard firm executive jailed over road death

'Neglect' caused Kifissias Avenue fatality

An Athens court last week passed down a jail sentence of two years and two months on the managing director of an advertising company, blaming him for the manslaughter of a 25-year-old motorist who crashed into a billboard on Kifissias Avenue three years ago.

According to the landmark verdict, Giorgos Liapis of Master Outdoor SA provoked the death of Yiannis Stavroulakis in December 2005 through neglect. It is the first time that an advertising firm has been blamed for the impact of roadside billboards on motorists, even though this type of advertising was deemed illegal by the Council of State in April 2007. "There are specific prerequisites for outdoor billboards but these are not responsibly enforced by municipal authorities," said Yiannis Handanos, president of the Hellenic Institute of Transportation Engi-



A municipal crane removes an illegal billboard from a roadside in Maroussi. [ANA]

neers. Exceptions to the rule include Maroussi Mayor Giorgos Patoulis, who has long campaigned for the removal of billboards, saying they pose a dangerous distraction to motorists.

The roads of Athens are lined with more than 10,000 billboards, at least half of which are believed to be illegal.

IN BRIEF

Thousands of Ileia residents may have to return fire aid



The Economy and Finance Ministry on Monday said that about 12,000 residents the prefecture of Ileia, in the Peloponnese, may have to return the 3,000 euros they each received in aid after last year's catastrophic forest fires. The move was condemned by local authorities who said it was unacceptable, particularly at such a difficult time for locals. The ministry is asking for money back as it says the residents have not produced documents to prove that they merited the state handout. Last September the government quickly set up a bureaucracy-free system to dispense aid to people in the fire-stricken areas.

Ombudsman wants land register deadline extended

The Ombudsman on Wednesday called for an extension until the end of the year of an October 31 deadline for homeowners to declare their properties on a new land register. In a letter to Environment and Public Works Minister Giorgos Souflis, Ombudsman Giorgos Kaminis also complained that the land register fee is per right to each property, not per property, resulting in large outlays for some families. Lawyers and notaries also want an extension, saying some 40 percent of properties have yet to be declared.

Addicts dealing methadone in heart of the capital

Heroin addicts in central Athens have started dealing in methadone, a heroin substitute given to them by local rehabilitation clinics, police have told Kathimerini. Some 25 suspected heroin addicts have been charged with trying to sell the methadone that they acquired from clinics run by the Organization Against Drugs (OKANA) as part of a program to continue their rehabilitation at home. OKANA staff conceded that it is difficult to monitor whether the methadone given to addicts is being consumed or sold.

Police probe claims of migrant strip search

Police said on Wednesday that allegations implicating officers in a strip search of an immigrant suspected of drug dealing in central Athens had not been substantiated. A spokesman said the investigation would continue and that "any officer implicated will be subject to disciplinary sanctions." Police launched a probe into the alleged incident after a migrant rights group complained that police had stripped a foreign national in public in a bid to find drugs. Photographs apparently showing a policeman stripping a migrant were made public last Sunday.

Party funding scandal rocks UK's Conservatives

Corfu meeting with Russian billionaire comes under scrutiny

LONDON – Britain's Conservative Party was at the center of a political storm Wednesday over claims one of its top figures was involved in talks over a possible donation from a company owned by Russia's richest man.

George Osborne, the finance spokesman who is Conservative leader David Cameron's closest ally, is alleged to have helped solicit a 50,000-pound (63,000-euro) donation from oligarch Oleg Deripaska.

The claim comes from Nat Rothschild, a member of the super-rich Rothschild banking dynasty, who hosted his old Oxford University friend Osborne and Deripaska at his villa on the Greek island of Corfu over a weekend in August.

But Osborne and the main opposition Conservatives insist that neither Osborne, nor party fundraiser Andrew Feldman solicited a donation from Deripaska or suggested this could be concealed through a British company Deripaska owns.

Only individuals who appear on Bri-

Brown's response 'Even on the kindest reading of the evidence, Mr Osborne has behaved with a reckless lack of sense'

tain's electoral roll or legitimate British firms can donate to political parties.

Osborne, 37, received Cameron's backing on Wednesday when the party leader said his ally was "right not to ask for any money."

However, the affair has raised questions about Osborne's judgment.

Prime Minister Gordon Brown told lawmakers at his weekly question-and-answer session, "This is a very serious matter and I hope it is investigated by the authorities." And in an editorial on Wednesday, the Guardian newspaper wrote: "Even on the kindest reading of the evidence, Mr Osborne has behaved with a reckless lack of sense..."

"Mr Osborne's future depends on it

being accepted that his five meetings with Mr Deripaska were social ones. It is a ghastly position for a man who wants to take charge of the nation's finances."

Osborne admitted Tuesday to having met Deripaska five times – twice at the Rothschild villa in Corfu, twice on Deripaska's yacht, the Queen K, in Corfu, during the same weekend, and once at the Davos World Economic Forum in January.

He says Rothschild suggested to Feldman that Deripaska could be interested in making a donation.

Senior party officials later decided it "would not be appropriate to accept such a donation" from Deripaska, the Conservatives said in a statement Tuesday.

But Rothschild later hit back, saying James Goodwin, an ex-adviser to former US President Bill Clinton, had also witnessed events and backed Rothschild's account.

Rothschild seems to have turned against Osborne because the Conser-



British Shadow Chancellor George Osborne outside Conservative Party HQ in London on Tuesday. Osborne denied accusations of having received money for his party from Russian billionaire Oleg Deripaska. [AP]

ervative was reportedly behind a newspaper story that Lord Peter Mandelson, the former European Union trade commissioner who returned to Brown's Cabinet last month, had "dripped pure

poison" about Brown in Corfu.

In a letter to The Times newspaper, Rothschild hinted he was irritated Osborne had leaked a conversation held with Mandelson at his Corfu villa. [AFP]

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Polls show Obama ahead with groups Democrats haven't seen for decades

WASHINGTON – Democratic White House hopeful Barack Obama has maintained his lead over rival John McCain in the key battleground states of Florida, Ohio and Pennsylvania, according to a poll released Thursday.

Twelve days before the November 4 election, Obama made gains in Ohio while his Republican rival chipped away only slightly at the Democrat's edge in Florida and Pennsylvania, a survey by Quinnipiac University found.

On the issues, more voters surveyed in those three states said they trust Obama when it comes to economy by margins of eight to 19 points, while smaller margins (two to six) said they trust McCain over Obama on foreign policy.

"As we enter the home stretch, Senator Obama is winning voter groups that no Democrat has carried in more than four decades and he holds very solid leads in the big swing states," said Peter Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute.

"If these numbers hold up, he could win the biggest Democratic landslide since Lyn-



Barack Obama shakes hands with his supporters during a campaign event at the Richmond Coliseum in Virginia, on Wednesday. [AFP]

don Johnson in 1964."

The 47-year-old Illinois senator leads McCain in Florida by 49 to 44 percent, compared to a 51-43 percent lead in the last survey October 1, while in Pennsylvania Obama leads 53-40 percent, compared to 54-39 percent last time.

McCain lost ground in Ohio, where Obama leads 52-38 percent, expanding his lead of 50-42 percent at the beginning of this month.

No candidate has been elected president since 1960 without taking two of these three largest swing states in the US electoral college.

"To overcome Senator Obama's lead in Ohio, Senator McCain would have to get virtually every voter who remains undecided, plus almost all of the Obama supporters who said they still might change their minds," Brown said.

"Senator Obama is no longer the candidate of the young, the well-educated and minorities. He is now virtually the candidate of the 'all.'" Obama is winning among all age groups in the three states, and has won women by more than 20 points in Ohio and Pennsylvania, the survey noted. [AFP]

Immigration: The issue that's here to stay

BY NICK MALKOUTZIS

"I think we have to, as a country, talk about immigration... We have to do so in a mature way, in a nondiscriminatory way, informed by facts – but we have to talk about it."

What bold Greek politician dared to tread into this minefield? Was it the mayor of Athens after seeing the center of his city overrun with destitute migrants, who look to drug dealing and prostitution for a living? Was it the interior minister who has called for more European Union funding for patrols on Greece's porous borders? Was it the leader of the main opposition, who has Polish ancestry? Or was it our prime minister, fresh from a visit to Britain, a country with immigration problems of its own?

In fact, it was none of them. The quote belongs to the newly appointed British Immigration Minister Phil Woolas, who

Not a game

Immigration policy has for years been a political football in Britain, but what we are witnessing in Greece is the ball being kicked right out of the stadium

has reignited the debate about immigration in his country. Woolas suggested last weekend that the Labour government, backed by a new, Australian-style skills-based points system for non-EU migrants, will make it harder for people to get into Britain, so there is a balance between the number of those arriving and those leaving. He said the government would not allow the population of Great Britain to go above 70 million.

Putting aside the absurdity of his final comment – after all, there are no limits on immigration between EU countries, so even in theory it is impossible to set a population ceiling – Woolas is raising a crucial issue at an even more crucial time.

Britain, through lack of organization and political direction, has had a muddled immigration policy. Migrants – from Eastern Europe in particular – have benefited from being able to live and work in

the UK. There are parts of the country where road signs have been put up in Polish as well as English to help foreign laborers find their way. But Britain is now faced with the likelihood of an economic recession and there are concerns about allowing more Jozef-the-plumbers into the country at a time when there may be no jobs for them.

The same sort of questions could be asked in Greece but, at least publicly, they are not. Nobody is wondering whether one of the eurozone's fastest-growing economies will be able to keep expanding to accommodate foreign workers. There is no debate about whether the country's apparently withering agriculture sector still has jobs for migrants from the Balkans and Asia. Nothing has been heard about whether Greeks who lose their jobs or fail to get pay raises will still be able to pay women of all colors and creeds to continue cleaning their homes, cooking their food and looking after their children and parents.

It's a sensitive subject which, as Woolas suggested, needs to be approached with maturity and a good command of the facts. All we continue to hear from our politicians is how Greece loves and welcomes migrants and how the state is "always at their side." In a situation that calls for mature, informed debate, we are getting playground platitudes.

To the country's shame, immigration policy has for years been a political football in Britain, but what we are witnessing in Greece, a country where roughly 10 percent of the population are migrants, is the ball being kicked right out of the stadium. It's not only shameful, it's dangerous.

Woolas knows about how dangerous things can get. He represents the area of Oldham East in the northwest of England, where 15 percent of the population was born outside Britain and mixed-race marriages are less than 1 percent. In May 2001, Oldham witnessed some of the worst racially motivated riots ever seen in Britain, as youths of white and mostly Pakistani origin clashed.

Unemployment and the de facto segregation of schools and neighborhoods were seen as the main causes – similar



A policeman appears to strip-search a migrant in central Athens in a photo taken by members of the Stop the War Coalition. The incident is being investigated.

[AFP]

factors to those that led to the widespread civil unrest in France in 2005.

Greece has not witnessed anything like this, but the alarm bells should have been ringing in July when more than 100 migrants were involved in a violent clash near Omonia Square. We should

not need to wait for full-blown riots to break out on our streets to realize that our immigration policy, or lack thereof, is doing both the migrants and the country a disservice.

Australia's Immigration Minister Chris Evans suggested this week that his country's tough rules would be

tweaked to ensure the country "treats people humanely." This would be a sound basis for Greece to start from as well.

In Greece's defense, it receives more migrants than it knows what to do with, but this is even more reason to develop a strategy for how to deal with them. The head-in-the-

sand approach, whereby the fittest survive, is poisonous – quite literally, as we learned this week when it was reported that about 600 people from Somalia and Afghanistan fell ill after drinking water from rusty pipes at a reception center on Lesbos.

Perhaps they were the lucky ones – the poor souls that end up on the tiny islet of Agathonisi, as this newspaper reported earlier this month, find themselves in a purgatory created by officials and residents on Patmos, who have unilaterally decided to stop accepting more migrants, and authorities elsewhere, who do not know what to do with them.

This is only the beginning of the problem – many of the migrants that eventually make it through and are left to fend for themselves, without a support structure they can grab hold of to help take those first fearful steps into the unknown, are exposed to the lure of crime and the wrath of law enforcement alike.

The gradual development of virtual no-go areas in Athens and Patras has been well documented, but equally worrying is the tendency for police officers to treat migrants with the utmost contempt. This week, the police have been forced to investigate allegations that a migrant was stripped and searched in full view of passers-by in central Athens.

We will be told this was an isolated incident, but in fact it is the latest in a long string of similar cases, such as four policemen being sacked in March after forcing two Albanian detainees at the Omonia police station to slap each other and then recording the incident on a cell phone, or four officers being accused of using Abu Ghraib-style tactics to torture up to 30 migrants at Aghios Panteleimonas police station in 2004. The list goes on and will continue to do so as long as the lack of a proper immigration policy leaves a vacuum in which all kinds of malevolent forces can operate.

In Greece we seem to be good at talking about things, even if nothing gets done. In this case, even talking about it would be a good start, because although migrants may come and go, the issue of immigration is here to stay.

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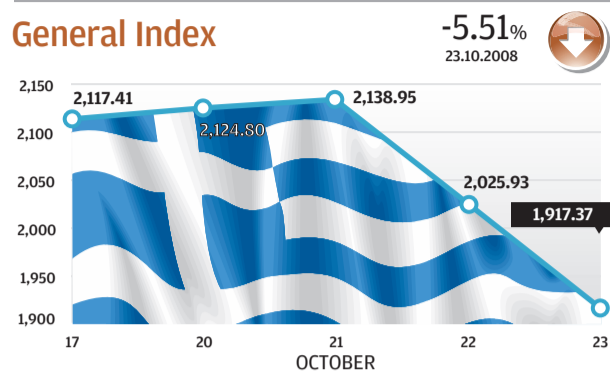
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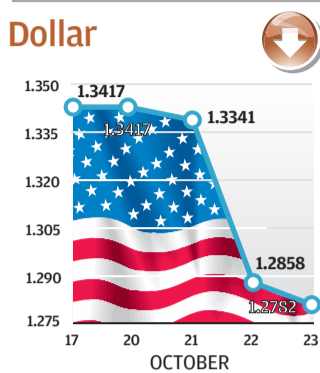
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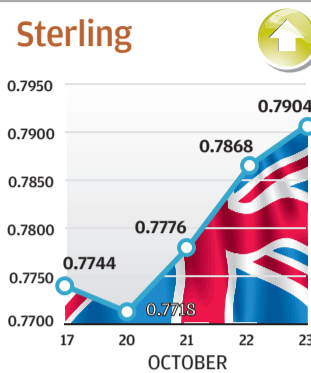


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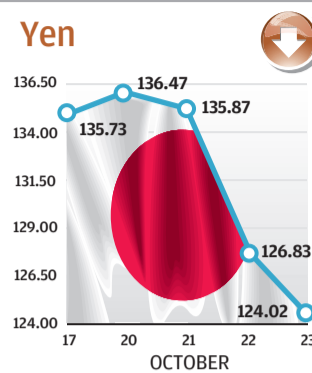
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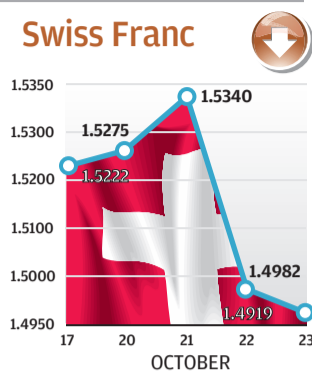
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Swiss Franc



Gov't tries to contain price rises

Development Ministry hopes to persuade manufacturers and traders to temper hikes

The government is reported to be holding feverish consultations with a large number of private firms, with a view to minimizing price increases already announced, as the economic slowdown is beginning to bite into retail sales.

Steep hike

Tomato products are set to go up by 15-25 percent as of next month

Manufacturers and retailers have filed for approval of increases of up to 20 percent on about 1,000 products and Deputy Development Minister Giorgos Vlachos is hoping they will be persuaded to postpone or moderate them.

It is expected that the results of the consultations will be unveiled soon, together with announcements of fines on firms that did not submit cost data that was requested.



An increasing number of consumers are resorting to discount or private label products in order to curb their monthly expenditure.

Retailers said, however, that if "a firm revokes price increases it does not mean it annuls them," also noting the impact of higher interest rates.

Retail prices virtually froze during last summer. But since the beginning of September, supermarket chains which sell about 10,000-15,000 dif-

ferent products have been revising price lists for about 50-60 products weekly.

Most increases, planned a while before they are actually seen on the shelves, are in the 3-5 percent range, but some are much higher than 10 percent. Tomato products, for instance, which appear under a total of about 200 bar codes, are set to go up by 15-25 percent as of next month. Other increases in the pipeline concern a wide range of products, including salt, rice, wine, spirits, preserves and plastics.

Earlier this month, the Development Ministry announced it had blocked price increases for about 6,000 bar codes (not just what is sold in supermarkets), including one in the order of 70 percent.

Greece's consumer price index was up 4.7 percent in September, year-on-year, against an average of 3.6 percent in the rest of the 15-member eurozone.

FOOD SALES DECLINE

The volume of sales in the food trade is expected to register a marginal drop in September and October, although the full impact of the economic slowdown is expected to become clearer early next year.

In the January-August period, the volume of supermarket sales showed a 1.4 percent increase, while turnover was up 6.8 percent - the difference basically accounted for by price increases.

About 60 categories of products showed a drop in volume, up to 15 percent in some cases. Snacks were down 4.5 percent and 5.6 percent respectively. Detergents and personal-care products also showed a decline, probably because consumers are turning to discount or private label products, which are estimated to have experienced an increase in sales of 6.5 percent in the January-August period. On the other hand, 74 categories recorded an increase in volume, with sports beverages and tea leading the pack at 29 percent higher.

However, small shops appear to be bearing the brunt of the slowdown in consumption - as supermarkets offer more competitive prices - and the situation appeared to be worsening for retail trade as a whole in the summer months. According to data compiled by the National Statistics Service, the sales volume of shops carrying foodstuffs, beverages and tobacco was down 7.2 percent in July, of supermarkets 2.3 percent and of clothing and footwear shops 1.4 percent. On the other hand, department stores and shops selling pharmaceuticals and cosmetics increased their sales volume by 3.3 percent and 5.2 percent respectively. Consumer confidence was at a 39-month low in September, at 83.3 points and much lower than the long-term average.

Greece struggles to cut its budget deficit

Eurostat confirms overshooting of EU limit, sees possible reopening of disciplinary procedures

Greece's budget deficit last year reached 3.5 percent of gross domestic product (GDP), the only eurozone member to exceed the 3 percent ceiling, Eurostat said on Wednesday.

The European Commission's statistical service revised upward the Greek government's previous updated figure of 3.4 percent earlier this month, after accounting for long-standing discrepancies in "data for taxes, hospitals and social security."

Leniency likely

The procedure may be dropped if Greece avoids a repetition of the violation in 2008 and 2009

The Commission said last month that if Eurostat confirmed a figure higher than the 3 percent ceiling, then it could reopen disciplinary procedures against Athens, which it applied in 2005 and 2006.

The Commission added, however, that the procedure may be dropped if Greece avoids a repetition of the violation in 2008 and 2009.

The Greek government announced in August a series of measures aimed at increasing budget revenues by some 400 million euros a year, including introducing taxes on share capital gains and stock dividends.

Sources said Economic and Monetary Affairs Commissioner Joaquin Almunia has asked a close monitoring of Greek fiscal developments. But the activation of the excess deficit procedure would require a decision by the council of ministers and an overrun of the ceiling for two consecutive years. Greece had initially aimed at deficit of 2.7 percent of GDP in 2007. The initial target of 1.6 percent for 2008 looks very unlikely.

Eurostat data also showed that Greece's public debt figure reached 94.8 percent of GDP in 2007, the second highest in the EU after Italy.



Commissioner Joaquin Almunia is keeping a close eye on Greece's public finances.

Public borrowing is projected to reach the record level of 41 billion euros this year, against an original target of 37 billion euros. By the end of

the year, it is expected to rise to 44-45 billion euros.

The government needs this borrowing in order to keep the deficit below 3 percent.

On Monday, Fitch ratings agency revised downward the outlook on Greece's credit ratings to "stable" from "positive."

"The change in prospects mainly reflects the Greek government's announcement in the draft budget for 2009 that it expects a higher fiscal deficit for both 2008 and 2009," said Fitch's Chris Pryce.

He added that the government's forecast for 3 percent growth next year was too optimistic, while current primary spending was seen rising at a fast pace.

Fitch noted that even though Greece has achieved high growth rates in recent years, this growth originates in tourism, shipping and financial services - sectors which are expected to be hit in 2009.

Property market in the doldrums

Excess supply, high interest rates and low investment weigh on commercial real estate

Everyone involved in the real estate market was euphoric three years ago. House prices were rising at a rate of 10 percent a year, plans for the construction of malls abounded and the demand for office space continued to be strong – a reflection of the strength of the economy. Money was cheap, in fact the cheapest for 40 years, with the average lending rate at 5.73 percent in December 2005.

Negative outlook

'The biggest obstacle to market recovery is that of negative expectations'

The contrasting situation today supports the view that the crisis is not just at the gates but is already inside the castle. This is confirmed by the number of houses under construction. According to official data, 40,300 new building licenses were issued in the first half of the year, against 55,000 during the same period last year.

Analysts say this decline is re-

lated to limited demand and considerable excess supply. Bank of Greece data also show that the growth rate in mortgage loans was 22.8 percent last December but was down to about 15.5 percent in August. In the January-August 2007 period, a total of 5.5 billion euros had been disbursed in mortgage loans, but a year later the outstanding total was up by only 500 million.

The same analysts take the view that hesitation on the part of prospective buyers is less related to market prices than to the higher interest rates.

While real house prices (after deducting inflation) are falling, the average mortgage loan rate was 4.98 percent in August, 0.4 percent higher than a year earlier. Of course, for some categories of mortgages, the increase has approached 1 percent.

Another sign of the leaner market is that at least 50 percent of the houses sold in the first eight months of 2008 were more than five years old.

"The turn toward older and smaller houses confirms that the



At least 50 percent of the houses sold in the first eight months of 2008 were more than five years old.

biggest obstacle to market recovery is that of negative expectations. This is also confirmed by studies that record economic expectations," analysts said.

According to international experience, the decline in sales signals an increase in demand for rented accommodation. However, the latest data from the Na-

tional Statistics Service (NSS) indicate that the rental market is also stagnant. Rents were up 4.1 percent in September over a year earlier, slightly lower than inflation.

"Most are not willing to take the risk to improve their housing conditions, preferring the security and stability that habit provides. Most housing rentals are the result of need, not choice," said a realty agent.

If investment in commercial property can be taken as a guide for business expectations, then the outlook is gloomy indeed. In the first half of the year, such investment (office space, shops, hotels and industrial areas) was down sharply from a year earlier, from 7,700 new buildings under construction to 6,600.

"The drop in private consumption, the rise in the cost of money and the further concentration of the Greek economy influence all investment decisions. The short-term outlook for investment in commercial property is for further deterioration," said an analyst.

IN BRIEF

Current account deficit swells

Greece's current account deficit climbed 51 percent higher in August year-on-year, on the back of high fuel prices and the deteriorating competitiveness of Greek currency earners. According to the Bank of Greece, the country's central bank, the deficit rose by 167 million euros to reach 494 million euros in August, bringing the January-August total to 22 billion, or 13.4 percent higher. The central bank projects the deficit to approach 15 percent of gross domestic product for 2008 as a whole – one of the highest in the eurozone – from 14.1 percent in 2007.

••••

EU boost for contract workers

Term contract workers are entitled to equal treatment as permanent staff regarding pay, leave, work hours, overtime and maternity leave from the first day of hiring, according to a directive adopted by the European Parliament on Wednesday. Member states have to apply the directive within three years.

••••

Tax probe date extended

The Finance Ministry has extended by a year – to December 31, 2009 – the deadline for possible tax probes relating to the fiscal years 2000, 2001 and 2002, as well as for cases regarding the large-properties tax for the years 1997, 1998 and 1999.

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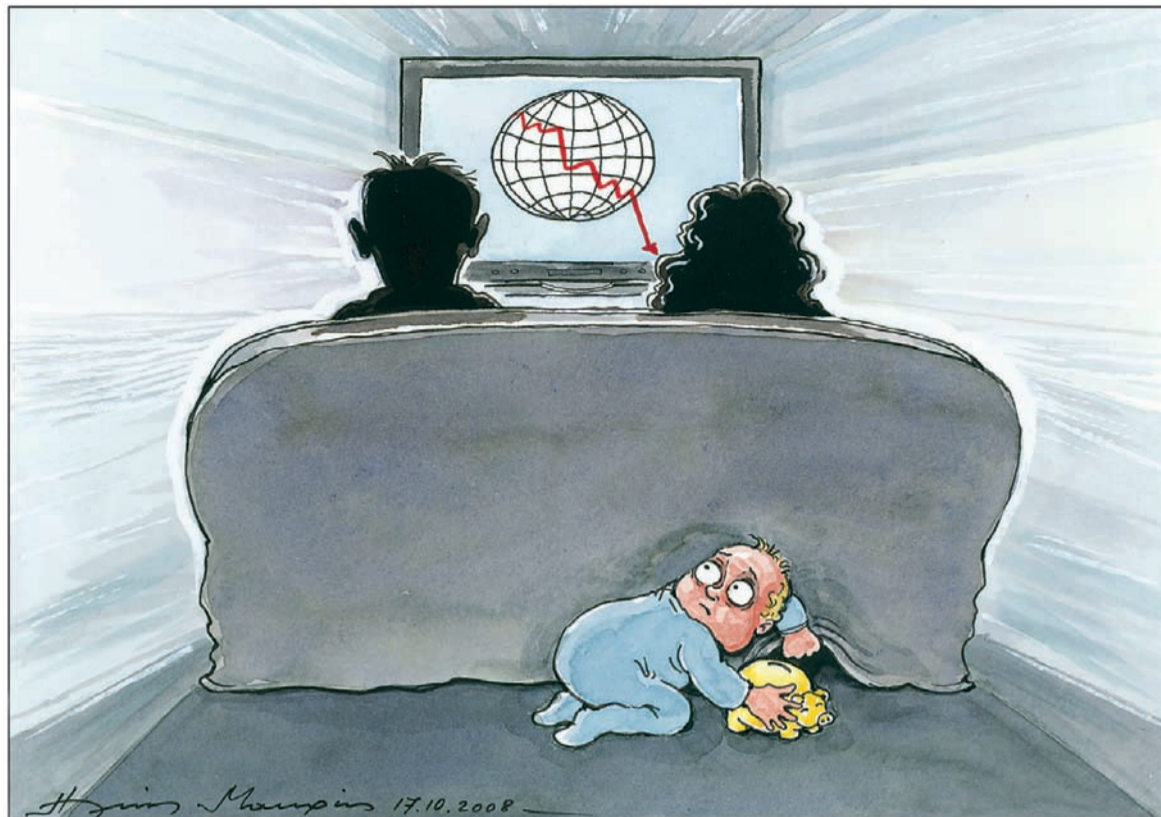
OPINION

*Less than nothing***Milestones
Footnotes** +

BY NIKOS KONSTANDARAS

Let's look at the planet from a little way off – say from the unmanned spacecraft that the Indians sent off on Wednesday to spend two years orbiting the moon or from the spot where Chinese astronauts performed their country's first spacewalk a month or so ago. What we see, from our vantage point, is that the balance of the Earth is shifting. Though the United States is still the one superpower and Russia still has the momentum to act as another (albeit smaller one), the shift of wealth, development and technology has been Eastward. Not only are China and India the fastest-developing economies, but they are stocking up wealth at a time when the West is descending into a spiral of debt and recession. The East is the factory of the planet and its scientists want to test themselves in space, just as the Americans and Russians did in the past six decades.

From space it might not be immediately evident, but our planet is in another state of great flux, with some 150 million people estimated to be moving from their home country to another place which they expect to be more generous to them. There is a massive redistribution of people, from East to West, from South to North. This is one aspect of globalization. Another is the fact that the financial crisis that hit the United States over a year ago has now spread across the world. The planet is rearranging itself for the diffi-



BY ILIAS MAKRIS

cult years ahead.

Greece is in the middle of all these changes. It has an aging population and an economic model that is unable to sustain the population at the level to which it is accustomed without running up a further 44 billion euros in debt, as this year's borrowing requirement already shows. The economic crisis is here: The country's banks, the strongest players in its economy in the past few years, are lining up to share the government's 28-billion-euro package aimed at shoring up the public's trust in the system and

at increasing the market's liquidity. The stock exchange, dragged down by banks as foreign investors cash in their stocks, is at a five-year low, with the general index dropping below 2,000 points. The deficit last year came to 3.5 percent, Eurostat reported on Wednesday, which means that Greece is the only member of the eurozone to exceed the 3 percent point at which its economy should come under EU monitoring again. Our wages and pensions are woefully low, but our economy will still not be able to maintain them at these levels, let alone

improve them, as long as our economy remains so unproductive, so mired in bureaucracy and graft. On another of the great issues of our time, Greece is on the front line of humanity's great Westward migration. Islands in the Aegean and centers of our cities are being overcome by people in need and despair – and our state and local government services are simply trying to cope on a day-by-day basis, hoping that the problem will just move on from them, as it has so far.

In this global climate, with the swelling tide of troubles already

breaking over our harbor walls, what are we Greeks doing?

The political class is engaged in mortal battle, not over the reforms that the country needs in order to repair the damage caused by decades of neglect and to prepare for the future, but over whether government ministers may have colluded with a Mount Athos monastery to defraud the state of about 100 million euros in a shady real estate exchange. The matter is important – seeing as it points to the sick relationship between politicians, the clergy and the judiciary – but, even if it is ever cleared up satisfactorily, the outcome of this battle will not have pushed the country one inch toward the road of progress. It is as if the ship is sinking and all its passengers are debating ethics and etiquette. I am not suggesting that the Vatopedi scandal (as it has been named, after the acquisitive monks' monastery) should not be investigated. On the contrary, it should be probed to its murkiest depths, the wrongdoers punished and the falsely accused exonerated. What should not happen is what we are seeing now: shadows of suspicion passing as incontrovertible fact, everyone jumping to conclusions on the basis of his or her prejudices. Due to the government's two-seat majority in Parliament, this could even lead to snap elections. The whole country is caught up in the crash and roar of idiots on a stage, whose cries and moans and threats and pleas mean nothing.

From high up in space all that is said and done in Greece is unheard, unseen. What matters to us is what we do. And, unfortunately, what we are doing is worse than nothing.

LETTERS

We are all nomads

I would like to add my voice to Con Ghitgas's comments on Greek identity. Although I now live on Skopelos – “*via panta*,” forever – I spent the past eight years living in Ronda, Andalucia, Spain. I just published my latest book, “*Andalucia: A Cultural History*,” which credits the Greeks with inventing both Spain and Europe (you stepped ashore at Ampurias, in Cataluna, some time in the 2nd century BCE, carrying olive trees and grape vines, and quickly moved on to Cadiz...).

While a cultural history, part of the point of my book is that with the rise of racism in modern Europe, we need to realize that we all have more in common than we think. As a nomad, I have been grateful to both my Spanish and Greek neighbors for their friendship and kindness – friendship and kindness that might not have been

extended to a stranger in the city where I was born and lived for 40 years, London.

And as xenophobia becomes an increasingly prevalent occurrence in Europe, we should also consider that our interventions in other people's cultures – Afghanistan, Iraq – are triggering waves of refugees and immigrants. These people do not abandon their families and culture for no reason or simply for economic benefit; they are fleeing horror. And Europe was built by immigrants from, well, Greece, and elsewhere. The entire history of Europe – from those first Greek settlers – has been one of emigration, immigration and assimilation. In short, we are all nomads.

I speak as an immigrant myself, and one grateful for Greece's kindness.

JOHN GILL

SKOPELOS – MAGNESIA

Athens needs mobility for all

As a Londoner who has very recently relocated to Athens, I have every sympathy for the decision of the majority of Athenians to travel by private car. After only a few weeks of finding that the time taken for a short walk is more than doubled because of the long wait for traffic lights – geared massively in favor of motor traffic – to let me cross the road; of leaping out the way of cars jumping red lights; of being forced off narrow pavements clogged by parked cars, motorbikes, plants and rubbish, and puzzling why the inherent flexibility of many bus and trolley routes is so hugely eroded by the inexplicably long distance between stops, I very much wish I could join them. The single message that Athens is bellowing at me over the roar of traffic is that the car is king.

People make decisions about their transport for reasons that are personally rational. So in Athens most choose the car because the alternatives

are still, it seems, far inferior. No one needs a car, but just about everyone, in varying degrees, needs flexible and accessible transport. The fact is that here and now the car delivers that more effectively than anything else. The challenge is to find real alternatives that are more equitable and less damaging to the environment. And getting there means finding the right mix between incentives and disincentives. Slapping on a congestion charge when alternatives are so inadequate would certainly be a mistake.

In policy terms, the objective for any 21st-century city should not be to “get traffic moving,” but to ensure fair access to mobility for all individuals and public and private services. London is by no means perfect. True, it's come a long way from the horrors of the 1970s (far worse than anything Athens could manage), when pedestrians were fenced in and forced to cross major roads through dark and dangerous

underpasses, but public transport is still very expensive and cycle networks woefully inadequate. Gradually though, drivers have had to accept sharing road space through extensive bus lanes, “traffic calming” and traffic lights that work as hard for pedestrians as they do for motor traffic.

So the challenge for Athens is to develop policies that combine understanding, commitment and courage. It won't be easy, but perhaps the best news is that, coming a little behind other cities, Athens can take the best from the rest, add a lot of Greek flair and within 10 years lead the world. It's something of which I'm sure the inextinguishable spirit of Melina Mercouri would be very proud.

KATE FRANCIS
ATHENS

HAVE YOUR SAY
Send your comments to
editor@athensplus.gr.

INTERVIEW

Andreas Giannakoulas Greek psychoanalyst looks at possible effects of credit crisis on people's behavior

On the verge of a financial breakdown

On the defensive

'When we have group phenomena, the personal defense mechanism of each person is exacerbated: The miser, for instance, will become even more miserly'

BY NICK MALKOUTZIS

Crisis is a word that you have probably heard regularly over the past few weeks, as a result of the global financial turmoil. It has its roots in the ancient Greek word for decision and, as the world's leaders decide upon what steps to take to solve the credit problems, it remains to be seen what effect the crisis will have on the decision making of individuals and societies rocked by the upheaval.

Are we about to see a mass wave of depression sweep across the world? Are people going to turn to leaders that tell them what they want to hear rather than what they need to hear? Are millions of people about to

change their way of life?

Athens Plus put these questions to Andreas Giannakoulas, a member of the Italian and British psychoanalytic associations and a professor at Rome's La Sapienza University, whose latest book, "Psychodynamic Counseling," was published in Greece by Kastaniotis earlier this year.

What kind of stress is the current financial crisis putting on individuals and how does it affect their behavior?

What we could see is a collective stress with group phenomena, which means that it results in attachment—like when herds of animals are under stress and they stick close to each other for protection. Collective stress

brings people to a much more defensive position. This attachment means that they are more closed, less likely to take risks around predators. With group phenomena like that, the personal defense mechanism of each person is exacerbated: The miser, for instance, will become even more miserly; perhaps the person who has lost money will impose all sorts of family restrictions, starting with food.

Do you think the great unsettling of the existing order may change people's relations with each other in broader ways in society? For example, will more people turn to religion or perhaps to nihilism?

The crisis creates a situation in

which people's faith could be lost and the need to believe is frustrated. People need to feel that somebody, somewhere can really protect them. Of course, in a global crisis they could turn to religion, a political group or a dogma. We should remember that the major dictatorships, such as that of Adolf Hitler, were born out of such a need. The Tavistock Clinic and Institute of Human Relations in London discovered that in these types of situations a need for a leader with messianic functions—like "I will save you"—emerges. So, rather than turn to a specific religion, crises cause a regression among people who need to believe in someone, which lays the ground for saviors to appear.



External realities of the current situation could reinforce internal anxieties

Pop culture

'Countries that have a structure in which they can continue to believe are unlikely to opt for dictators, but in the current context, populist slogans could strike a chord'

Speaking of leaders, the crisis comes ahead of a US presidential election...

It would be very interesting to examine to what extent these situations lead to someone being elected. Of course, at this exact moment in time, change could seem very dangerous for many people who would prefer to cling to whatever is traditional and familiar and don't want to take risks with the new or change. Many people may think "better the devil you know."

Will people become less tolerant or will there be greater selfishness?

In all collective phenomena, people who are mature are likely to display their maturity whereas people who are insecure, fragile or vulnerable are more likely to display these characteristics to a greater degree. Anxious people, for example, will become much more anxious. Some people will proj-

ect into external realities.

Are you expecting the financial turmoil to result in more people turning to psychiatrists for help?

These events are likely to cause psychosomatic syndromes, such as stomach aches, headaches, high blood pressure and so on. This is significant, because it does not mean someone rushes to a psychiatrist for help—they could rush to the doctor for help.

The American Psychological Association, which recently published a survey indicating that 80 percent of Americans feel the economy is the cause of significant stress in their lives, has suggested ways to deal with the pressure. One is that people should make changes to their lives to ease stress, such as walking or spending more time with

their families. Will we witness people changing lifestyles?

If I am a trader and I return home wanting to change my way of life, but my wife is even more anxious than I am, the idea of going for a walk to forget our problems seems far-fetched. It's difficult to restore people's faith or create alternative kind of supports. People need it, but it's difficult because the external realities in such a case reinforce internal anxieties or anxieties in a family or couple.

If our European "welfare states" are no longer sustainable because of the funds that have been lost, how will people compensate psychologically for the lack of security and how will they express this in political terms? Will they follow populists?

I'm sure you're right. People are very likely to be seduced by social agitators,

political manipulators and populist leaders. But countries that have a structure in which people can continue to believe are unlikely to opt for dictators. However, in the current context, populist slogans could strike a chord.

Does the current situation compare to anything in the past, such as the Great Depression?

We no longer have people around us who lived through the Great Depression, we only have descriptions, short stories, romances and different historical documents, which are always subjective. It's very difficult to put together what happened then or what could happen the next time. That makes all the questions possible. So, on a personal, national or international level, we are each bound to react according to our own personal and local traditions and resources.

A labor of love completed

Logic, madness and the life of Bertrand Russell are explored in 'Logicomix'

Readers of these pages had a sneak preview of the graphic novel "Logicomix" after its presentation at the Thessaloniki Book Fair in May. The book is available from Ikaros publications, following the October 20 launch at the Benaki Museum. Its English version is due out in 2009 from Bloomsbury.

If the advance snippets were intriguing, the complete version is a delight to the eye and the mind, a result that justifies the years of work invested in it by the authors

A book to relish

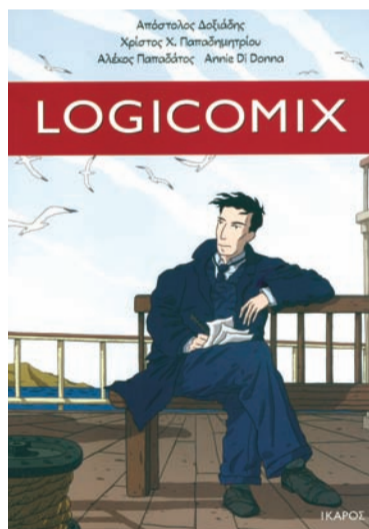
The completed version is a delight to the eye and the mind, a result that justifies the years of work invested in it by the authors and illustrators

and illustrators.

"Logicomix" was written by Apostolos Doxiadis and Christos Papadimitriou, penciled by Alekos Papadatos and colored by Annie Di Donna. Doxiadis also created the scenario and translated the English version into Greek.

The story operates on several levels. As bookends to the main narrative, and interrupting it at intervals, the creative team introduces the original concept of seeking the foundations of mathematics and argues over how to approach it. Their encounters usually take place in their light-filled studio or on walks in the historic center of Athens.

The team's search is revealed through the life of the British mathematician and philosopher Bertrand Russell. Key scenes from his childhood and adult life, which form the basis of the narrative, are related by himself, most of them as part of a public speech at the time of the Second World War on the role of logic in human affairs. Protesters challenge Russell – who had been



imprisoned for his anti-war views during WWI – to defend what they see as his new pro-war stance.

These scenes are portrayed for the most part in neutral shades of

brown and gray. The artists deploy the classic exaggeration of comic books to convey more dramatic scenes, such as the nightmares of his childhood, haunted by the prohibitions imposed by his severe grandmother and by alarming revelations about his family that fueled his fear of madness.

Love and the consolation of mathematics deliver him from those early constraints. Shades of sable on the seashore accompany a rare moment of jubilation for young Bertie, performing cartwheels on the sand: "Ecstasy was a new experience and a powerful antidote to any residue of fear," reads the caption.

Yet the fear of madness lingers, fostered by encounters with brilliant but deranged logicians. Disappointment in his efforts to build a firm foundation for mathematics sparks a horrific dream in which he

sees the entire edifice of logic come crashing down, undermined by his own work.

His loves, his work with leading logicians and the turbulent times in which he lived make a riveting story. His differences with the brilliant young Austrian philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein play out in a superbly drawn scene, where a gathering snowstorm obscures the two figures in a mournful palette of brown, gray and white.

In another strand of the story, rehearsals for a production of the Oresteia trilogy allow the team to engage in a collective, culminating riff on war, vengeance, justice and wisdom.

Encompassing hefty doses of information, ideas and entertainment, "Logicomix" is sure to be a hit. It even boasts a dog that looks like a relative of Tintin's Snowy.

Between reflexivity and critique

An international conference titled "History between Reflexivity and Critique" will take place at the University of Athens from October 30 to November 1.

It will explore and examine the broad range of possibilities opened up by the intersection of history with critique.

Particular emphasis will be given to historical reflexivity and varieties of critical history. The topics include history writing as cultural and political critique; contemporary theoretical investigations linked to the con-

cept of reflexivity and critique in history (such as post-structuralism, post-colonial theory, gender theory and psychoanalysis); reflections on the potential and limitations of history, including inquiries into the nature, uses and politics of history and the relations of critique to knowledge, desire and change as well as its implications for history and formulations of the concept of critique in an interdisciplinary perspective.

The conference has been organized by Historein review, the International Commission of Historiography and Theory of History and the Historical Archive of the University of Athens. It will be held at the University of Athens (20 Panepistimiou, central building).

For more information, log on to www.historein.gr.



For more information, log on to www.historein.gr.

GET IN TOUCH
Readers are invited to send their views and comments to books@athensplus.gr.



LIT-BITS

Fictional felines

Join the fictional cats of Christos Boulotis in their escapades as they scale the rooftops of Exarchia, leave their footprints on valuable works of art and prowl the city market. Ellinika Grammata Publications invites young and old to a fun-filled presentation of Boulotis's books, "The Smolensky Street Cat," "Leopold the Cat at the School of Fine Arts" and "Mitsocat at the Market." There will be games and surprises with the author as well as actress Yiota Alexandrou. The presentation is taking place on Saturday, October 25, at 12.30 p.m. at Ianos bookstore (24 Stadiou). For more information, call 210.321.7917.

Nature issues

Calling all children who care about nature. Angeliki Varela's new book, "Μία paraxeni mera" (A Strange Day) shows what might happen if Mother Nature woke up in a good mood one day and decided to play a trick on humans to get them thinking. The author will be at Metaichmio's multipurpose venue (118 Ippokratous, tel 211.300.3500) at noon on Saturday, October 25, for a Q&A session.

From book to TV

Alki Zei's latest book has become a TV series. "Ο ψεύτης παππούς" (Myth-making Grandpa), published by Kedros, is a story for children that

touches a chord with adults. The grandfather, played by Giorgos Michalopoulos, has led a mysterious life between Athens and Paris and has an unconventional outlook on life and history that fascinates his grandson. The series airs Thursdays on ET1 at 9.10 p.m.

A city astride two continents

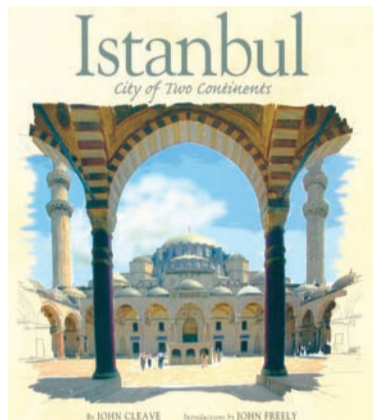
John Cleave's digital watercolors celebrate the rich diversity of Istanbul

Three thousand years of history have left their imprint on Istanbul. Churches, mosques and secular monuments attest to the glories of the city once known as Byzantium and Constantinople.

The seat of the Byzantine and Ottoman empires, home for much of its history to diverse ethnic groups, religions and cultures, Istanbul has developed into a vigorous modern city that reaches far beyond the ancient walls.

John Cleave's digital watercolors in his latest "Istanbul: City of Two Continents," do for this city what the architectural photographer's previous two volumes did for Washington and Athens. All three books are published by Editions Didier Millet.

In 175 sketches – created on his computer from his own photographs – Cleave has captured the city both at its grandest and in its everyday guise as home to a population of some 12 million. Here, in all their splendor, are the familiar sights: Hagia Sophia, the Blue Mosque, the Grand Bazaar and the Theodosian Walls. Alongside them are scenes of the new city, which few short-stay travelers see: the vast Kanyon Mall in Levent, the skyscrapers of Beyoglu across



the Golden Horn, which are reshaping the cityscape, and Bagdat Caddesi, the handsome shopping street on the Asian side of the Bosphorus, where around a third of the city's population lives.

Cleave took up architectural photography when he retired from his position at the World Bank. The Istanbul pictures were taken in three visits over a period totaling 10 weeks, he told Athens Plus. "For me it was a voyage of discovery. I had no preconceived idea of Istanbul except as a historic center," he explained. His intent was to capture the city as a whole, which got him to the furthest reaches of the metro system and onto the Asian shore. On his second

visit, he said, "I got my arms around the city."

In captions to the sketches, Cleave gives essential information spiced with snippets of local color. Extra detail appears in a gazetteer at the back of the book.

The introductions are by Istanbul veteran John Freely, professor of physics at the University of the Bosphorus, who has written widely about his adopted

home. His vivid accounts set the historical, geographical and social context in this tribute to Istanbul.

Does Cleave have any more cities in his sights? It depends, partly on sponsors, but Rome, Stockholm and Prague, he said, are all candidates.

🕒 Editions Didier Millet will launch "Istanbul: City of Two Continents" at the Eleftheroudakis bookstore (17 Panepistimiou, tel 210.325.8440) on November 3 at 6.30 p.m.



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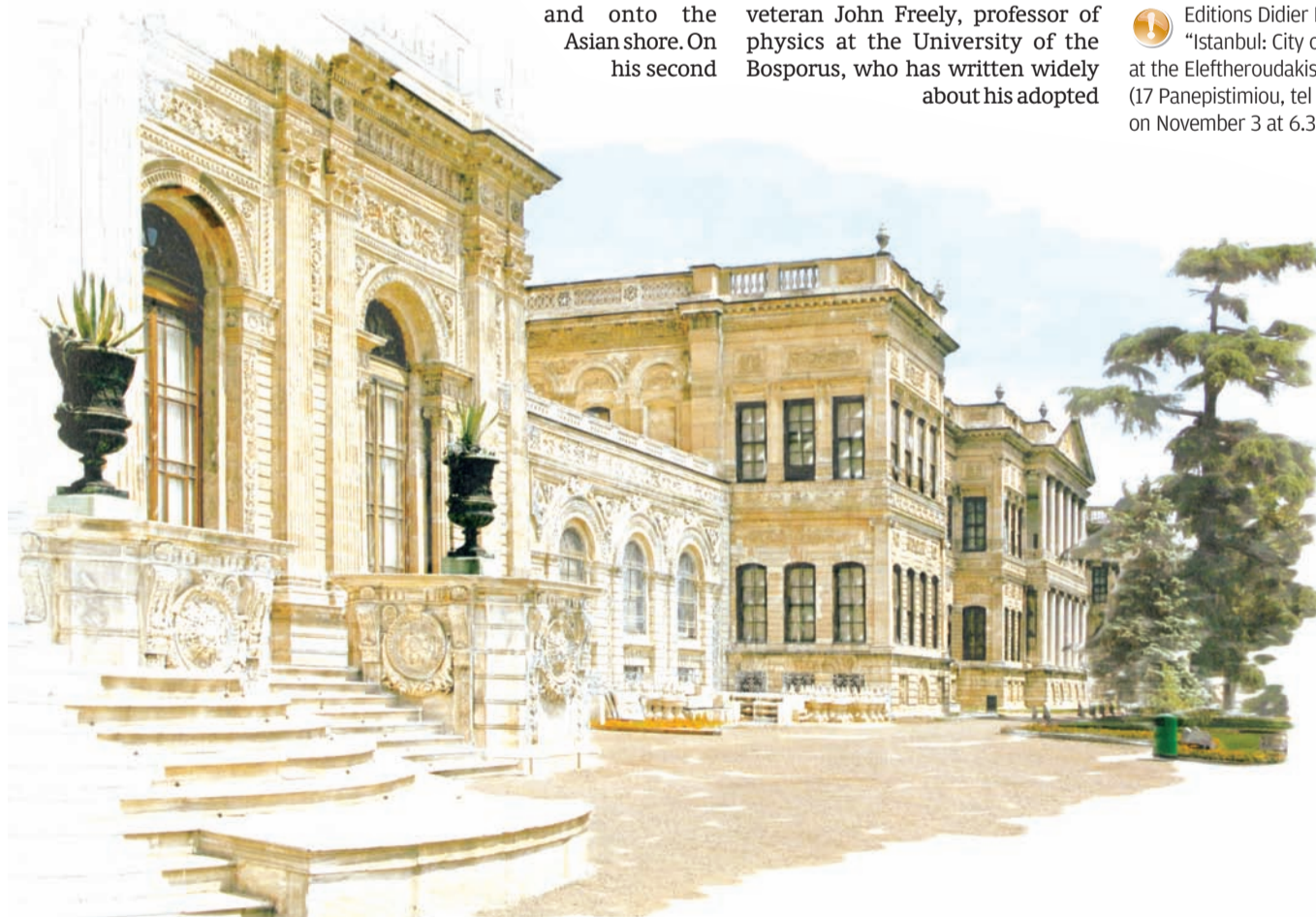
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A detail of the early 17th-century Dolmabahce Palace, built on land reclaimed from the Bosphorus, hence its name 'dolmabahce,' or filled-up garden. Designed by Nikogos and his father Karabet Balyan.

'Isidoros and the Castaway'

How does an only child of 9 spend his time when he lives in an apartment and his parents are too busy to spend much time with him?

Isidoros puts his imagination to work. He finds patterns in the floor tiles, counts the number of steps from the street door to his room, reads the labels on all the spices in the cupboard, matches neighbors' faces to their names on the doorbells, looks under his bed for a hole that might lead to some exciting place or pretends he is lost in the forest and has to light a fire to scare off the jackals.

And he has an imaginary friend, a castaway. Isidoros isn't sure what castaways do all day – perhaps they go fishing as they do in films – but he can guess what it must feel like. "When you're on your own," he thinks, "you always want to hear some good news to make you happy."



So he writes a letter full of helpful tips describing how he wards off boredom. He seals the letter in a plastic bottle and asks his father to put it in the sea on his way to work via the coast road. His father, who's always busy and tired, isn't too enthusiastic, but Isidoros knows that he has a soft spot for castaways and used to dream of being like Robinson Crusoe when he was young.

To his astonishment, Isidoros gets a detailed reply, and an unusual correspondence begins. When the youngster confides that his father barely has time to speak to him, there are more surprises to come.

Amanda Michalopoulou brings humor and insight to the familiar predicament of solitary children with busy parents in her latest book, "O Isidoros kai o naavgos" (Isidoros and the Castaway), published by Patakis.

Her young hero's initiative leads to a satisfying resolution. Sofia Toulia-tou's illustrations project the world as seen by Isidoros.

Part of a series for readers with a vocabulary of 2,000 words, the book has a glossary of a few more difficult terms, and some absorbing activities – Morse code messages and sailors' knots – for castaways and others to do.

FAMILY FUN

BY THEOKLI KOTSIFAKI

Book

Little monsters



Psichogios has recently released two new books for children titled "Ο ψευτάκος" (The Little Liar) and "Ο ατακτούλις" (The Naughty Boy) by Eirini Kamaratou-

Giallousi and illustrated by Giorgos Sgouros and Lida Varvaroussi. Designed for children aged 4 and up, the books tell the stories of Manolis, Voula and Antonis who, like many youngsters, are fond of mischief and sometimes find themselves telling little white lies. Leafing through the pages of both books, young readers are likely to see aspects of themselves in the books' little rascals, giving parents a bit of help in teaching them about right and wrong. These two entertaining and humorous books depicting the everyday life and habits of our little rascals cost 6.60 euros each.

For further information, call 210.280.4800 or log on to www.psichogios.gr.

Event



Magic secrets at Public

October 25

The Public multimedia store in Syntagma is hosting a children's event on Saturday, October 25, at noon, featuring a magician who promises to impress young visitors with his tricks and teach them the secrets and art of magic. Meanwhile, every Saturday in October from noon to 4 p.m., the store welcomes children with entertainment including stilt walkers and jugglers and many fun activities.

For further details, call 210.324.6210 or 210.818.1581.



Movie

Igor

Dubbed animation directed by Anthony Leondis, featuring the voices of Vassilis Haralambopoulos, Costas Darlasis, Dimitris Kotsaris and Yiannis Stefopoulos. Igor, a hunchback doomed to remain in the service of an evil scientist, is also an aspiring scientist himself - and is brilliant and talented enough to succeed. When the time comes to present his greatest invention, something happens that really puts his potential to the test.

Workshops

Making your own flag

October 28

The Fnac outlet in Glyfada (4 Karagiorga & Lazaraki) is hosting a two-hour workshop about "Flags of the World" on the occasion of the forthcoming public holiday commemorating Greek "Ochi Day" on Tuesday, October 28. Children will have the opportunity to learn about the importance and role of flags as national symbols, match flags to their countries and even make their own. The workshop start at 12.30 p.m.

For further details or registration, call 210.898.4300 or log on to www.fnac.gr.

Culture & the arts

Fall 2008



The Paidion Draseis cultural and arts center (70 Dimitrakopoulou, Koukaki, Athens) is hosting a series of educational and workshops for children of all ages. The 2008 fall program includes a visual arts workshop for 5- to 9-year-olds every Tuesday from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., including games with colors, texture and shapes. On Wednesdays from 6.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. there is a dance workshop for youngsters aged 4 to 8. A workshop on music and movement for 4- to 8-year-olds takes place every Thursday from 6.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. On Fridays from 6.30 p.m. to 8 p.m. there is a theater workshop designed for children aged 6 to 10 years old. Last, but not least, for 3- to 5-year-olds, there is a workshop featuring theater and role-playing every Saturday from 11 a.m. until noon.

For further information on the programs or to make reservations, call 210.922.1778 or log on to www.paidiondraseis.gr.

KIDS' STUFF

Programs

Bodyguards in the fridge

Saturdays

"A Book for a Ticket" is the title of an educational program featuring theatrical performances based on a variety of fairy tales and organized by Argyra Publications. This year's theme is inspired by the book "Five Bodyguards in our Fridge," by Anna Verouli and Nikos Michalopoulos. On Saturdays, starting October 25, children will have the chance to enjoy an original and humorous play featuring food-heroes, while learning about healthy diet. The program is designed for children of all ages and will take place at the publisher's central premises (124 Solonos & Emmanuil Benaki, Athens), starting at 12.30 p.m. The entrance "fee" will be the purchase of a book (12.80 euros for children, and 10 euros for adults).

For further details, call 210.383.7667 or log on to www.agyra.gr.

You are what you eat

October 26

The Hellenic Cosmos

cultural center is hosting an educational program titled "You Are What you Eat" designed for kindergarten and primary school children. It aims to expose youngsters to the concept of food ingredients and teach them how to eat healthily. The program, which includes a rich variety of interactive activities and games, is set to take place on Sunday, October 26, from 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. The participation fee is 8.50 euros.

For further details or registration, call 212.254.0000 or log on to www.fhw.gr.

Two books in one play

October 26

The Artika cultural center presents its adaptation of two children's stories on Sunday, October 26. Staged by the To Fi & Fi theater company, the play is based on "To potami trechi na syntantisei ti thalassa" (The River Runs to Meet the Sea), by Maro Loizou, and "To elixirio tis efitihias" (The Elixir of Happiness), by Maria Papagianni. Aimed at 4- to 8-year-olds, the performance will be staged at 5 p.m. at Artika's premises in Moschato (29 Aghion Saranta). Performances will be repeated on November 30, December 21, January 25, February 22, March 29 and April 12.



For further details and reservations, call 210.482.8431.

Theater

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

October 18

A theater performance based on the classic novel "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland," by Lewis Carroll, premieres on Saturday, October 18, at the National Theater's Children's Stage (48 Panepistimiou, Athens). Playwright Vassilis Mavrogeorgiou has given the much-loved story a new twist: In her fall down the rabbit hole, Alice's body breaks into three parts - her body, her heart and her mind - three parts with nothing in common which decide to go their separate ways. As a result, she faces the prospect of never being able to return home unless her body, heart and mind are reunited. Book your tickets for this performance now and find out how Alice overcomes her dilemma in this timeless tale.



For further information or reservations, call 210.528.8164.

Fairy-Tale Land welcomes Pinocchio and Tromara

From October 27

For the second year in a row, Paramythohora (Fairy-Tale Land) is hosting puppet shows for children by the Kivotos Mython theater company. This year, the troupe will present the classic tales of "Pinocchio" by Carlo Collodi and "O Tromaras" (The Menace) by Greece's own Georgios Vizyinos. Actors work with life-size as well as giant-size puppets to create a magical atmosphere, taking children on a voyage into the world of fairy tales. Apart from entertaining, the shows have an educational character, as both stories carry valuable moral lessons. "O Tromaras" will also introduce children to the work of Greek folk artist Theophilos Hatzimihail (1870-1934), as it features many of his paintings. Performances begin on Monday, October 27, at 11 a.m. and will continue throughout winter period. Paramythohora is at 14 Anapafseos Street in Mets.



For further details or registrations, call 210.921.6346 or log on to www.kivotosmython.gr.

In Greek, "growth" and "development" is the same word.*



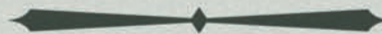
**["ανάπτυξις", ana-ptyxis: growth, development.]*

Piraeus Bank is a rapidly expanding and evolving organization. Even beyond its Greek borders and besides a strong presence in the Southeastern Europe and Eastern Mediterranean region [Albania, Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia, Cyprus, Ukraine]

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	Q1'08	Q1'07	Q1'08 vs. Q1'07
Assets	€ 48,547 mn	€ 34,486 mn	41%
Gross loans	€ 33,736 mn	€ 22,823 mn	48%
Total equity	€ 3,314 mn	€ 1,914 mn	73%
Profit after tax & minorities*	€ 138.5 mn	€ 94.9 mn	46%

* Net profit in Q1 2007 excluding the one-off trading gain from the disposal of the Bank of Cyprus stake.

Current Branches 796 (329 in Greece and 467 abroad with presence in Albania, Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia, Cyprus, Ukraine, Egypt, New York, London)



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COMMUNITY EVENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS,
MEETINGS & EVENTS

• **Expectant mothers** are invited to join a workshop titled "Birth as a Peak Experience: Listening to Yourself and Your Body," to be held on Monday, October 27, from 10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Neohumanist Center (46 Themidos, Maroussi). It will be conducted by Didi Ananda Uttama, a yoga nun and former homebirth midwife. Topics include how to achieve the best birth experience, understanding the influence of your unborn baby etc. For further details, call 210.806.0389 or log on to www.neohumanist.net.

• **A concert** in solidarity with the victims of the war in August in Georgia will be held on Sunday, October 26, at 3 p.m. at the Knossos Theater, 11 Knossou & 195 Patission. The concert will be performed by The Shin band and is organized by the Georgian Embassy in Athens along with the Georgian Institute and the Caucasus Cultural Center. For further information, call 210.721.226 or 210.821.9017.

• **Campion School** (Aghias Ioulianis St, Pallini) is having a garage sale on Sunday, November 23, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Refreshments, including mulled wine and hot dogs, will be available for purchase. The vendors' fee is set at 30 euros. For more information and booking, call 210.607.1730.

• **A Christmas bazaar** will be held on Wednesday, November 12, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Vathis Taverna (7 Kyrou, Kifissia). Avoid the last-minute rush by shopping for food, crafts, gift items and a whole lot more. Baked goods and coffee available. Proceeds will go to the Pammacaristos Foundation in Nea Makri for children with special needs. Vendors interested in renting a table should contact 6948.406.963.

• **On Tuesday**, November 4, the British Hellenic Chamber of Commerce will hold a casual drinks reception for members to meet and discuss business with each other. Come and meet other members and enjoy a drink in the Sofitel Athens Airport Hotel, Callisto Room, from 6.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. For reservations, call 210.721.0493.

• **A discussion** on the US elections with Governor of Massachusetts Michael Dukakis will take place at Anatolia College (American College of Thessaloniki). Governor Dukakis will be appearing live from Northeastern University in Boston via digital teleconference. The event will take place on Thursday, October 30, at 6 p.m. in Raphael Hall. A reception will follow.

• **Drawing and painting** classes are being held every Wednesday

from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at an artist's studio in northwestern Athens. Beginners as well as advanced artists are welcome. For further information, call Sara on 210.241.1505.

• **The Dora Stratou** Greek Dance Theater will be hosting a series of free lectures on dance, scheduled to take place twice a month until December 18. The lectures will take place on Thursdays at 9 p.m. at its premises in Plaka (8 Scholeiou). Lectures include "Traditional Dances from Armenia" (6/11), "The Participation of Greek Children at International Dance Festivals" (20/11), "Traditional Dances of Samos" (4/12) and "The Local Festivities of Olympus on Karpathos" (18/12). For further details, call 210.324.4395 or e-mail mail@grdance.org.

• **Free dance sessions** are held every first Wednesday of the month (unless otherwise advised), at 8.30 p.m. at St Catherine's British Embassy School (73 Sofokli Venizelou, Lykovrisi). Everybody is welcome. The upcoming dates are Wednesday, November 5, and Wednesday, November 19. For further details, log on to www.standrewssociety.gr.

• **The British Graduates Society** is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year and invites BGS members, their guests and all British university graduates to a "Disco Party Extravaganza" on November 7, at the British Embassy Residence. The night includes unlimited drinks and a buffet dinner. Early booking is advised. Tickets, which must be obtained in advance, cost 45 euros for BGS members and 55 euros for guests and non-members. Call 210.652.8383 or e-mail infor@bgs.gr.

• **Looking** for a non-competitive run on a different trail around Athens every week? We are a mixed-ability running group that sets trails off the beaten track so you enjoy a new view in a different area every time. Runs begin every Sunday at 11 a.m. Call Wendy at 6974.933.446 or see our website www.athenshush.com.

• **SPAZ**, the Society for the Protection of Stray Animals, a group working in southern Athens for over 20 years, is having its annual Christmas bazaar on December 6 and 7, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., at the Voula Cultural Center (downtown Voula). This bazaar includes craft booths featuring local artists and international food. Anybody interested in displaying their crafts should contact Suzanna Green via e-mail at sjg1@hotmail.co.uk or by calling 210.982.9051 or 6945.897.539. Table rental rates are 60 euros for one day or 120 euros for two days.

Help with a heart pillow

As October is the month dedicated to Breast Cancer Awareness, the American Women's Association (AWOG) is encouraging people to donate or purchase a pillow (suggested price 15 euros) for a loved one undergoing or recovering from a mastectomy. The proceeds go toward making more Heart Pillows for the Breast Center at Aghios Savvas Hospital. AWOG's Heart Pillow project in Greece is completing one year of operations this Thanksgiving, and currently supplies the Breast Center at Aghios Savvas Hospital.



For further information, call 6947.000.042.

• **Children** are invited to join little-league baseball at the old American airbase baseball fields off Vouliagmenis Avenue. No experience necessary. Sundays from 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. For further details, call Jimmy at 6973.773.225.

• **Athens Singers**, an international choir, welcomes new members. Rehearsals are every Wednesday at 8 p.m. at the American Community School campus (129 Aghias Paraskevis, Halandri). Those who enjoy singing, are able to read music and wish to meet nice people with international or Greek backgrounds are welcome to join. On average, three concerts are prepared each season. After starting off the season with works by Monteverdi, a traditional Christmas concert will follow. The spring concert will feature the operetta "Trial by Jury" by Gilbert and Sullivan. For more information, call 210.653.8021 or 210.610.0375.

• **Creative people sought for a socially oriented project.** Would you like to use your talent working for a social cause through the application of arts? We are putting together a group of socially active individuals to work on the project of an NGO. If you have web design skills you are also most welcome. For details, call Veronica at 6940.568.711.

PLACES OF WORSHIP

• **The All Saints' Anglican** (Episcopal) Church meets at the Roman Catholic Church (Alkyonidon & Dafni, Voula) with the Reverend Canon Malcolm Bradshaw on the first Sunday of the month at 6 p.m. For further information, call 213.034.6235 or e-mail paterw@hol.gr.

• **St Paul's Anglican** (Episcopal) Church (29 Filellinon, near Syntagma Square) holds services with the Reverend Canon Malcolm Bradshaw on Sundays at 10.15 a.m. and on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. For more information, call 210.721.4906 or e-mail Anglican@otenet.gr.

• **Evangelical church** services in English are held every Sunday at 9 a.m. at St Andrews International Church in Kifissia (St Catherine's School) and at 11.30 a.m. in Athens (68 Sina). For further information, log on to www.standrewsgreece.com or call 210.645.2583.

• **Christian Bible-based** fellowship holds meetings every Sunday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 7.30 to 9 p.m. at 8 Akomiatou Street (on the 1st floor) in Athens. Further information is available by calling 210.524.2801 or 6975.738.700.

SUPPORT GROUPS

• **Overeaters Anonymous** members meet Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays-Sundays from 7 to 8.15 p.m. and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 to 7.15 p.m. at 4 Zinonos St (near Omonia). For details, call 210.698.3631 or visit www.oa.org.

• **The Alcoholics Anonymous Parthenon Group** holds daily open meetings at noon and 6.45 p.m. for English speakers and from 8.30 to 10 p.m. for Greek speakers at its premises (4A Zinonos, 8th floor) in Athens. For details, call 210.522.7920 or log on to www.aa-europe.net.

PLAYGROUPS

• **Fun learning.** Gymboree Play and Music in Nea Erythraia welcomes families with young children to attend its new program for the fall, filled with many learning and playing activities, music, art, school skills and games. Call 210.800.1610 or log on to www.gymboree.gr.

• **Greek-English playgroup** Wee Friends welcomes mothers and their children to its weekly meetings in western Athens. Breastfeeding techniques, attachment parenting and issues related to a healthy diet are among the discussion topics. Call Sarah Gilhespie at 210.960.6926 or 6970.273.668.

• **Searching** for a fun place where your children can learn, play and meet friends? Then visit Friends' Corner, a parent-run kids' club in Glyfada. The daily program includes puzzles, outside play, toys, homemade playdough, art project time, story time and a sing-along. The language spoken is English. Paddling pool fun for everyone! Call Sarah at 210.960.6926 or 6970.273.668.

VOLUNTEERING

• **The Make-A-Wish** non-profit charity organization provides psychological support to severely ill children between 3 and 18 years of age. Its members aim to fulfill the personal wishes of children, in the belief that youngsters who see their dreams come true have a greater will to live. For further information or to make a donation, call 210.963.7660/7 or visit www.makeawish.gr.

• **Volunteer with Animals** Volunteers are desperately needed for a small dog shelter near Kalyvia, outside Athens. The dogs were picked up in an abject condition in the area of western Athens. Volunteers will help walk or groom the dogs, or clean their kennels. For more information, contact Maranthi at 6982.977.330.

• **Nine Lives**, a group of volunteers who take care of stray cats in Athens, is looking for volunteers. Food, medical treatment or equipment donations are welcome. Nine Lives also organizes fundraising bazaars and coordinates neutering or adoption programs. For further details, visit www.ninelivesgreece.com.

• **European Perspective**, a Greek non-governmental development organization, is accepting volunteers for its missions designed to enhance developmental cooperation, provide humanitarian assistance and protect human rights in developing countries. Past projects have included distributing food aid in Serbia and repairing schools in Kosovo. To volunteer, become a member or request further information, visit www.europpers.gr or call 210.275.4050.

• **Doctors of the World** is running programs for volunteers in Greece and abroad. In Greece, doctors and administrators as well as mental health professionals in the sectors of social work, clinical psychology, psychiatry and counseling are needed. If you wish to volunteer in Greece, call 210.321.3150 or send an e-mail tologistics@mdmgreece.gr. Outside Greece, both medical and non-medical volunteers are welcome, with living, insurance and transportation expenses

covered. To apply, send a CV and cover letter to recruitment@mdmgreece.gr.

• **Archelon Sea Turtle Protection Society** Archelon's aim is to protect sea turtles and their habitats in Greece through monitoring and research programs, the development and implementation of management plans, habitat restoration, raising public awareness and rehabilitating sick and injured turtles. Volunteers are needed on Zakynthos, Crete and in the Peloponnese. For more details, call or fax 210.898.2600 or visit www.archelon.gr (3rd Marina, 16675, Glyfada).

• **The Katelios Group for the Research and Protection of Marine and Terrestrial Life** is a small organization working to protect the natural environment of Cephalonia. The group focuses on conservation of the endangered loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*). For details, call 26710.81161/81009 or 6944.413.919 or log on to www.kateliosgroup.org.

• **Lesbian Wildlife Hospital** Two animal lovers on the island of Lesbos set up this small veterinary hospital in order to provide first aid to all animals, both wild and domestic. Donations are most welcome and can be sent to Joris and Ineke Peeters-Lenglet, Christofa Hatziyianni Street, Aghia Paraskevi, 81102, Lesbos. For details, call 22530.32006 or visit www.wildlifeonlesvos.org.

• **Conservation Volunteers Greece (formerly ELIX)** aims to cultivate awareness of volunteerism and promote working for the common good. The non-profit organizes international volunteer and work exchange programs. Call 210.338.25506 or visit www.elix.org.gr.

• **Action Aid** The international volunteer organization, working in association with the UN, aims to combat poverty and inequality and aid development in the poorest countries of the world. For information, call 210.921.2321 or visit www.actionaid.gr.

• **VOLUNTEERS** are desperately needed Mondays to Fridays from 10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Caritas Athens Refugee Soup Kitchen in Omonia. We serve over 230 meals daily to needy refugees and migrants. For further details, call Laura Panayotou on 694.442.3169.

GET IN TOUCH
If you have events that you would like to announce on this page, please e-mail the details to community@athensplus.gr.

Study finds Greek media prejudiced

Results show negative slant in country's print and television coverage of Albanian immigrants

They make up two-thirds of the 1 million immigrants in Greece. The word "Albanian," however, seems to have become associated with "criminal," not just in Greek popular culture but also in the supposedly more intellectual echelons of Greek media.

Presented at a conference held on the media at the London School of Economics in September, a study by University of Athens researcher Liza Tsaliki, in cooperation with the director of online data collection and semantic analysis company i-sieve Technologies, Costas Handrinis, concluded that in both television and newspaper coverage, stories about Albanians were more frequently negative rather than positive. But a section of the study examining newer media found that blogs had a more mixed view of the wave of Albanian immigration which began in the early 1990s.

Before coming to this conclusion, researchers looked at all articles related to Albanians from March 2007 to March 2008 in the Greek newspapers Kathimerini, Ta Nea and Avgi. In total, one fourth of the articles published in that time period in the three papers mention-



A study has found that Greek newspapers, as well as other media, present a slanted view of Albanians. [ANA]

ing Albanians were related to criminality and within that group 75 percent of the weekend editions and 50 percent of the daily articles carried negative titles.

The findings regarding Greek television were similar. The channels investigated by the study were

NET, Mega, Antenna and Star. After 60 nightly news programs were examined for content relating to Albanians, only 2.5 percent of the reporting was found to be positive.

The Greek blogs investigated in the 12-month period yielded more

mixed results. Although here too there was a significant percentage of negative postings at 40 percent, with positive ones at the same level as the weekend editions of print media, 35 percent was actually neutral when it came to the Albanian presence in Greece.

Submit your proposal for 'Ambassadors of Hellenism'

December 1, 2008 is the deadline to submit proposals for the "Ambassadors of Hellenism" honorary title award.

The initiative was launched 12 years ago by the Prefecture of Athens and aims to honor Greek or foreign citizens, both residents of Greece or abroad who, through their work and action, promote the concept of Hellenism without economic benefits.

The candidate must be nominated by a third party and the applications must be in Greek and include a complete CV of the proposed candidate and the relevant application. A committee will first assess the

submissions and their final decision will be then be sent for approval by the Athens Prefectural Council. It should be noted that the title "Ambassadors of Hellenism" is separate from governmental diplomats or ambassadors nominated by the Foreign Ministry and the award does not imply any financial benefit.

The completed applications should be submitted to the General Secretariat of the Athens Prefecture (Ambassadors of Hellenism 2009, Attn: Cultural Directorate, Cosmos building, 125-128 Kifissias, 115 24, Athens).

The awards ceremony will take place on March 5, 2009.



Athens prefect Yiannis Sgouros and Interior Minister Prokopis Pavlopoulos during previous year's award ceremony.

For further information, call 210.699.1120 or 210.691.1274.

Photography & cinema talks

OCTOBER 29

The last in a series of lectures on the subjects of photography and cinema, under the general title "Images of the Familiar in Everyday Life," will be delivered by president and founder of the Photography Circle Platon Rivellis on October 29.

The lecture takes place at the

Hellenic American Union (2nd floor, 22 Massalias, Kolonaki). Works by celebrated directors including John Cassavetes and Nanni Moretti, as well as by revered photographers such as Sally Mann and Nicholas Nixon, will be on the discussion agenda. Attendance costs 6 euros.

For further information, call 210.368.0052 or log on to www.hau.gr.

'The Art of Writing' in Thessaloniki

TO END OF MAY

If you're interested in writing, don't miss the chance to attend a series of workshops titled "The Art of Writing," to be held every Tuesday (Level A) and Wednesday (Level B) at the Thessaloniki Olympic Sports Museum (Tritis Septemvriou & Aghiou Dimitriou). The

workshops are conducted by writer Maria Gousiou and are designed for amateurs who want to improve their skills at poetry, literature and scriptwriting. The workshops will take place from 6.30 to 8.30 p.m. and will run to the end of May.

For more information or registration, e-mail author@mariagousiou.gr or log on to www.mariagousiou.gr.

NOTICE BOARD

Turkish and Farsi at the Benaki

The Benaki Museum is launching a series of classes on the Turkish language and Ottoman writing, while a new Farsi course is being introduced to this year's program. The Turkish course will be taught by Thanos Zaragalis and the Ottoman writing and Farsi classes by Mohamed Panachi. Classes begin on October 20 and will be held every Monday at 6 p.m. at the museum's Historical Archive (38 Emmanuil Benaki & Stefanou Delta, Kifissia).

For further details regarding registration and prices, call 210.807.9878 or 210.801.1896.

UNHCR celebrates UN Day



On the occasion of United Nations Day, October 24, UNHCR-Greece will honor students who were recognized at the 2007 Panhellenic Creativity Competition for Refugee Students. The award ceremony will be held at 1 p.m. at the National Research Foundation. Additionally, there will be a photography exhibition titled "Refugees of Greece and the World," set to run until Sunday, October 26, at the NRF premises (48 Vassileos Constantinou, Athens). Events also include theater activities for children in Syntagma Square from 2 to 7 p.m. and a concert featuring Tunisia-born singer Lamia Bedioui at 7 p.m., also in Syntagma.

For further details, call 210.675.6801.

International conference on Ladino in Thessaloniki

On October 26 to 28, the 4th International Conference for the Spanish-Jewish Language (Ladino) will take place at the Jewish Community of Thessaloniki (26 Vassileos Irakleiou). It will be held in Spanish and English with simultaneous translation into Greek. Admission is free.

For more information, call 2310.275.701.

AHEPA seminar on single parenting in Volos

The American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA) and the local chapter HJ-12 Volos Rigas Feraios are holding a two-day seminar on the weekend of October 25-26 titled "Single Parent Family." Topics include the increase in the divorce rate, financial problems for single parents and more. The seminar begins on Saturday, October 25, at 5.30 p.m. at the Park Hotel in Volos (2 Deligiorgi).

For further details, call 210.353.6719 or log on to www.ahepahellas.gr.

SPORTS

BY GEORGE GEORGAKOPOULOS

One Man(tzios) show not enough

Panathinaikos has to settle for a 2-2 home draw against Werder Bremen

Panathinaikos got its first Champions League point, but also dropped two precious ones in its game with Werder Bremen on Wednesday.

The 2-2 draw at the Olympic Stadium in Athens in front of some 60,000 fans certainly does not do justice to the Greeks – who dominated play, scored two goals courtesy of Vangelis Mantzios, hit the crossbar and conceded a goal that should have been disallowed for a handball.

Controversial

Per Mertesacker scored after using his arm to control the ball

The result leaves few hopes for Panathinaikos to advance to the next round of the competition, but it will boost the confidence of the players; they may now believe they can beat the German side when they visit on Tuesday, November 4.

The hosts were by far the more threatening of the two sides and in the first half hour missed two decent chances to lead. However, a Werder free kick from the right in the 29th minute exposed the Greek defense but was handled by Per Mertesacker, who then slotted



Surefire goal: Werder Bremen keeper Christian Vander is unable to stop Vangelis Mantzios's header during Panathinaikos's 2-2 match at home against the German club. [AFP]

the ball past Panathinaikos keeper Alexandros Tzorvas. The goal stood despite the Greeks' protests to English referee Mike Riley. Just seven minutes later, though, Panathinaikos returned to level terms thanks to a cross from the right by Gabriel that Mantzios met with a looping header.

In the second half, the Greeks missed even more chances and saw their dominance translated into another goal in the 68th minute: Loukas Vintra had his effort parried by Werder keeper Christian Vander but the ball

went back to Mantzios, who performed another arching header that beat Vander again.

Werder upped its game from then on in search of an equalizer, leaving some space to Panathinaikos which almost scored a third goal when Dimitris Salpigidis's powerful strike from outside the box hit the underside of the crossbar after 73 minutes.

Nevertheless, the gaps in the Greek defense remained wide and after Tzorvas saved Panathinaikos in the 79th minute, the Germans made it 2-2 thanks to the unmarked Hugo Almeida, who headed in a cross from the left seven minutes from time.

A win would have set the Greens on the way to the next round, but the draw leaves them with a lot of work to do in the remaining three group fixtures.

"In the next three games luck may give us back what it has taken away from us. We hope so and we will be praying to the Greek gods for that," said Panathinaikos manager Henk ten Cate.

Inter Milan's 1-0 home win over Anorthosis means that Panathinaikos stands a chance of grabbing the third spot that offers a ticket to the UEFA Cup with a draw in Germany and a home win over Anorthosis, although the Cypriots are not to be taken for granted.

Champions League Group B table:

Group B standings

Inter Milan	7 pts
Anorthosis	4 pts
Werder Bremen	3 pts
Panathinaikos	1 pt

Next fixtures

November 4	
Anorthosis vs Inter Milan	
Werder vs Panathinaikos	

Test of character for Olympiakos

Reds face Aris in Thessaloniki to defend four-point lead

Olympiakos is traveling to Thessaloniki this weekend to defend its four-point lead at the top in its match with Aris.

The tricky game for the Reds on Sunday, just three days after their visit to Turkey to play Galatasaray for the UEFA Cup, will be against a side still trying to find its stride.

The champion is coming from a straightforward home win over Panthrakikos (2-0), while Aris suffered a 2-1 loss to Panionios, its fourth of the season after six games. Uruguay's Alvaro Recoba and Fabian Estoyanoff shone for Panionios in what was their debut game for the club.

AEK suffered a shock loss of points at home against Larissa as it conceded an equalizer in injury time (1-1). It will

now make the short trip to Fyli, in northwestern Attica, to face Thrasyvoulos, which scored its first win last Sunday beating OFI, already in hot water, 3-1 in Crete.

PAOK and Panathinaikos shared a goalless draw in Thessaloniki and are now having relatively easier home games against Levadiakos and Iraklis respectively.

Ergotelis will be hosting Panionios in a bid to maintain its unbeaten record, after its 0-0 draw at Iraklis. The clashes of Levadiakos against Xanthi and Panserraikos vs Asteras Tripolis ended with the same result.

The other fixtures this weekend, October 25 and 26, are Larissa vs Panthrakikos, Asteras Tripolis vs OFI and Xanthi vs Panserraikos.

Super League table

	Club	Gms	Pts
1	Olympiakos	6	16
2	PAOK	6	12
3	Xanthi	6	11
4	Larissa	6	11
5	Panathinaikos	5	10
6	Ergotelis	5	9
7	AEK	6	9
8	Levadiakos	6	8
9	Panionios	6	8
10	Panserraikos	6	7
11	Aris	6	6
12	Asteras Tr.	6	6
13	Panthrakikos	6	4
14	Thrasyvoulos	6	3
15	Iraklis	6	3
16	OFI Crete	6	3

ON TV

SPORT/TIME CHANNEL

SATURDAY

14.00	Everton vs Man. Utd	NS1
14.30	Hamilton vs Rangers	Sport+
15.00	Ethnikos vs Kavala	ET3
16.30	Hannover vs Werder	NS1
16.45	Larissa vs Panthrakikos	Alpha
19.00	Asteras T. vs OFI	NET
19.00	PAOK vs Levadiakos	NS1
21.30	Juventus vs Torino	NS1
23.00	Eindhoven vs Roda	Sport+

BASKETBALL

21.00	Malaga vs Badalona	Sport+
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SUNDAY

SOCCER

15.30	Ajax vs Nijmegen	Sport+
16.45	Panathinaikos vs Iraklis	NET
16.45	Ergotelis vs Panionios	NS1
17.30	Feyenoord vs Heerenveen	Sport+
19.00	Aris vs Olympiakos	NET
19.00	Thrasyvoulos vs AEK	NS1
19.30	Celtic vs Hibernian	Sport+

MOTOR RACING

14.30	Valencia GP	ET3
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BASKETBALL

13.30	Real Madrid vs Sevilla	Sport+
16.00	AEK vs Panionios	Antenna
17.00	Olympia vs Olympiakos	ET1

MONDAY

18.30	Olympiakos V. vs Apollon K.	ET3
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IN BRIEF

PAO strides into Euroleague

Panathinaikos

opened its Euroleague challenge on Wednesday, October 22, with an easy home win over Zalgiris Kaunas. The hosts were up against a club with numerous financial problems and won 78-51 in front of as many as



15,000 fans in Athens. Panellinios advanced to the next round of the Euro cup with two wins over Germany's Telekom Bonn. It will face Kiev from Ukraine next for a place in the group stage of the competition.

A fencing star is born

Seventeen-year-old Greek fencing champion Despina Georgiadou won the bronze medal at the World Juniors Epee Cup in Ponte de Sor, Portugal, on Saturday, October 18. Georgiadou, the youngest of the semifinals' quartet, actually got close to reaching the final but was narrowly beaten by the eventual gold medalist, Italy's Margherita Guzzi. This is the first season that the Panellinios athlete has competed in the Juniors category.

Greek handball in a rut



European reality has hit Greek handball hard, with domestic clubs suffering one loss after another in the continent's competitions. Doukas added a third loss after as many games with its 42-21 home thrashing by Ciudad Real in the Champions League group stage. Panellinios suffered two losses to Russia's Kaustik Volgograd in the Cup Winners' Cup and GAS Kilkis had the same fate at the hands of Serbia's Kolubara Lazarevac in the EHF Cup.

Hoopsters get second chance

Kavala's basketball club has been given new hope of entering the top flight, as the league's organizer ESAKE decided on Wednesday to grant the northern club an extension until Thursday, October 30, for it to obtain the permit required from the Professional Sports Commission (EEA). If Kavala again fails to produce the permit, the league will continue with just 13 clubs, ESAKE decided.

Craig Rocastle talks to Athens Plus about playing abroad for the first time and adapting to life in Greece

Englishman takes to Greek soccer

BY GEORGE GEORGAKOPOULOS

Thrasylvoulos Fylis has just celebrated its first ever win in soccer's top division, no less than a 3-1 away triumph at OFI Crete. After five losses, the club from northeast Attica has scored its first goals and points and has renewed its hopes of avoiding relegation.

Among the players who contributed to that historic win was an Englishman, Craig Rocastle, in just his second game for the club since arriving in the summer.

It is the 27-year-old midfielder's first year in Greece after spells at Chelsea, Oldham, Port Vale, Sheffield Wednesday, Hibernian and other British clubs. This is the first time he has moved abroad and he seems to have taken to the experience quite well so far. He spoke to Athens Plus about his club, his personal goals and his life in Greece.

Career highlight

'I have always wanted to play in Europe and my dream is fulfilled'

Fast pace

'The games in Greece are more end-to-end, from keeper to keeper, whereas in England they are a bit more slow'

You are classified as an Englishman but you hail from Grenada, don't you?

Yes, my father is from Grenada; they actually want me to play for them, but I haven't yet.

What was it that made you leave Britain and choose Greece?

From the time I was at Chelsea, I was surrounded by European players and I have always wanted to play in Europe. Last summer the agency I am with fulfilled that dream. There were plenty of clubs that were interested at the time so I thought I'd have a look. I came out here and I liked it. I went straight to the training center in Karpenisi; people greeted me well and it was a really good experience.

Coaching is very different of course, but that's something you have to accept when you go to a different country. They have their pluses and their negatives, but they are nice and warm people here. They all come to speak to me and try to speak as much English as possible to make me feel more comfortable. They found me a home and gave me everything I asked for, so I'm happy here.

How does soccer in Greece compare with that in England?

The games in Greece are more end-to-end, from keeper to keeper, whereas in England they are a bit slower; the atmosphere in Greece, in the Super League, is



Thrasylvoulos coach Sakis Tsiolis hugs Craig Rocastle after the club's win at Iraklion, Crete, over OFI last Sunday. [Action Images]



Craig Rocastle suggested in his interview with Athens Plus that coming to Greece and landing a contract to play in the Super League has been the best moment in his career so far. [Action Images]

10 times better than in England. Every team in Greece has its songs and band and drums and noise. No need to complain about the noise!

Where would you like to move after Thrasylvoulos? Perhaps another Greek club, back to England or abroad again?

Maybe... we'll see. I would like to play in Europe, so England really is in the back of my mind now. If I stay in Greece it will be good. If I move it will be good, too. I don't miss home; it's cold by the way.

How do you rate Thrasylvoulos's chances of staying up?

We've got a decent chance. All the people around the club have faith, the manager believes in the players, the players are now starting to believe they are good enough to be here and I am sure that we are good enough to stay in the Super League. The message we have from the club is to do well and stick together, to support each other and be good. We were a bit unlucky with certain results, but now we can look up. We missed a lot of chances in previous games but on Sunday we won at last.

Up next you have a tough home game against AEK this Sunday. What can we expect from Thrasylvoulos?

A solid performance. We are

the underdogs, so the pressure is not really on us. We want to play well, while AEK wants to come to us and get a result.

What has been the highlight of your career so far?

So far it has been coming to Greece and getting a contract to play at the Super League. I've been at Chelsea and in the Scottish Premier League, but this was a major turn in my life because you don't really see many English players going abroad. I also like it here because it is the style of soccer I like to play. One of the highlights for me was when I made my debut with Thrasylvoulos at Xanthi.

Did you feel that the challenge for you playing here was greater than in the Scottish league?

It's very similar. The difference is that I played for Hibernian, a club with a big history, and I now play for a club that is trying to make history.

How do you cope with living in Athens? Do you like it?

Yes, I do. It is very nice and very different. In Britain there are a lot of things you can't do because it is always cold; over here you can see things and do things and train a bit later in the day. You can go out in the morning and all. I'll get to know the language and I'll be up there!



After the wedding, guests are invited to plant a tree in their name to celebrate their friends' new life together.

Changing customs for a world in transition

More Greek couples offering trees instead of traditional sugared almonds at weddings

BY YIANNIS ELAFROS

When **Marianthi Miniati** and Michalis Papayiannis got married last July, it was a traditional Greek church wedding in every way but one. It was held at the village church in Nea Skioni on the Halkidiki peninsula, near Papayiannis' home in Paliouri—the only village in the area to escape the wildfires of summer 2006. However, instead of the usual sugared almonds given out after the ceremony, guests were presented with a printed invitation to join the couple in October to plant some 700 saplings on a fire-ravaged mountainside.

On Sunday, October 26, the couple, who live and work in Brussels, will be leading the effort.

"Every time we visit the area we see that instead of new trees (because of delays by municipalities, prefectures and forestry service), the only things springing up on the mountain are new buildings," said Papayiannis.

The couple heard about a firm, the first of its kind in Greece, which gives individuals the opportunity to plant anything from one tree up to thousands of them.

"Our friends and relatives loved the idea," said Miniati. "The trees



Marianthi Miniati and Michalis Papayiannis linked their wedding (and the baptism of their son on the same day) with a tree-planting ceremony.

Folk revival In some villages, a family would plant a tree for every child born

are being planted now as it is the right time of year. We invited our 700 wedding guests to join us, as we want to help mobilize people and raise public awareness. We have had a wonderful response."

Each tree planted bears a label with the name of a guest, who is sent regular progress reports of the tree's progress.

Each planting is based on a

horticultural study (including recommended species) approved by the forestry service and local municipality, as everything depends not just on the planting, but maintenance as well.

"We had the full cooperation of the Municipality of Pallini, which will be watering the saplings," said Papayiannis.

"More and more couples are turning to reforestation as a way of celebrating their marriage or the baptism of a child," said Panos Valambous-Kountouras, 37, who, along with Constantinos Nikitiadis, 30, set up the firm Plant a Tree about a year and a half ago.

For her daughter's eighth birthday party, Klairi Margeli took the children to one of her daughter's favorite outdoor places.

"We wanted to do something different from the usual 'packaged' children's parties. So we thought of planting 30 trees on Mt Paneio, at Kalyvia, Attica, as part of a picnic some time in November," said Margeli. "It's important for children to learn to love nature. That way they learn another way of life."

The idea isn't a new one. In many villages in Greece, a tree was often planted after the birth of a child, a custom that has been forgotten along with a general respect

for nature. Now it is slowly becoming recognized again as a need.

"Our main purpose is to offer our services to individuals or companies that want to be part of the reforestation effort but don't know how to go about it," said Valambous-Kountouras.

The firm has already planted 2,000 trees, with 1,000 more scheduled for planting by individuals and a total of 19,000 by two firms. Corporations see it as an opportunity for "green" marketing. For example, an optical firm will be offering a tree for every three pairs of glasses bought.

For weddings and for individual efforts, the cost is about 7 euros per tree, for firms 12 euros.

Planting a single tree is more expensive (as Plant a Tree undertakes to maintain it for three years) at 20 euros for small trees and 35 euros for larger ones.

The firm is pioneering the green market in Greece.

"It might simply be fashion for some people," said Miniati, "but at least the environment is benefiting and it shows that every person can do some things on their own."



For more information, visit www.plant-a-tree.gr.

IN BRIEF

Project to breathe new life into National Gardens

Athens's National Gardens, between Syntagma Square and the Panathenaic Stadium, are to be given a boost in a joint project that will see more trees and shrubs planted, but also new infrastructure such as fencing, lighting and watering systems. The project brings together the National Gardens governing board chairman, Yiannis Costopoulos, National Technical University of Athens dean Constantinos Moutzouris and former Mayor of Athens Theodoros Behrakis. The 170-year-old park, created after the modern Greek state was established, was taken over by the City of Athens in October 2004. Over the past two to three years, 700 trees, 1,750 shrubs, 150 trailing plants, 320 rose bushes and 1,300 ground-cover species have been planted, the first in 25 years, according to Mayor Nikitas Kaklamanis, who announced the project last week. "Sixty-four trees, 1,057 shrubs and 675 underbrush plants will be planted this year," he said. The new infrastructure includes fencing around the site, special soil to replace the asphalt footpaths, lighting, roads, pavements, squares, safety equipment, electrical,



plumbing and sewage networks, watering, bore and irrigation systems, wells, a water filter, environmentally friendly cleaning methods, a telephone network and a security network. Buildings in the zoo are to be maintained, the playground expanded and modernized and the botanic museum refurbished. The cost of the project, estimated at 7.5 million euros, is to be met by the Athens Prefecture.

Wastewater put to good use

Treated wastewater from the sewage processing plant on the islet of Psyttaleia, just off Piraeus, is to be used to water young trees on Mt Pikilo and Mt Aegaleo, western Athens, the environment association of the municipalities of Athens and Piraeus has announced. About 250,000 cubic meters of water daily will be channeled to parts of the mountains that have been reforested. Some may go to the Thriasio Plain for crops, if agreement is reached with the Athens Water Supply and Sewerage Company (EYDAP).

Vistonida to be protected

Lake Vistonida in northern Greece has been officially designated a protected area, according to a joint ministerial decree on a 72,700-hectare Eastern Macedonia and Thrace National Park that has just been published in the Government Gazette. The national park, one of the largest in Greece, also includes the Nestos River delta and Ismarida Lake.

Custo Dalmau Spanish designer and Custo Barcelona co-founder talks about his brand and the industry

Mixing strong colors and bold graphics



[Panoulis]

BY ELIS KISS

“In the Mediterranean, men understand color,” says Custo Dalmau, co-founder of Custo Barcelona, the Spanish apparel brand defined by strong shades and bold graphics.

In town to bring the eighth edition of Greek fashion week, the Vodafone Athens Collections, to a grand finale, Dalmau and his team presented a catwalk show previously shown at New York Fashion Week in September, though the Athens show did include three new looks.

The Spanish label has been going strong for eight years in Greece, represented by forward-looking apparel company Shop & Trade.

“With all that is going on culturally and globally, in the end it’s all becoming a fusion and I think our project is a kind of fusion; we like to fuse colors, graphics and materials,” Athens Plus was told by Dalmau, who along with his brother David created the brand in the early 1980s.

A melange of California living, touches of psychedelia and a creative emphasis on innovative graphics, Custo Barcelona started off with T-shirts and now includes full-scale, ready-to-wear for women and men – all the way to coats.

It’s been a long road from the all-time classic, invariably white T-shirt to the bright world of Custo Barcelona, a reminder of the power of casual wear, which suits all those young at heart.

These are challenging times for this kind of style, with upscale casual wear exploding in various ways; think brands like Diesel, for instance, all targeting an up-market clientele looking for quality cool wear, far away from the little black cocktail dress.

“This is reasonable luxury,” said Dalmau of the Spanish brand.



Born Angel Custodio Dalmau Salmon in Tremp, Lleida, in 1959, Dalmau grew up in Barcelona, where he studied architecture. Following his and his brother’s adventures across the United States, the siblings founded their company in Spain.

Custo Barcelona’s flamboyant take reflects a certain Iberian vivacity. But how Spanish is the brand?

“We sell more out of Spain than inside the country. I see our project as part of the Spanish scene, but I have been traveling since I was 10 years old,” noted Dalmau. “In Spain we don’t have powerful runways as in Milan and New York. We are looking for international projection and we started showing there in 1997.”

Back home, however, the brand seems to have developed a school of style, which fellow Spanish brands appear to follow.

“They don’t follow, they copy. It’s flattering, but when people take advantage of your work I consider this more like bad competition than something flattering,” commented Dalmau, adding: “I think the consumer

Custo Dalmau (above) at the end of the Custo Barcelona show at the Technopolis complex on October 12.

[Panoulis]



‘Crises are the end of cycles and I am convinced that this one will start a new one and that those with a vision of the new cycle will probably be reinforced’



[Panoulis]

now has much more information than 10 or 20 years ago. He is getting smarter and getting more demanding. That means that every time the bar is raised and in order to survive in this extremely competitive market you have to do a lot of things right.”

How is the current financial crisis affecting the brand?

“This situation affects everything, but I think that crises are the end of cycles and I am convinced that this one will start a new one and that those with a vision of the new cycle will probably be reinforced.”

Yet besides company accounts, could the current mood be reflected in a more somber, creative take next season, for instance?

“I think it will affect the way you produce the product,” said Dalmau. “You have to be more accurate about quality and prices. But, in our case, I don’t think it will change the direction of our style.”

While a team of six designers focuses on the men’s and women’s collections, things get positively busy in the graphic design department, where the company works with various artists – about 1,000 graphics are created per collection and the company thrives on putting forward works belonging to different styles.

“Technology is increasingly very important when it comes to the fabrics. We have new processes; you can do printing in many ways and after printing, you have finished processes which give you a new language in fashion,” he said. “Digital printing was very big seven or eight years ago. Now there are even more sophisticated ways of doing it.



[Panoulis]

We like to mix something highly technological with something handmade.”

Custo Barcelona production takes place in Spain – for more elaborate and sophisticated work – along with Italy, Portugal, Turkey, Peru, Thailand and some components also being made in India.

“There is also a new language in the fibers, for instance, fibers are now coming from recycled paper, bamboo, corn and milk – new actors taking on new roles in fashion,” noted the designer.

As a fashion player commuting frequently between Europe and the United States, how does Dalmau view the two continents in terms of fashion culture?

“In America, fashion is much more closely related to what is known as a trend and marketing is a very powerful tool,” he pointed out. “Marketing is very important in Europe as well, but here the consumer takes into consideration the product itself.”

It is the United States, however, which gave the brand its definitive, international boost. Things unfolded naturally, said Dalmau, with stylists picking out pieces for the casts of “Friends” and “Sex and the City,” among others. Today, fans include Brad Pitt, Julia Roberts and Penelope Cruz.

“The celebrity scene helped us a lot in developing the business, especially in America. It’s the best marketing, it really is a mirror of the entire country. But we don’t send any checks.”



‘The consumer now has much more information than 10 or 20 years ago. He is getting smarter and getting more demanding. That means that every time the bar is raised and in order to survive in this extremely competitive market you have to do a lot of things right’

Choreographer brings sci-fi 'Marco Polo' to Greece

Avant-garde movement, Italian, Farsi and Mandarin Chinese tunes and futuristic animation visuals are some of the elements that make up "Marco Polo," the latest production from the Marie-Claude Pietragalla dance company.

Premiering during the Beijing Olympics, the Pietragalla Compagnie's "Marco Polo" has also traveled to various other Chinese cities and is scheduled to open in Paris in March 2009. Among its various stops around the globe, the production will be at the Thessaloniki Concert Hall on November 2, as part of the Dimitria Festival.

In search of his own identity on the Silk Road, Venetian adventurer Marco Polo takes on a futuristic dimension within the production's robotic, sci-fi atmosphere. Based on the 13th-century explorer's experiences, the work is also a study on the isolation brought on by industrial society.

Beside Pietragalla, Julien Deroualt takes on the role of Marco Polo – the two worked closely on the production. Armand Amar, an Israeli-born composer worked with traditional Farsi and Chinese tunes to develop the work's original musical score.



Star career

Born in 1962, Marie-Claude Pietragalla studied at the Paris Opera Ballet School before joining the Paris Opera Ballet in 1979. Having risen to the highest rank of "étoile" in 1990, she was subsequently appointed director of the Ballet National de Marseilles in 1998.

With her singular presence on stage – which often includes theatrical elements – the artist is also noted for her appearances in contemporary works, including collaborations with Maurice Bejart, William Forsythe, Roland Petit, Jiri Kylian, Mats Ek, Merce Cunningham, Maguy Marin, Jerome Robbins and Bob Wilson.

When she took over the direction of the National Ballet of Marseilles along with the Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Danse, she succeeded the legendary Roland Petit. At the company, she is known for taking classic repertory works and giving them a fresh spin.

In the late 1980s, Pietragalla turned to choreography herself, fusing various elements of dance into what she herself describes as "body theater." Bringing together classical and contemporary disciplines, Pietragalla is known for including dancers stemming from the worlds of hip-hop and capoeira, among other dance genres.

In the case of "Marco Polo" the idea behind the production belongs to fashion designer Pierre Cardin, whose ties to China reach back decades. Cardin also produced the show.

Dimitria Festival

What to see in the final stretch

Opera, jazz, dance, rock, visual art exhibitions and more bring Thessaloniki's biggest cultural event to a close

Uli's gold
The former guitarist with legendary 70s rockers the Scorpions will play some of the hits that made the band famous

With the **International Fair** over and the city's film festival coming up in mid-November, Thessaloniki's residents and visitors can focus on the 43rd Dimitria Festival, as it enters its final stretch over the next few weeks.

The Dimitria is Thessaloniki's biggest annual cultural event and one of its longest running, yet it remains a bit befuddling as it stretches over several months, covers over 20 venues, includes everything from small local productions to internationally acclaimed artists and seems to be lacking in the way of any coordinated public information effort. However, for residents of Thessaloniki, who often miss out on quality international acts that prefer to travel to the capital further south, the Dimitria Festival goes a long way toward making up for this void.

Having opened with a stellar performance by Dame Kiri Te Kanawa at the open-air Gis Theater on September 8 and composer Zbigniew Preisner conducting various ensembles in his works a day later, the festival is coming to a close with a medley of a little bit of everything.

For the classically minded, the 150th anniversary of Giacomo Puccini's birth is to be celebrated with a gala performance at the Thessaloniki Con-



New Age musician and composer Kitaro, who will be performing at the Thessaloniki Concert Hall October 25.

cert Hall on November 5, featuring tenor Carlo Baccelli and soprano Sophia Vogiatzoglou-Mitropoulou in arias from "La Bohème," "Tosca," "Madame Butterfly," "Turandot" and more, while a few days later, on November 14, 38-year-old German pianist Lars Vogt will join the Thessaloniki State Orchestra at the same venue to present works by Beethoven, Schumann and Tchaikovsky.

If it's something more contemporary

you're looking for, don't miss Japanese New Age musician and composer Kitaro, who will be performing at the Thessaloniki Concert Hall following an appearance in Athens on October 25. The three-time Grammy winner's show, which lasts some two-and-a-half hours, begins with a career-spanning set in the first part, followed by a presentation of his latest album, "Sacred Journey Of Ku-Kai Vol 3." This promises to be a thrilling experience, combining the cutting edge of musical technology with traditional winds and strings.

Rockers can head for the Principal Theater on November 2 for a trip down memory lane with former Scorpions guitarist Uli Roth (at Athens's Fuzz Club the previous day), who will play many of the songs he wrote to make the band famous in its heyday in the 70s. He is joined by Liz Vandall and Mark Boals on vocals, Michael Ehre from Metalium on drums, Corvin Bahn on keyboards, Niklas Turmann on guitar and Lars Lehmann on bass.

There is plenty more to look forward to and Athens Plus has selected a few of the highlights for the coming weeks.

For tickets and information on venues, log on to www.dimitriathess.gr.

Papaloukas and Ghikas draw art lovers

A **variety** of visual arts exhibitions make up a large part of the annual Dimitria Festival. "Spyros Papaloukas: 1915-1956," which is on display at Thessaloniki's Municipal Cultural Center (Kleantous & Lambraki, Toumba, tel 2310.425.531) through November 9 is among the largest and most important of these.

Organized in collaboration with the B&M Theocharakis Foundation for the Visual Arts and Music – which opened last year with a large exhibition on Papaloukas – and drawn from the foundation's permanent collection, the show unravels the work of one of the most important early modern painters in 20th-century Greek art.

Spyros Papaloukas (1892-1957) is known for his skillful and luminous de-



scription of light and color, while the Greek landscape provided him with a constant source of inspiration. "The vision of the Greek landscape develops simply, calmly and clearly, in a way that is met neither in the East nor the West," he wrote.

His work borders on abstraction. He was influenced by the French group Les Nabis, but was also greatly interested in

the precepts of Byzantine art. His landscapes of Mount Athos are among the most evocative paintings.

Curated by Takis Mavrotas, the Dimitria Festival exhibition includes a representative sample of his work and ranges from portraiture, landscapes and still-lives.

An exhibition at the Municipal Gallery (162 Vassilissis Olgas, tel 2310.425.531) focuses on the work of Nikos Hadjikyriakos-Ghikas (1906-1994), another classic name in

the history of 20th-century Greek art. Ghikas is a prominent member of the so-called Thirties Generation of Greek painters. His work is much influenced by cubism and the international movements of modern art during the inter-war period.

The exhibition is organized by the Benaki Museum and runs through December 10.

THE EVENT



SPOTLIGHT
BY GEORGE KOLYVAS

Natacha Atlas, the epitome of multiculturalism

The daughter of a Jerusalem-born father, with Moroccan, Egyptian, Jewish and Palestinian ancestry and a British mother who converted to Islam, it is no surprise that singer Natacha Atlas eventually injected her background's uncommon diversity into her work.

The artist, a prime figure on the world music circuit who epitomizes the style's all-encompassing approach to multiculturalism, returns to Greece for two shows following a number of previous performances here.

She begins with a date at Aristotle University in Thessaloniki on October 29 as part of the 20th Ethno-Jazz Festival. Atlas then performs in Athens on the following night at the Fuzz Club.

Atlas emerged on the world music circuit in the early 90s – a time when ethnic fusion, usually Eastern-driven, had begun to appeal to wider audiences in Western markets – through a collaboration with similar-minded British act Transglobal Underground. Both were releasing work on the same label.

Atlas, whose early performing activity involved working as a belly dancer and singing with a salsa band, went on to become Transglobal Underground's singer – and belly dancer.

Her addition injected a sultry element to the act's overall package, which specializes in mixing Eastern and Western sounds, including beat-driven electronica. Over the years, Atlas has also released several albums as a solo artist, mostly in association with Transglobal Underground members as her production team.

Atlas, who grew up in a Moroccan-influenced suburb of Brussels, then moved to the UK with her mother after her parents separated, today considers the Belgian capital to be her base.

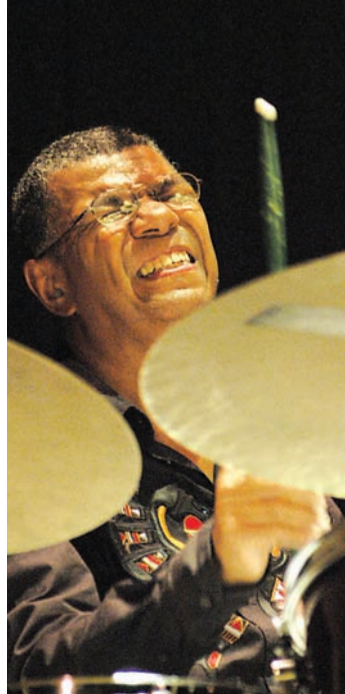
Seven years ago, the cultural tolerance manifested by her work prompted the United Nations to name Atlas a Goodwill Ambassador Against Racism.

At the time, the international body noted that "she embodies the message that there is a strength in diversity; that our differences – be they ethnic, racial or religious – are a source of riches to be embraced rather than feared."

Atlas, who considers herself a Muslim with an interest in Sufism, a mystical tradition of the religion, has asserted that she remains open to other forms of spirituality because "it is important to be tolerant."

Besides her work with Transglobal Underground, Atlas has released a series of solo albums, including this year's "Ana Hina."

Percussionist Jack DeJohnette will bring the Ethno-Jazz Festival to a close with a bang.



Ethno-jazz event lures global acts

The Ethno-Jazz Festival, part of the Dimitria, is a well-established event which began on October 23 and runs to November 9. It has a fascinating lineup this year.

Following an appearance by Natacha Atlas, French, Iranian and Greek ensemble On-Eira is set to take the stage on October 30. Seeking a common denominator in the musical traditions of different parts of the Mediterranean, the act offers its own touch to the region's sounds.

The following day will see Blaine L. Reininger performing at the Aristoteleion venue. Guitarist and composer Reininger, a co-founder of the New Wave act Tuxedomoon, will join forces with local jazzman Tilemachos Moussas for a program of classic and alternative love songs and various hits from the 1980s.

Featuring an all-star cast comprising Bobby Watson, Chico Freeman (who is back after performing

the first concert of the festival), Ray Anderson, Fred Harris, Buster Williams and Michael Baker, jazz group the Leaders will give just one concert on November 1 at the Aristoteleion. The group, originally formed in the 1980s, explores the genre, giving its own definition to free jazz.

Four-time Grammy Award winner Dianne Reeves will show off her velvety voice at the Vellideio on November 2. One of the top jazz vocalists internationally, her work features numerous albums, including the award-winning soundtrack of George Clooney's film "Good Night, and Good Luck," in which she also stars.

Next up is the City of Athens Big Band, scheduled to perform on November 4 at the Aristoteleion Theater. The band will play jazz classics by Benny Goodman, Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington and

Glenn Miller, to mention but a few, as well as more recent creations, some by Greek composers.

Eccentric and highly popular songwriter Tonino Carotone will be joined by Italian act Arpioni for a show at the Aristoteleion on November 5. A frequent visitor to Greece, Carotone has a distinctive way of commenting on anything, always with his humorous touch.

American percussionist Jack DeJohnette will close this year's Ethno-Jazz Festival, with his show at the Vellideio on November 9. Having reached international acclaim as a young member of Charles Lloyd's band together with Keith Jarrett, DeJohnette has collaborated with numerous jazz personalities such as Miles Davis, Bill Evans and Gary Peacock. He will be joined by South African ethnic vocalist Sibongile Khumalo, with whom he has been working since 2007.

ARTS

BY ALEXANDRA KOROXENIDIS

Stretching the limits of a medium

A parallel presentation of the work of artists Ulrich Ruckriem and David Claerbout is on display at the temporary home of the National Museum of Contemporary Art



Belgian artist David Claerbout works with photography and video while the older German artist Ulrich Ruckriem is known for his monumental stone sculptures and large drawings.

The two artists differ not only in generation but also in artistic influence: Claerbout by photography as well as digital and new media art and Ruckriem by conceptual and process art. However, Claerbout and Ruckriem do have something in common. They experiment with their primary medium and reverse its con-

From a different point of view

Ruckriem's drawings are a portrayal of the shadows that his sculptures cast on the grounds

ventional use. Claerbout overturns the notion of photography by combining the still and the moving image while Ruckriem translates the solidity and massiveness of his sculptures into two-dimensional drawings.

This shared trait and both artists' preference for monumental scale link the two solo exhibitions organized by the National Museum of Contemporary Art. The shows, which opened recently, are on display at the

museum's most recent temporary premises at the Athens Conservatory, a space much better suited for contemporary art exhibits compared to the museum's former stop-gap premises at the Athens Concert Hall.

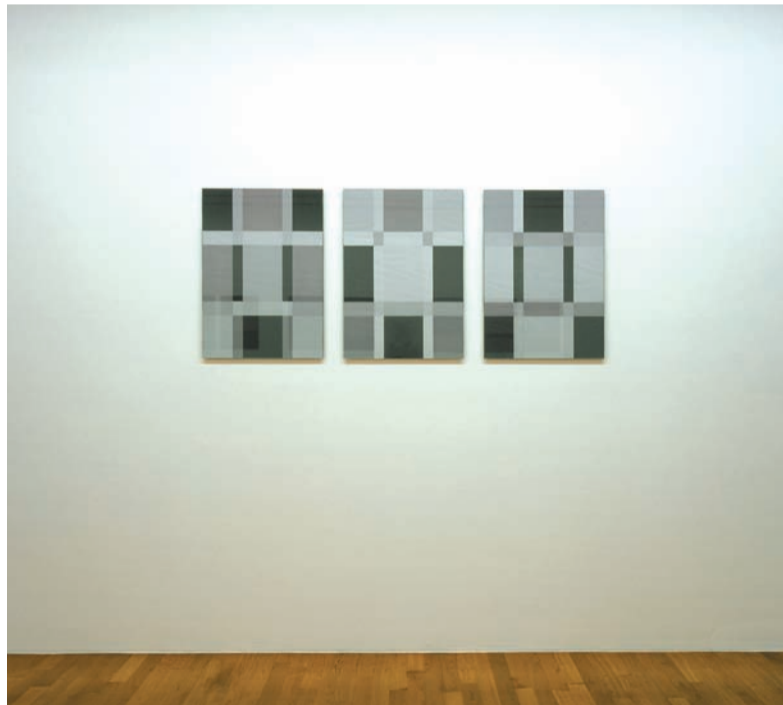
An established 40-year-old artist based in Antwerp and Berlin, David Claerbout brings together photography, video and film and blurs the line between the still and moving image. He chooses still photographs which he digitizes. He then animates each picture by setting selected parts in motion. The outcome is projected on a large screen. The Athens exhibition includes eight works made between 1996 and the present.

Among them is "Shadow Piece" from 2005. The black-and-white image shows the interior of a locked office building. From inside the building, the viewer sees people trying to get in, pushing against the closed doors. Though the hours pass, the shadows of the glass doors remain unaltered. As with most of his images, Claerbout has instilled an element of paradox in this piece as well.

Claerbout's work is an investigation of temporality. By incorporating movement in an image, the artist upsets the notion of the photograph as a recorded moment frozen in time and brings the past into the present. The sensation this creates is at times odd.



A still from David Claerbout's video installation 'Long Goodbye' (2007) is pictured above (courtesy of the artist). Below: Three drawings by German artist Ulrich Ruckriem, who also creates monumental stone sculptures.



'Untitled,' by Ulrich Ruckriem (2008).

ings are variations of the same idea: They depict the lines on the surface of Ruckriem's stone sculptures or the ground plan of an exhibition space. They can also be a portrayal of the shadows that the sculptures cast on the ground.

In "Shadows of the Stone," an installation on the ground level of the exhibition, the artist translates something as intangible as shadow into geometric configurations.

Ruckriem does not think of his drawings as subsidiary to his sculptures or as preparatory works but as a complementary and autonomous body of work. In her essay for the exhibition's catalog, curator Tina Pandi notes that Ruckriem's use of drawing as a primary expressive tool is rooted in conceptual art, where process and concept are as important as the final work. Pandi also compares Ruckriem's drawings to the "Wall Drawings" of Sol LeWitt or Gordon Matta-Clark's "Cut Drawings."

Though far more austere than Claerbout's photo and video installations, Ruckriem's sculptures do, however, share the same concern with time. They are about process and observation, the study of a sculpture's shadows, surface and shape. Like Claerbout's images, they are about viewing a certain medium – photography in the case of Claerbout and sculpture with Ruckriem – from an unusual angle.

USEFUL INFO

The David Claerbout exhibit will run through December 7, while "Ulrich Ruckriem: Shadows of the Stone" will be open through November 30. Both are organized by the National Museum of Contemporary Art (www.emst.gr) and are on display at the Athens Conservatory (17-19 Vassileos Georgiou, tel 210.924.111). Open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays to Sundays 11 a.m. - 7 p.m., Thursdays 11 a.m. - 10 p.m. The exhibition is supplemented by a catalog with texts by Daphne Vitali and Tina Pandi, curators of the National Museum of Contemporary Art.

The motion is gentle and occurs slowly. In certain images it is so gradual as to become almost unnoticeable, unless the viewer pays attention for a long time. It is yet another way of making the viewer more attentive to the notion of time.

A problem with the Claerbout exhibition is its acoustic backdrop, a melancholy, ongoing melody that instead of accentuating the lyrical aspect of his work, detracts from its force.

Compared to Claerbout's work, Ruckriem's drawings appear far less lyrical and more cerebral. The 90 large drawings on paper that date from the mid-90s to the present and are included in the Athens exhibit employ a basic geometric language and look like diagrams of vertical and horizontal lines. The lines shape into monochromatic planes, all rendered in hues of black and gray. The draw-

Revival of landmark choreography premieres in Greece

The Martha Graham Dance Company celebrates the 50-year anniversary of 'Clytemnestra' at the Athens Concert Hall

A world premiere marks the beginning of the Athens Concert Hall's dance series for this season. The revival of Martha Graham's legendary 1958 choreography "Clytemnestra" opened on October 23, with performances running to Saturday, October 25.

Due to great demand, the Martha Graham Dance Company will give two additional afternoon performances on Friday and Saturday (October 24 and 25), at 3 p.m.

The Athens performances come two months before the US premiere, set to take place at the Kennedy Center in Washington in December.

"Clytemnestra" is based on the myth of the tragic ancient Greek figure of the same name, who ends up killing her husband, King Agamemnon, upon his return from the war in Troy.

This is not only Graham's longest ballet, but also one of her trademark choreographies, as it incorporates several of her innovative techniques.

The original premiere featured Graham herself in the leading role, at the age of 64.

Going deep into the psyche of the Greek queen, Graham had said that "Clytemnestra is every woman when



Tragic character
'Clytemnestra is every woman when she kills'



she kills."

The ballet's revival, marking the 50-year anniversary of its first premiere, retains Graham's choreography as well as her costumes.

The music is by Egyptian composer Halim El-Dabh, the sets by American-Japanese sculptor Isamu Noguchi and the lights by the trailblazing Jean Rosenthal.

The anniversary celebration will further include a world tour, which will start from Washington and move on to New York, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Berlin, Paris, London, Sydney, Melbourne, Beijing and Tokyo, among other cities.

Graham founded the Martha Graham Dance Company in 1926. Not only is it the oldest US contemporary dance company, but it also still ranks as one of the best worldwide.

It continues to captivate dance critics, who have praised it as "one of the great companies of the world" (Anna Kisselgoff, former chief dance critic for The New York Times) and "one of the seven wonders of the



The dance company will be presenting the magic of its founder's innovative techniques until Saturday.

[John Deane]

among its numerous guest collaborators.

Today, the company is run by executive director LaRue Allen and artistic director Janet Eilber.

Graham, widely considered the pioneer of contemporary dance, was born in Pittsburgh in 1894.

When she was a teenager, her family moved to California which is where she came into contact with dance for the first time and decided to become a dancer.

Graham's passion for dance is well attested: She performed until well into her 70s and said that without dancing her life had no meaning.

She was also a remarkable teacher – she founded the Martha Graham School of Contemporary Dance – as well as choreographer.

She choreographed 181 works, highlights of which include the 1929 "Heretic," "Appalachian Spring" (1944), "Clytemnestra" (1958), "Phaedra" (1962) and many more.

artistic universe" (Alan M. Kriegsman, Washington Post).

The company, which has performed in Athens in the past, has toured some of the biggest stages around the world, including the Metropolitan Opera, the Paris Opera House and Covent Garden in London.

Its members have included Merce Cunningham, Paul Taylor, Pascal Rioult and Pearl Lang, while dancers such as Mikhail Baryshnikov, Margot Fonteyn and Rudolf Nureyev rank

ⓘ Athens Concert Hall (1 Kokkali & Vas. Sofias, tel 210.728.2333). Shows start at 8.30 p.m. and 3 p.m.

A priest and a vampire: Dark deeds at the Amphi-Theater

BY VIVIENNE NILAN

A novice priest and a vampire – it's a titillating tale, and one that has been a great success for the Amphi-Theater company. Taken from 19th-century French writer Theophile Gautier's novella, "La Morte amoureuse," and repackaged for an early 21st-century Athenian audience, "Erotevmeni nekri" is back for a third season of just 23 performances.

Director Katerina Evangelatou has made some smart decisions. First there is the talented young cast. Stefania Gouliouis is delectable as Clarimonde. Tassos Dardaganis and Christos Malakis, both playing the young priest and each taking two more parts, with Nikolas Papayianis as Romuald, are active to the point of acrobatic, zooming up and down ladders, sometimes headfirst in both



The priest is slow to suspect the proclivities of the beautiful Clarimonde.



'Erotevmeni nekri' is a modern take on Theophile Gautier's short story 'La Morte amoureuse.'

New blood

Bringing the story up to date without changing the plot, Evangelatou unpicks the narrative

directions. The production makes the most of Constantinos Zamanos's inventive set, with a cutaway upper floor and an all-purpose bath-and-grave structure squeezed into the Amphi-Theater's claustrophobically small Exodos Kindynou space, which seats fewer than 40 people.

The atmosphere is evocative of vampire lore. The walls are bedecked with dull-colored garments on which ultraviolet light later picks out the fluorescent paint. The aroma of incense pervades the auditorium whenever Clarimonde, a beautiful courtesan

turned vampire, appears to seduce the remarkably naive young priest.

Bringing the story up to date without changing the plot, Evangelatou unpicks the narrative, sharing it out among the actors. And they wink an occasional eye at the audience.

When the young priest, exhausted from lack of blood, is unable to break away from a grueling existence in which he is not sure whether he is a priest dreaming he is a dissolute rake or the reverse, they have to play it tongue-in-cheek.

Gautier, a nonconformist himself, would surely approve.

ⓘ "Erotevmeni nekri" is on at the Amphi-Theater (111 Adrianou, Plaka), Wednesdays to Sundays at 9.30 p.m. till November 2. Reservations essential. Tel. 210.323.3644.

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Arias and zarzuelas with Rolando Villazon



Mexican tenor Rolando Villazon in a sold-out performance of Massenet's 'Werther,' at the Vienna State Opera on January 5, 2008. The first sighting of the slight tenor in the opening minutes set off a ripple that within moments grew into waves of thunderous applause interspersed with shouts of 'bravo.' [AP]

The Mexican tenor, hailed as one of the greatest voices in opera today, is coming to Athens for one show on October 29

BY ELIAS MAGGLINIS

Mexican tenor Rolando Villazon is indisputably one of the greatest contemporary voices in opera today. At the age of 36 he has already received critical acclaim for his performances at the Metropolitan Opera, Covent Garden and the Vienna State Opera, while his CV boasts around 20 recordings with some of the world's biggest labels.

What trait singles Villazon out? The exceptional timbre of his voice and a knack for reviving the tradition of great tenors of the past, while endowing his performances with his own brush-stroke of contemporary color. His exquisite 2005 Salzburg performance in "La Traviata" made opera history and earned Villazon exclusive sponsorship from Rolex.

The Greek public now have the opportunity to see the great tenor in Athens, for one night, on October 29 at the Athens Concert Hall, where he will perform popular arias and traditional Spanish melodies – zarzuelas, of which he has already recorded an album – accompanied by the ERT Greek Radio & Television Symphony Orchestra conducted by Andreas Pylarinos and with soprano Nino Machaidze at his side.

Villazon told Kathimerini that, as a boy, he aspired to become a priest, a psychologist or an actor. Now he feels that "all three coexist in my capacity as an opera singer. I really believe this. Music, and opera especially, expresses the entire gamut of emotions, from happiness and love to pain and death. I sing about love and death and, being in a position to express all these sentiments on stage and, above all, to share them with the audience, really is something great. I believe that my involvement with opera met some other needs and desires that I had as a young boy and allowed me to express all these feelings."

Villazon listened to all types of music as he was growing up, and admits that when he first heard opera as a teenager he immediately became hooked – he also confesses to emulating Placido Domingo in front of the mirror. The tenor does not accept the widely held perception that his homeland of Mexico does not have a tradition in classical music and opera. "That is not exactly true," he says. "Mexico does have



ABOUT THE ARTIST

Rolando Villazon was born in Mexico City in 1972. After completing his studies at the National Conservatory, he participated in the young artists' programs of the Pittsburgh and San Francisco operas. In 1999, he won second prize in Placido Domingo's Operalia competition as well as first prize for the lyric-dramatic genre zarzuela and the award from the public. Villazon's European debut came that same year, with his performance of Des Grieux in "Manon" at the Teatro Carlo Felice in Genoa, followed by an appearance with the Lyon Opera in "La Boheme" and another in 2000 in Trieste, at the Teatro Verdi, in "La Traviata." These performances brought him the critical acclaim that set his career on a steadily upward trajectory and he has since performed around the world and recorded with many major labels, landing an exclusive contract with Deutsche Grammophon in 2007. Current projects include "Eugene Onegin" at the Berlin Staatsoper and "Les contes d'Hoffmann" at Covent Garden in November and December.

Rolando Villazon with Russian soprano Anna Netrebko during a dress rehearsal for Jules Massenet's 'Manon' at the Deutsche Staatsoper in Berlin on April 24, 2007. [AFP]

a past in classical music and the opera. In the 1950s, the Palacio de Bellas Artes enjoyed a worldwide reputation. During the early 50s it hosted great performers such as Maria Callas, Mario del Monaco and Giuseppe di Stefano. Furthermore, Mexico has also produced a number of famous singers, who, however, were not involved with classical music or opera. We do have great voices and this is due to our rich, multifaceted musical tradition."

Other than the music of his own country, Villazon also admires Greek literature and poetry. In fact, he performed melodized poems by George Seferis, Odysseas Elytis and C.P. Cavafy at an event organized by Greece for the 61st anniversary of the United Nations at its New York headquarters.

"I have wonderful memories from that concert," he says.

"I've always been fascinated by Greek literature. I have read a lot of Greek writers and poets and I really love them. Most of all, though, I love Nikos Kazantzakis. I also believe that Greek and Mexican culture have a lot in common."

Game birds for gourmets, armchair hunters

Pioneer quail breeder provides city foodies with winged delicacies

BY DINOS KIOUSIS

Although one of the smallest game birds, hunters love them because they are so difficult to shoot. Although relentlessly pursued, there are still considerable numbers of them because of their high reproduction rate.

Quails lay eggs once or twice a year, sometimes three if the weather is good, producing 8-13 of their black-speckled yellowish eggs at a time. These hatch after about 17-20 days. The hatchlings are fed by the female and can fly at the age of 11 days.

Sitting ducks
On making landfall while migrating, they can be caught by hand or with a net

About 15-18 centimeters in length, adult birds weigh 200-250 grams. They feed on seeds and ground insects and have a particular weakness for snails. Apart from Scandinavia and northern Russia, they live everywhere in Europe as well as Asia and Africa. Migratory, they winter in north-

ern Africa, traveling by night. As they cover large distances, they are usually exhausted when making landfall and so are easy to catch by hand or with a net. On arriving in Egypt, many fall to the ground from exhaustion and are called "manna from heaven."

In the village of Pente Vryses near Thessaloniki, Grigoris Ananiadis raises quails for market, producing about 3,000 fresh birds every week.

"In the controlled conditions of captivity, quails can produce an egg every 28-30 hours," explained Ananiadis. "Of course they are anesthetized before being slaughtered, I couldn't bear it otherwise," he admitted.

It was back in the early 1980s that he first thought of opening a quail farm.

"I began reading up, make endless trips to France and in 1985 worked at a pilot farm for four years to learn the trade. In 1989, I moved here and expanded," he said.

Ananiadis feeds them almost exclusively on hard wheat from his own farm and non-genetically modified soya. He gives them no antibiotics, but protects them from disease with extracts of oregano and pepper.



Grigoris Ananiadis opened Greece's first quail farm in 1989. [Alexandros Avramidis]

Artemis Game Farm, Pente Vryses, Municipality of Vertiskou, Thessaloniki (tel 23940.56356). Each prepared package contains four cleaned quails and weighs about 600 grams, priced at 8.95 euros per kilo. Available at AB Vassilopoulos supermarkets and select butchers.



The black-speckled eggs hatch after about 17-20 days. [Alexandros Avramidis]

A dairy-confectionery that goes back nearly 60 years, in the heart of the capital

Family business in Omonia Square continues to provide quality yogurt, sweets and more

BY MARINA DOUNI

The heart of downtown Athens, Omonia Square, beats 24 hours a day and for most of those, the Stani is open to serve yogurt, rice pudding and custards to night owls, early commuter crowds and everyone in between.

Thanasis Karageorgos and his uncle Yiannis, the third and fourth generation of a family business, renovated the store just last year on the same site where it opened in 1949.

"My late uncle Nikolas didn't want to change anything while he was still alive," said Thanasis, whose grandparents came to Piraeus from Fokida, central Greece, in 1931 and opened a dairy products factory, delivering house-to-house. They moved to Omonia during the war.

The renovation included painting the shop a creamy color to



Thanasis Karageorgos at the family store in Omonia. [Akis Orfanidis]

"create an atmosphere of calm" in the turmoil that is Omonia, said Thanasis. Photographs of the store through the decades and a certificate from the 1953 Thessaloniki International Fair

decorate the walls.

"Every morning we serve hot milk that comes straight from the producer and butter and thyme honey from rocky islets around Kos or fir honey from Mesolon-

gi on a hot bun," he said. The milk comes from the same producers in Markopoulo, Attica that the family has cooperated with for 50 years. The Greek sheep's milk has a 7 percent fat content, in contrast to lighter German or French milk.

All the products are made in the basement of the store and never stay more than six hours in the display cases.

Syrupy sweets – galaktoboureko, baklava, kataifi, karydopita and ravani – have been made with the same recipe since 1949.

Cream cakes are a comparatively recent addition to the stock, a concession to Thanasis's own preferences since childhood.

Stani Omonias, 10 Marika Kotopouli, Omonia, tel 210.523.3637/522.7451. Open daily from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m.

RECIPE

Stuffed quail with pomegranate sauce

Ingredients (serves 6)

For the croutons:

250 g cubes stale white bread, without crusts
2 crushed garlic cloves
100 ml olive oil

Preheat the oven to 140C. Saute the garlic in the oil for 20 seconds and add the bread cubes, fry for 1-2 minutes, season and spread in a baking tray. Bake for about 15 minutes until they are toasted. Remove from oven and lay on kitchen paper to absorb excess oil. Raise temperature to 220C in preparation for the quail.

For the stuffing:

Seeds of one pomegranate
20 ml olive oil
250 g "syglino" sausage from Mani, cut in small cubes
50 ml red wine vinegar
1 medium-sized red onion, finely sliced
1 tsp dried sage leaves (optional) or 1 tsp ground dried rosemary

In another frying pan, saute the onion in the oil for 1-2 minutes over a medium flame. Add the syglino and saute for another two minutes. Add the vinegar and the pomegranate seeds, cook for another minute and remove from the hub. Add the croutons and stir. Season the quails inside and out and stuff with the above mixture. Close the openings with a toothpick. Brush them lightly with oil, lay them on a baking tray and bake at 220C for about 15 minutes, until they are golden.

For the sauce:

1 liter fresh pomegranate juice
300 ml red wine vinegar

Boil the pomegranate juice with the red wine vinegar until a syrup forms. Pour over the quails to serve.

Accompany this dish with roast vegetables or a green salad.





The lentils are uprooted, shaken to remove soil and collected in bales that are turned over again and again to dry in the sun.

Lentils from the island of Lefkada

Said to be the most delicious, these pulses are cultivated on a plateau that was once a wetland

BY EVI VOUSINA

There is a plateau near the village of Eglouvi, on the island of Lefkada, that the locals call Livadi, or Vouni. An area of particular natural beauty, it is where a fine, light-colored type of lentil is grown using natural time-honored methods.

The lentils have been cultivated there for several centuries.* In pre-historic times, the plateau was a wetland that later dried up and, over the centuries, gradually filled with several strata of soil deposits. Archaeological digs have turned up remnants of prehistoric tools used right up until the past century for plowing the soil.

Don't be fooled by other fine, light-colored lentils. The difference is in the taste. The lentils are sown from January until March and watched carefully while they sprout as weeds could choke the young plants. As the plant grows, it flowers and matures. In May and early June



Honored traditions

Harvesting time is full of rituals and celebrations

one can find little bunches of lentil sprouts that used to be a favorite snack for children in the days before junk food was readily available. In June, when the stalk has matured, harvesting begins in a ritual ac-

companied by a number of rites and celebrations. The lentils are uprooted, shaken to remove the soil and collected into bales that are continually turned over to dry in the sun.

Then they are threshed and winnowed, the lentils laid out flat, then gathered into a pile. When half the lentils have been piled up, two sticks are laid on top of them in the shape of a cross. More lentils are piled on top

and a circle is drawn around the pile with a wooden tool called a "yogli." Using the handle of a spade, a cross is outlined on the top of the pile and then the handle is plunged into the middle of the pile. As it is drawn out, the point on the handle is marked and its length from that point measured in palm widths – apparently a fool-proof way of estimating the volume of the pile.

Now that tourism is replacing agriculture as the island's main source of income and the farming communities are being gradually abandoned, only the older people still cultivate this traditional crop. Difficult to find, it is sold by word of mouth, at prices ranging from 12-15 euros per kilo. Be careful, as large quantities of Canadian lentils are being sold to the unaware in search of the real thing.

One solution would be to have a local authority, such as the Lefkada Prefecture, have the product awarded a designation-of-origin label and encourage the older farmers, who know

COOKING SECRETS

If you do find some Eglouvi lentils, it's worth using garlic with a reddish skin – it has smaller cloves but a much stronger flavor. In the villages they used to collect rainwater to cook pulses, including lentils, as they found it had no mineral salts and made the food tastier. For a tasty snack (for four people), take some cooked lentils, or boil 400 gr in water, salt and garlic. (When it is soft, the water shouldn't quite cover it.) Blend the lentils into a puree, adding 4-5 tablespoons of oil and, if desired, a teaspoon of ground fennel seeds. You can also add a little vinegar to taste. Take four phyllo crusts, brush with oil and form into empty nests. Bake in the oven until golden and allow to cool. Pour a little of the lentil mousse into each nest and dust with a little ground fennel seed and roasted pine nuts. Serve with a spoon and fork.

INFO

Eglouvi lentils are grown on about 20-30 hectares by as many producers. This year's crop was about 20 tons – the lentils are sold in bulk quantities on the spot and supplies are soon exhausted. About 300 kilos were distributed in Athens at the Mandragoras specialty shop this year, which also supplies small quantities to select delicatessens.

* This information is from an article in the January 26, 1997 issue of 7 Days magazine, by Dr Angelika Douzougli-Zachos.

the crop and its secrets, impart their knowledge to the younger generation.

Though Vouni is by no means comparable to the open prairies of Canada, it can produce a satisfactory quantity of a quality product.



MINISTRY OF TOURISM - GREEK NATIONAL TOURISM ORGANISATION

Greece

thetrueexperience

www.visitgreece.gr

DVD & GAMES

Home entertainment

Video games



New DVD releases

Married Life

Loosely based on the pulp novel "Five Roundabouts to Heaven" by British intelligence agent John Bingham, this movie sees good-looking 1940s businessman Richard narrating the story of his less-handsome best friend, Harry, who is cheating on his wife with the much younger Kay. But Harry takes an odd route out of this predicament: Instead of divorcing his wife, he is so devoted to both women he believes the merciful solution is to murder his spouse and spare her the pain of betrayal. But events become even more convoluted, because Richard also has his eyes set on Kay.

Crime drama directed by Ira Sachs, starring Chris Cooper, Annabel Kershaw, Pierce Brosnan, Patricia Clarkson, Rachel McAdams, Sheila Paterson, David Richmond-Peck, Erin Boyes, Terence Kelly, Timothy Webber, Rebecca Codling and David Wenham.

DVD special features: Subtitles, interactive menus, scene selection, audio commentary, alternate endings

What Happens in Vegas

For some people, what happens in Vegas definitely does not stay in Vegas. Both career woman Joy and slacker Jack have their lives forever changed by one night spent in the City of Lights. The two strangers are accidentally assigned the same hotel room, get drunk and wake up to regretfully discover that, somehow, they managed to get married. But they also won 3 million dollars when one played the other's quarter on a slot machine. Rather than annulling the marriage, they fight over the winnings: A judge tells them that they must try to remain married for six months and the first to walk out loses the money.

Romantic comedy directed by Tom Vaughan, starring Cameron Diaz, Ashton Kutcher, Rob Corddry, Lake Bell, Jason Sudeikis, Treat Williams, Dennis Farina, Zach Galifianakis and Queen Latifah.

DVD special features: Subtitles, interactive menus, scene selection, audio commentary, featurettes, deleted scenes, gag reel



Ferrari Challenge

Developed by racing game specialists Eutechnyx, "Ferrari Challenge Trofeo Pirelli" draws on the developer's years of experience with racing simulation and includes a magical touch from GP2 driver Bruno Senna. A number of expertly modeled Ferraris are available, along with the full complement of "Ferrari Challenge" series tracks, balanced handling, lifelike opponent AI and a comprehensive custom vinyl editor.

Available formats: PlayStation 3, PSP, Nintendo Wii, Nintendo DS
ESRB rating: Everyone



Lego Batman

From the creators of "Lego Star Wars" and "Lego Indiana Jones," "Lego Batman: The Videogame" brings the one-and-only Caped Crusader to Lego-life. Players take control of Batman and Robin as well as bonus hero Nightwing to fight Gotham City's most notorious criminals, including the Joker, the Penguin, Catwoman, Scarecrow and many more. The biggest treat, however, is that players can explore their wicked side and fight their way through the game as the villains, experiencing it from the opposite viewpoint with all-new criminal objectives. With a collection of high-tech suits, gadgets and cutting-edge vehicles on hand, players are able to step into the Lego Batman universe to bring super-villains to justice, or, as the villains, to bring destruction and chaos to Gotham City.

Available formats: Xbox 360, PlayStation 2, PlayStation 3, PSP, Nintendo Wii, Nintendo DS, PC
ESRB rating: Everyone 10+

Cult remake



One Missed Call

Hollywood seems to have decided not to stop until every Asian cult film has been remade for a wider Western audience. "One Missed Call" is a remake of a 2003 hit by Japanese director Takashi Miike. The plot, like many other recent films in the genre, involves technology. In this case, it's the cell phone, with a string of deaths at an American college town linked by cell-phone address books. The victims receive a voice-mail message from the previous victim before being murdered.

Horror directed by Eric Valette, starring Shannyn Sossamon, Edward Burns, Ana Claudia Talancon, Ray Wise, Azura Skye, Johnny Lewis, Jason Beghe and Margaret Cho.

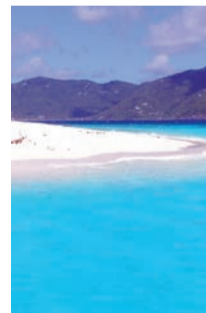
DVD special features: Subtitles, interactive menu, scene selection

DVD mini-picks



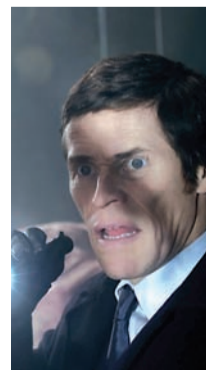
Empties (Vratne lahve)

A retired schoolteacher is not letting his growing years change his lifestyle: He cavorts around with other women in spite of still loving his loyal wife back at home. This Czech movie is worth watching for its gentle comedy and believable scenario.



Wild Caribbean

A documentary produced by the BBC Natural History Unit and narrated by Steve Toussaint, "Wild Caribbean" depicts the natural and cultural history of the Caribbean Islands, and comes divided into four parts, each 50 minutes long.



Anamorph

Stories about police detectives obsessed with serial killers have become a popular subject. In "Anamorph," Detective Stan Aubray (Willem Dafoe) has not been able to forget a serial killer known as Uncle Eddie. He is led back again to the case when a new crime scene looks too familiar.

REVIEW

BY JULIA PANAYOTOU

'Be Kind Rewind' redefined

Much like the videocassettes on which the film focuses, "Be Kind Rewind" shows a vanishing world being replaced by new technology's endless upgrades. Just because it centers on outdated equipment, however, does not make it any less charming. In the vein of his previous films ("The Science of Sleep" and "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind"), Michel Gondry hands out a grown-up fairy tale, full of the bizarre, weird and downright quirky. Set in a New Jersey video rental store owned by Mr Fletcher (Danny Glover), young employee Mike (Mos Def) and his hyperactive friend Jerry (Jack Black) get into hot water when Jerry breaks into a neighboring power plant and becomes magnetically charged. As Jerry enters the store next day, he proceeds to unintentionally erase all the videos.

The two men endeavor to replace all the blank videocassettes with their own recreations of the movies, donning ridiculous outfits and directing each other. This all must be done before Mr Fletcher returns. The viewer is

Old-tech tale
Gondry offers up a VHS fairy tale, full of the bizarre, weird and downright quirky

asked to ignore the more convenient other route: The two men could easily have looked online to buy some videos for

rather than attempt to remake the history of film in a weekend with a hand-held camera. Yet, that illogical choice may be the point. The sugary surrealism can turn off many looking for a grittier reality in their movies. But by appealing to the viewer's inner child, Gondry shows that after peeling away the layers, filmmaking is ultimately about the magic of creation.

Comedy written and directed by Michel Gondry, starring Jack Black, Mos Def, Danny Glover, Mia Farrow, Melonie Diaz, Irv Gooch, Chandler Parker, Arjay Smith and Quinton Aaron.

DVD special features: Subtitles, scene selection, interactive menus, featurettes



New film festival set to start rolling in city of Corinth

'The Shore' will be screened on the ancestral shores of Greek-American filmmaker Dionysius Zervos

BY PHOEBE FRONISTA

The Peloponnese is acquiring its own movie festival. Sandwiched between the Cyprus International Film Festival (October 20-25) and Thessaloniki International Film Festival (November 14-23), the nascent Corinthian International Film Festival (CIFF)—featuring over 100 entries, including selections from Russia's Cine Fantom film club—will hand out its first Golden Pegasus on November 1.

The winner will receive funding for a project to be filmed in the Corinth area.

Athens Plus spoke to one of the organizers and a member of the jury, Dionysius Zervos, a Greek-American filmmaker based in Los Angeles who will be screening his film "The Shore" at the festival.

"The Shore" has made the festival circuit rounds with great success since its Toronto debut in 2005.

The first time

There is nothing like going to the first of anything; the second will certainly be different

Before getting his big break, the UCLA film school graduate worked as a director for commercials while touting his project. Like most inspirations, this one came suddenly, triggered by a chance event. Originally from Philadelphia, Zervos was visiting friends on the Jersey Shore when a lifeguard told him a moving tale about a mother who had brought her little daughter to the beach one day and lost her forever; her whereabouts remain unknown. This is the where the film (starring Ben Gazzara, Lesley Ann Warren and Izabella Miko) begins, but the story is focused on the living and how each copes with the unexpected loss of little Anna. The haunting and surreal character of the film serves to underline the chaos going on in the protagonists' minds. The film is to be distributed in Greece by Spentzos films later in the year.

Citing Krzysztof Kieslowski and Theo Angelopoulos as his main influences, "The Shore" is the first part of a trilogy whose connecting themes are water and loss. The entire trilogy, in fact, stems from Zervos's adoration for Kieslowski's



Ben Gazzara (above) plays Bob Harris, the husband of Becky Harris (Lesley Ann Warren, top), in 'The Shore.' The couple run a local eatery in an American seaside resort.

"Blue," "White" and "Red" trilogy. Zervos certainly had a hand in the CIFF's retrospective of Kieslowski film posters.

When asked how it feels to be able to travel the world promoting his film, he said, "It's like winning the lottery!"

Zervos likes to spend time in Greece and hopes to make a movie in his ancestral lands soon. He told Athens Plus that he has been location scouting for a while. But LA has come a-courting, as the trend of using more artistically inclined directors for blockbusters continues (examples being "The Dark Knight" and "Wanted") and Zervos is confident that things are going to start moving at a quicker pace.

Meanwhile, the second part of his trilogy, "Rock Point," is in production and will star Q'orianka Kilcher, who skyrocketed to fame as Pocahontas in Terence Malick's "The New World" and will also be on the jury of the Corinth Film Festival.

Taking the Attiki Odos ring road from Athens, one can reach Corinth in an hour, making it a viable option to catch a film and get back home. There is nothing like going to the first of anything; the second will certainly be different. Therefore, take a drive toward the aspiring Cinecitta of Corinth and say you saw it first.

The Corinthian International Film Festival will run from October 29 to November 1 at the Municipal Theater of Corinth and Lais cinemas. Information is available at www.corinthianfilmfestival.org.

MOVIE NEWS

Thanos Anastasopoulos makes Oscars short list

Director Thanos Anastasopoulos is headed for Los Angeles, as his incisive drama "Diorthosi" (Correction) has been short-listed in the Best Foreign Language Film category for next year's 81st edition of the Academy Awards ceremony. Here at home, his film received the Best Screenplay (Anastasopoulos and Thanos Raissis) and Best Actor (Giorgos Symeonidis) awards at the Thessaloniki International Film Festival last year.

Keep the questions coming, Ken Loach tells Athenians



British filmmaker Ken Loach was at the Ianos bookstore in central Athens on Monday for an open discussion with the public that was organized by the British Council in collaboration with the Eleftherotypia daily's annual Panorama of European Cinema, at which Loach was the subject of a tribute. Loach, 70, best known for politically minded social dramas and who was recently awarded a Palme d'Or at Cannes for "The Wind that Shakes the Barley," said that "film must ask those exact questions that politicians don't want us to. The most important thing is not how a film is made, but why."

Latin-American cinema tribute in Kallithea

Running until Sunday, October 26, the Aphaia cinema in Kallithea (96 Dimosthenous) is running a tribute to Latin American cinema with 12 films, including Tristan Bauer's 2005 Falklands War drama "Iluminados por el fuego," Ellen Perry's 2006 documentary "The Fall of Fujimori," Jorge Luis Sanchez's 2006 musical drama "El Benny," Claudia Llosa's recent release in Greece "Madeinusa," Juan Carlos Cremata Malberti and Iraida Malberti Cabrera's 2005 comedy drama "Viva Cuba," Alejandro Landes's 2007 documentary "Cocalero" and Peter Raymond's 2007 documentary "A Promise to the Dead: The Exile Journey of Ariel Dorfman." The ticket for one full evening of screenings costs 7 euros. For details, call 210.959.5534.

Documentaries, new and revisited

The Greek Film Center has organized a panorama through Wednesday, October 29, of Greek documentaries at the Elly cinema (64 Academias, 210.363.2789), featuring 20 feature-length films produced over the last 20 years. Meanwhile, cafe-bar Nixon's (61B Agisilaou, Gazi) will be showing short documentaries, starting at 11 p.m., until October 28.

TELEVISION
BY EVANGELIA ARVANITI

Euro-Parliament launches its own online TV channel

The president of the European Parliament, Hans-Gert Pottering, launched its new online platform for webcasting on September 17.

From now on, anyone who has access to the Internet will be able to log on to the site and watch live events at the European Parliament or choose from among the four channels into which EuroParlTV is divided, each aimed at its own audience.

As EuroParlTV is addressed to all European citizens, most of its programs are translated into 22 languages, including dubbed as well as subtitled programs.

The goal of the project is not only to reach out to citizens dealing with European issues, but to also strengthen interaction between the European Parliament and the citizens of the European Union member states, as the site enables them to express their views and comments easily.

In addition, the "Discovering the European Parliament" section provides additional information on the history of the Parliament and its members.

To watch EuroParlTV, log on to www.europarl.tv.europa.eu.

Pop heartthrob to make fresh attempt for Eurovision crown

Sakis Rouvas returns to shake his stuff at the contest in Moscow

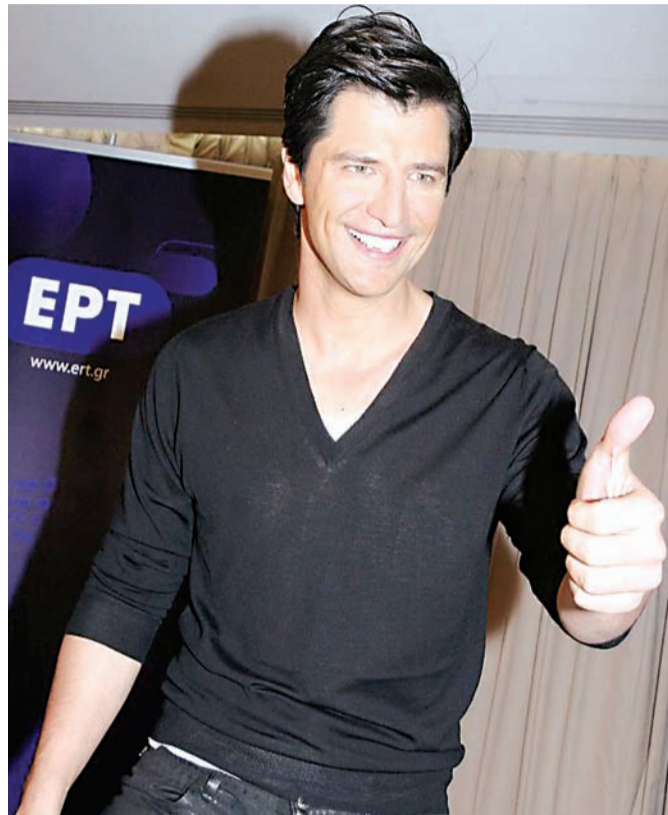
This week, Greek state television (ERT) confirmed the country's participation in the 54th 2009 Eurovision Song Contest, set to take place in Moscow, Russia.

Sakis Rouvas, the pop star who also represented Greece in 2004 with "Shake It" – which romped in an impressive third – will again sing for his country at the upcoming Eurovision Song Contest, scheduled to take place May 12, 14 and 16, 2009.

The competition is divided into two semifinals and the big final show. The outcome of both semifinals will be determined via SMS and televoting, and by televoting and each country's national jury votes on the final night.

The song that Rouvas will perform will be chosen from among three composed by Dimitris Kontopoulos at an event expected to take place in February 2009.

At the end of the official press conference, Rouvas expressed his excitement and enthusiasm at once again participating in Eurovision and his hopes to bring the cult song contest back to Athens in 2010.



Pop idol Sakis Rouvas is seen after the press conference.

'Sex' at midnight

When "Sex and the City" hit screens in 1998, few could have predicted the success of the comedy-drama series. Even those who were initially reluctant soon got hooked on the adventures of the fab four who managed to put a dent in the negative image of the sad, 30-something female singleton – for women at least.

The series follows the lives of New Yorkers Carrie, Miranda, Charlotte and Samantha – think designer duds, Louis Vuitton bags, Manolo Blahnik shoes and, of course, sex. True, the foursome rarely show any sign of money problems but their labors in love and work matters have struck a chord with millions of viewers around the globe, along with how the series dealt with taboo subjects such as AIDS or homosexuality.

The success of the series was largely based on the chemistry of the cast and their shameless but somehow-sweet girl-talk gossip. In spite of their differences – of which there were many – they seemed to complete one another.

In 2008, the popular series was followed by the successful film adaptation, which gave the series its long-awaited happy end.

The multi-awarded series, adapted from the same-title book by Candace Bushnell, concluded in 2004 after six seasons and still remains an all-time classic choice for night owls.

Season 1 of "Sex and the City" airs on Alpha on Mondays at midnight.

Friday October 24

ET1

Tel. 210.770.1911/15

8.30 Children's Shows 10.00 Educational Program 11.00 Greek Documentary 12.00 Greek Show 14.00 News 14.30 Children's Shows 16.00 HANNAH MONTANA 16.30 Children's Shows 17.00 THE YOUNG AND THE RESTLESS 18.00 Age of Images 19.00 Greek Documentary 20.00 Documentary: Infamous Assassinations 21.00 JANE EYRE 22.00 Les Rois maudits 22.45 Cityculture.gr 23.00 News 24.00 FILM: "Moartea domnului Lazarescu," Romania, 2005, award-winning drama directed by Cristi Puiu

NET

Tel. 210.606.6000

5.45 First Line 10.00 It's Happening Now 12.00 News 13.00 We Live in Greece 15.00 News 16.00 With Taste 18.00 News 19.00 Greek Show 20.00 From Freud to the Internet 20.45 20th-Century Selections 21.00 News 22.00 FILM: "Atlantis: Milo's Return," US, 2002, dubbed animation featuring the voices of Calliope Evangelidou, Petros Spyropoulos 24.00 At the Edge 2.00 ABC News

ET3

Tel. 2310.299.400

8.00 True Scripts (R) 9.00 Documentary: Evolution 10.00 Greek Show 11.30 Documentary: My Greek Kitchen 12.00 Documentary: Get-away 13.00 News 14.25 Greek Show 14.30 THE BOLD AND THE BEAUTIFUL 15.30 Documentary: The Joy of Painting 16.00 Documentary: Magically Simple 16.30 Documentary: Young & Wild 17.00 News in sign language 18.00 The Sixth Sense 18.15 Sports

Program 19.15 Documentary: Big Game 19.45 Documentary: Be a Predator 20.45 Documentary: Urgan, Child of the Himalayas 22.00 News 23.00 Labyrinth 0.30 Action Right 1.30 Oxygen (R)

MEGA

Tel. 210.690.3000

5.30 Morning Show 6.30 Society Mega O'Clock 10.00 A Wonderful Morning World 12.50 The Apartments (R) 14.00 News 15.00 Western Suburbs Lover (R) 16.00 Greek Series 17.00 News in sign language 17.30 50-50 18.10 One Moment, Two Lives 19.00 Secrets of Eden 20.00 News 21.00 The Apartments 22.00 Happy Together 23.00 Sweet Lakis (R) 24.00 The Making of "Unrestricted" 0.40 News 0.50 THE SHIELD 1.50 WORLD POKER TOUR (R) 2.50 MINISERIES: "Das Boot," 1984, Germany/UK, war drama directed by Wolfgang Petersen

ANTENNA

Tel. 210.688.6100

5.30 Good Morning Greece 10.00 Morning Coffee 13.00 News 13.50 Constantinos and Eleni (R) 14.45 Family Life (R) 15.45 It's Worth a Look 17.40 News in sign language 17.45 Greek Show 18.50 With Love 19.00 Lola 20.00 News 21.00 The X-Factor Live: Kickoff 24.00 DIRT 1.00 News 1.10 With Love (R) 1.15 40 Waves (R) 2.15 A WOMAN NAMED JACKIE

STAR

Tel. 211.189.1000

6.45 Pokemon 7.15 New Woody Woodpecker 7.45 Morning Show 10.00 Cookery Show 11.00 There's a Reason 13.00 News 14.00 Super Star 16.45 I Can 18.40 News in sign language 18.45 CHARMED 19.45 News 21.00 FILM: "CRADLE 2 THE GRAVE," US, 2003, action adventure with Jet Li, Tom Arnold 23.15 FILM: "BAIT," US, 2001, adventure with Jamie Foxx, David Morse, Doug Hutchison 1.45



News 2.00 FILM: "PITCH BLACK," US, 2000, science-fiction adventure with Vin Diesel, Keath David 4.00 FILM: "Legend of the Red Dragon," Hong Kong, 1994, adventure with Jet Li

ALPHA

Tel. 212.212.4000

5.45 Good Morning 10.00 Coffee with Eleni 13.00 Gossip 15.00 News 16.00 BEVERLY HILLS 90210 17.00 News in sign language 17.10 Greek Show 19.00 Fatus Olus 20.00 News 21.00 Beta Queen 22.00 Farewell Anatolia 23.00 FILM: "CRANK," US/UK, 2006, action thriller with Jason Statham, Amy Smart 1.00 News 1.15 SECRET DIARY OF A CALL GIRL 2.00 WITHOUT A TRACE 3.00 Images (R)

SKAI

Tel. 210.480.000

6.00 BBC Live 6.30 CLICK ONLINE 7.00 BBC@Skai 9.00 Skai Smile 10.00 Jamie Oliver 10.30 30-Minute Meals 11.00 Kral! (R) 11.15 Greek Document-

Crank

Alpha - 23.00 Action thriller starring Jason Statham, Amy Smart and Jose Pablo Cantillo.

Gun-for-hire Chev gets a taste of his own medicine when he's injected with a drug that will kill him instantly unless he keeps himself on a constant, crazy adrenaline high.

(R) 20.35 THE NANNY 21.05 THE SIMPSONS 21.35 WHO'S THE BOSS 22.05 MAYDAY 23.05 IT COULD HAPPEN TOMORROW

ALTER

Tel. 210.570.7000

6.45 Alter Kids 8.30 News 9.15 In the Kitchen 9.55 Greece is Playing 12.35 Blah Blah 15.45 News in sign language 16.10 Showbiz News 17.10 Look Ahead 18.45 Today 20.00 News 20.55 Auto Alter 21.00 FILM: "THE MASK," US, 1994, comedy with Jim Carrey, Cameron Diaz 23.00 Light in the Tunnel 2.00 Auto Alter 2.15 FILM: "FINAL EXAMINATION," US, 2002, horror with Brent Huff

CINE+

Tel. 210.770.1911/15

8.15 Greek Film 9.50 FILM: "DAVY CROCKETT, KING OF THE WILD FRONTIER," US, 1955, western, with Fess Parker 11.20 FILM: "OPERATION DUMBO DROP" US, 1995, adventure

with Danny Glover 13.10 ENTERPRISE 14.00 FRASIER 14.30 EVERYBODY LOVES RAYMOND 15.00 MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE 16.00 Hollywood on Set 16.30 Design 17.00 Contacts: Lewis Baltz 17.15 Is This Art? 17.30 A Way of Creating Art 18.00 FILM: "A WOMAN'S SECRET," US, 1949, film noir with Maureen O'Hara 19.45 Is This Art? 20.00 THE MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES 21.00 FILM: "ON GOLDEN POND," US, 1981, drama with Katharine Hepburn 22.30 Vote For Your Friday Night Movie 0.40 FILM: "NADJA," US, 1994, horror with Peter Fonda 2.10 FILM: "THE BIG SLEEP," US, 1978, film noir with Robert Mitchum 3.50 FILM: "THE BERLIN EXPRESS," US, 1948, film noir with Robert Ryan

PRISMA+

Tel. 210.770.1911/15

14.00 Greek Film 15.30 ELECTRIC SCIENCE 16.00 Cookery Show 16.30 Children's Show 17.00 News 17.05 Children's Shows 18.00 Documentary: Health for All 19.00 BECKER 19.30 Greek Documentary 20.00 The Prince 21.00 News 22.15 Greek Show 22.30 FILM: "THE FABULOUS BAKER BOYS," US, 1989, comedy with Jeff Bridges, Michelle Pfeiffer, Beau Bridges 24.00 Euromaxx Design

NOVASPORTS 1

Tel. 210.660.2100

7.00 Heineken Cup Rugby Tournament: Sale Sharks vs Munster 9.00 Super Euroleague 10.30 Women's Windsurfing Highlights 11.00 Super League Soccer Game: PAOK vs Panathinaikos 13.00 FIA GT 15.30 F1 Powerboat Highlights 16.00 Tennis: ATP Masters Series 17.00 French Championship 17.30 World Cup Soccer Qualifiers 18.00 VIP 19.00 Basketball 19.30 Total Rugby 20.00 Football Planet 21.00 Champions Zone 22.00 Champions League: Panathinaikos vs Werder Bremen 24.00 For Tough Nerves 1.45 English Championship

CNN SATELLITE

Tel. 0044-207.637.6911

8.00 BUSINESS INTERNATIONAL 9.00 WORLD NEWS 9.30 WORLD SPORT 10.00 LARRY KING LIVE 11.00 BUSINESS INTERNATIONAL 12.00 WORLD NEWS ASIA 13.00 WORLD NEWS 13.30 WORLD SPORT 14.00 WORLD NEWS ASIA 14.30 WORLD NEWS ASIA 15.00 YOUR WORLD TODAY 18.30 THE SCREENING ROOM 19.00 THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL 19.30 WORLD BUSINESS TODAY 20.00 WORLD NEWS EUROPE 20.30 WORLD BUSINESS TODAY 20.45 CNN MARKETPLACE MIDDLE EAST 21.00 WORLD NEWS EUROPE 21.30 WORLD SPORT 22.00 BUSINESS INTERNATIONAL 23.00 THE SITUATION ROOM 24.00 CNN TODAY 3.00 ANDERSON COOPER 3.30 WORLD REPORT 4.00 WORLD NEWS

TV5

Tel. 0033-1.4418.5555

9.00 Le journal de Radio-Canada 9.30 Pour l'amour du gout 10.00 TV5Monde, l'info 10.05 Silence ca pousse 10.30 Le plus grand musee du monde 10.55 Documentaire: Treteaux en Afrique 11.50 Des chiffres et des lettres 12.15 Tout le monde veut prendre sa place 13.00 TV5Monde, l'info 13.05 Escapade gourmande 13.30 Fiction 14.20 Reves d'hotels 14.30 Le journal de la RTBF 15.00 Fiction 16.00 Documentaire: Kasko monte a Paris 17.00 TIVI 5 17.30 Questions pour un champion 18.05 Ripostes 19.00 TV5Monde, le journal 19.20 Le journal de l'eco 19.25 Fiction 21.10 Exploration planete 21.25 25eme image 21.30 Le journal de France 22.00 Fiction 23.45 Tour du faso 24.00 TV5Monde, le journal 0.10 Le journal de la TSR 0.40 Fiction 2.20 Documentaire: Tout le monde a la plage 2.45 TV5Monde, le journal Afrique 3.05 Ripostes

TELEVISION

Wednesday

October 29

ET1

Tel. 210.770.1911/15

8.30 Children's Shows **10.00** Greek Film **12.00** Greek Show **14.00** News **14.30** Children's Shows **16.00** Basketball Game: Rhodes vs PAOK **17.00** THE YOUNG AND THE RESTLESS **18.00** Handball Game: Greece vs Hungary **19.30** Greek Documentary **20.00** Documentary: Infamous Assassinations **21.00** Lotto Draw **21.05** Golden Girls **22.00** DESPERATE HOUSEWIVES (R) **22.45** Cityculture.gr **23.00** News **24.00** Greek Show **1.00** CRIME AND INVESTIGATION

NET

Tel. 210.606.6000

5.45 First Line **10.00** It's Happening Now **12.00** News **13.00** We Live in Greece **14.15** Cookery Show **15.00** News **16.00** With Taste **18.00** News **19.00** Super League Soccer Game: Panathinaikos vs Ergotelis **21.00** News **22.00** Traveling **23.00** FILM: "THE NINTH GATE," US, 1999, thriller with Johnny Depp, Frank Langella, Lena Olin, Emmanuelle Seigner **1.30** ABC News

ET3

Tel. 2310.299.400

8.00 True Scripts (R) **9.00** Documentary: Out of the Past **10.00** Greek Show **11.30** Documentary: My Greek Kitchen **12.00** Documentary: Getaway **13.00** News **14.25** Greek Show **14.30** THE BOLD AND THE BEAUTIFUL **15.30** Documentary: The Joy of Painting **16.00** Documentary: Magically Simple **16.30** Documentary: Up Close and Dangerous **17.00** News in sign language **18.00** The Sixth Sense **18.15**

Sports Program **19.15** Documentary: Big Game **19.45** Documentary: Be a Predator **20.45** History: UFO Files **22.00** News **23.00** Detections **0.30** FILM: "OPERATION DUMBO DROP," US, 1995, war adventure with Danny Glover, Ray Liotta, Dennis Leary **2.30** Greek Show on Health (R)

MEGA

Tel. 210.690.3000

5.30 Morning Show **6.30** Society Mega O'Clock **10.00** A Wonderful Morning World **12.50** Catch me if You Can (R) **14.00** News **15.00** Western Suburbs Lover (R) **16.00** Greek Series **17.00** News in sign language **17.30** 50-50 **18.10** One Moment, Two Lives **19.00** Secrets of Eden **20.00** News **21.00** Power of Ten **22.00** On Air **23.00** Catch Me if You Can **0.15** News **0.30** THE SHIELD **1.30** FILM: "LETHAL VOWS," US, 1999, thriller drama **3.30** STARSKY & HUTCH

ANTENNA

Tel. 210.688.6100

5.30 Good Morning Greece **10.00** Morning Coffee **13.00** News **13.50** Constantinou and Eleni (R) **14.45** Family Life (R) **15.45** It's Worth a Look **17.40** News in sign language **17.45** Greek Show **18.50** With Love **19.00** Lola **20.00** News **21.00** 40 Waves **22.00** The Key to Heaven **23.00** GREY'S ANATOMY **24.00** Evidence in Politics **2.00** News **2.10** With Love (R) **2.15** The Key to Heaven (R)

STAR

Tel. 211.189.1000

6.15 Batman **6.45** Pokemon **7.15** New Woody Woodpecker **7.45** Morning Show **10.00** Cookery Show **11.00** There's a Reason **13.00** News **14.00** Super Star **16.45** I Can **18.40** News in sign language **18.45** CHARMED **19.45** News **21.00** FILM: "DENNIS THE MENACE STRIKES AGAIN," US, 1998,



comedy with Don Rickles, George Kennedy **22.30** FILM: "US MARSHALS," US, 1998, action adventure with Tommy Lee Jones, Wesley Snipes, Robert Downey Junior, Joe Pantoliano **1.00** COLD CASE **2.00** News **2.15** FILM: "THE PENNSYLVANIA MINERS' STORY," US, 2002, drama **4.15** THE SOPRANOS **5.15** GILMORE GIRLS

ALPHA

Tel. 212.212.4000

5.45 Good Morning **10.00** Coffee with Eleni **13.00** Gossip **15.00** News **16.00** BEVERLY HILLS 90210 **17.00** News in sign language **17.10** Greek Show **19.00** Fatus Olus **20.00** News **21.00** My Angel, My Devil **22.00** Disappearance **23.00** True Loves **24.00** DR 90210 **1.00** News **1.15** FILM: "PLAYING BY HEART," US, 1998, romantic thriller with Madeleine Stowe, Sean Connery, Angelina Jolie, Gena Rowlands, Dennis Quaid **3.30** Images (R)

SKAI

Tel. 210.480.0000

6.00 BBC Live **6.30** OUR WORLD

las Cage, Peter Stormare, Christian Slater **23.45** NCIS **0.45** COLD CASE **1.45** News **2.00** FILM: "OTHER PEOPLE'S MONEY," US, 1992, comedy with Danny DeVito, Gregory Peck **4.15** THE SOPRANOS **5.15** GILMORE GIRLS

ALPHA

Tel. 212.212.4000

5.45 Good Morning **10.00** Coffee with Eleni **13.00** Gossip **15.00** Soccer Game **17.00** News in sign language **17.10** Greek Show **19.00** Fatus Olus **20.00** News **21.00** The Package **22.15** The Fearless **23.15** Greek Series **1.15** News **2.30** Images (R) **3.30** Telemarketing

SKAI

Tel. 210.480.0000

6.00 BBC Live **6.30** REPORTERS **7.00** BBC@Skai **9.00** Skai Smile **10.00** Jamie Oliver **10.30** 30-Minute Meals **11.00** Kral! (R) **11.15** Greek Documentary: Wandering in Greece (R) **12.15** Ellinophrenia (R) **12.30** How Clean is Your House? **13.00** The Oprah Winfrey Show **14.00** The Way to Live **15.00** Nanny 911 **15.55** Analyze It **16.00** QUEER EYE FOR THE STRAIGHT GUY **17.00** News **17.15** Eco News **17.30** EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW: SNACK FOOD **18.00** Takeshi's Castle **18.30** Greek Documentary: Wandering in Greece **19.45** Documentary: Planet News **20.45** Ellinophrenia **21.00** News **21.45** Kral! **22.00** Sports Program **24.00** News **0.15** Greek Documentary **1.15** MOST SHOCKING **2.15** SPOOKS

MAKEDONIA TV

Tel. 2310.504.300

9.00 Greek Show **11.00** Metro **12.00** Telemarketing **14.00** Beauty Show **14.30** THE NANNY (R) **15.00** Telemarketing **18.00** Beauty Show **18.30** THE NANNY (R) **19.00** News in sign language **19.45** Beauty Show **20.05** WHO'S THE BOSS (R) **20.35** THE

Spy Game

Alter - 21.00

Crime thriller directed by Tony Scott, starring Pitt and Catherine McCormack.

A CIA operative counting his final days to retirement pulls out all the stops to rescue his protege from a very sticky situation.

marketing **18.00** Beauty Show **18.30** THE NANNY (R) **19.00** News in sign language **19.45** Beauty Show **20.05** WHO'S THE BOSS (R) **20.35** THE NANNY **21.05** THE SIMPSONS **21.35** WHO'S THE BOSS **22.05** BILLION-DOLLAR DISASTER **23.05** ZERO HOUR

ALTER

Tel. 210.570.7000

6.45 Alter Kids **8.30** News **9.15** In the Kitchen **9.55** Greece is Playing **12.35** Blah Blah **15.45** News in sign language **16.10** Showbiz News **17.10** Look Ahead **18.45** Today **20.00** News **21.00** FILM: "SPY GAME," US, 2001, Tony Scott spy thriller with Robert Redford, Brad Pitt, Catherine McCormack **23.30** FILM: "WEIRD SCIENCE," US, 1985, comedy with Bill Paxton, Robert Downey Jr. **1.45** Auto Alter **2.00** FILM: "Il matatore," Italy, 1960, comedy

CINE+

Tel. 210.770.1911/15

8.15 Greek Film **9.45** FILM: "KING OF THE GRIZZLIES," US/Canada, 1970, family adventure **11.20** FILM: "THE

ADVENTURE OF BULLWHIP GRIFFIN," US, 1967, family adventure **13.10** ENTERPRISE **14.00** FRASIER **14.30** EVERYBODY LOVES RAYMOND **15.00** MISSION IMPOSSIBLE **16.00** HOLLYWOOD ON SET **16.30** Design **17.00** Letter to a Young Filmmaker **17.30** A Way of Creating Art **18.00** FILM: "THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME," US, 1939, drama with Charles Laughton **20.00** THE MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES **21.00** FILM: "BIG JAKE," UK, 1971, western with George Sherman **22.50** FILM: "La squale," France, 2000, with Esse Lawson **0.30** Avignon Prophecy **1.30** MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE **2.20** Greek Film **4.00** FILM: "A WOMAN'S SECRET," US, 1949, film noir with Melvin Douglas

PRISMA+

Tel. 210.770.1911/15

14.00 Greek Film **15.30** Documentary: Destination Art **16.00** Cookery Show **16.30** Children's Shows **17.00** News **17.05** Children's Shows **18.00** Documentary: Private Life of a Masterpiece **19.00** Our Century **19.30** Greek Documentary **20.00** The Prince **21.00** News **22.15** Greek Show **22.30** Documentary: Secrets and World's Best **24.00** FILM: "La guerre des boutons," France, 1962, comedy with Jacques Dufilho

NOVASPORTS 1

Tel. 210.660.2100

9.00 Albanian Soccer **11.00** Super League Soccer: Ergotelis vs Panionios **13.00** Spanish Championship Highlights **14.00** Sports Show **15.00** Italian Soccer **17.00** Argentinean Championship Highlights **18.00** French Championship **19.00** Transworld Sports **20.00** Seamaster Series **20.30** Alpine Ski World Cup **21.00** Champions Zone **21.45** Euroleague Basketball **23.30** FINA

Aquatics World **24.00** For Tough Nerves **1.45** Euroleague Basketball **3.45** Italian Soccer

CNN SATELLITE

Tel. 0044-207.637.6911

8.00 BUSINESS INTERNATIONAL **9.00** WORLD NEWS **9.30** WORLD SPORT **10.00** LARRY KING LIVE **11.00** BUSINESS INTERNATIONAL **12.00** WORLD NEWS ASIA **13.00** WORLD NEWS **13.30** WORLD SPORT **14.00** WORLD NEWS ASIA **14.30** WORLD NEWS ASIA **15.00** YOUR WORLD TODAY **18.30** WORLD'S UNTOLD STORIES **19.00** YOUR WORLD TODAY **19.30** WORLD BUSINESS TODAY **20.00** WORLD NEWS EUROPE **20.30** WORLD BUSINESS TODAY **21.00** WORLD NEWS EUROPE **21.30** WORLD SPORT **22.00** BUSINESS INTERNATIONAL **23.00** THE SITUATION ROOM **24.00** CNN TODAY **3.00** ANDERSON COOPER **360**

TV5

Tel. 0033-1.4418.5555

9.00 Le Journal de Radio-Canada **9.30** A la di stasio **10.00** TV5Monde, l'info **10.05** Une brique dans le ventre **10.30** Littoral **11.00** Documentaire: Rever le francais **11.50** Des chiffres et des lettres **12.15** Tout le monde veut prendre sa place **13.00** TV5Monde l'info **13.05** Cote cuisine **13.30** Fiction **14.20** Reves d'hôtels **14.30** Le Journal de la RTBF **15.00** Fiction **16.00** Documentaire: Vu du chateau... Le "Fantome" **17.00** Tivi 5 **17.30** Questions pour un champion **18.00** Questions a la une **19.00** TV5Monde, le Journal **19.20** Le Journal de l'eco **19.25** La carte aux tresors **21.25** 25eme image **21.30** Le Journal de France **22.00** Fiction **23.35** Exploration planete **24.00** TV5Monde le journal **0.10** Le Journal de la TSR **0.40** Fiction **2.20** Interieurs d'ailleurs **2.45** TV5Monde, le Journal Afrique **3.00** Questions a la une

CNN SATELLITE

Tel. 0044-207.637.6911

8.00 BUSINESS INTERNATIONAL **9.00** WORLD NEWS **9.30** WORLD SPORT **10.00** LARRY KING LIVE **11.00** BUSINESS INTERNATIONAL **12.00** WORLD NEWS ASIA **13.00** WORLD NEWS **13.30** WORLD SPORT **14.00** WORLD NEWS ASIA **14.30** WEATHER FX **15.00** YOUR WORLD TODAY **18.30** WEATHER FX **19.00** YOUR WORLD TODAY **19.30** WORLD BUSINESS TODAY **20.00** WORLD NEWS EUROPE **20.30** WORLD BUSINESS TODAY **21.00** WORLD NEWS EUROPE **21.30** WORLD SPORT **22.00** BUSINESS INTERNATIONAL **23.00** THE SITUATION ROOM **24.00** CNN TODAY **3.00** ANDERSON COOPER **360** **4.00** WORLD NEWS **4.30** WORLD SPORT

TV5

Tel. 0033-1.4418.5555

9.00 Le Journal de Radio-Canada **9.30** Escapade gourmande **10.00** TV5Monde, l'info **10.05** Jardins et loisirs **10.30** Chroniques d'en haut **11.00** Documentaire: Rio platano, l'eldorado perdu des misquitos **11.50** Des chiffres et des lettres **12.15** Tout le monde veut prendre sa place **13.00** TV5Monde l'info **13.05** A la di stasio **13.30** Fiction **14.20** Reves d'hôtels **14.30** Le Journal de la RTBF **15.00** Fiction **16.00** Documentaire: Voyage dans l'Amazonie du soja **17.00** Tivi 5 **17.30** Questions pour un champion **18.00** Une heure sur terre **19.00** TV5Monde, le Journal **19.20** Le Journal de l'eco **19.30** Vie privee, vie publique **21.25** 25eme image **21.30** Le Journal de France **22.00** FILM **23.35** Court metrage **24.00** TV5Monde, le Journal **0.10** Le Journal de la TSR **0.40** Cafe litteraire **2.20** Documentaire: Tout le monde a la plage **2.45** TV5Monde, le Journal Afrique **3.00** Une heure sur terre

* All programs listed in capital letters are broadcast in English.

Thursday

October 30

ET1

Tel. 210.770.1911/15

8.30 Children's Shows **10.30** Greek Film **12.00** Greek Show **14.00** News **14.30** Children's Shows **16.00** HANNAH MONTANA **16.30** THE SUITE LIFE OF ZACK AND CODY **17.00** THE YOUNG AND THE RESTLESS **18.00** Eurodoc **19.00** Greek Show **20.00** Documentary: Infamous Assassinations **21.00** Joker-Proto Draw **21.10** Greek Series **22.00** CRIMINAL MINDS **22.45** Cityculture.gr **23.00** News **24.00** Greek Documentary **1.00** CRIME AND INVESTIGATION (R)

NET

Tel. 210.606.6000

5.45 First Line **10.00** It's Happening Now **12.00** News **13.00** We Live in Greece **15.00** News **16.00** With Taste **18.00** News **19.00** Greek Film **20.45** 20th-Century Selections **21.00** News **22.00** Greek Show **23.00** FILM: "THE LIMEY," US, 2000, crime thriller with Terence Stamp, Peter Fonda, Leslie Anne Warren **1.00** Documentary: Inside the Mind of Adolf Hitler

ET3

Tel. 2310.299.400

8.00 True Scripts (R) **9.00** Documentary: Out of the Past **10.00** Greek Show **11.30** Documentary: My Greek Kitchen **12.00** Documentary: Getaway **13.00** News **14.25** Greek Show **14.30** THE BOLD AND THE BEAUTIFUL **15.30** Documentary: The Joy of Painting **16.00** Documentary: Magically Simple **16.30** Documentary: Up Close and Dangerous **17.00** News in sign language **18.00** The Sixth Sense **18.15** Sports Program **19.15** Documentary: Big Game **19.45** Documentary: Be a

Predator **20.45** Documentary: Be the Creature **22.00** News **23.00** True Scripts **24.00** Cinemania **1.00** MotoGP (R) **2.00** Tonight with Terence (R)

MEGA

Tel. 210.690.3000

5.30 Morning Show **6.30** Society Mega O'Clock **10.00** A Wonderful Morning World **12.50** My Adorable Neighbors (R) **14.00** News **15.00** Western Suburbs Lover (R) **16.00** Greek Series **17.00** News in sign language **17.30** 50-50 **18.10** One Moment, Two Lives **19.00** Secrets of Eden **20.00** News **21.00** My Adorable Neighbors **22.00** Extreme Makeover **23.00** The Apartments (R) **0.15** News **0.30** THE SHIELD **1.30** FILM: "NO CONTEST," US, 1994, adventure with Robert Davi **3.30** STARSKY & HUTCH

ANTENNA

Tel. 210.688.6100

5.30 Good Morning Greece **10.00** Morning Coffee **13.00** News **13.50** Constantinou and Eleni (R) **14.45** Family Life (R) **15.45** It's Worth a Look **17.40** News in sign language **17.45** Greek Show **18.50** With Love **19.00** Lola **20.00** News **21.00** Seven Lives **22.00** The Moment of Truth **23.00** GREY'S ANATOMY **24.00** DIRT **1.00** News **1.10** With Love (R) **1.15** 40 Waves (R) **2.15** FILM: "THE LIFE AND DEATH OF PETER SELLERS," US/UK, 2004, biography with Charlize Theron, Emily Watson, John Lithgow, Stanley Tucci

STAR

Tel. 211.189.1000

6.15 Batman **6.45** Pokemon **7.15** New Woody Woodpecker **7.45** Morning Show **10.00** Cookery Show **11.00** There's a Reason **13.00** News **14.00** Super Star **16.45** I Can **18.40** News in sign language **18.45** CHARMED **19.45** News **21.00** FILM: "WINDTALKERS," US, 2002, war adventure with Nico-

The Life and Death of Peter Sellers

Antenna - 2.15

Biography drama directed by Stephen Hopkins, starring Geoffrey Rush, Charlize Theron, Emily Watson and John Lithgow.

The actor known to many as the quirky Inspector Clouseau was no saner in life than he was in fiction.

NANNY 21.05 THE SIMPSONS **21.35** WHO'S THE BOSS **22.05** BILLION-DOLLAR DISASTER **23.05** ZERO HOUR

ALTER

Tel. 210.570.7000

6.45 Alter Kids **8.30** News **9.15** In the Kitchen **9.55** Greece is Playing **12.35** Blah Blah **15.45** News in sign language **16.10** Show Biz News **17.10** Look Ahead **18.45** Today **20.00** News **21.00** FILM: "BIG FAT LIAR," US, 2002, family comedy with Paul Giamatti **23.00** The Jungle **2.00** Auto Alter **2.15** FILM: "STEEL DAWN," US, 1987, science-fiction adventure with Patrick Swayze

CINE+

Tel. 210.770.1911/15

8.15 Greek Film **9.40** FILM: "THE ONE AND ONLY, GENUINE ORIGINAL FAMILY BAND," US, 1968, musical **11.40** FILM: "WESTWARD HO THE WAGONS," US, 1956, western **13.10** ENTERPRISE **14.00** FRASIER **14.3**

Ioannina, the legendary city on the lake

This historic hub of western Greece provides visitors with a blend of natural beauty, tradition and modernity

BY HARIS ARGYROPOULOS

The city of Ioannina, western Greece's main commercial and administrative hub for centuries, evokes strong historical and cultural associations in the country's psyche.

The mountainous region of Epirus, of which Ioannina lies at the center, is associated with heroic acts of resistance against Ottoman rule, the thwarting of the Italian invasion of 1940 (celebrated on October 28), as well as a distinct cultural and folk tradition. It has also produced an ample number of national benefactors who founded notable schools and libraries and made major contributions to the liberation of the country.

Built on the shore of Lake Pamvotis, with imposing mountains all around and with one of the highest levels of precipitation in Greece – bringing occasional blankets of fog over the lake – Ioannina exudes mystique and melancholy that is amply balanced by the liveliness of its large student community.

Much of the city's history is shrouded in legend, largely linked with the lake. As a multiethnic city of Muslims, Christians and Jews under Ottoman rule, Ioannina flourished, especially around 1800, through its well-developed industries of silversmithing and tanning, as well as its textile, fur and silk trade with the Balkans and big cities in Western Europe. When Lord Byron visited the famous and fearsome regional ruler Ali Pasha in 1809, he described the town as "superior in wealth, refinement and learning" to all others in Greece.

The castle, the lake and traditional architecture provide one of Greece's most attractive urban settings, in a city of around 100,000 people that is also modern and bustling.

The castle enclosure, one of the country's oldest, occupies a large area on a promontory in the lake and hosts a number of very interesting museums, although the quarter is a virtual museum in itself. Take a stroll around the cobblestone streets with romantic cafes and restored mansions, or along the lakeside promenade under the old plane trees.

The Aslan Pasha Mosque, at the northwestern end of the castle complex, with superb views of the lake, now houses the municipal museum, with exhibits on the history of the three religious communities that co-existed for several centuries in the city. The mosque, built in 1618, is one of the most impressive examples of Ottoman architecture and art still extant in Greece. The castle complex also hosts the Byzantine Museum and its silver and goldsmith collection. Other disused Ottoman buildings include the impressive Fetihe Mosque, a prison, a library, barracks and Turkish baths.

In the center of the city, note the prefecture building, the square, Litharit-



(Strathis Katsadimas)

sia Park with a unique view of the lake and City Hall.

The island in the lake has a traditional, stone-built settlement with picturesque alleyways, souvenir shops and tavernas – often offering questionable value for money. It also hosts a number of monastery complexes from the Byzantine and post-Byzantine era with impressive frescoes.

Ioannina has a vibrant nightlife, with plenty of clubs, bars, theaters and cinemas. Cultural activities abound throughout the year.

There are many things to see out-



1

Getting there & about

Olympic (80111.44444) and Aegean (80111.20000) offer several flights a day. An intercity bus from Athens (100 Kifissou, tel 210.512.9363/65) takes about seven hours and driving by car under six hours. The usual route is via the national road to Patras and over the Rio-Antirio bridge. For a more scenic route, go via Trikala, Kalambaka and Metsovo. Thessaloniki bus terminal: tel 2310.512444. Ioannina bus terminal: 26510.26344/26286. Parking in the city tends to be problematic but opportunities are rather better by the clock tower and the lake.

Cultural crossroads

The Aslan Pasha Mosque, built in 1618, is one of the most impressive examples of Ottoman architecture in Greece



2

Where to stay

Area code: 26510. In Ioannina: Hotel du Lac (4*, tel 59100), Grand Serai - Xenia (5*, 90550), Epirus Palace Hotel (7 km on the road to Athens, 5*, 93555), Kamares (3*, 79348), Kastro (apartments, 3*, 22866), Palladion (3*, 25856), Alexios (2*, 32030), Astoria (2*, 20755/25438), Brettania (2*, 26380), Dioni (2*, 27032), Egnatia (2*, 25667), (El Greco, 2*, 30726/7), Krikonis Suites Hotel Apartments (3*, 44633/4), Limnopoula camping (25265). In Konitsa: Bourazani (3*, 26550.61320). In Metsovo: Diasselo (4*, 26560.41719). For bookings, visit www.booking.com.

side the city but two are musts: the Paul Vrellis Greek History Wax Museum in Bizani, 12 kilometers from Ioannina, and the Perama Cave – in the village of the same name 4 kilometers from the city – estimated to be 1.4 million years old. It is 1,500 meters in length and has 18 different types of stalactites.

Time permitting, it is also worth visiting the village of Zitsa, 24 kilometers northwest of the city, for its well-kept mansions and its famous wines of appellation of controlled origin. On a hill above Zitsa lies the Monastery of



3

Where to eat

In Ioannina: Stoa Louli in the Old Town (78 Anexartias), restaurant-bar in an old inn, popular with students; Frontzou Politeia, restaurant-guesthouse on Aghia Triada Hill, fine views, pricey; Omilos, by the lake in Limnopoula, modern, pricey. In Molos: Limni, good fish; Spuntino, expensive Italian; Seirios; Ithaki; Manteio; Kyra Frosyni, cafe/ouzeri; at Es Aei, you will find dishes from all over Greece and a good wine selection; for excellent freshwater fish, crayfish and frogs' legs, go to Drabatova's in Amphithea village, 6 km outside the city. Bars: Skala, Monte Christo.

Profitis Ilias, with impressive frescoes. In nearby Lithino, there is a natural bridge over the Kalamas River.

Further afield in Ioannina prefecture, it is also worth the trip to the town of Metsovo (59 km), well-known for its cheeses; the Vikos-Aoos National Park, with the world's deepest canyon, Konitsa (64 km); the archaeological site of the Dodona oracle (22 km); the Zagoria village district, which is among the best in the country for mountaineering and related sports; and Pirsyoiani, the village of the famous stone artisans.



4

What to see & buy

Paul Vrellis Greek History Wax Museum (92128), Perama Cave (81521/650), Archaeological Museum (25 Martiou, 33357), Byzantine Museum (Kastro, 25989), Municipal Gallery (1 Korai, 75131), 1940-41 War Museum (Kalpaki, 26530.42140), Molyvdoskepasti Monastery (7th century, 26550.24175). In Metsovo: Averof Gallery (26560.41210), Tositsa Museum (2650-41084), Karakoli ski center (41211). Buy decorative plates and other silver and bronze souvenirs from shops near Molos, baklava sweets and hilopites (homemade pasta).

AROUND GREECE

BY HARIS ARGYROPOULOS


HISTORICAL PLACES

Kalpaki, where the tide of war turned

Kalpaki, some 35 kilometers north of Ioannina and approximately the same distance from the Albanian border, is a rare example of a growing Greek village today. This is due to its geographical position commanding the pass to Ioannina, which has helped the town become a transportation hub for the surrounding mountainous area. It was at this unassuming position that the tide of the 1940 Italian invasion turned and Greek forces went on to claim the first victory for the allies in World War II. The outnumbered and outgunned Greeks had expected an invasion from Italian-occupied Albania for some time, but their plans were based on the principle of elastic defense - designed to minimize losses and slow down the enemy advance until a full mobilization could take effect.



But the regional Greek commander, General Haralambos Katsimitros, convinced that the key to success lay in holding the Kalpaki pass, the main route to Ioannina, had resolved to ignore repeated instructions by the General Staff and concentrated the main bulk of his forces in Kalpaki. He mobilized local volunteers to dig trenches, constructed anti-tank defenses and even hid his meager artillery firepower in mountain caves. The Italians declared war on October 28. On November 3, after heavy air bombardment of the Greek positions, two columns of some 80 Italian tanks approached the pass but were bogged down by Greek artillery and anti-tank weapons, losing more than half of their troops. For five days the Italians tried to break through, but to no avail. On November 9, they gave up and withdrew. Elsewhere on the front, their progress was mixed, but by the end of the month Greek forces were well inside Albania. The 1940-41 War Museum in Kalpaki today contains exhibits from the historic battle. A re-enactment of the battle takes place on October 27. Visitors can also visit the cave which served as Katsimitros's headquarters, with his bust outside. Historians have argued that the Italian failure in Greece caused a critical delay in Hitler's attack on the Soviet Union.

 Kalpaki War Museum, tel 26530.42140/41217.

GET IN TOUCH

Readers are invited to send their views and comments to travel@athensplus.gr.


ESCAPES & DIVERSIONS



Achaia

Lake Tsivlou


A huge landslide in the Peloponnese's mountainous region of Achaia in 1913 swept down a river gorge near the village of Tsivlos, blocking the river and eventually creating a deep lake covering an area of 20 hectares. Lake Tsivlou today is a stunning location, surrounded by lush forest and mountain peaks and ideal for camping, fishing and canoeing, as well as offering routes for 4x4 driving or trekking. There are two ways to get there: either via the village of Akrata, 146 kilometers from Athens on the road to Patras, and then another 29 km drive, or - for a more scenic route, though tougher, requiring a 4x4 - via the village of Diakofto (about 160 km from Athens), from where the lake is a 42 km drive. Follow the red sign posts to Petrouchi and the summit of Ai-Lias through fir forest, from where you have superb view of the lake below, and then descend via Kato Potamia. It takes about an hour to walk around the lake. The first parts of both routes from the sea, which afford views of the Gulf of Corinth, have been affected by forest fires but the latter parts are amply rewarding. In Tsivlos village, Panayiotis, who runs the Petrino restaurant/guesthouse (tel 26960.34190) can advise on trekking routes.

 From the lake, it is 11 km to the village of Zarouchla, which has several stone-built guesthouses in traditional mansions (Aroania, all rooms with a fireplace, tel 26960.35090).

Konitsa

Tsipouro fiesta

October and November are the best months for combining the chestnut and mushroom season with local feasts where tsipouro (or raki), the most popular Greek spirit after ouzo, flows freely, directly from makeshift distilleries. Konitsa, a town 64 kilometers from Ioannina in Epirus, is holding this year's big feast, "Kazania 2008," at the Platanakia taverna on November 14, 15 and 16. On Saturday, November 15, the distillery is expected to be operating nonstop and you can drink and eat likewise, accompanied by traditional Epirote music from the Halkias Bros, one of the best folk groups of the genre. On November 16, there will be an organized walk to the Stomio monastery, which has a breathtaking location in the Aoos River valley, inside the national park. Other options in the area include rafting and horse riding. A package (tel 26550.23777, www.konitsanet.eu) including two overnight stays with breakfast, plus the walking trip fees and food and drink at the festival, costs 110 euros per person in the Gefyri and Artemis guesthouses and 130 euros at the Konitsa Mountain and Hamko hotels. On the edge of town, Villa Rustica Agrepavlis, with wooden bungalows, will also be open for distillation instructions and tsipouro appreciation sessions by the fireplace throughout November.

 For more information, call 26550.24910 or visit www.villarustica.gr.



Rafting



Arachthos

Tzoumerka, a mountain separated from the others in the southern Pindus range by the Acheloos and Arachthos rivers, is noted for its impressive steep western slopes. The Arachthos is considered the best river for rafting in Greece and autumn is the ideal time for it. The impressive, single-arched stone bridge in Plaka over the river, built in 1866, is the biggest in Greece and is the starting or termination point for superb rafting and kayaking routes. Outdoor activities firm Alpine Zone (tel 26510.23222, 24620.80688, www.alpinezone.gr) has a base in Plaka and organizes rafting routes, with overnight stays in a traditional guesthouse. The price is 125 euros for two people, including breakfast. Alpine Zone also organizes rafting trips on the Voidomatis River in the Zagoria village district north of Ioannina, at a cost of 100 euros for two people (price applies as of November 1). Other firms organizing similar activities in the area are No Limits (www.nolimits.com.gr) and Trekking Hellas (www.domestic.trekking.gr). For those less keen on extreme sports, trekking is a gentler alternative. One of the best routes on Tzoumerka starts at Melissourgi and ends at Afti, near Theodoriani, with waterfalls and alpine meadows on the way. For alternative accommodation and advice on outdoor activities in western Tzoumerka, go to the Kedros forest village, a cluster of 20 well-equipped and hospitable wooden bungalows 3 km from the village of Katarraktis (tel 26850.31791).

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Greece

MINISTRY OF TOURISM - GREEK NATIONAL TOURISM ORGANISATION

ARCHAEOLOGY

BY JOHN LEONARD

Update on shipwreck surveys

HIMA has spent last few months examining three sites off coast of central Greece

The Hellenic Institute of Marine Archaeology (HIMA) continued its research this past summer and fall with underwater surveys in three areas of central Greece.

The South Euboean Gulf Survey, directed by George Koutsouflakis, and the Greek Department of Underwater Antiquities focused their investigations between Rhamnous and Marathon in July. Since 2006, the project has identified 11 shipwreck sites ranging in date between the late Archaic (late 6th to early 5th centuries BC) and medieval periods (13th century), with most belonging to Hellenistic and Roman merchants.

Further north, in the Pagasitikos Gulf, HIMA investigated a wreck site in September near Cape Glaros. There they discovered the poorly preserved remains of not one but two merchant ships, of Roman and Byzantine dates, which had come to rest side by side and became entangled on the seabed.

At nearby Cape Telegraphos, HIMA also completed its final season of survey and excavation on



Since 2006, the Hellenic Institute of Marine Archaeology (HIMA) has identified the sites of 11 shipwrecks.

"Wreck Number 7," a late 4th-century Roman merchant ship that sank with a load of wine, oil or other foodstuffs contained in amphorae. Work on the site since 2003 has revealed that at least four different types of amphorae existed in the cargo, one of which was pre-

viously unknown. Both Pagasitikos projects are directed by Elias Spondylis.

Another of the institute's projects, the survey of a late Bronze Age Mycenaean shipwreck (ca 1200 BC), at Modi island near Poros (also known as Liontari), took a study

season in 2008, according to project director Christos Agouridis, but will return to the field in 2009. Discoveries to date from the deep site include stone anchors, globular amphorae and large wide-mouthed storage jars.

Most recently, a small team of six HIMA researchers left Athens for Cyprus, where they will join fellow HIMA member Stella Demesticha, now of the University of Cyprus. Together they will begin excavating a mid-4th-century BC shipwreck reported in 2006 near Alaminos, west of Larnaca. The project, directed by Demesticha, represents an important new collaboration between HIMA, the University of Cyprus and the Cypriot Department of Antiquities.

All ancient sites and artifacts on the seabed in Greece are strictly protected by the Greek Department of Underwater Antiquities. Readers interested in exploring Greek waters should contact authorities or a local dive shop for information concerning areas open for recreational diving.

THE WEEK IN PERSPECTIVE

This is a week for exhibition-hopping. The lecture circuits are quiet for the moment, but, if you enjoy historiography, there is a major international conference beginning on Thursday, October 30, at the University of Athens on Panepistimiou Street (central building): "History Between Reflexivity and Critique." Organized by the journal *Historein*, the International Commission of Historiography and Theory of History and the Historical Archive of the University of Athens, the conference will feature speakers from Greece, Hungary, the UK, Poland, France, Bulgaria, Finland, China, Japan, Italy, the United States and Australia. Presentations will cover different



Secrets of ancient 'computer' go on show

A bronze mechanical device salvaged more than a century ago by sponge divers off the northeast coast of Antikythera has long been a subject of fascination and controversy. Now it is featured in a high-tech exhibition that recently opened at the Ionic Center in Plaka,



which reveals how modern technology can shed light on ancient puzzles. The "Antikythera mechanism," found in 1901 aboard what seems to have been a Roman ship bound from Rhodes to Italy with a massive cargo of marble and bronze statues, was originally identified as either a clock or a navigational instrument, the parts of which were marked with

ancient Greek inscriptions. The ship carrying the mechanism sank between 80 and 60 BC, but the device itself was already perhaps a century old. What exactly was this strange, complex mechanism containing between 30 and 72 gears? Studies in the 1950s and 70s suggested it was a calculator for determining the positions of the Sun and moon, predicting eclipses and tracking planetary movements.

Recently, however, the Antikythera Mechanism Research Project, a Greek-led team of international specialists, has begun employing modern technology to look, as it were, inside the corroded device and

decipher many of the inscriptions including a kind of instruction manual on its door. Since 2005, using x-ray tomography, computer modeling and other advanced methods, the team has revealed that this ancient "computer" was even more sophisticated than previously believed. Among its functions, the device could locate Mars and Venus and calculate the cycle for the Olympic Games.

The Ionic Center exhibition, which opened on Wednesday, October 22, offers visitors the chance to see and experiment with the computer-based technologies used to analyze the Antikythera mechanism. Also displayed are actual models and the scientific team's latest results. Following up on the National Archaeological Museum's well-publicized symposium in November 2006, this new presentation reflects the in-

creasing international interest in the Antikythera mechanism and showcases remarkable scientific achievement that has provided both fascinating insight into the past and high hopes for further answers in the future.

! "The Antikythera Mechanism," at the Ionic Center (11 Lysiou, Plaka, tel 210.324.6614, www.ionic.gr). Open Mondays-Fridays 11 a.m. - 7 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Runs to December 14.



approaches to history and varieties of historical critique. There will also be discussion of the potentials and limitations of history, including its nature, uses and politics. On the lighter side, a number of exhibitions around town are well worth a look (see adjacent listings). The new "Antikythera Mechanism" exhibition, sponsored by the Ministry of Culture at the Ionic Center in Plaka (see related story), combines traditional displays of physical models with computer-based, interactive displays that allow visitors to try out a number of modern technological tools recently used by scientists to re-examine the amazing ancient device.

For those not familiar with the Antikythera mechanism, it is a miracle of ancient technology, brought to light in 1901 as a sediment-encrusted lump of bronze, but now cleaned, studied and exhibited in the National Archaeological Museum. X-rays and computer modeling have recently allowed a scientific team to "see" inside and reconstruct the mechanism's workings. The scientists' results are truly impressive and lead us to understand that ancient Greek science was even more highly advanced than previously believed. Don't miss this exhibition! The history of science is being rewritten right here in Greece.

! "History Between Reflexivity and Critique," October 30 to November 1, at the University of Athens (Drakopoulos Amphitheater), 30 Panepistimiou. For details, log on to www.historein.gr.

EXHIBITIONS

Current

New Acropolis Museum

2-4 Makriyianni
near the Acropolis metro station
tel 210.924.1107.
"Nostoi." Opening hours: Mondays-Sundays 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. (Through December 31.)

Danish Institute at Athens

Herefondos 14A
Aghias Aikaterinis Square, Plaka

tel 210.324.4644.

"The French Connection - 100 Years with Danish Architects at the French School in Athens." Opening hours: Tuesdays-Saturdays 5-9 p.m., Sundays noon - 3 p.m. (Through November 6.)

Thessaloniki Archaeological Museum

6 Manoli Andronikou
tel 2310.830.538.
"Alexander the Great: Works from Macedonian Collections and Mythological

Iconography in Italy."

Opening hours: Mondays 1-7.30 p.m., Tuesdays-Sundays 8 a.m. - 7.30 p.m. (Through November 15.)

New

The Ionic Center

11 Lysiou, Plaka, tel 210.324.6614.
"The Antikythera Mechanism."
Opening hours: Mondays-Fridays 11 a.m. - 7 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. (Through December 14.)

GETTING AROUND

Public transport

Tickets

Tickets must be purchased at ticket offices, kiosks or automatic ticket machines before boarding the vehicle, except for Sightseeing Bus 400 and airport buses. Ninety-minute tickets are valid for multiple journeys. For more information, visit the Athens Urban Transport Organization website (www.oasa.gr).

90-minute ticket for all modes*	€0.80
90-minute reduced ticket for all modes*	€0.50
24-hour ticket for all modes*	€3.00
7-day ticket for all modes*	€10.00
Athens Sightseeing Bus 400 (on the vehicle)	€5.00
Airport bus (one way)	€6.00
Airport bus (return)	€10.00

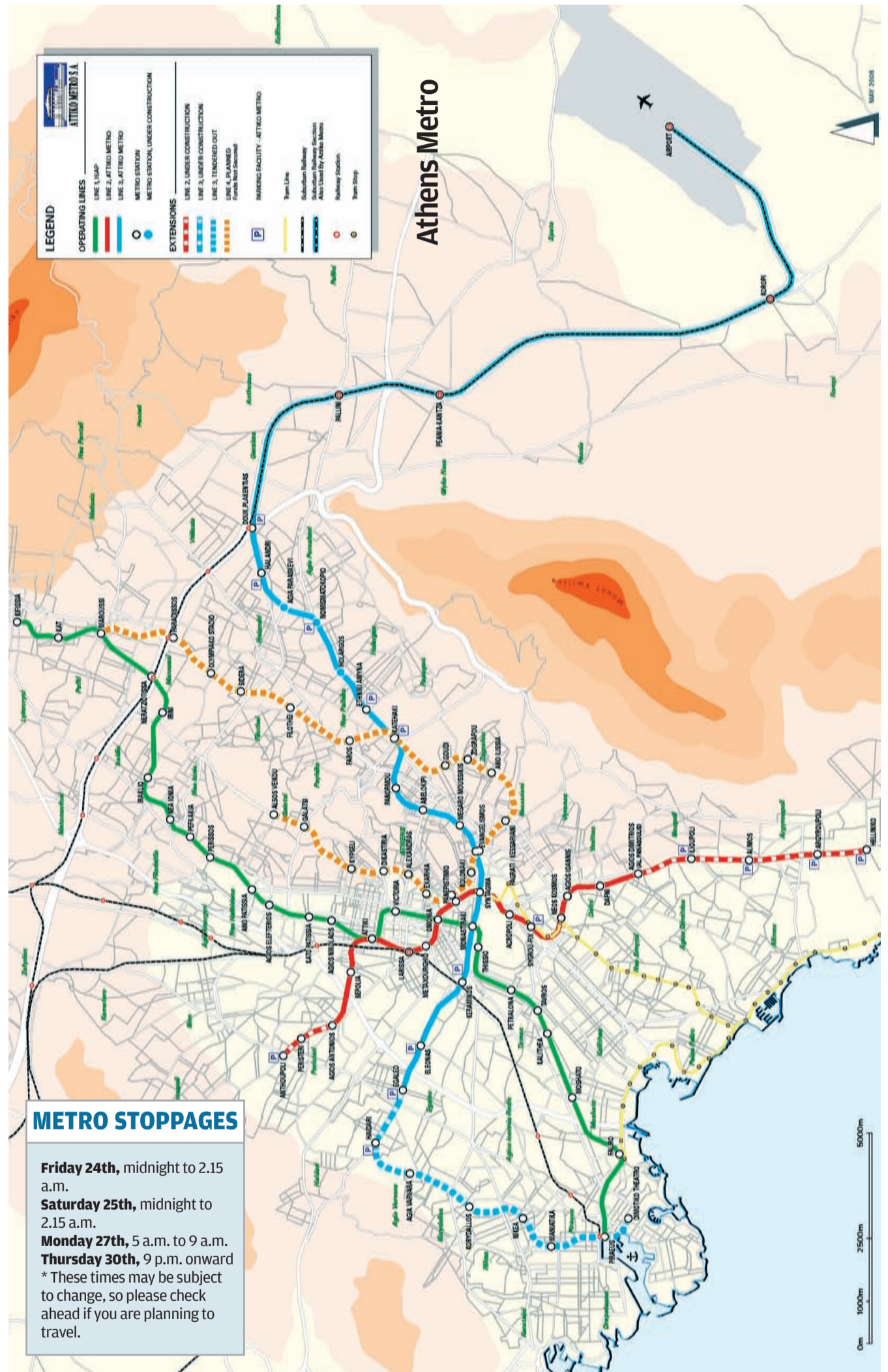
* Except for: Airport Express Buses; Bus E22 in Zone 2 from "Varkiza" to "Saronida;" Metro Line 3 from "Doukissis Plakentias" to "Airport." Regarding suburban rail, this ticket provides only for travel along the urban section (i.e. from Magoula - Larissis Station - Plakentias station). ** Except for: Airport Express Buses (X92, X93, X94, X95, X96, X97); Bus E22 in Zone 2 from "Varkiza" to "Saronida."

X95 Syntagma - Airport

- SYNTAGMA SQUARE
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- HILTON
- ILISIA
- MAVILI SQUARE
- GALAXIAS CINEMA
- ZAGORA
- SCHOLI ASTYNOMIAS
- ETHNIKI AMYNA STATION
- 7TH HOLARGOU
- AGHIA PARASKEVI SQUARE
- PANAGITSA
- PYRGOS
- S.E.A.
- ATTIKES DIADROMES
- KTIRIO DIOIKISIS
- AIRPORT CUSTOMS
- AIRPORT (DEPARTURES)
- PYLI OKTO (GATE 8)
- AIRPORT (ARRIVALS)

Other buses to Airport

- X92 Kifissia - Athens International Airport (average travel time 45')
- Airport - from Platanos Sq, Kifissia.
- X93 Kifissos Intercity Bus Station - Athens International Airport (average travel time 65'). Airport - intercity bus stations on Kifissou and Liosion avenues.
- X94 Ethniki Amyna Metro Station - Athens International Airport (average travel time 45' -50').
- Airport - Ethniki Amyna Metro Station (Metro Line 3).
- X95 Syntagma - Athens International Airport (average travel time 70'). Airport -Syntagma Square in the city center (connection with Metro Lines 2 and 3)
- X96 Piraeus - Athens International Airport (average travel time 90')
- Airport - Piraeus Port (connection with ferry routes and Metro Line 1)
- X97 Dafni Metro Station - Athens International Airport (average travel time 70'). Airport - Dafni Metro Station.



Metro

- You can buy tickets using the automatic ticket issuing machines (ATIMs) in all metro stations and from ticket offices. ATIMs accept banknotes (€5, €10 and €20) and give change. See instructions for use on each ATIM.
- Check to see if you are entitled to a reduced fare and always ensure that you hold the correct ticket for your destination.
 - Before proceeding to the platforms for boarding, validate your ticket at a ticket validating machine.
 - Authorized metro employees carry out inspections. If a passenger is found to be traveling without a valid ticket, pass or travel card, a penalty fare 60 times the price of the ticket is imposed.
 - Validate your ticket once at the station of your first boarding and hold on to it until leaving the station at your destination.

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- Maroussi - 3 Himaras St (Champion Marinopoulos), tel 210.619.8855
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call Mr Wilson on tel 210.66.24.947, 6977.282.639. (HT16917)

ATHENS, Kolonaki, Hilton, Faliron, unique furnished or unfurnished houses, apartments. METROPOLITAN Real Estate Agency, 210.72.21.031, www.e-metropolit.gr. (HT16941)

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FILOTHEI, maisonette, 220 sq.m., in the best and quietest part of Filothei, with large garden, large verandas and unlimited view, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large reception area, fully equipped kitchen and living room, WC for guests, maid's room, wooden floors and fireplace, independent heating, parking space. Tel. 210.68.18.219, 6938.061.134. (HT16947)

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VOULA, luxurious maisonette, 280 sq.m., 3 levels (inc top floor), 4 bedrooms (1 master), comfortable, quiet area, amazing sea view. SAKALIDOU, 210.89.44.949, 6932.442.111. (HT16749)

VOULA, Pigadakia, luxurious, newly built entire-floor apartment, 175 sq.m., 3 bedrooms (1 master), study, 2 bathrooms, WC, fireplace, a/c, sea view, in large plot with garden, parking and storage in the base-

ment. SAKALIDOU, 210.89.44.949, 6932.442.111. (HT16702)

VOULIAGMENI, luxurious, fully furnished, new apartment, 160 sq.m., ground floor, view, 2 big bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, air conditioning, independent heating, fireplace, underground parking and storage, modern and minimalist furniture. SAKALIDOU, tel 210.89.44.949, 6932.442.111. (HT16868)

VOULIAGMENI, 380 sq.m. maisonette, 5th-6th floors, in an amazing neighborhood with villas, unlimited sea view, 4 master bedrooms, 2 simple bedrooms, big balconies, 2 parking spaces, super-luxurious, furnished/unfurnished. SAKALIDOU, 210.89.44.949, 6932.442.111. (HT16445)

VRILISSIA, 240 sq.m. entire-floor apartment, in building surrounded by huge garden, next to Attiki Odos, 4 bedrooms, spacious living room, garage for 2 cars. HELEN'S REAL ESTATE, 210.77.96.536, 6944.844.415, www.helens.gr. (HT16873)

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AEGINA ISLAND, PACHIA RACHI, newly built villa (two separate buildings): main residence (120 sq.m.) and guest house (40 sq.m.), with panoramic sea view, 10 mins from port, fully furnished, swimming pool, garden with 420 plants, water purification system etc. Tel. 22970.61718. (HT16838)

APARTMENTS for sale/rent, commercial/residential, industrial, Glyfada, Voula, Koropi, Lagonissi, management, land. Visit www.greekrivierarealestate.com or call Mr Wilson on 210.66.24.947 or 6977.282.639. (HT16940)

GLYFADA, just off the coastal road, beautiful apartment, 148 sq.m., 4th (top) floor, 3 bedrooms, bath, WC, large living/dining room, 2 very large front verandas, exquisite sea view (code: 0773, 1003-34). REMAX ONE, 210.96.28.900, www.remax.gr. (HT16833)

KIFISSIA (POLITEIA), Kyvelis St, near the Grand Chalet, 218 sq.m. apartment with guest house in a beautiful complex with private use of garden and terrace. HELEN'S REAL ESTATE, 210.77.96.536, 6944.844.415, www.helens.gr. (HT16677)

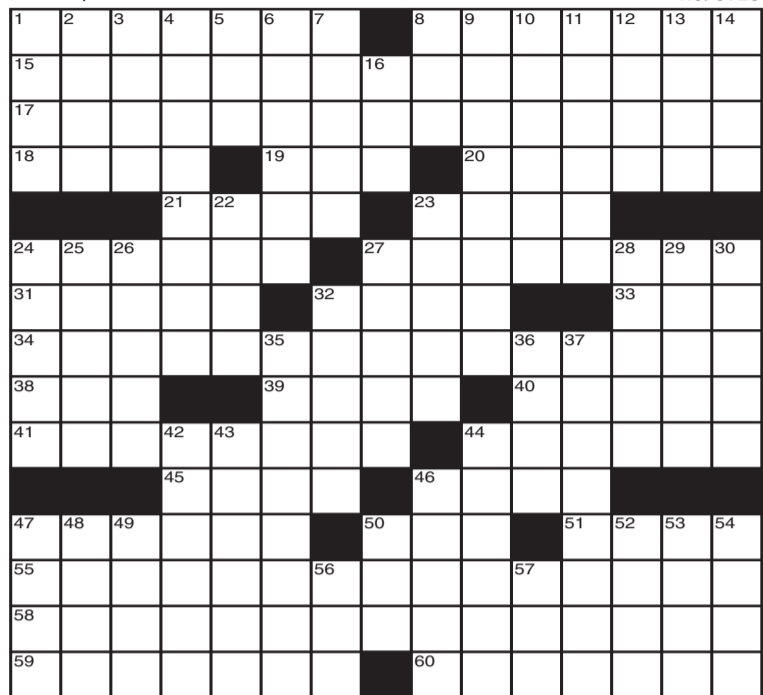
KOLONAKI, 220 sq.m., 4th floor, 3-4 bedrooms, 3 reception areas, 2 bathrooms, renovated; 125 sq.m., fully renovated penthouse, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fireplace, veranda, 5 mins from square. HELEN'S REAL ESTATE, tel 210.77.96.536, www.helens.gr. (HT16899)

PALAIO PSYCHICO, 158 sq.m. maisonette in a modern condominium, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, swimming pool, roof garden, Athens view, garage. HELEN'S REAL ESTATE, 210.77.96.536, 6944.844.415. (HT16942)

CROSSWORD

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0926



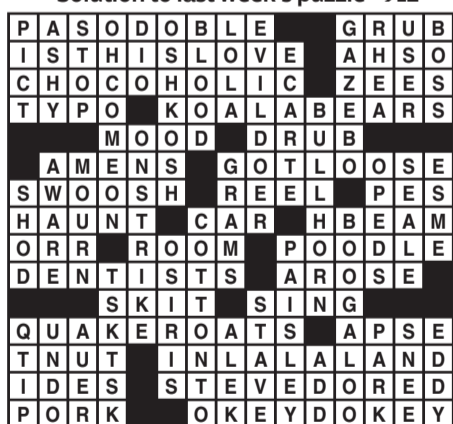
THE NEW YORK TIMES

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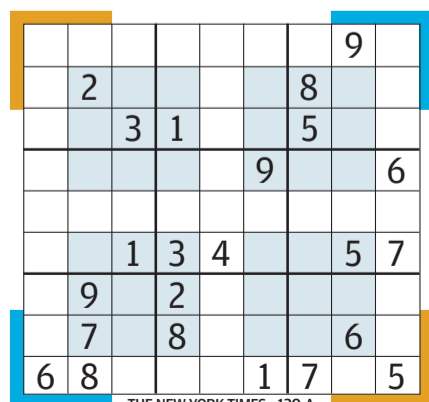
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- 37 Was shy
- 42 Like the Colossus of Rhodes
- 43 Flock-related
- 44 Leader who said "There is no god higher than truth"
- 46 Model who wrote "The Way to Natural Beauty"
- 47 Occurrences
- 48 Release
- 49 Deconstruct?
- 50 Shooting option, briefly
- 52 War of 1812 siege site
- 53 City SW of Padua
- 54 One doing school work?
- 56 Sprout
- 57 Curse

Solution to last week's puzzle - 912



DOWN

- 1 Clear conclusion?
- 2 Sweat
- 3 Like many of Shakespeare's rhymes

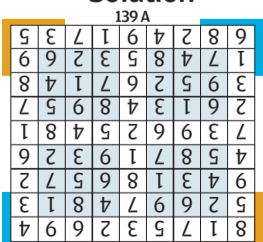


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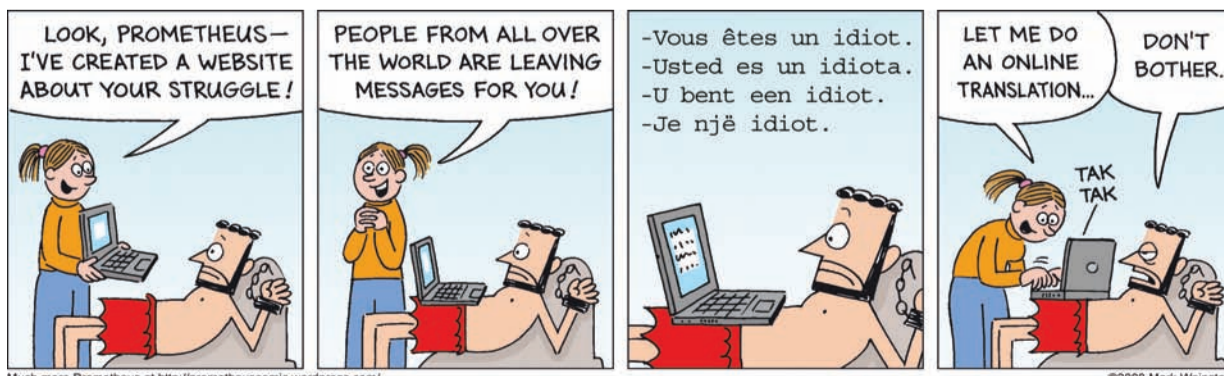
SUDOKU

Fill the grid so that every row, column, 3x3 box and shaded 3x3 box contains each of the numbers 1 to 9 exactly once.

Solution

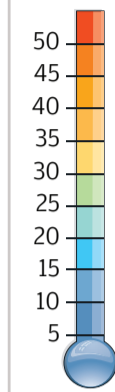
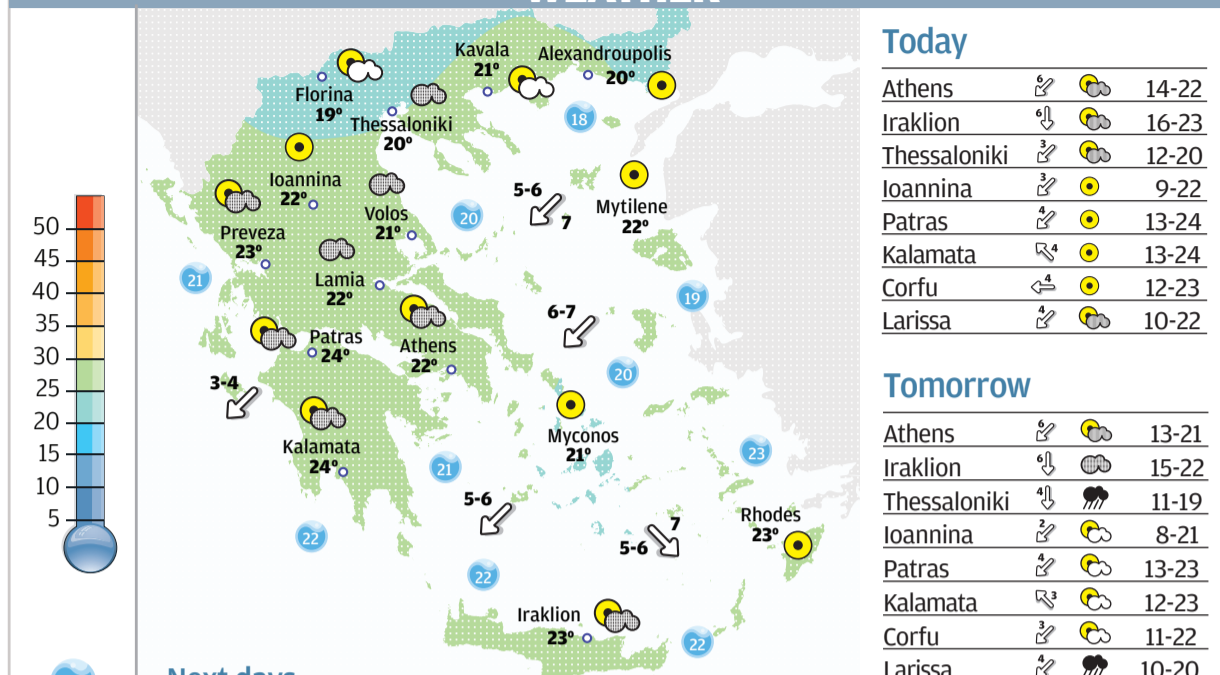


PROMETHEUS



Much more Prometheus at <http://prometheuscomic.wordpress.com/>

WEATHER



- 31 Sea temperature
- Sunshine
- Light clouds
- Sunny spells
- Partly cloudy
- Heavy cloud
- Rain
- Storm
- Snow
- Ice
- Fog
- Wind direction
- No wind

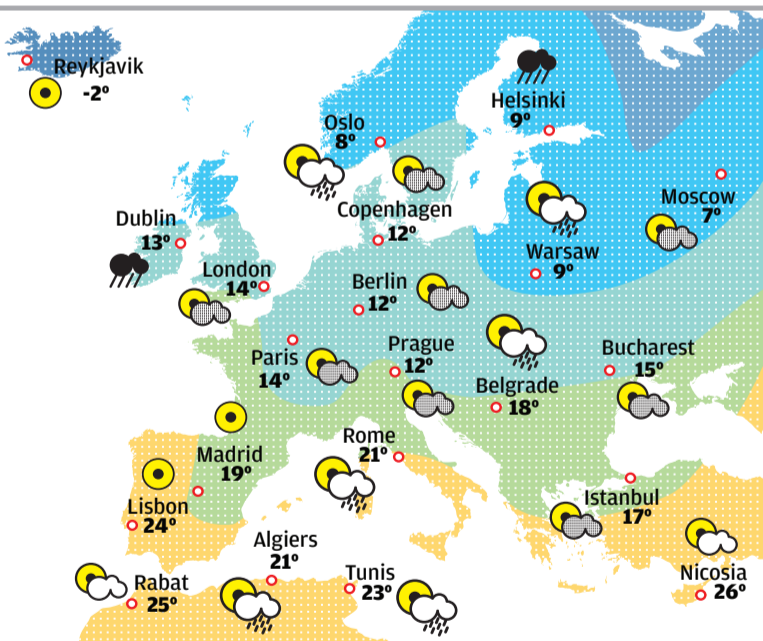
Next days

City	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Athens	☁ 13-20	☁ 12-21	☁ 11-23	☁ 13-25	☁ 15-26
Iraklion	☁ 15-22	☁ 15-23	☁ 15-24	☁ 16-25	☁ 17-27
Thessaloniki	☁ 12-20	☁ 10-21	☁ 11-22	☁ 12-23	☁ 14-24
Ioannina	☁ 8-21	☁ 9-22	☁ 10-22	☁ 11-23	☁ 15-24
Patras	☁ 13-23	☁ 14-24	☁ 15-24	☁ 15-25	☁ 17-25
Kalamata	☁ 13-24	☁ 14-24	☁ 15-24	☁ 16-24	☁ 17-25
Corfu	☁ 11-22	☁ 12-23	☁ 14-24	☁ 15-24	☁ 16-24
Larissa	☁ 10-20	☁ 11-21	☁ 10-23	☁ 11-25	☁ 13-26

Overview

Strong northerly winds, reaching up to 7 Beaufort in the Aegean, will prevail this weekend, coupled with a drop in temperatures that will make Saturday and Sunday quite chilly. The northerly winds will be bringing in some cloud cover and possibly showers, though weekend downpours

will be restricted to Macedonia, Thessaly, the eastern mainland, Evia and northern Crete. Conditions will change rather dramatically on Tuesday, as winds will switch to southerlies, nudging temperatures up, and likely bringing scattered downpours to western Greece by late next week.



World

New York	11-18
San Francisco	14-25
Beijing	5-17
Tokyo	18-23
Seoul	8-16
Buenos Aires	15-26
Cairo	19-27
Quebec	-1-9
Sydney	14-24
Tel Aviv	17-25
Istanbul	13-17
Prague	3-12
Hague	5-12
Rome	12-21
Lisbon	13-25
Madrid	9-19
Algiers	12-21
London	5-14
Dublin	6-13