

Congressional French Caucus Honors Franco-American Friendship

Members of the Congressional French Caucus (CFC) — including co-chairs Senator Smith and Congressmen Oberstar and Boozman, and caucus members Senators Warner and Snowe, as well as Reps. Lantos, Petri, McGovern, and others — gathered on July 12 in the U.S. Capitol to bid farewell to French Ambassador to the U.S. Jean-David Levitte and to celebrate the vitality of French-American relations. A highlight of the event, which included many other current and former Members of Congress, WWII veterans, and distinguished guests, was the decoration of former Congressman Amory "Amo" Houghton, Jr. with France's highest award, the Legion of Honor.

Members of the CFC emphasized the contribution of Ambassador Levitte, now French President Nicolas Sarkozy's senior diplomatic advisor, to French-American friendship and cooperation. France and the United States share a forward-looking relationship, turned toward action in all fields, including the fight against terrorism, the stabilization of Afghanistan, and the many struggles for peace and security that they are leading hand in hand—from Iran to Darfur, from Lebanon to Kosovo.

Addressing friends and members of the CFC in English and flawless French, Congressman Oberstar praised Ambassador Levitte for his personal determination to reinforce the bonds of friendship between France and the United States, even during the most difficult hours: "a large degree of success is due to Ambassador Levitte. He personally traveled to [representatives'] individual offices to make his case for French-American friendship." A personal commitment that indeed did not go unnoticed: "[he] left a mark on the people in Washington that will be everlasting," affirmed Senator Warner.

"I believe the way you change the world is through personal relationships," declared Representative Boozman, referring to Ambassador Levitte's assiduous efforts to forge personal relationships with U.S. leaders. Lauding the same spirit of personal conviction toward maintaining transatlantic friendship, all eyes focused on former Congressman Houghton, whose role as founder of the CFC incarnates the strong and enduring relationship that still unites the U.S. with its oldest ally, France. In honor of his contributions to enhanced U.S.-French relations through the creation of the CFC — in addition to his personal contributions in the private sector — Ambassador Levitte bestowed Mr. Houghton with the insignia of *Chevalier* in the Legion of Honor.

Son of the U.S. Ambassador to France during the Eisenhower Administration, and a veteran of WWII, Amory Houghton has had a lifelong connection with France. In May 2003, "Amo reached out to me to ask what we could do together to improve the tarnished, but vital relationship between France and the U.S.," explained Ambassador



Left to right: The Hon. Bob Michel, Mrs. Marie-Cécile Levitte, The Hon. Amo Houghton, and Ambassador Jean-David Levitte at July 12 French Caucus reception

Levitte, framing one of the premises for which the CFC was founded. "The result came in October 2003, when Amo Houghton, together with many of you in this room, founded the CFC."

Mr. Houghton has had a distinguished career in both the private sector, as CEO of Corning Incorporated, and in the public sector before retiring from the House of Representatives in 2004. In his capacity with the CFC, Representative Houghton led a congressional delegation to France in 2004 to meet with then President Chirac and members of the French Parliament. He and other caucus members also helped to commemorate the 60th anniversary of D-Day, and he met with business leaders in France and the U.S. to discuss bilateral economic and commercial ties.

Representative Houghton's legacy of the French Caucus continues to thrive today. Now comprising over 100 members, the CFC underscores the importance of Congress in

maintaining the strong and enduring friendship between France and the U.S.

Washington, D.C., was not the only city to recently celebrate figures representative of a longstanding Franco-American alliance. Echoes of French-American friendship could be heard on July 7, when Congressman Ike Skelton and officials from Lafayette County, Missouri, held a public ceremony commemorating of the Marquis de Lafayette.

In honor of the 250th anniversary of Lafayette's birth, Congressman Skelton, Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee authored legislation commemorating the life and legacy of Lafayette. In May, the U.S. House of Representatives unanimously approved this bill, H.Res. 171, which encourages American military personnel to study the critical role Lafayette played in the creation of the United States and in the formation of its military (see NFF 07.05).

Congressman Skelton presented a framed copy of the resolution to French Major General Jean-Luc Delon, Defense Attaché at the Embassy of France in Washington, D.C.

These recent events honoring present and past personalities who personify French-American friendship are a testament to the longstanding alliance between the two countries that still endures. "I can say with confidence that our friendship and alliance, born from the great friendship between Lafayette and George Washington continues stronger than ever" Ambassador Levitte remarked; "the French-American friendship has regained all the vigor and strength it had during the Revolutionary War."



Congressman Skelton presents House resolution honoring the Marquis de Lafayette to French General Delon

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**BORDEAUX EARNS
UNESCO RECOGNITION**



Le Pont de Pierre, Bordeaux: the city was recently named a UNESCO World Heritage Site

The historic center of the city of Bordeaux, located in southwestern France, was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site on June 28. This marks the first time that an urban landscape as vast and complex as Bordeaux's has been recognized by the organization. Also known as France's wine capital, Bordeaux is an inhabited historic city, with 18th-century facades fronting the Garonne River that have undergone extensive renovations in the last few years. Alain Juppé, former prime minister under president Chirac and mayor of Bordeaux since 1995, has made the city's renovation one of his top priorities. He greeted UNESCO's recognition by noting that it was an "acknowledgment of a twofold richness that Bordeaux possesses: history and modernity." According to UNESCO, Bordeaux contains more buildings protected for their historic significance than any other French city except for Paris, and joins the ranks of such famous sites as *Mont-Saint-Michel* and the *Palais et parc de Versailles* on the World Heritage List.

PARIS MAYOR PRESIDES OVER PARKER-LONGORIA WEDDING CEREMONY

French NBA Player Tony Parker and American Actress Eva Longoria were married before the Mayor of Paris, Bertrand Delanoë, at the town hall of Paris's 4th arrondissement on July 6. The modest civil ceremony hosted a crowd of about 40 guests, including some of Parker's San Antonio Spurs teammates and the French soccer player Thierry Henry. During the ceremony, Delanoë gave a speech in which he characterized Parker as a model in the fight against racism. A religious ceremony followed on July 7 at the Saint-Germain-l'Auxerrois cathedral, across from the Louvre in Paris.

France Sends Support to Refugees from Conflict in Darfur

Refugee children in Chad recently received an unexpected surprise. On June 21, three elementary school classes from Mareuil-le-Meaux, France, brought toys to the Musée du Quai Branly in Paris to supplement over 1,800 prior donations. The French Ministry of Defense transported the toys from the Paris museum to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in N'Djamena, Chad's capital, on June 26.

Additionally, the French army recently carried out an airlift in support of Sudanese refugees and internally displaced Chadians in cooperation with the government of Chad and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP).

The new administration in France has made the conflict in Darfur and its consequences on the region a priority. French Minister of Foreign Affairs Bernard Kouchner welcomed his US counterpart, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, to the Quai d'Orsay on June 24 for two days of diplomatic talks aimed at accelerating international action on the situation in Darfur. High-level representatives from 17 countries, including China and Russia, as well as several regional and international organizations, notably the United

Nations, attended the ministerial meeting of the Enlarged Contact group on Darfur, hosted in Paris. The meeting affirmed the unity of the international community in efforts to resolve the crisis in Darfur, where international experts estimate that 200,000 people have died and 2.5 million have been displaced from their homes over the past four years. The conference solidified support for a "hybrid" operation of more than 20,000 UN and African Union peacekeepers.

President Sarkozy emphasized the necessity of humanitarian action on a global level, proclaiming that "silence is killing," adding that, "we want to mobilize the international community to say 'enough is enough.'" France has spent about 145.5 million Euros (\$201 million based on the exchange rate of \$1.38) in aid to Darfur since 2004 and plans to provide an additional 63.45 million Euros (\$88 million) in 2007-2008. The talks created an opportunity for Paris and Washington to gain momentum on their collective stance on Darfur and other global issues. Secretary Rice reinforced the transatlantic bond, adding that, "whatever differences there may be about this tactic or that tactic, there is rarely a difference about the importance of democracy and freedom."

A Picturesque Display of French-American Friendship

A group of 2,500 French and American citizens gathered on Omaha Beach in Normandy June 30 to honor the American soldiers killed in France during World War II.



Message orchestrated on Omaha Beach June 30

Participants, including the United States Ambassador to France, Craig R. Stapleton, and his wife, assembled on the sand to form letters that spelled out the message "France Will Never Forget." Two non-profit organizations, "The French Will Never Forget" and "Collectif Respect," joined forces to orchestrate the man-made message to commemorate the fallen soldiers' efforts and to celebrate Franco-American relations. "Our goal is, once again, to

demonstrate the deep respect and gratitude of the people of France, for their recovered freedom thanks to America's extreme sacrifices during the Second World War and which no one can, or will ever forget," declared the co-founders of the organization.

Omaha Beach was chosen not only for its historical significance, but also because of its symbolism. The beach is located near to the main American cemetery where thousands of American soldiers who perished in World War II were laid to rest (see NFF 07.08). For more information, please visit: www.thefrenchwillneverforget.com.

Unprecedented E.U. Participation at This Year's Bastille Day



EU soldiers parade down the Champs-Élysées on July 14

Liberté, égalité, fraternité and European unity echoed down the *Champs-Élysées* on the 218th anniversary of the Storming of the Bastille. For the first time ever, representatives from all member states of the E.U. paraded alongside their French hosts in a display of European solidarity. The annual procession commemorates the Storming of the Bastille, considered the *début* of the French Revolution in 1789.

Never before has Bastille Day served as an occasion to rejoice in Europe in addition to France: while representatives of other countries have been invited to participate in previous years, President

Nicolas Sarkozy is the first to have included all member states of the E.U. in the French national holiday.

The French and European flags marched at the front of a "V" (symbolizing the word "Victory") of flags representing France's 26 EU partners, starting at the *Arc de Triomphe* and descending the *Champs-Élysées* to the *Place de la Concorde*. European leaders joined in the parade as well, including Portuguese Prime Minister and current E.U. President José Sócrates, European Commission President José Manuel Barroso, European Parliament President Hans-Gert Pötering, and E.U. High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy Javier Solana.

The ceremony included renditions of French national hymns "*Le Chant des Partisans*" and "*La Marseillaise*," as well as "Ode to Joy," the European anthem, trumpeting a celebration both of France and of a unified Europe.

Later that evening, the *Concert de la fraternité* featured various European artists and a performance by French musician Michel Polnareff on the *Champ de Mars*. The harmonious sounds crescendoed into the night sky, mimicking the cooperation between European member states and setting the stage for a fireworks display that illuminated the *Tour Eiffel* and ended the *fête* with a bang.

Visually Impaired Teens Learn About Perfume in Provence

Five visually impaired American teenagers traveled to Provence in the south of France this June to learn about the French art of perfume making. French fragrance company L'Occitane teamed up with the American Foundation for the Blind to create *Provence dans tous les sens*, "Provence in every sense," in 1998. L'Occitane founder Olivier Baussan dreamt up the program after he noticed a blind woman smelling his perfumes.

Participants traveled to



Photo: François-Xavier Emery

An American girl learns the basics of perfume creation during the program

Provence for four days to learn about the scents of the region and how to blend them to make products. Visits to the L'Occitane factory, tactile workshops, and classes about the aesthetics and the chemistry of perfumery were conducted mostly in French, providing an additional scent of culture to the program.

Michelle Hackman, age 14, was one of this year's participants. In addition to savoring the region and building up her French vocabulary, Michelle learned that a perfume should be created to represent something much more than a collection of notes, starting with a memory or idea as inspiration. L'Occitane's Verbena, for example, is "supposed to remind you of provincial air... and it did. The air was so clean, it was beautiful," Michelle remembered.

Provence dans tous les sens is one of several programs sponsored by the Fondation L'Occitane; others include preservation of nature and traditions in Provence, and sustainable development projects promoting the role of women in the economy. For more information please visit: <http://fondation.loccitane.com>.

New York City Rocks It Out à la Française

Cities throughout France and around the world celebrated the 25th anniversary of *La Fête de la Musique* on June 21. What started off as a French music festival, founded in 1982, is now a worldwide celebration that includes an increasing number of countries every year. *La Fête de la Musique* now boasts 340 participating cities in 130 countries around the globe while remaining one of France's most important annual festivals.

This year, New York, Amsterdam, and Winnipeg were among cities hosting *La Fête de la Musique* for the first time. Former French Minister of Culture Jack Lang was invited to Shea Stadium in New York to launch "Make Music New York". This slogan is a clever play on words: in French, "fête," meaning "party" or "festival," is a homo-



The Defibulators perform as part of "Make Music New York 2007"

phone of "faites," "make," resulting in "make music" instead of "music festival."

"Make Music New York" organized 1,200 free concerts in all five boroughs of the city, featuring amateur and professional musicians performing a variety of styles. Lang lauded New York's festival, claiming that the over 1,000 performances would make the city "America's musical metropolis."

At the inauguration ceremony in New York, Lang expressed his joy for the city's participation in the event as

well as the significance of *La Fête de la Musique*: "I chose June 21, the longest day of the year, because I wanted the music and fun to fill every last moment of sunshine. What better way to celebrate summer and *joie de vivre* than through music?"

Former Rhode Island State Senator Decorated with Legion of Honor

The Consul General of France in Boston, François Gauthier, presented the *Légion d'Honneur* to former Rhode Island State Senator John F. McBurney, Jr., for his military service in France during World War II. The ceremony, which was held on June 29 in the Governor's State Room at the State House in Providence, RI, was attended by Mr. McBurney's family and friends, as well as several Rhode Island state officials, including: Attorney General Patrick Lynch, State Supreme Court Chief Justice Frank Williams, former Governor Bruce Sundlun, State Senate President Joseph Montalbano, and many fellow legislators. RI Treasurer General Frank Caprio acted as master of ceremony. McBurney, who served in the 103rd Division from the Seventh Army, landed in Marseille on October 20, 1944. Upon receiving one of France's highest recognitions, the 82-year-



Former State Senator John McBurney, Jr., recipient of the *Légion d'Honneur*

old former Rhode Island State Senator humbly refuted the words of those praising him: "I don't consider myself a hero. But I was a witness to many heroic acts in World War II." In turn, McBurney called attention to the brave acts of the soldiers of the Free French First Army who fought better-equipped German forces: "the courage of the young French soldiers in that battle for the liberation of [Saarbruecken] was phenomenal." McBurney was previously awarded the Bronze Star with a Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster for saving the life of a comrade in the 411th Infantry Regiment in an Alsatian village on December 11, 1944. After the war McBurney became a lawyer, founding a law firm in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, and later served as a State Senator from 1959 to 1975.



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Dr. Gérard Jugie, right, pictured with Dr. Karl Erb at ceremony

Dr. Karl Erb, Director of the Office of Polar Programs of the National Science Foundation (NSF), was presented the Insignia of *Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mérite* ("Knight of the French National Order of Merit") by Dr. Gérard Jugie, Director of the French Polar Institute (IPEV) during a ceremony at the French Embassy in Washington, D.C. on July 11. The medal was awarded by the President of the French Republic on May 9 this year in recognition of Dr. Erb's contributions to the development of research programs in the Polar Regions and for his role in promoting French-American relations.

Dr. Erb joined NSF in 1986 after a 16-year career in research and education at Yale University, Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the University of Pittsburgh and has directed the Polar Programs since 1998. Much of the polar studies is focused on global warming. Dr. Erb explained, "scientifically, it is very important to understand how living organisms adapt to changes in the climate."

CORNELL UNIVERSITY ESTABLISHES PRESENCE AT COUR DE CASSATION

The Cornell University Center for Documentation on American Law was dedicated at the *Cour de cassation* in Paris on July 17 before an audience of Europe and the U.S.'s leading judicial authorities, who assembled in Paris for an unprecedented international judicial conference. The new legal center is a collaboration between Cornell Law School and the *Cour de cassation*, the highest judicial institution in France. Located within the *Cour de cassation's* premises in the Palais de Justice, the center will house 13,000 books from Cornell's legal library and will offer training in online research by Cornell law librarians. The ceremony was attended by the Chief Justice of England and Wales, Lord Phillips, as well as by U.S. justices, including U.S. Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr., and Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Anthony M. Kennedy, and Stephen G. Breyer. Cornell Law Librarian and Professor of Law, Claire M. Germain, and the Law School Dean Stewart J. Schwab, represented Cornell University at the event.

2007 Paris Air Show Reaches New Heights



Aviation enthusiasts tour the grounds of the Air Show

The 47th International Paris Air Show took off on June 18 and experienced a "vintage year," according to Air Show officials. Equally devoted to military and civilian technology, this year's exposition, at Le Bourget airport on

the outskirts of Paris, surpassed even the expectations of its organizers. According to Louis Le Portz, general commissioner of the trade show, this year's *Salon* "confirm[ed] that the Paris Air Show attracts the most visitors worldwide in all categories," with more than 400,000 attendees, including nearly 154,000 trade visitors — a new record. The Air Show was reserved for industry representatives June 18-21, and opened its doors to the general public on June 22. Guests could peruse displays by 2,000 exhibitors from 42 countries, while ground displays showcased 140 civil and military aircraft and 40 flight demonstrations of the latest aviation innovations filled the skies overhead.

The Air Show exhibits the latest developments in aeronautics for the benefit of industry players and aviation enthusiasts alike, with attendees ranging from prime contractors and equipment manufacturers to the public who take flight in their final product designs. "The magic of the Paris Air Show," according to Edmond Boullay, the representative of the European Aviation Safety Agency at the Embassy of France in D.C., "is that it makes an international industry accessible to a worldwide audience. It is a celebration of the aeronautics as a whole." The show also serves as an international meeting place for the aviation industry, with this year's major presences including India, the U.S., Russia, the U.K., and Italy. Reflecting the Air Show's ever-expanding international reach, Australia, Lithuania, Libya, Mexico, and Tunisia were represented in 2007 for the first time.

Although competitors from all over the world are present, the Air Show presents many opportunities to engender synergies through international dialogue and collaboration between organizations in every field. One such collaboration penned at Le Bourget this year was an agreement under which EADS Astrium will provide Arianespace with 35 more *Ariane 5* launch vehicles. Arianespace SA, a European consortium based in Evry, France, uses the *Ariane 5* to launch satellites into geostationary orbit, from Kourou, French Guiana. The rocket will soon be used to supply the International Space Station in a cooperative effort involving the European Space Agency (ESA) and American and Russian space authorities. The Air Show's Space Pavilion hosted many additional organizations, including the ESA, several Russian space firms, and the Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency.

European Aeronautic Defence and Space Company (EADS) was among this year's most successful vendors, thanks in part to its Airbus subsidiary, which broke the record for the largest number of contracts signed at Le Bourget. Sales of the A380

soared beyond traditional industrial purchases, such as airlines, to anonymous buyers. One private buyer purchased an A380 for the use as a private jet in one of this year's most prominent private contracts.

American companies also had a strong presence at this year's air show. The *Salon* marked the occasion for Boeing, for example, to display its recently delivered 777-300ER to Jet Airways. The livery to the Indian airline company is fitted with first class suites measuring nearly 26 square feet of useable space, featuring a 23-inch flat-screen monitor, storage areas that include a personal hanging wardrobe, dual credenzas and under-ottoman storage, an 83-inch bed — and can all be closed off with sliding doors. Another testament to the benefits that the air show yields is the success of Boeing's 787 Dreamliner. Although the new aircraft, designed with French company Dassault Systèmes's CATIA software, was not present at the air show, Boeing succeeded in finalizing orders for the 787 worth about \$8 billion, according to an article in *Aviation Week*.

Luxuries for the jet-set crowd were not limited to Earth's atmosphere: EADS Astrium also unveiled its entry into the growing field of space tourism. The spacecraft resembles a business jet and features a jet engine-powered takeoff, yet has rocket capability that can propel the aircraft to an altitude of 62 miles. Passengers will experience three minutes of weightlessness and a breathtaking view of the Earth before the craft returns to its original departure point and lands like a normal airplane.

In keeping with tradition, there was a large military contingent, featuring 150 defense delegations from more than 60 countries. The military's presence at Le Bourget, however, was not entirely devoted to business. The French Ministry of Defense set up a satellite link that allowed the public to talk to officers on the French Navy's amphibious assault and command ship *Tonnerre*, which was sailing near South Africa at the time. Guests could also explore the latest developments in imaging technology by using the *Hélios II* military satellite to discover and process images of the Earth from space.

At the *Armée de l'Air* pavilion, visitors could climb into the cockpit of a Mirage 2000 C fighter, or soar among the clouds in a number of aircraft simulators. Real-life demonstrations of the Dassault Rafale, the Eurofighter Typhoon, and the Eurocopter Tiger pleased a crowd of more than 160,000 visitors. For more information, please visit www.paris-air-show.com.



Guests visit the Airbus Pavilion

History of the the Paris Air Show

Debuting in 1909, the Paris Air Show is the world's oldest aerospace event. The show traces its origins to an aircraft exhibition at the 1908 Paris Automobile Show that inspired architect André Granet and aeronautical engineer Robert Esnault-Pelterie to organize an exposition solely dedicated to aeronautics. Innovations in balloons, engines, and aircraft initially attracted visitors to the annual show, which became biennial in 1924. German and British exhibitors joined the show in the 1920s, setting the precedent of international participation that continues to grow today. The event also proves to be a meeting place for global collaboration on various commercial partnerships, including a recent cooperation agreement among NASA, the ESA, and the Canadian Space Agency (CSA) on the launch of the James Webb Space Telescope projected for 2013. American pilot Charles Lindbergh highlighted the show's interna-

tional influence in 1927 when he landed the first non-stop flight from New York to Paris at Le Bourget airport in his custom-designed airplane "The Spirit of St. Louis."

Historically at the forefront of aerospace innovation, the Paris Air Show has showcased such advances as the Concorde and the Boeing 747 in 1969 and the Ariane launch vehicle in 1979. This international exhibition of technological progress traditionally attracts a wide range of buyers, ranging from militaries to global airlines to private customers, but also opens its hangar doors to the general public. Aerial displays first soared overhead in 1946 and have since expanded to feature planes twisting and arching through the skies for three hours each day. Since the Paris Air Show took flight in 1909, the event has become an international hub and aeronautical playground for aerospace partners, commercial and military patrons, and aviation enthusiasts alike.

Third-Century Necropolis Unearthed in Normandy



This discovery, a human skull buried between two horse skulls at the site in Evreux, was particularly uncommon

French state archeologists recently exhumed approximately 150 graves dating back to 1,700 years ago in the city center of Evreux with the remains of men, women and children from the Gallo-Roman era buried among the skeletons of horses. The French National Institute for Preventive Archeological Research (INRAP) is leading the dig with the support of the French National Preventive Archeology Fund.

As no such grave has previously been found, the discovery of the peculiar ritual has piqued archeologists' and historians' curiosity about the Gallo-Romans' religious beliefs and social dynamic under Roman rule.

Did these people represent a small group of Gauls who resisted, generations after *Vercingétorix*, Roman rule and culture? Under Gaulish rule, 300 years earlier, graves containing both humans and horses were common. However, no Roman-era grave of the sort has been found to date.

Sylvie Pluton, the leader of the INRAP dig and an expert on the Gallo-Roman period, suggests that the findings involve Epona, a goddess represented by the horse. "[Romans'] graves were very orderly. Not here. The bodies point in all directions," she said. "Above all, there is extraordinary mingling of humans and horses. We could be looking at a cultural survival, previously unknown, such as a worship of the goddess Epona."

Collège de France Professor Christian Goudineau, one of the foremost experts on the period according to *The Independent*, is reluctant to believe in a cultural vestige of the cult of the goddess Epona. "Why would it survive so long? And here, on the edge of what we know was a large Roman town?" Goudineau proposes a less deliberate motivation: "Perhaps these were slaves and horses which died in an epidemic and were just thrown here in a hurry and became mixed up."

Perhaps continued excavation of the site planned for this summer will shed light on the enigma.

High Fashion Goes High Tech in Paris

Imagine a future in which solar-powered bathing suits could be used to charge cell phones or MP3 players. Scientists and designers came together at the *Salon Européen de la Recherche & de l'Innovation* ("European Research and Innovation Exposition"), which ran in Paris June 7 - 9, to present new possibilities demonstrating that such a future may not be so far off. Guests sampled various innovations in apparel, ranging from scented clothing to slimming designs, and even garments that could help save lives.

Fashion designers and scientists united for the creative process of the garments, proving that clothing can satisfy both form and function. Internationally acclaimed designer Elisabeth de Senneville, who got her start at Christian Dior, presented apparel that contains active carbon, which absorbs bad odors, leaving the wearer smelling fresh. Bicyclists will be able to ride more safely thanks to her



Projet européen Wearable

"Wearable Health Care System" clothing has the capacity of medical surveillance

jacket that features liquid crystal stripes on the sleeves and collar. These crystals absorb sunlight during the day and retain its energy into the night, making bicyclists more visible to passing cars after sunset. Fashion innovators also integrated electricity-generating solar receptors that could be used to charge cell phones, among other applications, amazing the exposition's attendees.

The clothing of the future may also yield medicinal benefits. Technology now exists to create apparel that will monitor the heart rate, respiration, and other bodily functions of the wearer. One of the remaining obstacles, though, according to Jean-Yves Dréan of the *Laboratoire de physique et mécanique textiles à Mulhouse*, is "the resistance of this clothing to washing." Still, the *Salon* demonstrated that the possibilities are endless — and they could be coming soon to malls near you.

French Astronomy Podcasts Out of This World

In honor of the 50th anniversary of Sputnik and the study of space, celebrated this year, the *Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales* (CNES), the French National Center for Space Studies, has teamed up with *Ciel & Espace Radio* to offer free aerospace-related podcasts in French. The special anniversary program offers interviews, videos, and images that will be added over the course of the summer. The series, "50 Years of Space Adventures," is available via streaming, downloading or in podcast format. Other pod-

casts include "50 years in Space: A human adventure," a two-part series by Jacques Arnould, a French scholar with a Ph.D in science history and in theology who serves at CNES as a specialist on the ethical, social and cultural dimension of space activities. Arnould takes advantage of his expertise to explore the place of man in our universe and to discuss the change in perspective that he experienced while viewing the Earth from Space. For more information please visit: www.cieletespaceradio.fr.

PARIS PROVIDES FREE WIFI

The month of June ushered in a new technological era in Paris as free public wireless and high-speed Internet ports became operational in public parks, libraries, museums, and most large public areas. Presently, 260 locations in the nation's capital are equipped with approximately 400 wireless hotspots. This initiative is an initial phase of a project launched by Paris Mayor Bertrand Delanoë, called "*PARVI, Paris Ville Numérique*." Through this program, 80 percent of all buildings should be interconnected with either fiber optic cable or WiFi access by 2010. The goal is to make the French capital more digitally advanced, centered on the development of a city-wide wireless network. *PARVI* also aims to provide free connections in underprivileged neighborhoods of Paris, making the Web accessible to groups that might not otherwise have Internet access. Kiosks established at the WiFi locations guide users on how to browse the Internet, create a Web page, and make their own videos, among other technical skills; these services are entirely free of charge. For more information, please visit:

www.wifi.paris.fr

EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY TO STAGE MARS VISIT

In preparation for future trips to Mars, the European Space Agency (ESA), based in Paris, is offering a "trip to Mars" for six candidates willing to participate in an experiment known as Mars500. Initiated by the "Institute of Biomedical Problems" in Moscow, whose research programs focus on the effects of space flight on the human body, the study will test the effects of prolonged confinement away from Earth on the human brain. An approximately 100-day preliminary study is scheduled to precede a simulated 520-day voyage, mimicking travel to Mars and back without leaving Moscow. The "mission" is to subject the crew to scenarios as if they were traveling to the Red Planet: a round-trip journey including takeoff, landing, a Mars walk, and descent back to Earth. The team will cope with simulated emergencies, rendered even more difficult by communications delays of up to 20 minutes each way, in addition to the possibility of real emergencies and illnesses. The only contact with Earth permitted to subjects is to be with the scientific team overseeing the experiment, and occasional communication with family and friends. Volunteers must be from one of the ESA member states, and applications for the simulated journey to Mars can be downloaded online until September 30. For more information, please visit www.esa.int.

HIP HOP FESTIVAL GIVES PARIS A NEW BEAT



Break dancer demonstrates his talent at last year's event

Paris will host the 3rd International Meeting of Hip Hop Short Films (3ème Rencontre Internationale de Court Métrages Hip Hop) from September 3-9. The festival, organized by hip hop association

R.Style in partnership with the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, will consist of both a competition and a free programming segment, which are open to anyone from around the world who is interested in submitting a film. The competition films must meet several requirements, including a maximum length of three minutes and the use of French subtitles for foreign-language films. Members of partner organizations, and hip hop personalities and professionals will judge each of the films. The free programming element of the festival is open to any type of film — documentary, comedy, or animation. Organizers hope to use films in all categories to showcase competing points of view on hip hop. This year's festival will feature two days of non-cinematic programming that ranges from dance performances to graffiti-style artwork. For more information, please visit www.rstyle.fr.

DAY OF REFLECTION ENCOURAGES THE GIFT OF LIFE

France observed the 7th National Day of Reflection on Organ Donation and Transplant on June 22. French Minister of Health, Youth, and Sport, Roselyne Bachelot-Narquin, addressed medical specialists at the Kremlin-Bicêtre Hospital, declaring that "the donation of organs [...] is a strong life-saving gesture, a donation of oneself that is an ultimate and very strong act of solidarity." In 2006, 4,421 organ transplants were performed thanks to 1,441 donors, a 38 percent increase since 2000. Still, more than 8,000 patients went without vital transplants last year, including 23-year-old Grégory Lemarchal, a contestant on the French reality TV series "Star Academy," who died while waiting for a new heart. Bachelot-Narquin encouraged all citizens on this occasion to obtain an organ donor card, calling it a "gesture of pure humanity that honors us all."

Cyclists Race for Recognition in 2007 *Tour de France*

The *Grand Départ* of the 94th *Tour de France* got rolling on July 7 in central London, where the prologue from Whitehall sent riders racing along Downing Street and around the city's landmarks. This year's Tour, which comes to a close on July 29, features 21 teams comprising 189 riders who will sprint, climb, and battle their way through 20 stages throughout Europe. Christian Prudhomme mapped out this year's 2,206-mile route, which begins in England, crosses the Channel at Dover, and weaves through Belgium before pedaling to French soil, where the cyclists climb and descend their way southward through the Alps, hug the Mediterranean coastline, skirt the Pyrénées, and finally spin northward to finish on the *Champs-Élysées* in Paris.

La Grande Boucle ("The Big Loop") dates back to 1903 when journalist Géo Lefèvre, of *L'Auto* magazine, imagined a grand cycling contest through the French countryside. With the financial backing of his editor, Henri Desgrange, Lefèvre organized a six-stage race that left Montgeron, a town southeast of Paris, with 60 cyclists, 21 of whom made it to the finish line in Paris. Since its



©ASO Photo B.Bade / J.C.Moreau

Competitors race past Palace of Westminster, London

inaugural race, the *Tour de France* has grown to be an international event that demands the highest level of physical endurance of athletes from all over the world, and is enjoyed by television audiences in 185 countries and an estimated 12 to 15 million roadside fans.

France Tunes in for Summer Programming

Each year French television networks air special programs aimed at providing light entertainment to vacationing audiences. Channels create a new set of sagas every year that are a departure from their usual broadcasting program. Known as *la saga de l'été* (summer saga), the new programming period consists of a series of four to ten episodes centered around themes such as family secrets, conflicts of interest and crime mysteries.

About 30 sagas have been broadcast in France. The first, *Le Vent des moissons* (Harvest Wind), aired during the summer of 1988. Its popularity ensured a long line of successors which continue to have great appeal among French saga-enthusiasts. This year, the three most popular television networks have planned to recycle the general formula that has worked for the past 20 years.

Networks also offer a wide range of reality shows. Many of them have already run for several summers and some are inspired by popular shows — such as *Koh-Lanta*, the French version of "Survivor." This year, all eyes are on *Secret Story*, a new reality show in which contestants harbor a personal

secret about themselves and try to discover their peers' secrets. One contestant, for example, unbeknownst to his peers, is a transsexual, while a group of identical triplets continually substitute in and out for one another. Viewers enjoy "behind the scenes" access that shows them "secrets" of the contestants, and watch, to their amusement, as the participants try to solve each others' "secret story."

The most popular show, however, remains *Star Academy*, a reality show that features a pop music talent contest with viewer voting. Their progress, in addition to their interaction between one another both "on" and "off" stage, is chronicled for the viewing pleasure of avid viewers. They train with entertainment professionals for a full week at the "Academy" to prepare for performances to be aired on prime time television, featuring live duets with some of the biggest names in show biz, such as Madonna, Mariah Carey and Stevie Wonder. The first show aired in 2001 and has since been adapted in 50 countries around the world.

Blogs CULINARY BLOG TICKLES INTERNAUTES TASTE

Parisienne gourmet Clotilde Dusoulier mixes French cooking sensibilities and a San Francisco-inspired passion for food on the pages of her English-language blog, www.chocolateandzucchini.com. Sugar and spice and everything culinary come together in "Chocolate and Zucchini," where Dusoulier dishes up "thoughts, recipes, musings," and any food-related experiences she has. The blog promises to be a favorite for those who enjoy their recipes served with a side order of anecdote, or who savor whipping up delights such as Pear-

Rosemary Crème Brûlée and Artichoke and Goat-cheese *Mille-feuille*. Feel free to indulge: much of Dusoulier's focus is on yummy but healthy treats, using fresh and local ingredients. Anything but bland, the blog tickles your taste buds and your funny bone, featuring hundreds of recipes peppered with Dusoulier's kitchen tales, a 74-page photo gallery, and a mini-French lesson simmered down into a "bloxicon." "Chocolate and Zucchini" recently blossomed into a book, "Chocolate and Zucchini: Daily Adventures in a Parisian Kitchen," which was released in May 2007 and followed by a book tour through such cities as San



Clotilde's Cacao & Zucchini Absorption Pasta

Francisco, Chicago, New York, and Paris. Release of the French-language version is expected this fall.

Rock'n'Roll Takes the Spotlight at the Cartier Foundation

"Rock'n'Roll 39-59," an exhibition at Paris's Cartier Foundation for Contemporary Art, showcases multimedia that highlight American rock'n'roll history, including posters, film clips, records, and Alfred Wertheimer's 1956 photographs of Elvis Presley. Open through October 28, the exhibit captures the spirit of rock'n'roll, from the boogie-woogie beginnings of its golden age in 1939 through 1959. "Rock'n'Roll 39-59" also focuses on the role played by rock'n'roll culture in addressing the racism and segregation



The exhibition at the Cartier Foundation will be open through October 28

history, one that mirrored and drove a major social transformation whose heritage remains vibrantly alive today."

that were prevalent in the U.S. in the years leading up to the Civil Rights Movement. A representative of the Foundation characterized the sociopolitical landscape of the US at the birth of rock'n'roll: "Some states were still segregated, and America was strict and conservative. That was what rock'n'roll rebelled against." The Foundation hopes to attract Parisians and tourists alike "to relive a key cultural phenomenon in American history, one that mirrored and drove a major social transformation whose heritage remains vibrantly alive today."

Amélie to Step Into the Shoes of Coco Chanel

Audrey Tautou, celebrated French actress best known for her role as the title character in "*Le Fabuleux Destin d'Amélie Poulain*" (released in the U.S. as "Amélie"), has been chosen by French director Anne Fontaine to play Coco Chanel in an upcoming film about the French fashion designer's life. The French-language film, titled "Coco Chanel," will be filmed in 2008.

While reading about Chanel's life, the director was inspired to create a film about this fashion icon who established her own couture house and who symbolizes the modern woman and the epitome of style to this day. Fontaine chose Tautou for her "intense force" and "dark regard," which she felt made the latter the perfect candidate to portray the life of Coco (*née* Gabrielle) Chanel. The script, written by Fontaine and Christopher Hampton, focuses on "her formative years, what happened before Chanel herself understood her dazzling destiny," explains Fontaine.

This film is but one of three about Chanel currently in the stages of production; indeed, French directors William Friedkin and Danièle Thompson are both at work reincarnating their own versions of this modern heroine. Friedkin's "Coco & Igor," starring Marina Hands and Mads Mikkelsen, will chronicle the story of Chanel's relationship with Russian composer Igor Stravinsky and is anticipated for the spring of 2008. Thompson's version, to begin filming in 2008, will tell the story of Chanel's life as interpreted by Thompson, along with her son and co-writer Christopher Thompson. The name of the actress to portray Chanel has not yet been revealed.

Why all the hype over Coco Chanel? Perhaps the words of icon herself could shed a little light on the intrigue: "Fashion fades, only style remains the same."

"Knights in the Arab World" Earns Chivalrous Welcome in Paris



A Turkish dagger from the Ottoman period, around 1600 A.D.

This summer, the Arab World Institute in Paris opens its doors to the Furúsiyya Art Foundation's collection, "*Chevaliers en pays d'Islam*," "Knights in the Arab World." Featuring pieces from the 8th to the 18th century, the Furúsiyya collection spans a millennium of armor, arms, and equipment produced for the *chevaliers*. Crafted with meticulous attention to detail and aesthetic value, the objects are appreciated as much for their beauty as for their utility.

The exhibition's curator, Aurélie Clemente-Ruiz, explained the Arabic term *Furúsiyya* in an

interview with French news network France 24: "In the West we would call it horsemanship, but it really has a much broader meaning than that." The word covers all themes related to horses, including military, hunting, and recreation, and implies both physical and moral characteristics demonstrated by the horsemen, Clemente-Ruiz clarified.

The exhibition illustrates the evolution of equestrian art and military techniques from the 8th through 18th centuries. Rather than being organized by type, the weaponry is integrated to present a number of diverse themes, such as tailoring techniques, knightly regalia, and divine protection. The detailed ornamentation of many of the collection's later pieces demonstrates how these objects kept the memory of their predecessors alive and how the spirit of the *chevaliers* endured even after the use of firearms became common. For more information please visit: www.imarabe.org.

HALL OF MIRRORS AT VERSAILLES GETS A FACELIFT

The Hall of Mirrors in the Palace of Versailles (below) glittered on June 25 upon the completion of a three-year restoration project. The 357 mirrors in the 240-foot-long hall were not the only thing to get a facelift—the 10,764 square feet of original paintings and sculpted décor by Louis XIV's royal painter Charles Le Brun, for example, were also spruced up by approximately 100 restoration experts and technicians. According to chief architect of France's historical monuments, Frédéric Didier, the restoration was "a chance to restore the Hall in its entirety and to give it back a unity and coherence that it had lost." In honor of the unveiling of the restoration, the Hall of Mirrors is currently playing host to an exhibit titled "Behind the Scenes of the Project," which will highlight the *savoir-faire* of the highly specialized team's endeavor. This exhibition will be on display until September, when it will give way to an exposition that celebrates Le Brun, featuring preliminary works used in the planning stages for the Hall of Mirrors. This second exhibit will be open through January 2008.

For more information please visit: www.chateauversailles.fr.



FRENCHMAN ATTEMPTS TO ROW ALL THE WAY HOME

When he woke up on June 30, Charlie Girard was planning to set a world record by rowing his way from Cape Cod to France. Girard launched from the Orleans Yacht Club in the direction of his *patrie* in a boat he engineered for the journey. Unfortunately for the 26-year-old, he was forced to return to shore within a few hours when he discovered that the boat had sprung a leak and water had already begun to gather in its hull. After a few days of technical fix-ups, the engineer set off again on July 4. He hopes to reach *La Tranche sur mer*, on the central west coast of France, in less than 62 days and 19 hours, a feat that would earn him the world record currently held by fellow Frenchman Emmanuel Coindre, whose 2004 crossing took him to La Baule, a little over 100 miles southeast of Girard's destination. To track Girard's progress, please visit: www.atlantique2007.com.



Julie Delpy & Adam Goldberg in "2 Days In Paris"

On the occasion of her film's release, *La Maison Française* is honored to welcome renowned French actress Julie Delpy on July 25 for a reception and premiere screening of "2 Days In Paris," her first feature as director.

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Pensacola Showcases Matisse Pictures Worth a Thousand Words

A collection of etchings and lithographs titled "Matisse: A Celebration of French Poets & Poetry," will be on display at Florida's Pensacola Museum of Art through August 19. The collection pairs Matisse's depictions of select works by French poets Pierre de Ronsard and Stéphane Mallarmé with the English-language translations of the poems that inspired them. Matisse's works were commissioned in the 1930s and 1940s to accompany the poetry in a genre of illustrated books, known



Henri Matisse, *Eventail* (Madame Mallarme), 1930-32

as the *livre d'artiste* ("artist's book"), that were popular in the early 20th century. Matisse's traditional artistic inspirations of fruit, flowers and the feminine form found their complement in the romantic themes of Ronsard's Renaissance poetry, while images of the artist's voyage in the South Pacific surfaced in his etchings for Mallarmé's modern prose.

The exhibition's combination of Matisse's artistic and literary interpretations opens a window into his psyche and reflects the diversity of his creative outlets. For more information, please visit: www.pensacolamuseumofart.org.

Poiret, "King of Fashion" Reigns at the Met

Fifty fashion ensembles created by Paul Poiret, the early-twentieth-century French designer, are on display at the Metropolitan Museum of Art's "Poiret: King of Fashion" exhibition through August 5. The public has never before seen the core of the exhibited costumes, which were purchased by the Met in 2005 at an auction of Poiret's estate in Paris. To complement the designs, the exhibition also features illustrations, furniture, and other *art décoratif* media that set the scene of Poiret's modern artistic vision and collaborations.

Born in 1879 in Paris, Poiret is best known for contributing to the liberation of women from corsets and introducing a simple silhouette that dominated modern fashion in



Paul Poiret (French, 1879 - 1944). Textile design by Raoul Dufy (French, 1877 - 1953). *La Perse Coat*, 1911.

the early twentieth century. Poiret defied traditional pattern-making and tailoring by applying fabric directly to the body in his design process, an adaptation cultivated because of the designer's inability to sew. Through his draping skills, Poiret produced structurally simple clothing characterized by straight lines, geometric shapes, and vibrant colors. Poiret introduced the "hobble" skirt, a long skirt that was full at the hips and narrowed at the hem, limiting the wearer's stride. In contrast, the Parisian designer is also known for freeing women's legs with his debut of "harem" pants, inspired by the *Ballet Russe* and Orientalism.

The designs on exhibit were worn exclusively by Poiret's wife and muse Denise, whose slim figure and youthful spirit were a prototype of *la garçonne*. "Poiret: King of Fashion" pays tribute to the designer's revolutionary vision of the "new woman" that opened the fashion world to modern design.

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