

# Villepin Heads New French Government

*New government makes the fight against unemployment its number one priority*

**D**OMINIQUE DE VILLEPIN, calling for boldness and a renewed effort against unemployment, unveiled his new government on June 2, just two days after President Jacques Chirac nominated him as the new prime minister of France. Chirac recognized the need for a cabinet reshuffle after 54.68 percent of French voters rejected the proposed European Constitution on May 29. The French were asked, in a referendum, to approve the constitutional treaty for the European Union that was signed in 2004 by E.U. member governments. Following the result, the French president called for national unity and vowed to constitute a government whose priority will be to tackle unemployment, which is, according to polls, the number one pre-occupation of the French.

Villepin, who had successively held the positions of foreign minister and interior minister in the two previous governments, replaces Jean-Pierre Raffarin. Other significant changes include the appointment of Nicolas Sarkozy, president of the Union for a Popular Movement (the ruling party), as *ministre d'Etat* and minister of the interior, and of Philippe Douste-Blazy as foreign minister. Defense Minister Michèle Alliot-Marie and Finance Minister Thierry Breton retain their posts.

Villepin outlined his policy program, including several measures aimed at bolstering the confidence of

the French electorate, on June 8 in a speech at the National Assembly. Following his appointment he called for bold action and indicated that he will put a special emphasis on research, new technologies, industrial competition and the attractiveness of the French business environment.

In a letter dated May 31, Chirac wrote to his E.U. counterparts to say that the process of ratifying the charter must continue in other countries, despite its setback in France and the Netherlands. He also said that the leaders of the E.U. must consider the implications of France's rejection at the next European summit on June 16-17. **■**



C. Gaudin, Agence France Presse

Ambassador Jean-David Levitte thanks a U.S. veteran.

## FRANCE HONORS U.S. WWII VETERANS ON MEMORIAL DAY

It was an emotional morning this Memorial Day as 10 American World War II veterans, whose bravery helped liberate Nazi-occupied France, were awarded France's highest distinction, the Legion of Honor. The ceremony was conducted by French General Jean-Pierre Kelche, chancellor of France's National Order of the Legion of Honor and the former chief of staff of France's armed forces. Surrounded by family and friends, the recipients had tears in their eyes as they accepted the award on behalf of their comrades-in-arms who fell in the war that ended 60 years ago.

## Douste-Blazy Named New Foreign Minister

**P**HILIPPE DOUSTE-BLAZY replaced Michel Barnier as minister of foreign affairs in the new French government after the reshuffle that followed the "no" vote in the referendum. He has underlined France's desire to pursue a strong transatlantic dialogue, which is "essential for both our nations." Indeed, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice called Douste-Blazy on June 3 so that they could get acquainted and discuss the major international issues of the moment, including Lebanon, Iraq, and the Middle East peace process.



C. Gaudin, Agence France Presse

Douste-Blazy, 52, a medical professor and cardiologist by training, entered politics in March 1989, after being elected mayor of Lourdes in southwestern France. He was subsequently elected as a member of the European Parliament in June of

that same year. In late 1993, he was named junior minister for health, and in 1995, he became minister of culture. In late 2001, he supported the candidature of Jacques Chirac for the 2002 presidential elections and worked to create the Union for a Popular Movement (UMP), which brought together the main parties of the right.

Named minister of health and social welfare in March 2004, Douste-Blazy succeeded in reforming the health system, an extremely sensitive issue in France, and thereby demonstrated his skills as a communicator and a diplomat. His reform aimed to better coordinate the care patients receive and to make patients more responsible with regards to their consumption of medicine.

In facing the numerous issues on the road ahead, Douste-Blazy will be helped by a highly competent team of professionals, notably by Catherine Colonna, 49, Chirac's spokeswoman for nine years until last September. Colonna, a career diplomat, has been appointed minister delegate for European affairs in replacement of Claudie Haigneré. With her highly regarded relational and communication skills, Catherine Colonna will be instrumental in maintaining France's place among its European partners. **■**

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**FLORENCE AUBENAS FREED**

*Libération* correspondent Florence Aubenas and her Iraqi interpreter, Hussein Hanoun, were freed on June 11 after spending five months as hostages in Iraq. President Chirac welcomed her back to France and congratulated former PM Jean-Pierre Raffarin and former minister Michel Barnier for being instrumental in her release.



**FRANCE REITERATES SUPPORT FOR GERMANY'S BID FOR PERMANENT U.N. SEAT**

France reaffirmed on June 9 that it supports Germany's bid for a permanent seat at the U.N. Security Council. Germany is one of four candidate states (known as the G4) that have requested such a seat (the other three are Japan, India and Brazil). France co-sponsored an amended resolution presented by the G4 which anticipates the gradual enlargement of the Security Council from 15 to 25 countries. On June 8, the G4 countries announced they would be prepared to renounce their right to a veto for a period of 15 years should they obtain permanent membership.

**PARIS AIR SHOW**

The world's newest airplanes will take to the sky from June 13 through 19 as part of the 46th International Paris Air Show in Le Bourget (near Paris). The Airbus A380, for instance, is expected to make an appearance at the show along with over a hundred other aircraft, from the latest military jets to legendary planes from the past. Over 1,900 exhibitors (a record), representing 44 different countries, will participate in the air show, which is the world's largest. Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Slovakia will be making their first appearances at the show this year.

**FRENCH LUXURY EXHIBITION IN SHANGHAI**

The Colbert Committee, comprised of France's biggest names in luxury goods, announced that it will hold an exhibition in Shanghai from October 25 to November 7, a first for the organization. Jean-Pierre Lafon, the secretary general of the French Foreign Ministry and a former French ambassador to China, will host the exhibition. He notes that China, with a growth rate close to 9.5 percent and a burgeoning middle class population, is an important market and presents great opportunities for the French luxury sector.

NEWS FROM FRANCE / June 15, 2005

**Pascal Lamy to Head WTO**

**D**URING THEIR General Assembly on May 25 in Geneva, the 148 member states of the World Trade Organization (WTO) officially agreed to appoint France's Pascal Lamy as the organization's new Director-General. He will be taking the reins from Supachai



Panitchpakdi of Thailand, who greeted Lamy's selection with warm congratulations, "I congratulate Pascal on his selection as Director-General. His

experience in trade matters, his grasp of detail and his proven track record in institutional management ensure that he will be an excellent Director-General." Lamy was chosen on May 13 by a group of trade diplomats led by Kenyan Ambassador Amina Mohamed, in accordance with the WTO's new selection process.

Lamy was chief aide to Jacques Delors, the president of the European Commission from 1985 to 1995, before becoming the European Union's trade commissioner in 1999. In that position,

he was praised for his consensus-building skills and his ability to handle complex issues quickly. In particular, Lamy managed to build an efficient working relationship with Robert Zoellick, the United States' former trade representative. Several experts think Lamy's experience as a negotiator, especially during the current round of trade talks, will prove a valuable asset as he seeks to bring these talks to completion, perhaps the greatest challenge he will face during his four-year term of office.

Indeed, when Lamy takes up his new position on September 1, he will need to immediately focus on successfully steering the Doha round of trade talks (so called because they were launched in Doha, Qatar, in 2001). In a press statement released by the WTO, Lamy said, "We have a crucial task ahead: to complete the Doha Development Agenda Round of trade talks. This will be my immediate, first, second, and third priority." The next major Doha round trade meeting is slated for December in Hong Kong.

**Rally Held for Paris 2012**

*IOC to select Olympic city on July 6*

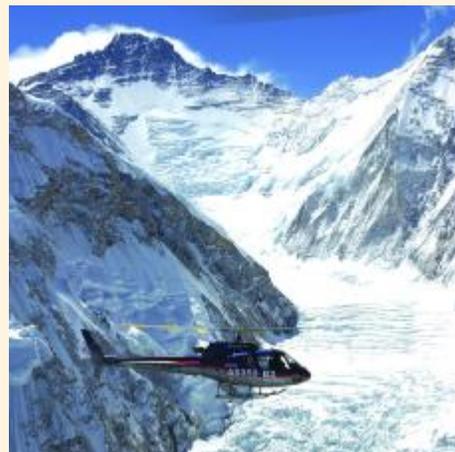
**T**HOSE WISHING to show their "Love of the Games" and hoping to welcome the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games to Paris participated in a rally organized by Mayor Bertrand Delanoë on June 5, a month before the decisive vote in Singapore on July 6. The celebration trans-



The Champs-Élysées were transformed into an Olympic stadium to promote Paris's candidature for 2012

formed the Champs-Élysées into a sports arena with all 28 Olympic disciplines present around the Arc de Triomphe. Festivities included a 700-meter track where top athletes demonstrated their abilities and provided introductions to various activities, even inviting members of the public to test their skills against them! Additionally, the Parisian Young Peoples' Grand Games Parade organized walking, cycling, and

**EUROCOPTER ON TOP OF THE WORLD**



A European helicopter broke the world record for the highest altitude landing and take-off on May 14. A standard Eurocopter Ecureuil/AStar AS 350 B3, piloted by French test pilot Didier Delsalle, landed and took off at 29,035 feet on top of Mount Everest (Nepal), after leaving the base camp of Lukla (9,403 feet). Used in rescue missions and considered one of the world's most reliable helicopters, the Eurocopter aircraft showed a remarkable ability to fly at such high altitudes. Indeed, in early May the Nepalese government called on its services to save climbers stranded at an elevation of 16,404 feet. After his historical flight, the pilot declared, "The aircraft demonstrated its capability to cope with the situation, as if transformed by the magic of the place." Eurocopter is a subsidiary of Toulouse-based EADS. For more information, visit [www.eurocopter.com](http://www.eurocopter.com).

roller-blading tours of Paris as well as a concert on the Champ de Mars. In a press release, Delanoë noted that the Olympic Games are about more than competitive sports, "they are equally a festival that brings people together from all over the world, united by the athletes' passionate dedication." The celebration was enormously successful, attracting a crowd of over 700,000 spectators. On June 6, the International Olympic Committee released its final recommendations regarding the five candidate cities, and Paris received a highly favorable rating. To learn more, visit [www.parisjo2012.fr](http://www.parisjo2012.fr).



## Young Entrepreneurs Awarded

**O**N JUNE 2, the French Embassy's Office for Science and Technology announced the winners of their Young Entrepreneurs Initiative. The Office for Science and Technology chose eight winning projects from the 40 submissions they received. The winning projects came from fields as diverse as robotics and industrial protein separation.

The initiative, administered by the Science Office's Boston bureau, was launched in order to identify young entrepreneurs who would like to establish start-up companies in France. The Foreign Ministry, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Economy all strongly supported the program, in the belief that innovative start-ups play a critical role in the development of knowledge-based industries and promote further investment, growth and job creation throughout the economy.

The competition was open to researchers and entrepreneurs of any age or nationality residing in the U.S. Preference was given to proposals in cutting-edge sectors that France is

particularly strong in, such as material and information technology, biotechnology, and nanotechnology.

Winners will receive both financial aid and mentoring from the Office for Science and Technology and its institutional partners, which include the National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) and the Paris Region Economic Development Agency. Both the financial award of approximately 5,000 euros per project and the mentoring should help the winning entrepreneurs successfully implement their projects in France.

Visit [www.france-science.org/innovation/yei](http://www.france-science.org/innovation/yei) to find more information. 

### "FRANCE IN AMERICA" WEB SITE UNVEILED

The Bibliothèque Nationale de France and the Library of Congress in Washington have co-launched "La France en Amérique / France in America," the interactive, bilingual Web site dedicated to the French presence in the U.S. from the 15th to the 19th centuries (see NFF 04.11). The Web site, which can be found on <http://international.loc.gov/intldl>, already covers early French explorations in Florida, Canada and Louisiana as well as France's contribution to the foundation of the United States (1776-1803). The site will be substantially expanded on Benjamin Franklin's 300th birthday in late 2006 to celebrate his role in fostering French-American relations.

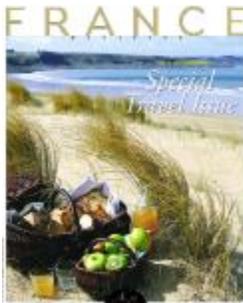
## France Magazine Marks 20th Anniversary!

**T**HIS SUMMER *France Magazine* will publish a special issue in honor of the its 20th anniversary. The magazine, which is read by 41,000 Francophiles in the U.S. and Canada, was launched in 1985 to provide an "editorial rendez-vous for Americans who are interested in France" according to Karen Taylor, its founding editor.

Since its creation, the magazine's articles have focused on French culture and on the French lifestyle. Through in-depth articles and lush photographic spreads, *France Magazine* gives its American readers a glimpse of life in France. At the same time, it also introduces them to less well-known social and economic issues. Though



*France Magazine*, Old and New



the magazine has changed in "a thousand small ways" in the past 20 years, with, in particular, the unveiling of a new design and the launch of a Web site, it still retains the same skillful mix of articles.

*France Magazine* is currently in the midst of a second redesign and the first issue in the new format will be released in Fall 2005. Recently the magazine has introduced new columns on French culture, travel, books and wine, and it hopes to introduce columns on fashion and the French language in the coming years.

You too can subscribe to this quarterly publication, simply by visiting [www.francemagazine.org/](http://www.francemagazine.org/) 

## Boston, New York, Sacramento Host French Film Festivals

**F**RENCH FILMS will take to the big screen in four different film festivals in three American cities this summer. Both the "10th Annual Boston French Film Festival," hosted by the Museum of Fine Arts, and the "Fourth Sacramento French Film Festival," hosted by the Alliance Française of Sacramento, will showcase contemporary French films. In New York City, the Dahesh Museum is organizing a series of films set in 19th-century France, while the French Institute Alliance Française is presenting a film series on Nazi-occupied France.

The Boston French Film Festival, which will be held from July 7 to July 24, will include *À Tout de Suite* by Benoit Jacquot, *Triple Agent* by Eric Rohmer and many more.

The Sacramento festival will be held two consecutive weekends in July at the Crest Theatre. Short films by both

French directors and local Sacramento residents will be featured, along with contemporary full-length French films.

Every other Saturday throughout the summer, the Dahesh Museum will complement its collection of 19th-century French art with a festival of films about 19th-century France. The series includes both French and English films, such as Claude Berri's *Germinal* and John Huston's *Moulin Rouge*.

The French Institute Alliance Française's "French Cinema 1940-1945" series, which began in May and will run through August, includes films made about and during, the Nazi occupation. Films include Jean Renoir's *This Land is Mine* and *Une Affaire de Femmes*.

For more information on these festivals, please visit their respective Web sites, [www.mfa.org](http://www.mfa.org), [www.afdesacramento.org](http://www.afdesacramento.org), [www.daheshmuseum.org](http://www.daheshmuseum.org), or [www.fiaf.org](http://www.fiaf.org). 

## CLINTON RAISES RECORD FUNDS FOR PASTEUR FOUNDATION



French Ambassador Jean-David Levitte and former president Bill Clinton (right)

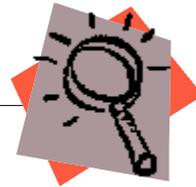
The Pasteur Foundation, the American nonprofit affiliate of the Institut Pasteur in Paris, honored former U.S. president Bill Clinton for his contributions to the fight against AIDS. French Ambassador Jean-David Levitte and the Director General of the Institut Pasteur, Philippe Kourilsky, presented Clinton with the Pasteur Foundation award in April during a gala in New York, which raised \$770,000 for the Pasteur Foundation's Post-Doctoral Fellowship Program for young U.S. scientists. The Institut Pasteur first isolated two strains of the HIV virus some 20 years ago, and the Pasteur Foundation is raising funds and promoting transatlantic exchanges to support the Institute's continued research. For more information, visit [www.pasteurfoundation.org](http://www.pasteurfoundation.org).

## VIDEO GAMES A LA FRANÇAISE

France participated in the world's largest game fair, the Electronic Entertainment Exhibition (E3), from May 17 to 20 in Los Angeles. Three French companies are among the world's top 10 game publishers, and have been responsible for several hits (including Civilization III and Half Life 2). Noting the increasing importance of the video game industry, the Foreign Ministry has launched a promotional campaign and Web site ([www.france-game.org](http://www.france-game.org)) to raise awareness about France's video game *savoir-faire* and to attract foreign investors.

## MUSCADET WINE FESTIVAL IN LOUISIANA

*La belle époque* may seem like a distant memory, but one need not find a time machine to enjoy a turn-of-the-century style evening thanks to the 6th Annual Muscadet Wine Festival. The Louisiana chapter of the French-American Chamber of Commerce is hosting the festival in the Royal Sonesta Hotel in New Orleans on June 24. Guests are encouraged to wear Impressionist-era costumes as they sample dishes prepared by chefs from various local restaurants to accompany the crisp, white Muscadet wines. For more information, call (504) 529-1232 or visit [www.faccla.com](http://www.faccla.com).



# A Sensory Tour of La Provence

With the advent of summer, News from France has decided to take a closer look at la Provence, one of France's most popular holiday destinations. There is so much to say about this area, one hardly knows where to begin, so we have arbitrarily selected an itinerary that provides a full sensory experience, designed to stimulate one's eyes, nose and taste buds!

## Arles: Van Gogh's Eternal Muse

IN A LETTER to his friend Emile Bernard on March 18, 1888, Vincent Van Gogh described the beauty of Arles with the keen eyes of a painter: "The water makes patches of a beautiful emerald and a rich blue in the landscapes, such as we see in *crépons*. The pale orange setting sun making the land appear blue. Splendid yellow suns." Only a month before, Van Gogh had left Paris in search of a destination that would ignite his creativity and fulfill his desire to produce a "new art."

His friend and collaborator, Paul Gauguin, joined Van Gogh in Arles in the autumn of 1888. The two lived and worked together in their *Atelier du Midi* (Studio of the South) for two months, and while Van Gogh painted the lush landscape of Arles, Gauguin painted its beautiful women. But Van Gogh soon entered the mental hospital of St. Rémy because of his exacerbating mental illness. In the 15 months he spent in Arles, from February 1888 to May 1889, Van Gogh produced 187 paintings, including masterpieces such as *Harvest at La Crau* and *Still Life: Vase with Fifteen Sunflowers*.

To this day, Van Gogh remains a strong presence in Arles, the largest city in France whose origins can be traced back to the days of Roman Gaul. Although none of his works remain in the city, one can see Van Gogh's thick, repetitive brush strokes in the area's daz-



Van Gogh's *Field with Flowers near Arles, 1888*.

PHOTOGRAPH BY GUY AROCH

zling sun, ocean-blue skies, and in the weekly market's colorful waves of fresh fruits and exotic spices.

Van Gogh and Gauguin were not the only artists touched by the inexhaustible beauty of Arles. Surrounded by

the banks of the Rhône River, the plains of Crau, and the rugged land of Camargue, the city also cast a spell on Pablo Picasso, who loved Arles's bullfights, made friends with its gypsies, painted its bullfighters, and later donated 70 of his paintings to the city.

Today, Arles is still a source of inspiration for artists struggling with a new medium of expression. The National Photography School has attracted talented students for more than 20 years, and the *Rencontres Internationales de la Photographie* (an international photography festival) draws both amateurs and professionals around the globe each summer ([www.rip-arles.org](http://www.rip-arles.org)). For more information on Arles, visit [www.ville-arles.fr](http://www.ville-arles.fr). 🇫🇷

## Grasse: A City of Fragrance

ONE CAN SAY that Grasse has not changed much in the past several hundred years. As in the days of Napoleon when Pauline Borghese, the emperor's favorite sister, frequented the city, Grasse still attracts numerous visitors who are drawn to its mild climate and the lovely slopes of the Doublier Mountain.

Grasse is best known, however, for its perfume-making tradition. The city, which has been involved with delicate fragrances since the 16th century, can indeed be considered the perfume capital of the world. The wild flowers in its surrounding countryside provide an ample supply of ingredients for creating new scents. Over the years, perfume producers from the region have gained international renown, and many visitors tour their *parfumeries*, where they learn about the production of perfume and even create their own scent with the help of the "Nose," or perfume maker. There is also an International Museum of Perfume to visit, with

its impressive collection of antique and modern items related to perfume.

In recent years, Grasse's perfume industry has been dramatically transformed by technology, producing synthetic products and adding new flavors to natural raw materials. Nonetheless, one only needs to walk down the main streets of the town to encounter alluring displays of jasmine and dried rose petals, which take the traveler back to the days of old Grasse.

Whether it is during the March aromatherapy fair, or the May international rose exhibition, Grasse leaves its visitors with a timeless gift: a scent of nature hidden underneath a flower petal or bottled up in a glass flask. To learn more, visit [www.ville-grasse.fr](http://www.ville-grasse.fr). 🇫🇷



Field of lavender

## Marseilles: A Melting Pot of Culinary Imagination



*La bouillabaisse*

MARSEILLES is an ancient city that is more than 2,600 years old: the Phoenicians founded the city in 600 B.C., and it was then successively conquered by the Greeks and the Romans. Its long history of foreign invasions and seaport commerce has earned Marseilles, the eighth largest seaport in the world and the third largest city in France, a reputation of being tough and fiercely independent. This cosmopolitan city also boasts a unique culinary tradition blending Oriental and Mediterranean influences.

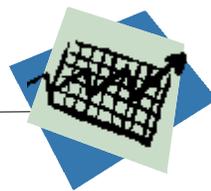
*Bouillabaisse* is the pride of Marseilles's cuisine. Originally made by fishermen, it is a fish soup that usually comes in two varieties. *Bouillabaisse du Ravi* is a full meal, with six different types of fish, such as conger eel, seabass, clams, scallops, cod, and spiny red hogfish; *Bouillabaisse du Pêcheur* is smaller, containing only three types of fish. In

both cases, a paste of Spanish peppers called *rouille* (literally, rust) is added to give the soup its rusty color.

An authentic *bouillabaisse* can easily be found in Marseilles's Vieux-Port and its quays. Restaurants are lined up along the glistening ocean, providing a breathtaking view of the port. As they enjoy the endless variety of Marseilles's cuisine, visitors can sip their *cassis* white wine, watch the boats bathe in an ethereal moonlight, and of course, anticipate a dazzling array of desserts. Some of Marseilles's delicacies include *navette*, a small pastry in the shape of a boat, and *marseillotes*, a sweet mix of honey, aniseed, almond, orange, and chocolate.

Although its rough lifestyle and adamant spirit have long set Marseilles apart from the other cities in Provence, its culinary ingenuity characterizes the limitless energy and open-minded spirit that are the unifying essence of this diverse region.

To learn more, visit [www.marseille-tourisme.com](http://www.marseille-tourisme.com). 🇫🇷



## CNRS Adopts Reorganization

**T**HE NATIONAL CENTER for Scientific Research (CNRS) adopted on May 19 a reform of its internal organization, paving the way for the modernization of one of the world's leading research organizations. With 12,000 researchers and 15,000 engineers, technicians and support staff employees, the CNRS is the largest research institution in Europe. It deals with a large scope of scientific topics, ranging from social sciences to mathematics, and benefits from a budget of more than 2.2 billion euros (\$2.7 billion).

The reform, launched by CNRS Director-General Bernard Larroutourou in coordination with the research staff, should do away with traditional scientific departments. Indeed, trans-disciplinarity is at the core of the reform. About one-third of the 1,250 existing labs will become joint labs and work in coordination with two or three departments at the same time. Decentralization is also a major goal, with the creation of five regional poles that will directly cooperate with universities and local authorities. Meanwhile, the newly created National

Agency for Research will allow the CNRS to focus more on pure research rather than on scientific policy.

The reform also demonstrates great willingness to fully integrate the European dimension into the CNRS's activities. For instance, there are plans to increase participation in European Commission-led programs as well as to build a closer partnership with the Max Planck Institute in Germany. The long-term goal is to turn the CNRS into a focal point for excellence in the European context, capable of attracting elite students and top researchers.

By removing institutional obstacles that discouraged many scientists and lowered the efficiency of scientific research in France, the reform is an essential step toward creating a more attractive and dynamic scientific research environment in France.

For more information, please visit [www.cnrs.fr](http://www.cnrs.fr). 

### BIOMEDICINE AGENCY CREATED

France inaugurated the Agency for Biomedicine, which will regulate research on embryonic stem cells and other bioethics issues, on May 10. Scientists in France hope that this agency will allow them to start research on stem cells, which could lead to the development of regenerative medicine. The newly created agency will have sole responsibility over the supervision of medically assisted procreation, embryology and human genetics. Its creation follows up on a bioethics law approved by the French Parliament last August.

### NEW HIGH-SPEED TRAIN LINE TO LINK FRANCE, GERMANY



Deutsche Bahn president Hartmut Mehdorn (l) and SNCF President Louis Gallois signing the agreement.

A new Paris-Frankfurt line will cut travel time between the two cities from about 6 hours to less than 4 hours, by linking the French (TGV) and German (ICE) high-speed train

## Paris World's Main Air "Hub"

**A** NEW STUDY, financed by the NIH and published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science, concludes that Paris is the world's most central connecting point, funneling traffic between the 3,883 communities with airports around the world. With nonstop flights to 250 different cities, Paris leads the world in direct connections (London comes in second with 242 nonstop destinations). France's colonial history helps to explain this phenomenon, as it continues to maintain close links with its former colonies in Africa and Asia. Not content with being the most connected city, Paris is also rated the most "central"



The Hub of the World

city by the researchers, who evaluated each airport's importance in the world's flight network. Anchorage, Alaska (with only 39 nonstop connections), comes in second in "centrality," for instance, because most flights in and out of Alaska must pass through this city, making it a critical hub for that region.

The researchers calculated that, on average, one can travel between any two cities in the world with an average of 4.4 flights. The most difficult itinerary: getting from Mount Pleasant in the Falkland Islands to Wasu, Papua-New Guinea (a trip that requires 15 separate flights!)

For more information, visit [www.pnas.org](http://www.pnas.org). 

lines. A joint company, similar to Eurostar (for the Paris-London TGV) and Thalys (Paris-Brussels) has been created by the German and French railway companies to run the new Paris-Frankfurt and Paris-Stuttgart lines, which are slated to open in 2007. More than 1.5 million travelers a year are expected to use the new lines.

### GEMPLUS SMARTCARDS TO IMPROVE BORDER CONTROLS

French company Gemplus International was selected on May 24 by an ad hoc group of European countries to develop contact-less smart cards that would facilitate the verification of visas inside the Schengen area (a zone formed by 15 European countries that have agreed to end internal border controls). As part of the "Biodev" project aimed at improving European standards with regards to border security, the new smart cards will contain biometric data on small chips that can be read remotely, thereby speeding security checks.

### NEW RECORD FOR FRENCH REAL ESTATE

The past year was a record one for the French real estate market and the outlook for 2005 is very encouraging. With an increase in sales of 8.7 percent in 2004, the real estate market marked its best year since 1979 as it benefited from low interest rates, motivated investors and high demand. Real estate experts predict a soft landing when prices and sales begin to fall.

## First Research and Innovation Fair in Paris

**F**ROM JUNE 3 TO 5, Paris was the site of the first public exposition dedicated to research and innovation held in France. The "Salon Européen de la Recherche et de l'Innovation" (European Research and Innovation Fair) sought to bring together both the public and private sectors to develop contacts and start partnerships. The 130 official participants included representatives from businesses, public organizations, universities, local governments, venture capital funds, consultancies and high-tech corridors.

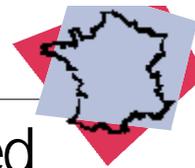
Exhibition visitors were able to attend numerous presentations on topics ranging from space exploration, Einstein, biodiversity, aeronautical innovation and bioethics to finding financing for projects and turning

research into profitable products. Participants could also sit in on roundtable discussions that covered every aspect of research and innovation, including one with representatives from research organizations in Hungary, the exhibition's guest of honor.



François-Denis Poitral, a lawyer, and Jean Audouze, an astrophysicist and research director at the National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), created the exhibition to facilitate links between researchers and business people. Many events specifically targeted young scientists, providing them with opportunities to work on their résumés and talk with potential employers.

To learn more, visit [www.salon-de-la-recherche.com](http://www.salon-de-la-recherche.com). 



**NEW YOUTH WEB PORTAL**

In response to President Chirac's wish to place youth at the heart of Europe's action, the Ministry of Youth and Sports, with the cooperation of most of France's other ministries, has initiated the creation of a Web portal for youths who are looking for information on society and government. The portal will consolidate all of the government's youth-oriented resources, making it easy for users to obtain advice on choosing a university, finding work and accommodations, staying healthy, etc.... Still at the embryo stage, the Web site is set to evolve rapidly and become very interactive. It can be accessed at [www.jeunesse.gouv.fr](http://www.jeunesse.gouv.fr).

**MOVING MADE SIMPLER**

Moving is never a pleasant experience, and informing all those who need to be informed is a tedious and painstaking process. But a new Web site may change all that! By logging onto [www.changement-adresse.gouv.fr](http://www.changement-adresse.gouv.fr), it is now possible to automatically declare one's new address on-line to several administrations at once. One chooses which agencies to inform (tax, unemployment benefits, health insurance...), and one click is then enough to update all of their databases. Eventually this service should be expanded to the postal service, electricity and water suppliers and to telecommunication companies.

**FRENCH SUPPORT FEE-BASED INTERNET FILE EXCHANGES**

An April poll, run by the Administration for the Rights of Artists and Musicians (ADAMI), showed that 83 percent of French internet users would agree to pay between 5 and 10 euros a month in addition to their internet subscriptions in order to be legally allowed to download and exchange music and video files. The money collected would then be shared among the artists concerned. Of course this idea is not new, but by showing that the public is favorable to such a fee, the ADAMI hopes to speed up its implementation.

**ONLINE TAX RETURNS TAKING OFF**

Filing one's income tax forms online is becoming increasingly popular among the French. After 119,000 Web filings in 2002, there were over 3.7 million in 2005 (three times more than in 2004!), which accounts for 11 percent of all taxpayers in France. Overwhelmed by the success of its Web site, the French Ministry of Finance has decided to update its service so that it will be able to handle 10 million filings next year.

# National Cancer Institute Inaugurated

**T**HE MINISTRIES OF HEALTH and of education announced the creation of the Institut National du Cancer (INCa) on May 24. Professor David Khayat, an oncologist, will chair the new institute.

The INCa is charged with spreading information and defining public policy concerning the prevention and detection of cancer. The INCa will also set quality standards and ensure equal access to treatment. While the institute will not conduct its own research, it will organize and fund cancer research done by public research organizations and universities. As well as waging the battle against cancer within France, the INCa will also serve to encourage collaboration at the international level.

Prof. Khayat highlighted the disparities in the treatment of cancer as a challenge facing INCa. "The average waiting time

for a cancer scan is 31 days, but this national average hides a range of 3 to 180 days," said Khayat. Khayat added that he hopes INCa will implement national prevention and detection campaigns, as well as ensure that cancer patients are not discriminated against in their access to loans and insurance.

Currently there are 150,000 cancer-related deaths in France every year; 41,000 of which are caused by smoking, while another 16,000 are related to alcohol. The number of new cases per year has increased by 63 percent, with 278,000 new cases in 2000, up from 160,000 in 1980. The 2003 Cancer Plan, launched by President Jacques Chirac, aims to reduce cancer mortalities by 20 percent by the end of 2007.

INCa will start with a budget of 70 million euros that will increase to 100 million by 2007.

For more information, please visit [www.sante.gouv.fr](http://www.sante.gouv.fr).

## Animals Have Feelings Too

*The French Civil Code will soon recognize that animals are not simply objects*

**T**HE FRENCH CIVIL CODE, over 200 years old, will soon no longer place animals in the same category as furniture or other "transportable goods." Indeed, on May 10, Suzanne Antoine, a magistrate and the treasurer of the French League for the Rights of Animals, submitted her report on the rights of animals to the Ministry of Justice. The Ministry, which requested the report, will now consider its conclusions and draft new legislation that would raise the status of animals from that of "objects" to "beings."

Originally, the Civil Code, drafted under Napoleon, devised two categories by which to define the term "property." One was "transportable goods" such as chairs, tables, and jewelry. The other was "fixed goods," such as houses and gardens. Animals belonged to the first category. However, the

notion that animals are above all beasts of burden has given way to a new view, that they are sentient companions and therefore deserving of protection. The fact that over 16 million French families have pets has undoubtedly contributed to these changing perceptions (there are over 18 million dogs and cats in France).

Though the Civil Code did not grant animals a special status until now, they were by no means without protection. Previous laws enacted severe penalties for individuals found guilty of cruelty toward animals, with specific legislation concerning scientific experimentation on them. In fact, the new legal

standing of animals will not actually improve their level of protection, but it represents a major symbolic advance in the battle for the better treatment of our furry friends.

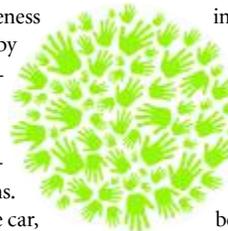


## 10 Simple Steps to Help Save the Planet

*A popular French television figure has launched a campaign to raise awareness about conservation*

**N**ICOLAS HULOT, a popular figure on French television whose show is dedicated to exploring the world's natural wonders, has recently launched a campaign designed to increase public awareness about the need to protect the environment by changing wasteful behaviors. On his foundation's Web site ([www.defipourlaterre.org](http://www.defipourlaterre.org)), individuals can sign up and pledge that they will choose to do one of the ten simple steps suggested to reduce waste and harmful emissions. Such steps include walking instead of taking the car, sorting waste, shutting down electrical appliances instead of leaving them on in standby mode, etc.... Three million copies of a "green booklet," which lists all kinds of additional measures individuals can take, will also be published and distributed for free in various locations.

The number of participants in this operation will be updated regularly on the Web site, and the effect of their individual efforts will be measured by the Agency for the Environment and Energy Monitoring (by estimating the quantity of CO2 emissions that have been avoided as a result of their actions). According to Hulot, it is important that people not be asked to take radical steps, which would simply discourage them, but they should instead be urged to show more moderation in their daily energy consumption. Individuals are responsible for 50% of greenhouse gas emissions in France, and small actions, taken together, could have major repercussions in helping reduce the threat of global warming.



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# Admired Philosopher Paul Ricoeur Dies

**I**NFLUENTIAL FRENCH philosopher Paul Ricoeur died May 20 at the age of 92 after a prolonged illness. Intellectuals and politicians, including President Jacques Chirac and former prime minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin, paid homage to Ricoeur following his death. "In the face of the tragedies of our era, Paul Ricoeur never stopped proclaiming with determination the need for dialogue and the respect of others," said Chirac. Several Americans also paid their respects to Ricoeur, who pursued much of his career in the United States, at the University of Chicago, Columbia and Yale. He is especially known for his work on phenomenology (how perceptions shape an individual's reality).



his childhood by the loss of his father in the first World War, Ricoeur eventually joined a group of protestant pacifists, although it did not keep him from being drafted into World War II and eventually becoming a German prisoner of war for five years. Ricoeur became well known for his opposition to war, including the French war in Algeria in the 1950s and the NATO-led war in Bosnia in 1992-1995, and he was inspired to write an array of works on the subject. His writings delved into a variety of other topics as well, including politics, psychoanalysis, poetry, and literary theory. His most enduring works include *The Rule of Metaphor* and *Time and Narrative*, products of the cross-cultural career he pursued both in France and in the United States. ■

## RASHI: Celebrating France's Jewish Heritage

**T**HE MAISON DE LA FRANCE, France's tourist office, is marking the 900th anniversary of the death of Rabbi Shlomo Itzhaki, or RASHI, perhaps the most eminent commentator of the Torah and Talmud. RASHI was a French theologian who greatly contributed to the study of the Torah and the Talmud in the 11th century, founding the *école des Tossafistes* (School of Additions) in his hometown of Troyes (northeastern France). He is considered key to the modern understanding of these texts thanks to his sophisticated written commentary and to his elaboration of a grammar that can be used to study these sacred Jewish works. Before him, such rabbinical discourse was rarely written down, which made his work ground-breaking.



RASHI intended to endow the Talmud with a literal sense, which he accomplished by applying to it his understanding of the daily lives of peasants, merchants, wine-growers, and the like. He also transliterated more than 4,000 Hebrew words into the dialect of northeastern France, *champenois* (which later became the matrix of the modern French language). RASHI's work provided Jewish scholars with a logical method of interpreting Jewish law and refining theological conclusions by questioning, analyzing, and comparing his writings.

The Maison de la France has just published a brochure about RASHI intended for Jewish travelers going to France. It can be ordered by visiting [us.franceguide.com](http://us.franceguide.com). ■

### PARIS'S LOST AND FOUND OFFICE CELEBRATES 200 YEARS

This May marked the 200th anniversary of the Lost and Found office in Paris, which was created by the prefect of police under Napoleon. According to the office's current director, Jean-Michel Ingrandt, this collection of objects found in the streets of Paris was begun "in the spirit of centralization." Now situated in the southern part of the 15th *arrondissement*, the enormous warehouse is a sort of museum of the common man's daily life, reflecting the stability of certain objects over time, such as umbrellas and keys, as well as changing fashion trends and technological advancements. Ladies' hats and men's cufflinks have given way to cell phones as the most commonly found items (the latter arrive at a rate of 40 per day and number more than 3,500!). The office is also home to the appropriately named "cabinet of curiosities," which stores several human skulls, a wooden leg, muzzle-loading pistols, and even two chunks of masonry from the World Trade Center site in Manhattan, all of which were found in the streets of Paris.

### "GARDEN RENDEZ-VOUS"

Across France, 1,568 public and private gardens were open to the public during special visiting hours from June 3 to 5 so that individuals could enjoy strolling through a variety of estates. Many of the gardens also organized shows and other events around this year's theme of "trees." "Garden Rendezvous" aims to sow

the seeds of curiosity about gardens in children, but the event also appeals to a wider audience, as French people of all ages love gardens and consider them an integral part of their heritage.

### MADAM POMPADOUR'S TOILETRY ENSEMBLE SELLS FOR \$1.8 MILLION

An anonymous bidder paid \$1.8 million for Madame Pompadour's porcelain toiletry ensemble on May 19 during an auction held in New York. Christie's stated it was the highest price ever paid for French porcelain (this particular piece had initially been estimated at \$150,000 to \$300,000). The faucet and basin of Louis XV's famous mistress were made in 1754 from Vincennes porcelain decorated with garlands of flowers and they rest on a gold stand.

## Daumier's Caricatures Return to Musée d'Orsay

**H**ONORÉ DAUMIER, the acclaimed 19th-century French artist and political and social satirist, created 36 busts from 1832-1835 caricaturizing various personalities known as the "*célébrités du juste milieu*" ("celebrities of the middle of the road"). These sculptures, greatly admired by Baudelaire and Balzac for their extraordinary psychological penetration, are made out of painted, unfired clay. The busts were commissioned by Charles Philippon, the founder of the satirical newspapers *La Caricature* and *Charivari*, as symbols of his opposition to deteriorating social conditions and to the corruption and idiosyncrasies of the bourgeoisie, which character-

ized the July Monarchy under King Louis-Philippe. To illustrate Daumier's social critique, 26 of the sculptures portray members of parliament. Daumier's art is classified as "*juste milieu*" or "middle of the road" because it incorporates progressive and radical trends within the academic style. It is an effort to balance the distribution of power between the masses, which are prone to excess, and the monarchy, which is prone to abusing its power. Recently restored, the busts will be on display at the Musée d'Orsay until the end of August where they will be juxtaposed with realistic portraits of the featured personalities. For more information, please visit [www.musee-orsay.fr](http://www.musee-orsay.fr). ■



French Minister Antoine-Maurice-Apollinaire baron d'Argout, as seen by Honoré Daumier (1832)



FETE DE LA MUSIQUE

The French Embassy is hosting its own version of France's beloved annual musical event, the "Fête de la Musique" from 7pm to 11pm on June 24 at the Maison Française. This year, for the first time at the Embassy, anyone playing a musical instrument will be invited to perform live during the evening alongside the featured guest artists from Paris, "Les Primitifs du Futur," who will be performing at 8:30pm. The group, founded by cartoonist Robert Crumb and guitarist Dominique Cravic in 1986, blends world-musette, a style of dance music developed in turn-of-the-century France, and Django-style guitar into old-fashioned, original songs. The result sounds like pop music from a Parisian cabaret, mixing popular folk music from Auvergne with swing, gypsy, and polka.

To hear them play and join in the rest of the festivities, visit [www.la-maison-francaise.org](http://www.la-maison-francaise.org).

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225TH ANNIVERSARY OF U.S. REVOLUTIONARY ROUTE



Siege of Yorktown.  
(Louis Couder, 1836)

In 1781, George Washington and the Comte de Rochambeau led French and American forces from Newport, Rhode Island, to Yorktown, Virginia, on what has come to be known as the Washington-Rochambeau-Revolutionary Route (W3R). Upon reaching Yorktown, they claimed the most decisive victory in the American War of Independence and compelled Britain to sue for peace.

Commemoration ceremonies, including historical re-enactments, will be held in Newport from July 8 to 10, to celebrate the arrival of allied troops in Yorktown and France's critical contributions to American independence. French Ambassador Jean-David Levitte, accompanied by dignitaries from the nine W3R states, will dedicate a new Rochambeau statue on July 9.

Just in time to celebrate its 225th anniversary, the U.S. Congress is also in the process of designating the 1,000-km route as a Historic National Trail, to pay homage to its historical and symbolic significance. For more information, visit [www.w3r-us.org](http://www.w3r-us.org).

"Americans in Paris" at National Archives

"IF YOU ARE LUCKY enough to have lived in Paris as a young man, then wherever you go for the rest of your life it stays with you, for Paris is a moveable feast," said Ernest Hemingway in his memoirs. And Paris has indeed become moveable, with this year's city-wide cultural effort known as "Paris on the Potomac." As part of the festival, the National Archives decided to spotlight Americans whose encounters with France have affected diplomatic, political, military, or cultural life at pivotal moments in U.S. or world history. More than a Gershwin piece, or a Gopnik book, "Americans in Paris" shall now become known (temporarily at least) as an extraordinary special exhibit, in which the photos, film footage, clothing, treaties and letters of ordinary as well as famous Americans have been gathered.

The exhibit begins with a letter from Benjamin Franklin and the original Treaty of Alliance of 1778 (with which France became the United States' first ally), and culminates with Henry Kissinger and the Paris Peace Accords of 1973. Along the aisles, visitors are also presented with the secret correspondence of the Union ambassador as he competed with his Confederate counterpart for the favor of Napoleon III. It is also possible to journey to the Paris Exhibition of 1878, where Edison and Bell received medals for their inventions. Harry Truman's



U.S. soldiers buy ice cream in front of Notre Dame Cathedral, September 1944.

doughboy uniform will be on display along with instructions for U.S. soldiers on proper behavior in Paris. One can sample the exceptional film holdings of the National Archives, including rare silent footage of hospital entertainers in World War I, a newsreel of Lindbergh's flight and

U.S. Information Agency coverage of Jacqueline Kennedy's triumphal tour of the city.

The exhibit offers us a refreshing reminder of the friendship, bonds, and passion that have long united both sides of the Atlantic. The Lawrence O'Brien Gallery will feature "Americans in Paris" until September 5. For more information, please visit [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov).

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