

## New Contribution for Development Aid Approved

**T**HE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS approved on November 23 a new levy on airplane tickets, the proceeds of which will be used to help finance development aid. The French parliament will now examine the project, and is expected to approve it in time for the contribution to go into force starting on July 1, 2006. The French government estimates the levy will bring in 200 million euros a year (\$236 million), which will serve above all to finance the fight against AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and other deadly diseases. Some of the funds will also be earmarked for the International Finance Facility (IFF), a British initiative in which rich countries borrow money to increase their contributions to developing countries.

The levy will vary between 1 euro (\$1.18) for economy class tickets from France to other European countries and 40 euros (\$47.20) for long-haul first class tickets. Economy class passengers will never pay more than 4 euros (\$4.72)—the proposed levy on flights to non-European countries—and passengers in transit will be exempt.

"After a considerable effort, we are now capable of putting in place a solidarity contribution on airplane tickets that could bring in up to 200 million euros a year," declared French President Jacques Chirac during the ministerial meeting. "It has been designed to affect neither the competitiveness of French airports nor the level of employment in the aeronautics sector."

Chirac, a keen proponent of the need to increase third world aid, first mooted the idea of an international solidarity contribution during the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, in January (see NFF 05.01). Since then, almost 80 countries have offered their support. In particular, the French initiative is backed by Algeria, Germany,

Brazil, Chili, Spain and the United Kingdom. Chili will implement a similar levy on airplane tickets starting on January 1, and British authorities will redirect the proceeds of existing levies to the project. Chirac called on other countries to follow suit, ahead of a February conference on the subject in Paris. According to government estimates, the contribution could bring in up to 10 billion euros a year if it were implemented on a global scale. ■ ■

### SENATOR DOLE RECEIVES LEGION OF HONOR



Senator Bob Dole, wearing the Legion of Honor, and Ambassador Jean-David Levitte.

Former U.S. Senator and presidential candidate Bob Dole received the French Legion of Honor in recognition of his service in the liberation of Europe during World War II. On November 17, French Ambassador to the United States Jean-David Levitte presented Dole with the prestigious award that dates back to Napoleon's era.

The Senator served in Italy, but Levitte said that his liberation efforts were felt throughout Europe and that Dole is "known all over France" for his service. During the presentation, Levitte also stressed the ongoing strength of the relationship between the U.S. and France, which, despite occasional disagreements, is held together by the common values of liberty, equality, and democracy. France and the U.S. continue to work closely together on resolving international issues, such as those involving Iran's nuclear activities and the Middle East peace process. Indeed, Levitte praised Dole for his efforts in one such cooperation—the Dayton Accords of 10 years ago, which negotiated peace in Bosnia.

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## UNESCO Turns 60

**T**HE UNITED NATIONS Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) celebrated its 60th anniversary in Paris on November 16. UNESCO was founded through the collaboration of 37 countries in 1945 to develop "the intellectual and moral solidarity of mankind" and with the intention of "build[ing] peace in the minds of men" following World War II. These nations hoped a culture of peace would help prevent another devastating World War, and the organization used the occasion of its 60th birthday to renew its call for world peace and respect for diversity.

Koïchiro Matsuura, the director general of UNESCO, led an official ceremony in recognition of the event, in which he was joined by government representatives, including French Foreign Affairs Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy.



Foreign Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy speaks during UNESCO's 60th anniversary ceremony at its Paris headquarters.

Matsuura expressed concern that the objective of attaining peace has not been met, as more men and women have died in violent conflicts around the world during the past 60 years than perished in battle during World War II.

When the celebrations wound down, a two-day conference took place in Paris, attended by around 60 historians, anthropologists, and philologists from all over the world, who sought to determine the direction that international scientific collaboration and research should take over the next five years.

Today, UNESCO has 191 member countries and its goals continue to be to promote peaceful international cooperation, to help its member nations build their institutional and human capacities and to open up dialogues that reflect shared values and a respect for the diversity of cultures. The organization recently adopted a landmark treaty on the protection and promotion of

cultural diversity (see NFF 05.12). To learn more, visit [www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org). ■ ■

**MERKEL VISITS PARIS IN FIRST STATE VISIT**

Angela Merkel, who is the first woman to become chancellor of Germany, visited Paris on November 23, the day after being sworn into office, to meet with President Jacques Chirac and Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin. On learning of her decision, Chirac said, "We are very touched by this show of friendship, this honor she is paying us today." He added that it is more important than ever that the Franco-German partnership continue to give an impetus to the construction of Europe. Merkel heads a new Grand Coalition government in Germany, bringing together the center-left and center-right parties. Her visit to Paris was followed by a visit to Brussels, Warsaw, and London. She has appointed French native Christoph Heugens, a specialist in European affairs, as her foreign policy advisor.

**PARIS TO NAME SITE AFTER ROSA PARKS**

The Council of Paris voted to name a Parisian site of educational importance after the American civil rights pioneer Rosa Parks. Parks went down in history when she refused to give up her seat to a white passenger in 1955 (buses in most the South were segregated at the time), thereby inspiring a peaceful bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama, that soon launched the civil rights movement. Parks passed away on October 24, and became the first woman to lie in state in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda.

**FRENCH-AMERICAN ACADEMIC TIES DISCUSSED**

Strengthening cooperative bonds between the French and the U.S. through academic excellence was a priority at the November 21 round table discussion on "the goals and tools of academic cooperation between France and America," hosted in Paris by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The round table coincided with the Paris meetings of the executive boards of the France-Stanford Center and the France-Chicago Center. More than 100 individuals from the French and American worlds of research and academia assembled to create development directives and exchange thoughts and opinions on increasing academic cooperation between the two nations. The growth of "partnerships of excellence" between the two allied countries was a core focus of the meeting, as was encouraging the international mobility of students and researchers from both nations.

NEWS FROM FRANCE / November 30, 2005

**France Tackles Discontent in "Banlieues"**

**F**OR THE TWO WEEKS following October 27, when two teenagers accidentally electrocuted themselves in Clichy-sous-Bois, near Paris, as they tried to avoid a police checkpoint, France has experienced unprecedented unrest in the poor suburbs (known as *banlieues*) of several of its cities. The government immediately made it clear that this violence was unacceptable. By mid-November, 3,000 people had been arrested, 640 of whom were jailed. The government implemented a 1955 law, which gives mayors the ability to enforce curfews.

Now that order has been restored, the French government has begun a long-term effort to address the deep roots of the discontent. With most of the rioters hailing from North and West Africa, integration is indeed at the very core of the crisis. The government will reinforce the fight against discrimination, giving the High Authority on the Fight against Discrimination and for Equality (see NFF 04.11 and 05.03) more powers to tackle this problem. The activities of

mayors, associations and neighborhood police forces will be reinforced to create stronger community ties.

Unemployment is also an important factor, which will be addressed by the establishment of a voluntary civil service to help disadvantaged youths find work. Thirty thousand positions will be created next year, before reaching a total of 50,000 in 2007. Since education is central to the integration process, the government is determined to better help deserving young students from the *banlieues*. The government also launched an important housing project, including the renovation of apartments, which will improve residents' living conditions.

Islam played no role in the clashes, which involved a relatively small number of male youths. Indeed, Islamic religious leaders were among the first to call for an end to the violence. Seventy-five to 80 percent of the people who were arrested were already known by the police as delinquents. They had no political or religious agenda. ■ ■

**New Natural Reserve in French Antarctica**

**F**RANCE WILL designate all 230,000 square miles of its Southern and Antarctic Lands as a wildlife reserve, which gives the territory the strongest protection available in French law. Much stricter than the rules governing a national park, they specifically forbid any type of development. Ecology Minister Nelly Olin announced the decision on November 2 during a joint meeting of the three National Assembly commissions in charge of the country's 2006 budget.

Designating these lands as wildlife reserves is part of France's National Strategy for Biodiversity. The goal of this strategy, which was announced in February 2004, is to preserve the diversity of species in territories under French control, including creatures as small as bacteria as well as those traditionally given more attention—plants and animals. The new wildlife reserve in the

Southern and Antarctic Lands, for instance, will go far to protect the world's largest colonies of marine birds and to control fishing in the area. French authorities are especially keen on



A skua chick on Kerguelen island

ensuring that non-indigenous species are not introduced onto the islands, which would prove disastrous to their fragile ecological systems.

To date, 154 wildlife reserves exist in France and its overseas departments and territories. However, the vast majority of these reserves are small, making the current proposal for the Antarctic lands a significant step in the protection of biodiversity.

The chosen area covers the Kerguelen and Crozet archipelagos, the islands of Amsterdam and Saint-Paul and France's section of Antarctica, Terre Adélie, as well as their territorial waters. ■ ■

**France, Italy, to Jointly Develop Multi-Mission Frigates**

**F**RANCE AND ITALY have teamed up to build 27 new multi-mission frigates to enhance their countries' naval capabilities. The two NATO allies finally signed the 11 billion-euro construction deal, initiating the biggest naval program in Europe, after three years of negotiations. Italian budgetary problems delayed the program, even after its October 4 approval by French President Jacques Chirac and Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi at the 24th French-Italian summit in Paris.

Of the 27 FREMM frigates that will be built, France will receive 17. The vessels will measure 460 feet by 65 feet and will

be outfitted with highly advanced detection and defense equipment. Weighing 5,600 tons, they will be able to reach 27.6 knots at full speed and will carry a helicopter. They are slated to enter service between 2011 and 2020.



In her announcement to Parliament, French Defense Minister Michèle Alliot-Marie spoke about the many benefits of this new program. She said it "will allow the renewal of the largest part of the national marine fleet." In addition, the deal will create many new jobs. It is "excellent news for several thousand workers," Alliot-Marie said. Visit [www.defense.gouv.fr](http://www.defense.gouv.fr) to learn more. ■ ■



## Paris in New York: French Exiles During WWII

**I**N HER STIMULATING new book, *Paris à New York, Intellectuels et Artistes Français en Exil (1940-1947)*, Emmanuelle Loyer has captured the lives of French intellectuals and artists who were living in exile in New York during World War II. All were staunch anti-fascists who supported the Free French and believed in an Allied victory.

Loyer provides a realistic and detailed image of the famous exiles: Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, Jacques Maritain, André Maurois, Jules Romain, André Breton, Benjamin Péret, Jean Malaquais and naturally Claude Levi-Strauss. Their stories embody a determined spirit and a forgotten New York that can now only be experienced through films, books and the imagination.

Loyer emphasizes the friendships, the stereotypes, the misunderstandings and the other forces that colored this turbulent time period. The book is a magnificent read because Loyer provides more than just the facts, she sheds light on the lives of the exiles, who succeeded in transplanting their Bohemian lifestyle to their new, temporary home. Loyer describes the impact these French intellectuals and artists had on American life, and, inversely, the influence America had on their thinking.

## Culture Minister Meets With New Orleans Mayor Nagin

**F**RENCH MINISTER of Culture Renaud Donnedieu de Vabres met with the mayor of New Orleans, C. Ray Nagin, during his four-day visit to the United States (see NFF

05.12). The two discussed France's Katrina relief efforts, and future joint projects that will help make New Orleans better than ever. Donnedieu de Vabres emphasized the value of culture,

in both France and Louisiana: "If we strengthen our cooperation in this crucial period, I am convinced that France and Louisiana, France and New Orleans will generate new ideas." In the coming year, France will organize cultural events in New Orleans, including a street performance and an exhibition at the New Orleans Museum of Art with

The French exiles were invited to give conferences in their mother tongue, and during the war, 240 books were published in French in New York, 182 in Brazil and 66 in Argentina. Indeed, Loyer also covers Latin America, which harbored French intellectuals such as Roger Caillois and George Bernanos, creating a kind of great expatriate French triangle between London, New York, Rio and Buenos Aires. 

### U.S. STUDENTS SEND POSTCARDS TO FRENCH TROOPS



Providence student Tim Lipka came to the Embassy this October to be thanked by France's military mission

During high-profile wars, such as the one in Iraq, it is sometimes difficult to remember that there are soldiers still stationed in many other parts of the world as well. One group of American students, however, remembered that troops everywhere sometimes need a little boost in morale, especially around the holiday season. Last year, the French Club from Providence High School in Charlotte, N.C., decided to try to lift the spirits of French troops stationed in Côte d'Ivoire and contacted the French Embassy in Washington, D.C., to help deliver their cards to the troops.

The students sent the cards last December and January, and were thrilled when they received replies from the soldiers participating in Operation Licorne, as well as a picture of the unit and a letter from the Ministry of Defense in Paris. They were able to see first-hand the positive effect such a small gesture can have on troops stationed abroad.

### THE POLISH CONNECTION

Jacob Sibilski always had a passion for space. But it was a chance meeting with a four-star French Air Force General at Cape Canaveral that motivated him to pursue French and German and learn more about foreign cultures. Indeed, it turned out that General Wolsztynski's parents lived only 50 km from Sibilski's parents' residence in Poland! Inspired by the encounter, young Sibilski has gone on to intern for NASA and apprentice for SHARP. Noting the achievements of the European Space Agency, he hopes for more international cooperation in space.



Jacob Sibilski (far left) and his sister Agnes pose with Gen. Wolsztynski (2nd from right), and French astronaut Michel Tognini (2nd from left)

works on loan from the Louvre. Before leaving the U.S., Donnedieu de Vabres honored Mary Young, Ursula Cliff, and Catherine Cheremeteff Davison, three members of the board of trustees of the Florence Gould Foundation, with the prestigious Legion of Honor. In Atlanta, he recognized the services of Michael Shapiro (head of the High Museum of Art) with the order of the Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres. 

### FRENCH ACTOR WINS EMMY AWARD

Thierry Frémont was awarded the International Emmy for Best Actor on November 21, for his role as serial killer Francis Heaulme in the TF1 series "Murder in Mind." For more information, visit [www.iemmys.tv](http://www.iemmys.tv).

L'Oréal's name will appear in the Weinstein Company's movies. L'Oréal and the Weinstein brothers will also co-host premieres and other special events, including Academy Awards parties.

"The film world is a great source of inspiration for L'Oréal Paris," said company president Carol Hamilton, "and we're thrilled to continue our tradition of working with extraordinary talent." Visit [www.lorealusa.com](http://www.lorealusa.com) to learn more. 

### FORD TO SELL FIRST HYBRID CARS IN FRANCE

Ford Motor Company said it will sell hybrid ethanol / gasoline versions of its Focus cars in France to fleet buyers by the end of 2005, and it hopes to make the entire line hybrid by the end of 2006. At a recent news conference, Ford France Chairman Eric Saint-Frison discussed the first step. "We plan to apply this technology, which costs 350 euros extra per car, to 300 Focus saloon cars and Focus C-Max, carriers intended for local authority or corporate fleets," he said. Cars using biofuel emit 70 percent less carbon dioxide than equivalent gasoline-powered vehicles, although they use 25-30 percent more fuel than conventional ones. Visit [www.ford.fr](http://www.ford.fr) for more information.

### MOVIE MAGIC GOES DIGITAL

Movies will become even more magical over the next few years, thanks to the digital technology of French company Thomson. DreamWorks, Sony Pictures, Universal, and Warner Bros. recently signed an agreement with Thomson to rapidly increase the installation of digital cinema systems in the U.S. and Canada. The \$1.5 billion deal will see Thomson deploy 5,000 digital screens in North America over the next three to four years and 15,000 over the next 10. So look out for the implementation of these new screens which will catapult movie viewing to new levels of Technicolor titillation! For more information, visit [www.thomson.net](http://www.thomson.net).



New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin and Culture Minister Donnedieu de Vabres

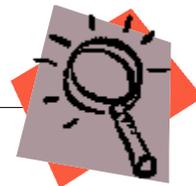
## Lights! Camera! L'Oréal!

**F**RENCH COSMETICS company L'Oréal has signed an unprecedented marketing deal with the Weinstein Company, an American film studio, in what is the most wide-reaching deal ever between Hollywood and a cosmetics manufacturer. The Weinstein Company is led by Bob and Harvey Weinstein, brothers who became Hollywood giants while running the independent film house Miramax, and L'Oréal is the largest cosmetics producer in the world.

According to the terms of the multi-year agreement, L'Oréal will provide beauty products for use in film production, and

### CNN TO DISTRIBUTE AFP VIDEO

Cable News Network and Agence France-Press (AFP) announced that they have agreed to allow CNN Image Source, the video-licensing division of CNN, to distribute AFP's archival video footage to video producers, universities and television outlets in non-French-speaking countries. Kathy Christensen, vice president of news archives and research at CNN, praised the partnership. "AFP is recognized around the world as a definitive source of news and opinion, and we're delighted to be able to offer its collection to the international production community," she said. AFP is the oldest global news agency, dating back to 1835. Learn more at [www.cnn.com](http://www.cnn.com).



# Perfume-Making: The Art of "Les Nez"

## The Nose Knows



**J**UST AS A MUSICIAN needs a good ear, a perfumer needs a good nose. Their profession demands that their olfactory organ be superbly trained and highly aware. They must also be inventive and have a good grasp of chemistry. Creators of fragrance, who are known as *Nez* (literally, "Noses"), are held in the highest esteem in the perfume industry and they have the final say as to whether or not a fragrance is acceptable.

The main requirement for becoming a Nose is, naturally, a keen olfactory sense. Perfumers must not simply be able to distinguish the fragrance of a rose from that of a tulip blindfolded, they must also be capable of detecting the precise amount of each substance that makes up a mixture of 100 or more ingredients.

They must be able to recognize the qualities of various raw materials and have a flair for blending them together. The Nose has his or her counterpart in the wine industry, where the skilled expert can tell in an instant the region, type of grape, and vintage of the wine he or she is sampling.

There are approximately 1,000 perfumers in the world but less than 50 of them are "Noses," that is, perfumers whose creativity and originality are such that they are able to launch real trends. He is both artist and technician and his nose is more accurate, more effective than any modern instrument. A "Nose" can remember and recognize up to 3,000 different smells.

## Profile of a Nose: Jean-Michel Duriez



COURTESY, JEAN-MICHEL DURIEZ

**J**EAN-MICHEL DURIEZ knew at the age of 10 that he wanted to become a perfumer. Fascinated with scent since childhood, Duriez eventually entered the School of Perfumery of Roure in Grasse in 1984. He went on to create perfumes for Lacoste and Yamamoto (among others) before he was contacted and asked to become the fourth perfumer of the Jean Patou house.

Although marketing often dictates the creation of a perfume, Duriez composes for the fragrance itself and the marketing follows. "Jean Patou is a brand of perfume, not an image," he says. Not all *Nez* have this luxury. As a house perfumer, Duriez also has as much time as he needs to create a fragrance—one to two years—instead of having to work within a restricted timeframe. During the past eight years, Duriez has created *Un Amour de Patou*, *Paname de Patou*, *2000 en Patou*, and *Enjoy*.

Now, Duriez plans to create *couture* perfumes, that is, perfumes on demand. To aid Duriez compose a unique fragrance for a client, he and his client will visit Paris, dropping by bakeries and flower shops, discussing the client's lifestyle. A large flask, accompanied by a travel flask in a personalized vanity case, would cost about 50,000 euros.

One thing about being a *Nez* frustrates Duriez: he cannot wear a fragrance when he goes to work! **■**



COURTESY, JEAN-PATOU

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## Creating a Perfume: An Alchemy of Art and Science

**P**ERFUMERS are artists, craftsmen and designers all rolled into one because you need all three talents to create the perfect perfume. Like music, a perfume creation consists of a unity in which three different notes combine to form a fragrant whole: the top note, the middle (heart) note, and the base note.

The top note is formed of unstable, short-lived components that last under two hours. The middle note most often comprises flower extracts and lasts for around four hours. Nowadays, the base note takes its durability (from 1 to 24

hours, and up to three months on an isolated dipstick!) from very long-lasting fixatives or base raw materials such as oak moss and patchouli.

From his formula, the perfumer creates a compound which will become, depending on its level of concentration, either a perfume (about 20 percent of concentrate), eau de toilette (10 percent of concentrate), or eau de cologne (5-6 percent).

Once the fragrance is created, a bottle is designed to reflect the character and mood of the perfume. **■**

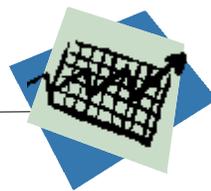
### PERFUME FAMILIES

There are several perfume families that help perfumers classify scents and create new blends. They include the Florals, which are primarily fresh flowery scents, such as rose, jasmine, ylang-ylang, tuberose and carnation. The Leathers, which are more masculine, evoke smells such as tobacco, smoke and leather. The Chyres are oak mosses accompanied by floral and fruity notes. The Ferns describe woody notes such as Vétiver, a combination of vetiver, cypress, cedar and amber. The Ambers include powdery floral fragrances combined with warm oriental scents. The Spices are characterized by the heady notes of cloves, coriander, cinnamon, nutmeg and juniper. The Citrus family consists of fresh, fruity notes based on bergamot, lemon, orange, neroli and petitgrain. Lastly, the Aromatics are perfumes based on bay, thyme, rosemary, verbena or *lipia citriodora*, clary, mint, natural and hybrid lavenders. These families are mixed and matched to create new, innovative scents that enchant and hypnotize.



Downy jasmine

COURTESY, JEAN-PATOU



# Venus Probe Launched

*European probe will study the greenhouse effect on Venus to better understand global warming*

**E**UROPE EMBARKED on its first space mission to Venus on November 9, with the launch of "Venus Express" from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. An exploration of Venus's atmosphere should give scientists insights into how global warming might unfold here on Earth. The probe will take approximately five months to reach Venus. Upon arrival, it will enter into an elliptical orbit, coming as close to the planet as 156 miles and getting as far away as 41,250 miles.

The primary goal of the mission is to examine the greenhouse effect of the planet's atmosphere. Its high levels of carbon dioxide trap incoming solar radiation and heats Venus's surface to an average temperature of

more than 400 degrees Celsius. Jean-Loup Bertaux of France's National Center for Scientific Research says that the planet's greenhouse effect raises its temperature by 350 degrees. This

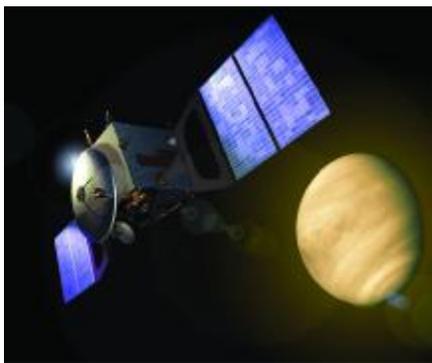
effect explains the apparent paradox that Mercury has a cooler temperature than Venus even though it is closer to the sun.

In addition to the dense atmosphere and extreme heat of Venus, the surface pressure of the planet also differs greatly from Earth's; it is about 90 times greater. The similarities between the two neighboring planets are limited to size (the two are nearly identical) and to composition.

Scientists hope that the mission to Venus will add to information gained from "Mars Express," the Mars probe already orbiting Earth's other close celestial neighbor. Because Earth lies nearly halfway between its two neighboring planets, the hope is that these probes will provide insights into the evolu-

tions of all three planets, thus increasing scientists' knowledge about what might occur on Earth in the future.

For more information, please visit [www.esa.int](http://www.esa.int).



An artist's representation of the Venus Express

COURTESY, ESA

## SAINT-GOBAIN PURCHASES BPB TO BECOME LEADER IN CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS

French construction materials company Saint-Gobain announced on November 17 that it will buy out U.K. plaster company British Plaster Board (BPB) in a deal worth 5.8 billion euros (\$6.85 billion). Following the acquisition, Saint-Gobain will become the number one interior construction materials company in the world. The road towards the buy-out was rocky at first, with BPB insisting that Saint-Gobain's initial offers were far too low. After four months of haggling, however, Saint-Gobain and BPB finally came to an agreement, with BPB selling at 775 pence (\$1.334) per share. For more information, please visit [www.saint-gobain.com](http://www.saint-gobain.com).

## FRANCE'S BERROU WINS U.S. TECH PRIZE



Claude Berrou is the 2005 recipient of the Marconi Prize, an award for inventing a technology that revolutionizes IT or telecommunications. This is the 31st year of the prize, and Berrou is the first Frenchman to win. In 1993, working with Alain Glavieux, who died last year, Berrou invented the idea of "turbo codes." Turbo codes are error-correcting codes that allow information, in the form of bits, to be transferred at efficiencies near the maximum theoretical limits. They are used for deep-space and other satellite communications as well as in modern cellular phones and other personal communication devices. Berrou is a professor at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Telecommunications in Brest. He will receive \$100,000 as part of the prize. The Marconi Prize is named after Italian scientist Guglielmo Marconi, who is credited with inventing the radio in 1895. Last year, the prize went to Americans Larry Page and Sergey Brin, co-creators of the search engine Google.

ious shapes, and prevents the loss of any material. Where previously the induction melting, solidification, and silicon forming were separated into three steps, EPM's process for producing silicon ingots has now combined them into a single step.

Emix owns an exclusive worldwide license for the process, and has just opened its first factory near Limoges, France. Plans for a second and third furnace are already under way, as skyrocketing demand is far outstripping current production capabilities. In fact, demand is growing at a rate of 30 to 40 percent annually, 20 times higher than their initial capacity. For more information, visit [www.emix.fr](http://www.emix.fr).

## NEW NANOSTRUCTURE PROMISES BETTER HARD DRIVES

Researchers from the National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), the University of Paris and the Polytechnic School of Lausanne presented a new magnetic nanostructure that is capable of storing 4,000 billion bytes per square centimeter, an increase by a factor of 200 compared with the most advanced hard drives currently in existence. To achieve this feat, researchers deposited cobalt atoms onto a crystalline gold surface, which caused the atoms to spontaneously rearrange themselves into a network perfectly suited for the high-density storage of information. The researchers note, however, that much work remains to be done before their discovery is commercialized.

## RENAULT'S CLIO III NAMED "CAR OF THE YEAR 2006"



Renault's Clio III was named "Car of the Year 2006" by 58 motoring journalists from 22 European countries. The Clio III has been commercialized in Europe since mid-October. Renault beat out Volkswagen's Passat and the new Alfa Romeo from Fiat. Six-time winner Renault previously won this prestigious award in 1966 for the Renault 16, in 1982 for the Renault 9, in 1991 for the Clio I, in 1997 for the Scénic Mégane, and in 2003 for the Mégane II. For more information, please visit [www.renault.com](http://www.renault.com).

## CNRS AWARDS GOLD MEDAL TO PHYSICIST ALAIN ASPECT

The CNRS has recently honored physicist Alain Aspect, director of research at the Optical Institute of Orsay in Paris, with its 2005 gold medal for his research on photons in the field of quantum mechanics. Aspect, now 58, has been working in quantum mechanics since 1975, when he first started to investigate the debate raging between Albert Einstein (who considered quantum theory incomplete) and Niels Bohr. With his colleagues, Aspect helped prove Bohr right by demonstrating the existence of pairs of correlated photons (which remain linked no matter how far apart they are from one another). This strange property now forms the basis for research in quantum computing and cryptography.

## French Startup Helps Make Cheaper, Cleaner Solar Panels



**A** FRENCH STARTUP, Emix, has recently industrialized a cleaner and cheaper manufacturing process for the silicon ingots used in photovoltaic cells (more commonly known as solar panels). The technology, developed by the Elaboration par Procédés Magnétiques (EPM) laboratory of the National Center for Scientific Research, may help make solar-generated electricity more widespread.

By using electromagnetic forces to prevent the molten silicon from contacting the crucible, the new process avoids pollution from the container, resulting in extremely pure silicon. The use of cold crucibles also allows the production of silicon ingots in var-

## NEW "WHO'S WHO" KEEPS PEOPLE UP-TO-DATE

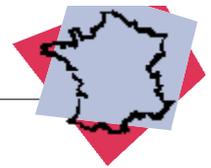
The 2006 edition of *Who's Who in France* was recently released, with 20,111 biographies of the movers and shakers in French politics, art, business, and culture. The new edition welcomes 1,034 new personalities, including 158 women. Many of the new entrants are involved in technology, like Orange France President Antoine Duarte, and media, such as Pink-TV founder Pascale Houzelot. The more widely recognized names include interior designer Sonia Rykiel, lingerie stylist Vannina Vespignani-Missistrano, former *Vogue* photographer Willy Rizzo, and fashion designer Nathalie Garçon. The ages of the featured personalities span from 18 (gymnast Emilie Le Pennec) to 101 (mathematician Henri Cartan). For more information, please visit [www.whoswho.fr](http://www.whoswho.fr).

## "EURÊKA" MAGAZINE HOPES TO ENCOURAGE DISCOVERY

The Bayard publishing company has released a new magazine aimed at young adults from 15 to 25 years old. But *Eurêka* will offer a different perspective from other teen-magazines. According to editorial director Sven Ortolì, "We live in a world of multiplicities of information, in an ocean of signs. *Eurêka* wants to provide tools for decrypting it all." *Eurêka* will feature articles about science and modern society, as well as an in-depth report in each issue. The first issue's headline was "The Future," with experts offering four possible scenarios for the state of the Earth in 2050. Visit [www.bayardpresse.com](http://www.bayardpresse.com) for more information.

## LYON LOVES FREE BIKES

The city of Lyon has been offering bicycles for travel within the city limits for several months, and the program has proved enormously successful. Residents can access the bicycles at one of almost 200 stations throughout the city, and the bicycles are released by the swipe of a bank card. The bikes are free for the first half hour and less than one euro after that. Since most cyclists leave their bike in a station at their destination and then re-swipe for the return trip, the service is in effect free for about 90 percent of the Lyonnais. The bike system in Vienna, Austria, inspired outdoor advertising company JC Decaux and the Lyon government to team up to provide the bikes. The bikes themselves are called Vélo'v and "intelligently" self-check their brakes, tire pressure, and other functions after every ride. Problems are reported to a central location. Several other French cities have expressed an interest in launching similar programs. Visit [www.velov.grandlyon.com](http://www.velov.grandlyon.com) for more information.



# New Look for "Le Monde"

**T**HE REVAMPED VERSION of the venerable daily *Le Monde* appeared on newsstands on November 7.

Readers were greeted with an airy presentation, featuring a new typeface, fewer articles, and more photos. Publisher Jean-Marie Colombani says that the new design is intended to "adapt and renew our contact with our readers, responding to [their] criticisms, reproaches, and wishes."

Indeed, the influential newspaper has faced declining circulation in recent years, as readers increasingly turn to the Internet and free dailies. The 2003 best-seller *The Hidden Face of Le Monde* contained harsh criticisms of the paper and its management, hurting the paper's image. While Colombani does not accept the book's allegations, he has taken readers' comments and concerns into account.

*Le Monde* is now divided into three sections: "news" treats time-sensitive national, business, and international stories; "decoding" is a forum for analysis and opinions; and "rendez-vous" features lifestyle articles catering to the new expectations of today's readers.

With the rise of the Internet, newspapers have been forced to redefine and reposition themselves. *Le Monde's* new format aims to appeal to its faithful readers while attracting new ones. It is already read by an estimated three-quarters of France's opinion leaders, and by a quarter of their European counterparts. For more information, please visit [www.lemonde.fr](http://www.lemonde.fr).

Rival newspaper *Le Figaro* ([www.figaro.fr](http://www.figaro.fr)) has reported initial gains after introducing a new design this October (see NFF 05.11).



## TéléGrenoble Launches Participatory Television in France

**N**EW TELEVISION stations are sprouting up throughout the country to cater to local tastes and interests. The latest one is TéléGrenoble, a network that just started broadcasting in Grenoble, near the Alps, on October 20. It joins several other local networks, including Télé Lyon Métropole, La Chaîne Marseille, and Télé Nantes (all free, over-the-air networks).

TéléGrenoble stands out from the others in that it seeks to promote participatory television. Its 400,000 potential viewers are invited to intervene during the live portion of TeleGrenoble's broadcast, through text messages or "télépersos," short messages recorded in special video-booths stationed throughout Grenoble. In addition, individuals and associations are encouraged to send in videos, which are televised for free, and networks of amateur correspondents have been set up in several neighborhoods to produce inexpensive segments.

This notion of "participatory media" helps to bring down the cost of broadcasting, allowing TéléGrenoble to operate on a budget of only 1.7 million euros a year, two times less than

the budget of its counterparts in Nantes, Marseilles, or Lyon. Twenty-two employees, nine of whom are journalists, are enough to operate the station 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (including 2 hours of live broadcasting every weekday).

To learn more, please visit [www.telegrenoble.net](http://www.telegrenoble.net).

## Médecins du Monde Celebrates 25 Years

**M**ÉDECINS DU MONDE (MDM), not to be confused with Médecins Sans Frontières (see NFF 05.01), celebrated 25 years of humanitarian service this November, reaffirming its commitment to drawing attention to the forgotten populations in France and around the world. During the two-day celebration, the organization opened its doors in Paris to present its activities through forums, photo exhibits, readings and film screenings. The organization was formed in 1980, its first mission being the construction of a boat hospital in Vietnam. The mission saved the lives of thousands of Vietnamese boat people and earned the new organization wide international recognition.

### FRENCH LOVE CELL PHONES: BY THE NUMBERS



A new survey shows that 88 percent of French people have a positive impression of cell phones. Furthermore, when asked to list values associated with cell phone use, the top four were positive: practicality, security, freedom, and simplicity. The first negative trait, disrespectfulness in public, came in fifth. The study showed that 72 percent of French people own a cell phone (compared with 65 percent of Americans), a number that jumps to 95 percent among those 18 to 25 years old. Why so much affection for cell phones? The most-frequently cited reason was that they helped organize one's schedule (59 percent), followed by the fact that they helped at work, in friendships, and in one's romantic life. But nothing is perfect: 75 percent of French felt dependent on their mobile phones.

Françoise Jeanson, president of MDM, explains that in the beginning, the NGO's interventions related to emergencies. "The organization acts now in crises more than in catastrophes, while remaining with the populations and working with the people," she says. The organization has an annual budget of 45 million euros, with 2,000 volunteers in France and 260 paid employees. For more information, visit the NGO's Web site, [www.medecinsdumonde.org](http://www.medecinsdumonde.org).



# "Joyeux Noel" Nominated for Oscars

French Nomination for Oscars Recalls Unique Moment of Fraternization During World War I

**A**FTER THE SUCCESS of *Un Long Dimanche de Fiançailles* by Jean-Pierre Jeunet, French film maker Christian Caron has just released another movie dealing with the Great War. *Joyeux Noel* (*Merry Christmas*) recounts the fraternization of French, British and German soldiers over a soccer match during Christmas Day in the early months of World War I.

On Christmas Day in 1914, soldiers from the two sides of the battlefield met for a few hours, smoking cigarettes, exchanging chocolate and other victuals and burying their dead, before resuming battle the next day. The film is based on an actual historical event, which was long covered up by authorities concerned about morale and stories of fraternization with the enemy. It was shot after lengthy investigations and much historical research.



Scene from the movie *Joyeux Noel*

The international cast of the film (Diane Krüger, Guillaume Canet, Steven Robertson) is one of many signs that the remembrance of the horrors of the wars of the 20th century are now conducted at a European level. The film,

recently out in French movie theatres, was released while France remembered its deaths and casualties in the Great War on November 11 (Armistice Day). Only six *poilus* (French soldiers who fought during WWI) are still alive today, along with a hundred American WWI veterans.

This truly European movie, produced by French, German, British, Belgian and Romanian contributors and with an all-star international cast, has been selected to represent France at the Oscars in 2006.

Learn more at [www.joyeuxnoel-lefilm.com](http://www.joyeuxnoel-lefilm.com).

Photo: Jean-Pierre Jeunet / Le Film

## Buren Piece at Tours Castle

**O**NE OF THE CASTLES of the Loire now has its own piece of art from Daniel Buren. After his exhibition at the Guggenheim Museum in New York, the famous French artist, known for his columns at the Palais Royal in the heart of Paris, was given a free hand to enhance the castle of Tours. The result is an impressive in situ piece, "Plus grand ou plus petit que?" ("Bigger or smaller than?").

The triangular and colorful artwork transforms the way visitors see the medieval castle, both from inside and outside, by remodeling the shape of the building and its inner spaces. Both structures are intimately intermingled, so much so that some may wonder whether the display is really art. Daniel Buren himself leaves open the question of how the public should appreciate his work. According to him, what is most important is not always the artwork but what the artwork allows one to see. Indeed, in the exhibition, which can be viewed in Tours until February 26, 2006, Buren invites visitors to ask themselves whether the castle exhibits the display or whether it is the display that exhibits the castle.

For more information, please visit [www.ccc-art.com](http://www.ccc-art.com).

## New Book Celebrates Women Chefs



**F**RENCH FOOD WRITER and critic Gilles Pudlowski's book *Elles Sont Chefs* (English title: *Great Women Chefs of Europe*) debuted in Paris on November 7 in the presence of the 35 female chefs celebrated in the book. Nineteen French chefs and 16 European ones grace its pages, which also feature colorful photos by Maurice Rougemont of their tempting creations. In showcasing these chefs, the book shows that women are succeeding in the world of gastronomy, a sphere traditionally dominated by men.

Some of the chefs featured have already secured their rep-

## PHOTO EXHIBIT REFLECTS LIFE OF WILLY RONIS



The famous French photographer Willy Ronis has spent the last 75 of his 95 years doing more than just taking pictures, he has documented history. His work is currently being celebrated with an exhibit at Paris's city hall. "Willy Ronis in Paris" focuses on Ronis's work in Paris, including many photos taken in working-class neighborhoods on the city's eastern edge. Some highlights of the exhibit include a photo of Ronis as a baby taken by his father and the artist's self-portrait at age 84 as he floats down to Earth with a parachute. Ronis is the last living photographer from the French Humanist School, which included such greats as Robert Doisneau and Edouard Boubat. His photos *Amoureux de la Bastille* ("In love with the Bastille") and *Gamins de Belleville* ("Kids of Belleville") are perhaps the famous examples of his style of photographing strangers on the street. The exhibit will run through February 18. For more information, visit [www.paris.fr](http://www.paris.fr).

utations, such as Hélène Darroze (Paris) and Anne-Sophie Pic (Valence), who have each earned two stars in the venerable Michelin Guide. Others are on the cusp of gourmet success, and are receiving much deserved recognition. Not only does the book contain original recipes directly from the stoves of gourmet chefs, it also gives readers a peek at what happens behind the scenes, as the women show off their kitchens and invite us along when they go shopping in local food markets.

Published by Flammarion, *Elles Sont Chefs* is available in French, English, German, and Spanish.

### SACRED WORKS EXHIBIT

The Bibliothèque Nationale de France is proposing an exhibit on the sacred works of the three main monotheistic religions. "Torah, Bible, Koran" includes fragments of the Dead Sea Scrolls, illustrated bibles of the Middle Ages, multi-lingual bibles, Koranic calligraphies, ritual objects, and images of piety. A historical fresco and map show the birth and evolution of the three religions through time. The exhibit runs till April 30. To learn more, visit [www.bnf.fr](http://www.bnf.fr).

### INTERALLIÉ FOR HOUELLEBECQ

The 2005 Prix Interallié was awarded to Michel Houellebecq for *La Possibilité d'une île*. He is the 70th recipient of this prize, which is usually awarded to journalists. His controversial novel deals with the obsessive fear of aging and the dream of eternal youth as seen through the eyes of a cynical comedian. This prize was created in 1930 by members of the press who were waiting for the result of the Prix Fémina at the Cercle Interallié club, hence its name.

### THE FORCE IS STRONG AT THE CITÉ DES SCIENCES

Fans of the George Lucas saga can discover many secrets behind the creation of Star Wars through more than 150 original objects on display at the Cité des Sciences in Paris, including costumes, excerpts from the six episodes, sketches, and models. Since its opening, over 300,000 people have visited. The exhibit will continue through August 27. Feel the force and visit [www.cite-sciences.fr](http://www.cite-sciences.fr).

### "SMOOTH REVOLUTION" AT AMIENS MUSEUM

Admired by Degas, Van Gogh, and Picasso, Puvis de Chavannes is the star of an exhibition at the Picardie Museum in Amiens. Through 150 paintings and sketches by the artist, the evolution of his unclassifiable art (apparently traditional but subtly innovative) will be depicted. The exhibition is on display until March 12. Visit [w2.amiens.com/museeedepicardie](http://w2.amiens.com/museeedepicardie) for more information.

### JOHN LENNON EXHIBIT

Twenty-five years after his death, an exhibit celebrating Beatles legend John Lennon is on display at the Cité de la Musique in Paris. Organized with the help of Yoko Ono, the exhibition "John Lennon Unfinished Music" coincides with his 65th birthday. It will run through June 25, and features costumes, drawings, posters, videos, objects and, of course, musical instruments. For more information, visit [www.cite-musique.fr](http://www.cite-musique.fr).



Historian Joan DeJean will hold a lecture on her latest book, *The Essence of Style: How the French Invented High Fashion* (see NFF 05.10) on December 14 at 6:30 pm at the French Embassy. She will discuss how much that is now synonymous with sophistication actually originated in the France of Louis XIV. The lecture is free, but reservations are required (e-mail [culture@ambafrance-us.org](mailto:culture@ambafrance-us.org) to make one!).

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# Félix Buhot: "Impressions of City and Sea"

**F**ÉLIX BUHOT (1847-1898) was known for his Impressionist artwork, in particular his innovative methods in re-creating effects of weather such as fog, mist, rain, and snow. An exhibition featuring his work is on display at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., and has an impressive collection of over 150 Buhot prints and drawings, some of which are rare and have never been seen before. About 60 prints and several drawings showcase his experimental techniques through two frequent subjects: the sea and the city.



*Fan with Wildflowers and Butterflies against the Norman Coast* by Félix-Hilaire Buhot (c. 1875)

He found inspiration for his city prints from Montmartre, Paris

and from the grand public squares and streets of London. His sea prints include the sea's passing tempests, ominous skies, and persistent melancholy. Buhot, like many of his contemporaries, was interested in searching for new ways of depicting atmospheric effects. Etching was the first technique Buhot learnt, but he moved on to other media afterward. Indeed, in certain prints he combined different techniques such as etching, drypoint, aquatint and even photo-mechanical reproduction. In these experiments, he used several different types of inks and papers.

The exhibit runs through February 20, 2006 ([www.nga.gov](http://www.nga.gov)).

# "Adorning the World: Art of the Marquesas Islands"

**K**NOWN AS Paul Gauguin's final refuge, the Marquesas Islands, located to the northeast of Tahiti and part of French Polynesia, play host to the most gifted traditions of sculpture and decorative art. Featuring nearly 80 exceptional examples of Marquesan art from museums, libraries, and private collections—many of them never before revealed publicly—the exhibition explores how art portrayed and enhanced the central themes of secular and religious life in these Pacific islands.

This decorative art was created to honor the islanders' ancestors and their archipelago gods. From everyday objects to sacred images of gods and ancestors,



*An Inhabitant of the Island of Nukahiva* by Wilhelm Gottlieb Tilesius von Tilenau (1769-1857)

Marquesan artists ornately decorated nearly every type of object they use. The objects were richly decorated with anthropomorphic and geometric motifs. They used various materials such as wood and stone, as well as the most sophisticated tattooing in the Pacific. Many pieces in the exhibit date from the late 18th century to the late 19th century and range from three-dimensional creations in wood, stone, and ivory to feather work and tattooing.

The exhibit, at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, runs till January 15. For more information, please visit [www.metmuseum.org](http://www.metmuseum.org).



**Tobacco Container (putui or tui maimai) made of coconut shell mid-19th century**

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