

Chirac Unveils Industry Innovation Plan

FRENCH President Jacques Chirac announced plans on April 25 to strengthen industrial innovation in France with a new law adopted several days ago by the French parliament. The legislation is an effort to boost industrial dynamism in France and in Europe, and to place France at the forefront of technological innovation. It is also expected to create tens of thousands of new jobs.

The new law is composed of three parts, each aiming to bolster a different aspect of industry and science. First, it will implement a comprehensive reform on research and development, making the field more transparent and efficient. Concurrently, it will encourage more productive cooperation between the nation's research universities, while according an extra 20 million euros to French researchers over a period of five years.

The second component of the legislation will provide funds to help small - and medium-sized businesses establish themselves and achieve viability. It also aims at providing each region in France with the means to pursue its industrial ambitions in Europe and globally.

The last part of the law involves significant investment in several major high-tech projects, which, according to Chirac, were chosen to "focus on essential technological challenges for our

future." Most notably, France will join efforts with Germany to create "Quaero," a European competitor to the search engine Google (see NFF 06.01). Lastly, French researchers will use new



French President Jacques Chirac discusses innovation initiatives

media technology to develop a technique for broadcasting digital television to mobile phones.

Approximately 30 other projects will be considered throughout the year as well. Several of the undertakings strive to solve future environmental concerns.

These projects include a light metro train called "NeoVal," a plan to produce plastics from starch, and a project called "Homes" that will try to cut household electricity consumption by 20 percent.

French car maker PSA Peugeot has volunteered to pioneer the development of a hybrid diesel car that will respond to

evolving energy needs.

These endeavors were selected by France's Agency for Industrial Innovation (AII), which promotes industrial progress under the auspices of the Ministry of Economy, Finance and Industry. The Agency will fund approximately half the cost of these projects through government loans, while private companies are expected to match the state's financing.

INSIDE

- 2 L'événement**
250th Anniversary of French & Indian War
- 3 France-Amérique**
Paris Featured in Film
- 4 Profil**
French Pastries
- 5 Économie / Science**
The Next Generation of Cell Phones
- 6 Société**
The Latest Hip and Trendy Bars in Paris
- 7 Culture**
2005 Bordeaux Wine Wins Rave Reviews
- 8 Chez nous**
19th Century Prints Exhibit in Milwaukee



Combating High-tech Hate in France and the United States

THE Consulate General of France in Boston and the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) co-sponsored a conference titled "High-tech Hate in France and the U.S." on April 24. The debate, which was hosted by the Boston University Hillel, focused on combating extremism and Anti-Semitism online.

Former Attorney General of Massachusetts, Scott Harshbarger, moderated the debate, which had an audience of approximately 100 people. Matters addressed included a possible correlation between online hate and hate crimes; the balance of free speech and punishment; and cooperation between nations to fight online hate.

Panelist Andrew Tarsy, Regional Director for the ADL New England, praised France's position against Anti-Semitism. "We commend the French government for its actions and the Consulate in Boston for their willingness to...have open discussions with us," Tarsy said.

Other panelists included Ben Cohen, Director of European Affairs for the ADL; Christopher Wolf, Chair of the International Network Against Cyber-Hate; and Lauren Amar, Director for European and International Affairs at the *Conseil Supérieur de l'Audiotvisuel* (the French media watchdog). Officers from the Boston Police Department's Community Disorders Unit and a representative from the Attorney General of Massachusetts also attended the conference.

Wolf made reference to the 2004 conference of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe held in Paris, during which the ADL presented its concerns about internet hate. "The OSCE conference in Paris, organized by France, was a major event," he said. Wolf also recognized Ambassador Levitte's engagement on this issue in a September 2005 congressional briefing with the ADL in Washington, D.C.

Wolf and Cohen, like the other panelists, emphasized the danger of hateful materials online. With the Internet boom in the last decades, Web sites are now primary sources of information and entertainment for global citizens. At the same time, these websites can be used to promote extremism, racism, and Anti-Semitism.



Panelists discuss high-tech hate in France and U.S.

ANTI-COUNTERFEITING CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

The French National Anti-Counterfeiting Committee (CNAC) in collaboration with various government agencies, launched a publicity campaign on April 3, 2006, to crack down on counterfeit activity in France. Today, trade in counterfeit objects represents nearly 10 percent of world commerce, and is reported by the CNAC to be responsible for the destruction of 30,000 jobs each year in France. Counterfeit products often do not respect industry production standards and could even endanger the safety and health of consumers. The campaign, known as "Contrefaçon: Non Merci," focuses on alerting consumers, who exacerbate the problem by purchasing counterfeit items on the Internet, about safety risks and consequences of their actions.

LIBRARIES JOIN FORCES

The Library of Congress and the *Bibliothèque Nationale de France* (BNF) have teamed up on the bilingual on-line project "France in America/La France en Amérique." The books, maps, manuscripts and photographs that illustrate the relationship between France and the United States from the 16th through the 19th century will become digitally available. The idea emerged during discussions between Dr. Jean-Noël Jeanneney, President of the BNF, and Dr. James H. Billington, Librarian of Congress, in November 2002. Phase two of the project, to be launched this year, focuses on 19th century Franco-American links in immigration, trade, literature and more.

SISTER CITY SYNERGIES

During a visit to San Francisco on April 21, Paris Mayor Bertrand Delanoë signed an agreement with Mayor Gavin Newsom to foster the exchange of technological ideas and expertise between the two cities. The home of many digital media and Internet companies, San Francisco was deemed by Mr. Delanoë a source of inspiration for bringing Paris to the forefront of technology. He and his team of French technology entrepreneurs hoped to leave San Francisco with many ideas, contacts, and know-how. Immediate plans for Paris involve a public wireless computer service that would cover the entire city. San Francisco has recently begun plans to implement a similar network at virtually no cost to citizens.

NEWS FROM FRANCE / May 03, 2006

250th Anniversary of French and Indian War

A SERIES of re-enactments to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the French and Indian War have been organized in western New York, New Hampshire, Alabama, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Michigan. Thousands of living historians will participate in re-enactments beginning this summer and continuing through 2010 to observe the 18th century war fought between the British and the French for control of North America.



French marines & Indian allies defend fort during the French & Indian War weekend, Fort Toulouse

Over 15,000 spectators were attracted to last fall's re-enactment of the 1755 Battle of Lake George, N.Y. The two day event

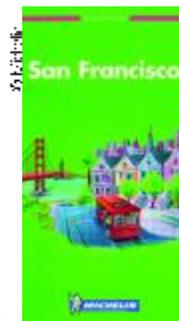
is reported to have brought in approximately one million dollars, giving a boost to the local economy. Event organizers anticipate more than 80,000 people to attend re-enactment activities at Fort Messac State Park in Metropolis, IL. In late October, historians will recreate the lifestyles of French and Indian troops encamped in the fort during a British assault. Each year, the Alabama Historical Commission

hosts "Alabama Frontier Days" at Fort Toulouse to pay homage to the battle's memory. For more information about other events, please visit www.frenchindianwar250.org.

Guide Michelin Offers Review for San Francisco

THE Michelin Guide, renowned for rating hostels and restaurants for tourists, announced in early April that it will soon offer a review of the U.S. West Coast. *Guide Michelin* San Francisco and Bay Area 2007 will hit shelves in October and will also include a segment on the "wine country" of Napa and Sonoma Valleys. Jean-Luc Naret, worldwide Michelin Guide director, explained that New York is the only other American city the French

guide covers. He was excited about the expansion, saying "San Francisco is at the forefront of food trends that are affecting the culinary world at large." Naret explained that Michelin Guide inspectors have been working undercover in the Bay area since last year. "As it has been said, being an inspector is like being in a witness protection program, only the food is much better of course," Naret joked.



New Guide Michelin

Boeing Offers Alcatel Alenia Space \$11 Million Contract

FRENCH-Italian company Alcatel Alenia Space announced April 18th, 2006 that the Boeing Company has awarded it with a contract to construct 12 additional Second Stage Tank Assemblies for the Delta II rocket. The contract is worth roughly \$11 million. The tanks will be manufactured at the Alcatel Alenia Space facilities in Turin, Italy, and are scheduled for delivery between 2007 and 2009. This is the second contract Boeing has awarded Alcatel Alenia Space for the

construction of Second Stage Tank Assemblies; the first was signed in 2001 for 21 tanks. Alcatel Alenia Space has an active role in the United States in regards to space infrastructures and transportation systems; it has contributed to the construction of the International Space Station and is currently a major subcontractor for the European Columbus Laboratory Module and the ATV Cargo Carrier. For more information on French activities in space, please visit: www.france-science.org.

French Woman Sails Across Indian Ocean

RAPHAELA Le Gouvello, a 45-year-old French sailboarder, is windsurfing her way across the Indian Ocean. Le Gouvello set off from Exmouth, in western Australia, on April 9, and expects the journey of 3,900 miles to take 75 days. Her 25-foot-long sailboard includes a cabin for sleeping, but Le Gouvello will only take 15-minute breaks every two hours. At night, she will batten down and drift with the currents. Le Gouvello, a veterinarian, is also a fervent environmentalist. She is a strong supporter of



Raphaëla Le Gouvello windsurfing across the Indian Ocean

clean energy—hence her wind-powered sailboard, and says she will not throw any trash overboard during her journey. Le Gouvello trained 15 months for the voyage. She previously crossed the Atlantic Ocean (Senegal to Martinique) in 2000, the Mediterranean Sea (France to Tunisia) in 2002, and the Pacific Ocean (Peru to Tahiti) in 2003. For more information, Please visit www.raphaela-legouello.com.



INTERESTED IN INTERNSHIPS IN FRANCE?

Since 1997, the Embassy of France in the United States has been helping students from American universities find internships in their fields of study. Thanks to this initiative, 127 students found internships last year alone, and an increasing number of students are taking an interest in this program. For 2006, 60 students have already found internships in French governmental and local administrations, multinational corporations and even non-profit organizations, ranging anywhere between 1 to 12 months.

WORLD VOICES CELEBRATES FRENCH AUTHORS

French Ambassador Jean-David Levitte, in association with the PEN American Center and the Cultural Services at the French Embassy, hosted a reception in New York for the opening of the *World Voices* international literature festival on April 24. The reception took place at the former Payne Whitney Mansion in New York, home to the Cultural Services of the French Embassy, and was attended by several leading figures in the literary world, including: Richard Ford (who was awarded the medal of Commander in the Order of Arts and Letters from Amb. Levitte at the reception); Salman Rushdie; Lila Azam Zanganeh; and Ron Chernow. The annual event, organized by the PEN American Center, promotes international fiction and non-fictional writing. Organizers named this year's theme *Faith and Reason*, because, they say, religion and science seem increasingly estranged in today's world. The six-day festival included a variety of events at venues throughout Manhattan, allowing attendees to speak with authors during panel discussions. Over 140 authors attended the festival, including eight French writers. *To My American Readers*, a literary magazine distributed at the event, featured excerpts from 18 French-speaking writers. French officials hoped that the festival would promote French-speaking authors who are trying to reach a greater public in the United States. For more information, please visit www.pen.org.

CROSS-CULTURAL MILITARY UNDERSTANDING

Approximately 30 cadets from the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, accompanied by one of their French language professors, Major Chris Hulburst, visited the French Embassy on March 31. After being welcomed by Colonel Friedling and LTC Millet, the Army and Assistant Army Attachés, the cadets were given detailed explanations on France and its Armed Forces missions. A month ago, a similar visit by forty midshipmen and women from the U.S. Naval Academy took place at the Embassy. *Cntd. page 8*

Paris Featured in the Movies

FRANCE is showing off its biggest movie star of all time: Paris. The capital's town hall is hosting a free exhibit on *Paris au Cinéma* (Paris in the Movies) until June 30, displaying posters, pic-

tures, sets, costumes and movie clips to show the city's history in cinematography since the birth of moving pictures in France 110 years ago. The city's prominence in French films is profound, but what is even more fascinating is to see the American fascination with Paris. For America, the city of lights seems to have become a symbol of romance and joy, and has been the set of numerous musicals, romances, and interpretations of literary classics. The Paris-Hollywood section of the exhibition recalls famous moments in American movies in Paris: Marlene Dietrich singing in French in a Parisian cabaret in *Blond Venus*, 1932; Fred Astaire

strolling down the *Champs Elysées* and under the Eiffel Tower in *Funny Face*, 1957; a love sick Gene Kelly pursuing Leslie Caron in *An American in Paris*, 1951. The list continues with the three different American interpretations of Victor Hugo's



Scene from *The Da Vinci Code*

Hunchback of Notre Dame; *Roman Holiday* with Audrey Hepburn, 1953; *Charade* with Cary Grant, 1963; *Something's Gotta Give* with Jack Nicholson and Diane Keaton, 2003; and the upcoming *The Da Vinci Code* with Tom Hanks and French actress Audrey

Tautou. The Parisian magic as portrayed by French and American movie makers has attracted as many as 1,800 visitors daily. For more information on the exhibit being held l'Hôtel de Ville in Paris, please visit: www.paris.fr.

New Attraction at Disneyland Resort Paris

WHO can forget Buzz Lightyear, the action figure from Disney's *Toy Story*? This year Disney is celebrating the intergalactic space hero by giving him his own attraction at Disneyland Paris. The new attraction, Buzz Laser, opened April 8 at the theme park in *Seine et Marne*. Several French celebrities attended its inauguration, including Richard Berry, José Garcia, Vincent Perez and Hélène Ségara. Aboard their own space vessel, park-goers travel through a moving tunnel combating Buzz's nemesis, Zurg, with interactive lasers. Disneyland Paris attracts an average of 12 million visitors to the park annually. Buzz Laser is

only the first of three new attractions that Disneyland Paris anticipates building before 2008. Others include Toon Studios, projected to open in 2007, and The Tower of Doom, expected to open in 2008. For more information, please visit: www.disneyland-paris.com.



Announcement For Buzz Lazer
Courtesy: Disneyland Paris

Public Visits Francophone Embassies for Open House

In order to illustrate the diversity of francophone countries, numerous French-speaking embassies provided the public with a wonderful opportunity — the chance to visit their premises to learn more about francophone cultures during an open house on April 24. The *Comité Francophone* of Washington, D.C. organized the event, encouraging members of the public to visit two different embassies. 200 children toured



Students enjoying treats at the French Embassy

readings, productions, parties, and art exhibitions in celebration of francophone culture.

and answer session, and even sampling the local gourmet specialties of the various countries. The embassies that participated in this event were the countries of Morocco, Switzerland, Haiti, France, Belgium, Lithuania, Mali, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the Czech Republic. This tour concluded the 'Mois de la Francophonie', a month filled with book

readings, productions, parties, and art exhibitions in celebration of francophone culture.



French Pastries: a Taste of Edible Culture

ALTHOUGH French pastries are known throughout the world for their deliciousness, few are aware of their symbolic meanings. Many French pastries represent different cultural, historical or religious meanings and are often linked to specific regions of France.

One example is the *beignet*, which is similar to the American doughnut. The *beignet* plays a traditional role in the Catholic celebration of *Mardi Gras* in France. *Mardi Gras*, known as Fat Tuesday in English, refers to the Tuesday before Lent. The day is called "Fat" Tuesday because it is a day to eat lots of fattening foods to prepare for forty days of self discipline and self denial.

La Galette des Rois, known as the "cake of Kings" in English, is another example of a French pastry which plays a central part in a religious holiday. The *Galette* is eaten on the feast of Epiphany, which takes place on January 6 every year to celebrate the arrival of the three kings' to visit Jesus twelve days after his birth. The Epiphany has been celebrated since the 18th century in France with the cake of Kings, which typically contained a coin or bean that is supposed to bring good luck to whomever finds it. Today, there is often a small porcelain figurine instead of a bean or coin, and the person who receives it in his slice becomes "king" for the day.

Another religious pastry tradition in France is the *Bûche de Noël*, or the Yule Log cake. It is eaten on the *réveillon*, the Christmas Eve feast traditionally celebrated after midnight mass. The significance of the Yule log

derived from an ancient French tradition of searching for a large log that could burn for several days in the fireplace. It was believed that the ashes of the log provided protection against sickness to the household. Since the late 19th Century when fireplaces started becoming less common in houses, the ritual was continued in the form of a log-shaped *Bûche de Noël*.



Assortment of French pastries

In addition to religious symbolism, pastries also have significant regional meanings in France. Every region of France has its own wines, cheeses, and of course, pastries. For example, the southwest region of Aquitaine makes the *Canelé de Bordeaux*, which is a moist, miniature cake that has been the region's pride since the 17th Century. The northeast region of Lorraine is known for its small, seashell-shaped cakes known as the *Madeleines* of Commercy. The *Madeleines* were first created in 18th century by a servant named *Madeleine* and can still be found in almost every pastry shop in France.

The Alsace region, which neighbors Germany, also popularized their specialty called the *Kougelhopf*. The *Kougelhopf* is a round loaf of sweet bread, flavored with almonds and raisins. Although historians have debated over the origins of this Alsacien specialty, *Kougelhopfs* are a common find in any French bakery. The northwest region of Brittany is famous for using a lot of butter in their pastries. Their famous *Galettes Bretonnes* have become a staple

cookie-like treat for French children. Eating a French pastry is much more than a delicious dessert; it is a taste of a regional and national tradition. 🇫🇷

The Sweet Evolution of French Pastries

YOU wouldn't dare visit France without a trip to the local *Pâtisserie* for a warm, buttery croissant, would you? Or perhaps you would prefer a decadent *Mille feuilles* (Napoleon) with its layers upon layers of flaky pastry and icing, or even a chocolate-covered *éclair* bursting with vanilla cream. One can hardly think of France without evoking images of delicious, delectable pastries; each one a homage to butter, eggs, cream, and sugar.

France's love for pastries and desserts stems from the rich culinary tradition that has developed over centuries. French culture continues to be defined by an appreciation for excellent cooking and a commitment to quality and elegance in the kitchen. The pastry shop remains an important component of French daily life, providing millions of tarts, cakes, and cookies to customers each day.

Though sweet treats existed as early as Roman times, the pastry industry began to truly root itself in French culture during the Renaissance. The emphasis on artistic expression during this time made the confection of pastries a valued art form as well. *Patissiers* developed the idea that their concoctions were not only delicious but had an aesthetic value to offer.

The French Revolution in 1789 changed the face of the pastry industry in France. Pastry chefs who had once worked for individual aristocrats found themselves out in the streets after traditional elites lost their status and wealth. *Patissiers* survived by creating inventive recipes and opening their own pastry shops. Though the profession had grown, these delicacies were still reserved for the wealthier members of society due to the high prices of sugar.

These gourmet treats finally became accessible to the entire French population around the turn of the 20th century as technologies evolved and sugar prices decreased. A particularly unique French pastry art bloomed during this period

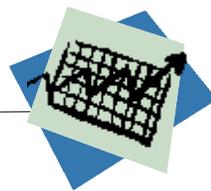
and many pastry chefs achieved great success abroad.

The pastry industry continued to evolve and grow after World War II. By the 1950s, all pastry shops were equipped with the latest food preservation technologies, permitting improvements in quality and presentation. National and international competitions developed to encourage creativity and innovation.

Today, the French pastry industry continues to flourish and consumers benefit from a growing number of choices in the pastry market. At the same time, the French pastry tradition remains a respected model and authority on an international level. While preserving the time-honored French "*savoir-faire*," (know-how) French pastry chefs have enhanced their art by integrating recipes from neighboring European countries and by continually experimenting with new flavors and ingredients. Recently, during the ninth annual World Pastry Cup, where the world's finest pastry chefs congregate in Lyon, France, to present their creations, the French pastry team demonstrated their excellence once again by winning the gold medal for the fifth time! 🇫🇷



Arnaud Hérodet, Head Pastry Chef at French Embassy in the United States



The Next Generation of Cell Phones

FRANCE Telecom, in collaboration with its subsidiary Orange, Philips, Samsung, VINCI Park (rechargeable parking card accepted nationwide), are wrapping up the first test phase in innovative cell phone technology. Since last October, the city of Caen, in Normandy, has been conducting experiments in Near Field Communication technology. While similar tests with NFC have been conducted in Germany, Japan and the United States, none have been as comprehensive as the experiment in Caen. Two hundred Orange customers with a Cofinoga credit card account and/or VINCI Park account were selected for this trial phase. This technology could not be any more user-friendly: the client simply waves his phone a short distance from an interactive "Flycard" network device to securely exchange information. During the last six months, participants with Samsung mobile phones embedded with a NFC microchip used the new technology to pur-



Samsung D500
© Samsung

CELL PHONE ENTERTAINMENT

French corporation Lagardere Active announced on April 7, that it will unite its wireless subsidiaries in North America, France and Germany to create a global marketing and distribution group called Cellfish Media.

Cellfish Media is the new talk of the town. With over 350 million consumers, the company creates original branded content such as music, ring tones, wallpaper, animations, games and applications for consumers hungry for cell phone entertainment. The company is expected to grow globally in the sector from \$9 billion in 2005, to \$34 billion in 2009.

Cellfish Media will accelerate its strategies in the coming years to develop and distribute wireless music labels, featuring some of hip-hop's biggest artists, such as: Lil Jon, Tego Calderon, Q-tip, Pitbull and Emilio Estefan.

chase groceries, view movie trailers, open VINCI parking gates, and receive tourist information and bus schedules via their cell phones. Sixteen stores in Caen, including Monoprix and Galeries Lafayette agreed to allow a "Flycard" network into their stores. The next test phase is projected to increase the number of participants to 400 or 500. ■ ■

FRENCH INVESTMENT FIRM PURCHASES AMERICAN COMPANY

Wendel Investissement, a well-known French investment company, confirmed on April 26 that it has agreed to purchase the U.S.—based connector company, Deutsch Corporation, for 1.04 billion dollars. Deutsch specializes in the production of connectors, which are used to link electric cables and circuitry for the aeronautic, defense, heavy vehicle and oil exploration industries.

According to the chief executive of Wendel Investissement, Jean-Bernard Lafonta, the acquisition represents "a significant milestone for Wendel, as it confirms our willingness to extend our investment strategy abroad."

NEW RESEARCH ON SPIDERS

How does a spider descend down on his thread, remaining perfectly stable, without rotating? The gracefulness and mysterious nature of spiders piqued the curiosity of researchers at the *Laboratoire de physique de lasers* (CNRS/University of Rennes). The results of their study were published in the March 28th review of *Nature*. The study cited the researchers'



Australian Garden Orb Weaver Spider

observations of the dynamic responses of the spider's biological thread compared to different types of wires. The researchers found that the spider's trusty filament contains properties of different materials. Kevlar, a synthetic material, is most likely comparable to the thread in elasticity, while Nitinol is responsible for stability of the thread in 90 degree rotations by the spider.

FRENCH BUSINESS CONFIDENCE RISES

According to a recent survey by Insee, the composite indicator of French business confidence rose from 106 in March to 108 in April. The indicator reflects the confidence level of business leaders. Business confidence represents the balance in percentage points between those companies expecting an overall rise in output and those predicting a decline. Economists predict that the indicator will remain stable for the next few months.

9,000 Year-Old Dentistry Discovered

A NEW study reveals that human beings were capable of performing basic types of oral surgery as long as 9,000 years ago. According to a team of archeologists sponsored by the National Center of Scientific Research (CNRS), prehistoric dentists were capable of drilling holes into teeth in less than a minute. The French and American archeologists excavated nine skulls from ancient ruins in the Indus Valley in Pakistan, and discovered a total of 11 holes that had been drilled into the teeth. The study, published in the scientific review *Nature* reveals that holes had been drilled in some of

the hardest to reach molars in the back of the mouth, suggesting that dentists possessed a much more developed expertise in the field of dentistry than previously believed. This discovery changes the origins of dentistry, which until recently, were considered to have begun 4,500 years ago. This discovery also appears to have existed before the invention of anesthetics, leaving researchers to question how patients endured the pain of such surgeries. Researchers believe that the lack of hygiene in ancient civilizations caused teeth to decay and that the holes were drilled to remove rotten portions of the tooth. ■ ■

France Issues Electronic Passports

FRANCE has begun issuing the new electronic passport with scanning capabilities. Axalto, a smart card vendor, will be providing the French government's printing office—the *Imprimerie Nationale*, with over 2 million electronic covers for new electronic passports this year.

The newly issued e-passports will include smart cards containing the holder's personal information and eventually other biometric identifiers. The e-passports were first issued in the district of Paris, then to other citizens throughout the country. By mid-June, every French embassy and consulate are expected to provide e-passports to their citizens abroad.

In addition to the passport holder's personal information on the first page of the document, a contact-less chip incorporated into the passport's cover will carry the holder's digi-

tized photo, and later, fingerprint and other biometric identifiers. In other words, "You have an electronic copy inside a chip that can't be tampered with or altered, and access to it is controlled with various security mechanisms so the privacy of the passport holder is maintained," according to Neville Pattinson, Axalto's director of Technology & Government Affairs.

The United States visa waiver agreements with many European countries require that visitors to the United States must have passports with biometric identifiers encrypted if their passports are issued after October of 2005 and they wish to enter the United States without a visa. All countries in the visa-waiver program must produce chip-enabled, biometrically enhanced passports by the end of October. ■ ■

TWENTIETH KITE FESTIVAL

The 20th annual International Kite Festival (RICV) met in *Berck-sur-Mer*, in northern France from April 8 to 17. On the opening date, the festival unveiled the biggest kite in the world, decorated with the red, white, green and black of the Kuwairi flag, and measured 42 meters long and 25 meters wide (approximately 137 feet long and 82 feet wide!). Additionally, teams competed in precision flying contests, where the American team "Cutting Edge" won the title of Champion of the World on April 11. In addition to kite-flying competitions and demonstrations, the festival included workshops, expositions and dance presentations.

HELLO, MY HEART!

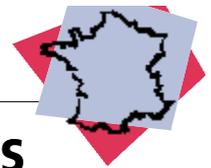
On April 9, the 30th Paris Marathon added a new health measure to help promote the safety of its participants. Of the 35,000 registered runners, approximately one dozen participated in a medical research experiment by wearing masks that monitored their oxygen consumption during the straining yet scenic 26.2-mile race. Participants also wore wrist monitors that recorded their temperature, heartbeat, and the saturation of blood and oxygen. Veronique Billat, director of the Laboratory for the Study of Physiology and Exercise in Evry, just south of Paris, initiated the experiment called "Allô, mon Coeur," or "Hello, my heart." The results will help scientists and runners to better understand the stress that the body undergoes during this long race. In 2005, the organizer of the La Rochelle Marathon died on the course, and this experiment can be seen in the light of pre-emptive measures to avoid such an occurrence in the future.

NEW ROAD SAFETY INITIATIVE

In an effort to encourage road safety, Minister of Transportation, Dominique Perben, announced the creation of a new committee for the *code de la rue* on April 18. This 10-person "Road Code" team will promote the use of bicycles, which are environment-friendly, by improving rider safety. Perben selected Hubert Peigné as "Monsieur Vélo," or Mr. Bicycle. Peigné's tasks include polling cyclists' on their perceptions of danger, proposing new safety measures and developing paths reserved specifically for bicycles. Overall, the *code de la rue* committee will encourage greater cooperation among drivers, cyclists and pedestrians. According to the Ministry of Transportation, pedestrians and cyclists were involved in 30 percent of the accidents that resulted in physical harm in France in 2004.

NEWS FROM FRANCE / May 03, 2006

NEWS FROM FRANCE



The Latest Hip and Trendy Bars in Paris

PARIS is renowned throughout the world as the epicenter of fashion and art. The same holds true for the Parisian nightlife. Bar owners in Paris are always looking for an innovative edge to give their establishment the chic *je ne sais quoi* that separates them from the others. As a tourist in Paris, it is hard to know where to find the latest Parisian hotspots. Today, the new trendy bars have moved away from *la Rue de Rivoli* and *le Faubourg Saint-Germain*. Tourists now have to travel a bit off the beaten path to find these chic hangouts in the less popular neighborhoods of Paris. Among the myriad of new bars, cafés and stores in the area around the Oberkampf metro station (11th arrondissement) is *Mange Disque*. The bar features an exhibition of contemporary art, electric music,



View of Ice Kube Bar, Paris

and a boutique of vinyl records. Ice Kube Bar, in the 18th arrondissement near *Porte de la Chapelle*, is, as its name suggests, a bar entirely made of ice. For 38 euros, customers can sample an unlimited amount of vodka for 30 minutes in the -5°C temperatures. For comfort, coats and gloves are provided upon entering. The "chill" hotspot received a lot of publicity when actors Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie visited recently while staying in Paris. Those who enjoy warmer climates should try Bar Ourcq (19th arrondissement), situated along the Ourcq canal. During the day, imbibers can enjoy a kir while playing a game of *pétanques*. When night falls, crowds gather inside the posh interior to enjoy a vibrant electric music scene.

France: Leader of Internet Television

A recent study by Gartner reveals that France is the European country that is most connected to Internet television. Internet Protocol TV (IPTV), television that is transmitted over high-speed internet connections, remains in its early stages in most of the world. Out of the 3.3 million total European IPTV connections, 1.7 million are French. By the end of 2006, almost half of Western Europe's IPTV subscribers are projected to be French. The number of French subscribers is expected to reach as high as five million by 2010, which would account

for just under one-third of all IPTV subscribers in Western Europe. These five million connections in France are expected to generate 682 million euros in total revenue. France's state-owned telecommunications industry was deregulated in 2000, ushering in competitive players such as Free and Neuf to join France Telecom in the marketplace. Currently, over 1.1 million people in France subscribe to monthly packages for a fee of approximately \$36 that include 81 cable t.v. channels, high-speed internet access and unlimited phone calls within France.

France Creates Two National Parks

Deputies in the National Assembly passed a new law March 30 allowing for the creation of marine natural parks and two new national parks in Guyana and Réunion.

The law is a reform on the previous statute from 1960 and redefines the terminology used in the seven, now nine, national parks. It distinguishes the "heart of the park," formerly known as the "central zone," from the "adhesion zones," previously called "peripheral zones." The new legislation encourages development in these outside zones, but only under a "high level of protection."

Next, the development of an agency devoted to the protection of marine areas will be

concurrent with the creation of marine natural parks. The goal of the agency is to take the specificities of the rich environment in France's overseas territories into consideration.

The new parks in Guyana, located in South America, and the island of Réunion, just east of Madagascar, which have been under consideration for approximately 10 years, will now be considered national parks under the new law.

Of the other seven national parks, five are in mainland France, one is on the island of Guadeloupe and the last is the



Port-Cros National Park, Mediterranean

island of Port-Cros, in the Mediterranean.



2005 Bordeaux Wine Wins Rave Reviews

THE 2005 Bordeaux wines won enthusiastic reviews by American and English buyers this past April during the annual wine tasting, or "primeur week," in Bordeaux. The 2005 vintage selection has already been called "the best ever" and has been compared to the famous 1928 and 1961 vintages. Every year, journalists, critics, tasters and buyers gather in Bordeaux for the event. This year 5,000 people attended, about 1,000 more than last year according to the *Conseil Interprofessionnel du Vin de Bordeaux*. The primeur wines, also known as wine futures, will not be bottled and delivered for two years, and may not even be consumed for another 40 years. This practice is reserved for the top 40 wines. With time, the wines increase in quality...and in price. The event attracts many speculators who buy young wines in bulk in hopes of saving on the commodity's future price, an idea that has triggered a speculative wine futures investment market. A few examples are Leoville Barton 2003 and 2002 Chateau Latour. A case of the

former sold en primeur for 585 dollars can retail up to 1,245 dollars today. A 1,200 dollar case of 2002 Chateau Latour has more than doubled in three years and now sells at approximately 2,490 dollars. Some of the top 2005 wines have been speculated to increase 300 percent on last year's prices. ■

THEATER OF EUROPE REOPENS

The *Théâtre de l'Odéon* in Paris reopened its doors on April 3 after three years of renovation. The renovation of the neoclassical building cost about 43 million dollars and was conducted by Alain-Charles Perrot, chief architect of historic monuments in France. The Odéon Theater, also known as the Theater of Europe, is one of six national theaters in France and was inaugurated by Renaud Donnedieu de Vabres, Minister of Culture and Communication. Eight performances are planned for the 2006-2007 season, beginning with Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, which opened on April 27.

French Museums In Full Bloom This Spring

FRENCH museums are in full bloom this spring, with the expansion, opening, and reopening of several museums. The most highly anticipated event this spring is the opening of the Quai Branly Museum. The building was unveiled on April 4, although it will not open to the public until the end of June. Designed by the architect Jean Nouvel, it has been said to be a masterpiece of Parisian architecture of the new millennium. It comprises four buildings connected by bridges, each with a particular architectural style and is surrounded by trees and gardens. The museum is dedicated to the art and civilizations of Africa, Asia, Oceania and the Americas. Some 300,000 objects will be displayed. In addition, there will be a large bookstore and several interactive sections on research, training and international relations.



★ musée du quai Branly
Chupicuaro, 700 b.c., Mexico

for Asian Art is reopening after four years of renovation. The neoclassical building has been transformed into an Asian-style, boat-like structure much more suited to its holdings. There are open bridges, terraces and a whole new underground floor. The museum has gained 1,640 square feet from its expansion and more importantly, much more sunlight.

In addition to these Parisian museums, one dedicated to the Cold War opened in the town of Caen on March 21 as an extension of the 14-year-old World War II memorial. Its goal is to serve as an educational "museum for peace." For more information, please visit: www.quaiبرانly.fr, www.museequimet.fr, and www.memorial-caen.fr. ■

Not too far away from the Quai Branly, the Guimet Museum

Historians Confirm Primaticcio Colossal in Chaalis

FRANCESCO Primaticcio, also known by the French as "Le Primatice," is making a comeback in France. Historians recently confirmed that Primaticcio painted a colossal fresco in the Royal Chapel of Chaalis in the region of Oise, south of Paris. Primaticcio went to Rome in 1540 to copy the antique collections of the Vatican. There, he became inspired by the Sistine Chapel, and began to work on the collection of frescoes that are found on the walls and vaulting in Chaalis. At Fontainebleau, he worked for François I and remained in



The Abduction of Helen, Francesco Primaticcio 1530-39

the royal service under four successive monarchs, painting decorations for royal châteaux and other buildings. A team of 30 scientists, restorers, and architects considered the attribution of the colossal fresco, and analyzed over 90 samples of the painting. This investigation put an end to the recent suspicion that Primaticcio was not actually responsible for the piece. The team began working on the conservation and restoration of the fresco, repainting some damaged areas and continuing to research more information on this fascinating artist and his work. Renovations will continue until September 16. ■

VINCENT CASSEL HOSTS CANNES FILM FESTIVAL

Actor Vincent Cassel will host this year's 59th Cannes Film Festival, which will take place from May 17 to 23. The Cannes Film Festival is France's most prestigious celebration of cinematography, bringing together directors, producers, actors, and many other important figures in film-making for about ten days every year. Cassel is a prominent actor who has played in many French movies, such as *Hate* (1995) and *The Crimson Rivers* (2000), as well as in American movies such as *Ocean's Twelve* (2004) and *Renegade* (2004).

DINOSAUR FOSSILS DISCOVERED IN FRANCE

Dinosaur fossils were discovered on April 5 during the construction on the new A8 highway between Saint-Maximin (in the Var region) and Aix-en-Provence (in the Bouches-du-Rhône region). The dig uncovered pieces of a dinosaur egg; dinosaur bones and vertebrae; shark and crocodile teeth; and a nearly intact turtle carcass. The artifacts were uncovered at a relatively shallow depth of a little less than two feet. The fossils will be exhibited in the Natural History Museum of Aix-en-Provence.

FRANCE LAUNCHES ONLINE ARCHIVES TO RELIEVE THE PAST

France's National Institute of Audiovisuals (INA), home of the world's largest archive of video and audio feeds, launched its new Web site on April 27. The Web site allows the public access to over 10,000 hours of multimedia feed from the INA's archives. With thousands of videos and audio clips from which to choose, the public can now retrace the greatest moments from the last fifty years of French television and the last sixty years of its radio. From the 1988 Presidential debates between François Mitterrand and Jacques Chirac, to Yannick Noah's victory over Roland Garros in 1983, all is accessible within the click of a mouse. This Web site caters to today's global society that prefers audio-visuals files over written texts. For more information, visit: www.ina.fr



French 19th Century Prints Exhibit held in Milwaukee



Embassy of France

Continued from page 3, West Point cadets visit the French Embassy

THE Milwaukee Museum of Art will be hosting an exhibition on 19th century French prints from May 25 to September 4. Nineteenth-century France was a period filled with change influenced by war and the industrial revolution. The evolving society also affected the art world, with the fall of the rigorously academic Paris salons leading to the creation of private galleries, and more artistic freedom and avant-garde attitudes toward art. Printmaking was one important example of a new kind of art that embraced and reflected these new times.

The development of prints in 19th century western art was partially due to the rising interest in Eastern art, especially Japanese prints. The non-traditional style was perfect



Breton Bathers, Paul Gauguin 1889

for portraying the advances in technology and the modern urban experience. The growing bourgeois class showed much interest in the more affordable and high art of prints, creating demand for the style on the expanding art market. Many artists responded to this emerging market by continuing to explore the medium and often trying graphic arts.

Géricault to Toulouse-Lautrec: Nineteenth-Century French Prints traces the explosion of printmaking in the 19th century, beginning with the Romantic works of artists such as Géricault and Delacroix, through Barbizon artists such as Corot and Millet, to the end of the 19th century, exploring the modern outlooks of Gauguin and Toulouse-Lautrec. For more information please visit: www.mam.org

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Louise Bourgeois: Femme Presented in Baltimore

THE Walters Art Museum and the Contemporary Museum in Baltimore are currently presenting *Louise Bourgeois: Femme*, an exploration of French artist and sculptor Louise Bourgeois's fascination with the female form. This is the first time her art has been directly incorporated into a museum's permanent collection.

The two museums have collaborated to present different but complementary experiences for the public. The Walters exhibition juxtaposes approximately 40 of the artist's paintings and sculptures with cultural artifacts from the Walters' collections that present similar themes. For example, Bourgeois's female figure of *St. Sébastienne* will be placed in dialogue with an early Renaissance painting of *St. Sébastien*, the

male inspiration for Bourgeois's creation. The Contemporary Museum will show a 92-minute French documentary exploring the life of the artist, accompanied by a series of nine copperplate etchings by Bourgeois.

A native of Paris, Louise Bourgeois received extensive training in various French schools, including the Ecole du Louvre and the Académie des Beaux-Arts, before immigrating to the United States in 1938 to continue her studies in New York. Though she began as an engraver and a painter, she worked primarily in sculpture after the 1940s. She originally created her art in wood, but began experimenting in rubber, bronze, and stone in the 1960s. Her pieces are charged with themes such as family, childhood, and sexuality. Bourgeois's work will be on display until May 21. To learn more, please visit www.thewalters.org



St. Sébastienne, Louise Bourgeois 2002

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