



France Prepares to Assume the EU Presidency in July

This July, France will take the reins of the presidency of the Council of the European Union (E.U.), a six-month rotating position that allows member states to create an agenda for the E.U.

France has outlined four main priorities for its term: sustainable development and energy policy, immigration and asylum, security and defense, and agricultural policy. The French presidency has also set several other broad-reaching goals, including the ratification and implementation of the Treaty of Lisbon.

In addition to establishing priorities, the duties of the presidency of the Council of the E.U. include chairing meetings, promoting legislative and political decisions, and brokering compromises between member states.

For more information, please turn to the "In Depth" section on Page 4.

French Reinforcements Will Be Deployed to Afghanistan

In response to renewed violence over the past two years, an additional French battalion of 700 men will be deployed in late July or early August to the Kapisa province north-east of Kabul and will supplement NATO efforts in Afghanistan.

At the NATO summit in Bucharest this past April, France announced its intention to deploy an additional battalion to aid the efforts of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan. In addition, France will also take command, for the second time, of the capital region (the Kabul Sector) this summer.

This additional battalion will be made up of elements of the 8th Paratroopers Marine Infantry Regiment from Castres, the First Foreign Legion Regiment of Cavalry from Orange, the 17th Paratroopers Regiment of Engineers from Montauban, and the 35th Paratroopers Artillery Regiment from Tarbes. These forces



France will be deploying an additional battalion to aid operations throughout Afghanistan.

will supplement the 1,800 French troops already serving with ISAF in Afghanistan.

French troops will also be deployed to the Regional Command Capital, in Kabul, and to the 5th French Operational Mentoring Liaison Team (OMLT) in Uruzgan province. OMLTs train members of the Afghan National Army by embedding NATO mentors in Afghan units.

In addition, France hosted on June 12, at the request of the Afghan government, an International Conference in Support of Afghanistan to reaffirm the international community's solidarity and long-term commitment.

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Embassy Launches its New Web Site

The Embassy of France recently launched a new and improved version of its Web site (www.ambafrance-us.org), designed to be more user-friendly and to take advantage of audiovisual multimedia.

Its colorful homepage displays a host of accessible features, including an "Embassy TV" that offers insight into the Embassy and its events. Even if they were not able to attend themselves, visitors can catch up on all the action from the comfort of their home by choosing from different channels to watch clips ranging from French President Nicolas Sarkozy's speeches to cultural events organized by La Maison Française. Users can even take a virtual tour of the Embassy that navigates through the grounds and corridors of the building.

The homepage also features a map of the United States that directs users to the nearest consulate in their region. In addition, the new site provides up-to-date information on upcoming Embassy events, as well as cutting-edge news and diplomatic updates.

FRENCH NAVY RAFALE TRAINS ON US CARRIER



Last July, for the first time in naval aviation history, the French Navy

Rafale M12 and M13 landed on the deck of the US nuclear aircraft carrier USS Enterprise off the coast of the French port of Toulon. These two aircraft were able to launch again from the US CVN (pictured above), representing a close French-American cooperation in naval aviation that allows French Navy pilots to train while CVN Charles de Gaulle is undergoing a major overhaul. On May 21, to further the French-American interoperability between the two navies, the US Navy re-invited two French Navy Rafale fighters and one 2E-C Hawkeye to conduct launch and recovery operations aboard the US Navy ship during the US aircraft carrier Harry S. Truman's port visit to Marseille, France. This coming July, another six French Rafale and two Hawkeye are scheduled to fly to Norfolk to train aboard the US aircraft carrier Theodore Roosevelt.

FRENCH SHIPS VISIT US WATERS

French Navy frigate Le Cassard moored in Newport, Rhode Island, on May 17 after taking part in interoperability operations with the American Navy in the Atlantic. Le Cassard's arrival in the area was reminiscent of another French Navy presence in the harbor 228 years ago. The fleet of Admiral Comte de Grasse docked there while en route to the Chesapeake during the Revolutionary War to pass the winter in Rhode Island and to unload supplies and munitions for the upcoming siege at Yorktown, VA. Le Cassard is an anti-air warfare frigate that performed anti-terrorism and anti-piracy operations in the Northwestern Indian Ocean last year. It also took part in the Afghanistan campaign with coalition forces in 2002, alongside the nuclear submarine Charles de Gaulle. Its weeklong stay in Newport underscores France's historical naval ties to the area. "It shows the tradition of the French Navy in Newport and the roots of the alliance between France and America," stated Francois Gauthier, French Consul general in Boston. Before setting sail for Québec City to take part in the city's 400th anniversary celebration, the ship's crew challenged American personnel stationed at the Naval War College to friendly matches of both basketball and soccer. Le Cassard's arrival in New England was followed by a visit to Boston from Le Belem, one of the oldest tall ships still in use, which also stopped by on her way to the 400th anniversary festivities to Québec City.

Current Events

France Creates New International Nuclear Agency

On May 7, Jean-Louis Borloo, Minister for Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Town and Country Planning (Regional Development) announced the creation of the *Agence France Nucléaire International* within the Atomic Energy Commission (CEA). The CEA, a French government-funded technological research organization, will work with the agency to provide intelligence in the arena of civilian nuclear industry. The *Agence's* expertise will serve to help foreign states create a civilian nuclear industry that supports high standards in safety, security, nonproliferation, and environmental preservation. The creation of this agency further

underscores France's commitment to international cooperation in civilian nuclear industry.

Today, France derives over 75 percent of its electricity from nuclear energy and ranks as the world's largest net exporter of electricity due to its low cost of generation. Electricité de France (EDF), the country's main generation and distribution company, operates France's 59 nuclear power plants that have served to support the country's longstanding policy on energy security. According to the World Nuclear Association, French energy policy emphasizes security of supply, respect for the environment, and proper attention to radioactive waste management.

Spirit of Reform Relived in 40th Anniversary of Social Movement



Various exhibitions throughout France explored the 40th anniversary of reform movements that took place in May 1968.

France witnessed social reform in May 1968 that transformed the political and cultural landscape as students and workers joined together in protest to advance the educational and labor systems.

This event took place on the margins of social reform movements worldwide, from the U.S. to Mexico, Brazil, and Germany.

As 1968 marks a memorable year in contemporary history, numerous exhibitions, film screenings, and cultural events throughout France will honor the 40th anniversary of this social solidarity.

For instance, the Faidherbe Library in Paris hosted a photography exhibition titled "*Oui, mai!*" (the title translates into "Yes, May," which refers to the month, but, phonetically, sounds exactly like "*oui, mais*," which means "yes, but") by Gérald Bloncourt from April 1 - May 31. The exhibit closely examines May 1968 from his personal perspective, as he, himself, witnessed

demonstrations at Renault in Boulogne-Billancourt and other protests in the Latin Quarter.

Those looking to experience the atmosphere of social reform in the 1960s were also able to do so by tuning into a special program that aired from the end of April through mid-May, sponsored by radio station RTL. Special programs recreated the spirit that impacted an entire generation, featuring re-broadcasts of interviews with influential personalities of that era, as well as the airing of original footage of events that took place 40 years ago. For more information, please visit: www.mai-68.fr.

Wounded US Soldiers Celebrate Memorial Day at French Embassy

Members of the US Armed Forces celebrated last Memorial Day with a French twist. On May 25, approximately 30 wounded American veterans honored French-American friendship at a ceremony hosted at the Embassy of France in Washington, D.C. The event underscored cross-cultural respect as well as the spirit of fraternity-in-arms forged over two hundred years ago between George Washington and the Marquis de LaFayette that continues to endure today, most notably in operations in Afghanistan, where France contributes approximately 2,200 soldiers, airmen, and sailors (and has scheduled an additional battalion of 700 to be deployed—see p. 1).

Dining alongside their French counterparts, the American soldiers—many of whom were still receiving treatment for injuries they sustained in Afghanistan and Iraq—were joined by distinguished guests, including Ambassador of France Pierre Vimont; Senator John Warner (D-VA), Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, Representative Ike Skelton; Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, Dr. S. Ward Casscells; Surgeon General of the US Army, Lieutenant General Eric B. Schoomaker; and members of both the French and the US Departments of Defense, to celebrate the bravery of these veter-



Amb. Vimont (second from left) and Rep. Skelton (second from right) joined wounded veterans (such as those at their sides) for a Memorial Day celebration at the Embassy.

ans as well as the "infallible brotherhood-in-arms" between the U.S. and France. The evening was also dedicated to those who sacrificed their lives for freedom. Dr. Casscells remarked that few understand the importance of Memorial Day, usually confusing it with Veterans Day, which pays tribute to all soldiers. Memorial Day is dedicated particularly to those who paid the ultimate price for their country.

Several of the Americans had served alongside members of the French military in Afghanistan and

were pleased to spend an evening tasting French cuisine, learning about French heritage, and, for some, practicing their language skills. "During operations in Afghanistan," one American veteran remarked, "I served with some French during collaborative counter-terrorism efforts in the region. I appreciated French contributions to the international endeavor, and became interested in French culture." Indeed, the camaraderie between France and the US during the evening was palpable—or perhaps audible—as a U.S. Sergeant Major played familiar French tunes and musette on the accordion.

Louisiana Celebrates Bicentennial of Napoleonic Code in Civil Law



Courtesy of Louisiana Department of State
 "Signing of the Treaty of Cession" represents the sale of Louisiana to the U.S. While Napoleon sold the territory to America more than 200 years ago, France's influence can still be traced to the state's civil code.

As a former territory of France, French patrimonial heritage in Louisiana pervades aspects of the region ranging from its architectural influences, unique Cajun dialect reminiscent of antiquated French pronunciation and syntax, spicy cuisine, acoustic music, and unbeknownst to many, even its legal system. 2008 marks the bicentennial of the promulgation of *le code civil louisianais*, Louisiana's civil code.

Unlike the rest of the 49 States, whose legal systems draw their inspiration from English Common Law — in which judges base their decisions on precedents established in similar cases — Louisiana's civil code is modeled after Spanish civil law and the Napoleonic Code, which encourages judges to academically interpret the law on a case-by-case basis instead of ruling *stare decisis* (a policy of following rules, principals, or decisions laid down in previous judicial cases unless they conflict with the ordinary principals of justice).

Although the current *code civil louisianais* was recast and translated into English in 1870, it follows the structure of the French Civil Code of 1804 and remains faithful in spirit. Furthermore, in the event of linguistic contradictions between the two versions, the Louisiana State Supreme

Court continues to reference the French version, which takes precedence over the English version.

While there are discrepancies between Louisiana's law books and the legal systems of the other 49 states, many of them have been bridged. However, even after 200 years, differences continue to persist between Louisianan property, contractual, and family law and those of the other states. For example, redhibition, receiving a full refund or reduction in the purchase price for a product's hidden defect (similar to a "lemon law," but differs in that it applies to any product sold, new or used, including real estate) is legally upheld in Louisiana. In addition, "lesion beyond moiety," a practice that allows a seller to rescind the sale of property if the price paid was below half the fair market value, is unique to the state.

Celebrating the state's legal system as an aspect of the region's exceptional culture, Louisiana State University's (LSU) Center of Civil Law Studies undertook several initiatives to commemorate the influence and tradition of French law in the U.S. In collaboration with LSU's French Department and Law Library, as well as the International Organization of La Francophonie, the Center created an English- and French-language data base on Louisiana and civil law. The school also honored the bicentennial of *le code civil louisianais* May 16-18 with a series of bilingual symposia that brought together francophone legal experts from around the world.

LSU is not the only institution in the state to commemorate France and America's shared cultural and legal heritage. On May 27, the Acadian Cultural Center in LaFayette, LA, opened "1808 — *Code civil louisianais*," a bilingual exhibition, running through the rest of the year, that explores the state's civil law as an honored establishment as well as a unique ingredient of America's rich and diverse cultural makeup. For more information, please visit: www.nps.gov/jela/new-acadian-cultural-center.htm.

Count LaFayette Returns to U.S. for a Boston Ceremony



Pictured left-right: Alan Hoffman, President of the Massachusetts LaFayette Society; François Gauthier, Consul general of France in Boston; Count Gilbert de Pusy LaFayette; and State Senator Richard T. Moore.

Massachusetts citizens honored the long history of French-American friendship dating back to the Revolutionary War last month by welcoming the direct descendant of American Revolutionary War hero the Marquis de LaFayette and his wife to Boston.

Count Gilbert de Pusy LaFayette and his wife Irasema attended a welcome reception at the Taj Boston on May 18, as well as a formal ceremony at the State House on May 20. The program, sponsored by the Massachusetts LaFayette Society and the Club Richelieu Alain Briottet, featured reflections by the Count and other French consular and Massachusetts government officials, as well as a performance of the French and American national anthems by Les Petits Chanteurs of the International School of Boston. In addition, the captain of the French Navy ship Le Cassard and crew members came to Boston to participate a wreath-laying ceremony. The day concluded with a reception and a three-course luncheon at the Union Club, and was followed by an evening concert by French violonist and concertist Véronique Davério.

FILM FESTIVAL GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR US UNIVERSITIES

Though attendance to last month's 61st Cannes Film Festival may have been limited to the A-list, *Le Festival des tournées* has created a grant program to help finance the creation of French film festivals at American universities. The program allocates between \$1,800 and \$2,300 to universities, allowing them to screen around five films. Grant amounts are dependent upon the institution's preferred method of screening the films, whether it is through a traditional 35 mm projector, DVD or a mix of both. Universities can either tailor their own film festival agenda or choose from an itinerary of selected films. More than 100 college campuses currently participate in this endeavor to promote French culture through the diffusion of contemporary French cinema. Since the inception of this program, over 300,000 American students have discovered French-language films, thanks to the *Le Festival des tournées*, which annually distributes approximately \$180,000 in grants. The application deadline is June 30 for the upcoming fall semester, and October 1 for the following spring semester. For more information, please visit: www.facecouncil.org.

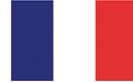
CELEBRATED FRENCH CHEF TO HOST GOURMET DINNER IN NEW ORLEANS



Jacques Puisais, French creator of "philosophy of taste," came to New Orleans on June 19 for a much anticipated culinary event at the *Mélange* restaurant in the Ritz-Carlton. Founder of the "Institut du goût" (Taste Institute) in Paris, he aims to educate food enthusiasts, particularly the younger generation, in becoming experts in taste. The event, "The Art of Tasting," includes the *dégustation* of a menu developed by Mr. Puisais, during which he will comment on the ways to taste and suggest food and wine combinations. Puisais also spoke at the new Southern Food and Beverage Museum on June 14 at the Riverwalk in New Orleans. He will discuss gastronomy and educating children's palates. In addition, the French expert gave a talk at Nunu's Café in Arnaudville on "Wine & Food Pairing" on June 15. The event is sponsored by the Consulate General of France in New Orleans and the Southern Food and Beverage Museum.



France to Head the Six-Month Rotating EU Presidency



This July, France will take the reins of the presidency of the Council of the European Union (E.U.), a six-month rotating position that allows member states to create an agenda and influence EU policy.

In addition to taking charge of the Council's agenda, the president's duties include chairing meetings, promoting legislative and political decisions, and brokering compromises between member states. The role of the position is not to impose an individual country's view, but rather to foster consensus and compromise and to promote continuity from previous presidencies.

France has set four main priorities for its presidency, along with promoting several other goals.

The first and foremost item on the agenda for France's presidency is sustainable development and energy policy. France aims to strengthen Europe's role in international climate negotiations by encouraging the European Council to arrive at a political agreement on the energy-climate package before the Copenhagen Conference in 2009. In addition, the presidency will make energy security proposals concerning both the E.U. itself and its relations with major partners such as Russia.

France's second priority concerns immigration and asylum. The presidency hopes to reinforce common principles that govern responses to migratory pressures through the adoption of a European Immigration and Asylum Pact. The Pact will improve harmonization and sharing of policies on asylum applications, reception, and integration, as well as combating illegal immigration.

The incoming president's agenda also encompasses issues of European security and defense. France wants to update the European Security Strategy to take into account the E.U.'s enlargement, along with new threats such as food security, energy security, non-proliferation, and cyber defense. Furthermore, the presidency is committed to bolstering the European Security and Defense Policy in a way that is complementary to NATO.

The final priority of the French presidency involves defining common principles for the future of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), especially concerning the correction of world food imbalances, environment, geographical balances, and food quality.

In addition to the four main objectives, France has set several other broad-reaching goals, which include building the competitiveness of the European economy; boosting the social dimension of EU action and mobility; and giving fresh momentum to the Barcelona Process, whose goal is to strengthen Euro-Mediterranean relations and security. Furthermore, as ratification of the Lisbon Treaty is currently underway, the French presidency will spearhead this process of ratification, as well as prepare for the Treaty's implementation in January 2009. For more information, please visit: www.ue2008.fr.



The European Union: A Brief History

The E.U., as it exists today, emerged out of desire for increased European unity in the tumultuous post-World War II era. The vision for this unity has been evolving and expanding ever since.

European nations, confronted with the enormous economic and human costs of World War II, were determined to prevent any further major conflict between neighboring countries. This ambition led to the creation of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) in 1951 in Paris, which created a common market for coal and steel. The ECSC, joining the forces of France, Italy, West Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands, is the first major foundation of and precursor to the modern-day E.U.

In 1957, the European Economic Community (EEC) and the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) were born out of the Treaties of Rome. Though originally established separately of the ECSC, the entities merged in 1967 into what is known as the three "European Communities." At this point, efforts at European unity revolved around economic policies — the treaties had established joint-decision making on coal, steel, nuclear power, and other economic sectors. But the EEC gradually began to take on social, environmental, and regional policies in addition to economic ones.

The European Communities began to expand in the 1970s and 1980s with the admission of new member states including Denmark, Ireland, the United Kingdom, Greece, Spain, and Portugal. In 1986, an intergovernmental conference signed the Single European Act, the first major amendment to the Treaties since the merger, paving the way toward the single market.

The next major turning point came in 1992, with the signing of the Treaty of Maastricht, which established the European Union. In Maastricht, member states agreed to work together on foreign and security policy, and the three pillars that currently embody EU policy areas were established: community domain, common foreign and security policy, and police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters. Furthermore, the EEC was renamed as the European Community (EC) to reflect its expanded political, social, environmental, and regional role.

Under its new name, the Union continued to grow. In 1995, Austria, Sweden, and Finland were admitted, and since 2004, twelve more countries have become a part of the community. European countries continue to apply and seek admittance.

Among the E.U.'s most prominent achievements was the introduction of the euro in 2002. Thanks to this singular European currency and other efforts of the E.U., Europe today is more unified economically and politically than ever before.

The E.U.'s Institutions: How It Works

The E.U. relies heavily on three political institutions and two non-political institutions to address the concerns and interests of its 27 member states and to translate differences within the E.U. into shared European solutions.

The European Parliament, the first element of the "institutional triangle," acts as the legislative branch of the E.U. that represents its citizens. Among the three institutions, the Parliament is the only body that allows the people to elect its officials. The Parliament passes new European laws, supervises and upholds the democratic ideals on other European institutions, and influences the direction of EU spending. The Parliament thus expresses the democratic will of the Union's nearly 500 million citizens, and represents their interests in discussions with the other EU institutions. The incumbent President of the European Parliament, Hans-Gert Pötering of Germany, will continue to serve his tenure until the next election in June 2009.

The second institution is the Council of the European Union. It is the E.U.'s main decision-making body, and represents the member states. The Council, governed by a rotating presidency with tenure of six months and one representative minister from each EU member state, jointly passes EU laws and approves of the EU budget in tandem with the European Parliament. Many of the Council's responsibilities relate to areas of action where the member states have decided to pool their sovereignty and delegate decision-making powers to the EU institutions so that decisions on specific matters of joint interest can be made democratically at the European level. However, some of its responsibilities, such as Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) or coordinating between national courts and police forces in criminal matters, also relate to areas in which the member states have not delegated their powers and are simply working together.

The European Commission, the third and final major political institution, essentially the European Union's executive branch, is committed to upholding a common interest for the E.U. The Commission is comprised of 27 appointed commissioners—one for each member state—each of whom is responsible for specific policy areas. This body manages and implements EU policies, ranging from budgetary issues to enforcement of EU law to representing the E.U. on an international level.

A fourth but non-political institution is the Court of Justice, the highest court of the Union. It holds member states accountable to EU law and settles disputes between institutions or states. The other non-political institution is the European Court of Auditors, which ensures that taxpayer funds from the EU budget have been spent wisely.

There are various informal institutions within the E.U. that exist as sub-categories to consult on and address specific matters, including the Economic and Social Committee, Committee of the Regions, the European Investment Bank, the European Environment Agency, and the European Ombudsman. For more information, please visit: www.ec.europa.eu.

CNES and NASA Team Up to Explore Oceanography

Joint missions between the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and French Space Agency (CNES) have revolutionized oceanography by allowing meteorologists to accurately measure ocean levels and explain the forces that lead to climate change, hurricanes, and rising seas.

Altimetry, the space-based measurements of the sea surface height, provides precious information about ocean currents and their influence on weather patterns.

After TOPEX/Poseidon, launched in 1992, and Jason-1, launched in 2001, the Jason-2 satellite will relay valuable oceanic data from the spacecraft's on-board radar system to thousands of meteorologists all over the world using altimetric techniques.



The Jason-2 will help track, predict, and explain ocean currents and weather patterns.

Jason-2, designed by both French and American engineers, is expected to launch from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California on June 21 and can measure ocean sea surface height on a centimetric scale with high-accuracy scientific payloads. After performing the launch and the initial assessments of the satellite, NASA and CNES will hand spacecraft operations over to the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and EUMETSAT, the European Organization for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites.

French and American space agencies are already planning the successor to Jason-2. Scheduled to be sent into orbit in 2012,

Jason-3, in addition to Jason-2, will play a crucial role in the better understanding and forecasting of short- and long-term weather phenomenon and symbolizes the strength of the cooperation between France and America within the field of science. For more information, please visit: www.cnes.fr.

Larousse Goes Virtual

French speakers can shelve the heavy books because the Larousse is now only a click away. The more-than 150-year-old publishing house launched an online version of its encyclopedia last month, available free of charge to Web surfers worldwide.

The new resource (www.larousse.fr) allows users both to consult Larousse encyclopedia entries and to contribute content interactively. However, unlike popular Web encyclopedias such as Wikipedia, Larousse will keep the two functions separate, while requiring contributing authors to identify themselves. Their goal is to create a distinction between unedited and edited material.

The publishing house is inserting itself into a pool of increasingly popular free Web encyclopedias that allow users to contribute and edit material. Wikipedia, the frontrunner of the bunch, is one of the six most consulted Web sites on the Internet. In addition, Google recently launched Knol, an online encyclopedia whose articles are written by identified contributors and only edited with permission from the original author.

Larousse has a long standing in the world of nonfiction and reference books. Founded by Auguste Boyer and Pierre Larousse in 1852, the publishing house has since acquired an international reputation. It continues to print dictionaries, encyclopedias and general works of reference, including its famous *Petit Larousse*, of which over one million copies a year are printed.

French Company Wins Contract to Design 2008 Olympic Tickets



French firm ASK designed anti-counterfeiting technology for this year's Olympic tickets.

The projected 12 million spectators at the 29th Olympic Games in Beijing this summer will be carrying a "little bit" of French technology in their pockets.

French company ASK has won the contract to design the tickets for the upcoming Games. ASK's technology embeds an anti-fraud detection system in each of the tickets to prevent illegal duplication.

The ticket design for the 29th Olympiad is the fruition of technology that secured some fifty patents for innova-

tions such as inlay paper, silver ink printed antenna and flip chip die attach or Radio-frequency Identification (RFID) labels—a breakthrough technology that protects against fraudulent tickets and that will facilitate entry into the Games for eager sports enthusiasts.

ASK has joined forces with China's third largest PC manufacturer, TongFang, to manufacture and market contactless paper-based products, including these innovative tickets. With state-of-the-art production equipment, ASK and TongFang should be able to deliver up to 200 million units of contactless paper-based tickets, inlays, and labels each year.

Over the course of around ten years, ASK has become the world leader in contactless smart cards, paper tickets, and RFID labels, with over 70 million products in circulation worldwide. Originally a modest start-up, this French company now employs over 130 people and generated a turnover of 35 million euros in 2006, 70 percent of which was in exports.

For more information, please visit: www.ask.fr.

DIOR LAUNCHES UPSCALE PHONE



Consumers can now see the famous Dior name branded across more than just handbags and scarves. The French fashion giant recently released a line of mobile phones in an effort to boost sales and appeal to fashionistas worldwide. Dior joins other major luxury-goods companies such as Prada, Dolce & Gabbana, and Giorgio Armani in releasing designer phones. However, along with the Dior phone's glitz and glam comes a novel feature. The phone includes a "mini phone" that is linked to the Dior phone by blue-tooth technology and can be clipped to the side of a bag, making it easier for users to place and receive calls without having to dig around. The Dior phone features 3.21 carats of VS, FG, brilliantly cut diamonds, and unscratchable sapphire crystal, with a talk time of up to 4 hours. The phones will be made by French manufacturer Modelabs Group, who has been investing in research and development for the new line. For more information, please visit: www.dior.com.

70 YEARS OF VALUING FILM

The International Federation of Film Archives, known as FIAF, celebrated its 70th anniversary in April at the historic *Cinémathèque française* in Paris. The event featured the screening of a restored version of French director Jean-Pierre Melville's famous 1969 film, "Army in the Shadows." French Minister of Culture and Communication Christine Albanel introduced the film at the event. "France places great importance on the conservation, restoration, and diffusion of cinema from our country," she said. Founded in 1938, FIAF unites film-related organizations worldwide to collect, preserve and restore films. It has grown to include more than 120 members, most of which are film archives associated with governments, museums, universities, and non-profit institutions. FIAF values films not only as artistic works but as historical documents. The anniversary corresponded with the Federation's 64th Congress, the annual meeting that offers symposia and workshops relating to aspects of film archival, history, and culture.



In anticipation of summer travel and holiday vacations, the National Council of Road Security in France launched a new campaign to decrease road-side accidents and to promote responsible driving behavior. Titled "Road Security, Everyone Is Responsible," this public awareness campaign aims to decrease the casualties and injuries that occur daily on French roadways. Casualties have already decreased from over 8,000 in 2000 by over half in 2007. Globally, the majority of road accidents are caused by drivers who speed, change lanes abruptly, or operate while distracted, according to the French Ministry of Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Town and Country Planning. In order to raise awareness about the consequences of careless driving, public television stations broadcasted minute-long features showing the fatal outcomes of aggressive and reckless behavior between programs in May. Parallel programs encouraging appropriate road conduct also aired on the radio and on the Internet. In addition, cyclists will be encouraged to wear reflective vests when bicycling at night. By 2012, the National Council of Road Security aims to decrease accidents by at least 30 percent.

FRANCE ANNOUNCES HEALTH CARE REFORM

France's health care system, which was voted the best system worldwide by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2001, is undergoing reforms to reduce costs, increase efficiency, and improve patient care. While renowned for its universal coverage and responsive health care providers, France will improve allocation of resources, collaboration between public and private health providers, and response to emergency situations. To accommodate regional budgetary needs, new policies will further decentralize the system by creating regional hospital communities. Hospitals will be able to self-allocate funds based on their particular needs. Public hospitals in these communities will also be granted additional aid and subsidies to fund the specific requirements of low-income communities and to encourage collaboration with private physicians. In addition, urgent care will be improved through the creation of one hundred emergency centers in disadvantaged areas. A hotline will also be initiated throughout France to direct crisis calls to emergency rooms and doctors on call.

French Students Plugging In

An elementary school in Amiens, a town nestled in the suburbs of north Paris, has gone digital. At the Châteaudun school, the day begins by plugging in interactive white boards rather than writing on blackboards. The school was one of 12 establishments worldwide selected by Microsoft two years ago to participate in an innovative classroom program. The board features a screen and an electronic stylus to allow students to visualize and conceptualize lessons. Students claim they prefer the school's integrated use of technology because it encourages active participation among them.

The school's pedagogy is structured to incorporate the latest developments in technology, making the learning

experience as interactive as possible — a learning approach that transcends the traditional classroom and enters into the home. For example, a laptop is given to all teachers to increase communication with students, allowing them to connect after school hours. Instructors realize that students may need help with homework, so they post helpful Web sites containing study guides and tips.

Pupils who are learning a foreign language benefit from teachers who post recordings in MP3 format. Audio files containing vocabulary words and dialogues are uploaded online for students to listen to proper pronunciations, allowing them to learn in the comfort of their own home and at their own pace.

French Youth Heading Outdoors for Summer Vacation



French youth will be exploring the splendor of nature this summer vacation.

Depending on their age and interests, children and adolescents can spend their days doing anything from scout camp to overseas adventure.

In recent years, several French organizations have begun to emphasize the importance of an outdoor sum-

mer experience. Their programs are based on the belief that children are naturally inclined to discovery and curiosity about their environments, but are less and less privy to it in today's world. Vacation, they say, is a time for children to be outside, to get in touch with nature.

Among these organizations is the three-year-old *Sous la lune*, which develops thematic programs that allow 9- to 12-year-olds to spend around a week absorbed in a natural environment. Slightly older adolescents who wish to travel can take bike treks in other European countries through a program offered by sans-frontieres.fr. For the more science-oriented, an organization called Objectif Sciences offers children the opportunity to complete a scientific project on small group trips lasting two weeks.

In addition, *Yvelines Campus*, a program that allows children to discover nature on horseback, has been offering free day trips for youth since 2006. Last July, around 7,000 children participated in their sessions.



CAPTURE ACTION OF THE FRENCH OPEN

Love may mean nothing in tennis, but not for the thousands of spectators who filled the *Stade de Roland Garros* at this year's French Open. Those who couldn't make it in person, however, will "love" <http://www.parlonstennis.com>, a blog dedicated year-round to the popular sport. The site provides up-to-date news and commentary from the tennis world, notably the French Open and the other three Grand Slam tournaments.

Tennis players from more than 60 countries took to the courts from May 25 - June 8 in Paris's *Stade de Roland Garros* for the 2008 French Open. *Roland Garros*, as the tournament is also known, hosted hundreds of the world's most talented athletes vying to win one of the most competitive tennis tournaments in the world. The French-language blog allows tennis fans to relive the moments leading up to Rafael

Nadal's unprecedented 4th victory in a row, this year over Roger Federer.

Originating in 1891 as a one-day men's tournament between French tennis club members, Roland Garros has



evolved into an internationally renowned tennis competition. By 1925, it had opened its doors to both women and foreign players. The "French International," as it was then called, moved into the newly constructed stadium that soon became the tournament's namesake in 1928. The stadium, and consequently the tournament, were named after Roland Garros, a renowned 20th century French aviator who achieved the record for the highest altitude in an airplane in 1912 and

a year later became the first person to cross the Mediterranean Sea by plane.

The unique red clay composition of the *Stade de Roland Garros* (pictured left) increases the level of difficulty during play and results in longer matches because it generates higher and slower bounces, giving each player slightly more reaction time. While some of the most famous names in today's tennis circuit, including Serena Williams and Andre Agassi, have emerged victorious in Paris, other notable tennis stars, including world champions, have never been able to master the red clay.

French Open enthusiasts looking for more can also visit the tournament's official site, www.rolandgarros.com, to access videos as well as information on the Open's history, past victories, and images of its greatest moments.

News From France does not endorse the content, views and opinions of authors expressed in the aforementioned Web sites.

"The Grace Kelly Years" — the Iconic Figure Returns to Paris



Paris celebrates the glamour of Grace Kelly and her many accomplishments.

The elegance of Grace Kelly is once again in Paris with a new exhibit marking the 25th anniversary of her death. "The Grace Kelly Years: Princess of Monaco" displays never-before-seen belongings of the American celebrity this summer at the Salle Saint-Jean in Paris's Hôtel de Ville.

Arranged by the Grimaldi Forum Monaco, the cultural liaison of the Mediterranean principality, this exposition explores the many dimensions of this iconic woman—as wife, mother, humanitarian, Hollywood star, and Princess of Monaco. Along with photographs, jewelry, film clips, and clothing, more intimate possessions will be on display, such as personal correspondences with Jacqueline Kennedy, Alfred Hitchcock, and opera diva Maria Callas. Highlights of the exhibition include the Hermès bag that bears her name, her wedding gown, and works by the world-renowned fashion photographers Irving Penn, Howell Conant, and Cecil Beaton.

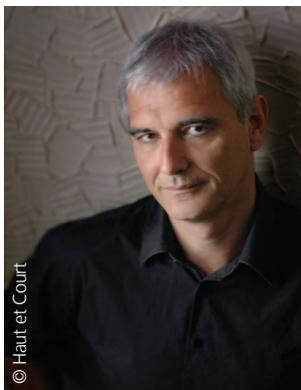
Her career in Hollywood, her marriage to Prince Rainier, and her premature death transformed the life of Grace Kelly into a modern fairytale. The exhibit seeks to go beyond this image by presenting lesser-known aspects of her life and legacy, such as her involvement in the Princess Grace Foundation, an organization that supports artisans, dancers, and musicians in Monaco. For more information, please visit: www.paris.fr.

Cannes: More Than a Film Festival

Behind the glitz and glamour, the Cannes Film Festival remains one of the most esteemed international events in the film industry. While the festival is famous for the quantity of the films it screens, the creativity of the artists, and the enthusiasm of the fans, Cannes's success comes from its willingness to accommodate the constantly changing boundaries of cinema.

During the closing ceremony of the 61st annual Festival, Frenchman Laurent Cantet was awarded the "Palme d'Or," Cannes's highest honor, for his feature-length film "Entre les murs" (The Class). This film, which depicts the start of a new academic year in a disadvantaged Parisian neighborhood, was the first French film in 21 years to win the coveted prize.

While the film screenings and the red carpets last only two weeks, the General Delegate of the Festival nurtures young talent year-round. In 2000, "Cinéfondation," a Festival organization, developed "Résidence," a program that gives emerging filmmakers the opportunity to spend around five months writing a feature-length film, as well as allowing them to meet established directors, screenwriters, and other film professionals. At the end of each year, the best screenplay is awarded 20,000 euros to defray production costs. In addition, before each Festival, Cinéfondation selects fifteen screenplays and publishes them



French director Laurent Cantet won the coveted Palme d'Or at this year's Cannes Festival.

in the "Livres des projets" (Projects Brochure), which is distributed to Festival attendees—particularly to producers. The Festival also creates an international forum, allowing for the global exchange of screenplays, movie ideas, and inspiration. During this year's Festival, actor, rapper, and now producer Will Smith bought the rights to remake "Bienvenue Chez les Ch'tis," a blockbuster comedy about regional differences in France. According to French newspaper "Le Parisien," the American version will probably center around a character whose company transfers him from an urban to a rural setting, where he discovers and adapts to the different lifestyle.

American Sculptor Leaves Towering Image on Paris

France showcased the work of 68-year-old American sculptor Richard Serra at the Grand Palais exhibition hall in Paris in May and June. Serra, known for his gigantic steel sculptures, presented a new piece at the annual exposition "Monumenta," hosted by the French Ministry of Culture.



Visitors are dwarfed by Serra's massive sculptures.

sive atrium of the exhibition hall, Serra designed "Promenade," a composition of five enormous slabs of steel, each 56-feet tall and weighing 73 tons. The sculpture changes as the light in the atrium shifts. At times the plates appear to bend toward or away from the viewer, and at night, the creation becomes a "somber sanctuary" for its observers.

Serra was recently decorated Commander in the Order of Arts and Letters, a tribute awarded by the French Academy to artists and musicians. Another massive work by the sculptor, "Clara-Clara," bought by the city in 1983, was also newly refinished and restored to its previous place in the Tuileries gardens.



Saint Laurent working on his collection, 1962.

FRANCE MOURNS THE LOSS OF A FASHION GIANT
France laments the loss of one of its most famous and influential fashion designers, Yves Saint Laurent, who died on June 1 at the age of 71. Known for revolutionizing women's

dress through the popularization of such fashions as the trouser suit and the tuxedo, Saint Laurent is revered as a hallmark of haute couture in Paris and around the world. A memorial service for the designer was held on June 5 at the Saint Roch church in Paris. Among those in attendance were French President Nicolas Sarkozy and stars from the fashion and film world, including designers Christian Lacroix and Jean-Paul Gaultier, model, singer and French first lady Carla Sarkozy, as well as actresses Catherine Deneuve and Jeanne Moreau. The service was also broadcast live on a large screen outside the church, allowing a crowd of onlookers and journalists to bid farewell. Saint Laurent was born in 1936 in Oran, Algeria and developed his interest in drawing and fashion early in life. After moving to Paris in his late teens, he landed a job with Christian Dior at the tender age of 19 and became chief designer for the fashion house just two years later. His fast and successful rise in the industry enabled him to open his own label with partner Pierre Bergé in 1961.

60 YEARS OF MUSIC UNDER THE SUN

The annual music festival in the southern French city Aix-en-Provence is celebrating its 60th anniversary this summer. Founded in July 1948 as a reaction to the carnage of World War II, the festival was chiefly dedicated to the soothing works of Mozart. Initially consisting of six concerts and an opera, this celebration of music has grown into a monthlong event that accommodates both classical and contemporary composers, as well as music classes taught by renowned masters, including world-famous Finnish opera soprano Karita Mattila. The festival also gives young singers, musicians, composers, and conductors an arena to display their talent. The popularity of the music festival has grown particularly strong with younger groups thanks to an increase in opera and classical music appreciation among this age group. To accommodate larger audiences, the historical venues at the former Archbishop's Courtyard and at the St-Sauveur Cathedral were renovated, and a new open-air theater was built just outside the city's center.

The Streets Come Alive With Music on June 21

Dancing in the streets! Cities worldwide will enjoy spontaneous musical creativity on June 21, as the 27th annual "Fête de la musique" (www.fetedelamusique.culture.fr) takes the stage, bringing music lovers out to play. On this day, public spaces will transform into non-stop music performances, bringing communities together through song, dance, and general festivities.

First launched in France in 1982, "La Fête de la musique" takes place annually on June 21, the day of the summer solstice. It originally began as an informal celebration, with professional and amateur bands playing *ad hoc* in the streets and on sidewalks, and has since evolved into a key cultural event in more than 120 countries from Chile to Cameroon.

In the U.S., New York, San Francisco, Pasadena, Miami, Washington, D.C., and Boston, among other cities, will hold festivals this year. Those in Pasadena, New York, and Boston will draw their inspiration from the original French model, which allows both amateur and professional musicians to perform spontaneous concerts throughout the city, while Miami and San Francisco's events will consist of scheduled performances by popular bands from France and the U.S.

New York's "Make Music New York" (www.makemusicny.org), whose name is a witty play on the translation of "Fête de la musique" ("faites" is the imperative of the verb "to make" and rhymes with "fête," meaning "party"), marks the Big Apple's second annual festival, which has already become the largest such event outside of Europe. Past acts have included a 75-member orchestra playing Terry Riley's "In C" on the street in the West Village, a kazoo jam session in front of a church, and a performance by Tuvan throat singers. Musicians of all stripes are expected to pour onto New York's 12,000 miles of sidewalks to play concerts that are outdoors, free of charge, and open to the public.

Music festivals will also fill Boston and Pasadena streets with everything from jazz to rock to classical. Boston's "Make Music Cambridge" (www.makemusiccambridge.com), taking place in and around Harvard Square, will feature musical performances from the early afternoon through the late evening, followed by an outdoor

party in the streets until 10 p.m. Similarly, Pasadena's "Make Music Pasadena" (www.makemusicpasadena.org), sponsored by Levitt Pavilions and FLAX (France Los Angeles Exchange), will host the nation's first West Coast festival, showcasing over 1,000 musicians ranging from Grammy-nominated Latin band Kinky to platinum-selling jazz musician Bobby Rodriguez to all-female rock group Les Plasticines (who were recently featured in New York Times Magazine). Like in Boston and New York, amateur artists will perform in Pasadena on sidewalks and in parks, courtyards, alleys and lobbies, largely in the Playhouse District and Old Pasadena.

Miami and San Francisco will also bring music to the ears of their residents, though in a somewhat different format. Miami's festival (www.afnmiami.org), taking place at the Gusman Center, will consist of

both an amateur and a professional element, with a time period allotted for non-professional artists to perform, followed by an organized concert showcasing professional bands. The featured hard rock band, Universal Citizens, will be accompanied by an artist-painter who will capture the rhythm of the music in an artistic representation by working in sync with the melodies.

San Francisco's "Fête de la musique" will feature a professional music component (www.fetedelamusiquesf.org). Held in the Justin Herman Plaza, it will comprise six different professional acts of both American and French origin, including renowned French trumpet player Alain Brunet and French soul and R&B star Tété.

The French Embassy in Washington, D.C., will also hold its own "Fête" at the Maison Française (www.la-maison-francaise.org) that will feature fire breathers and face painters, in addition to bands.

In addition, June 21 will mark the opening of "Videodance: works from the Centre Pompidou," an exhibition at the Hyde Park Art Center in Chicago (www.hydeparkart.org) that features over 30 video pieces from American and European artists. The works are a selection from the past 25 years of Pompidou's annual Vidéodanse festival, which commissions video artists to collaborate with choreographers to create unique pieces.



"The Difibulators" were one of the many bands to perform in "Make Music New York" last year.

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