

70th Anniversary of de Gaulle's Call to Arms: The Spirit of Free France Lives On

"Believe me . . . nothing is lost for France," General Charles de Gaulle declared on the night of June 18, 1940, as he rallied the French nation to resist Nazi occupation. "Whatever happens, the flame of French resistance must not be extinguished and will not be extinguished." Seven decades after de Gaulle's address from London, his message of hope and perseverance continues to occupy a unique place in the French social consciousness. On the 70th anniversary of *l'appel du 18 juin*, cities throughout the world celebrated the values and ideals he evoked in his speech.

On the morning of June 18, President Nicolas Sarkozy retraced de Gaulle's steps to London on a specially chartered Eurostar train bearing the portrait of the inspirational general. A delegation of over 700 persons, including former Resistance fighters, accompanied him to the commemorative ceremonies. In London, President Sarkozy reaffirmed the eternal call to French solidarity with a visit to the historic BBC studios where de Gaulle broadcast his speech. In Paris, the *Fondation Charles de Gaulle*, in partnership with the *Institut national de l'audiovisuel* and the Ministry of Defense, promulgated the general's message at the *Hôtel national des Invalides*, commemorating the Resistance fighters' efforts and sacrifices to protect *la République*. A large-scale photo montage of scenes from WWII illuminated the northern façade of *les Invalides*, chronicling the story of the Resistance movement through images and the resounding broadcast of de Gaulle's call.

General de Gaulle's message reverberated across the Atlantic to Washington, D.C., where representatives, soldiers and civilians from France, the United States and Great Britain gathered at the Embassy of France on the day of *l'appel*. Ambassador of France to the United States Pierre Vimont opened the ceremonies by explaining the significance the day holds for the French people and by lauding those who bear arms to uphold the principles of democracy. Accordingly, 22 active and retired United States and French service men and women received distinguished honors from Ambassador Vimont and Defense Attaché Major General Gratien Maire for their service to France abroad.

The minting of a new two-euro coin depicting de Gaulle during his famous address from London will also serve as a tribute to the legendary figure. The newly issued coin "celebrates a major event of our contemporary history [and] a fundamental element of the European construction," stated Christophe Beaux, the head of the Paris Mint. The commemorative coin was released June 18.



French Ambassador Vimont Bestows the Legion of Honor on General William Catto, USMC.

Conference Discusses Nuclear Energy Strategy for a Safer World

The Review Conference of Parties to the Treaty on Nuclear Non-Proliferation, held in New York City from May 3 - 28, assembled representatives from 189 countries. The conference, which convenes at intervals of five years to review the progress and goals of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), addresses three pillars of nuclear policy: disarmament, nonproliferation, and the use of nuclear energy for civilian purposes. Signaling hope for global cooperation, all participating countries pledged their ongoing support of the 40-year-old treaty in an agreement that underlines the continued role of nuclear power in international security and energy concerns.

France played a leading role in the conference along with the other permanent members of the UN Security Council. The five nuclear powers pledged to continue plans for nuclear disarmament and submit their progress for evaluation in 2014. All 189 signatories also emphasized the necessity of another conference in 2014 to review the specific issue of nuclear disarmament in the Middle East.

Eric Danon, the French representative to the Conference on Disarmament, stressed France's ongoing commitment to the NPT. "In the area of disarmament [France has], in nearly 15 years, cut the number of nuclear warheads by half and communicated, for the sake of transparency, the ceiling of 300 warheads of our total arsenal," he stated in his address on May 4. "Basically, what we want to build in the coming years is an overall nuclear strategy for a safer world [...] a world in which nuclear energy [...] will become in its civil dimension a symbol of effective international cooperation and solidarity, in the framework of the planet's sustainable development."

Normandy Landing Celebrations



Soldiers salute revelers during a parade in Normandy celebrating the 1944 Allied landings.

Government officials from both sides of the Atlantic participated in the annual remembrances along the coast of northern France. At Utah Beach, the site of an American landing, U.S. Ambassador to France Charles Rivkin honored those who participated in the offensive and recalled the "unfailing friendship that has linked France and the United States for over 200 years." A few miles east, French Secretary of State for Defense and Veterans' Affairs Hubert Falco visited the Memorial of Caen and then addressed a crowd at Ver-sur-Mer, a

small town in Normandy near the landing site of the 50th Regiment of Britain 66 years ago. "Today, at Ver-sur-Mer, France has come to pay homage to its liberators . . . [This] is a common memory that unites France, America, Canada, and Great Britain. Ties which nothing can undo were forged here between our peoples."

A diverse set of activities along the Normandy coast underscored the international scope of celebrations. Approximately 300 army parachutists from the United States, Britain, Germany and France descended from the sky on the afternoon of June 5 and recreated the actions of those who came before them on D-Day to fight on the marshlands of la Fièvre. The tributes concluded in Bayeux, the first town on the Norman coast to be liberated from Nazi occupation in France, with a "Liberation Ball" on the Place de Gaulle, where guests enjoyed lively orchestral music.

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NUCLEAR ENERGY STALWART AREVA TO BUILD PLANT IN IDAHO



French nuclear energy company AREVA aims to finish the U.S. plant by 2014.

AREVA, a world leader in nuclear energy, received the green light in late May to build a uranium enrichment plant in Idaho. The Paris-based nuclear power company plans to break ground on the \$3.3 billion Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility as early as 2011, with a projected completion date of 2014. U.S. Energy Secretary Stephen Chu said the plant will provide sound technology that will bolster new and existing U.S. nuclear reactors.

The advanced centrifuge technology slated for use at the plant is not common in the United States, though it has been in place in Europe for 30 years. AREVA forecasts the French-American venture will directly and indirectly create 4,800 jobs. "AREVA is elated by this decision, which will enable us to continue development of our Eagle Rock facility in Idaho and contribute to America's energy infrastructure so we can produce more CO₂-free electricity," stated Jacques Besnainou, chief executive of AREVA North America.

After a review of potential locations nationwide, AREVA selected the Idaho site; the company anticipates the venture will bring long-term economic diversity and prosperity to the region. In May, the U.S. Department of Energy approved a conditional loan guarantee of \$2 billion for construction of the facility. The loan follows an exhaustive authorization process meant to ensure that the project is credit-worthy and that the technology is both innovative and secure.

With Aims High, French Naval Aviation Turns 100

This year marks the 100th anniversary of French Naval Aviation. Several events throughout *l'Hexagone* commemorated the milestone, including the Ferté Alais Air Show, south of Paris, and an open house at the Hyères Naval Air Station in southeastern France. Each honored the centennial and the monumental contributions and developments of French Naval Aviation.

French Naval Aviation traces its origins back to the beginning of the 20th century, when the first French naval officers received pilot training and the *Marine Nationale* purchased its first aircraft — a Maurice Farman biplane. Since 1910, French Naval Aviation has burgeoned from a small core of trained members to an organization with over 200 aircraft and 6,800 personnel.

This year's edition of the Ferté Alais Air Show, held May 22 - 23, featured an array of vintage aircraft from both World Wars. The airfield's flight museum showcased planes such as a replica Caudron G.3 — a French plane employed for military reconnaissance during World War I — and a Spad S.XIII, a biplane fighter designed by the French and one of the most popular models among Allied forces.

In its own celebration of the centennial, the Naval Air Station in Hyères opened its doors to the public on June 13. Events included an exhibit of vintage and modern aircraft from France and other countries as well as an aerial display and a parachuting demonstration.



A pair of French Navy Dassault Rafales fighter jets soar through the air at the annual Ferté Alais Air Show.

France Holds 25th Africa-France Summit in Nice



French and African leaders convened in Nice to discuss issues spanning from global governance to environmental impacts of development.

"Our destinies are indissolubly linked," President Sarkozy remarked in his opening address of the 25th Africa-France Summit in Nice, which took place from May 31 - June 1. "France and Europe need Africa as much as Africa needs France and Europe." The triennial summit, co-hosted by Egyptian Head of State Hosni Mubarak, brought together government representatives from over 50 African nations along with delegations from the African Union, the European Union, the United Nations and the International Francophone Organization.

President Sarkozy held three closed meetings with the heads of state and government on topics ranging from Africa's role in global governance to matters of security, as well as climate and development policies. French and African leaders called for greater integration of African countries into international institutions, such as the United Nations. France, which will hold the presidency of both the G-20 and G-8 in 2011, announced its intention to expand representation of African states in the global economy. This year's proceedings included a new dynamic: the participation of French and African business and trade union representatives. Regarding security issues, *l'Hexagone* reaffirmed its support of the collective African security system, in particular the African Standby Force. Over the next two years, France will train 12,000 African troops for their inclusion in African Union and

United Nations peacekeeping forces. The leaders also discussed the close ties between climate and development, stressing the importance of crafting a renewable energy plan that capitalizes on Africa's potential in the field of solar technology. The host nation pledged to establish a \$120 million fund — the African Agriculture Fund — to support the development of agricultural projects and food distribution programs, as well as to ensure the security of food supplies. The next Africa-France Summit will take place in Egypt in 2013.

Constitutional Council Head Debré Speaks at Kalorama Lecture

The Residence of France hosted the Constitutional Council President Jean-Louis Debré June 7 as part of the "Kalorama Lecture" series. Mr. Debré, a former investigative magistrate and speaker of the National Assembly, addressed government officials, members of the press, and distinguished guests, including Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer and his wife, Hon. Joanna Freda Hare. In addition to addressing contemporary issues, such as the judicial

response to the concepts of *laïcité* and freedom of movement, Magistrate Debré's talk, "The Constitutional Council and the defense of rights and freedoms," explored the evolution of the Constitutional Council in France from its creation in 1958 to today.

"Then there was a decision [in 1971] such that the Council all of



Jean-Louis Debré discusses the structure of the Constitutional Council.

a sudden gained in influence," he explained. "This council had, as its mission, not only to control law from a constitutional point of view, but also to control law in terms of all the general principles contained in the Constitution."

Drawing a contextual comparison with the U.S. Supreme Court, Debré presented the structure and function of the Constitutional Council. The Council was originally created to review the constitutionality of pending legislation and elections, but its powers have recently expanded to review questions of constitutionality in ongoing court cases. One important distinction between the two systems, Mr. Debré established, is that former presidents are also invited to serve in addition to the nine judges on the Council. Furthermore, French magistrates only occupy a nine-year term as opposed to a lifetime mandate.

Eco-Friendly Measures in the AIRE

Air France and American Airlines journeyed across the Atlantic on April 6 and 7 for the first green transatlantic flights from Paris-Charles de Gaulle to Miami. This marks a new milestone for the Atlantic Interoperability Initiative to Reduce Emissions program (AIRE), a joint initiative between the European Commission and the Federal Aviation Administration.

During the approximately nine-hour flight, enhanced procedures improved the aircraft's energy efficiency. These measures, applied at each flight stage, reduced fuel consumption, and consequently carbon dioxide emissions, from taxiing at Paris-Charles de Gaulle to the plane's arrival on the parking stand in Miami. Among the procedures applied are shorter taxiing times, continuous ascent and descent, and optimum cruise altitude and speed. During the departure and arrival phases, the shift in operations also helped minimize noise levels.

Air France estimates the use of environmentally friendly procedures during the flight cut CO₂ emissions by 6 to 9 tons and saved 2 to 3 tons of jetfuel. Applying these optimization strategies



An Air France Boeing 747-400 made the first "green" flight across the Atlantic.

to all Air France long-haul flights to and from North America would result in a reduction of CO₂ emissions by 135,000 metric tons per year, with fuel savings of 43,000 metric tons.

From Degas to Picasso, Strokes of Inspired Genius

At first glance, many may not connect the work of Impressionist painter Edgar Degas to that of Pablo Picasso, founder of the Cubist movement. In fact, Degas's expressive representations of the ballet inspired Picasso throughout his life. Until his death in 1973, Picasso collected the Impressionist's works, re-interpreted the artist's images, and even depicted Degas in his art. *Picasso Looks at Degas*, a groundbreaking exhibition at the Sterling and

Francine Clark Art Institute in Williamstown, MA, has assembled almost 100 pieces from museums and private collections worldwide for the summer of 2010. The exhibition explores Picasso's response to Degas's work by presenting their pieces side by side. Curated by renowned Picasso expert Elizabeth Cowling and recognized Impressionist scholar Richard Kendall, the exhibit sheds new light on Picasso's relationship with Degas's artistic inspiration: the ballet. "This exhibition is the culmination of five years of research," stated director of the Clark Michael Conforti. The curators' "insightful work will change our view of Picasso as an artist," Conforti said. "This fresh look at two of the greatest artists of the modern period will fascinate visitors as well as scholars and art historians." The exhibit will run from June 13 - September 12, after which it will travel to the Picasso museum in Barcelona in fall 2010.

For more information, please visit: www.clarkart.edu.



Many features of Degas's *Nude Woman Drying Herself* (left) appear in Picasso's *Blue Room* (right). The exhibit at the Clark Institute explores Picasso's interpretation of Degas's works.



Public spaces throughout France broadcast World Cup matches.

Excitement ran high for the June 11 kick-off of the World Cup in South Africa, and now that the competition is underway, soccer enthusiasts worldwide are revved up for the games.

Fans of *Les Bleus* may have seen a well-prepared team's chances at victory fade away, but their fervor for competitive play continued well beyond France's elimination. Paris is leading the charge, erecting giant screens at venues such as the 13th arrondissement's *Stade Charléty*, which broadcasted matches played by France and francophone countries. The Trocadéro esplanade in the 16th, a site located in full view of the Eiffel Tower, was one of five locations in world capitals selected for the International FIFA Fan Fest, a global celebration of the tournament.

French affinity for the sport extended well beyond the borders of *l'Hexagone*. Close to 260 young fans of *le foot* landed in Johannesburg at the end of June for the 2010 World Cup of French Schools Abroad. The students, hailing from 26 different French schools, arrived from countries as varied as Nigeria, Canada, Denmark and Vietnam. Participants included *Le Lycée International Franco-Américain of San Francisco*, led by lower school principal at the *lycée in San Francisco Raymond Hinz*, which teamed up with *Le Lycée Français of Chicago* to represent the United States for the intercultural tournament from June 21 - 27.

In a similar display of *football* enthusiasm, the Windy City welcomed three international soccer clubs — including France's Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) — for the Chicago Sister Cities International Cup from May 19 - 22. Members from each of the teams, including players from the decorated PSG squad, coached 50 youth players in mini-games and offered free a clinic for 7- to 14-year-olds, teaching them drills and techniques to improve their play.



A player from France's PSG (right) takes the field with Chicago's youth.

Echoes of Chopin Heard Worldwide in 2010

Two hundred years after the birth of legendary composer Frédéric Chopin, the world is paying homage to his life and work, which influenced the music world and transcended national borders. In France, Minister of Culture Frédéric Mitterrand launched a series of programs — part of the worldwide *Chopin 2010* celebration — to commemorate the musical contributions of Chopin, a composer shaped by his time spent in Paris.

The Life of Chopin

Frédéric Chopin was born on March 1, 1810, in Poland to a French father and a Polish mother. From an early age, Chopin was distinguished by his extraordinary gift for music. A prodigy, he had already produced several compositions by the time he moved to his father's homeland at age 21. From his tiny 6th-floor apartment in the 9th arrondissement, Chopin could see the whole of Paris before him. He soon immersed himself in Parisian life, and he wrote that the view, which spanned from Montmartre to le Panthéon, became the envy of his friends. While in France, Chopin spent 10 years in a turbulent and passionate affair with the love of his life — Amandine Aurore Lucille Dupin, a French novelist known by her pen name, George Sand. The time the couple spent together at Sand's country estate in Nohant inspired Chopin to compose many of his works.

In 1848, Chopin left Paris for a seven-month stay in the British Isles. Upon his return from England and Scotland, Chopin's health rapidly declined over the next year, until he died of pulmonary tuberculosis on October 17, 1849, at the age of 39. He was buried in the Père Lachaise Cemetery, the resting place of many notable public figures, including, Oscar Wilde, Edith Piaf and Jim Morrison.

The Works of Chopin

Most often characterized as a Romantic composer, Chopin wrote the majority of his works for solo piano. He played a leading role in the development of several styles, among them the sonata, the waltz and the prelude. Moreover, Chopin was the first to create the instrumental ballad — a genre that traditionally featured a vocal part. While some manuscripts from Chopin's early childhood were lost, and many of his unfinished works were destroyed post mortem, more than 230 pieces survive today, each bearing Chopin's artistic finesse. In his famous *Fantaisie-Impromptu*, a train of running scales draws the listener into the composition's dramatic *rubato* and melodic arcs. The fluid phrasing of *Nocturne Op. 9 no. 2* evokes the mystery of nighttime and reveals Chopin's mastery of the genre; he wrote 21 nocturnes during his lifetime.

Frédéric Chopin's music was marked by his experiences in his native Poland and in his adopted hometown of Paris, where he lived from 1831 to 1849 and composed the majority of his work. Though he split most of his time between two countries, his work touched the hearts of music enthusiasts worldwide. Today, *Chopin 2010* is a multinational affair, and widespread participation in the commemorative events is a testament to the far-reaching legacy of the famed musician.

The Celebration Goes Global

In France this year, the legacy of the renowned composer has spurred a series of concerts, expositions, broadcasts and colloquiums. Each taking place within the context of the bicentennial *fête*, the events are designed to educate, stimulate discussion and foster appreciation for the life and works of Chopin.

Paris is paying its respects to the man whom city hall has dubbed "the most Parisian of Poles" in an extensive exhibition titled *Frédéric Chopin, the Blue Note* at the



Eugène Delacroix's iconic portrait, completed in 1838, captures the young virtuoso Frédéric Chopin.

Musée de la Vie romantique from March 2 - July 11. The *Blue Note* encapsulates the consummate resonance that George Sand perceived while listening to Chopin's music — a sensation that plunged her into a fusion of color and sound. "We begin to see soft colors corresponding to the suave modulations sounding in our ears," she wrote in *Impressions et Souvenirs*. "Suddenly the note of blue sings out, there we are, in the azure of the transparent night." Museum Curator Jérôme Godeau explained, "When the idea was proposed two years ago to organize an exhibition in honor of Chopin's bicentenary, we decided to explore the relationship between [painting and his music], stressing the 'blue note' that George Sand and [Eugène] Delacroix said they heard in his musical works." The 90 paintings, sculptures and drawings in the collection that depict Chopin's time in Paris are on loan from notable museums worldwide, including the Musée du Louvre, the Petit Palais and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. The event showcases paintings of Chopin's first residence in Paris and of George Sand's estate, as well as many original manuscripts and the 1843 Pleyel piano that Chopin played while composing in the City of Love.

Paris city hall has also charted "Chopin's Walks," self-guided walking tours incorporating many places the artist frequented while living and composing in Paris. Visitors follow in the footsteps of the famed composer as they pass through the Arcades of the Palais-Royal, where Chopin sought out luxury boutiques to hand-tailor his gloves and hats. Even today, some shops have kept his measurements on file.

During the summer months, Chopin spent much time composing in central France on Sand's pastoral Nohant retreat. In the month of June, *les Fêtes Romantiques de Nohant*, concerts featuring Chopin's traditional music and romantic melodies, enchanted the recently restored country home that once belonged to Sand. On June 18, the Chopin Society in Paris organized a gala concert at the UNESCO Hall in Paris in cooperation with the International Federation of Chopin Societies, the Polish Ministry of Culture and National Heritage and the UNESCO International Commission for Culture. The concert was conducted by Polish maestro Jerzy Semkow and featured French pianist François-René Duchâble, accompanied by Poland's Sinfonia Iuventus Orchestra.

Celebrations of the composer are underway elsewhere in the world, including in Chopin's birthplace, Poland, where a week-long series of concerts was dedicated to Chopin at the Warsaw Philharmonic at the end of February. In June, the festivities appealed to younger generations as well, when children were invited to "paint Chopin's music" during a month-long competition. Similar to how George Sand relates the sensation of a "blue note" that Chopin's music provoked in her, the competition called upon children to explore their own interpretations of how two senses — sight and sound — could merge.

Beyond Chopin's homelands, other nations have joined the tribute to the global scope of the composer's legacy. The Maison Française in Washington, D.C., collaborated with the Embassy of Poland to venerate the famous composer with a recital, held June 6, which featured soprano Olga Pasichnyk and pianist Natalya Pasichnyk performing a selection of works including pieces by Chopin.

For more information and the calendar of events for Chopin 2010, please visit: chopin2010.pl/fr.



George Sand's country estate provided an escape from city life and inspired many of Chopin's compositions.

French Astronomers Closer to Unlocking Secrets of Distant Universe

French researchers' recent discovery of a quickly evolving elliptical galaxy in a faraway universe — an anomaly in astronomical theory — is one of the first steps in unveiling clues to the evolution of celestial bodies.

The giant galaxy, located 10.1 billion light years from Earth, was the first of its kind detected by an international crew of astronomers led by the French National Center for Scientific Research, three French universities and the Atomic Energy Commission.

Though the galaxy's vast distance from Earth is significant, it was the age of the universe in which the galaxy is located that piqued the interest of scientists. Believed to be 3.6 billion years old, the newly discovered galaxy's universe is relatively young compared to that of Earth.

The stars in the galaxy discovered by the French team of



The French team of astronomers used the Subaru telescope, located in Japan, to detect the giant galaxy.

scientists moved relatively slowly — an indication of the galaxy's strong gravitational pull and considerable size — which led them to approximate its adult stage of development. Scientists had earlier presumed that galaxies could not reach full maturity within a span of 3.6 billion years, the estimated age of the newly discovered galaxy's universe.

The discovery of the new galaxy provides scientists with a more sophisticated understand-

ing of growth patterns in distant galaxies. The rapid development of the galaxy detected by the team brings the world of astronomy closer to grasping the composition of universes outside of our own. The group's findings are published in the *Astrophysical Journal Letters*.

For more information on the distant universe, please visit: iopscience.iop.org/journals.

French Doctors' Findings Could Keep Cancer Longer at Bay

Two prominent French researchers recently published the results of a pair of potentially groundbreaking cancer studies, each offering a glimmer of hope for patients seeking remission of the disease. The doctors presented their studies from June 4 - 8 at the annual meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology in Chicago, where more than 4,000 other findings were also discussed.

A study led by Dr. Gilles Salles, a French professor of medicine at the University of Lyon, found that follicular lymphoma patients who underwent chemotherapy paired with a regimen of the cancer treatment Rituximab over the course of two years cut the risk of the disease's recurrence by 50 percent. The findings indicate that maintenance therapy could be the key to keeping cancer in remission.

Dr. Michel Attal, a professor of hematology at Purpan Hospital in Toulouse, headed a separate study that revealed use of the drug Lenalidomide may have reduced residual disease and prevented relapse in patients suffering from multiple myeloma, a bone marrow cancer. Three years following a stem-cell transplant, 68 percent of patients taking the medicine experienced no growth of cancer, compared to 35 percent of those in the control group.

For more information on the studies, please visit: abstract.asco.org.



French scientists made groundbreaking research toward preventing the reemergence of cancer.

The Evolution of Armor



Protective dorsal gear draws new inspiration on protection and flexibility from the animal world.

For centuries, body armor has allowed men of "metal" to push the limits of human strength. Innovations in body protection are on display at an exhibition at la Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie, a museum in Paris, which explores the evolution of armor through the ages. Organized in partnership with Dainese, a leader in the production of protective clothing for motorcyclists and for those who practice high-intensity sports, *A Toute Epreuve (Unfailing Test)* will run until August 8. One section of the exhibit reveals how modern armor draws inspiration from the natural world. For example, protective back gear — used by motorcyclists, skiers and mountain bikers — has many similarities to the strong, yet flexible shell of armadillos and lobsters, whose segmented pieces provide protective cover while still allowing for movement. Another display showcases armor from past eras, ranging from the uniforms of Japanese samurai to those of Turkish archers. New and upcoming innovations in armor, including a wearable airbag for motorcyclists and a body suit for astronauts that functions as a "second skin," offer visitors a preview of the gear's future.

For more information on the exhibition, please visit: www.cite-sciences.fr.

LOST IN TRANSLATION NO MORE: YELP ENTERS FRENCH CYBERSPACE

For residents of France, Yelp.com — the community-powered review website — has gone local. Already operating in the United States, the United Kingdom and Ireland, Yelp is an online forum that facilitates Web reviews of various establishments in local and global communities. Users relate their experiences at points of interest, such as restaurants, dry cleaners and doctors, and offer feedback to those considering patronizing the business. With Yelp's new French-language interface, the website can now add *boulangeries* in Bordeaux and *pâtisseries* in Paris to its spread. In May, Yelp announced it was making its first foray into non-anglophone cyberspace with the development of a Yelp France review page. "France is a country steeped in rich culinary, artistic and cultural traditions. Considering this heritage, it represents the next logical destination for Yelp, which is all about connecting people with great local businesses," CEO Jeremy Stoppelman said. Yelp joins the ranks of other online francophone tools for locals in search of nearby businesses. Web mainstays such as Oype.fr and Pagesjaunes.fr not only offer local listings for a wide range of services in France, but also provide user-friendly review options similar to Yelp.

BUSINESS-SAVVY YOUTH GATHER FOR ENTREPRENEURIAL SHOWDOWN

For two days in June, 250 of France's most enterprising young entrepreneurs competed in the National Championship of Small Businesses in Issy-les-Moulineaux, just outside of Paris. *Entreprendre pour Apprendre* organized the contest, which guided middle school, high school and post-bac students, as well as young professionals, through the process of creating a small business. Over the course of a school year, the participants, aged 14 to 25, adopt a business model, establish an order of operations and appoint a CEO and board of directors. Along the way, they acquire a penchant for entrepreneurship by learning about the intricacies of the market, investing, and product and service branding. The project culminates in the national contest honoring the top projects. Confitures & Aromates, a jam-making business launched by a group of middle school students from northern France, was among the prizewinners, earning the top spot in the middle school category. Stateside, the Embassy of France has taken a similar approach in search of promising businesspeople. The Young Entrepreneurs Initiative, launched in 2005, encourages innovation on both sides of the Atlantic by offering U.S. entrepreneurs grants and opportunities through a vast network of French partners in public and private sectors.



Khris launched his record-breaking jump from the Eiffel Tower.

For French rollerblading champion Taïg Khris, a May 29 trip to the Eiffel Tower was anything but conventional. Khris laced up his skates and leapt from a record-breaking height — over 130 feet — off of a platform affixed to the first floor of the Parisian landmark. The Frenchman soared through the air in a 41-foot free fall before safely landing in a 98-foot-tall quarterpipe constructed specifically for the occasion. The landing ramp, a simple downward slope and the largest ever constructed, allowed Khris to skate several feet before sliding to a stop. Khris claimed the world record for longest free fall jump from American skateboarder Danny Way, who had previously set the bar with a 28-foot jump. The world-record attempt was hardly Khris's first foray into the world of inline skating. The athlete has participated in more than 100 competitions in his career on wheels and has claimed numerous victories in that time. Khris has also held the top ranking after winning the world rollerblading championships and X-Games in past years, priming him for an event of this magnitude.

FRENCH FREEWAYS SAFEST IN EUROPE

A study of more than 8,000 European highways, conducted by the European Road Assessment Programme (EuroRAP), recently determined that French *autoroutes* are the safest in Europe. Of the 846 miles of the French freeway network that were inspected, the study awarded 98 percent of French motorways at least four out of five stars for safety. In addition to conducting test drives, researchers surveyed the roads by equipping trucks with panoramic cameras to document images of traffic conditions and driver behavior. Safety was measured through 30 different indicators, including quality of the road surface and of guardrails. Safe distances between the highway exits and entries, as well as the presence of speed-detecting radar equipment were other contributing factors to France's top safety rating. John Dawson, chairman of EuroRAP, commented on France's superior rating, "The French safety record speaks for itself — *autoroutes* carry nearly a quarter of all traffic in France, but see just six percent of all road deaths, and drivers from other E.U. countries can revel in safer roads, lighter traffic and fewer junctions."

The Garden of Champs Elysée: a Green Oasis

Les Champs-Élysées, the renowned Parisian avenue, recently went green — literally! From May 23 - 24, French farmers transformed Paris's famed thoroughfare into a green oasis, installing over 8,000 plots of sod and 150,000 plants to cover the notoriously bustling street. Conceived by the organization French Young Farmers, the event, *Nature Capitale*, highlighted the diversity of French agriculture and reminded those living in urban areas of the food's journey from the farm to the table. The event, which cost private investors more than 4.2 million euros to bring to fruition, covered over three-quarters of a mile — from the Arc de Triomphe to the Place de la Concorde — with greenery. The spectacle showcased an assortment of flowers, traditional crops such as wheat and mustard, as well as livestock including cows, pigs and sheep.

The two-day event connected urban and rural communities, allowing city dwellers to stroll through one of Paris's most iconic streets to buy plants and fresh produce from farmers. Visitors sampled many of France's regional delicacies, and enjoyed a mass barbeque organized by Paris butchers. The event, taking place near the French Presidential Palace, also caught the attention of President Nicolas Sarkozy, who made a surprise appearance at the temporary farm with First Lady Carla Bruni-Sarkozy on May 24 to lend his support to French agriculture. Drawing over 1.9 million visitors to the urban oasis, organizers hope to continue the success of *Nature Capitale* with events in New York City, Istanbul and Berlin.



Les Champs-Élysées transformed into a giant garden to promote agricultural awareness.

Global Fête Brings Neighbors and Smiles to the Streets



Neighbors around the world celebrated each other's company during *la Fête des voisins*.

When was the last time you lent a cup of sugar to your neighbor or even just waved hello? Most often, the answer is "not lately." On May 28, more than 10 million people worldwide broke the mold and took to the streets to enjoy the company of

their neighbors. For 10 years running, *la Fête des voisins* has invited people to step outside their homes — and their comfort zones — to strengthen ties with neighbors and foster a sense of community.

Originally launched in France, participation in *la Fête des voisins* has expanded from 500,000 to more than 10 million participants in 30 countries worldwide. Merrymakers throughout Europe, Mexico, Japan, the United States and most recently, Togo, have joined the global campaign to promote friendliness among neighbors in *la vie quotidienne*.

The celebration is not France's only social initiative to go global. *La Fête de la musique* and *la Nuit des musées* are two other programs that now transcend borders, aiming to foster camaraderie among citizens and to promote intellectual and cultural interest.

For more information on *la Fête des voisins*, please visit : www.immeublesenfete.com.



For either an avid soccer fan or a casual viewer of the World Cup, www.footballistic.com provides up-to-the-minute scores, statistics, photos and videos of soccer teams worldwide. The creators of the website, three Frenchmen residing in San Francisco, constantly update the 300,000 pages in the database with the goal of delivering complete worldwide coverage, claiming "[they] won't stop until [they] get there." The site tracks the success of teams within their respective leagues and provides

short biographies on many of the most famous players, including



Côte d'Ivoire's Didier Drogba, Argentina's Lionel Messi, and Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo.

Playing up widespread enthusiasm for the World Cup, the site has devoted a prominent section to the quadrennial event, which includes information on current standings, upcoming games and top individual scorers, as well as the history and outcomes of past World Cups. In light of the international appeal of the game, the Footballistic team has fittingly made the website available in French, English, Spanish, Turkish and Chinese.

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

Retrospective Look at Yves Saint Laurent



The exhibit includes a piece from the 1990 fall-winter collection.

Yves Saint Laurent's 40-year fashion career is the focus of an exhibition at le Petit Palais, running until August 29. As the first-ever retrospective on the full body of work from the late French fashion designer, the showcase features 300 *haute couture* pieces and seven *prêt-à-porter*, or ready-to-wear, designs. Organized with support from the *Fondation Pierre Bergé-Yves Saint Laurent*, the exhibition is divided by theme into 15 separate rooms, chronicling his revolutionary contributions to fashion — from

his early days at the Dior fashion house to his innovative "Collection 40" that shocked the fashion world in 1971 by romanticizing the fashions of the '40s.

Yves Saint Laurent is widely known for his androgynous designs such as the now-iconic *Le Smoking* tuxedo suit and the tailored pant. By giving women's wardrobes a touch of masculinity, Saint Laurent is credited with empowering women through fashion. He drew inspiration for his designs from various sources, including his world travels and the work of artists like Picasso, Matisse and Warhol. The extensive collection of garments, supported by photographs and videos, illustrates the unique style of the fashion icon, who lived by the motto: "Make fashion a celebration."

For more information on this retrospective, please visit: www.yslretrospective.com.

For the Love of Paris

A young couple says "I do" in the town hall. A few steps away, an adolescent boy plants a kiss on the cheek of a young girl. Around the corner, a bride prepares to walk down the aisle. What is it about Paris that has inspired the nickname: "City of Love?" Do the city's picturesque landscape, rich culture and ambiance ignite a romantic spark?

French photographer Gérard Uféras spent two years exploring answers to these questions by documenting manifestations of Parisian love and affection. His exhibition, *Paris d'Amour*, unveils the certain *je ne sais quoi* about Paris that lends itself to romantic expression and emotional connection. Through photos of 70 marriages and civil unions, Uféras captured spontaneous moments shared by those of varied social backgrounds and religious beliefs. As visitors navigate the exhibition, proceeding from one photograph to another, the echoes of laughter coupled with the sound of clinking glasses at a reception surround them, transporting them to the moment captured in the picture. A 26-minute film of the photographs includes interviews of the couples before, after and during their ceremonies — providing insight into the ups and downs that accompany all relationships and exemplifying the exhibit's effort to address the complexities of love. "We all want a life of harmony," Uféras asserted, "where each person is free to find love and construct their life in a world of tolerance and respect. In Paris, we are lucky to live in a place that allows and encourages this." Paris's city hall will be hosting Uféras's collection, which comprises over 100 images, through July 31.

For more information on *Paris d'Amour*, please visit: www.parisdamour.com.



Uféras captures an intimate moment between newlyweds embracing for the first time as a married couple.

Rhythms of Five Continents Share the Stage in Marseille

In the southern port of Marseille, the melodies of saxophones, pianos and trumpets reverberate, fusing with the resounding playfulness of guitars and violins. An international jazz hotspot since the 1920s, the sun-splashed city welcomes the 11th installment of its annual jazz festival. Running July 19 - 24, the week-long celebration of one of France's favorite musical genres attracts artists from five continents — Africa, Asia, Europe, North America and South America — to share their talent with an enthusiastic crowd.

Each featured musician presents a unique approach to jazz



Chick Corea (left) is one of the many jazz artists who will perform at Five Continents Jazz Festival in Marseille.

that blends styles from around the world. Famous pianist Chick Corea will showcase jazz and rock fusion, accompanied in his set by a saxophonist, a bassist and a drummer. Bass extraordinaire Richard Bona, a veteran of the global jazz scene, will bring with him an eclectic blend featuring influences from Africa, Europe and North America. Echoing the sounds of his native Lebanon, critically acclaimed musician Ibrahim Maalouf will contribute the rhythms of his trumpet as well as original compositions.

For more information and the musical line-up for the festival, please visit: www.festival-jazz-cinq-continents.com.

LIBERAL OVERHAUL OF URBAN SPACE



La Place de la République, a public square in the heart of Paris, has attracted tourists and locals since the 19th century. In recent years, however, congested boulevards surrounding the square have inhibited the mobility of those traveling by foot and by bicycle. In an effort to "give the [square] back to pedestrians," Paris city hall announced in March its plans to revamp the 121,000-square-foot space. While modernizing the public area, Paris-based architectural firm Trevelo & Viger-Kohler will reaffirm its historic character by emphasizing certain symbolic features. For example, the emblematic statue of Marianne, the female embodiment of France and its ideals, will remain the focal point of the plaza, but plans call for a large public area to replace the busy roundabout that currently encircles the sculpture. As the rendition above illustrates, the renovation will boost the number of trees in the square by 30 percent and create wider multipurpose sidewalks to accommodate pedestrians and cyclists. Kiosks, open-air markets and carousels — once hallmarks of the square — will be updated and returned, providing an escape from Paris's urban bustle. The project, with a budget of 12 million euros, will be launched in 2011 and is scheduled for completion in 2013.

"MODERN" EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

The Texan-French Alliance for the Arts recently unveiled a nine-month exhibition of sculptures by the internationally acclaimed French artist, Bernar Venet. Fifteen monumental sculptures have been installed by the artist in eight strategic locations throughout Houston's scenic Hermann Park. A workshop, coupled with guided tours of the exhibition, allowed students and teachers to establish a direct rapport with Venet's work, introducing abstract and public art to enthusiasts of various levels. Professor of Digital Cinematography at the University of Houston Keith Houk, has integrated the exhibition into his curriculum. Students spend the spring and summer working on a 20-minute documentary, which will be screened during the exhibition's closing ceremony. Similarly, local artist, Felipe Contreras, worked with children at the Texas Children Cancer Center undergoing treatment to create their own Venet replica.

Groundbreaking Medieval French Fortress Underway in Arkansas



Laborers sport medieval garb and employ period-specific techniques to build the medieval *château* in Arkansas.

Thirteenth-century France may be worlds away from Arkansas, but the Southern state's wooded Ozark region is currently the site of ongoing construction of an authentic fortress built in the style of the Middle Ages.

The task is projected for completion 20 years from now — in 2030 — in accordance with an authentic medieval timeline for con-

struction. Respecting the practices of the era, the construction team comprised of masons, blacksmiths and stone carvers, dresses in authentic medieval garb and uses only period-specific techniques and building materials (water, stone, earth, sand and wood).

The *château* is the brainchild of medieval architecture enthusiast Michel Guyot. In 2008, Guyot's longstanding passion for medieval architecture drew the attention of Jean-Marc and Solange Mirat, two French retirees residing in the United States. After visiting Guyot's *Guédélon* project — a similar undertaking in Burgundy, France — the couple decided it was time for an American counterpart, and offered a portion of their Arkansas property for purchase by Guyot.

The Ozark construction site was opened to the public on May 1, after workers broke ground in June 2009. Rather than cordon off the site with caution tape, craftsmen readily engage visitors, answering questions and imparting trade-specific know-how to all those willing to listen.

For more information on the project, please visit: www.ozarkmedievalfortress.com.

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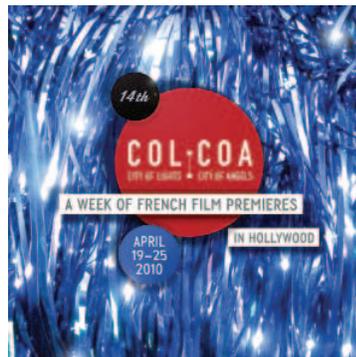
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French Cinema Hits West Coast Screens

French film has been applauded on the West Coast over the past months, having been featured at a number of festivals in cities such as Seattle and Los Angeles.

At the Seattle International Film Festival, 25 critically acclaimed French films were among more than 400 presented to audiences at 11 different locations throughout the Seattle area. Over the course of 25 days in May and June, the festival put the spotlight on international and independent film. Many of the French submissions were artistic feats as well as box office successes following their cinematic debuts in France. Hitting Seattle screens were popular choices like teen comedy *The French Kissers* (*Les Beaux Gosses*), the film adaptation *The Hedgehog* (*La Hérisson*), based on Muriel Barbéry's



popular novel, and the thriller *Diamond 13*, starring Gérard Dépardieu.

Down the coast, Los Angeles showcased exclusively French cinematic offerings in late April at the annual *City of Lights, City of Angels* (COL-COA) film festival. A collaborative event funded by the Franco-American Cultural Fund, which is composed of cinematic organizations from the United States and France, COL-COA is also backed by the French Consulate in Los Angeles. The Franco-American Cultural Fund honored a number of films, among

them *Henri-Georges Clouzot's Inferno* (*L'Enfer de Henri-Georges Clouzot*) which received the COL-COA Critics' Award. Crowd pleaser *The Hedgehog* garnered the Audience Award.

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