

French Minister Visits U.S. for Anniversary of Yorktown

FRENCH Defense Minister Michèle Alliot-Marie visited the United States from October 18-21. On Wednesday, October 19, Minister Alliot-Marie attended the 225th commemorative ceremonial anniversary of the victory at the battle of Yorktown, a decisive event in the American War of Independence and a symbol that marked the beginning of the French-American friendship.

"Whenever it was called into question, we rallied together, because something essential was at stake. In the 18th century, France came to American lands to fight by your side for your freedom. You haven't forgotten. Twice it was you who came to defend freedom on our soil. In 1917, Pershing and in 1944, Eisenhower, joined in our common fight. We will never forget it. The friendship pact sealed in Yorktown has always been respected. Our two countries intend to honor it always. Yes, for us our friendship is something precious. Never have our two peoples taken up arms against one another: a rarity in the concert of nations," Minister Alliot-Marie expressed. "The spirit of our pact at Yorktown is based on this primordial value: freedom and the respect for the other's freedom. (...) The dangerousness of the world, the threat of terrorism we are all fighting together, the pressure of obscurantism and the rise of intolerance make this alliance more necessary than ever," the French minister concluded.

Minister Alliot-Marie also bestowed the insignia of Commander of the Legion of Honor upon U.S. Senator from Virginia, John William Warner, Jr (R) during the ceremonial events at Yorktown. "Today, on this very place where our brotherhood-in-arms was sealed, I would like to pay tribute to our most distinguished guest of honor who embodies both our brotherhood and our common ideal of freedom". Recognizing his contributions to France and devotion to military cooperation, Minister Alliot-Marie remarked: "you have always been committed to enhancing military cooperation between France and the United States, notably in the war on terrorism, where it is important to remind everybody that our cooperation goes a long way, encompassing both training and fighting side by side, notably in Afghanistan."

This four-day visit marked her fourth trip to the U.S. since assuming her responsibilities as defense minister in 2002. Minister Alliot-Marie kicked off her tour of the U.S. on Wednesday, October 18 by meeting with Stephen Hadley, U.S. Assistant to the President for



Min. Alliot-Marie, left, attends ceremony at Yorktown

National Security Affairs for President Bush. On Thursday, October 19, the French defense minister met with U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld at the Pentagon. The two discussed current issues such as North Korea and Iran, as well as Lebanon, Afghanistan and Kosovo. Before the NATO Summit in Riga, Latvia on November 28 and 29, Minister Alliot-Marie wished to exchange views with her American counterparts regarding the future of the organization.

While in New York, she met with Secretary General of the United Nations Kofi Annan. She also visited UNIFIL Strategic Military Cell, responsible for the U.N. mission in Lebanon, and which is part of the U.N. Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

Before concluding her visit to New York, the French defense minister delivered a speech at the French American Foundation titled "The Challenges of the 21st Century: Clash of Interests or Clash of Civilizations," during which she discussed various challenges facing the international community.

"In fact, there are no clashes between civilizations. There are clashes between countries having different economic and social interests," Minister Alliot-Marie said at the French American Foundation. "We Americans, we Europeans are attached to our values and principles: liberty, democracy, and human rights. Giving up the ambition to make it possible for as many people as possible to enjoy this is out of question. We must admit differences, respect identities, take into consideration the pace of civilizations' need for their own evolution. (...) We must help them find a balance between a quest for modernity and the respect of identities. (...) We will then avoid the confusion that brings about a confrontation of cultures. We should strive to convince people and not impose ideas. (...) It is important that Europe and the United States may bring answers together."

Director of Anti-Defamation League Awarded Legion of Honor

PRESIDENT Jacques Chirac bestowed the insignia of Chevalier in the French Legion of Honor upon Abraham H. Foxman, National Director of the Anti-Defamation League, on October 16 at the Elysée Palace in Paris.

Foxman was awarded France's highest honor in recognition for life-long dedication to promoting peace, dialogue and commitment to mutual human understanding. "Throughout your life," President Chirac expressed, "you have championed three inseparable causes: the duty to remember, the battle against anti-Semitism and the need for dialogue for peace. (...) As a passionate defender of your cause, you have always advocated dialogue, everywhere and with everyone, to promote tolerance and peace between men. You take part in dialogue between religions and creeds, regularly meeting with the Pope, as I believe you just have, you visit the Arab countries. You meet with European leaders, all European leaders, to push forward the fight against anti-Semitism."

Foxman was born into a Jewish family in Poland in 1940. To escape Nazi persecution, his parents sought refuge in Vilnius, Lithuania, where they entrusted his safeguard to a Polish Catholic nanny. For four years, he was raised as a Christian child in a town under German



President Chirac decorates Foxman

occupation. Miraculously, his parents survived and he was reunited with them at the end of the WWII. Foxman and his family moved to the United States in 1950 where they embarked upon a new life.

Foxman joined the Anti-Defamation League in 1965, and in 1987, he became the League's National Director and one of the main spokesmen for the American Jewish community.

"The duty to remember concerns first and foremost remembering the suffering of the Jewish people, the horror of the camps and the criminal collusion. You have actively contributed to this memory, in particular as a member of the Holocaust Memorial Council to the President of the United States," President Chirac expressed. "Yet your commitment has also involved perpetuating the memory of those 'Just Among the Nations' who saved Jewish lives and embodied the universal consciousness. France faces up to this duty to remember. We have acknowledged the French State's responsibility in the deportation and death of thousands of Jews. We continue to pass on the memory and I would like to mention here the quality of the co-operation established with the Jewish organizations, and the Holocaust Museum in particular (...) And in this regard, I am grateful to you for helping to build a trustful and regular dialogue between France and the American Jewish community."

In his acceptance remarks, Mr. Foxman thanked President Chirac for his "strength, moral courage and friendship to the Jewish state and people."

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ABOUT THE AIRBUS A380 ...

The first A380 Early Long Flight (ELFs) took off from Toulouse on September 4 with 474 Airbus-employee passengers on board. In total, four flights of 7, 10, 12 and 15 hours each are planned for the giant aircraft in preparation for its entry into service. The ELFs are operated like standard airline services, and are designed to assess the cabin environment and systems in flight. The Airbus employees on board will test such features as the galley, air-conditioning, crew rest areas, lighting, acoustics and in-flight entertainment systems. "We already know that the aircraft itself is performing well," said Frank Chapman, one of the Airbus test pilots flying the A380 for the ELFs, "but we need to establish the levels of comfort and performance of the cabin, as this is, perhaps, the most important aspect for our passengers." Once the A380 enters service as a commercial passenger airliner, it will be the largest such aircraft in the world.



Airbus A380
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NEW COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CREATED

French President Jacques Chirac inaugurated the new High Council for Science and Technology (*Haut Conseil de la Science et de la Technologie*) on September 25 and on the same occasion named its 20 members who come from the upper echelons of the French scientific community. The Council was created by decree on June 15 of this year; its duty will be to advise the President and government on scientific matters. President Chirac has already selected three themes he wishes the Council to explore: energy and the environment; the crisis in the scientific vocations; and the development of tools needed to meet future scientific goals. The Council's findings will be given directly to the president and will only be made public in its yearly report. For more information, please visit: www.france-science.org.

NEWS FROM FRANCE / October 24, 2006

Memorial Dedicated to Fallen Reporters

PATRICK GOMONT, mayor of Bayeux, in northwest France, officially inaugurated the city's new *Mémorial des reporters* (Reporters' Memorial) on October 7 in conjunction with the 13th annual Bayeux-Calvados Award for War Correspondents. Bayeux worked in collaboration with



Mémorial des reporters

Reporters Sans Frontières (Reporters Without Borders) to commission the site, which is dedicated to all journalists who have perished in the line of duty since 1944.


"Do not forget them. Know that without them, democracy does not exist," said Robert Menard, secretary general of *Reporters Sans Frontières*.

France's Foreign Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy also expressed his

support for the project. "At this inauguration of the Reporters' Memorial, today in Bayeux, I want to associate myself with the tribute paid to the journalists who, since 1944, have died, all over the world, while exercising their profession."

The memorial will serve to remind visitors of the dangers that journalists face in their efforts to inform the world, and will ensure that the names of the dead are never forgotten. Architect and landscaper Samuel Craquelin conceptualized and created the memorial, the first of its kind in Europe. It consists of a landscaped garden walkway punctuated by white stones that feature etchings of the names of fallen reporters, cameramen and sound recorders (see picture on left).

The memorial is truly international, honoring fallen journalists around the world. Michele Montas, widow of Haitian journalist Jean Dominique, was present at the unveiling. "This will be the only place where his name will be written in stone."

Bayeux, the first French city to be liberated on June 7, 1944, is already home to the *Musée Mémorial de la Bataille de Normandie* (the Battle of Normandy Memorial Museum), as well as the largest British war cemetery in Normandy. 


Biodiversity in European Development

THE "Biodiversity in European Development" Conference took place in Paris September 19 - 21, 2006, at the International Conference Center. The conference is the product of a partnership between the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the European Commission, France, Belgium, Finland and Sweden.

The conference brought together the member states of the European Union and nearly 350 civil society and international organizations to address protection and preservation of biodiversity while promoting economic development. Distinguished speakers included Brigitte Girardin, French minister delegate for Cooperation, Development and Francophony, and Nelly Olin, French minister for Ecology and Sustainable Development.

The conference also strove to help Europe and other countries around the world meet the 2010 Biodiversity Target and the 2015 Millennium Development Goals.

Participants wrote a "message from Paris" that will be provided to the Council of Ministers of the European Union this December.


France has demonstrated its commitment to protecting and preserving biodiversity in several other initiatives. Most recently, France was lauded for its "Debt-for-Nature" swap with Cameroon. Under this unprecedented contract signed in June 2006, Cameroon receives 100 percent debt relief from France for funds totaling 570 million euros. The swap serves two goals: reducing Cameroon's foreign debt and preserving the Congo River Basin rainforest. Over the next four years, Cameroon will allocate the funds that would have otherwise been paid back to France, to finance and develop four different sectors: education, health, infrastructure and natural resources. For more information on this initiative, please refer to NFF vol. 06.08. 

Doctors Operate in Zero-Gravity Conditions

A team of French doctors successfully operated on a man in zero-gravity conditions aboard an Airbus A300, operated by Novespace (a subsidiary of CNES), last Wednesday, September 27. The specially designed aircraft mimicked weightlessness by making roughly 22 parabolas, with each dive creating 22 seconds of zero-G conditions. The chief surgeon, Dominique Martin, and his four-member team, who were strapped to the floor during the procedure, removed a cyst from the arm of a male patient. The surgery, which was carried out more as a "feasibility study" than a technically challenging exploit, went exactly as planned, according to the medical team. The operation is part of a project backed by European Space Agency, with the aim of



Doctors remove cyst aboard the A300 in zero-G

developing Earth-guided surgical space robots. This is in fact the second zero-gravity surgery for Dr. Martin and his team; they previously mended the artery in a rat's tail in 2003, an operation far more complex. For more information, please visit: www.france-science.org. 

American Cathedral in Paris: Friend of All

ACTRESS Olivia de Havilland was the guest of honor the evening of October 2 at a gala reception in honor of the Friends of the American Cathedral in Paris held at the residence of French Ambassador to the United States, Jean-David Levitte. The reception celebrated the long alliance between France and the Cathedral. It was chaired by The Very Reverend Zachary Fleetwood,



Actress Olivia de Havilland addresses Amb. Levitte and guests during the reception

Dean of the American Cathedral in Paris, as well as The Honorable Amy Bondurant, Mrs. Robin Jeffery, and Mrs. Karen Lamb.

Nominated for Best Supporting Actress for her role as Melanie in *Gone with the Wind* (1939), de Havilland has won two Oscars for Best Actress, one for *To Each His Own* (1946) and the other for *The Heiress* (1949). Olivia de Havilland has been a parishioner at the American Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in Paris for many years and continues to play an important part in the Cathedral's life today.

De Havilland moved to Paris in 1953. She quickly devoted herself to the study of French language and culture, taking three lessons of diction a week. Her dedication to and appreciation for French society throughout the past fifty years have not gone unnoticed. "Olivia is claimed as a national treasure by two states: the United States and France," Ambassador Levitte remarked in his opening address.

In 1968, her son Benjamin fell ill with Hodgkin's disease. A year later, he had survived the illness and therapy. De Havilland turned

to the American Cathedral in Paris as a place to give thanks for his recovery, an event that would mark the beginning of a longstanding relationship that would endure between the Academy Award winning actress and cathedral for almost a half-century.

Consecrated on Thanksgiving Day in 1886, the Cathedral was founded by the affluent expatriate American community of the 19th century. Since its inception it has been involved in the lives of many

Americans and Anglophones living in Paris.

Today, the American Cathedral has an active, committed and diverse congregation, serving as a parish church not only for the American community, but a vibrant mix of nationalities, ethnicities, and religious backgrounds. The Cathedral's ministries and programs have expanded from the local and national community to nations in Western and Central Europe over the last two decades to meet the changing needs of a changing world. For example, it organizes several local outreach programs, including "Mission Lunches" which offers a weekly lunch to 60-80 homeless Parisians. Additionally, "Love in a Box" delivers thousands of boxes of Christmas presents to underprivileged children in many countries.

As it has done since the 1800s, The Cathedral continues daily to fulfill one of its most important missions, opening its doors to thousands of tourists every year as a spiritual home away from home, and as a place of beauty and tranquility amid one of the world's greatest and liveliest cities. ■ ■

First Annual D.C. French Film Festival

THE first annual D.C. French Film Festival "C'est Chic: New Films from France" took place from October 12-28, 2006, in various venues throughout Washington and surrounding areas. The American Film Institute (AFI), the French-American Cultural Foundation, the French Embassy's *La Maison Française* and the National Gallery of Art collaborated to bring the festival to fruition. Recent films from esteemed directors such as Claude Chabrol (*Comedy of Power*) were featured alongside emerging talent such as Anne Villacèque (*Riviera*).

The screenings took place at the AFI Silver Theater and Cultural Center in Silver Spring, MD; *La Maison Française* at the Embassy of France; and the National Gallery of Art. The inaugural screening welcomed "*Les Brigades du Tigre*" by direc-

tor Jerome Cornuau who also attended the screening himself at *La Maison Française*. The festival concluded with a series of short films — from documentaries to animated love stories — at the National Gallery of Art. For more information regarding French films and cultural events, please visit: www.la-maison-francaise.org. ■ ■



Discussion between French and American Judicial Minds

THREE of the world's most distinguished justices discussed the critical role judges play in protecting liberty at the Third Annual Raymond Aron Lecture on October 5 at the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C. Moderated by Brookings President Strobe Talbott, the panel discussion featured the former president of the French Constitutional Council, Senator Robert Badinter, retired Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, and Supreme Court Associate Justice Stephen Breyer. They discussed the different approaches of the United States and Europe on such issues as the balance between civil liberties and security, the role of foreign and international law in domestic jurisprudence, and the democratic legitimacy of legal institutions.

A strong advocate of human rights, Senator Badinter is an integral member of *La Ligue des droits de l'homme* (the League of

Human Rights). He was the Minister of Justice under French President Mitterrand from 1981-1986. From 1986-1995 he presided over France's Constitutional Council. Since then, he has been a senator for the *Haute-de-Seine*. Perhaps his greatest accomplishment was the legislation he introduced 25 years ago that abolished the death penalty in France. His contribution to the Brookings panel was the French experience in balancing civil liberties and fight against terrorism by establishing well-defined laws on the rights of detainees.

Breyer and Badinter have developed a personal and intellectual friendship over years that has what moderator Talbott described as "a comparably analgesic and salutary effect." Their friendship personifies the cooperation between France and America in their common goal of striking a balance between civil liberties and national security. ■ ■

DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS SETS UP STAND IN CENTRAL PARK

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), known as "Doctors without Borders" in English, was founded in France in 1971 and has since made great strides in bringing medical assistance to those in need worldwide. The U.S. chapter of MSF installed a model refugee camp in New York City's Central Park in September to promote education and awareness about the world's 33 million refugees. The 8,000-square-foot display camp included tents and makeshift latrines to provide a tangible representation of the life of refugees, for whom medical and food aid is often desperately needed. The exhibit also presented first-hand accounts from workers who had traveled abroad with the organization and a photo gallery displaying various representations of those who had fled from political persecution, violence, and areas torn by war. *Médecins Sans Frontières*



A refugee camp in the heart of the NYC

won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1999 and has a presence in more than 70 countries. Because of its neutral stance on political issues, MSF is often welcome in regions that are the hardest to reach. After its stay in Central Park, MSF continued its educational tour in major public parks in Brooklyn, Atlanta, and Nashville.

FRANCE HOSTS MEMORIAL CONCERT FOR JOURNALIST DANIEL PEARL

Paris will hold a charity concert in memory of American journalist Daniel Pearl on November 6. A journalist at the *Wall Street Journal*, Mr. Pearl was killed by Islamic militants. He had been kidnapped in Karachi, Pakistan, in January 2002, where he was writing a story on Islamic militancy. Mr. Pearl's family and friends established The Daniel Pearl Foundation (www.danielpearl.org) following his murder to carry on his legacy, using music and words to address the root causes that took his life. The concert will aid the Foundation, which has also prompted a network of annual concerts throughout the world called the World Music Days. Chairman Thierry Lachkar from the Music Days Daniel Pearl France association announced that three singers have already agreed to perform in the concert. "I have seen Music Days in several countries and for me, it is very touching. At the point where words end, are no longer efficient, music is a way of communicating, which appeals directly to the emotions," Pearl's widow Marianne stated.



Josephine Baker

"The most sensational woman anyone has ever seen"

-Ernest Hemingway

FRANCE is celebrating, this year, the centennial of the birth of Josephine Baker, an African-American starlet who left the racially tense United States to pursue her talents and professional ambitions in Paris. Born in 1906 in St. Louis to a washerwoman, Baker grew up as domestic help to wealthy white families. She began her career in entertainment in comedy roles for performance companies as a young teenager, which led her to New York. However, Baker really broke into the spotlight in 1925 when she traveled to France and signed on to *La Revue Nègre*, a tribute to black music and dance, which was performed at the popular *Théâtre des Champs-Élysées*. The presence of black American soldiers in World War I and their positive exchanges with French soldiers had set the stage for a great appreciation of jazz in France. Enchanted Parisians found Josephine Baker to embody this revolutionary new sound.



Baker found her popularity rising with her *Danse Sauvage* performed in the second half of *La Revue Nègre*. Audiences were seduced by the sensual display of her dancing to a pulsing jazz rhythm. Baker's fame flourished when she began performing in clubs in Montmartre, around which the cultural life of black performers centered (so much so that it became known as the "Harlem of Paris"). In 1926, she even opened her own club in Montmartre, called *Chez Joséphine*. Around this time, she recorded the classic "*J'ai Deux Amours - Mon Pays et Paris*" (I Have Two Loves - My Country and Paris). Following a tour around Europe in the late '20s, Baker enthralled theater-goers in the *Folies Bergères*, a Parisian music hall where many of the great names in French music have performed. Audiences found her jaw-dropping performance unforgettable, especially since one of her costumes was a skirt made from 16 bananas strung together.

In addition to her on-stage success, Baker was notable for her eccentricities and luxurious "*art de vivre*." She strived to learn as much as she could about European culture, studying literature and painting, and worked on her French diction with a countess. Baker's fame made her a popular subject for renowned artists, such as Leonard Tsuguharu Foujita and Pablo Picasso. Well-known as an animal lover, Baker was frequently spotted strolling along the Champs-Élysées with her pet cheetah, Chiquita. Baker's love affairs also kept her life spicy and her fans guessing.

Despite her deep love for France, Baker longed for acclaim in her home country. In 1936, she staged a return to the U.S. to star in the *Ziegfeld Follies*, but found herself rejected by white critics and venues as well as black communities. Heartbroken, she returned to Paris and found her adopted city on the verge of war.



Baker and pet cheetah, Chiquita

When the German army occupied Paris in 1940, the entertainment world changed dramatically. But Josephine proved her dedication to France and the fight against fascism by actively campaigning for the Red Cross, serving as a sub-lieutenant in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force, and doing clandestine work for the French Resistance, all of which earned her the insignia of Chevalier of the Legion of Honor by the French government.

Beyond her work in World War II, Baker was an advocate for many transnational causes. One of her most interesting endeavors was her role as a "Universal

Mother." By the early 1960s, she had adopted 12 children from impoverished countries around the world. The children were raised in Baker's home called *Les Milandes*, a chateau in Périgord, in southwestern France. Not only did Baker strive to lift these children from poverty, she also aimed to prove that "children of different ethnicities and religions could still be brothers."

Baker's concern for cross-cultural and cross-racial understanding also manifested itself in her heavy involvement in the Civil Rights Movement. Along with other activists, Baker was a leader of a march in Paris to support the impending March on Washington in 1963. She flew from Paris to speak alongside Dr. Martin Luther King, who delivered the closing address which crescendoed in the resounding "I have a dream" — and would immediately earn eternal recognition as one of America's most famous and influential speeches.

In her 50s, Baker's successful career began to slide. She found herself struggling with financial difficulties and had trouble booking gigs. When *Les Milandes* was repossessed by creditors, Josephine's friends and fans came to her aid. Brigitte Bardot appeared on national TV to

make an appeal for the legendary starlet, and financial assistance poured in — money was even said to have come from Zsa Zsa Gabor and Pope Paul VI.

Though Josephine suffered through a few more years of hardship and poor

JOSEPHINE BAKER AND THE FRENCH RESISTANCE

In addition to her efforts visible to the public during WWII, such as championing the Red Cross, Josephine Baker was a significant contributor to the French resistance. The French Résistance is an umbrella term encompassing many anti-Nazi underground movements in WWII. A close friend of General Charles de Gaulle, Baker boldly carried out missions such as smuggling secret messages written in invisible ink on her music sheets and hiding important photographs underneath her clothes. Like Baker, many men and women risked and lost their lives as spies or saboteurs. By 1944, it is estimated that there were 100,000 members involved in the resistance efforts. The work of these participants was a key element in the rescue of prisoners, vital intelligence reports, and the downfall of the German army.

health, she experienced a revival in her career toward the end of her life. Invited to perform at Carnegie Hall on her 67th birthday, Baker finally received the acceptance she desired from an American audience — the crowd rewarded her with a standing ovation even before the concert began. Apparently so moved by the reception, she wept onstage. The next year, Josephine returned to Paris for a retrospective performance of her 50-year career at the Bobino Theater. Audiences flocked to see this performance, including celebrities such as Princess Grace of Monaco and movie star Sophia Loren. There, Baker received some of her best reviews ever.

When Baker died just two weeks into this appearance, more than 20,000 people turned out to watch the funeral procession go through the streets of Paris. Her name still shining on the marquee of the Bobino Theater, she was honored by the French government with a 21-gun salute.

Josephine Baker's contributions to music, dance, civil rights and entertainment are still vibrant today. Voluminous memorials throughout the world continue to celebrate her legacy, including a restaurant called "Chez Josephine" in New York City; a statue depicting Baker as a mother embracing a faceless child, erected outside Les Milandes; and most recently, a floating pool on the Seine. A new play released both in France and the United States, titled *A la Recherche de Joséphine (In Search of Josephine)* pays homage to both Ms. Baker and the home of jazz, New Orleans, and its determined efforts to revive its cultural heritage in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. The play revolves around a theater producer who is stranded in the city after the hurricane and is searching for an actress who can effectively capture the talent of Josephine Baker. The producer certainly has his work cut out from him, as Josephine Baker was truly one of a kind.



Clinical Trial for New Avian Flu Vaccine

In an effort to increase Europe's pandemic preparedness, the Sanofi-Aventis Group's vaccine branch, Sanofi Pasteur, generated the first clinical trial lot of a new generation of H7N1 avian flu (bird flu) vaccine in Bergen, Norway on September 19. The vaccine was produced at Sanofi Pasteur's facility in Marcy l'Etoile, France, and could be used to combat both pandemic and seasonal strains. According to Sanofi Pasteur, two influenza subtypes, H5 and H7, have recently caused highly pathogenic avian influenza. While most vaccine development has focused on H5N1 strains, avian H7 containing viruses remain a significant pandemic threat and have caused human infections in Europe over the last three years, according to Sanofi Pasteur. Sanofi Pasteur conducted its work on the vaccine within the framework of FLUPAN, a European Union-funded collaboration intended to improve the level of pandemic preparedness in the E.U.

The Phase I clinical trial initiated on September 19 is the first to assess the safety and ability to generate an immune response of a split, inactivated prototype pandemic H7N1 vaccine produced on cells, according to Sanofi. "The H7N1 vaccine strain was developed from an avian influenza virus by the UK's National Institute for Biological Standards and Control (NIBSC) and the University of Reading, UK. A highly pathogenic H7N1 avian influenza virus which caused outbreaks in Italian poultry in 1999 has been mod-



Sanofi scientists prepare vaccine

ified, so that it is safe to use and grows well in mammalian cell culture," according to Dr. John Wood, FLUPAN coordinator. Sanofi Pasteur is a worldwide leader in the field of influenza vaccine research, development and manufacturing. The company is actively investing in various projects throughout the U.S. and Europe, and is currently investing in a major expansion of its influenza vaccine production capacity in the U.S. as well as in France. The U.S. government has contracted Sanofi Pasteur for a number of pandemic-related agreements such as the development of pandemic vaccine stockpiles, production of investigational doses and the development of cell-culture technology. For more information on the clinical trial, please visit: www.sanofi-aventis.com.

French Management Schools Earn High Marks

FRENCH schools continue to top the Financial Time's ranking of the European Masters in Management programs, published on September 11, and more are on their way up. This year, French schools offer 11 of the 35 programs ranked; of these 11, six occupy the top seven ranks.

For the second year in a row, HEC ranked the highest. Its graduates, earning over 62,000 euros (approximately \$74,400) on average, are the best paid. One of its alumni remarked that it also offers the best network since most top French CEOs also attended the institution.

ESCP-EAP, ranked third, is well known for its international mobility. It provides many opportunities to work and

study abroad and has a high proportion of international students and faculty.

Two more French schools climbed their way to the top five this year: Grenoble and EM Lyon. A major contributing factor to Grenoble's rise was a healthy improvement over the year in weighted average salary from 42,098 euros (approximately \$50,518) to 47,350 euros (approximately \$56,820).

Whether business students are interested in superb training, establishing professional connections, international mobility or higher pay, French schools are increasingly yielding them a higher profit margin in all of these fields.

Arianespace Launches Satellite for DIRECTV Among Payload

ARIANESPACE, the commercial launch services leader, holding more than 50 percent of the world market for

satellites to geostationary transfer orbit (GTO), recently celebrated its fourth launch of the year. Headquartered in Evry, France, Arianespace was created in 1980 as the first commercial space transportation company. The latest Ariane launch (picture on right) boosted three payloads into orbit on October 13: DIRECTV 9S for American operator DIRECTV, Inc., OPTUS D1 for the Australian operator OPTUS, and the large deployable reflector, LDREX-2 for the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA).

The launch blasted off from Launch Complex No. 3 in Kourou, French Guiana, and carried a total payload of



Ariane 5 ECA Launch - DIRECTV 9S - OPTUS D1 - LDREX-2 (October 13, 2006)

9,031 kg, including 7,804 kg for the three satellites, which were released separately into their respective targeted orbits.

The DIRECTV 9S will give American TV viewers a greater choice of broadcast services, while setting up tomorrow's multibeam satellites for multimedia applications. This satellite was built by Loral Space Services in Palo Alto, California. The Orbital Sciences-built OPTUS D1 will provide direct TV broadcasts, Internet links, voice and data services for Australia and New Zealand. LDREX-2 (Large-scale Deployable Reflector Experiment), launched on behalf of JAXA, is a half-scale model representing the large deployable antenna to be used on a future satellite.

OPPORTUNITIES IN FRANCE FOR RISING SCIENTISTS

France is opening its doors to American post-doctoral and undergraduate science students in 2007. Founded in 1887 by Louis Pasteur, the father of microbiology, the Institut Pasteur is one of the world's leading biomedical research organizations, with more than 130 laboratories. It is offering two exciting programs for students who want to experience performing research on infectious diseases. The 2007 Post-Doctoral Fellowship Program in Paris is a three-year program for post-doctoral researchers to work in Pasteur laboratories. For undergrads there is the Paul W. Zuccaire Internship Program, which offers several fields from which to choose, including parasitology, virology, immunology and biochemistry. The purpose of this 10-week summer program is to encourage students in pursuit of a scientific career and expose them to an international laboratory experience. Applications and more information are available online at:

www.pasteurfoundation.org.

NEUF CEGETEL MOVES TO ACQUIRE AOL FRANCE

Time Warner and Neuf Cegetel finalized an agreement for Neuf Cegetel to acquire AOL France for 288 million euros (\$365 million) on September 21. The acquisition, which includes 500,000 AOL DSL high speed internet subscribers, should allow Neuf Cegetel to reach 2 million DSL subscribers before the end of the year. By making attractive offers to AOL France's dial-up customers to migrate to broadband, Neuf Cegetel is counting on boosting its market share, allowing it to surpass its rival internet provider, Free. Free is second only to Orange, a subsidiary of France Télécom, in providing internet access to users in France. AOL and its customers will also benefit from the acquisition. AOL will share the portal's advertising and other revenues with Neuf Cegetel; AOL customers will have access to Neuf Cegetel services such as DSL TV and Wi-Fi phone service. Chairman and CEO of AOL LLC Jon F. Miller is confident that consumers will benefit from the synergies created in this transaction. "The partnership between AOL and the Neuf Cegetel group is an important next step in AOL developing its Web business in Europe. AOL France has an ideal partner to work with, and the collaboration will benefit the subscribers and users of each company's online services." The official acquisition still awaits the approval of the *Direction de la concurrence*, (Directorate of Competition), which regulates competition in markets and protects consumers. Final approval is expected to be granted by late October.

LYON HOSTS BIENNIAL DANCE FESTIVAL

Sunday September 19 was a cool, mostly sunny day in Lyon—perfect weather for dancing. An impressive 320,000 people lined the *Rue de la République* for the *Lyon Biennale de la Danse*, Lyon's biennial dance festi-



Citizens of all ages enjoying Lyon's dance festival

val; up from 20,000 last festival. The festival dates back to 1984, but the *Défilé*, the grand outdoor parade, was added a decade ago. Varying in age, race and talent, the performers in the *Défilé* are not professionals like the dancers in the festival's formal schedule. They are locals from Lyon and other regional cities who just want to be a part of the festivities. City, regional and commercial partners provided the financial support, which amounted to approximately one million dollars this year. This year's theme was "the city," though performers were dressed as everything from colorful flamenco dancers to Charlie Chaplins.

FRANCE'S JUDO TEAM TAKES HOME MEDALS

France's Judo teams each took home a medal from the World Championship on the weekend of September 16-17 in Paris. France's men's team tied for third place with the Koreans, while France's women's team took home the title, finishing

the tournament by beating the Cuban team four to zero. Anne Morlot earned the winning point for the team. Both teams are eagerly looking forward to the 2008 Olympics. The men regard their third place ranking as motivation to do even better. "This medal will do the group good," said team leader Patrick Rosso. "After two years of defeat, they have proven that it's crucial to count on facing those of the highest skill level. This should also restore confidence in every individual, because when sparring with Japan, for example, they had to fight an Olympic champion in one instance and a world champion in another."

NEWS FROM FRANCE / October 24, 2006




All-French News Channel to Launch Soon

FRENCH all-news TV station, France 24, is getting ready to make its debut on the international airwaves. Company officials recently announced that the station will begin broadcasting sometime between November 15 and December 5 of this year.

Proposed by French President Jacques Chirac in 2002, the station hopes to give France a voice in what Mr. Chirac called the "battle of footage." France 24 will join the ranks of other internationally-available news channels such as CNN, BBC and al-Jazeera. The station, which has 170 journalists in 150 cities around the world, aims to "cover inter-

national news from a French perspective," according to Alain de Pouzilhac, head of the France 24's board. Two channels, one in French, and the other mainly in English, as well as Web sites in French, English and Arabic, will broadcast current events.

France 24 will initially be available on cable, satellite and DSL in Europe, Africa and the Middle East, as well as New York and Washington, D.C. It is expected to reach Asia and the rest of the Americas by late 2008. The station will be commercial-free, as it is funded by an annual 80-million-euro (101-million-dollar) grant from the French government. 

Paris's Motor Show Revs Enthusiasm for French Automobiles

FRENCH car makers proudly unveiled their newest models at the world's oldest and Europe's biggest motor show, *le Mondial de l'automobile*, which ran from September 30 to October 15. Exactly 110 years ago, the Paris motor show was inaugurated to display cars that competed in the Paris-Bordeaux




New Peugeot 908 RC concept car

race. Two years ago a record 1.46 million people attended the show. The boldness, innovative technology, and luxury on display dazzled car enthusiasts then, and this year was no different.

In a bold move to break into muscle car territory, Peugeot unveiled its aggressive looking 4-passenger sedan, the 908 RC, powered by a 700-horsepower Le Mans V12 diesel engine.


According to critics, the 908 RC is an ambitious car that incorporates power, comfort, luxury, and respect for the environment. Sleek, black, and powerful, the new Peugeot 908 RC will be sure to turn heads. The car features a panoramic windshield and glass roof, and graceful flying buttresses that emerge from the rear edge of the roof. The original plan for the Peugeot 908 was to create a limousine with bold style that offered smooth driving. The end result blends dynamic performance, modernity, luxury, and environmental protection. The auto show featured this concept car in an effort to combine imagination with an uncompromising and imposing limousine.

Citroën showcased its technological innovation with its C-Metisse hybrid that combines a diesel engine with electric motors. It is powerful, with a top speed of 155mph, and appropriately painted green as it has CO2 emissions of just 174g/km. Citroën also demonstrated its sleek and stylish C4 Picasso with a top speed of 121 mph and an original seat-folding design providing category-leading passenger and trunk space.

Renault is pushing into higher-end niches with its convertible luxury cars. Its Nepta is a sleek, four-seater luxury cabriolet with a 420hp twin-turbo V6 engine. Its wave-shaped side panels highlight its elongated lines, while its interior is spacious and comfortable. 

Virtual Neighborhood Connects Residents of Paris

WITH the Internet connecting people across the world, Parisians can now use the web as a tool to get to know the people right next door. Residents of certain *arrondissements* (neighborhoods) in Paris can connect via a Web site called Peuplade (www.peuplade.fr), a virtual port that facilitates introductions between neighbors, involvement in group projects in the area, and postings for those who wish to announce events or to buy and sell goods locally. Even local schools are connecting on Peuplade—a special page designed for parents allows them to set up carpools, outings for their children, and arrange childcare. Created in 2003 as the initiative of Nathan Stern, the president of an organization in *Les Epinettes* in the 17th district, Peuplade today seeks to expand to all of Paris. A new version of the site launched on September 18, allowing even more Parisian neighborhoods to connect. With help from Mobile Operator SFR, "peupladiens" can now record video messages on their cell phones for the site. The city of Paris is also encouraging the project, by helping Peuplade to find

funding partners and launching a promotional campaign for the initiative. 



Peuplade Virtual Neighborhood Web site connects Parisians



French Museum Hosts Exhibition on Walt Disney

THE images of Walt Disney's Snow White, Sleeping Beauty's castle, and Mickey Mouse are recognizable to children and adults all over the world. But how many people know that the renowned animator received much of his inspiration from European art and storytelling? *Le Grand Palais* museum in Paris hopes to increase that awareness, while celebrating the delightful contributions to art made by Walt Disney. France's famous art institution has recently opened an exhibition titled *Il était une fois Walt Disney (Once Upon a Time, Walt Disney)*, featuring the art of Disney as well as the European sources that influenced his work.

In 1935, Walt Disney traveled to Europe. He returned to the United States with more than 300 illustrated books for his animators, many of whom themselves hailed from Europe and had been schooled in European art centers. Many of these



Snow White

books are on display, as are original artworks and other treasures. The Walt Disney Company allowed the museum rare access to its 70,000-piece archives, and more than 500 Disney pieces are on display. The exhibit also borrowed works from museums around the world, allowing visitors to see the Disney creations next to the European art that inspired them. For example, a scene from the spooky forest sequence in Snow White where trees come to life can be seen next

to an equally spooky 1900 painting of similar trees by Belgian symbolist William Degouve de Nuncques.

Once Upon a Time, Walt Disney runs at *Le Grand Palais* through January 15, when it will move to the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, March 8 - June 24. For more information, please visit www.rmn.fr/gngp-gb/index.html. ■

Analysis Provides New Insight into the "Mona Lisa"

A team of Canadian scientists has recently used technology to unlock a few of the secrets of one of the most famous women ever to be painted — the woman represented in the painting "The Mona Lisa." With a special infrared and three-dimensional laser scanner, the scientists were able to look beyond the darkness of the paint that typically obscures analysis of the painting. Their work revealed details that cannot be seen by the naked eye. For example, analysis revealed that Lisa Gherardini, believed to be the subject's real name, is wearing a transparent gauze veil over her dress: a custom for 16th century Italian women who were pregnant or had just given birth. "We can now say that this painting by Leonardo da Vinci was painted to commemorate the birth of the second son of the Mona Lisa, which helps us to date it more precisely to around 1503," said Bruno Mottin of the French Museums' Center for Research and Restoration. The technology works by scanning 3D images at a depth resolution of about 1/10 the diameter of a human hair.



Mona Lisa, Leonardo da Vinci

However, even with the help of this advanced technology, some of the master's ingenious tricks remained a mystery. The scientists were mystified by da Vinci's combination of a process called "sfumato" (blending one tone into another) and the simultaneous high level of minute detail. Motting explained: "It's extremely thinly painted and extremely flat, and yet the details of the curls of hair, for example, are extremely distinct. So the technique is unlike anything we've ever seen before. Leonardo was in a league of his own." ■

Venice and the Orient Explores Centuries of Artistic Exchanges

TODAY the city of Venice is a major tourist destination, but in the 9th century, and for many centuries after that, Venice was an economically and commercially powerful city-state. As a result of its geographical position on the Adriatic Sea, Venice became a major trading post between Western Europe, the Byzantine Empire, and the Islamic world. The city developed close ties with many of the great Middle Eastern dynasties, such as the Ottomans, whose sea-faring traders counted Venice as one of their main ports of call. These connections facilitated the exchange of art and design; an exchange that is highlighted at the *Institut du Monde Arabe's* (Institute of the Arab World) exhibition titled *Venise et l'Orient (Venice and the Orient)*.



La Prédication de Saint Étienne à Jérusalem, Venice, circa 1514

mélange of East and West that leaves much to the imagination of the viewer. Venice and the Orient will run from October 3 - February 18 at the *Institut du Monde Arabe* in Paris. For more information, visit: www.imarabc.org. ■

LOST CARTIER-BRESSON SCRAPBOOK UNVEILED

A collection of never-before-seen photographs by Henri Cartier-Bresson, the renowned French photographer, will be on display at the annual *Mois de la Photo Festival* in Paris in November. In 1940, Cartier-Bresson was captured by Nazis and it was widely believed that he had perished while imprisoned in a war camp. In New York, curators of the photography wing of the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) began to plan a posthumous exhibition of his work. Cartier-Bresson, who had survived the war by escaping from the POW camp and obtaining false papers, heard of the news, much to his own amusement. When the truth about Cartier-Bresson's survival finally came to light at the end of WWII, he prepared for a retrospective (rather than posthumous) show at MoMA. This show earned him recognition as a major figure in photography and art. Cartier-Bresson assembled a scrapbook of his prints for the exhibition, but it was not used in the show and was largely forgotten, stashed away in the artist's archives. Now available to the public nearly 50 years later, the album comprises 346 images taken between 1932 and 1946 and provides a fascinating glimpse at the era, including pictures of: Marseille, Paris, Italy, Spain, Mexico; the Popular Front movement in France; the coronation of King George VI in London; the return of prisoners of war in Germany; portraits of famous French painters (such as Matisse, Braque, and Bonnard) and writers (such as Claudel, Sartre, and Eluard.) For fans of Cartier-Bresson who cannot travel to Paris to see the album, the Cartier-Bresson Foundation, in collaboration with German publisher Gerhard Steidl, is preparing a facsimile scrapbook for purchase. For more information, please visit: www.henricartierbresson.org.

BUCHAREST CELEBRATES LA FRANCOPHONIE

The heads of state and governments of over 60 countries met in Bucharest, Romania in late September for the eleventh summit of the International Organization of La Francophonie. Every two years, these summits provide a forum for dialogue between the heads of state and governments of countries using French as a common language. Nearly 119 million men and women in the world have French as their mother tongue or everyday language, 73 million have a basic knowledge of French and 82 million young people and adults are learning the language, making a total of 264 million people speaking at least some French. One of the highlights in Bucharest was the presentation of the 2006 Francophone Five Continents Prize to the Mauritian novelist, Ananda Devi.

Tour de Champagne

The *Tour de Champagne* is an event that will feature more than 20 prestigious brands of Champagne as well as the cuisine of talented local chefs. Beginning this fall, the *Tour de Champagne* will be hosted in various venues throughout Chicago, New York, Washington, D.C. and Atlanta.

For more information on events in your area, please visit: www.tourdechampagne.com.

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CHEZ NOUS

Louvre Atlanta Exchanges Appreciation for Art and Culture



ART-LOVERS of all kinds will soon be flocking to Atlanta for the chance to view some of the world's greatest masterpieces. In an unprecedented partnership, the High Museum of Art and the *Musée du Louvre* are collaborating to bring hundreds of works from Paris to Atlanta over a period of three years. From October 2006 through October 2009 the High Museum's new Anne Cox Chambers Wing, with 10,000 square feet of gallery space, will be dedicated to *Louvre Atlanta*, and will play host to three separate exhibitions, courtesy of the Louvre.

Visitors to the exhibit will get a chance to view works by such great artists as Nicolas Poussin, François Boucher and Jean-Honoré Fragonard. Those who are lucky enough to visit between October 14, 2006, and January 28, 2007, will be able to experience Raphael's *The Portrait of Baldassare Castiglione*, which will be displayed for the first time in United States.

In addition to the exhibitions, much of



Portrait of Baldassare Castiglione, 1514-1514, Raphael, Musée du Louvre

the *Louvre Atlanta* collaboration will be dedicated to educational and curatorial exchanges. Students from Atlanta's North Atlanta High School traveled to France in January 2006, where they were paired with host families, spent time in French classrooms, and received behind-the-scenes access to the Louvre. This October, French students will have their chance to complete the exchange by visiting Atlanta and enjoying similar experiences, such as attending North Atlanta High School, and participating in behind-the-scenes tours of the High Museum. High Museum staff, as well as visiting education staff and scholars from the Louvre, will demonstrate innovative strategies for incorporating art and culture from the collections of the *Musée du Louvre*.

Louvre Atlanta is the brainchild of the museums' directors, Michael Shapiro and Henri Loyrette. The two have a longstanding transatlantic friendship, and have worked together before on the High Museum's 1999 presentation of *Impressionism: Paintings Collected by European Museums*. For more information on Louvre Atlanta, please visit: www.high.org.

Exhibition Pays Homage to Ambroise Vollard

NEW York's Metropolitan Museum of Art is currently paying homage to renowned French art dealer, collector and publisher Ambroise Vollard. Van Gogh, Cézanne, and Matisse and many other leading artists of the late 19th and early 20th century owe their early recognition and sponsorship to Vollard, who played a key role in promoting and shaping their careers. *Cézanne to Picasso: Ambroise Vollard, Patron of the Avant-Garde* showcases many of the works that Vollard either commissioned, exhibited or owned.

Vollard made his first appearance on the Paris art scene in the late 1880s. In addition to helping to jump-start the careers of some of the world's most famous artists, Vollard was an avid art collector. He acquired great wealth by purchasing works not yet in demand, but created by artists destined for fame, and then slowly selling them off to collectors and dealers.

The exhibit features 100 paintings, dozens of ceramics, sculptures, prints, and livres d'artistes dating from the late 1880s to Vollard's death in 1939. Visitors will be treated to works by a number of well-known

artists such as Cézanne, Degas, Gauguin, Van Gogh, and Renoir. Paintings from Picasso's first French exhibition (1901) and Matisse's first solo exhibition (1904) will also be featured. The exhibition also includes numerous portraits of Vollard by leading artists, including Cézanne, Bonnard, Renoir, and Picasso.

Cézanne to Picasso: Ambroise Vollard, Patron of the Avant-Garde is currently showing at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and will run through January 7, 2007. For more information, please visit www.metmuseum.org.



Ambroise Vollard, 1899, Paul Cézanne

Petit Palais © Photothèque des Musées de la Ville de Paris / Pierrain

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