



Thanassis Veggos...

President Karolos Papoulias (r) bestows one of Greece's highest awards, the Order of the Phoenix, on veteran actor Thanassis Veggos at the Presidential Mansion in Athens yesterday. Veggos came to prominence during the golden age of Greek cinema in the 1960s and is known mostly for his role in black-and-white comedies, in which he usually played the everyman with a distinctive slapstick style. Veggos was one of dozens to yesterday receive the award, which is given to Greek citizens who have excelled in the fields of public administration, science, arts and letters, commerce, industry and shipping. It is also conferred upon foreigners who have promoted Greece's stature abroad in the above fields.

Greek political action committee to be set up in the US

The Greek American community is contemplating to set up a special committee to promote national issues and strengthen the role of the community in the US.

The idea was discussed during last week's annual meeting of the International Coordinating Committee Justice for Cyprus (PSEKA), in Washington.

Delegates to the conference talked about setting up a Greek-American political action committee (PAC), which will be supported by large organisations among the Greek community in the US to promote national issues, strengthen the role of the Greek community and back Greek-American politicians and those supporting Greeks issues. Efforts to meet this objective will culminate in September with a discussion on how to organise and finance this committee.

Cypriot Government Spokesman Stephanos Stephanou, addressing the PSEKA conference, expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the meeting and with the action taken by Greek Americans.

He referred to the presidential elections in the US in 2008, noting that "in every pre-election period there is heightened interest and increased opportunities for Greeks in the US to promote the Cyprus problem and the need for the US to help efforts to solve the Cyprus problem on the basis of UN resolutions." Stephanou said the government was set to take decisions on ways to further strengthen efforts to better organise the enlightenment campaign abroad and coordinate concerted effort to press on with a Cyprus settlement. He pointed out that "awareness abroad is a very important chapter in the struggle of our people to solve the Cyprus problem," and reunite the country, which has been divided since the 1974 Turkish invasion.

Women breach all-male Greek site

Four Moldovan women accidentally breached a ban dating back to 1060 when they were dropped off on the Greek monastic peninsula of Mount Athos.

They told police they had sailed from Turkey after paying \$6,300 to two Ukrainian people smugglers, but were unaware they were breaking Greek law.

Women are banned from Mount Athos, home to 20 monasteries and considered Orthodox Christianity's spiritual home.

Police held the group, and one officer said "they were forgiven" by



the monks.

Animal ban

The four women, aged between

27 and 32, and a Moldovan man, aged 41, were discovered by the monks at the weekend.

"They told police and the monks they were sorry but they couldn't have known this was a no-women area," a police officer told Reuters.

"They were forgiven."

Under Greek law, breaching the ban can lead to a jail sentence.

Women - even many female domestic animals - have not been allowed on the mountain since a decree banning women was issued by Byzantine Emperor Constantine Monomachos in 1060

Coca Cola Hellenic on Social Responsibility

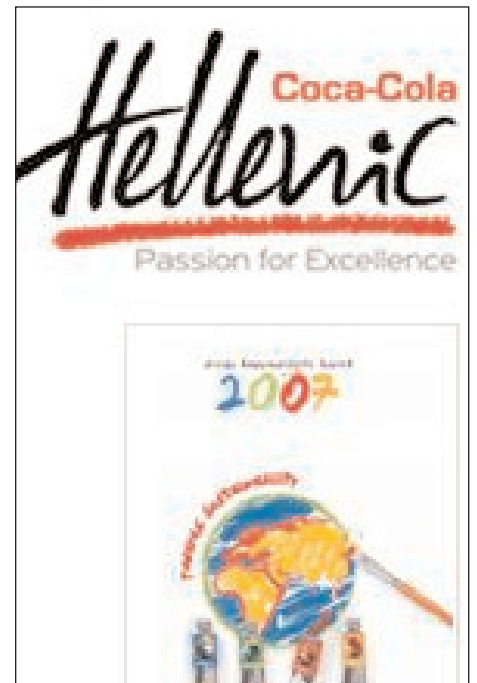
Coca-Cola Hellenic, one of the world's leading providers of non-alcoholic beverages, has detailed advances toward sustainable development goals in its 2007 Social Responsibility Report covering all 28 countries in which it operates. Some of the major projects for 2007 included:

Building 15 Combined Heat and Power (CHP) plants, which will help reduce CO2 emissions from 15 beverage production facilities by more than 40% each.

Increasing percentage of packaging that is made from recycled material. (Up to 37% of total packaging is now recycled material.)

Continuing to decrease amount of calories in drinks. (Down 16% in the last six years.)

Donating nearly 600,000 litres of water not only to victims of Greece's wildfires but to residents of Slovenia, Romania and Bulgaria after natural disasters there.



Greeks plan new tower for Melbourne



MELBOURNE'S Greek community hopes to build a new \$20 million community centre in Lonsdale St in the city.

The 26-storey tower would house office and commercial space as well as eight floors for cultural and education

services. One facade will feature classical Greek designs. Greek Orthodox Community of Melbourne president Bill Papastergiadis said the current building at the corner of Russell St needed updating.

"We regard Lonsdale St as our cultural home," he said.

"We think it's appropriate to do this with some initiatives to better reflect second and third-generation Greeks."

Plans have been submitted to the Victorian Multi-Cultural Commission and will then be formally lodged with the City of Melbourne.

Sarkozy in Greek Parliament

French President Nicolas Sarkozy will address the Greek Parliament plenum on Friday, June 6. A relevant request was approved by the House, with reservations on the part of the Communist Party of Greece (KKE), following a proposal by Parliament President Dimitris Sioufas.

Briefing the Parliamentary deputies, Sioufas said that President Sarkozy himself had expressed the desire to address the Parliament plenum, that was accepted by President Karolos Papoulias and Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis.

Speaking by telephone with the leaders of the Parliamentary parties, Sioufas ascertained the agreement of PASOK leader George Papandreou, Radical Left Coalition (SYRIZA) leader Alekos Alavanos and Popular Orthodox Rally (LAOS) party leader George Karatzaferis, while KKE Secretary General Aleka Papariga expressed reservations.