

# Men used me for fame and sex: Paris



The hotel heiress broke her silence to condemn the pesky string of her exes. "Every other guy I've been out with has used me for money or sex - but in most cases they just want fame. It made it hard to trust people," News of the World quoted her, as saying.

Topping her treachery hit list is ex-beau Rick Salomon, the small-time film producer, who made millions selling the infamous homemade sex tape of Paris, which was originally leaked on the internet. "I loved this guy for three years but he betrayed me. Rick's a scumbag and I hate him," she said.

"It was just the most horrible thing that's ever happened to me. So humiliating and embarrassing. But at the end of the day, I didn't do anything wrong," she added.

She also boosted the flagging careers of ex-Backstreet Boy Nick

Carter and Greek shipping heirs Paris Latsis and Stavros Niarchos III, who ditched her after using their newfound celebrity to snare other women. "After a while I had to start questioning exactly why somebody wanted to be with me. And that made things really difficult. I'm so relieved I don't have to think about that now because I've found someone who loves me for me. Benji's my best friend and I know he'd never hurt me," she said.

And after months of denials, Paris has finally admitted that she is looking forward to start a family. "I'd love to start a family in the next year. And I want to get married before we have kids - I want three or four," she said.

"My love life's in the happiest place it's ever been. Benji's with me because he loves me and that's it. I know I can trust him, and he knows he can trust me," she added.



## Rough seas for Greek shipping industry

Chalk up another casualty of the global credit crisis --shipping. With Greek shipping families controlling a third of the global freight market for bulk goods, Greece is bracing for the eventual fall out. How bad is it? One look at Baltic Dry Index, the benchmark for commodity shipping costs, tells the story. The gauge has dropped 89 percent this year, driving down the combined market capitalization of the 12-company Bloomberg Dry Ships Index, led by Athens-based Diana Shipping Inc., to US\$5.5 billion from US\$32 billion a year ago. Or, consider that daily rental rates for Capesize big ships have dropped US\$234,000 to US\$7,340 in just weeks. The Greek Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis visited Prime Minister Gordon Brown last week to discuss the situation but the outlook looks bleak.

# Scientists to measure quake effect on Acropolis

**ATHENS, Greece (AP)** — For thousands of years the Acropolis has withstood earthquakes, weathered storms and endured temperature extremes, from scorching summers to winter snow.

Now scientists are drawing on the latest technology to install a system that will record just how much nature is affecting the 2,500-year-old site. They hope their findings will help identify areas that could be vulnerable, allowing them to target restoration and maintenance.

Scientists are installing a network of fiber optic sensors and accelerographs — instruments that measure how much movement is generated during a quake.

"The greatest danger for our monuments at the moment is earthquakes," Dimitrios Egglezos, chief civil engineer in charge of the Acropolis' defensive circuit wall, told The Associated Press. So understanding how the structures react to the earth's movement is paramount.

Egglezos said six accelero-

graphs are to be installed starting next week at various parts of the Acropolis: at the base of the hill, part of the way up where the geology changes, and on the Parthenon, the Acropolis' most famous monument, built between 447 and 432 B.C. in honor of the goddess Athena.

"The measurement of earthquakes and their consequences on the monuments is essential," said Maria Ioannidou, who supervises restoration work on the Acropolis.

The fiber optics are installed on parts of the wall to measure subtle changes caused by changing weather conditions or earthquakes, while the accelerographs can help determine how the earth's movement affects the monuments.

"This is the first system that we've installed to record the (natural) activity that affects our monuments," Egglezos said.

They don't look like much: a nondescript small metal box at the foot of a column, barely visible wires snaking across outer walls. But the insight they could give into potential problem areas is invaluable.

The first accelerograph was placed on the hill about two years ago as a pilot program. Another two were installed in late September on the Parthenon, one at its base and one on the top of the columns on the architrave, as part of a study by Japan's Mie University and the National Technical University of Athens.

Greece is one of the most seismically active countries in the world, and while most of its earthquakes are relatively small and cause little or no damage, some have been fatal. In June, a 6.5 magnitude quake in western Greece killed two people and injured more than 200, while a 5.9 magni-

tude quake near Athens in 1999 killed 143 people.

### Neither seriously damaged the Acropolis.

Indeed, some parts of the ancient citadel have weathered the forces of nature remarkably well. The Parthenon survived virtually intact until the late 17th century, when an Ottoman garrison used it as a gunpowder store; it was targeted by Venetian cannon fire and exploded, damaging parts of the temple.

The accelerographs could also give experts more insight into how the Parthenon has withstood earthquakes so well,

Egglezos said.

"The earthquakes that don't cause damage are very useful because we have a natural ... experiment which doesn't destroy the monument but gives us valuable information about how these structures behave."

The two accelerographs funded by Mie University will be in place for three years, while the other seven will remain on the Acropolis permanently, Ioannidou and Egglezos said.

The fiber optic sensors, meanwhile, can detect even minor changes in the structure: slight expansion during hot weather, contraction in the cold of winter, the buildup of pressure from a particularly heavy rainfall. And, of course, shifts caused by earthquakes.

They have been installed on two outer parts of the perimeter wall: the southeast which is the highest and most vulnerable point, and on the north wall which shows evidence of damage, probably from an 18th Century quake.

Egglezos said the experts need about one or two years' worth of data from the fiber optics before they can draw any concrete conclusions.

