

Woman sent messages to accused MP Theo Theophanous

THE woman who has accused Labor powerbroker Theo Theophanous of raping her sent friendly text messages several years after the alleged assault.

The Herald Sun has seen Christmas and New Year messages sent by the woman in which she wishes the embattled MP a long and happy life.

The woman also extended the season's greetings to Mr Theophanous's family, more than four years after she claims he assaulted her in Parliament House.

The text messages have been retrieved from Greek phone records and are likely to be crucial to the police investigation.

It is believed the former Melbourne

woman, who is aged in her 40s and now lives in Greece, has alleged she had no social contact with Mr Theophanous after she claimed he raped her in September 1998.

But the text messages contradict this. On Christmas Day in 2002, at 10.03am, the woman texted Mr Theophanous from overseas, declaring: "Wishing you and the family a very merry xmas."

She also sent a Greek greeting, which when translated to English wished Mr Theophanous "many happy years".

On New Year's Day 2003, at 11.37am, she sent another SMS declaring: "HAPPY NEW YEAR. May 2003 be a joyus (sic) and prosperous year for you."

It is believed police are aware of the bombshell text messages, which raise the question of why the woman remained in contact with the father of four after she accused him of sexually assaulting her.

Police are still investigating the rape allegations, which have derailed Mr Theophanous's ministerial career.

He has denied the allegations.

Mr Theophanous has stood down from Cabinet while the police investigate but is expected to return to the front bench if no charges are laid.

The Herald Sun believes police have been told of other possible instances where there was friendly social contact between the accuser and the MP after

the alleged assault.

This was at Greek community functions where both the alleged victim and Mr Theophanous were said to be present.

The issue of social contact after September 1998 is likely to be crucial to Mr Theophanous's defence if charges are ultimately laid.

The accuser decided to make a series of tell-all revelations in a media interview, where she did not reveal her identity.

Police are still examining evidence after interviewing Mr Theophanous.

A brief is likely to be passed on to prosecutors to determine if charges should be laid.

Tina Fey Reveals Trauma Behind Her Scar

Since shooting to fame and winning Emmys as the star and creator of 30 Rock, Tina Fey has remained quiet about the dramatic story behind the faint scar that lines that left side of her face.

"It's impossible to talk about it without somehow seemingly exploiting it and glorifying it," Fey, 38, tells Vanity Fair.

But when she was 5, the future TV star was playing in the front yard of her Upper Darby, Penn., home when a stranger approached the young Fey and violently cut her cheek.

"She just thought somebody marked her with a pen," says her husband, Jeff Richmond.

The Aftereffects

And while the experience was traumatizing, Fey worked hard to keep it from affecting her childhood.

"I proceeded unaware of it. I was a very confident little kid. It's really almost like I'm kind of able to forget about it, until I was on-camera," says Fey, whose scenes are often shot from the right side.

Though she has overcome the obstacle, Fey says that she does worry about how it may one day affect her role as a mother to daughter Alice, 3.

"Supposedly, I will go crazy," says Fey. "My therapist says, 'When Alice is the age that you were, you may go crazy.'"

Went on Weight Watchers

Besides collecting her Emmy gold, Fey spent this fall mimicking GOP vice-presidential candidate Sarah Palin to great acclaim (even from the Palin camp) on Saturday Night Live and signing a \$5-million book deal.

While Fey may be hotter than ever, it wasn't always the case for the 5'4" beauty.

"She was quite round," Richmond says of his wife's pre-fame days in Chicago. But "in a lovely, turn-of-the-century kind of round – that beautiful, Rubenesque kind of beauty."

But after a makeover and going on Weight Watchers during her SNL period, Fey, who is half-Russian and half-Greek, knows what her greatest assets are.

"Because of the Greek-girl thing, I have, like, boobs and butt," she says. As a result, she adds, "I only have two speeds – either matronly or a little too slutty. I have to be steered away



from cheetah print."

Photo by: Annie Leibovitz exclusive for Vanity Fair



Health care meltdown

The national healthcare system in Greece is on the brink of disaster. Last week the health care system came skidding to a halt after the government decided to cut off all public funding. The immediate fallout? Throughout Athens and Piraeus, pharmacists have quit dispensing drugs on credit as a result of the civil servants' fund not paying its overdue debt. Hospitals, also decided to reduce their service to a "minimum service" level. U.S. Ambassador to Greece Daniel Speckhard even threatened that U.S. pharmaceutical companies might leave Greece if they don't get paid.

Word on the street is that the Greek government diverted funds from the Health Ministry to repay parts of Greece's public debt. Other ministries, such as education, environment, and others, were also looted in a similar fashion.

Maria Callas as birthsite gets plaque

NEW YORK - A plaque honoring opera legend Maria Callas was being unveiled Tuesday at the hospital where she came into the world, on what would have been her 85th birthday.

Callas was born to Greek parents in 1923 at what was then Flower Hospital. The Manhattan hospital merged with

other institutions over the years, and now is the Terence Cardinal Cooke Health Care Center.

Callas' mother took her back to Greece. There, she trained and performed before her professional life took her all over the world, including Italy and the United States. She died in Paris in 1977. -

