

## Poo cuts lover for a snipper

IT'S been two weeks to the day since his split with model Siobhan Parekh was confirmed, and Greek-Aussie love god Mark Philippoussis has already found a new Aphrodite.

As news of the Scud and his current squeeze - hairdresser Chantelle Theos - emerged yesterday, so too did photos taken last week of Parekh that did little to play down rumours of a big weight loss since her relationship of almost a year with the Poo ended. Watching Philippoussis play in the Legends series on Sunday, Theos then accompanied the ten-

nis ace to Melbourne hot spot Eve, where they were snapped dancing and drinking until early yesterday morning. Nightclub revellers expressed disbelief over Scud's lightning romance, but a source yesterday said his relationship with Theos was far from fresh. Confidential understands Philippoussis is seeing the striking brunette and that their relationship contributed to his break-up with Parekh.

The claims were yesterday played down by camp Philippoussis, with pals saying the pair were "just friends



## Actor says killings 'scenario'

*A Turkish actor has retracted his confessions about killing 10 Greek Cypriots, including a prisoner of war, during Turkey's 1974 military operation in Cyprus. After fierce reactions, he said he made the whole thing up to attract attention to the brutality of war.*

"I did not anticipate the issue becoming such a big deal and I apologize," Atilla Olga told after strong reactions from Greek Cyprus, Greece and Turkey.

"This story has been in my head for 30 years. I wanted to make a movie like 'Saving Private Ryan' and I have been working on this scenario for a long time. I told this imagined scenario on television as if it was real," he said. Explaining that he wondered how people would react, Olga said his aim was to shock people. He also said he did not engage in any armed conflict on the island.

Olga earlier told a Turkish television program that while serving in the Turkish army during the 1974 operation



he shot at least one prisoner dead on orders from a superior. "The first person that I killed was a 19-year-old soldier who was taken prisoner. When I aimed my gun at his face, he spat on my face. I shot him in the forehead. He died. Later on, I killed nine more people during clashes," Olga said.

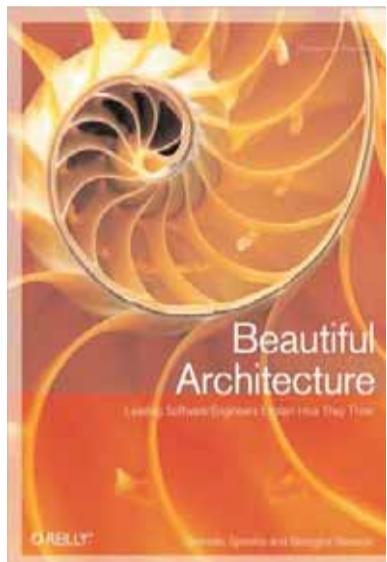
Although Olga retracted his statements, they created public outrage in Greece and Greek Cyprus. Speaking to Greek Cypriot newspapers and television channels he repeated his retraction. Appearing on Sigma television Olga swore on the Koran that what he said

was not the truth. The Greek Cypriot press, however, said Olga had been "silenced" because of the public reaction and his retraction was "out of fear."

Greece and Greek Cyprus are urging Turkey to investigate the issue. Greek Cypriot Government Spokesman Stefanos Stefanou described the interview as "shocking" and said it was the first time anyone had made such an admission. He said Olga's remarks underscored Turkey's obligation to abide by the European Court of Human Rights rulings and cooperate in uncovering circumstances of disappeared persons.

In Greece, Foreign Ministry Spokesman George Koumoutsakos said Olga's account was "a stunning testimony and confession" and he urged Turkey to take action. "Turkey must cooperate to ensure that all the disappearances that took place during the Turkish invasion are fully investigated," Koumoutsakos was quoted as saying by the Associated Press.

Olga was also widely criticized by the Turkish media for his remarks. "Tactless wolf," the daily Hürriyet headline said on Saturday, referencing a popular local television series, "Valley of the Wolves," in which Olga starred. Turkey launched a military operation on Cyprus in 1974 using its rights under the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee in response to an Athens-backed coup aiming at union with Greece. Around 1,500 Greek Cypriots and 500 Turkish Cypriots vanished during the communal clashes in the early 1960s and 1970s. A United Nations-sponsored exhumation and identification program has so far unearthed the remains of 466 people from 230 burial sites on both sides of the divide.



## Beautiful Architecture

*Beautiful Architecture, a new book by Greek professors, Diomidis Spinellis, and Georgios Gousios is a collection of intriguing essays from more than a dozen of today's leading software designers and architects.*

## Greek farmers step up protest, block Bulgaria border

CORINTH, Greece, (Reuters) - Farmers demanding compensation for low agricultural prices blocked Greek highways on Monday, shutting border crossings with Bulgaria and cutting roads between Athens and other key cities.

Officials held talks with union leaders, but Agriculture Minister Sotiris Hatzigakis said the government would not increase its 500 million euro aid offer.

"The state is determined to stick to this policy," Hatzigakis said.

Fears of rising poverty and unemployment helped fuel Greece's worst riots in decades in December, which caused over a billion euros of damage and lost business in Athens alone.

Thousands of farmers seeking tax rebates and subsidies shut crossings into Bulgaria on Monday, in an eighth day of protests, and barred the highway between Athens and Greece's second city of Thessaloniki in the north.

On the narrow Isthmus of Corinth, scores of tractors blocked the highway from Athens to the southern Peloponnese peninsula, home to Greece's third largest city of Patras. Only one other bridge links the Peloponnese, home to around a tenth of Greece's 11 million population, to the mainland.

"We don't intend to stop unless the government satisfies our demands," the president of the Greek Federation of Farmers Unions, Giorgos Goniotakis, told Reuters.

"We asked the government to supplement our income, tackle price cartels and fraud, but it hasn't taken any measures."

Farmers' leaders say the government's proposed package remains too vague and they are demanding details of exact subsidies on specific agricultural products, like cotton and olive oil, before they will halt their action.

Farmers complain that high fuel and fertiliser prices early last year drove up the cost of production but a global economic slowdown is contributing to rock-bottom prices.

The government has offered to tap a 28-billion-euro bank support scheme to provide them with assistance.

Business groups have urged the government to resolve the dispute as quickly as possible, saying the disruption to goods transport was worsening the impact of an economic slowdown.