

TV star Adriana Xenides dies aged 54

Adriana Xenides, once the glamorous hostess of television game show *Wheel of Fortune*, has died. Xenides, 54, passed away in Sydney's Liverpool Hospital after reportedly suffering a ruptured intestine.

She had been admitted with a stomach complaint, part of "ongoing intestinal problems", a few days earlier.

Her former co-host John Burgess, who visited her at the hospital on Sunday, confirmed her passing in a statement issued to the Seven Network.

"It's incredibly sad, she was a great friend and a TV legend," he said.

The former model and television celebrity was born in Argentina and grew up in Adelaide.

She first appeared on *Wheel of Fortune* in 1981 at age 22.

Her 18-year run on the show is still an Australian record, and she didn't miss an episode until November 1996 when she fell ill with a recurring stomach virus.

"I have never missed an episode of *Wheel* but under doctor's instructions, I have to take a break from the show," she said in a statement at the time.

"I have had a gastro viral infection

which I haven't been able to shake for several months so it's definitely time to rest."

Xenides went public with her illness in a television interview in 2007, describing the pain as "so hard it takes you down to your knees".

The symptoms caused her stomach to swell to almost double its normal size.

"I looked as if I was nine-months pregnant, and then from then, I thought my goodness what's wrong, and they started investigating," she told the Seven Network.

At one point, she said the digestive disorder almost claimed her life when she suffered haemorrhaging.

"I was dying and I remember being on life support and saying what's going what's happening?"

Xenides retired from television in 1996 but later appeared as a panellist on talk show *Beauty and the Beast*, and the Australian version of *Celebrity Big Brother Australia* during 2002.

In 2006 she managed to avoid a fine for dangerous driving when a Sydney court accepted she had fallen on hard times.

Xenides was disqualified from driving for 18 months after pleading guilty to one count of dangerous driving causing grievous bodily harm over a crash in Sydney in 2005.

She blamed the head-on crash on



an "uncontrollable attack of continuous sneezes" and the glare of the setting sun.

The magistrate decided not to fine her because of her "financial position".

"I don't think I've fallen from grace. I don't feel that way," she told reporters outside the court.

Article from NineMSN

MasterChef hopeful kills oyster dish

Melburnian Peter Kritikides has been booted from reality cooking show *MasterChef* after a 30-second slip-up left a bad taste in the judges' mouths.

The 29-year-old lawyer, whose forte is Greek cuisine, lost his spot on the Network Ten series on Monday night for overdoing the key ingredient of the challenge dish, an oyster terrine.

"It was a doozy and the biggest nightmare of my life," Kritikides said of the pressure test.

"We had to shuck 48 oysters and lightly poach them.

"Making a terrine in three hours and serving it up is a pretty huge task.

"Ultimately the whole challenge went well for me until I over-poached my oysters by 30 seconds."

Kritikides, who also undercooked his onions, was the 12th competitor to get the chop from this year's series.

Despite his "shock" elimination, he says he's determined to get into the food industry and dreams of being a purveyor of fine foods.

"I'm starting to plan for the long term goal of opening a providore store," he said.

"I totally plan on getting something out of the *MasterChef* experience."

The series will culminate with a grand finale cook-off some time in July.

Article from NineMSN

Ostrich breeding farm in Serres

When Yannis Achlatlis moved back to Greece 15 years ago from Sweden, he brought with him the knowhow he had acquired working on an ostrich breeding farm in the Scandinavian country, he set up one of the first such farms here outside the village of Pentapolis in Serres, northern Greece, just 15 kilometers from the prefectural capital of the same

name.

Since then, the venture has evolved into a profitable family business, the "Macedonian Ostrich Farm", located on a 10-acre expanse of land, which Achlatlis has designed to resemble the ostrich's natural environment as closely as possible.

The specific type of ostrich bred on his farm is very resilient to adverse

weather conditions, able of tolerating temperatures ranging from -15 to +45 degrees centigrade, although the hatchlings are vulnerable to humidity when very young, Achlatlis tells.

He notes that the some free-range adult 500 birds move freely in the fenced-in expanse, but the hatchlings are initially kept and cared for in specially-de-

signed spaces.

Greeks have slowly started to develop a palate for ostrich eggs, which weigh approximately as much as 20 eggs from hens, but ostrich meat, which is very healthy as it contains no fat, is not widely used in Greece, mainly because of its price, Achlatlis says, although, he adds, some well-known restaurants in Athens and Thessaloniki offer ostrich meat dishes as a specialty.

Noting that six years ago there were more than 120 ostrich breeding farms in Greece, today only a handful survive, he says, attributing this to insufficient information to the consumers on the health benefits of ostrich meat.

The few ostrich breeding units still in operation today in Greece are scattered in Serres, Arcadia, Laconia, Argolis, Achaia, Aetoloakarnania, Viotia, Larissa, Veria and Trikala.

Greek priest punished for hooliganism

A Greek priest has been punished by the Orthodox Church for hooliganism after he was spotted among crowds of chanting football fans. Priest Christos, who is in his sixties, was a fervent supporter of Greek football team PAOK FC, whose fans are notorious for being among the most violent in Greece.

He would attend games dressed in his robes and a club scarf, earning him the nickname Papa Paok. The priest earned notoriety after videos of him were posted on YouTube in the middle of a throng of supporters who were insulting an opposition team, and another showed a crowd chanting "The priest is a God". The clerical commission in his parish, in a Thessaloniki suburb, demoted the priest and ordered not to take part in any more "uncouth gatherings of supporters".

The decision has angered PAOK fans, who organised a Facebook campaign entitled "Free Papa Paok" which has 7,500 members.

In a press release fans denounced the decision, saying the priest carried out the "social and spiritual work of the Church on behalf of the people" and accused the Orthodox Church of a "fascist and reactionary approach".

