

Bank of Cyprus takes the lead in the giving stakes

# Bank deposits over \$100,000 into Greek school

The Bank of Cyprus has provided over \$100,000 to Alphington Grammar towards eight new classrooms and the new multi-purpose hall, currently under construction. President of the Greek Orthodox Community of Melbourne and Victoria (GOCMV), Bill Papastergiadis, said this grant follows from talks between the bank and the Greek community.

"We've been talking to them for some time about sponsoring us and working side by side with our school," Mr Papastergiadis told Neos Kosmos, adding that the GOCMV have been trying to bring reputable brands into the Greek community.

The grant from the Bank of Cyprus is a one-off gift, marking the relationship between the GOCMV and Bank of Cyprus, Mr Papastergiadis said. He said that this is an example he hopes "others will mimic, whereby you have a strong move towards giving within our community."

In making the donation Managing Director of the Bank of Cyprus Australia, George Tacticos, acknowledged the GOCMV for its efforts to maintain and promote Hellenism.

"Education is a key factor in the maintenance of our heritage and it is with great pleasure that the Bank of Cyprus Australia has chosen to assist Alphington Grammar," he said.

"We look forward to working with the President Bill Papastergiadis and his Board in the future."



Jim Sarris from the Bank of Cyprus, GOCMV President Bill Papastergiadis, Managing Director of Bank of Cyprus George Tacticos, member of GOCMV Nick Koukouvitakis (L to R)

## Greek woman appeals in Theophanous case

*A Greek woman found guilty, in Greece, of defaming former state Labor minister Theo Theophanous after accusing him of rape will appeal the judgment, The Age reports.*

A Greek court official confirmed that the woman, who claimed Mr Theophanous sexually assaulted her in his Parliament House office in 1998, requested that the case be heard before the appellate court four days after she received a two year jail sentence by a junior court in Athens.

"She had 10 days to appeal the sentence and she chose to do so on October 29," court clerk Dimitra Yiannopoulou, told The Age, adding "this means that proceed-

ings are not over."

Mr Theophanous pursued the woman through the Greek justice system after the charge of rape was dismissed in the Melbourne Magistrates Court last year.

A former Melbourne resident, the woman relocated to Greece after the alleged assault. Although her name has been released in Greece, she cannot be identified in Australia.

Mr Theophanous, who flew to Greece to attend the defamation hearing, said he was motivated by justice not revenge.

In documents sighted by The Age, the sixth Court of First Instance, presided over by Judge Gerasimos Vrionis, concluded that the woman, who did not ap-

pear for the trial, was guilty of defamation. Judge Vrionis said that, made anonymously, the woman's claims of rape were subsequently posted on the internet, damaging Mr Theophanous's political career and causing "two years of trauma" for his family.

In addition to the prison sentence, which was suspended for three years, the three-member Greek tribunal ordered that the woman pay court fees.

Officials say it is unlikely that her attempts to clear her name will end soon. Chief secretary at the Court of First Instance in Athens, Panayiotis Tzanetopoulos, told The Age that it would probably be "a year or so" before the case was heard.

### In Brief

#### Toll charges New gates on Athens-Lamia national road and in Arcadia

Motorists using the Athens-Lamia national highway will face an additional charge from today as a new set of tollgates starts operating at the Aghia Triada junction in Fthiotida. The new fees of 1.55 euros for cars and 1.10 euros for motorcycles or scooters apply as of midnight on Sunday. New tollgates also start operating today at the junction for Asea, a village in the prefecture of Arcadia. The charges there will be 1.80 euros for cars and 1.20 for motorcycles. Authorities are planning to set up new tollgates on the stretch of highway connecting Elefsina, Corinth and Patra next year. Meanwhile, many existing tollgates are issuing higher charges. Last week the fee at the tollgates at Malgara, near Thessaloniki, increased to 2.80 euros from 2 euros.

#### Cocaine intercepted Couple had half kilo on them

Police at Athens International Airport on Saturday detained two Romanians, a man and woman, aged 23 and 20, after determining that the pair were carrying more than half a kilo of cocaine between them on a flight to the Greek capital from the Brazilian city of Sao Paulo via Munich. According to drug squad officers, the woman was carrying 19 cylindrical packages plastic packages containing a total of 162 grams of cocaine in her purse. Following questioning, she and her compatriot allegedly admitted to having swallowed an even larger quantity of drugs. The pair were transferred to the hospital, the drugs removed from their stomachs and are to face a prosecutor today.

#### Seamen convicted

The captain and four Ukrainian crew of a Togo-flagged cargo ship that sank off the coast of Cephalonia last Thursday were given jail sentences yesterday after a Greek court found them guilty on charges of causing a shipwreck through neglect and provoking marine pollution. The captain of the Christine, whose nationality was not revealed, was given a five-year jail sentence while each of his crew members got four-year jail terms.

#### More trash

The mounds of trash accumulating around dumpsters in Attica following Friday's strike by municipal garbage collectors are set to get worse after the workers' union called a 48-hour strike starting this morning. The workers are demanding better pay and job security.

#### False claims?

Claims by an Afghan national that he was beaten by several police officers for two hours last Tuesday at the precinct in Peristeri, western Athens, have yet to be substantiated, according to police, who said they launched an internal investigation following the allegations. According to the probe, the 49-year-old was not taken to the Peristeri precinct on Tuesday, as he had claimed, but to the precinct in nearby Ilion. A witness who had been at the Ilion precinct reportedly has testified that the man was not only not abused but given food by police. The migrant was picked up by police on Tuesday outside a supermarket where he is alleged to have been begging with his child.

#### US Embassy

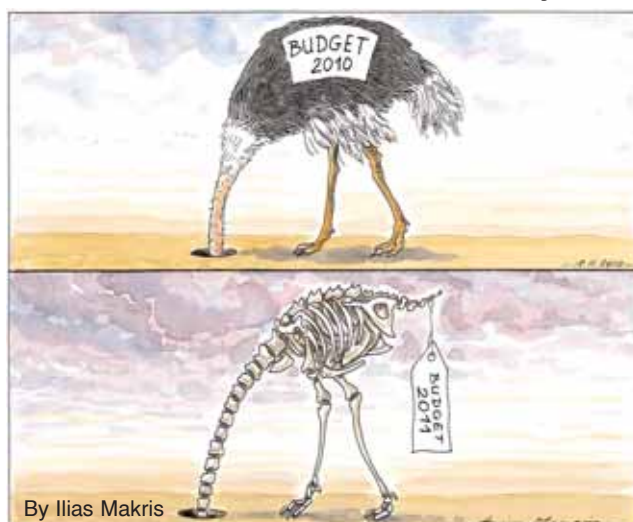
The US Embassy's consular section in Athens will be closed on Wednesday for internal administrative reasons, as is normal on the third Wednesday of every month.

## Athenians commemorate road traffic victims

Dozens of candles were set out in Syntagma Square to commemorate Greek road traffic victims on World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims. Despite years of lobbying by pressure groups for improvements to road safety, Greece still has one of the worst records in the European Union for road deaths in relation to its population.



## Cartoon of the Day



By Ilias Makris