

Europe Takes Initiative to Tackle Economic Crisis

With the effects of the financial crisis mounting throughout the world, France, in its capacity as President of the Council of the European Union, is undertaking proactive measures to find a solution to the current situation and to overhaul the international financial system to prevent similar crises in the future.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy addressed the French nation during a speech on September 25 in Toulon, France, in which he asserted that the global financial state is a result of, *inter alia*, irresponsible speculation and banking practices.

Mr. Sarkozy stressed that the turmoil experienced today is not the result of capitalism, but rather, "it's the crisis of a system which has distanced itself from capitalism's most fundamental values, which has betrayed the spirit of capitalism." The market economy, the French president underscored, "isn't the law of the jungle. [...] Capitalism means private ownership, individual responsibility, personal commitment, a code of ethics, morality and institutions. [...] If we want to rebuild a viable financial system, raising the moral standards of financial capitalism is a priority."

To this end, the president stressed several areas that should be reevaluated. On the topic of executives, he addressed their remuneration, such as indexing their pay to the business's actual economic performance, and imposing a greater degree of accountability on them to eliminate excesses and scandals. Secondly, he accentuated the need to regulate banks and restructure the whole global banking sector "so that everyone can make a real assessment of the risks they take."

President Sarkozy also emphasized examining the following issues: tax havens; short selling; the obligation to value assets at market prices; the supervision of the rating agencies; and exchange rates.

Mr. Sarkozy called on the heads of state and government to coordinate their efforts to



Presidents Bush, Sarkozy, and Barroso hold a joint conference at Camp David.

restore confidence to the financial system and learn lessons from the crisis, stating: "I am convinced that the sickness runs deep and that there has to be a root-and-branch revision of the whole global financial and monetary system, as was done at Bretton Woods."

Less than a month later, President Bush received President Sarkozy and European Commission President José Manuel Barroso at Camp David on October 18 to address the economic

crisis and the contours of capitalism. "This is a worldwide crisis and therefore we must find a worldwide solution," Mr. Sarkozy stated. "So from Europe, we have come to tell the great American nation that we want to build a new world, the 21st century world which we want to build hand in hand with you, but we don't want to waste time. We — the G8 nations as they have declared, and very probably, the G5 nations — want a summit so that all together, particularly with Asia, we find solutions."

Mr. Bush underscored the necessity to work together to modernize financial systems in a way that preserves free enterprise: "As we make the regulatory and institutional changes necessary to avoid a repeat of this crisis, it is essential that we preserve the foundations of democratic capitalism, a commitment to free markets, free enterprise and free trade."

The three leaders issued a joint statement in which they agreed "to reach out to other world leaders." On November 15, members of the G20 will convene in Washington, D.C.

France Decorates Last Remaining WWI Veteran



Secretary Bockel speaks with Frank Buckles at the Oct. 7 ceremony.

On October 7, French Secretary of State for Defense and Veterans Jean-Marie Bockel named Frank Buckles, the oldest surviving American soldier of World War I, an officer in the Legion of Honor at the Embassy of France in Washington, D.C. During the ceremony, Mr. Bockel thanked Buckles, now 107 years old, for his sacrifice and assured him that France would never "forget the blood spilled by the children of America."

"Today France remembers and honors all those American soldiers who perished in 1918 to give back to France its freedom," Mr. Bockel declared. "We are all here because of you and what your generation did for us, Frank. We are all your grandchildren."

The Legion of Honor is France's highest civilian award. The ceremony marked Buckles's promotion from his former degree of knight, bestowed by former French President Jacques Chirac in 1999.

During World War I, Buckles was first sent to England to aid in the effort. Impatient to join the fight on the front, he entered the ambulance service and was quickly dispatched to France. Though

he never saw combat there, he became familiar with its toll. "I'm surprised to be the last," Buckles said after the gathering, adding: "It's more than I deserve. The real heroes are all gone."

Three French Recognized with the Nobel Prize

Françoise Barré-Sinoussi and Luc Montagnier earned the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in recognition of their identification and classification of the HIV virus in 1983, allowing scientists to prove the link between HIV and AIDS and develop medicines to combat the disease. "Our compatriots' work made a decisive contribution to mobilizing the international community to confront AIDS, in association with the individuals and communities affected and civil society," said Bernard Kouchner, French Minister for Foreign and European Affairs.



French Nobel Laureates Barré-Sinoussi (left) and Montagnier.

The Nobel Prize for Literature went to Jean-Marie Gustave Le Clézio for his expansive, poetic oeuvre featuring works on indigenous cultures in Latin America, Africa, and Asia. French President Nicolas Sarkozy commended Le Clézio, describing him as a "world traveler who embodies the culture and values of France and who proudly uses the French language in a globalized world."

INSIDE

- 2 Current Events**
US Navy Memorial
- 3 France & America**
France Decorates Hopper and Vidal
- 4 Profile**
50th Anniversary of the Fifth Republic
- 5 Business & Tech**
Scientists Develop New Treatment for Tumors
- 6 Society**
Crackdown on Spam
- 7 Culture**
Paris Motor Show
- 8 Europe in America**
European Events Throughout the U.S.

FRANCE AND LOUISIANA RENEW LINGUISTIC AND CULTURAL ACCORDS



Minister Darcos traveled to Louisiana to sign the Agreements.

French Minister of Education Xavier Darcos arrived in Louisiana on September 24 to sign the France-Louisiana Accords, which have been an important link between France and Louisiana in the linguistic and educational realms for 30 years.

The France-Louisiana Agreements, which were renewed for a four-year period, were signed in Baton Rouge on Thursday, September 25, with French Ambassador to the United States Pierre Vimont. Also present were Louisiana's State Superintendent of Education Paul Pastorek, President of the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFL), Warren Perrin, President of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education Linda Johnson, and President of Louisiana Public Broadcasting (LPB) Beth Courtney.

This year marked the 30th anniversary of the first agreement-signing and provided the opportunity for France and Louisiana to reaffirm their collaboration in the educational, linguistic, cultural, and audiovisual fields. The two countries' cooperation is made possible by CODOFL, which aims to increase the presence of the French language in Louisiana. To this end, CODOFL hires more than 100 teachers from French-speaking countries to strengthen the French-speaking dimension of Louisiana. This year, the public television LPB will also help to promote the French language with programming of French news and producing a new series on the history of French cinema.

During his stay, the French minister also visited the French-American Audubon Charter School in New Orleans as well as the Recovery School District (RSD)'s H.C. Schaumburg School, where RSD Superintendent Paul Vallas explained how the New Orleans public educational system is recovering in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. There, Mr. Darcos announced his endorsement of the construction of a French high school in the historically French city.

Current Events

Navy D-Day Memorial Dedicated in Normandy

France commemorated the US Navy's contribution to D-Day on September 27 with the unveiling of a memorial in Sainte Marie du Mont, on the battlefield of Utah Beach. Construction of the statue, commissioned by the Naval Order of the United States, started more than five years ago thanks to Stephen Spears, after he realized that no monument existed to honor the United States Navy's involvement in the D-Day operation.

The US Navy was the only armed service of France's allies that fought there and did not have any tribute on the beaches of Normandy. More than 1,000

Courtesy: www.milweb.net



The monument commemorating the US Navy's contribution to D-Day was inaugurated on Sept. 27.

US sailors gave the final full measure of devotion to the effort, laying down their lives for others. In attendance at the dedication ceremony were WWII veterans, the Honorable Gordon England, US Deputy Secretary of Defense, sailors from the US European Command, the Commander, US Naval Forces Europe, as well as the crew of USS The Sullivans (DDG 68). Three D-Day American veterans, Captain Richard Zimmermann, Jim Gaff and Chester Collins, were awarded France's highest distinction — the Legion of Honor — by Admiral Pierre-Francois Forissier, Chief of French Navy Staff, at the ceremony.

European Immigration Pact Signed into Effect



The E.C. signed the European Pact on Immigration and Asylum on October 16.

The European Pact on Immigration and Asylum, spearheaded by French President Nicolas Sarkozy, was enacted in mid-October by the European Commission. Backed by EU ministers at the Justice and Home Affairs Council meeting in Cannes on July 7 (see NFF 08.07), the agreement proposes common approaches for the 27 EU member states to curb the rise of illegal immigration, facilitate legal migration, and

encourage development in migrants' countries of origin.

While the pact includes a strong commitment to end national amnesties for mass numbers of illegal immigrants and to strengthen EU border controls with new technology, it will also foster a "Europe of asylum," which will establish in 2009 a European support office facilitating asylum applications and bolstering ties with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Furthermore, the agreement encourages member states to pursue policies of cooperation with countries of origin and transit in order to stem illegal immigration and assist with the exchange of remittances and legal labor.

After the ministerial meeting, EU Justice Commissioner Jacques Barrot asserted, "It is necessary to have a Europe that is of course open, but a Europe with rules of the game, a Europe which remains a land of asylum, but which does that in a harmonized manner, generous but also well organized."

The Welcome Center for Foreign Press Moves to the Grand Palais

After seven years of residing in its original home of the French radio broadcasting center, the Welcome Center for Foreign Press (CAPE) moved to its new location at the Grand Palais at the end of September.

Opening its doors on October 1, the CAPE's latest headquarters are located in the South Wing of the historic Palais and offer contemporary technology, facilities, and equipment to members of the international media. The new center consists of a press room with access to services such as the Internet and the French Press Agency (AFP) wire, a bar and lounge, an accreditation office, interpreting booths, a radio studio, and several conference and debate rooms. Larger meetings can be held in an auditorium seating 100 people.

Since it opened at the Radio France building, the CAPE has hosted nearly 2,000 press conferences concerning European affairs, domestic politics, protection of the

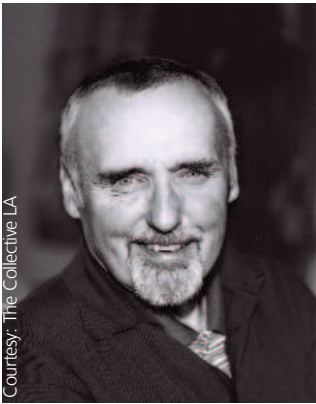


The CAPE has moved its headquarters to the Grand Palais, which was first used for the 1900 Paris World Fair.

environment, and important cultural and sports events.

The CAPE was founded in 2001 and has since served as a venue in which international journalists can receive advice and assistance and where new correspondents can be introduced to media in France. The foreign press is also able to convene informally at the center for conferences, debates, and forums on both domestic and global news. CAPE is open to all international reporters located in Paris, whether they are covering a particular event or general news topics concerning France.

Dennis Hopper and Gore Vidal Receive Prestigious Award



American actor Dennis Hopper received the French Order of Arts and Letters on October 13.

On October 3, France made American author Gore Vidal a commander in the Order of Arts and Letters, a society founded in 1957 to recognize significant contributions to the arts. Ten days later, French Culture Minister Christine Albanel knighted actor Dennis Hopper in Paris under the same prestigious Order. Recognized for their accomplishments and contributions to American literature and cinema, the men were moved as they celebrated their rewards among friends in Hollywood and Paris.

Vidal, recipient of the National Book Award in 1993 for his collection, "United States (1952-1992)", began his career at the age of 19 with the novel "Williwaw," one of the first novels dedicated to WWII. The novelist began writing for television as well as the big screen in the 1950s, working on the screenplays of "Ben-Hur" and "Caligula." His literary ambitions led him to publish three subsequent novels during the 1960s.

Paris's Cinématique Française, the city's national film library, will honor Hopper with an exhibition of his works that will run through January 19. Hopper is celebrated for playing unconventional, unstable characters in films such as "Apocalypse Now," "Blue Velvet," and "Easy Rider," the latter of which he also directed in 1969. Nominated for two Oscars, "Easy Rider" came to symbolize the generation of the Vietnam War, telling the story of two counterculture bikers traveling from Los Angeles to New Orleans to experience America's land and people.



The Embassy of France opened the call for proposals for the fifth edition of the Young Entrepreneurs Initiative, running through November 23. The Initiative aims to foster the growth of innovative companies in France by lending support to young up-and-coming American businessmen. Through this program, those living in the United States who are thinking of starting an inventive technological business are encouraged to expand their ideas on a global scale. Accepted individuals, called "laureates," will be invited to France for free mentoring and networking programs, in which they will be able to meet successful Franco-American business leaders and receive advice on how to establish their headquarters overseas. Entrepreneurs will have the opportunity to use state-of-the-art research and development labs to cultivate their ideas. Starting an innovative enterprise can be a difficult process, but France is a country that provides considerable opportunities for rising entrepreneurs to implement the product of their creative juices. With one of the best research tax credits in Europe and a cost-competitive workforce, France's technology sector is flourishing. Candidates can apply regardless of age, nationality, or professional situation. Laureates will be selected in January 2009. For more information, please visit: www.france-science.org/innovation/yei.

Louvre Atlanta Unveils Its Program for Year Three

From October 12, 2008, through September 6, 2009, the High Museum of Art will present Year Three of Louvre Atlanta. The upcoming yearlong exhibition series, "The Louvre and the Masterpiece," will explore how the definition of a "masterpiece," as well as taste and connoisseurship, have evolved over time. Ninety-one works of art spanning a period of 4,000 years will be drawn from all eight of the Musée du Louvre's collection areas. Louvre Atlanta Year Three proposes three major themes: historical and cultural definitions of a masterpiece; authenticity and connoisseurship; and evolution of taste and scholarship.

"What is a Masterpiece?" will be divided into two parts, the first of which explores the changing historical definitions of the concept of "high art" through a selection of objects from the ancient Near East through mid-19th-century works. The second component will introduce the idea of connoisseurship as a means of identifying works from the past as masterpieces. Displayed in pairs or groups, visitors will be invited to compare the masterwork to similar but "lesser" objects.

"Evolution of Taste and Knowledge" will explore masterpieces that were either "rediscovered" or reattributed based on the changing knowledge and perceptions of Louvre curators during the past 200 years. Included will be ten paintings and sculptures by artists who are well known today but who were overlooked in previous eras.

"Evolution" will also feature three rotations of focused installations. The first will include a Romanesque marble capital depicting the biblical story of Daniel in the Lion's Den and the early Greek



Antoine Louis Barye, "Lion with Serpent," 1832-1833. Bronze, 53 1/4 x 10 1/8 x 37 1/8 inches. Louvre Museum, Paris. © Réunion des Musées Nationaux/Art Resource, NY

sculpture called the Lady of Auxerre. A suite of 14 drawings by the Renaissance artist Pisanello will follow. Collected by the Louvre in the 19th century, the drawings were originally thought to be rare works by Leonardo da Vinci. Research and new findings determined, however, that they were actually created by Pisanello, an extraordinarily gifted but lesser-known artist. Through this reattribution, an exceptional artist was discovered - or rediscovered - in modern times. A suite of prints from the Louvre's Rothschild collection of Old Master prints will form the third installation.

For more information regarding Year Three of Louvre Atlanta, please visit: www.high.org.

MEMBERS OF THE FRENCH-AMERICAN PRESS ADDRESS THE US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Correspondents from Le Monde, Le Figaro, Radio France and Radio France Internationale based in Washington, D.C., as well as those from Time Magazine and Voice of America, gathered at the Embassy of France in Washington, D.C., on October 14 to explore the 2008 US presidential election. Among the topics discussed by the French and American members of the press was the uniqueness of this year's election. "This is indeed a historic election," commented Voice of America's Carol Castiel. All six constituents agreed that, in light of the current economic crisis, either candidate would equally face a difficult presidential term. When asked about the impressions of the US election in France, a French correspondent commented that France sees this election as a means to launch into a new era of cooperation and friendship with the United States.

Hotel Chain Invites Guests to "Savor the Flavors of France"

Casting a spotlight on France's rich culinary heritage, Omni Hotels launched a brand-wide program giving guests the opportunity to enjoy authentic French cuisine at all of their locations.

Running from October 1 - December 31, the "Savor the Flavors of France" campaign is as much a cultural exchange as it is a business promotion. In September, scores of Omni's executive chefs traveled to Paris, Lyon, Avignon, and Burgundy to steep themselves in French food and wine, returning with skills acquired at such



famed culinary institutions as the Valrhona Ecole du Chocolat. The chefs then fused traditional French meals with modern, lighter cooking styles to create the menu for Omni's three-month series.

"Savor the Flavors of France" was developed through a partnership with the French Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. "This unique program enables us to reintroduce North Americans to some of the greatest French cuisine and culture," an Omni Hotel manager noted.

France Celebrates 50 Years of the Fifth Republic

Fifty years ago last month, General Charles de Gaulle, leader of the Free French Forces during World War II, won the overwhelming support of the French public for his proposed constitution. On October 4, 1958, de Gaulle's new constitution was officially instituted, giving birth to France's Fifth Republic. Half a century later, France commemorated the legislation that reshaped its government and led the nation through its post-war recovery and into the 21st century.

Foundation of the Fifth Republic



French WWII hero Charles de Gaulle's proposal for a new constitution was inaugurated on October 4., creating the Fifth Republic.

The Fifth Republic was founded as a response to the global social, political, and economic changes that occurred after World War II. Although the Fourth Republic is credited with rebuilding the nation's post-war industry and promoting European unity, its presidency was a ceremonial position, critics argued, devoid of concise decision-making ability on issues such as decolonization, and unable to provide a voice of direction. The National Assembly, the lower house of parliament, exercised the majority of the government's power, but no political party was able to secure a stable majority. Establishing consensus could be difficult and labor-intensive.

Faced with this problem, then-President René Coty appointed General Charles de Gaulle, who had retired from politics a decade earlier, to the office of prime minister. The parliament immediately granted de Gaulle executive powers for six months, during which time "le Grand Charles" rallied for a new constitution based on a consolidated presidential system. Approved by 80 percent of the French electorate in a popular referendum on September 28, 1958, the Fifth Republic was inaugurated the following month on October 4.

The Constitution of the Fifth Republic

The Fifth Republic differs from previous French constitutions by granting a preeminent role to the president. Under this system, the president is the highest administrative authority and head of state, determining guidelines for both domestic and foreign policy and ensuring the integrity of the constitution. Elected by direct universal suffrage since a 1962 constitutional amendment, the president serves as commander in chief of the French military and is responsible for appointing the prime minister and ministers presiding over the council of ministers.

Under the auspices of the president, the *gouvernement* acts as a collegiate body with wide-ranging executive powers: It drafts bills, proposes national referenda, and determines the agenda of the legislative assemblies. The presidency of the Fifth Republic yields certain privileges alone, including the ability to dissolve the National Assembly and to implement emergency measure Article 16, which grants the president full executive powers to safeguard democracy and re-establish the functioning of public authorities. Various presidential duties, however, are shared with other branches of government. The president, for instance, may not veto parliamentary legislation; after he has requested that parliament reconsider a bill, he must exercise his power to promulgate the law.

Celebrating the Fifth Republic Today

The Fifth Republic's 50-year anniversary provided ample opportunity for French leaders to honor the constitution and discuss its value today. The Charles de Gaulle Foundation hosted a colloquium with the Institute of France on October 4, gathering scholars and *juris doctorates* to explore the origins of the constitution and its relationship with international law. In addition, former prime minister Edouard Balladur and former cultural minister Jack Lang visited the prestigious Institute of Political Studies on October 5 to debate the role of the president, parliament, and individual citizens in the modern political system.



President Sarkozy addressed the Academy of Moral and Political Studies on October 7.

In honor of General de Gaulle's vital role in the constitution's implementation, President Nicolas Sarkozy consecrated a memorial to the national hero on October 11 in Colombey-les-Deux-Eglises, where the general lived and was buried. Just four days prior, Mr. Sarkozy delivered a speech to the Academy of Moral and Political Studies on the changing face of the Fifth Republic — the first time since 1958 that a President spoke before the Institute.

Emphasizing that France's government is "neither parliamentary, nor presidential, and not even truly semi-presidential," Sarkozy praised the inimitability of the French Constitution in his October 7 address. "The Fifth Republic looks like nothing comparable in our constitutional history, nor among the other democracies of the western world," Mr. Sarkozy stated.

A Look Ahead

Cohabitation, a situation wherein the president and prime minister represent different political parties can result, at times, in parliamentary gridlock. To ensure legislative efficiency, President Sarkozy proposed adjustments to the current constitution intended to better reflect popular opinion and streamline government.

At an exceptional gathering of the nearly 900 lawmakers from the French Congress at the Palace of Versailles this July, proponents of Mr. Sarkozy's reforms won the three-fifths majority necessary to pass a 24th amendment to the constitution, sealed into law at a ceremony on October 1.

The adjustments will shift significant power back to the parliament. The two legislative houses will be able to veto presidential appointments to major offices, including those of the Constitutional Council and Senior Council of Magistrates. The parliament will play an augmented role in military decision-making; the president will be obligated to inform parliament of all troop deployments overseas, and the legislature will have to authorize operations lasting more than four months.

The president, limited to two five-year terms by a 2002 amendment, will also have a new rapport with the parliament. While allowed to address the National Assembly and Senate in a joint session, the head of state will no longer be able to use Article 49.3 to pass legislation without a vote.

President Sarkozy explained that the measures are designed to empower the presidency and the legislature equally. "A strong executive is not incompatible with a strong parliament," asserted Sarkozy. "General de Gaulle called for both. They are, on the contrary, complementary."

The modifications to the constitution will increase public representation as well. Deputies for French expatriates living abroad will be added to the national assembly. All citizens wishing to contest a law as a breach of civil rights may appeal to an independent "Defender of Citizens' Rights." Additionally, referenda may be organized with the support of 10 percent of French electors and 20 percent of the members of the parliament.

French Scientists Pioneer Laser Surgery for Brain Tumors

French neuroscientists recently developed a minimally invasive surgery for cancer patients that uses laser beams to destroy brain tumors without opening the skull.

The safe and simple procedure involves piercing a three-millimeter-diameter hole in the skull and then passing a fibre-optic cable, which holds a laser, through the opening until it reaches the center of a metastatic tumor. The tumor is obliterated by the laser's heat within two minutes of activation. Using nuclear magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) allows surgeons to instantaneously view their progress on a screen instead of opening the cranium. Every three seconds, a computer calculates the temperature of the laser to ensure that the cranium is not being overheated.

Led by French doctor Alexandre Carpentier, the team of researchers at Paris's Pitié-Salpêtrière Hospital hope that their newly developed process will jumpstart the use of MRI in a surgical context.

"This is the first time laser technology has been used in an



French surgeons used lasers for non-invasive treatments of brain tumors.

intracranial environment and combined with MRI to provide data in real time," Carpentier said. "This is a new stage in the use of MRI in neurosurgery, as part of a surgical operation."

The procedure uses local anesthesia instead of general sedation, allowing patients to remain awake during the process. With this advantage, surgeons can ensure that cerebral functions are still performing correctly during the operation.

The procedure was tested in a clinical trial, which began in December 2006, involving 15 cancer patients. Of six volunteers who received full treatment, five showed no sign of tumor recurrence for an average of nine months. Without the treatment, their life expectancy was "no more than three months

or so," according to Carpentier.

The scientists won a prize for technological innovation, which granted them 50,000 euros to launch the procedure. The researchers, however, are still working to adequately fund the surgery on a wide scale.

French Company Donates Training Simulators for US Soldiers



French company ECA Faros has donated driving simulators to the US Army for the training of American soldiers.

French technology company ECA Faros is donating car and motorcycle simulators to 25 American military bases participating in the US Army Traffic Safety Training Program. The initiative supports the US Army's recent efforts to restore former military servers' sense of risk on the road — according to the US Army, as cited in an article in *France-Amérique* magazine, veterans are more likely than the average American to be involved in an automotive accident. Patrick Akcelrod, General Manager of ECA Faros, said these programs will serve to train more than 50,000 drivers per year.

Worth between \$36,000 and \$145,000 each, the simulators recreate the experience of driving a motorcycle or car, equipped with genuine auto parts to generate the sensation of a motorized vehicle. Built on platforms that respond to the movements of one's "driving," each simulator is connected to three mon-

itors that compose a virtual road. The simulators will challenge veterans' driving safety within civilian settings by prompting them to respond to virtual hazards that appear on the screens, including pedestrians, animals, and difficult weather conditions.

ECA Faros is located in Brittany, France, and specializes in developing innovative simulation equipment for the aviation and automotive industries. For more information, please visit: www.faros.com.

International Ocean Research Team Explores Marine Ecosystem

French and American researchers have joined with counterparts from Sweden, the United Kingdom, and Australia to conduct one of the largest scientific studies of oceanic ecosystems. Led jointly by Newcastle University in England and the US Wildlife Conservation Society, the international team of researchers investigated the deleterious effects of climate change on the coral reefs necessary for the survival of thousands of marine species.

The team included scientists from the *Laboratoire d'écologie marine* in the French overseas department of Réunion, the Oceanography Center of Marseille at France's University of the Mediterranean, and the US National Research Council.

Logistical support was provided by the Seychelles Centre of Marine Research, among other foundations.

In an article published by the Public Library of Science, the

international team reported on their survey of 66 No-Take Areas (protected reefs, NTAs) across seven countries. They identified potentially catastrophic effects of water temperature increases as minimal as one or two degrees. Under such altered climate conditions, the researchers predicted that disease menacing the coral will intensify and that coral bleaching, a loss of the reef's pigment that prevents photosynthesis, will occur. The group recommended eliminating preventable dangers to the reef ecosystem, including the use of dynamite in fishing.

"A major focus needs to be shifted toward increasing the resilience of the system as a whole — that means reducing as many other locally derived threats as possible," lead researcher Nick Graham stated.



A researcher measures the deleterious effects of climate change on coral.

MICROSOFT TO OPEN RESEARCH CENTERS IN EUROPE

Microsoft is creating three new research and development facilities in France, Germany, and Britain. Based in the three cities' capitals, these centers will focus on new kinds of searches, including queries from mobile devices and those which involve pictures and video. The facilities will employ several hundred workers, according to Microsoft Chief Executive Officer Steven Ballmer. At the news conference announcing Microsoft's investment, Ballmer said that the creation of these research centers underscores the company's faith in the European economy and that it represents a major commitment to Europe at a time when many companies are hesitant to spend on new projects. Microsoft is not the only firm looking to benefit from France's skilled labor. Last month, Yahoo announced a research and development complex in Grenoble, France, in an effort to boost its search technology.

GOOGLE FOCUSES IN ON FRANCE



Google Street View provides panoramas of cities in France.

Using satellite imagery, Google Earth allows users to map locations and explore cities, regions, and even galaxies in vivid color. This month, France became the first European nation to take the Google Earth technology to the street. The application "Street View" will permit tourists and locals alike to take a virtual stroll through French cities. Street View allows users to zoom in on a particular block and view a 360 degree panorama at street-level. In selected areas, photos are available at the end of each block, at every intersection, and important buildings feature multiple snapshots. Special markings alert users to landmarks along the "walk," and clicking on a marking will redirect the user to online encyclopedias for additional information. With the help of the Parisian Bureau of Tourism and French companies TVtrip and Drimki, Street View navigators can view detailed Parisian metro routes as well as explore hotels and their rooms prior to booking. Approximately 20 engineers spent two years photographing cities from every angle before launching Street View in: Paris, Lyon, Marseille, Lille, Toulouse, and Nice.



The "robotic arm" collects a trash can.

ROBOTIZED TRASH COLLECTION
A French company is using technology to make garbage collection

a safer and more efficient process. On October 6, French waste management company Coved began a trial phase of new garbage trucks that use a "robotic arm" to depose of waste in the city of Saint-Orens, located southwest of Toulouse. Controlled by a joystick on the driver's dashboard, the "arms" pick up street-side garbage cans, allowing collectors to work entirely from the comfort of their vehicle. Five cameras on the right side of the vehicle, which are connected to two in-dash monitors, help the collector properly align the robot's "hand" with the trash can. Once positioned, the robot uses two prongs to pinch the can, lift it upward into the collector, and then lower it to the ground. As with other French garbage trucks, the new vehicles pick up trash on the right side of the street, and drivers can enter and exit only on the right-side door, a new development that aims to minimize exposure to traffic. According to Coved, the new technology, which will be available only in rural areas, will reduce noise and odors, as well as lower garbage collection taxes. City officials sent a letter to the 800 homes in Saint-Orens participating in the experimental period explaining these changes and instructions on how to properly position garbage cans on the sidewalk.

FRENCH TEENAGER ROCKS YOUTUBE

Seventeen-year-old Mathieu Rachmajda, a French high school student from northern France, is so in vogue that his popularity has surpassed that of Madonna — on the video-sharing Web site YouTube, that is. Rachmajda, who uses the online alias MattRach, stars in approximately 60 different homemade YouTube videos featuring his own guitar performances and musical compositions. Combined, the videos have been viewed over 20 million times by people across the globe, making his MattRach more watched on YouTube than Daft Punk or the Material Girl herself. Having first picked up a guitar at the age of eight, MattRach's unique musical sound is rooted in both classical and hard rock. This mélange of musical genres is captured in his hit video "The NEW Canon Rock," which mixes heavy electric guitar solos with Pachelbel's classic, "Canon in D." Although his online success may sound like music to the ears, according to him, he remains driven to "make music and not let the attention go to [his] head."

French Organization Initiates Crackdown on Spam

The French Data Protection Authority (CNIL) is looking to clear French e-mail inboxes of unwanted messages. Working with French company Signal Spam, which heads the country's campaign against unsolicited Internet mail, the CNIL launched in September a series of control measures to fight spam in France.

One of these controls focuses on compiling a list of e-mail addresses of companies that have sent messages marked as spam by Internet users. Under the agreement between the CNIL and Signal Spam, the Authority will receive a list of the enterprises most frequently identified by those who consider themselves victims of undesired messages. The CNIL has already notified several of the flagged businesses,



CNIL is taking measures to protect individuals' privacy against unsolicited and annoying e-mails.

warning them that their Web activities are under surveillance. Habitual offenders could face fines of up to 300,000 euros.

The Authority also wants to ensure that recipients can decline to view publicity e-mails, which are often sent out in mass by large enterprises. Under the new controls, these companies must allow individuals to choose whether or not they would like to receive the message.

The introduction of these measures falls under the auspices of the

Act on Data Processing, Data Files, and Individual Liberties, which guarantees the privacy of citizens in terms of automated data-sending. The French legislation dates back to 1978 and was amended in 2004, when standard European Union directives for the issue were incorporated.

New Commuter Boats Aim to Reduce Traffic Congestion



Voguéo offers river views to commuters.

Large blue and green catamarans began sailing down the Seine this summer — but instead of T-shirt-sporting tourists carrying cameras, the passengers are suit-clad businessmen holding briefcases.

Trailing alongside the river's famous *Bâteaux Mouches*, Voguéo, the city's new commuter boat system, began shuttling Parisians across the city in June, opening up a new line of public transportation in addition to the Métro and the bus. For a single fare of three euros, the boats make five stops between southeastern suburb Maisons-Alfort and Austerlitz train station on the left bank of southeastern Paris.

Paris Mayor Bertrand Delanoë said that he would like to see commuter boats extend their routes to the west of the city and include several stops along the Seine.

"We're giving ourselves a year and a half, two years maximum, for there to be a real waterboat service from Val de Marne [in southeast Paris] and the other end of the Seine," he said.

The creation of Voguéo is part of Mayor Delanoë's plan to reduce car traffic in Paris by 40 percent by the year 2020. In 2007, the mayor launched the public bicycle rental program Vélib' (see NFF 07.10), and now, just one year later, the number of bicycles and stations have doubled. Vélib' is now the largest bike rental service of its kind in the world.

Although commuter boats were a common method of transportation in Paris a century ago, they have since yielded to other forms of public transit. With shuttles navigating the Seine two to three times an hour, Voguéo is a contemporary way to take a stroll — or perhaps "cruise" — down memory lane.



TENNESSEE BOB'S
VIRTUAL FRENCH
RESOURCES

Finding information on the French-speaking world is much easier thanks to "Tennessee Bob's Famous French Links," a comprehensive list of 10,000 URLs on nearly every aspect of French society — including resources on history, language, and culture, as well as databases of images and excerpts of literature. Robert Peckham, who earned his nickname during his 30-year tenure as a Professor of French at

the University of Tennessee-Martin, began compiling the list in 1995 under the direction of the GlobeGate Project, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing centralized Internet services for student and teachers of foreign languages.

Currently offering 79 pages of Web links grouped in specific categories such as "Education in French-Speaking Schools Worldwide" and "Virtual Francophone Tourism," the database is a convenient online service for educators, students, and Francophiles alike. Links such as

"French Etymology" highlight the influence languages have on each other by pointing out similar vocabulary roots in both French and English. Other resources such as "Learning to Read a French Newspaper" supplies students of French with the tools to learn from other cultures and facilitate communications between the English- and French-speaking worlds.

For more information or to view Tennessee Bob's plethora of resources, please visit: www.utm.edu/departments/french/french.html.

Paris Motor Show Rolls Out Latest Models and Trends

Automakers worldwide treated onlookers to a glimpse of the car industry's future when the Paris Motor Show opened to the public on October 4. The biennial exposition, which drew an estimated 1.4 million visitors last month, has been an important arena for the debut of innovative concept cars since its inception in 1898.

Fuel efficiency was the feature *du jour* in Paris, in light of environmental concerns and strained financial markets. The October exposition marked the motor show debut of Chevrolet's plug-in hybrid, Volt, slated for release in 2011. Honda, too, announced its entry into the gasoline-electric market in Paris, where it revealed the prototype of its Insight. The latter is marketed as a new model of an affordable, family-oriented hybrid. French manufacturer Citroën also displayed its colorful concept sport utility hybrid, Hypnos. In addition, smaller cars



During the 2008 Paris Motor show, car manufacturer Citroën presented Hypnos, its colorful hybrid utility vehicle.

Albert de Dion, French automotive industry pioneer, launched the Paris Motor Show in 1898. At this year's edition, automakers honored the show's 110-year history, feting the Citroën 2CV's 60th birthday and the 100th anniversary of Ford's Model T.

made a big splash at the show; Ford unveiled its diesel Ka minicar and Toyota revealed the iQ, a Smart-car-like vehicle that seats four.

The progressive and environmentally sound automobiles reflected the government's "bonus-malus" system, which offers a financial incentive for fuel efficient vehicles and taxes cars that emit high levels of CO₂ (see NFF 08.07). Due in part to this incentive policy, car sales in France from January to August this year had increased 2.7 percent compared with the same period in 2007.

"I Kiffe NY" Festival Celebrates Transatlantic Urban Culture



French hip-hop troupe Pockemon Crew blends elements of American hip-hop and French urban culture.

French and American authors, musicians, artists, and speakers came to New York City this October for the "I Kiffe NY" festival, a new exposition celebrating French-American urban artistic and cultural achievements through a variety of events. The Arabic word *kiffe*, which means "to adore," was first used in French cities by members of the Maghreb community and has since spread throughout the country.

The festival ran from October 6-28 and was hosted by the Cultural Services of the French Embassy and TRACE magazine, a publication that discusses popular urban culture in and around New York.

One of the festival's highlights was a *slam* competition. Two *slammeurs*, French poets who recite their work a cappella were judged by a jury selected at random from the crowd. According to a PBS documentary on poetry, *slam* is a symbol for the promulgation and acceptance of urban culture in mainstream society. The art form began in the 1980s and combined the rhythmic elements of two urban movements, jazz and hip-hop, with the lyrical emphasis of spoken word. The style is said to have created an outlet expressing the hopes and

frustration of the disadvantaged inhabitants of the inner-city and surrounding areas.

In addition to *slam*, the festival included films depicting the issues and people of the *banlieues*, as well as dances that portrayed the ever-changing environment of city life.

For more information on the "I Kiffe NY" festival, please visit: www.frenchculture.org.

Tourists Can Discover the City of Light Through the Eyes of a Native

"Paris Greeter" is a volunteer network of Parisians who have banded together to provide a warm welcome to complete strangers, offering walking tours free of charge. Since its inception in July 2007, the group has grown to 120 volunteers. Although they are not certified tour guides, the Greeters explain their city through personal anecdotes and their own acquired knowledge while pointing out their favorite cafés and parks. In just over a year, the not-for-profit group led a total of 1,100 visitors around the city.

Paris Greeter derived its inspiration from a similar group of locals-turned-tour-guides in New York, and the group was launched last summer with help from the Parisian government.

"City officials wanted to change the image tourists have of Parisians," said Dominique Cotto, president of Paris Greeter. "We



Friendly locals offer tourists an intimate view of Paris free-of-charge.

wanted to show that the city was not just old stones but also had human capital: small bistros, restaurants, culture, and ambiance."

Paris Greeter is a part of the Global Greeters Network, which currently provides tours for 10 cities around the world. In addition to affiliates in three US cities, Australia, Argentina, England, Canada, and China, a similar tour program was recently adopted in the western French city of Nantes.

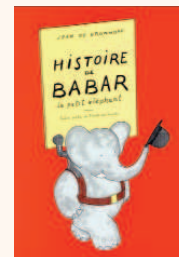
Cotto said the group would like to recruit private sponsors and new volunteers this year. Visitors are asked to sign up for a tour at least two weeks in advance.

For more information, please visit: www.parisgreeter.org.

PARIS DOESN'T SLEEP...

On October 4, Paris celebrated its seventh annual *Nuit Blanche*, a one-night festival of entertainment, revelry, and culture. During *Nuit Blanche*, various establishments — including museums, theaters, and cafés — remain open from dusk until dawn while millions of people crowd the streets for musical and cultural events. Featuring American rock artist Patti Smith, who performed at Saint-Germain-des-Près Church, and Japanese artist Ryoji Ikeda's light and sound show in front of Montparnasse Tower, two million participants filled Paris's streets this year, surpassing last year's total of 1.5 million. Crowds also packed into the Gare de Lyon, where Bollywood film director Shaad Ali presented one of his movies after Indian dancers in traditional dress performed some of its most intricately choreographed scenes. The city's police headquarters even opened its doors to the public for its first *Nuit Blanche*, displaying artist Jean-Pierre Formica's "Sentinelles de Salt" ("Sentinelles de sel"). For the night, rows of mannequins, sculpted from 30 tons of sea brine from southern France, stood guard alongside Paris's uniformed officers.

BABAR EXHIBIT OPENS IN NYC



The Morgan Library and Museum in New York City is hosting an exhibition on the stories of Babar, the elephant star of over four dozen children's books authored and illustrated-

by father and son duo Jean and Laurent de Brunhoff. The story is based on the tale created by Jean's wife, Cécile, who used to narrate her stories to her children. Until January 4, the display "Drawing Babar: Early Drafts and Watercolors" presents the earliest drafts and printer-ready watercolors for the first Babar books: "Histoire de Babar, le petit éléphant," the original story, and "Babar et ce coquin d'Arthur." With these two compilations, shown nearly in their entirety for the first time, the museum invites visitors to trace the development of the Babar series from its publication in 1931. The museum acquired the collections of artwork in 2004; when presented together, they depict the process of the two authors in creating this classic children's character. "Histoire de Babar" enjoyed instant success in France, Britain, and the United States.

Cities Across the U.S. Plan Educational Events About the E.U.

As France begins the final three months of its Presidency of the European Union (EU), it continues to reach across the Atlantic and provide Americans with a taste of European culture.

Visiting Massachusetts, one of states at the forefront of "green regulation" in the U.S., EU Commissioner for the Environment Stavros Dimas met with lawmakers and civil society representatives at the State House in Boston to share with them the E.U.'s experience on passing and implementing environmental legislation. Commissioner Dimas then addressed Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government on the E.U.'s "ambitious environmental agenda," which includes a global energy consumption reduction of 20 percent by 2020 among other measures. He stressed the importance of the upcoming

United Nations Climate Change Conference to take place in Copenhagen, Denmark, in late 2009. In the wider New England area, the consuls general of EU member states have been touring university campuses since September as part of a "Consuls' EU Tour" to explain and discuss the EU with students and the general public.

Reinforcing Commissioner Dimas's appeal for collaboration on global climate issues, the University of Austin hosted the symposium "Energy Technology and Policy in France and the E.U.: Some implications for the United States" on September 29. Accompanied by members of the Environment Defense Fund and the Institut Français du Pétrole, French Ambassador to the U.S. Pierre Vimont discussed components of the energy oversight system in France and suggested similar institutions around the world to help lower green-house gas emissions. He also emphasized the opportunity for American leadership in any post-Kyoto international accords on the issue.

New Orleans's Tulane University welcomed Renaud Donnedieu de Vabres, Ambassador in charge of cultural affairs of the French Presidency of the European Union, for an October 30 speech titled "Europe Today." The Ambassador's visit was part of the New Orleans's World Cultural Economic Forum (WCEF), held from October 30 - November 1 to foster culture and engender creativity as the city continues to rebuild. Lt. Governor Mitch Landrieu characterized the effort: "Now, as with Katrina, our cultural assets will prove to be a vital part of our social and economic recovery," he said. The WCEF also organized "Rencontres Malraux," a seminar

presented by French economic and architectural experts highlighting the intersections of economic development and culture. For more information, please visit: www.wcefculture.org.

In honor of the 10th anniversary of the inception of its European Union Center, the University of Illinois hosted a week of lectures on the continent's future. Ambassador Vimont opened the series of discussions on October 20 with a keynote address on transatlantic relations. In light of recent concerns about world markets, Amy Medearis, a senior economist from the European Commission's delegation to the U.S., gathered with University of Illinois professors of finance and economics to address the role of the euro and dollar at a symposium the following day on the



Stavros Dimas, second from right, visits the Massachusetts State House.

global financial crisis. The topic turned to diplomacy for October 23's panel discussion on US-EU-Russian relations in the next American presidency. For more information, please visit: www.ips.uiuc.edu/eu.

EU embassies and cultural institutions in Washington, D.C., hosted the first-ever Kids Euro Festival, offering more than 150 free events including storytelling, acrobatics, and bubble blowing. Intended for audiences between 6 and 12 years old, the month long celebration of European culture runs through November 9. For more information, please visit: www.kidseurofestival.org.

The Délégation Générale of the Alliance Française has arranged a number of events taking place across the country as well.

French writer Olivier Philipponnat toured the United States in early November reading sections of his award-winning biography on French-Russian writer Irène Némirovsky — the Jewish novelist whose life ended during the Holocaust. After the posthumous publication in 2004 of Némirovsky's last work, "Suite Française," Philipponnat examined correspondences, writing drafts, and personal notes to compile "La Vie d'Irène Némirovsky," which was awarded French magazine *Le Point's* 2008 prize for biography.

Patrick Bensard, Director of Film Archive of Dance in Paris, visited Philadelphia and Atlanta in November to discuss the history of the first black dance artists in France. In 1982, Bensard started a new initiative within the Cultural Service to capture and immortalize dance.

News from FRANCE

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Emmanuel Lenain

EDITORS
Valérie Luebken, Luis Vassy

MANAGING EDITOR
Thomas Rottcher

SENIOR WRITERS
Daniel Bliss, Luke O'Donnell

WRITERS
Andrew Levine, Michele Hong,
Katherine Leonard

To change your address, subscribe (for free) or unsubscribe, please contact:

**NEWS FROM FRANCE
FRENCH EMBASSY PRESS &
INFORMATION SERVICE**

4101 Reservoir Road, NW
Washington, DC 20007-2182
Tel: (202) 944-6060
Fax: (202) 944-6072

E-mail:
info@ambafrance-us.org

<http://www.ambafrance-us.org>
<http://www.ue2008.fr>

French Embassy Press and Information Service
4101 Reservoir Road, NW
Washington, DC 20007-2182



PERMITTED
FIRST CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Washington, DC
Permit No. 4620