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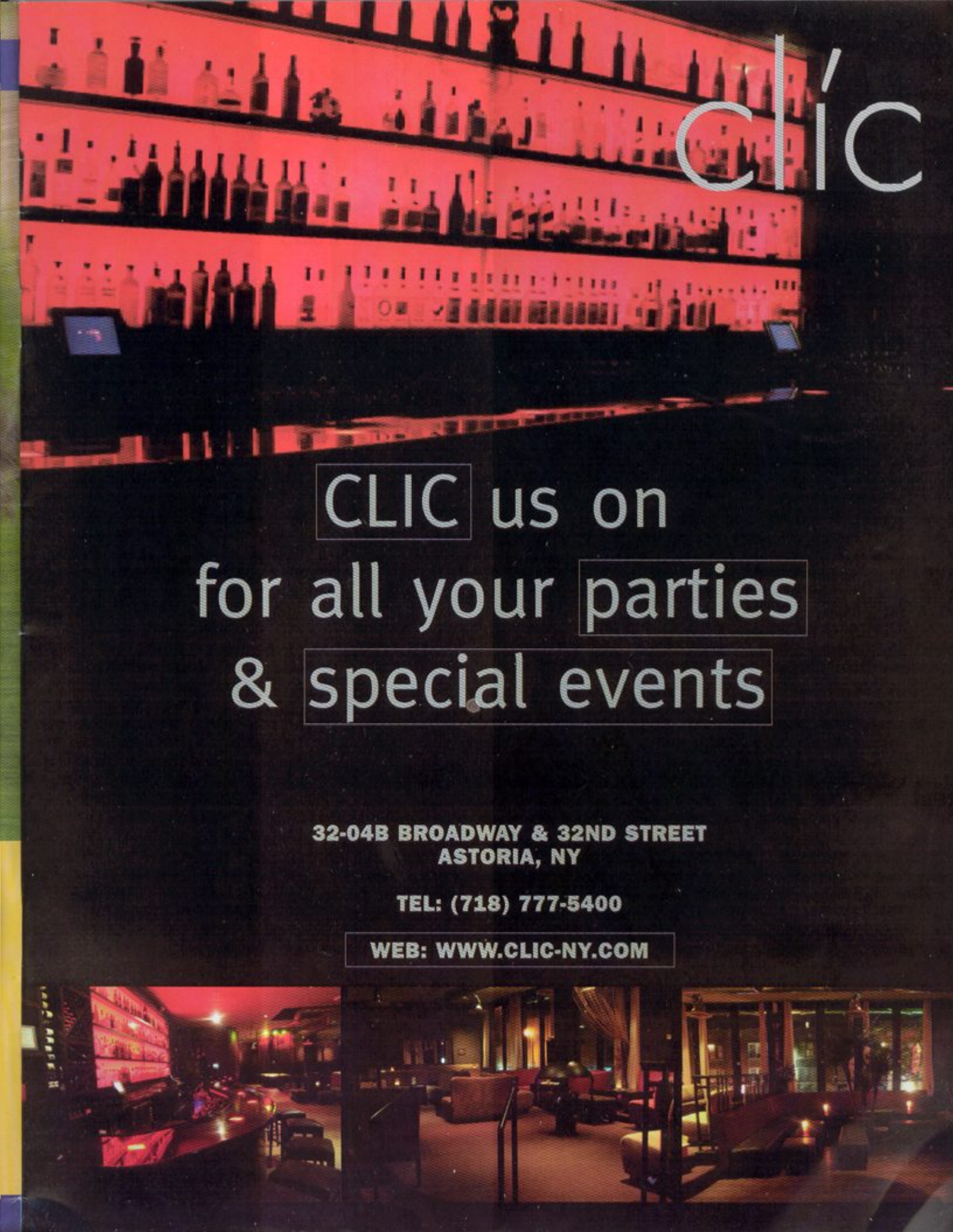
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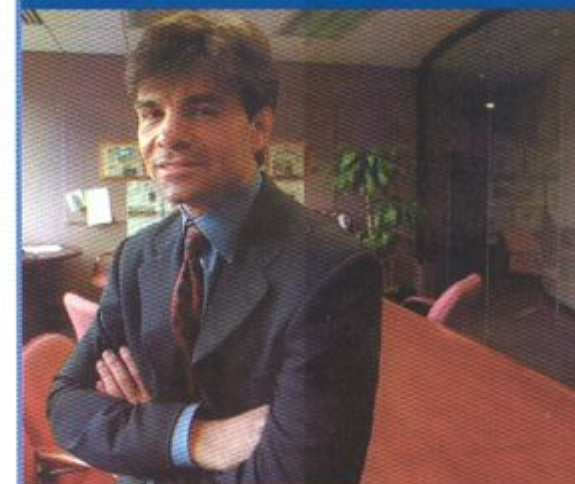
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Hi

:: So what's new? This magazine is new. That's what NEO means in Greek, and what it means in English. And with NEO we hope to do a fresh take on the continuing adventures of a spirited people who once voyaged to this brave new world and soon made it their home: the Greek Americans, or as one of our editors likes to elaborate to embrace the whole continent, "the NAFTA Greek."

:: And it's a fascinating world we've created for ourselves just here in America. In Portland, Oregon ordinary Greeks put on extraordinary Greek tragedy in a mock-up of a Greek theater. In Alaska they worship at a church that sees the light six months out of the year (and switch on the lights the remaining months). Michael Chiklis shines as our bruiser without hair. George Stephanopoulos shines as our pundit with hair. Jennifer Aniston sells magazines enamored with her perils. George Pellencanos sells books shivering with peril. Demetrios dresses the brides. Varvatos dresses the chic. Andy Milonakis is how old?

:: Aside from the stars, we also have our everyday heroes: The pizza man who writes lyric poetry of epic hurt, the former Olympian who still hits the gym at ninety, the candle maker who travels the world's hot spots at his expense to monitor human rights. There's also the sociologist who studies soldiers in the stress of war (a busy man nowadays), the general who once outfitted Desert Storm and now outfits Sears, the sage of our history whose tomes could fill a whole library (and once did), the self-made man dedicating a wing of the parish school to the memory of his wife and breaking down at the thought of the struggle they waged together to survive in America.

:: But survive we did and flourished. There is little in American society not touched by our culture, little we haven't touched, little we won't tackle. We once roamed the seas to earn our living, and because the sea was there, and we roam it still over this vast ocean of a country and of a continent which we've earned the right to call our very own.

Dimitri C. Michalakis

NEO

::magazine

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THALASSA

Among the casualties of the Iraq war was Army Spc. Michael G. Mihalakis, 18, of San Jose, California, who died the day after Christmas, 2003, only two weeks before he was scheduled to return home. He was a military policeman serving with the National Guard and was killed when his Humvee hit a berm near the Baghdad airport, throwing him from the vehicle and crushing him underneath. A sympathetic captain had assigned him to the airport, instead of his prior job patrolling Baghdad's streets.

A Casualty of War

Army Spc. Michael G. Mihalakis



Spc. Mihalakis

In letters home, he wrote about his coming of age:

"Before I left for basic, I told you guys I lived a life of little, if any, adversity. I thrived [on] the need to experience adversity and hardship to become the man I want to be...My lesson in adversity and hardship is something that can't be priced and is the ultimate reason I want to stay, rather than go home early. Whatever happens will happen, but in the end, as much as I hate it here, this is where I want to be."

"...as much as I hate it here, this is where I want to be."

He grew up in Milpitas, California, playing guitar in a rock band while in high school. After graduating high school in 2002, he moved to San Luis Obispo to attend summer school at Cuesta Community College. He planned to study business but joined the National Guard before the fall term began.

Mihalakis' father said his son came home from Iraq after a car accident left his sister in a coma. When she began to recover, he returned to Iraq.

About 300 people gathered at his funeral in Fremont and excerpts from his letters were read by a family friend at the memorial service.

"He wanted to become a soldier and would not let anything stand in his way," said his mother, Diana Marie Mihalakis. "Only God knows why this unfortunate accident happened."

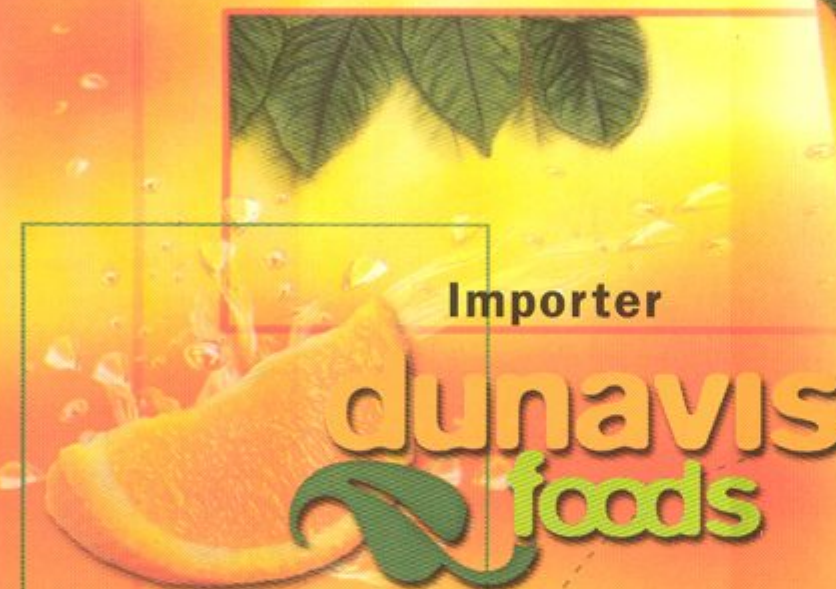
Mihalakis' mother and his father, George, told the Associated Press that they took pride in that their son—the only boy of three children—told them in his letters he felt lucky as a child growing up in the South Bay, unlike so many of his friends who he said came from dysfunctional families. He also begged his parents not to feel guilty for letting him go to Iraq—it was his choice to make. Compared with others, his life was free of adversity and he joined the military to "become a better man."

When he returned from his assignment, he said he didn't want them to have to pay for his tuition at Cuesta College in San Luis Obispo—they had worked hard and should enjoy their money. He would take care of his own bills. The military, he wrote, was a great equalizer:

"It doesn't matter if you were a prom queen or an idiot. Once you become a soldier, everyone shaves his head and becomes just like anyone else."



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America's new spymaster



By Vicki J. Yiannias

John Dimitri Negroponte is a tall man who never seemed to lack presence. But last February the 66-year old career

diplomat made his presence known still more by becoming the nation's first Director of National Intelligence, a position created in 2004 on the recommendation of the 9/11 Commission. The United States Senate confirmed his nomination by a vote of 98 to 2.

In nominating him, George Bush said Negroponte had a "unique set of skills" for the job and his experience as Ambassador to Iraq gave him an "incalculable advantage" as Intelligence Director. In accepting the nomination from the President, Negroponte defined his role as, "Providing timely and objective national intelligence to you, the Congress, the departments and agencies, and to our uniformed military services (which) is a critical national task--critical to our international posture, critical to the prevention of international terrorism, and critical to our homeland security. Equally important will be the reform of the intelligence community in ways designed to best meet the intelligence needs of the 21st century."

The Intelligence Reform and Terrorist Prevention Act created the National Intelligence Agency and represents the most sweeping intelligence legislation in more than 50 years:

It also marks the end of the CIA's dominant position as the government's most important and powerful intelligence agency. As National Intelligence Director, Negroponte will now oversee all United States government intelligence offices, including the CIA, State Department, and Defense Department. The National Intelligence Agency, which employs a staff of 500, exercises oversight over the budgets of the government's intelligence agencies.

A formidable task for anybody, but not for Negroponte, who went straight to the Foreign Service from Yale, speaks five languages (Greek, Spanish, French, English, and Vietnamese), and has served at eight different Foreign Service posts in Asia, Europe and Latin America. He also served as Ambassador to the UN, and in 2004 was appointed Ambassador to Iraq.

"Whatever differences I've had years ago with John Negroponte, I happen to feel he's a very fine Foreign Service officer and has done a tremendous job in many places," said Connecticut Senator Christopher Dodd.

Negroponte was born in London, the son of a Greek shipping magnate, and grew up in Switzerland, London, and New York. But he's not the only prominent Negroponte. His brother Nicholas was born in New



York City and is the Jerome B. Wiesner Professor of Media Technology at M.I.T, where he has been a faculty member since 1966. He is the founder and director of the university's famous Media Laboratory, a founder of Wired magazine, and also of M.I.T.'s Architecture Machine Group. He wrote *Being Digital*, published by Knopf, that made the New York Times bestseller list and has been translated into over 40 languages.

Professor Negroponte helped to establish, and serves as chairman, of the 2B1 Foundation, an organization dedicated to bringing computer access to children in the most remote and poorest parts of the world. Most recently, he launched a new program to develop a \$100 laptop, a technology that could revolutionize the education of the world's children.



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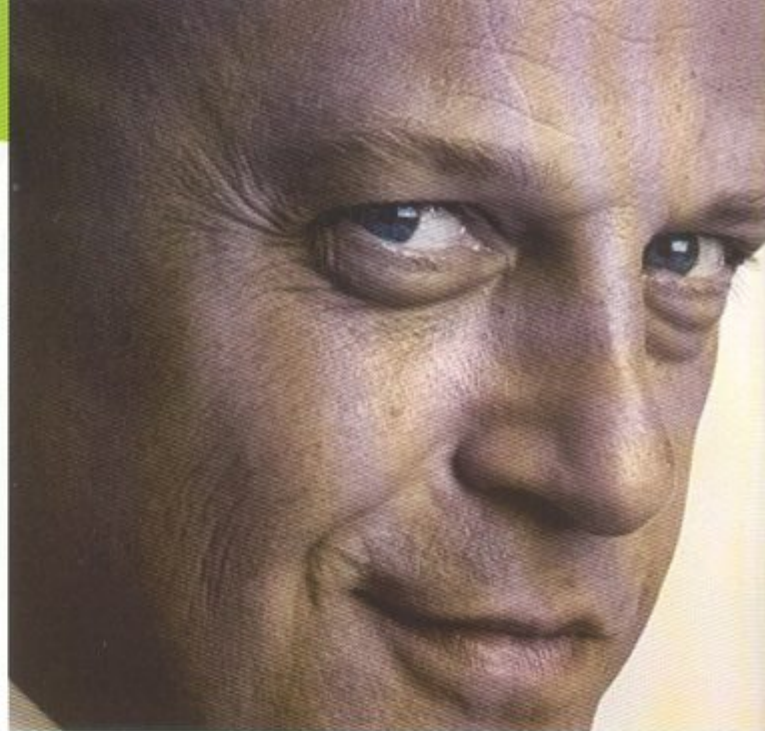
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Michael Chiklis actually saw a shrink during the making of *The Fantastic Four* in which he plays The Thing—literally a man of stone too ugly to describe in any other way—and which initially took five hours of makeup to pile on.



Michael Chiklis— **DOES HIS THING**

"Total nightmare," he told *Newsweek*. "In the beginning it was five and a half hours, but we got it down to three." He passed the time watching the Boston Red Sox win the World Series. "I'm from Boston so the Sox totally saved my life," said the 42-year-old actor who shares a birthday with Ted Williams and whose nickname is Chick or Chicky. "Although it was weird I had to watch the games through a mirror. A couple of times I'd be like, 'Why is he throwing for third?'"

He doesn't complain, that much, because he asked for the mushroom of prosthetics that bulk up The Thing. ("I really wanted it to be a costume because I felt that if it was just a CGI you'd lose the humanity," he told one interviewer.) And he did ask for the role by connecting with Marvel producer Avi Arad through a mutual friend—Jennifer Garner. "I said, 'I have two words for you: Ben Grimm.'" (The name of The Thing's human alter ego.) "And, that was the beginning of it."

As for the sequel, he said, "It's really up to the people. If they come and see the movie, then that'll be a good reason for us to get back into the suits and do it again."

Meanwhile, he's got rogue cop Vic Mackey to reprise on the FX TV hit *The Shield*, for which he listened to his wife Michelle and shed 50 pounds. "Frankly, I did everything ass-backward," he said. "I had no intention of my life going on that kind of path. When I started I was 23 and I took the Belushi story. I

thought I would gain 30 pounds and play an American icon. That ended up all filled with weirdness and fear and loathing and the only thing available to me was TV."

He got the part of the "roly-poly fortyish police commissioner when I was 27," as he described it in the title role of TV's *The Commish*. And then he took years to break down that image (including a labor of love playing cultural-icon Curly in *The Three Stooges* movie), before he lost the weight and his remaining hair and got back to fighting trim.

"Listen," he said, "it's something I struggle with constantly. It's not like I'm some beauty queen. I'm a fallible human being. I'm also Greek (his family is from Lesbos), which means I love food."

Sometimes I fail miserably and I have to kick myself into high gear."



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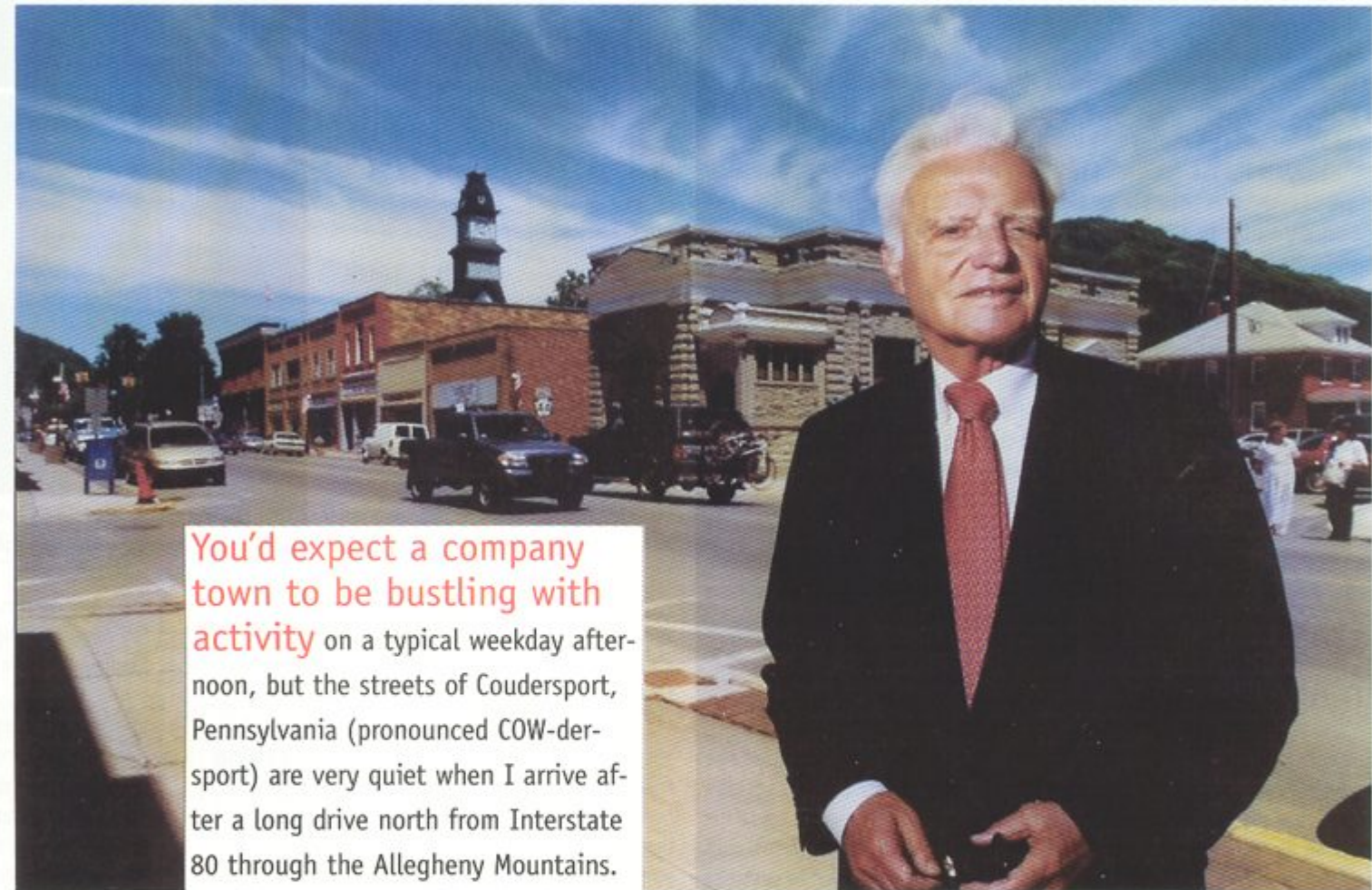


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John Rigas:

Weathering the storm

By Sophia A. Niarchos



You'd expect a company town to be bustling with activity on a typical weekday afternoon, but the streets of Coudersport, Pennsylvania (pronounced COW-der-sport) are very quiet when I arrive after a long drive north from Interstate 80 through the Allegheny Mountains.

You'd expect some of the local store-owners on Main Street to adopt the "Adelphia" name after the cable company giant which dominates the town and its economy. But that's not the case, either.

Adelphia Communications is only visible after a short drive down Main Street when the company headquarters finally looms into view behind a suitably-impressive marble-columned façade and a nondescript Adelphia Communications' Human Resources Building further down the street.

You might also expect the CEO of such a powerhouse company to be a juggernaut himself ensconced behind a massive desk with all the trappings. But 80-year-old former CEO John Rigas is now settled outside town in the luxurious headquarters of another of his business enterprises, Wending Creek Farms. And when his secretary Irene introduces me, Rigas is situated in a sort of third-floor living room, with sofas and chairs surrounding a large coffee table, boxes unpacked, papers stacked temporarily, photographs and artwork not yet hung.

Rigas himself looks subdued and is soft-spoken, betokening a man who faces a remaining lifetime in prison.

"Coping has been very stressful," he says. "I sleep off and on, depending on what comes up. If I focus on possibilities that could happen—" he trails off, then rallies: "I try to stay positive."

He and his sons Tim and Michael were led away in handcuffs and went through trials that convicted both John and Tim for fraud (Michael's was declared a mistrial), which they are both appealing.

"Every waking moment is focused on the case and its appeal," says Rigas. He regrets not being allowed by his attorneys to testify in the first trial (and face cross-examination), hopes and prays "that no one has to go through an ordeal like this" and escapes his ordeal by extensive reading (the Africa campaign in World War II, the Greek Revolution, Joe DiMaggio, Katharine Hepburn) and by reclaiming his faith.

"I draw my strength from the verses and Proverbs," he says, "and I get on my knees and pray. In the past, I wasn't so regular about prayer, but now I pray for health and strength to see this through and for people's health and my grandchildren."

He says in the family there's been "no finger pointing, everyone's been supportive of each other." The family, kids and grandkids, had a recent outing, the first since the trial, to a Pirates game, but Rigas can no longer travel to Europe, which he always enjoyed.

"I need permission to travel anywhere, and I can't leave the country," he admits. "I'd rather stay around the house where there are always issues. I want to be around if anything important comes up to make decisions about."

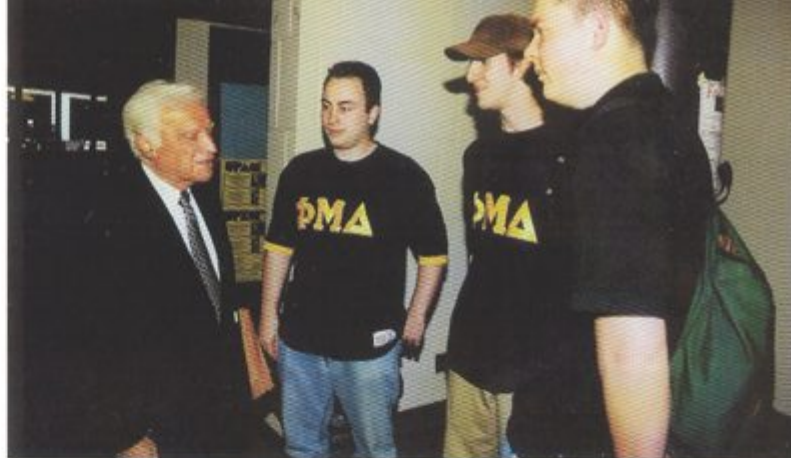
In the meantime, he is no longer chairman of the company he built over fifty years of working, he says, "night and day, seven days a week," and is no longer the paragon of the community: "Our standing in the community has been affected. [The company's new] leadership made it clear to Adelphia employees that we were not to be associated with."

But, he says, "The family will go on; it has learned that being large isn't much fun sometimes. There's a lot you can do in life and not have all this stress. On the other hand, it was rewarding to make a contribution to the area and the industry. The family will continue to make a contribution."

An American success story

John Rigas grew up in Wellsboro, Pennsylvania to an immigrant father who his son says, "didn't believe in debt." Initially a conservative borrower, John took his first gamble purchasing the Coudersport movie theater, which led to the formation of Adelphia's precursor, Coudersport Cable Television. It wasn't until investors encouraged the family to borrow so Adelphia could grow that he stretched his credit comfort level.

"Immigrants came here for freedom, justice and opportunities," says Rigas. "Men died for these values, and this is what I believed I was working for, not to create a large company."



But create a giant he did, with his sons Tim, Michael and James joining him to make Adelphia into the sixth largest cable television provider in the U.S. and Puerto Rico.

"I went through a period when it was great to be an entrepreneur," he says. The kind born with "a kind of sixth sense" that allows him "to take risks and make a lot of business decisions. People trusted me and I never disappointed them. I didn't take advantage of them."

He identifies his strong suit as chief executive to "being a good listener and making people comfortable when they're talking to me" as well as being compassionate, which made it difficult to fire people, including those whose job performance was shaky: "It's not that they were doing anything criminal, but they didn't get along with fellow workers, weren't meeting schedules, and would wait until the last minute to get my signature on important documents." Or the unmarried woman with two kids fired for crediting \$18 to her cable account.

"The woman had written me a letter describing her situation, expressing her regret at making the mistake and asking for her job back," he recalls. "It wasn't good business practice to ask a manager to rescind his decision, but I thought she deserved a second chance."

It was one of the last decisions he made before resigning.

"I'm a people person as opposed to a financial person; I differ from corporate people," he admits. "In the early years, I went to the bank, told my story and they'd decide whether to fund it. I was used to operating in an environment where when someone had an idea a bank believed in, they could borrow money without collateral. I gave people loans for thirty to forty years and didn't keep track of whether they paid or not. High finance was a different ballgame, and I left it to others."

They let him down, he says, including an Adelphia accountant whose deposition on a civil matter after the Rigas trial revealed anomalies in his testimony as a prosecution witness, anomalies that have caused Rigas' attorneys to call for a new trial. Rigas also felt let down by outside directors on the company's board who, he says, had every opportunity to ask questions or raise objections to any actions the family planned. Any objections would have been honored, he says, noting that at meetings he was often criticized for giving too much time to questions.

He also admits he was "never comfortable with Adelphia going public; it was a mistake. I wanted to have a business and raise a family and have that business be my business. I even kept some cable systems private because of the deep-down discomfort that going public brought me."

"The business plan was good, but the company grew too fast. We were working night and day to upgrade systems, keep morale up. We were competing and took on too much, too fast. If we hadn't, we wouldn't have borrowed money from banks."

Although he believes he did nothing wrong, he does acknowledge that "holding on [to the company] too long" was a mistake. "I could have sold shares in Adelphia, but I didn't want to cause people to lose their jobs. I could have sold out, but these people were neighbors and friends."

Resigning the chairmanship, he adds, was also a mistake, made because he believed the directors who remained would keep the promises they made to him conditional on his resignation. They didn't.

He also stands firm in his conviction that the "game plan [for the business] would have worked" and even if he didn't live long enough to pay off the debt, his sons knew the business well and would have been effective in doing so.

"We never defaulted on payments and interest," he maintains. "Not one shareholder would have lost money. The drop in stock was an overreaction." He cites the climate surrounding the Enron scandal as a contributing factor in that overreaction. He points to authorities not allowing him and his sons to turn themselves in as an indication that they intended to "use [them] to make an example," evident, he says, by the media thronging the lobby of his apartment building the day he and his sons were led away in handcuffs.

Standing Tall

John Rigas said although the family's standing in the community had been affected, "some townspeople still come up and supportively greet me."

And next morning I saw firsthand how much they still care for him as we had breakfast at the local eatery, Erway's Market and Restaurant, where people kept coming over to shake his hand and express their support and admiration.

"I grew up with the Rigas family, and I know that values were their highest priority," says Ginger Erway, a staunch Rigas supporter. "He taught the kids to know where they came from, to know this town."

"John's been accused of hiding himself in a desolate town. But he was raised here. He knew how hard it was to get jobs here, and he brought jobs to this area. John Rigas wasn't sitting in a tower figuring out how to make money."

"The government wasted taxpayer dollars to destroy rural America. A few [stockholders] lost money, so [the attitude seems to be] let's take the whole town apart. Where were they when this town had no jobs? It was a vendetta. They could track every dollar—how hard could that be?"

She also offered a litany of the many economic, social and charitable benefits Rigas had brought to the town since he established himself as a businessman there in the '50s:

"Adelphia's growth led to better roads. If Adelphia wasn't here, the new water system wouldn't have been installed. At annual Christmas parties, Rigas would bring in symphony orchestras and everyone, especially the elderly, had the opportunity to hear music they wouldn't otherwise have been able to hear. Everybody enjoyed them."

She recalls the "great fun when Mr. Rigas owned the Buffalo Sabres. In the restaurant, menu items were named after teams in the playoff games. Kids were bussed for free to Sabres games. It's sad to see mean, cruel things said because people in Manhattan had no clue what was going on here."

In the aftermath of the scandal and the impending takeover of Adelphia by Time-Warner, which is expected to export many Adelphia jobs to Denver, Colorado, Erway believes Coudersport's prosperous days are over.

But John and Olga Snyder, owners of Olga's Gifts & Art Studio, continue to

believe in the town's future possibilities. Snyder is currently an accountant with Adelphia and is in the process of buying a non-cable Adelphia-owned residential rental property that became available out of the bankruptcy to expand the business he and his wife own.

"I never saw myself working for a big corporation," he admits. And "Adelphia was big, but it had a family-run feel to it." John Rigas, he says, "believed in rural America. Unlike many celebrities and people in big business who disparage the system when bad things happen, at a press conference [held after his conviction], Mr. Rigas didn't hesitate to say he still believes in the American dream. He is one of the finest individuals I have ever known, and I'm a better person for having had the opportunity to know him."

His wife adds, "They made mistakes, but they don't deserve going to jail for a non-violent crime for so many years. It's very unfair."

Donald Gilliland, award-winning editor of the town's Potter-Leader Enterprise, points to the lifting of a lethargy that had existed in the town before Adelphia went into bankruptcy, a lethargy he attributes to people's expectation that John Rigas would take care of things.

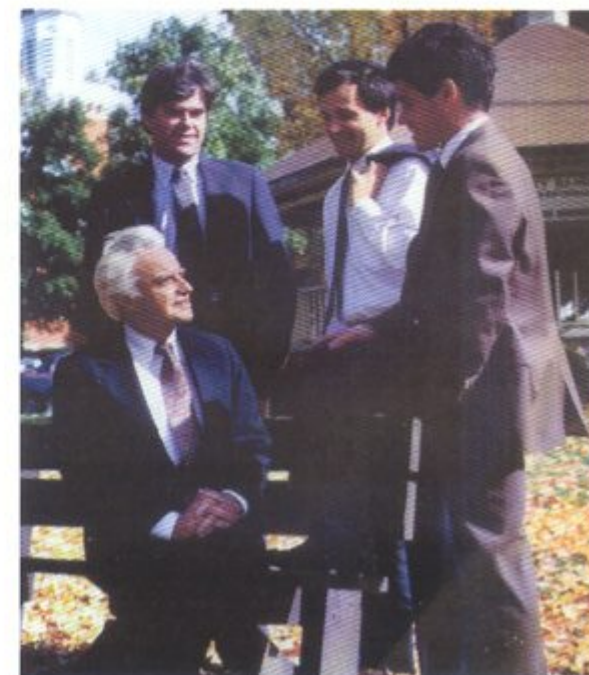
"After the [Adelphia] fall, a whole bunch of people have taken responsibility for their lives and businesses," says Gilliland, who was present during the 18 weeks of Rigas' trial. "The Chamber of Commerce is more active than it's ever been, and the business community is focused on problem solving instead of collecting a check. Tourism is becoming a focus. When Adelphia was powerful, it filled local hotels; and their owners didn't worry about building tourism. Now they have to worry about building it up."

Gilliland doesn't totally dismiss Rigas' culpability, but recognizes others played a significant role as well, and he agrees with Rigas that had he taken the stand the government would have had a hard time making its case. Without that testimony, "the jury didn't get a sense of John's sympathetic character."

Regardless of the result of the Rigas appeals, Gilliland credits John Rigas for his "vision of building a large corporation in a small town. [He showed that] rural America has resources, namely, people with intelligence and a strong work ethic."

He was, they seem to agree, the model of the business leader he told college students he always followed:

"I told them that even though they may be criticized for not following the conventional way, they have to follow what they think they have to do."



BAM presents Philip Glass' global Collaboration-Orion

New York premiere of acclaimed concert work opens 2005 next Wave Festival



BAM's 2005 Next Wave Festival opens with Orion—a collaborative concert work which unites the Philip Glass Ensemble with renowned composers and performers from diverse musical traditions and cultures. Commissioned for the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, Orion has provided Philip Glass with an opportunity to reunite with musical partners and colleagues from around the world. Glass regards the work as a culmination of his lifelong exploration of global music.

Orion, presented at BAM in its N.Y. premiere, features the Philip Glass Ensemble (Philip Glass, keyboards; Michael Riesman, conductor) joined by Australia's Mark Atkins (didgeridoo), China's Wu Man (pipa), Gambia's Foday Musa Suso (kora and nyanar), Canada's Ashley MacIsaac (violin), Greek vocalist Eleftheria Arvanitaki, Brazilian multi-instrumental ensemble UAKTI, and India's Karik Seshadri-performing music for sitar composed by Glass and his longtime friend and mentor, Ravi Shankar.

This evening-length work in seven movements showcases global styles within an overall structure provided by Glass and his ensemble. "Glass' music, highly influenced by eastern motifs and uncomplicated by the melodic lurches of western modernism, acted as a perfect template for the multinational excursion," stated the Financial Times. Orion's performers unite for a finale—a traditional Greek song about immigration, entitled "Tzivaeri"—led by Eleftheria Arvanitaki.

Eleftheria Arvanitaki started her career in the early 80s as a member of a group named Opisthodomiki Kompania. Since 1985

her solo career has centered on modern Greek music but with the influence of eastern and western sounds and rhythms. All of her albums have gone platinum in Greece, while live appearances in her home country (about 100 per year) are sold-out. The historic jazz label Verve has released a compilation entitled Eleftheria Arvanitaki-The Very Best of 1989-1998 (1998) worldwide, as well as her Broadcast (2001), Everything Brought to Light (2004), and the live collection Eleftheria Arvanitaki Live (2003). Moreover, her album Meno Ektos (1991) has been listed among the 100 Best World Music Albums ever by the Rough Guide to World Music. She has taken part in some of the most important music festivals all over the globe (e.g. WOMAD, International Jazz Festival of Montreux, SFINKS, Istanbul Jazz Festival, World Music Institute Festival at Berklee Performance Center/Boston and Town Hall/New York).

Four performances of Orion will take place in the Howard Gilman Opera House on Oct 4 and Oct 6-8 at 7:30pm. Tickets, priced at \$20, 40, and 60, may be purchased by calling BAM Ticket Services (718.636.4100) or by visiting www.bam.org.

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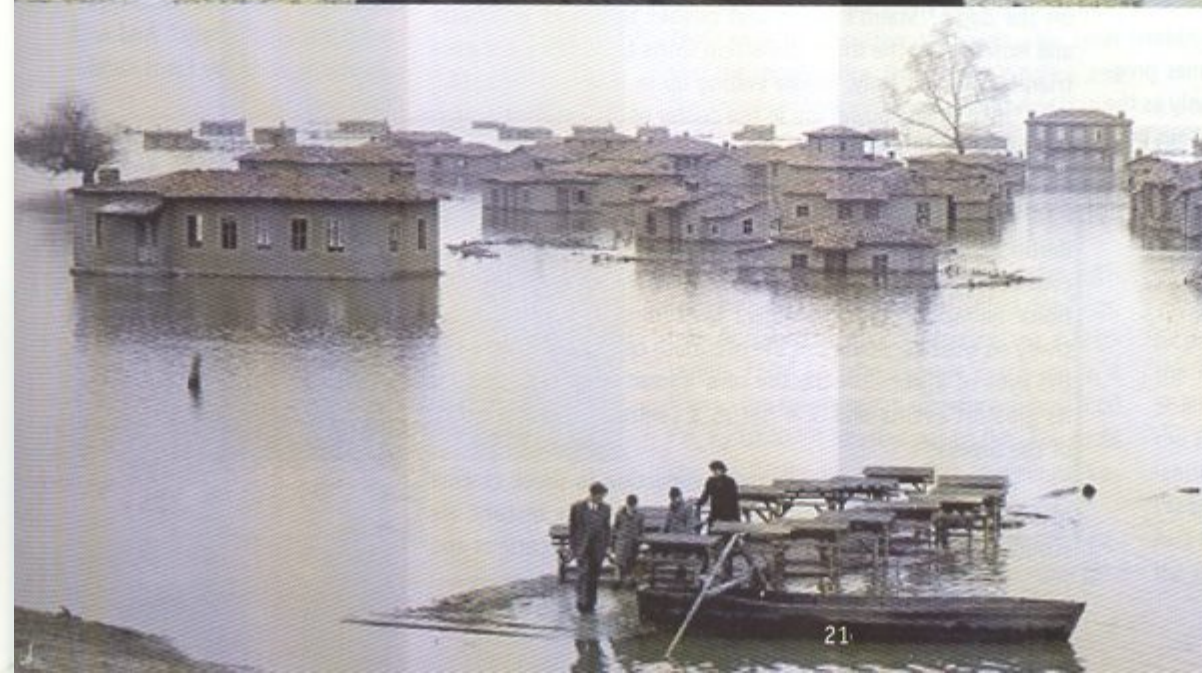
GREEK FILM master Angelopoulos debuts his new epic in the U.S.

The big cheese of modern Greek cinema is Theo Angelopoulos, our Eisenstein, Bertolucci, Godard and Antonioni rolled into one. His themes are often epic, his approach is often theatrical, or noir, and his people suffer their private torment across landscapes that are indifferently beautiful.

"He is always present at the bulwarks, wins awards at major festivals, with a film every two or three years, films that are landmarks in an unwavering and renewable course," writes film critic Yannis Bacoyannopoulos.

That course is **"constantly doing and redoing Homer's Odyssey, which is the primordial journey,"** states the balding, bespectacled director, who looks like the lawyer he studied to be at the University of Athens, but who has an imagination that howls like an

By Dimitri Michalakis



avenging fury over the stormy landscape of modern Greek history and the trials of its refugee population forever seeking a home.

"I don't know why, this is my personal view of the world," admits Angelopoulos. **"Even in my own country I feel like an exile. I find myself in a kind of internal exile. I have not yet found my home."**

Perhaps because the 70-year-old director went through his own personal displacement. During the civil war his family broke into two factions and was torn apart: "My father tried to maintain a neutral stance, one that was almost critical of both sides. But in vain. He was arrested by the leftist rebels led by my cousin and taken outside the city to be executed. For days my mother and I searched for his body among the hundreds of others lying scattered about in muddy fields and abandoned building sites. I can still feel my mother's trembling hand in mine."

Which is why his films are not only populated by exiles, but buffeted by the cruelties of history, war and politics. His four-hour **THE TRAVELLING PLAYERS** (1975) is about a roving band of players who revisit Greek history from 1939 to 1952. The very next, **THE HUNTERS** (1977), picks up the chronology and is about the body of a resistance soldier discovered by hunters. **ULYSSES' GAZE** (1994) with Harvey Keitel, is a voyage through the minefield of Balkan history, including the Bosnian tragedy.

...



"... Our feeling of melancholy is the dignity of the heart facing the defeat of a vision."

"I do not believe my films are pessimistic," maintains Angelopoulos, sometimes called "the director of history". "I try to see clearly. My generation, and all those who lived through the adventure called post-war history and hope for a new world, witnessed a series of disappointments... Our feeling of melancholy is the dignity of the heart facing the defeat of a vision."

And now Angelopoulos has tackled his magnum opus: *THE WEEPING MEADOW*, which is the first of a projected trilogy about—history, war, and exile.

"A story of exile, separation and wandering, chronicling the collapse of ideologies and the trials of history," the director states with a flourish.

Only this time the main character is a woman, the first to highlight an Angelopoulos film since his first. "A child who knows exile and death, a love-struck adolescent, a mother, a solitary woman," he elaborates.

The story begins in Odessa in 1919, where the Red Army chases the Greek refugees who settled there, back to Greece. Eleni (Alexandra Aidini) is adopted by one village family and becomes pregnant by her adoptive brother, identified only as the Young Man (Nikos Poursanidis). The twin boys born to them are sent away at birth, the couple flees

to Thessaloniki to escape Eleni's vengeful adoptive father, Spyros (Vassilis Kolovos), who wants her as his own bride, and the Young Man tries to make a living as a musician, before he emigrates to America to make a better life. Eleni is left behind as World War II breaks out, Greece is occupied by the Italians, and then the Germans, that war ends, the civil war begins, the couple's sons wind up fighting on opposite sides.

And that's only the first part of the trilogy. The second is described as a "road movie that begins in Uzbekistan in 1953 on the day of Stalin's death and crosses to Russia in Siberia and Moscow." In the third, the action shifts to Hungary, the Austrian border and Italy, before ending up in New York in 1974.

"History and power are in the center of his universe, where the harms of all kinds of totalitarian ideology are clearly manifest," insists critic Yvette Biro.

Angelopoulos himself says the film, which premiered in Berlin last year, is actually one of his most straightforward, considering its monumental scope: "Here we have a linear fictional narration" with the object to "turn one's camera exclusively on what we would call the twentieth century, seen through the eyes of a woman—the life of a woman who lives through its greatest events and also has as a central theme the exiles of the Greeks."

To mount perhaps the largest production in Greek cinema history, Angelopoulos built the largest set in its history. He scouted as far as the Ukraine and Uzbekistan for locations and

finally came back to Thessaloniki and Lake Kerkini to build his fictional village.

"This village was built from scratch," he says. "About one hundred houses with real building materials, with a street plan, with a church, a school, everything. Everything a village would have."

Then he tackled more set construction in the gulf of Thessaloniki: "An even bigger undertaking than that of Kerkini: almost 200 dwellings. Initially it was to be a small refugee neighborhood of 50-60 low-lying little houses, and then we began to add more and more."

All for a three-hour epic that has been described as "a masterpiece" and a film of "such ambition, expertise and vision (as) comes along so rarely." And with a haunting score by Eleni Karaindrou.

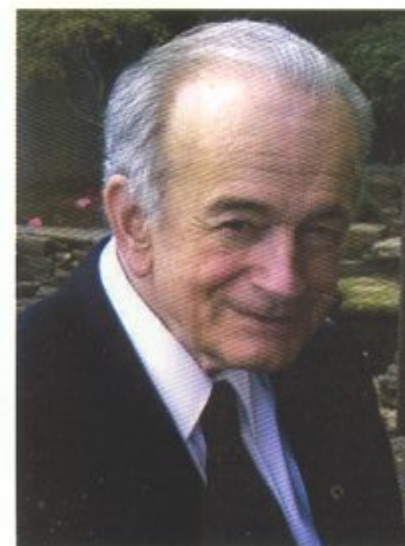
The film won the European Film Academy Critics' Award in 2004 and was an official selection of the Berlin Film Festival. It was released this month in New York by New Yorker Films.



Vryonis new book chronicles 1955 Turkish pogroms

By Vicki J. Yannias

The lifelong scholarship of the preeminent Byzantinist, Spero Vryonis, Jr. has been dedicated to the study of the history and culture of the Greeks from Homer to the present, and on their relations with the Slavic, Islamic, and new worlds. His critical use of primary sources and a matchless ability to synthesize large quantities of information are his hallmark.



Professor Vryonis's already highly-acclaimed new book, *The Mechanism of Catastrophe: The Turkish Pogrom of September 6-7, 1955, and the Destruction of the Greek Community of Istanbul*, Greekworks.com's first publication, involved twelve years of research of new archival sources and oral testimonies and is the first in-depth study in any language of the significant historical and socio-political factors of the event.

He spoke recently with NEO from his home in Eldorado Hills, California.

Were the attacks on the Greek community's forty-five locations throughout the city planned?

All the evidence, including individual accounts in the newspapers, indicates that this was nothing spontaneous; it was well organized. There were three systematic waves. We know that the secret police, the municipal police, and the armed services were everywhere. And if they wanted to stop it they could have stopped it in an hour. There is ample testimony to all this.

The attackers used pickaxes, shovels, and battering rams. What was destroyed?

According to my own conservative estimates, about 4,500 businesses, 3,500 dwellings, over 90 churches, the cemeteries, the monasteries, 36 of 41 schools were destroyed in 8 hours. The events began sometime around 6:00 PM. By 10:00 PM Istanbul was on fire. You could see the flames for miles. This community was destroyed in only eight hours.

You have an abiding interest in the East, yet were born in Memphis, Tennessee. Your par-

the mechanism of catastrophe

THE TURKISH POGROM OF SEPTEMBER 6-7, 1955, AND THE DESTRUCTION OF THE GREEK COMMUNITY OF ISTANBUL



ents were from Cephalonia, with fascinating ancestors that emigrated to exotic places. Did that influence you? Are there records?

Yes, there is a vast body of letters, and of course, all the name days and Christmas cards... hundreds of them, from various relatives. I wrote the five branches of the family in a small book *The Vryonis Family: Four Generations of Greek-American Memories*. One, my great-great uncle, Antypas, had a business in Manchuria, Karkow and Odessa; I found the logs of one of his boats. I found out how he decided to invest in Manchuria with his brother because the Trans Siberian Railroad had connected Vladivostok with Moscow, so it was wide open for commerce. Harbin, in Manchuria, was really a Russian city; 100,000 Russians ruled over the Chinese and over the Manchus and the foreign groups like the Greeks and Cephallonetes.

There is a colored poster, dated 1898, of his huge, block-long, block-wide, two story alcohol factory which made alcoholic beverages - but also medicinal - with all the gold medals it had won in competitions. And then I identified his photograph... around his neck is one of those gold medals in the poster.

After a distinguished career at UCLA Professor Vryonis became the founding director of the Alexander S. Onassis Center for Hellenic Studies, and founded and was the director of the Basil Vryonis Center for the Study of Hellenism. Among his prolific publications is the seminal *The Decline of Medieval Hellenism in Asia Minor and the Process of Islamization from the Eleventh Through the Fifteenth Century*.

Prime Minister Konstantinos Karamanlis of The Hellenic Republic and Foreign Minister Petros Molyviatis were this year's recipients in New York of the prestigious "Justice for Cyprus Award," the highest honor of the Cyprus Federation of America.

According to its president, Peter (Panikos) Papanicolaou, "the distinction is presented to those who have been exemplary leaders and outspoken advocates of the just and noble cause for the liberation of Cyprus from the Turkish occupation forces."

The Federation's Testimonial Dinner was held on Thursday, September 15, at the New York Hilton Hotel, with honorary guests including Archbishop Demetrios of America, Cyprus President Tassos Papadopoulos and his Foreign Minister George Iakovou, New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, US Senator Paul Sarbanes, former New York University President John Brademmas, SAE (World Council of Hellenes) President Andrew Athens and PSEKA (International Coordinating Committee "Justice for Cyprus") President Philip Christopher, who publicly thanked the people of Greece for their continuing multifaceted support towards the liberation and reunification of the island. The event also featured leading artists, singers Marios Frangoulis (tenor) and Constantinos Yannoudes (baritone), and pianists Thodoris Economou and Yannis Xylas, who stirred the audience of over 500 people. A young girl, Georgia N. Karacostas, whose grandfather took part in the struggle for the liberation of Cyprus from the British rule, sang the national anthems and got a long round of applause. Bloomberg TV anchorwoman Nicole Petallides-Tsiolas was the mistress of ceremonies.

President Papadopoulos and Prime Minister Karamanlis came to New York on the occasion of the UN's General Assembly. Greece also holds a non-permanent Security Council seat.

Cypriot Americans honor Karamanlis and Molyviatis



Publisher and activist Phanie Petallides-Holiday with Cyprus President Tassos Papadopoulos and Prime Minister Kostas Karamanlis.



From left to right: Bloomberg TV anchorwoman and Master of Ceremonies Nicole Petallides-Tsiolas, Cyprus Federation of America President Panikos Papanicolaou, PSEKA President Philip Christopher and Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic Kostas Karamanlis.



President Papadopoulos welcomes Prime Minister Karamanlis while Panikos Papanicolaou and Tassos Zambas (from left) seem to enjoy the moment.



Prime Minister Karamanlis receiving the Justice for Cyprus Award from Pancyprian Association President Panikos Papanicolaou. Greek Foreign Minister Petros Molyviatis (third from left), also a recipient of the same award, with Archbishop Demetrios and PSEKA President Philip Christopher.



Archbishop Demetrios of America, New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Prime Minister Kostas Karamanlis, US Senator Paul Sarbanes and President Tassos Papadopoulos of Cyprus enjoying a friendly chat.



Prime Minister Karamanlis receiving the Justice for Cyprus Award from Pancyprian Association President Panikos Papanicolaou. Greek Foreign Minister Petros Molyviatis (third from left), also a recipient of the same award, with Archbishop Demetrios and PSEKA President Philip Christopher.

Greece in a glass™

What is the beauty of Greece? Poets write poems about it. Philosophers, like Aristotle, philosophize about it. Artists try to capture it. And now, you get to savor it - in your glass.

Enjoy the most popular wines from Greece, imported for you by Nestor Imports, Inc. Some of our favorites are shown below: Kouros red and white, Calliga Rubis, the famous Retsina Kourtaki, Kourtaki Vin De Crete, Chateau Julia Merlot, Amethystos red and white, and for dessert, Kourtakis' Mavrodaphne of Patras and Samos Muscat.

Fill your glass, take a sip, close your eyes, and be there. Beautiful.



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alexis christoforous: ROCK STAR

Alexis Christoforous is a rock star in Kuwait. "Believe it or not, we have very high ratings in Kuwait," admits the CBS anchor and omnipresent business reporter. "They're very much into business." In Australia she can barely walk the streets. "Actually," she laughs, "I was on Australia 9 News a few weeks ago, doing business news for them." In Chicago she's family.

"I'm part of the local news station," she says from her base at the CBS Broadcast Center in New York where all her reports are disseminated ("I spend almost as many hours here as I do at home"). "I do a live report with Chicago every day for their 4 o'clock news, and so for all intensive purposes, a viewer in Chicago sees me as part of the daily newscast. I am part of the family."

In fact, Christoforous, 34, covers the world and blankets the CBS network and affiliates with her business reports (including weekends, when she anchors the network's Marketwatch Weekend) and she's done it in only six years at Marketwatch and CBS and before that at Bloomberg Television, where she began as a general assignment reporter, but soon got down to business.

"They had an opening in their business area and needed someone to do financial market reporting, and I said I would be more than willing to do it and they trained me," she recounts during a rare break in her broadcast schedule in the mellifluous voice she trained in theater. "I love it, I think business reporting is a wonderful niche and it was actually one of the smartest moves I ever made."

She's become the face, and voice, of business and people have sometimes called her on it. "People forget I'm just the messenger," she admits. "And sometimes they ask me why the market went down, and why we can't get it back up, and I wish I could do that."

From her post, however, she can scope the trends: currently, the CEO's being called to task and the New York stock market wrestling with automation.

"A lot of the executives at a lot of companies now have to sign off on their financial statement," she says. "And I think investors and Wall Street are happy about that."

Wall Street is also grudgingly conceding to a new way of doing business.

"The Stock Exchange is hooking up with Archipelago, which is an electronic stock exchange, in an effort to move into the next century," she says. "You'll be able to execute trades faster and with more ease. Some say this might mean the end of the specialists, who call themselves the 'market makers.' But others say automation will take away any show of favoritism. People I spoke to certainly seem to think we are going that way."

As for the U.S. trade balance with other countries, like Canada, Christoforous says, "The American economy is still the 800-lb gorilla everyone has to listen to and respect. But a huge part of what makes the economic engine in this country run is our trade with Canada, with Mexico, and with oil-producing nations."

When she's not on the beat, Christoforous tends after her two sons Karl, 2, and Trevor, not yet one. "Motherhood is the best thing that ever happened to me," she says. "The boys teach me something every day." Her husband, Karl, is a general counsel for Bloomberg, and an active dad. "But with our active schedules, everybody pitches in to babysit."

Born in Queens, New York, she lived there and also in Orlando, Florida and Brooklyn, where she attended St. Mary's Parochial School, then went to the prestigious High School for the Performing Arts in Manhattan and majored in theater.

"So, for a long time I thought that theater might be the avenue I would take," she says. "But when I was in school, we took voice and diction classes and a teacher of mine said, 'You know you have a really good voice for radio. Why don't you pursue that?'"

So she did, at New York University, where she worked on the radio and television station and "actually got some really nice responses from professors there about my work. So that's when I really pursued journalism and media as a field for myself."

Out of school, she worked a year as morning news anchor at WZBG radio in Litchfield, Connecticut ("It was two-and-a-half hours out of the city and it was a big culture shock for me"), and also got her first taste of television working for cable. "I had to shoot my own material, write my own material," she enthuses. "So it was a great learning route for me."

Her father is a Greek Cypriot and a restaurateur, her mother is Italian and a homemaker and Christoforous studied Modern Greek at NYU and often reads the Greek papers to brush up. She hosted the Phidippides Awards honoring film director Michael Cacoyannis, has interviewed Theodorakis, Mouskouri and Dalaras ("There's always a business angle to something") and gets many letters from Greek Americans.

"I get so many warm letters and phone calls from Greeks and Greek Americans who recognize my name," she says, "who see me on television and who just call to say, 'Hey, we're really proud of you and you're doing a great job.' That means a great deal."



Varvatos does the Fall

Fall is here and if you're a man and have a little bit of change (or your Barney's charge card is finally below its limit) and winter is just around the corner, and you always want to look good, whom do you trust to dress you the season?

"He has a wonderful color sense," says men's fashion editor Roseanne Morrison of John Varvatos. "They're masculine colors, but beautiful."





He understands you don't to scream at customers at that price range." A Varvatos cotton shirt can retail for \$200, a pair of slacks for \$300, a sport jacket for \$700, an overcoat for a few thousand.

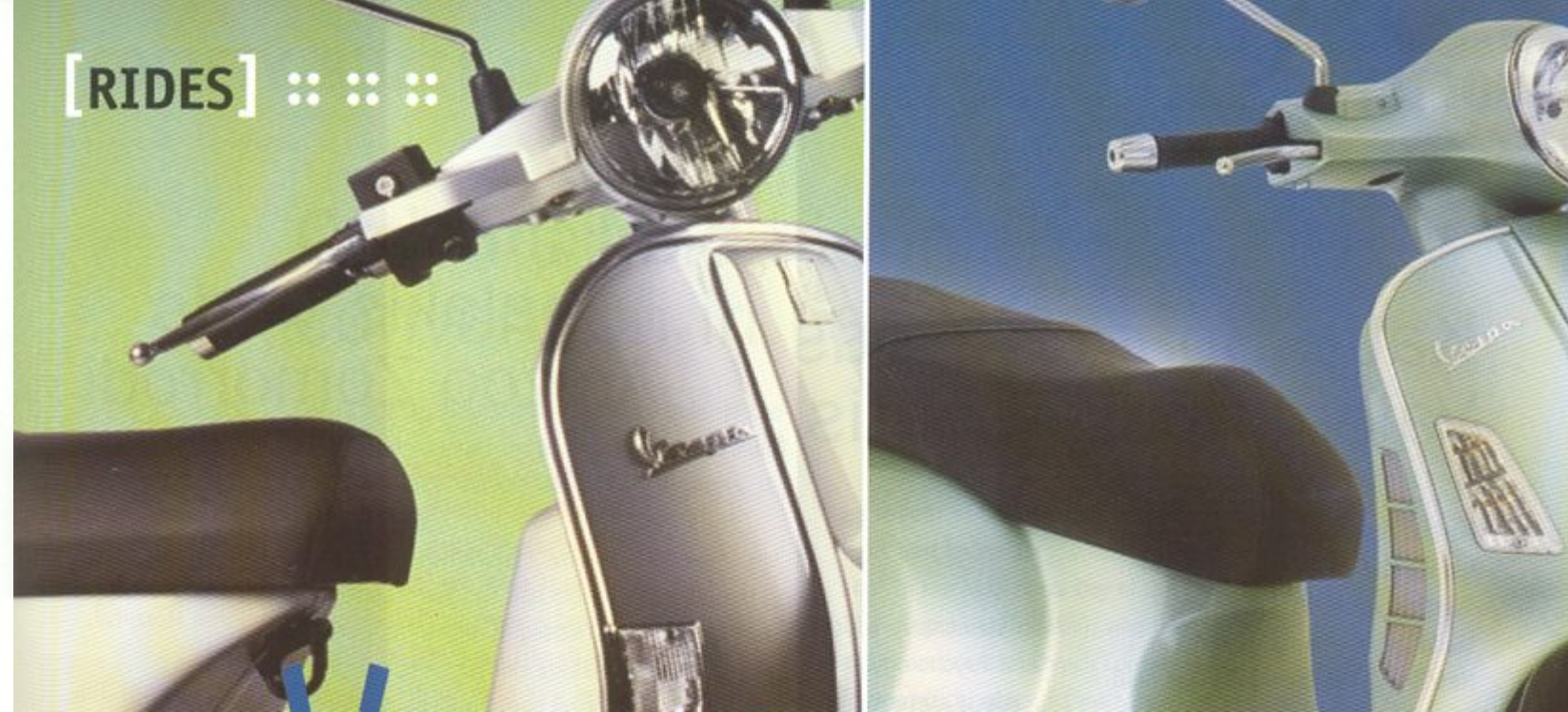
But the Washington Post says with Varvatos you get what you pay for: "Varvatos menswear can, at times, be breathtaking. It is defined by uncluttered lines and luscious fabrics. He chooses woody colors that are deep and rich, and nothing ever looks too shiny or nouveau riche. His leather coats bear marks of character, as though they have been beaten up by life. And his velvet jackets never look as though they've been stitched from the cover of a cheap banquet."

"I think I make masculine clothes that have enough edge that even a fashion guy can find enough to push him," says the 50-year-old former head designer for Calvin Klein and Ralph Lauren who was born in suburban Detroit and loves Motown, Hendrix, and "the whole music, rock connection." The Midwest "is very grounding," he says. "I go back and look at people and most people in those areas are not fashionistas. They want to look beautiful and well dressed."

The same goes for his women's collection. "I think there's this confusion about what is sexy," he says. "There's this idea that if it's more feminine, it's sexy. I think you can be buttoned up in a suit and tie and be very sexy."

Varvatos also sells a fragrance (John Varvatos Men's), as well as grooming products and accessories such as shoes and small leather goods through his own stores (Soho, The Mall at Short Hills in New Jersey, Las Vegas, Los Angeles) and outlets such as Barney's and Saks.

"For me, it's about being true to myself and not moving so far away from what we do," he says. "I think people are driven so much to be new, they lose their heritage and the personality they're building. The thing I enjoy the most about reviews is when they say, 'It's very John Varvatos.'"



Vespa: Its time has come



ing through the metallic sea of steaming cars and poppy field of red-faced drivers.

But would you be caught dead on a motorcycle? Can you muster that much mojo? Or enough nerve to buy a leather jacket and, God forbid, leather pants?

The answer to the urban commuter blues has been around since 1946 when Italian aeronautical engineer Corradino D'Ascanio, who also designed and built the first modern helicopter, designed and built the first Vespa for Piaggio in Pontedera, Italy. ("Sembra una Vespa!" declared Enrico Piaggio when he first saw it—"It looks like a wasp!"—hence, the name.) Since then nearly 16 million of the scooters have been produced and sold all over the world—and they've come to America.

"Filling the gas tank of most scooters involves only a fraction of the expense of keeping a typical car's tank full," says web-based guru Michael Pollick on wiseGEEK. As for insurance, "Scooters...are much easier to operate than motorcycles and rarely incur the sort of damage or liability even the smallest automobile can experience."

Think of it: You're paying nearly \$3.50 for gas—almost as much as the Europeans! You're paying nearly the price of your old wreck on insurance. (God, forbid, you report a fender-bender.) And you can never find a parking space no matter how early you leave for work. Plus, when you're stuck in traffic on the West Side the guy in the Yamaha is always there to lord it over you by weav-

Besides, "Scooters can legally be parked in city-sponsored bicycle racks or secured to sturdy objects on the sidewalk."

And they can "maintain city traffic speeds, making them less of a potential hazard than bicyclists or pedestrians."

So what are you waiting for?

Vespas look like bugs and they ride like lawn mowers?

Not anymore. The BV500 sports a racing bike recessed stance and seat and can rocket to 96 mph (at least that's the stated top speed) if you're really late for work. It also has an automatic (most do) and natural air conditioning for only \$6,199. If you really want to look butch there's the X9 loaded for bear and looking like the scooter from Star Wars for only \$100 more than the BV500. (Cheaper models like the flashy-metallic LT50 go for around \$2,000.)

Besides, you have the testimonials that make your wallet or pocketbook itch. "I put about 20 miles a day on mine, and I only have to fill it up twice a month." "I put \$5 worth of gas into mine when it's totally empty, compared to \$50 for my SUV."

What are you waiting for?



Katie Spanos Weds Valentino Zarboutis

Katie Spanos and Valentino Zarboutis were married on Sunday, June 12th at Saint Markella's Cathedral in Astoria, New York. The reception was held



at the Carlyle on the Green in Old Bethpage, New York. The bride and groom met at Hofstra University, where he studied Business Management and she received a dual bachelor's degree

in Elementary Education and Psychology. Katie is currently a teaching assistant in the Learning Center at Cold Spring Harbor High School, in Cold Spring Harbor, New York. She received a master's degree in Literacy at Long Island University in Brookville, NY and is in the process of pursuing a second masters there in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages). She is one of five children of Isidoros and Irene Spanos of Laurel Hollow, New York. Valentino is currently running his family's restaurant in Massapequa, NY. He is the only child of Tom and Mary Zarboutis. The couple honeymooned in Italy and Greece. They reside in Massapequa Park, New York.

Michael J. Mihalakis weds Arezoo Zomorodi

Michael J. Mihalakis recently wed Arezoo Zomorodi in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Both doctors, Michael will practice at Riddle Memorial Hospital in Media, Pa. in the Department of Emergency Medicine; and Arezoo in Philadelphia's Children Hospital, in the Department of Pediatrics.

Michael was born in Bethlehem and is the son of Jim and Popi (Sitaras) Mihalakis. He received his BA in Government from Cornell, his MD from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and he did his residency in the Department of Emergency Medicine at Temple University Hospital. Both the Sitaras and Mihalakis families come from Chios Greece.

Arezoo was born in Tehran, Iran and is the daughter of Mozaffar and Manijeh Zomorodi. She came to the U.S. in 1978 and her family settled in San Diego, CA and later northern Virginia. She received her BS in Biology from Georgetown University, her MD from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, and she did her residency in the Department of Pediatrics at the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh.



Cretans held biennial convention in Las Vegas

The Pancretan Association of America held its convention this summer in Las Vegas and Dr. E. Mike Vasilomanolakis was the master of ceremonies. He writes:

It was a wonderful event, very well attended, and the program was one that moved and enthused the audience. A number of people were honored that night, including keynote speaker Harry Pappas. He reminisced about growing up as a Cretan son and spoke of the qualities and ideals of being a Cretan. During the evening, Bishop Anthimos addressed the crowd as did retiring PAA president Stavros Semanderes. Consulate General Dimitrios Zevelakis of Los Angeles spoke of Greece's achievements and inter-



Dr. Joanne Vasilomanolakis-Boures
John Aniston
Niki Anagnos
Dr. E. Mike Vasilomanolakis

action with the United States. International New Age music sensation "Omar" performed, as did outstanding lira and lagouto players from Crete. The evening was highlighted with honorary plaques given to three Cretans who had distinguished themselves in the field of entertainment and politics: John Aniston (Anastassakis), who has been an

actor both on stage, television and feature films. He is best known for his nefarious "Victor Kiriakis" in the soap opera Day of Our Lives; Sigmund "Sig" Rogich (Hadzidakis), who lives in Nevada and is president of Rogich Communications Group, which among its many roles, is also involved in business development and advertising, particularly for the gaming and entertainment industry. He served as a speechwriter for Ronald Reagan and George Bush senior and was an ambassador to Iceland; Tony Orlando (Kassavetakis), a warm and energetic individual who electrifies his audience. He has sold millions of records, had



Billboard Hits New Age recording artist Omar Akram, who also performed that evening.
Dr. Joanne Vasilomanolakis-Boures
Tony Orlando
Niki Anagnos
Dr. E. Mike Vasilomanolakis

five number one hits, a popular television series and has performed in film and on Broadway. His song "Tie a Yellow Ribbon around the Ole Oak Tree" was the number one song in 1973.

They electrified the audience and created a festive and enthusiastic evening for all.

The wonders of mastic

About Mastic Spa Mission

Mastic Spa's founders are brothers Michael and George Sodis, third generation pharmacists, who share a deep love for their native island of Chios and the extraordinary tree that grows there and nowhere else in the world. Because of Mastic Spa's strong belief in the benefits of mastic, or mastiha, and its commitment to making its products available in the U.S., Americans can now share the beauty secret once only known in Chios.

The first Mastic Spa stores outside of Greece open in Soho, New York City, and in Montreal, Canada, in the summer of 2005.



History

The references to mastic appeared in the First Century pharmacological treatise De Materia Medica by the Greek physician and botanist Dioscorides.

In 1474, Christopher Columbus visited the Island. He sent a letter to the King and Queen of Spain, promising to bring back "spices and MASTIC" (his emphasis), which he referred to as "white gold." British historian Thomas Fuller's Pharmacopoeia Extemporanea, published in 1710, lists many ancient formulas that include mastic. Mastic has been used for hundreds of years as a food additive for flavoring in Greece and the Middle East, and as an effective stomach and ulcer remedy when chewed as gum. It is believed the ancient Egyptians were first to discover mastic's benefits for the skin.

Sodis Family History

Long ago, Ioannis Sodis hid his extraordinary mastic-based formulas behind a thick stone wall in the family pharmacy in Chios. His guiding principle was to combine the resin and oil of the mastic tree with hot spring water, wild flowers and other natural ingredients, to create products to enhance personal health, skin care and beauty. These formulas were discovered during a recent renovation of the 128 year old store.

Many of these proprietary combinations became the MasticSpa products offered today, and reflect the Sodis family's commitment to the "all natural beauty secrets of the Aegean" offered by their island.

in Mastic Spa

Company Profile

The Sodis brothers and their families started Mastic Spa several years ago in the 128 year old family pharmacy. There are now 15 Mastic Spa stores throughout Greece, selling beauty products based on the research and experimental applications of mastic by their father, Ioannis Sodis. The company formulates, packages and distributes its products from a state of the art manufacturing facility in Chios.

The state-of-the-art Sodis laboratories in Chios are groundbreaking for research of mastic, and for the development of natural mastic products. Equipped with modern technology for production, as well as packaging, the laboratories are staffed with employees who receive ongoing and up-to-date training on developments in mastic research, to develop products made with mastic that will serve the needs of today's woman. We work from respected research studies and technology centers to ensure that all our products are pure and safe and guaranteed to be the freshest and most natural.



Bios

JOHN SODIS

The late John Sodis was a pioneer and a visionary, with an ambitious and enterprising spirit. He's credited with elevating the natural ingredient mastic into something extraordinary.

A chemist and a pharmacist, John Sodis developed the first use of mastic in beauty products for our modern time. With enthusiasm and zeal, in 1978 he blazed new trails in the use of this unique natural ingredient, which grows only in the Chian soil, by creating the first cosmetic product - the toothpaste Mastic Dent.

At the same time, John Sodis served in politics, representing Chios as a Member of Parliament in the Greek government, serving as mayor of the island, and serving in other governmental posts. He died in 1992, leaving behind a rich legacy, which his sons Michael and George continue to nourish with equal dedication and zeal.

MICHAEL SODIS

Michael Sodis belongs to a new generation of Greek businessmen who have a truly global view of business. Ambitious and enterprising, he left his studies in Business Administration in Manchester, U.K. to begin an entrepreneurial career at a relatively young age. A native Chian and scion of a large and celebrated family, he is known for his dedication to his native soil, the sweetly-scented "Myrovolos" island of Chios. All of his business ventures have originated on his island home.

Michael Sodis is the General Manager of Mastic Spa A.E and General Director of the import company, Sodis E.P.E, which trades non-food goods in several product categories, partnered with many large multinational firms.

GEORGE SODIS

George Sodis, Mastic Spa's Managing Director, earned a degree in Pharmacy at the Aristotelian University of Thessaloniki. Upon graduation, he returned to Chios, where he continued the development of his firm's beauty and cosmetic lines, continuing the tradition begun by his father. He soon expanded upon his father's labors developing new uses of mastic in beauty and cosmetic products through his own research.

A passionate Chian devoted to the island and its community, George Sodis never entertained the idea that Mastic Spa's headquarters and research facilities would be located anywhere but in Chios.





The mastic

History

ANTIQUITY: MASTIC WAS WORSHIPED LIKE A GODDESS...

DIOSKOURIDES

"A resin is produced by this bush which is used for blood reproduction and for persistent coughs. It can also be mixed with dental cleaning solutions and face powders, making teeth and skin shiny, and can comfort the pain of the teeth gum."

The Mastic tree grows in only one place on the whole planet - the southern part of the island Chios. No research has been able to prove the reason for this phenomenon, although, some older reports note that the uniqueness of the earth in the southern region of Chios can be explained by the volcanoes beneath the sea in that area.

According to a local tradition, mastic is the "tear" of the bush for the tortures inflicted on Saint Isidoros in 253 A.D. under a mastic tree.

"This bush only grows on the land of Chios, which was watered by the tears and blood of the martyr Isidoros." Michail Ioustinianis 1667 A.D.

Of course, this follows the Christian tradition, since mastic dates back thousands of years. It is important to note that leaves from the Mastic bush have been discovered, dating back six millions years.

Both in antiquity and in modern times, mastic has been treated with the utmost respect all over the world: "...from those visiting Chios in our time, everybody described the tree and its fruit and spoke in favor of it."

Mastic was described by Dioskourides, Theophrastus, Galenos, Hippocrates, Apollodorus, Plinius, and Ermolaus.

DIOSKOURIDES (1st Century, Doctor and Botanist. "Father of Pharmacy," author of De Materia Medica or "About Medical Substances.")

- * It helps indigestion, blood reproduction and eases coughing.
- * It invigorates vocal chords.
- * It treats all abdominal aches and the carcinomas of the stomach.
- * It treats diseases of the uterus.
- * It makes the face shiny.
- * It whitens teeth.
- * It can be used against burns

* Women in ancient Rome used toothpicks made by wood coming from the Mastic tree, which was dipped in mastic oil (Sonnini).
"Mastic oil, coming from the granulated fruit or grain of the tree, was capable of treating hair loss and mouth inflammation." Mastic was the main ingredient of mummy taxidermy in ancient Egypt. (Herodotus, Diodorus).

* "The white inside of the granule was mixed with honey, and was used on inflammations of the nose." Hippocrates
* GATEFOSSE, (the largest chemical company in France) mentions in a paper on Chios and mastic, which was published in the French Magazine "Modern Aromas," that dentists use mastic on damaged teeth to strengthen the gums like an oral antiseptic. It was also noted that all toothpastes could contain mastic oil.
The translators of the Holy Bible believed that the term "shinos" refers to the Mastic tree. Mastic is also mentioned in the Apocalypse.

Mastic is also an ingredient of the Holy Unction.

Mastic had always been, unintentionally, Chios' greatest advantage, saving the island from the tyranny of intruders.

During the Byzantine period, the commercial exploitation of mastic was a monopoly of the Greek Emperor. Mastic was widely known during this era and very popular in Europe's great commercial centers.

It [mastic] used to have the same value as gold, and those attempting to steal or those who actually stole mastic were prosecuted and severely punished (varying from a large fine to hanging!) "If you want to live safely in Chios, you should never try to steal Mastic."

The great value of mastic during that era is also proven by the fact that it was given as a dowry.

"...they gave to them five Mastic trees...And ten litres of Mastic..."

During the Turkish Occupation, the people working on the production of mastic were given special privileges. The mastic producing villages (Mastihohoria) had a free administration and autonomy and had only the obligation to cultivate mastic and give it to the "Sakiz - emini" (Mastic Tax Collector.)

In the Koran, Mohamed advises his followers to use mastic.

The intoxicating aroma of mastic was the reason that the Muslims used mastic in their bread.

The Egyptians used mastic in the ceramic bowls that were used for water storage. Sometimes they were obliged to drink low quality water and the mastic's aroma made it seem more palatable.

The great explorer Christopher Columbus was, among other things, a supplier of medical herbs. He knew about the medicines from his travels and his visits to the famous drug stores of his era.

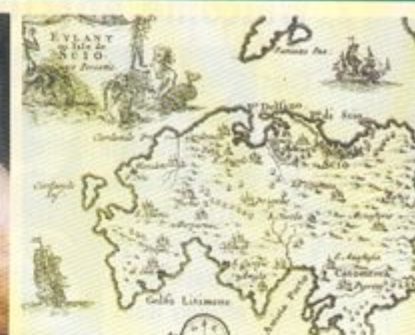
From the many herbs having a medical value, Columbus believed that he had identified aloe, which was used in laxative tablets in the 15th century, and also mastic, which was very expensive due to its antibacterial activity and its wide use against cholera.

In one of his travels, Colombus visited the island of Chios (the house where he is believed to have stayed in can be found in Pirgi, the main village of Mastihohoria), where he recruited many sailors. Isabel and Ferdinand of Spain were usually the sponsors of Columbus's travels. To thank them, Columbus sent them, as gifts, anything special and valuable he could find during his travels.

On February 15, 1493, Columbus wrote a letter to Luis De Saint Angel, treasurer of Aragon, notifying him of the discovery of both the New World and mastic. "To conclude, only about what happened during my travels, their Excellences (Isabel and Ferdinand of Spain) will see, that I can provide them with as much gold as they want, if they can help me just a little, spices and silk, as much as their excellences can load, and MASTIC (emphasis added by Columbus himself), which until now has only been discovered in Greece, on the island of Chios."

If the value of spices was calculated by their weight in silver, Columbus believed that the value of mastic should be calculated by its weight in gold.

tree



Studies

MASTIC AND SCIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS - CHAIR OF PHARMACOLOGY

ATHENS, DECEMBER 1998

Chemical synthesis and antibacterial activity of the essential oil extracted from the plant Pistacia Lentiscus Var Chia - mastic oil.

RESULTS - CONCLUSIONS

Mastic oil showed a remarkable antibacterial activity. It also revealed a very important anti-fungus activity. This very interesting antibacterial activity of the resin (mastic) will justify research on its activity against clinically isolated resistant micro-organisms.

CLINICAL RESEARCH OF THE ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY OF THESSALONIKI ON THE ACTIVITY OF CHIOS MASTIC IN ORAL HYGIENE

The alteration of bacterial plaque.

The aim of the paper is to examine how natural Chios mastic can prevent the damaging effect (toxicity) of the viruses gathering around the teeth. The results showed the following:

1. By systematic chewing of Chios mastic, the amount of bacterial plaque was statistically reduced to an important extent of 41.5%, compared to cases when nothing had been chewed.
2. The use of Chios mastic did not increase the number of leucocytes in the bacterial plaque.

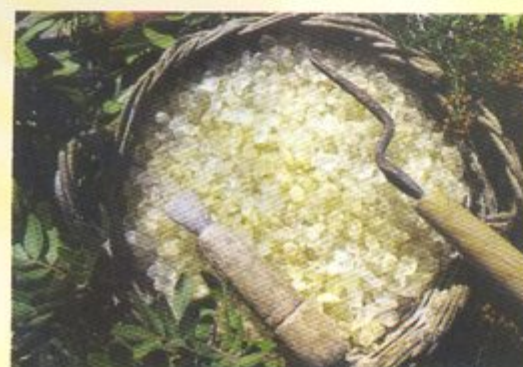
NOTTINGHAM UNIVERSITY CLINIC

CHIOS MASTIC DESTROYS THE SPIRAL BACTERIA OF THE PYLORUS

A small dose of Mastic - 1 gram per day for two weeks - can heal peptic ulcers very fast.

Mastic clearly caused important structural changes to the organism, as shown by the electrical microscope.

These results show that mastic is certain to possess an anti-bacterial activity against the spiral bacteria of pylorus. This activity could at least explain the anti-ulcer activity of mastic.



Chios Island

Chios, Greece

The island of Chios is located in eastern Greece in the Aegean Sea. Chios is an island of great importance, noted in antiquity for its epic poets, such as Homer, and prominent members of Greek culture and society throughout the ages, such as Adamantios Korais, who lived during the 18th and 19th centuries.

Chios was the hub of commerce and shipping throughout the Mediterranean during antiquity, renowned for inhabitants who were characterized by wild entrepreneurship and sharp business acumen, and known as the greatest sailors and among the earliest ship-owners in the world.

Chios is a place of extraordinary beauty and dramatic changes of scenery, with crystal clear waters and sun-kissed beaches. Chios is known for the uniqueness of the fruits of its earth, as well as for its historic origins.

The area of Campos is a magical oasis. Only 10 minutes from the city centre, this area is lush-green, covered with lemon trees, orange trees, sour-orange trees and tangerine trees, giving a wonderful aroma in the Spring, thus Chios is also called "Sweet-scented, aromatic."

In addition, the manor houses dotting the area lend added splendor and elegance to this magical landscape.

The southern region of the island is home to a verdurous landscape of Mastic trees. Mastic is a rare and precious resinous gum, an official substance with thousands of beneficial properties that has bestowed upon Chios a special importance. When the Mastic tree trunk is cut, the pearly-white mastic pours out.

24 villages on Chios have been cultivating mastic for centuries. The cultivation of mastic is a difficult task, but the villagers who tend to the mastic are filled with love and pride for their pearly-white gold.

In the northern region of the island, the scenery changes; precipitous mountains of extraordinary beauty meet virgin coastlines. In the northern edge of the island, the mineral spring Agiasmata seems to overhang on the Aegean seashore. It is only six kilometers from the village of Keramos. There, near the village Kourounia (where we find Ariousios wine), the virgin spring of Pagousena spouts-out, gargling from the mouth of the highest mountain of Chios, Pelineos.

Today, Chios is an unspoiled destination with natural wonders, villages dating back to the Middle Ages, "magical" spots, and beaches with pristine waters. And, it's where mastic grows...



::[periXscope]

Welcome Ab(r)oard!

⚡ I was trying to think of a famous saying or motto in order to start filling this brand-new NEO space, but after so much direct or indirect effort I decided to give up and go along with the dictates of my experienced (!) inspiration. It lurks, it seems, at every corner and when necessary it appears as an unsuspecting passerby, always with information handy that securely leads me to the closest public restroom.

⚡ Periscope is a tool that allows us to observe things on the surface while we go unnoticed in the hermetic safety of a submarine. We will try, however, in the course of the upcoming issues to look through the water as well as objects and their colors come to possess new forms and shapes, the existence of which they themselves might ignore. But enough of metaphors and allegories! Who cares anyway, about the underwater world and its inhabitants, unless you are a Physical History freak, or in his or her way about to become one (very Republican, isn't it?).

⚡ Sorry for being lost so early, but it happens even to those who claim the highest level of ex-

pertise and I certainly do not fit in that category, although so far you have every right to suspect the opposite is true. At any rate, periscope is an instrument of a bigger instrument that's called a submarine, and which translated in Greek (hypovrychio) might also mean a very popular summer treat that consists of a big spoonful of a kind of vanilla cream dipped into a glass of ice cold water! You see how a term becomes multidimensional, requiring unconventional wisdom even in its etymological approach? (Try the same with the word "bush" for example, and from the dryness of a desert kingdom you go non-stop all the way to the White House.) Etymology is a big thing and you should not mess with it, especially if "Grecians" are the object of your discussion (here's the saying that I was looking for in the beginning but now I guess it's too late to go back and start all over).

⚡ Periscope is slightly different from periscope and it's my own invention, my little contribution to the field of applied sciences. Like the second word, periscope starts with the adverb "peri" which means "around." With the addition of "x" it takes the substance of a noun, coming to signify "the surroundings." "Scope," also common in both words, is easier to understand, meaning "aim," "target,"

even "goal." Now, if you thought I am going to target my surroundings, you got it wrong! That notion might make me a target of Homeland Security and who wants that? As we say in Greek, it's better to have your eye harmed (taken out is the literal translation) instead of your name or reputation (nowadays many people would argue about that).

⚡ Trying to make what came to be a long story shorter, Periscope will be a scientific tool that will allow us to delve into our surroundings and come up not with antiquities but with NEOvelties that might be of relevant usefulness or interest to us all! I'm saying might be, because for a Greek, utilitarianism is only a side-collateral I would say--desire, never a priority. So, we could end up delving for the sake of delving and that's all right (to me at least).

⚡ Once more, welcome aboard. Soon we will be diving into deep waters, in a world not so much reminiscent of Cousteau's documentaries, but of our own surroundings, that might include much more than our extended neighborhood with its favorite hangouts...

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Elena Zazanis

New York actress



Ridiculous. From that response I'm thinking this Brian person is incapable of making an appointment, let alone a movie and decide not to go. I have a lot of good stuff going on - pilots and theater stuff, my Fringe Festival call back (tonight!), a commercial on the horizon...I definitely don't need to lose time on some rinky-dink indie. Then last week Brian e-mails me again with more specific details surrounding the film, as well as train information. He also says that his assistant will pick up the actors coming from the city and bring us to the studio. Much more professional - downright intriguing - so I e-mail to confirm.

I wake up at 8:30, throw on some flattering clothes and figure I can do my makeup on the train. I get to Penn Station, pick up the New York Post and a coffee, treat myself to a black-and-white and Page 6. Am I wasting a day out there for some indie project that will never get edited (at best) or am I walking into some psycho trap? I try not to think about my recording deal in Montreal with the loser producer who stalked me for two years.

At the Greenlawn station I meet two girls who are obviously here for the same purpose. (No men - not a good sign.) The girls and I look nothing like each other, but two of us are auditioning for the same role??? The girls are nice and we exchange cards, but after 20 minutes we look around to see if we've been so distracted by each other that we've failed to recognize our ride. But there is no one in sight. Gretchen is highly-organized (laptop, cell, BlackBerry, food and water) and she summons up the original contact sheet and gives Brian a call. He says his assistant, Peter, should have been there already...Another 30 minutes and he arrives, explaining that he got lost. Whatever!

It's not my best audition, but I'm not horrible, either. Nerves under control. Totally relaxed. But in all honesty,

not feeling the dialogue organically. At the end of my second read, the casting director (she's an actress, too) blurts out, "There may or may not be a call back." Abrupt, to say the least. But Brian makes a point of shaking my hand and holding on while telling me



A Day in the Life

It's Friday, July 15th and I have an audition for an independent film this morning. About three weeks ago I received an e-mail from a filmmaker inviting me to audition at some place out on Long Island called Dix Hills. I e-mailed back to ask him about transportation, and he replied as follows: "From the closest LIRR station you can grab a taxi or something, I would think."

...

he really liked my work. Who knows? I wouldn't cast myself in this film if it were up to me, but if I get an offer, I'll accept.

Peter gives us a ride to the train and I get to the city at 4:30. I decide to get manicure. After a rough week of call backs and some pesky freelance marketing work, I'm pretty tense. I go to the salon and tell the manicurist to sign me up, hoping I can squeeze it in before a 6 o'clock commercial audition.

I get to the audition on time and meet another actor holding his head shot as I ride up the elevator with him to the 9th floor of NYU's Kimmel Center. The guy is tall and chubby- total suburbia/no edge. He tells me he's reading for the "Husband" and asks me if I'm there for the "Wife." I tell him, as nicely as possible, that I don't believe so because I had submitted for the "Corporate Woman" in response to the casting notice for this project. In the common waiting room, there's a good-looking leading-man type and, of course, a brunette who could be my sister. The whole project is on spec--the writer/producer is paying for the production out-of-pocket with the idea of selling the finished spot to the brand: a small beer company with a low budget. But if it sells, the actors will make a few hundred dollars. I don't care because I need good stuff for my reel. At any rate, my "sister" and I read for the corporate woman and the young mom, and after the producer dismisses her, he decides to test me for the wife and calls in the chubby actor from the elevator to read opposite me.

Normally, I'm happy to stay, but tonight I'm scheduled for my third call back to an original musical comedy running in the Fringe Festival. I am DYING to get into that festival because a lot of industry people respect it and attend, and most of all, because it's generally full of new material by young, up-and-coming writers. In short, I really want to get out of this commercial audition so I can get ready for the call back.

I get home, clean up, check my e-mail and casting websites I have bookmarked in my computer, get dressed, made up and am out the door for the subway up to Ripley Grier. I'm nervous--like I ALWAYS am when I really want the part. We're down to four: two blondes and another brunette. The blondes are both tall, one sort of severe-looking and the other more round and soft. The brunette has that Rubens thing going on, too, but when she speaks, she definitely has an edge. I'm still very nervous, and the competition doesn't give me a clue what the people calling the shots are really seeking. I need to remember to tell myself to relax; I've got good projects on my table already, and as soon as I get through this, I can meet Paul for a drink at Greg's bar.

We're all called in together to learn a song from the show, and then we're sent out again and called in individually to read and sing. I tell them that I'm not in a rush and would be very happy to go last if other people need to make trains/get home, etc. It makes me look considerate while not having to go first, which is the absolute worst. Plus, I'm already feeling like I'm at a disadvantage because my first audition was so bad. I couldn't believe they even called me back at all, let alone a third time. On my first audition, I sang (sort of) "Hella Good" by No Doubt. The problem was I learned it the hour before the audition because when they contacted me initially, they asked me to come in that same day. It's a rock musical,



and while I had prepped a good musical theater song for auditions, I didn't have any good rock songs with sheet music and lyrics memorized. So I chose "Hella Good" because I love it, and most of all, because it sounded like a very good fit with the both the role and the casting.

I start singing the song, but after the first two lines, I forget the rest of the lyrics! I keep having to stop and look at the sheet music over the pianist's shoulder. It's mortifying. But, go figure, they ask me to stay and sing again. At the end of the song, I blurt out, "I'll try very hard with this part!" And they all smile.

I meet Paul at Greg's. It's actually my birthday, so he makes a darling toast, we play some pool and I forget about everything except the lovely weekend Paul has planned for me. Home at 2-something, I check my email. In the subject line at 2:17 a.m. is "Beautiful the Musical" with a message asking me back to Ripley's at 1 p.m. I'm in!

Zazanis most recently earned a credit in Turkish filmmaker Aslihan Unaldi's "Razan," a current Sundance candidate. Besides "Beautiful the Musical," her recent theater credits include the sinister role of Delilah at the HERE Theater. She's also hosted an episode of the Travel Channel's series "TV Road Trip to New York" and has performed on-camera and voice-over spots in numerous national and local commercials.



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