

# EXPLORE GREECE

—BOOK NOW—  
AT A TRAVEL AGENT NEAR YOU!



MINISTRY OF TOURISM - GREEK NATIONAL TOURISM ORGANIZATION

[www.visitgreece.gr](http://www.visitgreece.gr)

# N&O

SPECIAL POLITICAL ISSUE

OCT 2006 \$2.95

## The Races For Governor



*Charlie Crist  
in Florida*



*Dina Titus  
in Nevada*



*Phil Angelides  
in California*

**IN NYC:**  
*Catsimatidis for Mayor?*

**INSIDE:**

Best-selling  
Crime Novelist  
**GEORGE PELECANOS**

The View From Greece  
New Democracy's  
**LEFTERIS ZAGORITIS**



# Lafayette Grill & Bar

LUNCH, DINNER, SPECIAL  
EVENTS

Come and enjoy our exquisite cuisine, from tasty mezes to full course dinner  
Excellent ambiance - Great company

FRIDAYS: Live Greek entertainment starting at 10 p.m.

SATURDAYS: Tango & salsa (for rookies and experts!)

MONDAYS: Tango Night

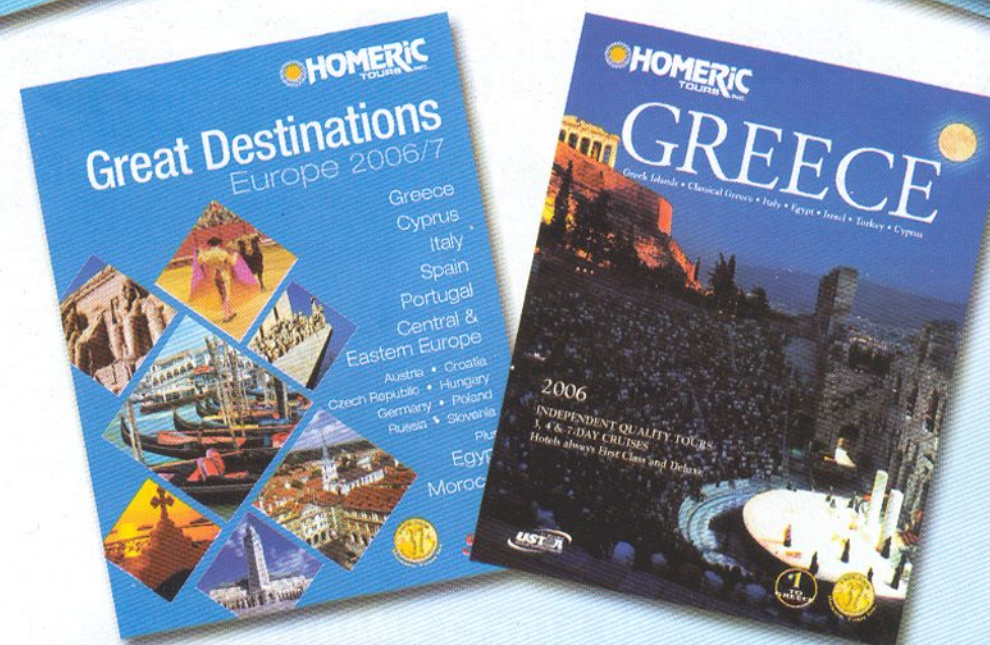
NOW, WITH NEW EXPANDED SPACE

Lafayette Grill is located on next  
to the Court House,  
54-56 Franklin St, New York, NY 10013  
3 blocks from West Broadway, in the  
heart of Manhattan's Downtown!

Tel: 212-732-4449  
212-732-5600

[www.lafgrill.com](http://www.lafgrill.com)

## AMERICA'S NUMBER ONE CHOICE TO GREECE... AND BEYOND



### We Offer Memorable Vacations to the World's Most Desirable Destinations

- ✓ Large Selection of First Class & Deluxe Vacation Packages
- ✓ Escorted, Guided & Independent Itineraries for all Budgets
- ✓ Frequent Guaranteed Departures
- ✓ Honeymoon Specialists
- ✓ Customized Itineraries
- ✓ Very Competitive Group Prices for Schools, Churches, Organizations
- ✓ Year Round Special Offers
- ✓ Airfares to Athens from \$659 to \$899
- ✓ Best Airfares From Most US Cities to Greece And Beyond

- Greece
- Cyprus
- Italy
- Spain
- Portugal
- Turkey
- Morocco
- Egypt
- Austria
- Croatia
- Hungary
- Germany
- Poland
- Russia
- Slovenia
- Czech Rep.

[www.HomericTours.com](http://www.HomericTours.com)



**HOMERIC**  
TOURS INC.

Toll Free: 800-223-5570  
55 E. 59th St. New York, NY 10022  
Tel: 212-753-1100 Fax: 212-753-0319  
Email: [info@homeric-tours.com](mailto:info@homeric-tours.com)  
Web: [www.homeric-tours.com](http://www.homeric-tours.com)







## 8 NEWS & NOTES

### 12 RUNNING HARD

Phil Angelides, running against Arnold Schwarzenegger in California, aptly calls himself the David in this race against the Goliath incumbent governor.

### 14 A FIRST

If elected, Dina Titus would be Nevada's first female governor and the first female Greek American governor in U.S. history.

### 16 EYE ON THE BIG APPLE

John Catsimatidis, the successful billionaire owner of Gristedes and other businesses now says he has "a higher calling" — mayor of New York City.

### 26 STREET-SMART WRITING

Best-selling crime novelist writes from the heart.

### 32 PEOPLE AND PLACES

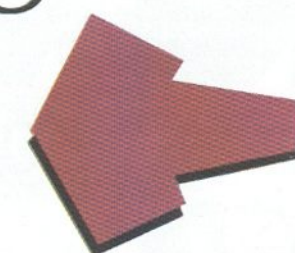
Home-grown poetry, ancient theater and Greek films

### 36 PERIXSCOPE

Hundreds of visitors flock to the Crown Plaza Hotel at La Guardia Airport for the first Queens Real Estate Expo



Besides Language  
Culture  
Heritage  
& History  
we have so many  
other things  
to share



Laiki Group offers full banking services in Cyprus, Greece, the UK and Australia. It also maintains Representative Offices in New York, Toronto, Montreal, Johannesburg, Moscow and Belgrade.

For further information please contact:  
U.S.A. Representative Office: 450 Park Avenue, 19th Floor, Suite No. 1901 New York, NY 10022, Tel.: 212 319 3515, Fax: 212 319 3516, e-mail: laiki.ny@laiki.com or visit our website at: www.laiki.com

 **LAIKI GROUP**  
By your side, all your life!



## FROM THE EDITOR

Happy Birthday to us!

America is lucky to have candidates like John Sarbanes, Zach Space and Carolyn Maloney running for Congress, Phil Angelides, Dina Titus, Charlie Crist and Christy Mihos running for governor, Alexi Giannoulias running for state treasurer in Illinois and Anthony Xanthakis running for the state assembly in New York.

There is also Robert Menendez running for Senate in New Jersey who is one of the best friends the Greeks and Cypriots ever had.

They all deserve our support in the closing weeks of this campaign. NEO is proud to endorse them, and all Americans, not just Greek Americans, will be better served with them in office.

With this issue we also celebrate our 1 Year anniversary and we wanted to thank you all for your support. Here's a recap of our exciting NEO year:



We hope we can meet—and exceed—your expectations in our second year. We can only do it with your continued support.

Thank you,  
Dimitri C. Michalakos

# NEO

:: magazine

**Editor in Chief:**  
Dimitri C. Michalakos  
d.michalakos@neomagazine.com

**Publishing Committee Chairman:**  
Demetrios Rhompotis  
dondemetrio@neomagazine.com

**Marketing and Advertising Director:**  
Kyprianos Bazenikas  
k.bazenikas@neomagazine.com

**Photo/Fashion Director:**  
Alexandros Giannakis  
**Photographers:**  
Christos Kavvadas  
ETA Press

**Legal Advisor:**  
Esq. Jimmy Solomos

**Graphic Design:**  
StaffWriters Plus, Inc.

**NEO Magazine**  
is published monthly by:  
Neocorp Media Inc.  
College Point, NY 11356  
Phone: (718) 554-0308  
e-Fax: (240) 384-8681  
neomagazine@earthlink.net  
info@neomagazine.com

**Athens Liaison**  
Konstantinos Rhompotis  
(01130) 210 51 42 446  
(01130) 6937 02 39 94  
k.rhompotis@neomagazine.com  
People can find NEO in the center of Athens!  
At International Press/Books  
Panepistemiou 73  
Athens, Greece  
Visit our new website  
www.neomagazine.com

## NEO

:: magazine

### SUBSCRIPTION CARD

☐ 1 Year Subscription  
12 Issues for \$29.95

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE# \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Check (payable to NEOCORP MEDIA)  
Mail To: NEOCORP MEDIA,  
4809 Avenue N, Suite 131,  
Brooklyn, NY 11234

☐ Visa ☐ Master Card ☐ AMEX

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

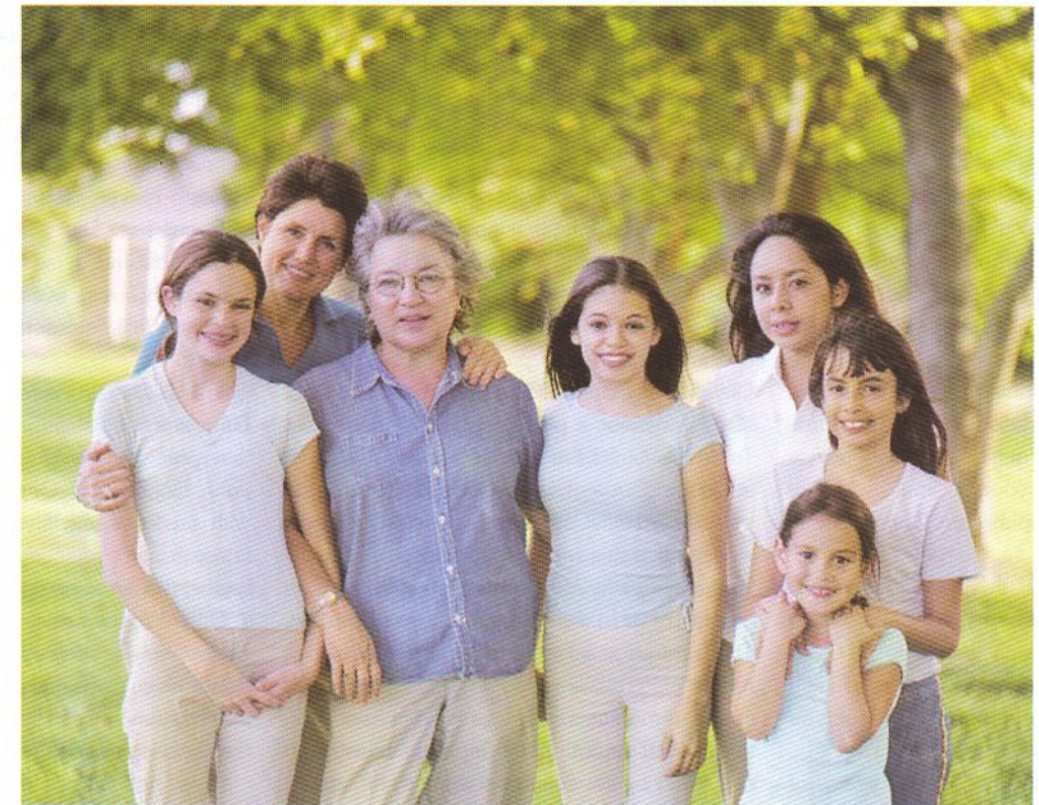
CARD # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## IT IS TIME TO EXPLORE REFINANCING!

**Refinancing your home loan to a lower interest rate or shorter term may result in significant savings. As economic conditions change, you want to be sure you still have the best home financing arrangement for your current and long term financial goals.**



### WE CAN HELP YOU FIND OUT:

**HOW MUCH TIME AND MONEY IT WILL COST TO REFINANCE &  
IF YOU SHOULD CHOOSE AN ARM OR A FIXED-RATE MORTGAGE**



**CALL US TODAY!**

**866.MWB-USA1**

32-75 Steinway Street

Long Island City, NY 11103

Website: [www.mwbankers.com](http://www.mwbankers.com)

E-mail: [info@mwbankers.com](mailto:info@mwbankers.com)

Licensed Mortgage Bankers New York State Banking Department  
Licensed Mortgage Bankers New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance  
Licensed First Mortgage Lender State of Connecticut Department of Banking  
Licensed Mortgage Bankers Florida State Banking Department





# The Democrats Smell Victory

Is there hope for the Democrats in November?

More than ever. As I write, just weeks before Election Day, November 7, I see Democrats winning a majority in the U.S. House of Representatives. A Democratic majority in the U.S. Senate is tougher but a realistic possibility. Why?



COMMENTARY  
JOHN BRADEMAS

The disastrous war in Iraq, the incompetent response to Katrina, the soaring deficits in the federal budget, the culture of corruption among several GOP Congressmen and, of course, the recent revelations concerning the suggestive e-mails and sexually explicit messages sent to some young, male House pages by former Republican Congressman Mark Foley of Florida.

The October 2006 issue of *The Washington Monthly* contains a remarkable series, "Time For Us To Go: Conservatives on why the GOP should lose in '06", essays by seven prominent conservatives on why democrats should be elected in November. Here's a sampling:

Christopher Buckley: "... Six years of record deficits and profligate expansion of entitlement programs. Incompetent expansion at that...Who knew, in 2006, that 'compassionate conservatism' meant bigger government, unrestricted government spending, government intrusion in personal matters, government ineptitude, and cronyism in disaster relief..."

Bruce Bartlett: "...I have a suggestion for the GOP in 2006: lose. Handing over at least one house of Congress to the other side of aisle for the next two years would probably be good for everyone..."

Joe Scarborough: "...Republicans should get their brains beaten in this fall..."

Bruce Fein: "...[A] Republican Congress has done nothing to thwart President George W. Bush's alarming usurpation of legislative prerogatives. Instead, it has largely functioned as an echo chamber of the White House..."

With Republicans in charge of all the branches of our national government—the White House, Senate, the House of Representatives

and, it is not too much to say, the Supreme Court—President Bush and his fellow partisans on Capitol Hill have, with the invasion and occupation of Iraq, given the American people one of the worst calamities in our nation's history.

After years of surpluses in the federal budget during the Administration of President Bill Clinton, George W. Bush has carried out policies that have led to enormous deficits.

No wonder the *New York Times*/CBS News poll in September found that "Americans have an overwhelmingly negative view of the Republican-controlled Congress with substantial majorities saying that they disapprove of the job it is doing and that its members do not deserve reelection..."

I well remember 9/11 because as I left my apartment on Washington Square in New York City that day, the building superintendent said, "Dr. Brademas, a plane has just hit the World Trade Center." I thought, of course, it was an accident. But as I walked across the street to my office, I saw another plane coming and I realized that this was no accident.

The sympathy aroused for Americans by the tragedy of 9/11 five years ago was worldwide. The front page editorial of *Le Monde* in Paris read, "*Nous sommes tous Américains*"—"We are all Americans"—and yet, five years later, that initial spirit of sympathy has been destroyed by the actions of the current administration, particularly by the calamitous invasion and occupation of Iraq.

It is, of course, the strategy of the Bush White House and his Republican allies to spread fear of Democrats coming into power in Washington, D.C.

Yet Republican Tom Kean, co-chair of the 9/11 Commission, with my Hoosier colleague, former Congressman Lee Hamilton, said on June 18, 2004, "What our staff statement found is that there is no credible evidence that we can discover, after a long investigation, that Iraq and Saddam Hussein in any way were part of the attack on the United States."

Indeed, a 30-page National Intelligence Estimate completed in April found, according to the *Washington Post* (September 24, 2006), "The war in Iraq has become the primary recruitment vehicle for violent Islamist extremists, motivating a new generation of potential terrorists around the world whose numbers are increasing faster than the United

States and its allies are eliminating the threat, U.S. intelligence analysts have concluded."

Added the *Washington Post*, "Rather than contributing to eventual victory in the global anti-terrorist struggle, it [the National Intelligence Estimate] concludes, the situation in Iraq has worsened the U.S. position, according to officials familiar with the classified document."

But is Iraq the main issue?

Yes, for President Bush and his team who collectively justified the U.S. invasion and occupation of Iraq on false grounds that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction.

Recall how Dick Cheney said on May 30, 2005, that Iraq was "in the last throes of the insurgency," and even earlier, on March 11, 2003, "We'll be greeted by the Iraqi people as liberators."

In like fashion, we must regard as equally outrageous the statement, on September 12 of this year, by the House Republican Leader, John Boehner of Ohio, attacking Democrats with these words: "I wonder if they're more interested in protecting the terrorists than protecting the American people..."

Bob Woodward's new book, *State of Denial*, only reinforces the case that the Bush White House was, in respect of going to war in Iraq, dysfunctional, divided and, in addressing the American people, deceptive.

It is not surprising that the respected Chairman of the Senate Arms Services Committee, Republican John Warner of Virginia, said on returning from Iraq early this month, "In two or three months, if this thing hasn't come to fruition and this level of violence is not under control, and thus not able to function, I think it's a responsibility of our government, internally, to determine: Is there a change of course we should take?"

## Greek Americans in Congress

As the first native-born American of Greek origin elected to the Congress of the United States and, proud of my Hellenic heritage, I'm naturally pleased to see other Greek-Americans in both parties active in politics.

My late father, a native of Kalamata, used to tell me, "We Greeks invented democracy; some of us should practice it!"

Even as Paul S. Sarbanes, the distinguished senior United States Senator from Maryland, is this year retiring after 36 years of outstanding

service in Congress—I call Paul a "modern Pericles"—his son, John Sarbanes, a brilliant young member of the Maryland State Legislature, is the Democratic nominee for the seat in the U.S. House of Representatives once held by his father.

Another eminent Greek-American on Capitol Hill, a Republican, is the highly respected senior U.S. Senator from Maine, Olympia Dukakis Snowe.

Elsewhere, in the House of Representatives, Shelley Berkley, a Democrat from Las Vegas, Nevada, should be handily reelected. Shelley's mother's family comes from the Jewish community of Thessaloniki, Greece.

Gus Bilirakis is this year seeking to succeed his father, Mike Bilirakis, a Republican, as Representative in Congress from the 9<sup>th</sup> District of Florida.

Another Hellenic-American Zack Space, the Democratic nominee for Congress in the 18<sup>th</sup> District of Ohio, has an excellent chance of victory.

So beginning in January 2007 Hellenic-Americans in Congress may total one U.S. Senator and four Members of the House of Representatives.

Is there a Greek lobby any longer?

Some 40,000 armed forces continue to occupy the Republic of Cyprus, a member of the European Union, with no indications of a reduction in Turkish intransigence. Nor, indeed, are there signs of Turkish compliance with the Copenhagen criteria for EU membership on democracy and human rights, criteria that must be met.

This month, President Bush endorsed Turkey's membership in the European Union without insisting that Turkey end its military occupation of Cyprus, an EU member-state. Not one word was uttered in his personal talk with the Turkish Prime Minister about Turkey's continued persecution of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople. This clearly demonstrates the President's insensitivity to attacks on one of the great historic centers of Christendom and his hypocrisy in championing freedom and democracy.

On September 27, 2006 in Strasbourg, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on Turkey's progress toward accession to the European Union, a resolution containing more than 80 specific points, outlining the many barriers to accession.

Among the many obstacles cited in the resolution are "the failure of the Turkish Government to effect an early withdrawal of Turkish forces [from Cyprus] in accordance



John Sarbanes, left, with his wife Dina after Voting

with a specific timetable."

In 1974, when the embargo on further U.S. arms to Turkey was imposed by Congress, there were only five of Greek origin, all in the House of Representatives: John Brademas, Paul Sarbanes, Peter Kyros, Gus Yatron—all Democrats, all of whom supported the embargo—and one Republican, Skip Bafalis, who voted against it.

There were then no Americans of Greek descent in the Senate. This "Greek lobby" was effective because of the validity of its arguments their skill in generating support for their position not only among Greek Americans across the country but among other Americans who shared their views.

Dishonesty, deception, and rhetoric that is fundamentally un-American—are not the only reasons a change in direction in Washington, D.C. is in the wind.

The Congress of 2005-06 has failed in its responsibility to exercise effective oversight of the actions of the Executive Branch and, indeed, has weakened the operation of the American system of the separation of powers by ceding more and more authority to a President who despite his manifest incompetence in both foreign and domestic policy, presses for still more and more power for himself.

Perhaps the most telling commentary on the current administration can be summarized in these words:

"...The President is merely the most important among the large number of public servants. He should be supported or opposed exactly to the degree which is warranted by his good conduct or bad conduct, his efficiency or inefficiency in rendering loyal, able and disinterested service to the nation as a whole. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary that there should be full liberty to tell the truth about his acts, and this means that it is exactly necessary to blame him when he does wrong as to praise him when he does right. Any other attitude in

an American citizen is both base and servile. To announce that there must be no criticism of the President, or that we are to stand by the President, right or wrong, is not only unpatriotic and servile, but is morally treasonable to the American public..."

That was Theodore Roosevelt, writing in 1918.

John Brademas served as a member (D-Ind.) of the House of Representatives from 1959-1981 and is currently President Emeritus, New York University.

## John Sarbanes: Running Hard in Maryland's 3<sup>rd</sup> CD

John P. Sarbanes beat his closest Democratic opponent in the primary by nearly 10 percent in Maryland's 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District and he says he is gearing up for the general election.

"We had an extraordinarily qualified group of candidates and I salute their hard work over these many months," he said. "It is time now to take the collective energy of the primary contest and channel that forward into the general election campaign. Change is in the air and it's an exciting time to be involved in the political process."

Sarbanes, the son of retiring U.S. Sen. Paul S. Sarbanes, won the hotly-contested race over former Baltimore Health Commissioner Peter L. Beilenson and state Sen. Paula C. Hollinger, the only elected official among the eight Democrats vying for the nomination. The Baltimore Sun reported Sarbanes' name gave him the edge in a race in which most of the Democrats had similar positions.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> CD cuts a wide swath through four different counties and includes Baltimore City,



Baltimore County, the state capital of Annapolis, and also wildlife preserves and public land.

"I think the electorate gets a little frustrated that it's been carved up in these pieces with the congressional redistricting that occurred in 2000," Sarbanes has said. "But I think the basic message can be very consistent...Education and health care and the infrastructure, the environment, obviously, is very important because of the Chesapeake Bay."

Republican John White, president of an international health care nonprofit, led the field in the primary over Gary Applebaum, a physician and former chief medical officer for Erickson Retirement Communities. But the district is heavily Democratic and the real battle was in the primary.

Sarbanes is an attorney at Venable LLP, where he is chairman of the health care practice, and he also serves as special assistant to the state superintendent of schools and as a board member of the nonprofit Public Justice Center.

On education, he says his eight years working part-time in the Baltimore City public schools have taught him that, "the number one issue in public education is the quality of the teachers and the quality of the principals."

Sarbanes had raised close to \$1 million for his campaign, leading the field, and it included overwhelming support from Baltimore's Greek-American community. In recent weeks his father had been on the stump with him and had appeared with him in a television commercial.

"We represented the people for three decades, and I think they are happy with what we did," Senator Sarbanes said. "But it's his campaign, not mine. He has proven himself on his own merits in this campaign."

The Sun reports the Sarbanes name did strike a chord with many voters. Others said the name might have stirred their interest but that they also liked Sarbanes' position on issues.

## Zack Space Favored In Ohio's 18th CD

**W**hen scandal-plagued, six-term Republican incumbent Bob Ney finally decided not to run for re-election in Ohio's 18th Congressional District he tapped State Senator Joy Padgett to run in his place.

"The first thing we know about Joy Padgett is that she's Ney's handpicked candidate—a distinction about as prestigious as Michael Brown giving you something called a FEMA Gold Star



Zach Space, left, with Illinois Senator Barack Obama

for Competence," said Bill Burton, communications director for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. "The second thing is she was appointed to her state senate seat by disgraced Governor Bob Taft."

Padgett will now face Democrat Zack Space, an attorney and law director of the city of Dover and a relentless critic of Ney, who in January pleaded guilty to corruption, fraud and tax evasion charges. Space asked for Ney's resignation soon after Ney admitted his guilt.

"For months, I have called for Bob Ney to resign his seat in Congress," said the 45-year-old Space, a former football star and attorney with his father Socrates at Space & Space Company. "Now, with his admission of guilt, I ask again that he spare the people of the 18th District any further embarrassment and step down from Congress immediately."

Space also criticized Padgett for failing to ask for Ney's resignation. "Joy Padgett wants Bob Ney to remain in the House of Representatives even after he admitted to selling our national security for a stack of gambling chips," he said.

Space, in fact, has publicly signed a pledge to do the right thing when he goes to Washington. "We need to get back to the people's issues," he said. "When I go to Washington, I'm going to focus on jobs, fiscal responsibility and getting tough on illegal immigration."

The Democratic nominee is for bringing the troops home from Iraq: "We have all heard enough about the reasons we are in this war, and whether our leadership was truthful with us in taking us to war. It is time to stop arguing about the motivation for war, and start thinking about how to bring it to an end."

On the economy, he says, "The loss of jobs to overseas markets is perhaps the most serious, long term threat to this country, and our way of life. I strongly support modifying current free trade agreements to impose restric-

tions on countries that do not play by the same rules that our own factories must contend with."

Zack Space was born in Dover, Ohio and is the son of Socrates Space and Sandra Gallion. He graduated Dover High School and attended Kenyon College in Knox County where he was both an academic standout and football star. He earned a degree in political science, and was named an All-American and 1982 Athlete of the Year at Kenyon while playing for the Kenyon Lords. He earned his Juris Doctorate from Ohio State University College of Law in 1986.

In 1986, he started Space & Space Company, LPA, with his father Socrates with a specialty in protecting consumer rights. He's a member of the Tuscarawas County and State of Ohio Bar Associations, and has worked as a public defender, and served as Special Counsel to former Ohio Attorneys General Anthony Celebrezze and Lee Fisher.

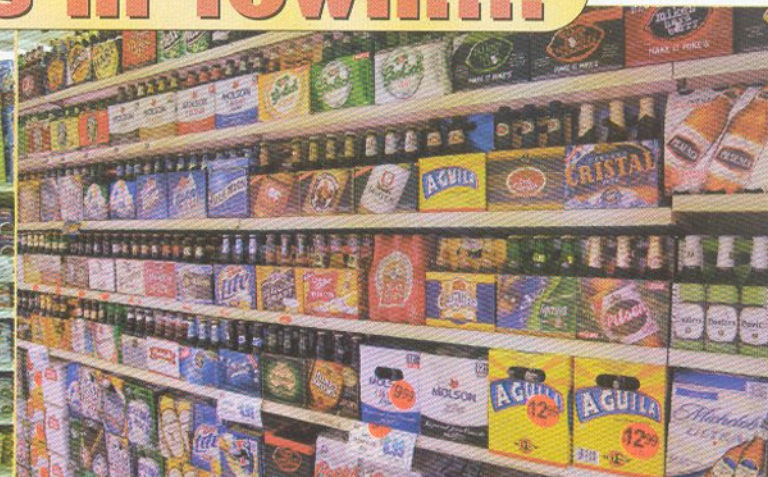
After the untimely death of his friend, Dover Law Director Thomas Watson, friends and family members urged Space to replace him and Space overcame stiff Republican opposition to get 70% of the vote in the 2001 general election and also ran uncontested in 2003.

In addition to his public office, Space is a managing member of several companies that have constructed and operated three hotels in Tuscarawas County. He is married to the former Mary Wade (the two met while they worked together in the Public Defenders office) and have two children, Gina, 16, and Nicholas, 15. For the past 15 years, his wife has served as Judge of the New Philadelphia Municipal Court. The first woman Judge in Tuscarawas County history, Mary was re-elected in 2005 after receiving nearly 64% of the vote.

His grandfather, and namesake, Zacharias Space, earned his American citizenship through his service in World War I. Space is a member of St. George Greek Orthodox Church of Massillon.



**Best Prices in Town!!!!**



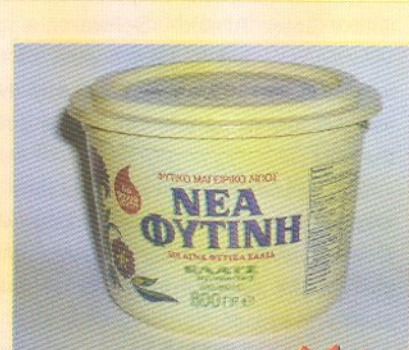
**NESCAFÉ FRAPE 200g \$7.99**



**LAKONIA \$19.99**



**Special \$5.49**



**NEA FYTINI 800g \$4.99**

### LOCATIONS:

**Trade Fair Corporate Offices**  
30-12 30th Avenue  
Astoria, NY 11102  
(718) 721-2437

30-08 30th Avenue  
Astoria, NY 11102

110-44 Queens Blvd  
Forest Hills, NY 11375

49-11 30th Avenue  
Woodside, NY 11377

37-11 Ditmars Blvd  
Astoria, NY 11105

99-10 Astoria Blvd  
East Elmhurst, NY 11369

23-55 Broadway  
LIC, NY 11106

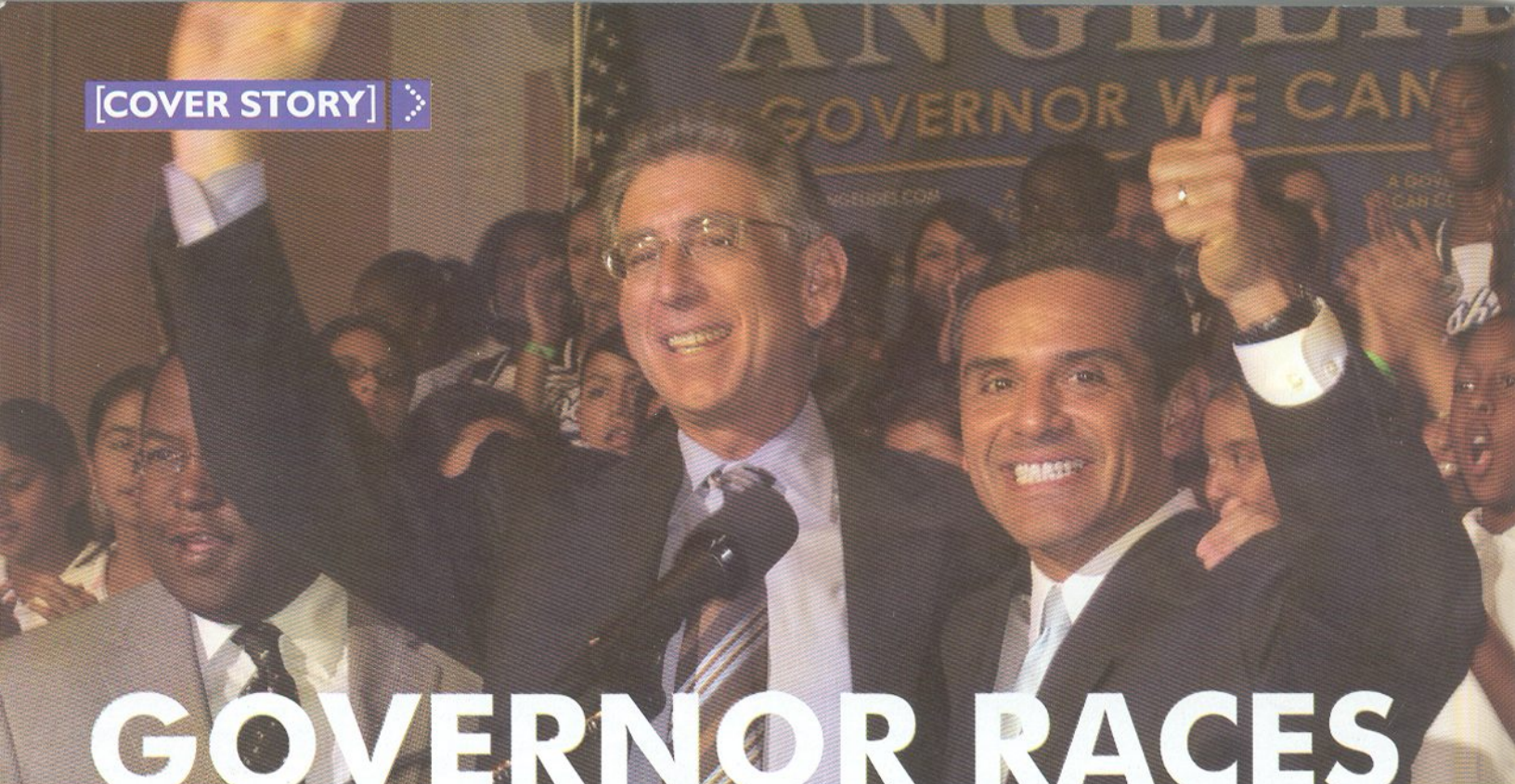
22-20 36th Avenue  
LIC, NY 11106

89-02 37th Avenue  
Jackson Heights, NY 11372

75-07 37th Avenue  
Jackson Heights, NY 11372

130-10 Metropolitan Ave  
Richmond Hill, NY 11418





# GOVERNOR RACES

## THE GREEK FACTOR, FROM SEA TO SHINING SEA

### Angelides running hard to close the gap in California

**R**ight after Labor Day, Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa finally endorsed Phil Angelides.

"Phil Angelides will ensure California goes from mediocrity to excellence," said Villaraigosa in San Francisco's heavily-Hispanic Mission District. He promised the candidate, "I will work day and night for you until you get elected this November."

Unfortunately, the mayor has also worked with Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, on Villaraigosa's bid to take control of the city's school system—which may be why the mayor avoided any direct criticism of the governor at the rally.

Schwarzenegger in recent months has also shown bipartisan zeal in working with state Democrats on a number of Democratic issues such as the minimum wage, greenhouse emissions and prescription drugs.

He's also benefited from a rebound of the economy. The state had a nearly \$8 billion surplus from income and business growth that he was able to use to pay for schools and pacify their unions and that also enabled him to sign a budget on time.

And Schwarzenegger has outspent Angelides by nearly 12 to 1 in TV ads since the primary.

"From now on, the spending pattern is going to change, and the Angelides campaign will

have a much more competitive financial situation than the Schwarzenegger campaign," Democratic strategist Bill Carrick told the Sacramento Bee. "So I think that's going to dramatically change the numbers over time. The governor is still a photo-op governor, and there's still plenty of material with which to make our case."

Angelides has raised more than \$4.6 million since June 30, when he had less than \$1 million on hand after a bitter Democratic primary fight against state Controller Steve Westly, who spent \$35 million of his money. Angelides got \$8.7 from developer Angelo Tsakopoulos and his daughter to counter the governor's TV ads. Schwarzenegger had nearly \$4.1 million on hand on June 30 and has raised another \$10.4 million since then, largely from corporations and corporate executives.

Angelides' efforts to catch up with Schwarzenegger got a boost recently with an endorsement from the public employee unions and The Alliance for a Better California, a coalition of labor groups that opposed Schwarzenegger's 2005 special election last November.

The Angelides campaign says any special efforts to raise money in the closing weeks of the election is not a mark of desperation but campaigning as usual, and an effort to counter the governor's access to "corporate special interests."

Democratic party regional director Dan

Weitzman said it was hard to keep pace with Schwarzenegger in fundraising, but Angelides, a multimillionaire former land developer, could hold his own.

"Phil's a great fundraiser," he said. "He has a national network of donors he's been fostering since he ran for city council."

Angelides has to make up a double-digit deficit in the current polls. He's leading in the traditionally-Democratic Bay Area and Los Angeles County, while Schwarzenegger leads in Southern California and in the Central Valley.

Meanwhile, in recent weeks Angelides has been joined online and on the stump by some familiar names, including John Edwards and John Kerry.

"I know what it's like to take on the Republican attack machine," said Kerry in an e-mail message. "And I know it takes courage, as well as resources to fight back."

He said, "Phil Angelides and I share a set of values - a commitment to protecting the environment, making education more accessible, providing access to quality health care, and working to give the middle class more opportunities, not fewer. This shared commitment is why I was so proud when Phil served as the co-chair of my presidential campaign in California - and why electing Phil as Governor in November is so important to me."

Angelides himself now calls the race a "David and Goliath" match-up. Between Governor Schwarzenegger and me, I bet you can guess

which one I am. And you know what? I like those odds!"

He says, "Throughout my career, California's Democrats have prevailed as the underdog over many opponents of 'Goliath' proportions. In 1991, Democrats had lost three straight gubernatorial contests and six straight presidential contests in the state. But in 1992, I led the California Democratic Party to fight back in a campaign that helped elect two women senators - Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein - and President Bill Clinton.

Four months ago our campaign won its first test—the Democratic Primary - with our army of supporters who volunteered and contributed. This November we will face another 'Goliath' - Governor Schwarzenegger. But don't forget, we have faced him before. Less than one year ago, we banded together and defeated Governor Schwarzenegger's Special Election agenda."

And Angelides has stepped up his campaigning towards the Nov. 7 general election deadline. "Traveling up and down the Golden State, I've heard stories from many of the hard-working Californians that are counting on us," he says. "These are the people Governor Schwarzenegger has left behind. But they are the people I will stand up for as governor."

### Dina Titus of Nevada Could Become First Greek Woman Governor

**L**ease it to Nevada and the home of Las Vegas to have a former porn star running as one of the candidates for governor—on the Republican ticket—and the feisty Greek American who is running on the Democratic ticket showing her opponent Jim Gibbons as a duck for "ducking" any debates with her.

"Wisecracking and media-friendly, she's got more charisma than both opponents combined and will probably be the candidate of choice among lefties and women," Las Vegas Weekly said of 46-year-old Dina Titus, currently the state senate minority leader and a political science professor at UNLV.

She's been hitting hard against Congressman Gibbons, a Republican and has listed the number of times he's ducked her with the mantra: "Don't let Congressman Gibbons duck Nevada's voters!"

"In the general election, as liberal woman from evil, water-sucking Las Vegas, she'd have to boom out of Southern Nevada with a huge vote lead to compensate for a tough battle in the sticks," said Las Vegas Weekly.

She did receive the endorsement of two former Nevada governors Bob Miller and Richard



LEFT: Angelides, left, with Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa ABOVE: Dina Titus

Bryan. "Dina Titus can and will be an excellent governor for the State of Nevada," said Miller, who worked with Titus throughout his tenure in the state's top office. "Her leadership has been evident early in the process on every key issue."

Bryan said, "The State of Nevada is at a crossroads. Do we move forward, back or stay in one place? Dina has highlighted in her campaign a sense of vision and where a leader needs to take this state. No one in my political lifetime has been better prepared and superbly qualified to be governor."

Titus is less than 10 points behind Gibbons and is, typically, on the offensive.

"While I have been on the front line, fighting for Nevadans in the legislature since 1989, my opponent has been warming the back-benches in Washington," she says. "I have authored or sponsored numerous laws to address the issues affecting all Nevadans—to fight crime, increase access to affordable health care and control property taxes, to name just a few. The congressman has been out of touch with Nevada's issues, and amassed a dismal record on the issues that matter."

She says, "I have consistently supported smaller classes in our schools and pushed for all-day kindergarten. The congressman, by contrast, supported 'No Child Left Behind' without adequate funding for local school districts and voted against class-size reduction and mandatory kindergarten while he was in the Nevada Legislature."

On energy, she says "the congressman voted to hand out \$8 billion in tax breaks to big energy companies while opposing funding to help lower-income families with their utility bills."

On ethics reform, "I have championed ethics reform in the Nevada Legislature and as governor will institute a 12-point plan for ethics reform, including elimination of 'pay to play' by developers at the local government level," she says. "The congressman voted to weaken ethics rules in the House of Representatives that were used to admonish his former Republican master in the House, Tom DeLay, and voted against a special panel to recommend measures restoring public confidence in the House of Representatives."

"I look forward to a lively and spirited campaign, and encourage you to stay engaged in this historic election," she says.

"I'm not saying she can't win," said one political observer. "She just needs everything to align perfectly. She's a woman, which wouldn't matter in a perfect world—but this is Nevada. This is still a fairly sexist state."

She's also a Democrat in a red state and she needs to show the rest of the state she's not all Las Vegas flash.

In fact, she's more than a flash-in-the pan. She has held the post of senate minority leader since 1993 and she represents glitzy District 7, which includes most of the Las Vegas Strip from Sahara Avenue down to and including McCarran International Airport.

Born Alice Costandina Titus into a Greek family in Thomasville, Georgia, she grew up in Tifton, Georgia as a "southern belle" active in tap dancing and cheerleading. Her grandfather was a United States representative, an uncle was in the Georgia General Assembly, and her father ran for mayor of Tifton.

She never finished high school and was admitted to the College of William and Mary on



## [COVER STORY]

the strength of her test scores and grades. She got a bachelor's degree in government, a master's from the University of Georgia, and a doctorate in political science from Florida State University. In 1977, the newly-minted Ph.D. came to Las Vegas to teach political science at UNLV.

A term in US Senator Howard Cannon's office interested Titus in Democratic Party politics and she ran and won a State Senate seat in 1988.

She defeated Henderson Mayor Jim Gibson to secure the Democratic nomination. With no other serious candidates for the office, Titus received 64,006 votes, Gibson 42,973.

Titus is married to Thomas Clayton Wright, a UNLV history professor. If elected, she would be Nevada's first female governor and the first female Greek American governor in U.S. history.

## Charlie Crist is Florida's "happy warrior"

Not that Charlie Crist needed it (he raised \$13.9 million for the primary to Democrat Jim Davis' \$4.4 million) but he just recently got a \$1 million check for his gubernatorial run in Florida from the Republican Governors Association.

The check was presented to Crist by group chairman and 2008 presidential hopeful Mitt Romney, the outgoing governor of Massachusetts.

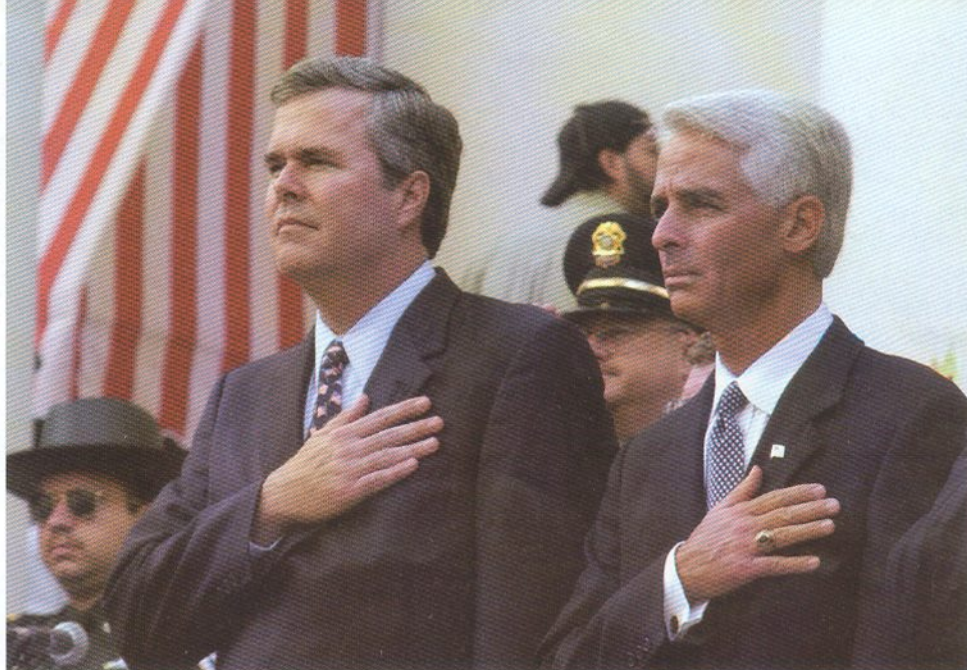
"And it ain't over yet," said Romney.

Crist was reminded \$1 million might barely pay for one week of ad time in an expensive market like Florida. "Those weeks are important," he joked. "Each and every one of them."

The attorney general is widely known as self-deprecating and a charmer. "Wherever he goes, well-wishers line up for his autograph and gush that they 'love' Crist," says the Gainesville Sun. "Crist's encyclopedic memory of first names, gathered during years of statewide campaigning for four different seats, is legendary. He silently mouths hellos to supporters during warm-up speeches, or calls out their name in the middle of his own talk."

"He has that warm, genuine friendship," says Peggy Farmer, a longtime GOP activist in Volusia County. "I really feel he thinks of me as his friend."

"Charlie is a natural thoroughbred when it comes to this stuff," says Tony DiMatteo, chairman of the Pinellas County Republican Party told the Gainesville Sun. "We met a guy who went to elementary school with him and my



Crist, right, with Florida Governor Jeb Bush

wife asked, 'What was he like as a kid?' He was a nice polite guy, really good guy. That's the way he really is."

"What Charlie's got going for him is that people like and trust him," says Mike Murphy, a GOP strategist who worked for Tom Gallagher, who Crist crushed in this month's primary. "Reagan had it. Charlie has it."

"I am running for Governor to carry on the outstanding legacy of Florida's finest chief executive, Governor Jeb Bush," says Crist, 50. "Florida needs to continue following consistent conservative principles so that all residents may share in the hope, safety and opportunity that makes ours such a great state."

Bush had appointed him as Deputy Secretary of the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation. In 2000, he won a special election and became Florida's last elected Commissioner of Education.

He ran for Attorney General in 2002 and won a lopsided victory by one-third of a million votes to become Florida's first elected Republican Attorney General. He fought to uphold Florida's Defense of Marriage Act and parental notification rights before the Florida Supreme Court. But he also fought for a handicapped young man who was denied the right to participate in a youth fair. He defended the right of a retired Marine to prominently fly the American flag and keep his home from being foreclosed. But he also fought for and obtained passage of new Civil Rights legislation. The first case brought under this law was settled in August 2005, providing compensation to victims of racial discrimination.

"Leaders look for new alternatives," Crist says. "And I believe there is another way."

His grandfather, Adam, came from Cyprus

nearly 100 years ago and became a shoeshine boy to support his family. One of his sons became a doctor and moved to Florida to raise his four kids, Charlie among them, though Crist was born in Altoona, Pennsylvania, before the family settled in St. Petersburg.

His father served on the Pinellas County School Board and Crist was class president at St. Petersburg High School and, later, student body vice president at Florida State University. He started at quarterback in high school and played at Wake Forest University before transferring and receiving his undergraduate degree from Florida State in 1978. He then earned his law degree from the Cumberland School of Law in Birmingham, Alabama.

While interning in the State Attorney's Office, he accepted a job as general counsel for the minor league division of the Baseball Commissioner's Office and began his government service as state director for U.S. Senator Connie Mack before later returning to the private practice of law with the Tampa firm of Wood and Crist.

Then in 1992 he ran and won a seat in the state senate and during his six years served as chairman of the Ethics and Elections Committee and as Chairman of the Appropriations Criminal Justice Subcommittee. He sponsored, among other legislation, the Stop Turning Out Prisoners (STOP) bill requiring prisoners to serve at least 85 percent of their prison sentences, which won him appointment as an Honorary Sheriff by the Florida Sheriffs Association—only the third person to receive the honor in the organization's long history.

Gov. Bush then appointed him to the Department of Business and Professional Regulation.

## Senator Bob Menendez stands up for what's right. No matter what.

As a young man, Bob took on corruption in his hometown and testified against the mayor from his own party – sending that mayor to jail. Bob even wore a bulletproof vest when his life was threatened.

### Expanding Opportunities for All –

- Without financial aid, Bob would not have been able to afford a higher education. That is why he has worked relentlessly to increase federal financial aid, including Pell Grants, Perkins Loans, and has proposed increasing and expanding the HOPE Scholarship Tax Credit to help more New Jersey families send their children to college.

### Providing Quality Health Care –

- From helping his sister care for their mother, Bob knows the strain that being a family caregiver can place on a family. He has worked to help family caregivers by providing a tax credit to help offset the costs that come with the added responsibilities.
- Authored the Patient Navigator Law to address health disparities and increase prevention, and was recognized by the American Cancer Society for his leadership.

## Who'll stand up to George W. Bush on the most important issues?

### The war in Iraq

### Stem cell research

### Privatizing Social Security

### Strengthening the minimum wage



Opposed the war from the start – voted for a clear plan to safely bring our troops home

Strongly supports

Led the fight against George Bush's plan

Strongly supports

**Bob Menendez**  
United States Senator

Vote Democratic Tuesday, November 7  
To learn more, go to: [www.menendez2006.com](http://www.menendez2006.com)





Catsimatidis with, from left, his wife Margo and President Bill Clinton, Mikhail Gorbachev, President Ronald Reagan and Cuba's Fidel Castro.



# The Poor Kid Turned Billionaire Who Wants To Run For Mayor

BY DIMITRI C. MICHALAKIS

**J**ohn Catsimatidis wants more water and he rattles the empty bottle on his desk and drops it into the garbage can.

"Matt, can you throw me another water!" he calls to his assistant. His assistant asks what kind. "Plain," says the billionaire, 57, who calls himself anything but an elitist and he shrugs at the state of his office ("I've been here twenty years. Too long"). The place does look a little sleepy, until you notice all the photos on the wall—in fact, they cover most of two walls.

They show John Catsimatidis and his wife Margo with most of the national and international leaders and celebrities of the past thirty years, heavily favoring the Clintons ("I was just talking to Bill this morning," he says), but also of the Bush family and of Reagan, practically every politician of every persuasion in New York, several world royals, the Pope, the Archbishop, and show business people galore.

"I enjoy getting around, I enjoy people," says Catsimatidis with his patented sleepy smile and New

York attitude (he was born in Greece but was brought here when he was six months old). "I think a politician has to like people. I meet so many politicians that hate people. They close the door instead of opening it. Bill Clinton loves people and people love him."

He tells an admiring story about Bill Clinton holding up an Arthur Sulzberger cocktail party because he just couldn't say good night. "Arthur looks at me, I look at him, he says, 'What do we do?' I say, 'What are you going to do—let's hang out!'"

Until now John Catsimatidis was a trusted friend of politicians (several of the photos are of fundraising dinners he's hosted with his wife), but now the king-maker is seriously considering running for king and he says he's willing to commit millions of his own money to become New York city mayor.

"I'm very serious," he says. "Right now it's going to be a clean sweep by the Democratic party in New York—Hillary, Elliot Spitzer, Hevesi. There's no future for the Republican party in NY. And I've told them that I would run as a Republican if I get the nomination and would commit \$30-40 million for the campaign."

Has the success of fellow billionaire Mike

Bloomberg emboldened him—he does keep his top executives in the same office in a configuration straight out of Bloomberg—"I think we should get more business people involved in public life," he maintains. "Because if you have business people who are already successful, I don't think you'll have the dishonesty factor that you have now. I'm ashamed when I read in the newspapers about a congressman taking bribes, that's really, really low. You would not find that in a wealthy businessman. He doesn't have obligations. Mike Bloomberg is doing the right job, because he's doing what he feels is right."

Does money buy you the office? "I think people are smarter than that," he says. "There's a lot of people who ran with a lot of money and lost. Ron Lauder is worth billions, he lost. Michael Huffington is worth millions and millions, he lost. Money helps, but it doesn't get you over the top."

What would get him over the top? "I feel for people, I communicate with people, I'm not an elitist, I don't like elitists and I think the more communication you have, the better it is," he says. "I grew up on the poor side of town. I grew up on 135<sup>th</sup> Street by City College. I went to school in the Bronx. I went to public school in Brooklyn. Brooklyn Tech High School. I'm very comfortable whether I'm eating with kings or presidents or eating souvlaki with my friends. I feel comfortable in both worlds and not too many people are."

The way he got into several unrelated businesses and used common sense to become

successful ("I believe any common sense business person if they hire qualified people around them and make common sense decisions can run anything") is the way he envisions running the city he admittedly calls "the world's stage."

He has plans for a World's Fair ("Instead of the Olympics being two weeks, the World's Fair could be an entire summer!"); he plans not to blink for any corporation threatening to leave New York ("If you want to move to Jersey, go ahead"); he says it's horrible what's happened to public schools and he plans to be firm but fair with the Teacher's Union ("All these teachers are human beings, too. You appeal to them: Let's do the right thing for our children.").

He lost a cousin named John Catsimatidis at the World Trade Center, a classmate at NYU, and a fellow father at his son's basketball practice: "I lost three people that I knew. It affected me more than other people. I became very angry at the radical Muslims. I drew more right than left."

He says people might look at George Bush "and say, he's crazy" but they also better watch out. "You better not attack him again, they say, otherwise he's gonna come and wipe us out. With that attitude around the world, what dictator is going to face up to George W. Bush? I was not a fan of his and I did support John Kerry, but when you look at the facts of life, if you were a dictator would you even want to be associated with terrorists knowing that Bush might find out and come to wipe you out?"

At the same time he thinks "spending a billion dollars for a monument at Ground Zero is

idiotic. I think we need something to never forget, but spending a billion dollars, or even five hundred million, is not logical. There's a lot better use we can put that money and still build something to remember."

He also thinks current plans to build the 100-story Freedom Tower make no sense: "Nobody wants to work there. The chief of the Port Authority said today, I'd rather resign than force my people to move in. So the question is, if you're building another big building, are you just daring the terrorists by putting a target sign on it? I don't know anybody who'd want to work on the 100<sup>th</sup> floor, or the 99<sup>th</sup> floor, or the 98<sup>th</sup> floor. To put employees in that position of having to quit or live in fear I think is a terrible thing to do. You're better off building five or six 60 story buildings all at the same time so no one building stands out, than building one that's 110 floors and making it a target."

It does make sense for him to run on the Republican ticket, he says, the Democratic field will only get more crowded ("I'm not going to sit there and run against a Mark Green in a primary. *Eina! trelakomio!*"). But he says he also fits the mold of most New York Republicans. "Business has to do well, but the community has to do well, too," he says. "I believe in working hand to hand. You can't beat up businesses and force them to move out of the city, because then everybody's going to cry, there's no jobs. There's got to be a balance. If a new company goes into a city to invest \$500 million, they're not going to go into a city where they're going to get beat up

continued on page 18



# Catsimatidis

continued from page 17

**"I've done what I can in business, but I feel I have a higher calling."**

- John Catsimatidis

every day by the politicians. They'll go to Connecticut or somewhere else. Capital is fluid. I want to be competitive with the rest of our surrounding neighbors and I think we can do it."

Anyway, he says, he's taking a chance on his mayoral run the way he's always taken chances, maybe because he's an only son. He dropped out of NYU to run a 7-Eleven on Broadway. "You can't work ninety hours a week and sleep thirty and go to school at the same time," he says. "Something has to suffer. My parents cried, screamed. 'We sent you to school *na yinis hamalis?!'*"

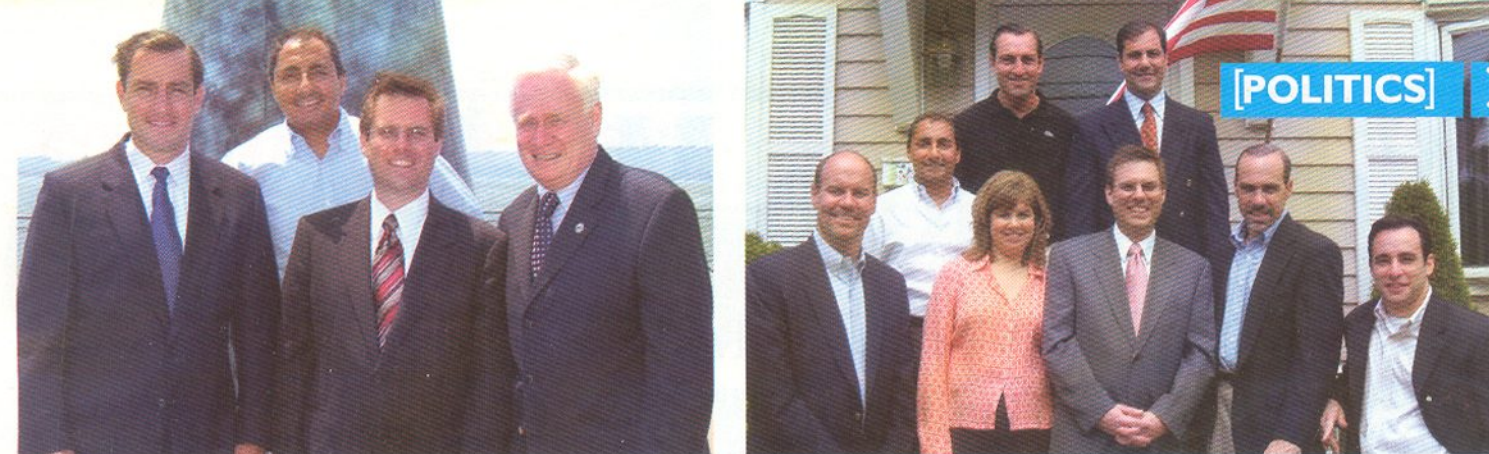
Soon after he launched his first Red Apple and shocked the industry by opening on Sunday. "I gave out checks on Friday and I needed enough money in the bank Monday morning to pay for those checks!" he says. He bought over Gristedes, Sloans and Pantry Pride and eventually owned 140 supermarkets doing \$700 million in business.

But then he fell in love with the airline industry

(supermarkets are now only 6% of his business) and in the 1980s he operated the 11<sup>th</sup> largest airline in the world. He's also a licensed pilot and got to fly some of his own jets. "You know what I miss?" he says of those days. "The world was my office. I didn't have to sit behind any one desk. I had offices in Frankfurt, London, Central America. At the age of 33, I enjoyed the travel. Now," he says, with his patented sleepy smile, "I enjoy staying home."

The company's main assets are now in oil and it owns a large refinery in Western Pennsylvania ("We supply most of the petroleum needs between Buffalo and Pittsburgh"). But the man his wife Margo calls a "genius" in business admits he always has an eye out for more deals ("Retirement is not in my vocabulary") and, of course, there is the challenge of public life.

"They might as well bury you if you're not going to make a difference," he says, taking another chug from his plain bottle of water. "I've done what I can in business, but I feel I have a higher calling."



Left, Xanthakis with Assemblyman Mirones, Congressman Fosella and Senator Golden and right, with former Republican Chairman Bob Helbock, front row, left, Christine Xanthakis, Councilman Oddo, Assemblyman Ignizio and top row, Assemblyman Mirones, Congressman Fossella and Councilman Lanza.

## Xanthakis Runs For NY Assembly

Surrounded by Staten Island's Republican elected officials, the chairman of the Richmond County Republican Party and Republican Party members, Anthony Xanthakis announced recently his candidacy for the 60<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, which covers parts of Staten Island and Brooklyn. He currently serves as counsel on a pro-bono basis for Assemblyman Matthew Mirones, who announced his decision not to seek re-election to the seat yesterday.

"It is with pride, excitement and humility that I announce my candidacy for the New York State Assembly," he stated. "As counsel to Assemblyman Mirones, I have been involved in all the major issues facing our community and State. Staten Island is a great place to live, but our community faces challenges. I have the experience and background that would allow me to hit the ground running as a Member of the State Assembly."

His priorities include fighting to reduce taxes, ensuring that public schools receive the funding they deserve, finding solutions to the traffic problems plaguing the borough, working to stop overdevelopment and keeping the community safe. "I will be an independent leader for our community. As a daily express bus rider, I believe we need to enhance our mass transit system and also implement traffic fixes that will reduce the congestion that's clogging our local streets," he pointed out. "We also need to continue fighting overdevelopment to preserve the character and integrity of our community. I am proud to have the support of Congressman Fossella, Assemblymen Mirones and Ignizio, Councilmen Oddo and Lanza and Chairman Helbock."

Anthony Xanthakis is a partner in the law firm of Galvano and Xanthakis, which he founded in 1990. He also has served as counsel to Assemblyman Mirones since his election to the

Assembly in 2002. He offered to serve as counsel without pay as a way to give back to his community.

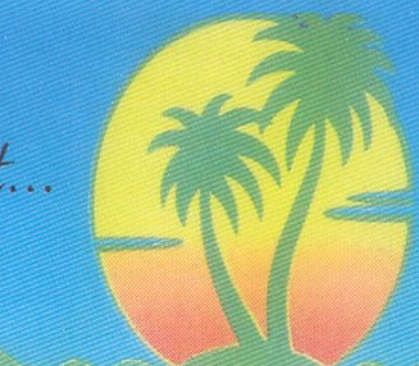
He holds a bachelor degree in Political Science from New York University and his Juris Doctorate from New York Law School, where he graduated cum laude.

Xanthakis was born in 1964, lived in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, from 1976 to 1993 and has been a resident of Staten Island since 1993, living in New Dorp and, for the past 8 years, in Grant City. He is married to Christine Fontaine. He serves as a Senior Leader with the Boy Scouts and is Vice Commodore of the Staten Island Yacht Club. He is also an Associate District Leader with the Richmond County Republican Party and a Committeeman with the New York State Republican Party.

Xanthakis' father served as a priest with the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church in Bay Ridge from 1976 to 1992.

Relax With Friends At...

Visit NYC's Largest Outdoor Garden Waterfall



Oasis Cafe

Exquisite European Atmosphere



Off the SW Corner of Northern Blvd. and Francis Lewis Blvd. Opposite PC Richards/ Next to Ground Round



Take Out Available

- We Cater All Occasions
- Cakes Made To Order
- Rooms Available For Private Parties
- Huge Selection of French, Greek & Italian Pastries
- Exclusive Cocktails, Tropical Drinks, Smoothies & International Coffees



196-30 Northern Blvd., Flushing (718) 357-4843

www.oasiscafeny.com



Ammos New York is available for catered luncheons, private events and corporate meetings. Private room available. Please contact us for your specific function so we can assist you in planning you next event. Open for Lunch and Dinner daily. Menu Available upon request.

ASTORIA: 20-30 Steinway Street Astoria, NY 11105 Phone: 718-726-7900  
NEW YORK CITY: 52 Vanderbilt Ave, New York, NY 10017 Phone: 212-922-9999

www.amosnewyork.com  
events@amosnewyork.com

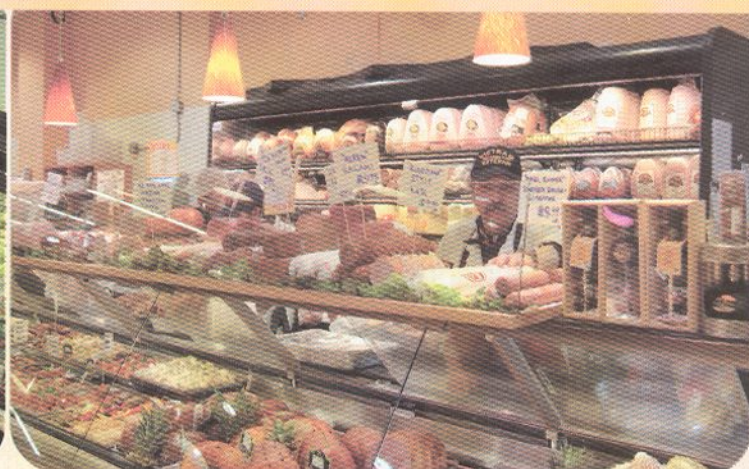
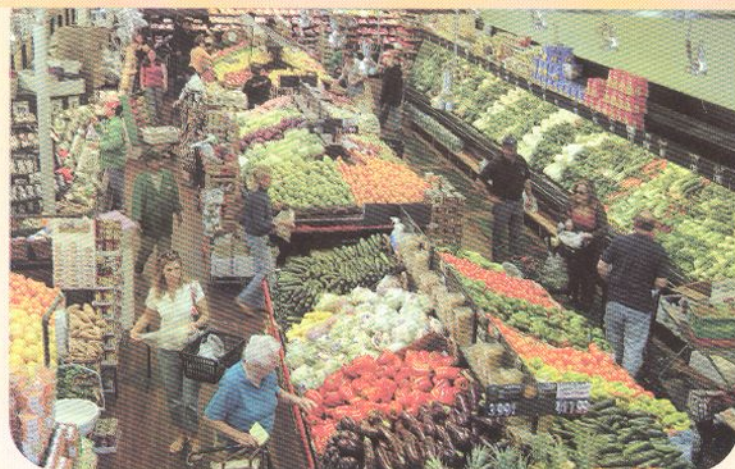
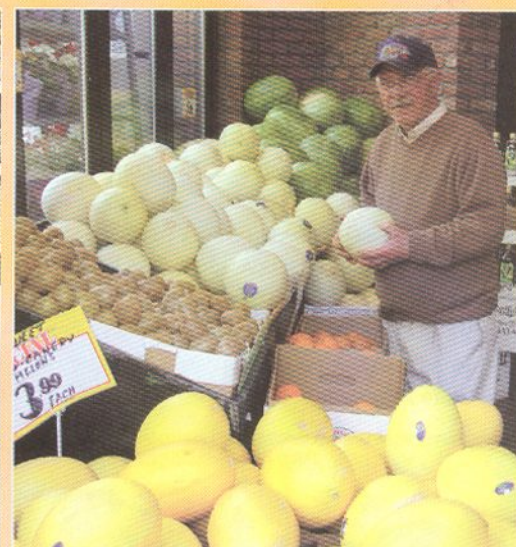
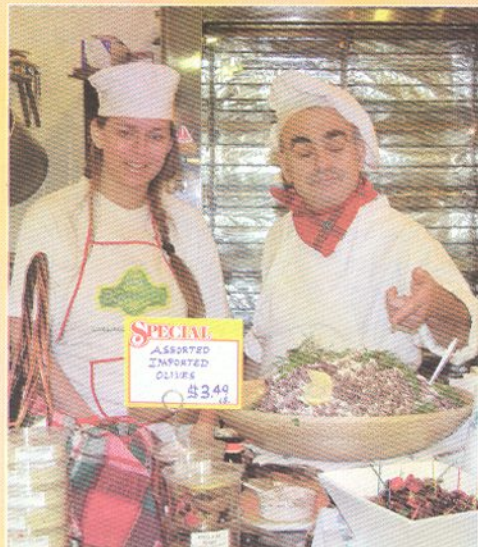


# North Shore Marketplace

*Experience the Art of Gourmet!*



770 Port Washington Blvd  
Port Washington, NY 11050  
Phone: 516-767-9050



**ALL GREEK PRODUCTS AVAILABLE**

## GRIDIRON, INC. HIGH INTENSITY TRAINING

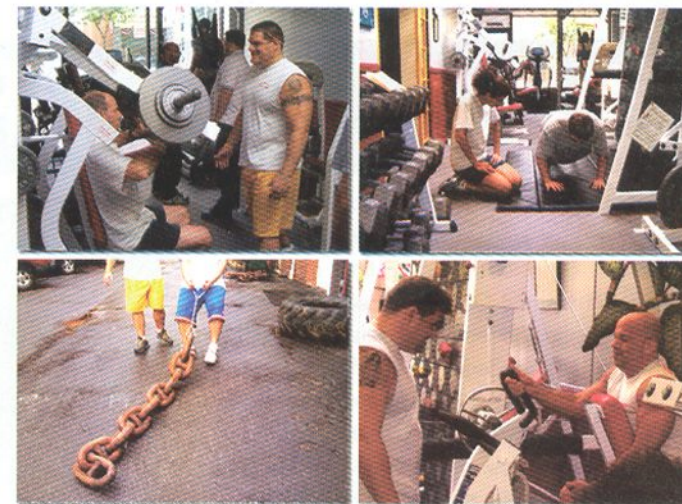


### NEW LOCATION!

12 TECHNOLOGY DR.  
SUITE 2  
EAST SETAUKET,  
NY 11733  
TEL: (631) 246-5890

## THE BODY BEARS THE BURDEN

194-07 Northern Blvd. • Flushing, New York 11358



**STRENGTH & CONDITIONING  
FOR THE YOUNG & OLD  
PERSONAL TRAINING  
WEIGHT LOSS CENTER**

WITH THIS AD YOUR ENTITLED TO

**2 FREE**

1/2 HOUR TRAINING SESSIONS

**(888) 550-IRON**

## Finally...

**A Facility that Specializes in  
Non-Surgical Pain Treatment**

**WE DON'T JUST RELIEVE PAIN, WE STRENGTHEN & REHABILITATE!**



**MILLENNIUM** PHYSICAL THERAPY &  
SPORTS MEDICINE, PC

194-13 Northern Boulevard • Flushing, NY 11358

**(718) 428-9369**

HOURS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

**THEODOSIOS NEAMONITIS, DPT**  
Doctor of Physical Therapy

**FOKION (IKE) AVGERINOS, D.C**  
Chiropractor



# THE VIEW FROM GREECE

BY DEMETRIOS RHOMPOTIS

This is not only election time in the US, but by mid-October Greek voters will have to choose all their mayors and prefects. For Lefteris Zagoritis, Secretary General of the governing New Democracy (Nea Demokratia) Party's Central Committee, these must be the busiest days of his life, traveling from one end of the country to the other, visiting as many as five cities a day, trying to mend fences between local candidates, coordinating the electoral effort and making sure the party machine is working at full speed. Zagoritis hasn't spoken to the press for weeks, but he managed to communicate with NEO and the Greeks of the US (a whole branch of his family lives in upstate New York). Mr. Zagoritis represents Athens' B' Constituency in the Hellenic Parliament or Voule, and on February 24th, 2006 he was elected Secretary of the New Democracy Central Committee, becoming the most important party leader, second only to Prime Minister Kostas Karamanlis, a friend of his since childhood.

**NEO: Your party's government introduced legislation to create a more favorable climate for foreign investments in Greece. Could you outline for us some principles of that new policy?**

**ZAGORITIS:** In the last 2 and a half years Greece is being settled on a course of reforms in order to become more attractive for business and private investments. One of the targets of the Karamanlis government is to render our country reliable, trustworthy and credible both for Greek and foreign investors.

In our effort to support the growth of enterprises, we are sorting out public finances; we are reducing the public deficit. We secure long-term stability so that enterprises can safely schedule their future tasks. Through the tax and development law we are setting common rules for everybody, known in advance. We create clear conditions for all enterprises willing to get activated in Greece. We put an end to taxation uncertainty owing to frequent changes in tax legislation and the unreliability of tax control. Taxation is getting reduced. We offer motives and we remove the barriers discouraging private investments through reducing the taxation index of profits made by enterprises.



New Democracy Secretary General Lefteris Zagoritis

We steadily minimize the mazy bureaucratic procedures obstructing the returning of enterprises, the creation of new enterprises and frequently operating as corruption focal points. We introduce new, simple and stable regulations in order to reestablish the lost credibility of the Greek Stock Exchange Market. We are formulating a communications network with the expatriates aiming at the creation of enterprises importing Greek products. Our goal is the creation of a complete framework for investments and the prevention from delays and insecurities. Our purpose is to make Greece a center of enterprises.

**NEO: Has New Democracy developed an active relationship with either the Republican or the Democratic Party in the U.S.?**

**ZAGORITIS:** Nea Demokratia is a political party full of life and constantly renewable. Our officials and bodies continuously work out the new incoming data on both a national and international level, aiming at charting and exploiting what is in progress. The goal is to generate policies, which will improve our positions and practices to the advantage of citizens. Towards this direction, we are in continuous contact and keep discussing with relative parties all over the world.

To be more specific, in the U.S. we have developed close relations with the Republican Party in the framework of the International Democrat Union. In 2000 and 2004, a representative group of Nea Demokratia participated in the Republican National Conventions. It is

also worthwhile noting that as a member of the European Popular Party, Nea Demokratia is in cooperation with the International Republican Institute over issues of technical know how and political speech. The target is common: Exchanging experiences today and seeking suggestions for the future.

**NEO: Top U.S. government officials, including Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, have called Greece a strategic partner, Greek Foreign Minister Dora Bakoyanni spoke of having a close working relationship with Rice but we haven't seen any tangible results yet. Why is that?**

**ZAGORITIS:** Let's make it clear so that wrong impressions are avoided. The de facto recognition of FYROM by the name "Macedonia" occurred on June 30th, 2003. This was when the agreement for the exception of American soldiers from the International Penal Court was signed between the U.S.A. and the FYROM governments. The day the Greek E.U. presidency was officially over, FYROM used the name "Macedonia" to sign a bilateral agreement with the U.S.A.

Greece and the U.S.A. are tightly related with friendship and cooperation bonds. At this point, our bilateral relations are in the best possible terms ever. We are strategic partners on the basis of shared values and beliefs. We closely cooperate in order to confront as friends and allies the national and regional challenges of our days including international terrorism.

Our goals coincide to a great extent. However, as it is pretty logical, we do not absolutely agree on how these goals are to be achieved. This can apply to either the European perspective of Turkey that will have to respond and keep all the prerogatives set unanimously by the E.U. in order to become an E.U. member state, or whether it concerns the fair and viable solution of the Cyprus issue with the removal of the occupation forces from the island. The same applies whether it concerns the future of the Balkans and the wider area. In this framework, the dialogue is open to find a generally accepted name related to FYROM, something that is encouraged by the U.S. too. What is really important, though, is that there exists an open communication channel between Greece and the U.S.A. There is a sin-

cere attitude for cooperation and common solutions seeking despite the partly different approaches. We do intend the bonds and the cooperation with the U.S. to become even tighter to the benefit of Greece, the U.S.A and the nearby peoples in general.

**NEO: There is a wish by many Greek Americans to have the right to vote in the Greek national election extended to people who can meet the requirements but live overseas. High ranking officials of your party, before it was elected into office in 2004, were favorable to that possibility. What's the case now and what's your take on this?**

**ZAGORITIS:** In Nea Demokratia we do believe that it is an inalienable right of all Greeks living abroad to vote at the elections taking place back in the homeland. This is something we owe to all the people who live and thrive outside Greek borders. We owe it to those people who honor Greece through their achievements in societies abroad. According to the last Constitution Revision, providence has been taken so that Greeks living abroad will exercise epistolary vote in the future. What remains to be done, before implementation, is voting a particular act in Parliament by the augmented majority of 2/3.

The first step, therefore, has already been accomplished. I strongly believe that through government's initiative, a discussion will soon begin about who will be entitled the epistolary vote. Moreover, intergovernmental contacts have to take place about the introduction of rules and regulations concerning the conduct of this type of voting. Primarily,

there must be adequate guarantee to assure the validity of voting. Popular verdict has to be uttered straightforwardly through statutory guarantee. We have to be particularly attentive in order to ensure democratic procedures.

**“Our goal is to make Greece a mecca for free enterprise**

**- Lefteris Zagoritis  
NEW DEMOCRACY PARTY**

**NEO: Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis, a close friend of yours, studied in the U.S. and got his PhD from Tufts University. Can you tell us if and to what extent that experience of his relates to his attitudes and policies towards the greater Greek American community and the U.S. in general?**

**ZAGORITIS:** Prime Minister Kostas Karamanlis, as you already know, is warmly predisposed towards the U.S. and particularly towards the Greek American community. To a great extent this is due to the fact that he has lived a big part of his life there. He got to know

the Greek American community closely. He retains the best memories from that period.

Quite often he contemplates about his study years. He keeps contact with friends from that time and he is a frequent visitor of the U.S.

**NEO: What do you know about the Greek American community? Are you in touch with it?**

**ZAGORITIS:** The Greek community in the U.S. is particularly active and successful, both financially and socially. Thanks to its members' diligence and spirit, but also thanks to all kinds of virtues characterizing Hellenes, the Greek community has become a recognizable and respectable part of the American society. Greeks of the U.S. - and I have first hand information on this, because I happen to have relatives and friends there - have prospered as businessmen, scientists, intellectuals, politicians, but most basically, as worthy Greek offspring and continuators of our civilization. They outstandingly represent Hellenism and make up the best "ambassadors" of Greek virtues. Thanks to that community, Greece has become not only known, but also appreciated. Here in Greece, we are all very proud of our compatriots' achievements.

The interest shown by the Karamanlis' government, Nea Demokratia and myself about any issue concerning Greek Americans is real. Our goal is to cover the omissions of the past, to make up for the lost time. We are in constant contact with the Greeks in America, either through the appropriate government offices or through the Secretariat of Expatriated Greeks. We are aware of the problems they are facing. Working together, we are seeking solutions via a fruitful framework of incessant dialogue.

**NEO: Are you planning to visit us anytime soon?**

**ZAGORITIS:** I was invited to visit the U.S. and attend the celebration for the 25th of March in New York last spring. My election to the position of Secretary of the Central Committee of Nea Demokratia at that time, however, made me postpone the visit. It is my hope and wish to visit you in the near future and I think I will manage to have it arranged around next spring. My visit will not only be of political content since I also intend to meet my mother's brother, my cousins and other relatives and friends.

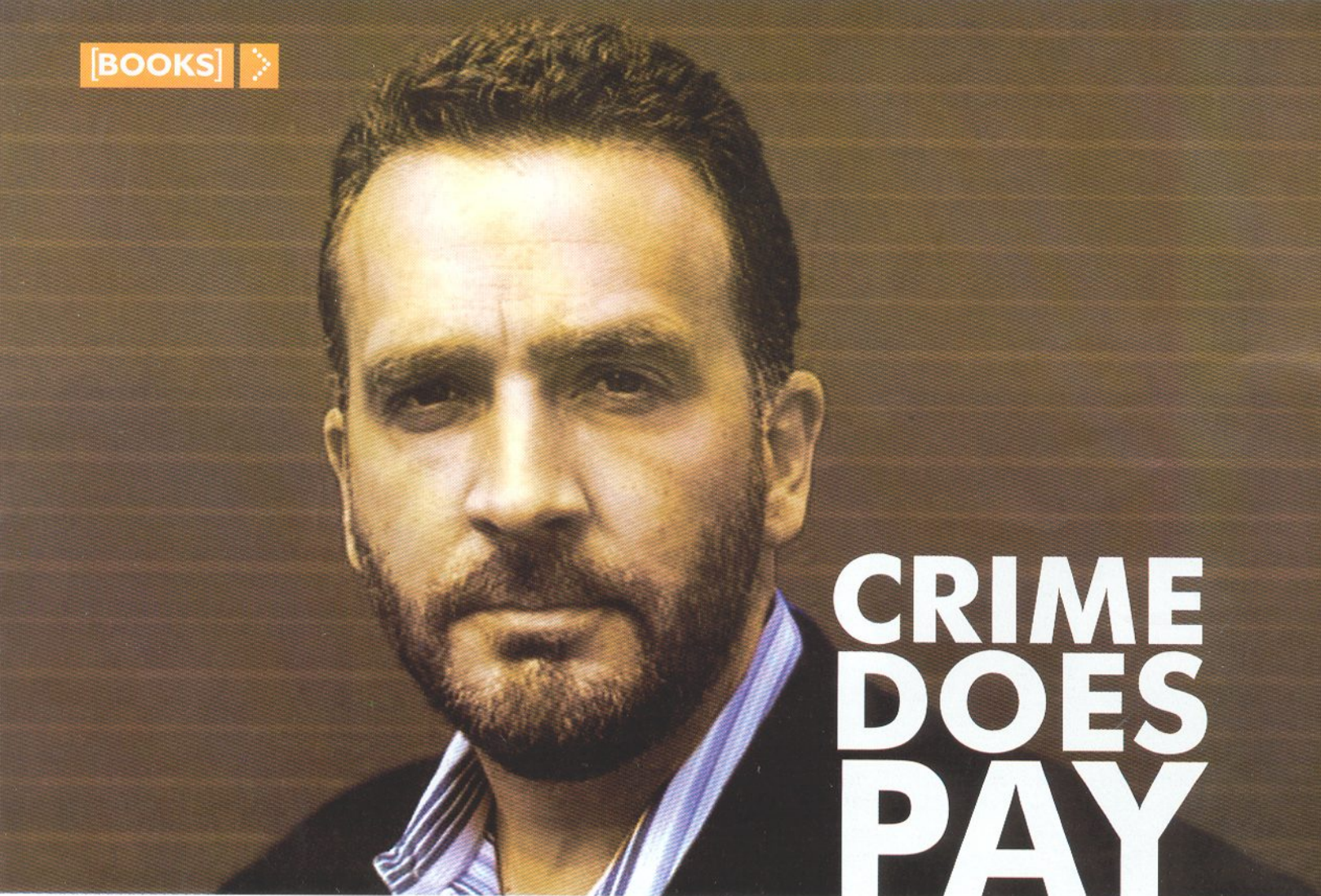
Zagoritis with the President of the Hellenic Republic Karolos Papoulias











# CRIME DOES PAY

BY GEORGE GIOKAS

**R**ead just a few sentences of George Pelecanos' books and they speak volumes about the chemistry that compels people to tell stories.

A soft-spoken, tough-talking, prolific writer of crime-fiction novels, Washington, D.C. native Pelecanos writes stories that are raw, streetwise, vivid and set in and around the past and present of the city where he was born, the son and grandson of Greek immigrants.

"I got turned on to books by a teacher in college, crime-fiction class. It was populist fiction, not necessarily the crime side, but the working-class side," says Pelecanos, 49, in a phone interview from his Silver Spring, Maryland home—the same neighborhood where he grew up and where his parents still live down the street.

"I started to read everything I could to catch up," he says "In the meantime I was working in the kitchen and as a bartender . . . and hustling women's shoes. I didn't know it at the time, but I was getting ammunition . . . soaking in a lot of things. Who knew? Had I been an accountant, I wouldn't know what I know."

He started writing when he was 31 and published his first book "A Firing Offense" in 1992 which he

admits is autobiographical. It focused on Greek characters, particularly Nick Stefanos, his alter ego: an electronics salesman turned private investigator. Though Pelecanos says he speaks Greek "*ligaki*," early books like "The Big Blowdown" (which involves Stefanos' ancestors and is set in the 30s through the 50s) are peppered with Greek phrases and soaked in Greek-immigrant culture.

"In the beginning I was just using the first person almost as a crutch," he says. "I really didn't know how to write a novel. I was learning as I went along." His latest and 14<sup>th</sup> book, "The Night Gardener" is a national bestseller and has been widely acclaimed. It relates the story of three cops, Gus Ramone, Dan "Doc" Holiday and T.C. Cook, who are reunited by the murder of a local teenager named Asa, lured by its similarity to the "Night Gardener" killings of teenagers all three worked on many years before.

For his next book Pelecanos is non-committal, only saying he's tossing around several ideas and "will see where my research takes me." In the meantime, Pelecanos' popularity has crime-novel enthusiasts paying hundreds of dollars on the Internet for original copies of his earlier books, which had very limited printings. This is quite a departure for an obsessive

writer who was paid only \$2,500 for his first novel.

"You've got to work every day, man," he says. "You gotta write every day--something. If you're an athlete, you can't get fat sitting in a chair." And, he says, his "books have changed. I'm writing about the bigger world around me."

Though he prefers writing novels, his prolific bouts with pen and paper have also taken him to the screen as a producer and as a writer on the popular HBO series "The Wire."

Currently, Pelecanos is finishing a Pacific-theater version of Tom Hanks' and Stephen Spielberg's HBO series "Band of Brothers." The project, "Pacific," is very close to his heart: Pelecanos' father, Peter, was a Marine who fought in World War II. "I went after it 'cause I wanted to honor my dad," he says.

A lover of movies, particularly ones produced in the '70s, it was natural for Pelecanos to eventually end up writing for the small and large screen, but he says he prefers cranking out novels: "I'd rather be writing books . . . especially when I see movies . . . but I have to have faith that people can make good movies." Though watching a Sam Peckinpah or Martin Scorsese film "gets me stoked to write a movie" he adds quickly, "since time is now moving faster, I don't have the time anymore to spend on something that's not going to get made." It's part of the reason he turned down a producer role in the upcoming "Pacific" series: "It would have been intruding on my novel life."

Writing instructors are fond of saying "write what you know" and Pelecanos takes this advice to heart. To gather material and especially soak up the feel of his books and characters, Pelecanos routinely rides with the Baltimore police department, a silent observer to all things criminal. In his earlier days, "no one knew who I was," he says. "I would ask to ride with the cops and no one would return my calls . . . now, I get my phone calls returned."

**You've got to work every day, man...  
You gotta write every day--something.  
If you're an athlete, you can't get fat  
sitting in a chair.**

Pelecanos has had full access to the Baltimore police department for the past four years.

When he rides with them, he says, "I just listen to them talk . . . blend in and listen. And they're pretty funny, you know? When they're not looking down on a body, they're pretty hilarious, man." He says it's a release for them from the emotionally-exhausting nature of their job.

"I'm fascinated by cops," he says, but quickly admits he couldn't or wouldn't do what they do.

Riding with cops isn't the full story of Pelecanos' style. "When I'm writing, I'm totally in the scene and the characters' heads," he says. Not a fan of outlining plots, his characters are given life and then determine where the story goes. "Plot is secondary to me," he says.

But his family isn't.

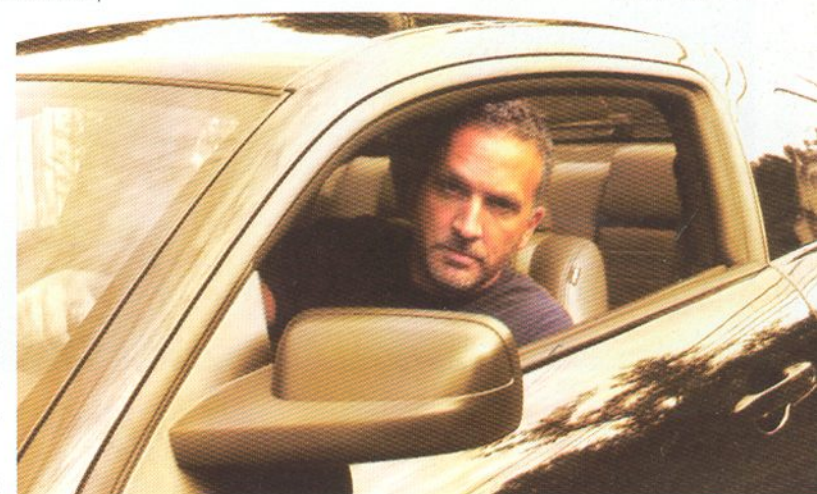
Much of what drives Pelecanos is his family. He met Emily, his wife of 21 years, as a teenager when they both worked the Christmas shifts at The Gap. They have three children, Nick, 15, Peter, 13, and Rosa, 9.

Like many Greek immigrants who traveled to America and settled in big cities across the country, Pelecanos' grandfather had a lunch counter at 14<sup>th</sup> and R in the Shaw section, a predominantly black neighborhood. "I was down there all the time . . . always down there," remembers his grandson. His father, who was born in Vordonia, Sparta, came to the United States as a toddler and spent his working life on the night shift, coming home at 3 or 4 a.m. "I didn't see him much," Pelecanos says. "He was wedded to his work . . . and I am my father."

The name Pelecanos originally was spelled with a "k" but his father changed it to a "c" "because he thought it looked better. The signature looked better." While his mother, Ruby, worked as a secretary, in 1965 his father opened up his own place, The Jefferson Coffee Shop, on 19<sup>th</sup> and M. When Pelecanos

stations, were constantly playing. I really got turned on to [that] music and the rock thing was happening, too," he says. "I mean you had the Isley Brothers playing next to Deep Purple." He also received an education in raw human emotion, witnessing the 1968 race riots up close and understanding, for the first time, the roots of discontent, oppression and eventually rebellion. One of his books, "Hard Revolution" is set during that most difficult time.

In 1976, Pelecanos' father had a heart attack and was also diagnosed with cancer. Pelecanos came home from college to run the store for a



Pelecanos in his new "Stang" GT

year and then picked up where he left off when his father was well enough to take over again.

Since the roots of his childhood and Greek upbringing remain strong, Pelecanos has found it difficult to leave the place he calls home: "I'm still living where I grew up . . . very mixed economically . . . it's kind of pathetic, but I never moved away from where I grew up." Though he only speaks Greek "*ligaki*," the inability to speak the language fluently doesn't get in the way, he says, of occasionally with his kids needing to "get Greek on them" to maintain discipline.

But perhaps the most revealing glimpse of how Pelecanos interprets life is on his website, where he's just posted pictures of his new car: a 2006 Mustang GT, the latest incarnation of the car he's loved since his father bought one "right off the line" in the 60s.

"I have owned better handling and more luxurious cars, but none have quickened my pulse the way this one does when I turn the key," he says. "And it is fast. The power has already gotten me out of 'situations' on the highway. Note to Johnny Law: please don't come down on me, I am only having fun."

Amen.



# Greek-Americans Reelect Democrat Carolyn B. Maloney



A proven friend of the community, Greece and Cyprus. Co-founder of the Hellenic Caucus in the US House of Representatives.

**Endorsed by NEO magazine**

**14<sup>th</sup> Congressional District New York – Manhattan – Queens**

Her district contains many of the city's most historic and well-known neighborhoods, including most of the East Side, Astoria and Long Island City, Queens, that thousands of Greek-Americans have made their home.

Paid by Friends of Reelect Carolyn Maloney to Congress

## IT'S YOUR PARTY. ENJOY IT.

can make entertaining a little easier. We specialize in Greek and Cypriot cuisine—appetizers, entrees, and desserts your guests will just love! Our authentic BBQ even lets you offer the enormously popular whole lamb charcoaled.

Any event, any size—20 to 200, sit-down or buffet—we provide glassware, tableware, cooks and waitstaff... Everything you need to make life easier right through clean-up. It's your party...

Enjoy it. And leave the cooking to us.



For more information call 718-956-0133.  
Zenon Catering • 34-10 31st Avenue • Astoria, NY 11106  
Serving the Tri-State Area.

## MAYWOOD'S MARKETPLACE

**COME VISIT OUR  
NEW WINE STORE**

**The biggest selection  
of Greek wine  
in New Jersey!**

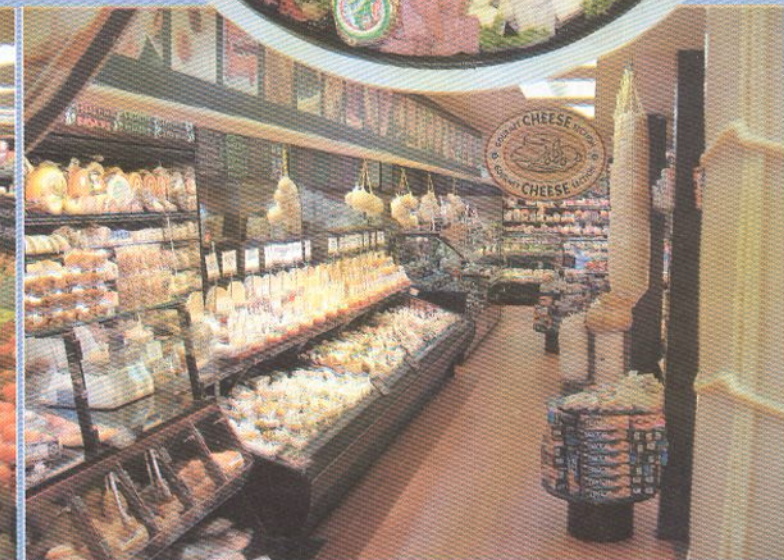
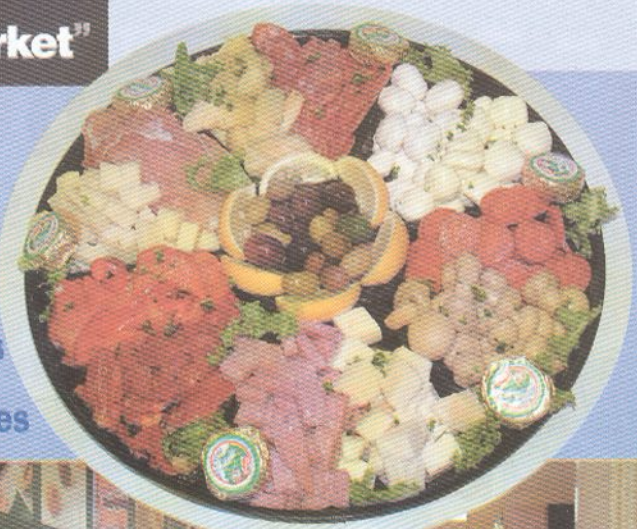


**Getit@"theMarket"**

78 West Pleasant Ave  
Maywood, NJ 07607  
Phone: 201-843-8361



Gourmet Deli  
Fresh Produce  
Choice Meat  
Prepared Foods  
Gourmet Groceries



**ALL GREEK PRODUCTS AVAILABLE**



[FILM] ➤



## "Simply an Illusion": Drawing From Hellenic Roots

BY DEMETRIOS RHOMPOTIS

**All in all, it seems to be that ancient times is the source of theme inspiration.**

- John Mavros

"Simply an Illusion," a new film written and directed by veteran Greek American movie maker John Mavros and produced by Dino Bakakos, will be featured at The New York International Film & Video Festival, scheduled to take place from November 11th to 16th. The movie, the latest of Mavros' long trail of work, deals with the struggle and triumph of a woman (portrayed by Traci Hovel) to liberate herself "from the passion of her love for the wrong man (Scott Mitchell Kelly,) by taking things into her own hands. Another man (Chad Brigockas), a friend of the wrong one, gets in the way and becomes the catalyst for her revolution and transformation.

According to John Mavros, a Martin Scorsese college mate and friend, the theme, as modern as it might sound, is also very old: it can be spotted directly in the classical Hellenic tradition, which serves as his unfathomable well when it comes to inspiration and guidance. "The theme in my movie is about individual freedom, particularly women's freedom," he explains. "She comes to her senses and cuts the rope loose, from the pathos of her deceased, demeaning love and decides to liberate herself, to become free and responsible for her decisions. How closer to an ancient Greek archetype theme can we get," he wonders. "Medea, Antigone, Hecuba, Lysistrata, Hyra, Panthora and so many more have distinguished themselves for their strong will for liberation."

Many famous writers such as Shakespeare, Ibsen, Bernard Shaw, and Kazantzakis have worked on the same archetypes, says Mavros: "The same goes for all the plays of the world's modern theatre including Arthur Miller's and the rest of the play themes of the American scene. All in all, it seems to be that ancient times is the source of theme inspiration."

What is different and perhaps new in every attempt, "is the treatment, which means, how one

presents a subject, a theme, a situation, a point of view." That in turn, also shows how progressed and sophisticated societies are through the ages to accept the concept and the content of each representation. "If we are to go back, for instance, to the middle ages, the story teller-artist had to spend at least 4-5 chapters of his book to give us a hint that the maid probably has an affair with the master of the house," explains Mavros. "Today, because of the fact that people are more sophisticated and exposed to almost anything and they're able to grasp the situation right away, we do not waste time to foreshadow such coming events, we start with them in bed! In both cases the plot is the same but treated differently according to the circumstances and the time period."

The music score is composed by young and promising Greek Cypriot George Kolias who managed to do a great job given the complexities and the antithetical emotionality of the characters in the plot. David Roy is the director of photography. The movie's premier took place at the Lafayette Grill, a downtown Manhattan Greek restaurant and club with a long tradition in sponsoring and hosting various art shows, to the extent that many a habitués have come to see it as a cultural institution. Owner Dino Bakakos has produced, besides "Simply an Illusion," a series of documentaries on Greek history.

"Simply an Illusion" is part of GARA's (Greek Arts Revival Awareness) efforts, an organization with the aim "to help maintain, promote, project and increase awareness to the American public of the rich cultural, historical, philosophical and artistic tradition of ancient and modern Greece." TV and film productions are major tools in this endeavor. For more information on GARA those interested can call (212) 980-1383. For The New York International Film & Video Festival (2nd Ave and 12th St. theatre) the website is [www.nyfilmvideo.com](http://www.nyfilmvideo.com)

# GRISTEDES Supermarkets

Serving New York For Over 100 years



## United Refining

Serving The Petroleum Needs of  
Ohio, Pennsylvania & New York State  
for Over 100 Years

Red Apple Group Companies

John & Margo  
Catsimatidis





## OLYMPIA BARDIS poem recognized by the American Library of Poetry

10:13

I miss those nights along the shore, the sky that minute not yet illuminated by God's gifts; the stars.

Purple like my heart now, black like my sorrows deep inside, an amalgamate of confusion.

I long for when in the past you would part strands of my hair between your fingers, each one revealing another reason to why I loved you so.

The thunder reciting its dreadful stories wretchedly nears, our hearts beat simultaneously, we run, being consoled by the songs and rhythms of our own feet pounding against the sand.

One by one, then together like the rain against the sea. You stopped midway as if you knew this moment was our last, you stroked my lips, your favorite thing to do before I lost my will of life and then lightning struck and that was it.

You disappeared I knew this could never last.

Olympia Bardis: "I am currently attending the Bronx High School of Science as a sophomore. I am Greek-American and proud to say that I have studied the Greek language and won many essay writing awards pertaining to my heritage. I hope to study law and creative writing in the future, as well as study these topics abroad. This poem will be featured in a book entitled *Excellence*."

## Citizen Socrates at the University of Michigan

The Modern Greek Program at the University of Michigan during its Platsis Symposium on the Greek Legacy this year presented "Citizen Socrates" with lectures on the philosopher and a performance of Plato's *The Apology of Socrates* by Emmy Award Winner Yannis Simonides.

The philosopher died in 399 B.C.E. at the age of 70, after being tried and condemned by the city of Athens on charges of impiety and corrupting the youth. The fifth annual Platsis Symposium celebrated Socratic citizenship, focusing on the philosopher's role in providing his fellow citizens with occasions for moral reflection accompanied by self-restraint. *The Apology of Socrates* reenacts Socrates' defense in the Athenian court and his rebuttals to a guilty verdict and sentence of death. This treatment transports the viewer from ancient times to our contemporary world, and in doing so reaffirms the relevance of Socrates' thoughts in today's society. *The Apology of Socrates* premiered in New York in 2003 and has since been performed to great acclaim at the United Nations, the Athens Agora, NBC's Today Show and in theatres, schools, universities, libraries and festivals across the

United States and Greece.

The lectures for "Citizen Socrates" were *Socrates in Athens: the Patron-Saint of Moral Philosophy* by Gerasimos Santas, University of California, Irvine, and *Socrates on Courage in Politics* by Paul Woodruff, University of Texas, Austin.

The Symposium was supported by the Arthur and Mary Platsis Fund and co-sponsored by LSA "Citizenship" Theme Year.



## Cyprus Popular Bank forms leading banking group in S.E. Europe

The decision of Cyprus Popular Bank to submit Public Offers for 100% of MARFIN F.G. and Egnatia Bank shares, leads to the formation of a powerful banking group in the region of S.E. Europe. The new group to be formed will be the largest bank in Cyprus and the second largest bank in Greece, in terms of shareholders' equity.

Cyprus Popular Bank will also submit among others a Private Offer to acquire the minorities of its subsidiary Laiki Hellas. A minimum acceptance level of 40 percent is required for the Public Offers of the Cyprus Popular Bank's Public Offers to be valid. The new combined group will have by the end of 2006 22.3 billion euro in assets, 300 branches and a presence in 13 countries. Under the assumption that the Public Offers will be fully accepted and that the Group's business plans

will be fully implemented as planned, the net equity of the new Group will amount to 3.3 billion euro and the capital adequacy ratio (CAD) will be 17.7 percent. This will allow the new Group to support substantial growth in all key business areas, which will enable it to generate up to 30 billion euro in additional assets.

The new Group will also be a leader in the securities transactions business, ranking third in the ASE with a market share of 8.8 percent, first in the ASE derivatives market with a market share of 20.4 percent and first in the CSE with a market share of 43.9 percent. Assuming that both the Public and the Private Offers are fully accepted, Cyprus Popular Bank will proceed to a share capital increase of 2,415 billion euro (CY£ 1.39 billion) by issuing 465.4 million shares. Following the share capital increase the total number of shares outstanding

## Farewell--and welcome--for Olympic Airlines director

A host of travel agents, well wishers and Olympic Airlines local staff gathered recently at an informal reception to bid farewell to departing North & South America director Georgios Kaloudis (he will head the company's Arab Emirates post, based in Dubai)--and to welcome his successor, Stylianos Paterakis. Speaking

on behalf of tour operators, Mike Mihalos (Stork Travel), thanked Kaloudis and wished the best of luck to the new director, while reminding him that the Greek American community had provided the bulk of Olympic's passengers and supporters throughout its over 40 years history in direct trans-Atlantic flights.



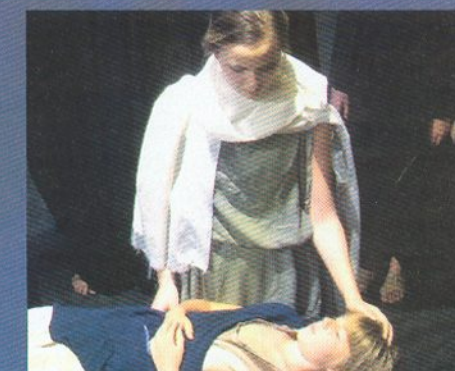
PHOTOS: ETA PRESS

Left: Athanasios Golias (O.A. Hellenic Relations Manager), left, George Tasigianis (District Sales Manager), Mike Mihalos, Fabio Sebiante, Stylianos Paterakis (O.A.s new director), Chrysoula Christofidis, Gregory Alexander, Georgios Kaloudis and Nick Koutsis. Right: Georgios Kaloudis, left, and Stylianos Paterakis.

ing will be 822.9 million.

The acceptance period is expected to commence on October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2006 up until November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2006, while on October 19<sup>th</sup> 2006, the Board of Directors of both Egnatia and Marfin will render their recommendation regarding the Public Offers. The shareholders of the Cyprus Popular Bank will meet at an extraordinary General Meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> of October 2006, in order to approve the share capital increase.

It is estimated that the new Group profitability capacity is for net profit after tax of 370 million euro in 2007, 440 million euro in 2008 and 510 million euro in 2009.



Euripides' *TROJAN WOMEN* at the Greek Cultural Center

October 13- December 17

Friday & Saturday at 8pm

Sundays at 7pm

English super titles

The Theater Group of the Greek Cultural Center will present the classic tragedy *Trojan Women* by Euripides at the Greek Cultural Center in Astoria, NY with opening night October 13. The play is one of the greatest anti-war plays with a message that transcends time: in war there are no true winners.

The tragedy takes place on the shore of Troy, where the Achaeans are preparing to leave after their ten year "victorious" expedition against the Trojans.

The cast comprises acclaimed actors under the direction of Andreas Tselepos in his fourth collaboration with the Greek Cultural Center. The production is under the auspices of the Consulate General of the Republic of Cyprus.

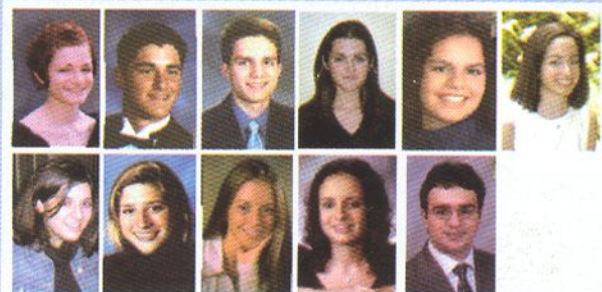
Admissions \$20

Seniors/Students/Children \$15

For more information contact the Greek Cultural Center at 718-726-7329 or e-mail [reservations@greekculturalcenter.org](mailto:reservations@greekculturalcenter.org)  
Details available at [www.greekculturalcenter.org](http://www.greekculturalcenter.org)



## Singer Petros Gaitanos highlights Chicago's PanHellenic Scholarships Gala



2006 Paradigm Award for setting a stellar example, and also the high caliber of the students who won scholarships worth \$10,000 each. More than 10 such scholarships will be given away this year.

"These scholarships provide substantial aid to worthy students and we wish to encourage the excellent work of the foundation," says John Apostolou, chairman of the Advisory Board. "We will continue our support because the caliber of the students is consistently high."

The PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation awarded more than \$100,000 in grants to Greek American students at a Gala dinner Saturday, Oct. 14, that made all Hellenes proud of the high caliber of the students and their stories of success, says Chris P. Tomaras, foundation chairman.

"We were touched by the stories of success and courage of our students and we enjoyed the music of a top-flight entertainer from Greece, Petros Gaitanos," Tomaras says.

The inspiring stories describe the success of Hellenes such as Dr. Constantine Papadakis, president of Drexel University, who won the

cation that provides a platform for greater accomplishments in life. The Foundation may also, at its discretion, seek and consider applicants among students already attending a university or college. Several awards are offered annually, ranging up to \$10,000 or more each, depending on the number of recipients, the level of contributions and the resulting size of the Scholarship Fund in any given year.

Each year during the Fall, a social gathering is held, organized by the Foundation, for presenting the awards and honoring the recipients. The event is open to the general public and attended by the award recipients, their families and friends, and donors, Foundation officials and dignitaries from the U.S. and Greece.

The PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation is an Illinois non-profit corporation made possible by the commitment of Chicago-based businessperson and philanthropist Chris P. Tomaras, with additional funds from private donors and friends of the Foundation. Call the foundation offices at (312) 357-6432. More information is available at [www.panhellenicscholarships.org](http://www.panhellenicscholarships.org).

The Gala Dinner took place at the prestigious University Club of Chicago. The reception was held at the Library Hall. A lyrical journey with songs by acclaimed Petros Gaitanos was part of the program under the theme, "Land of Sky Blue Waters and Sweetness."

The Foundation's Scholarship Awards are offered to high school graduates who are prepared to continue their studies at a college or university, thus achieving a higher level of education.

The Foundation's Scholarship Awards are offered to high school graduates who are prepared to continue their studies at a college or university, thus achieving a higher level of education.

## Hellenic American women's conference in New York

HAWC (Hellenic American Women's Council) will be hosting its 13th annual conference this fall in New York City, at the Hilton Hotel, on Saturday October 14, 2006. This organization has earned a reputation of presenting quality events that are both informative and enjoyable. Formed in the early 1990's, its membership and name recognition has grown steadily.

According to lawyer and HAWC's Educational/Cultural Coordinator Eva Poneris, membership comes from all over the US with active Chapters in New York, New Jersey, Washington DC, Boston, Chicago and Miami. This year's topic is titled "Today's Woman - Flourishing In the Midst of Change." "We feel that it is vital that women share their experiences, both professionally and personally, and encourage women to withstand the personal turmoil that comes with sudden or planned changes in their lives," says Poneris. "With the right attitude, information and appropriate coping skills, women can handle whatever comes their way."

An impressive group of panelists will deal with



the issue: Laura Corio, MD - Board certified OB/GYN, attending physician at Mt Sinai Medical Center, author of "The Change Before The Change"; Marina Corodemus, JSC, retired - Director of Alternative Dispute Resolutions, Corodemus & Corodemus LLC; Lori Stokes - Co-Author, Eyewitness News "This Morning" and "Today at Noon" on WABC-TV; Ernestine Bradley, Ph.D - Professor Comparative Literature, New School University, author "The Way Home"; Elena Chambous, CFP - Financial Advisor, head of the Matrimonial Assistance Program, Morristown Financial Group. The panel discussion will be followed by a luncheon featuring his Excellency, Ambassador of Greece to Washington Alexandros Mallias as keynote speaker.

It has become a HAWC tradition to present the Aristeion Award each year at the conference luncheon, given to a woman who has

excelled in her particular field of endeavor, as well as having distinguished herself in the nobility of humanity in both manner and service to others. "We are proud to announce that this year's Aristeion Award will, most deservedly, be given to Dr. Maria Theodoulou, distinguished Oncologist at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center."

HAWC was created for the purpose of establishing a unified presence in American society. "This organization recognizes the power of women as a virtually untapped natural resource," Poneris explains. "Through our efforts, we can cultivate this power and ultimately create a collective 'voice' that will be heeded by society." The group is nonpartisan and welcomes all women of Hellenic descent and all philhellenes. HAWC is an H 501 (a) (3) organization to which contributions are deductible as provided by law. For further information or reservations for the conference, call Stacey Sava at (201) 944-6432 or email [staceysava@aol.com](mailto:staceysava@aol.com).

## THE ORIGINAL STAMATIS RESTAURANT

Stamatis Bililis



## TRADITIONAL RECIPES FRESH WHOLE FISH - GREEK HOSPITALITY

CATERING FOR ALL OCCASIONS



29-12 23rd. Ave.  
Astoria,  
New York 11105  
Tel: (718) 932-8596

## Jim Chanos at HABA's event

Jim Chanos, founder & managing partner at Kynikos Associates, was the keynote speaker at a recent event organized by HABA (Hellenic American Bankers Association) at The New York Athletic Club. Kynikos is the largest exclusive short selling investment firm. Mr. Chanos has identified and sold numerous well know corporate financial disasters including Tyco and Enron. James C. Hansel, managing director at Eight Winds Capital Management and HABA's newly elected president, welcomed the speaker and coordinated a very enlightening question period. About 200 members and an additional mailing list of more than a 1000 comprise this organization of Greek American professionals in the banking sector, founded almost 25 years ago.

## Long Island's 5T Community Chest Fair

Legislator Jeff Toback, 5T JCC executive director Rina Shkolnick, L.I. Lodge president Asher J. Matathias, State Senator Dean Skelos, Assemblyman Harvey Weisenberg, and Hempstead Supervisor Kate Murray





# The 2006 Queens Real Estate Expo: An Astounding Success

Hundreds of visitors flocked to the Crown Plaza Hotel at La Guardia Airport last month and went through the first Queens Real Estate Expo which featured banks, real estate brokers, mortgage companies, attorneys, title insurance co., contractors, insurance companies, inspectors, appraisers etc. According to organizer Anthony Kazasis, "the birth of the Queens Real Estate Expo grew from my dream to put together an event that offers both affordability and flexibility to the exhibitors – as well as my desire to better educate home buyers and investors about the often confusing real estate arena." More than 80 exhibitors showed up with their products and services, making the event an astounding success that spoke volumes about the need for such a venue in the greater Queens area.

DEMETRIOS RHOMPOTIS



Anthony Kazasis (left) with Steve Lagoudis, Mortgage World Bankers CEO.



Remax Today from Astoria, was voted unanimously the best looking booth! Kelly Kaloudis (president), Lina Lenis, Sally Kolanovic, Carmela Vlasic, Lydia Roman, Eleni Gerokostas and Antoineta Koveos.



1. Anthony D. Ralis and Franchesca Manassis from Nationwide insurance. 2. Rachael Lody and Joelle Austin representing Florida and Costa Rica real estate opportunities. 3. John Giapoutzis, Richard Schwamb and John O'Day from Merrill Lynch. 4. Anthony Kazasis, George Kazasis, Mark Gastineau (NFL's 5 Time All Star) 5. Josh Samell, left, Michael Rapetti, John Bevilacqua, Peter Vassiliou from Marcus & Millichap REIBC

## FOR ALL YOUR LEGAL NEEDS

### Solomos & Associates

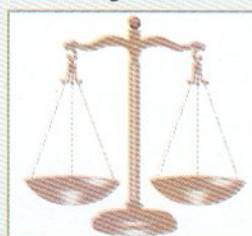
Attorneys at Law

#### ACCIDENTS

- Auto Accidents
- Slip & Fall
- Medical Malpractice

#### REAL ESTATE

- Commercial & Private Properties
- Buy & Sell Agreements



#### PARTNERSHIPS - CORPORATIONS

#### FAMILY LAW

- Wills, Trusts, Estates
- Divorces - Child Support

#### CRIMINAL LAW

- DWI - All Criminal Matters

31-14 Broadway, Astoria, NY 11106

FREE CONSULTATION

PERSONALLY AVAILABLE 24h/DAY

Office Telephone: 718-278-5900

Direct Line Attorney: **1-888-777-8785**

e-mail: solomosesq@aol.com

AKTINA FM & AKTINA TV  
PRESENT

# ALKISTIS PROTOPSALTI

CHRISTINA ARGYRI & GEORGE KARADIMOS

## Friday

### NOVEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup> 2006

PRODUCED BY  
ENCORE PRODUCTIONS  
UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE

- GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR THE GREEKS ABROAD
- GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR YOUTH
- NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL OF GREECE

FOR TICKETS:

AKTINA FM – 718.545.1151  
ENCORE PRODUCTIONS – 718.721.1969  
TICKETMASTER – 212.307.4100  
THE TOWN HALL BOX OFFICE – 212.840.2824  
GMV SUPERSTORE – 718.932.8400  
OASIS CAFÉ – 718.357.4843

@ **THE TOWN HALL**

123 West 43rd Street  
(bet. 6 & 7 Aves)

SPONSORED BY



# A Byzantine Reaction

BY DIMITRI KRALLIS

Byzantium is in the news. Since September 12 the media all around the world has been asking about the obscure Byzantine Emperor, whose writings were used by Benedict XVI, angering many people in the Islamic world. Here I would like to suggest that the Pontiff's narrative is in fact more "Byzantine", more complex, than even the source on which it was based. A number of years ago George W. Bush noted famously: "I do not do nuance." This statement is in fact fitting comment on the general state of the media around the world, for the Pope's speech is a monument of suggestion and nuance. Addressing an academic audience at the University of Regensburg the pope tackled the perceived clash between the spirit of rational enquiry that permeates university culture, on the one hand, and faith itself, on the other. In this speech the Pope described a dialogue between the Byzantine Emperor Manuel II and an unnamed Persian authority on religion on the respective merits of Christianity and Islam. The Pope focused on a small part of the exchange where Manuel argued that violent conversion was against the very notion of reasoned choice that supposedly underpins the conversion process. The following is the excerpt from Manuel's dialogue appearing in the Pope's prepared speech in a translation offered by the Vatican:

*God is not pleased by blood, and not acting reasonably is contrary to God's nature. Faith is born of the soul, not the body. Whoever would lead someone to faith needs the ability to speak well and to reason properly, without violence and threats... To convince a reasonable soul, one does not need a strong arm, or weapons of any kind, or any other means of threatening a person with death....*

With this excerpt the Pope showed reason to be essential in the quest for the divine and explained the process of intellectual compromise that allows universities to keep departments of theology next to departments of philosophy and science.

Pope Benedict goes on to note that the connection between reason and Christianity was

essentially a Greek intellectual project. Manuel II understood the importance of reason as part of the process of conversion because he was a philosophically trained Greek. Who, however, was responsible for the fact that we no longer recognize this link between faith and reason? The Pope argued that the Reformation's more literal and absolute reading of the Christian



texts purged Christianity of its links to Hellenic culture. With its all-powerful God, its predestination narrative, and its emphasis on the purity of the Word, Protestant theology lost the subtlety of a rational quest for the divine. By stressing the links of Christianity to classical culture the

Pontiff implicitly develops the theme of Athens versus Jerusalem, which is supposedly a central aspect of the church's attempts at self-definition. Through his reference to *Logos* (Greek for reason/Word), Benedict creates an analogy, which sees Greek culture and its modern European counterpart, humanism, opposed to "oriental" forms of thinking like, ironically, the Reformation.

In Byzantine studies the divide between Athens and Jerusalem has been applied to readings of the iconoclast controversy of the eighth and ninth centuries, and was used distinguish between the supposedly more Hellenic iconophiles and the "eastern" iconoclasts, who may have been influenced by Islam. According to scholars the iconoclasts — a faction in the empire that viewed the veneration of icons in the churches as idolatrous — were adherents of Jerusalem, influenced by Islam's eastern, aniconic tradition. The iconophiles on the other side were more Hellenic, closer to paganism, and therefore more comfortable with religious representational art.

Our story is thus more complicated than we had originally assumed. East clashes with West, iconic with aniconic, reasonably perceived *Logos* with inscrutable God. While on the surface Islam clashes with Christianity, there is also a more important cleavage exposed, one between Catholic and Orthodox

Christianity, on the one hand, and the broader movement of the Reformation on the other. Note that some Byzantinists have described Byzantine iconoclasm as an early Reformation. In this new divide Hellenism, Byzantium, reason, and Catholic Christianity are on the one side. Blind faith, literalism, Islam and more significantly the Reformation are arrayed on the other.

In the current political environment, which allows for the wars in the Middle East to be viewed as a clash of fundamentalist visions of the world, American Christian (and basically Protestant) on the one side and Islamic on the other, the Pope's speech seems to have a very different target than Islam itself. Manuel II, in the guise of a philosopher king, is not the new face of "Orientalism." He is rather the poster-child of a peculiar Christian humanism settling scores with theologically and politically intolerant strands of Christianity. Ironically, the Pope may be making a very indirect statement of great interest: contemporary Islam and the Protestants like Bush and the American Christians in general are in fact two faces of the same coin.

What is therefore surprising in the uproar, which followed the speech, is not that elements in the Islamic world took offence, but rather that its true targets totally missed the point. The Pope's speech was essentially about a dialogue that is taking place in the West; and only marginally about Islam, which suffered, as so often nowadays, "collateral damage." This is not, therefore, a speech to be taken up by the new Christian "crusaders," for they are its ultimate targets. (Note how in our days the Crusading narrative is essentially a Protestant narrative.)

A coda on the study of Byzantium: with this speech the Pope claimed Byzantine humanism as part of the Western tradition, essentially removing the stamp of the "other" from Byzantium. The Byzantine Empire, as of last week, is no longer alien but rather an essential component of a very idiosyncratic and admittedly selective Western tradition. Could it be then that the bleak image of Byzantium as a theocratic state can be remedied through this emphasis on Byzantine humanism? As a Byzantinist I can only hope so.

*Dimitri Krallis holds a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan and is Assistant Professor of Byzantine History in the Department of History/Hellenic Studies of Simon Fraser University in Canada.*



## INTERNATIONAL TILE DESIGN

*Importers of:  
Ceramic, Marble & Granite*



CUSTOM FABRICATED  
COUNTER TOPS ~ SHOWER DOORS

Address: 30-50 21st Street, Astoria, NY 11102  
Phone: 718-728-3100