It has been 23 years since Turkey invaded Cyprus on the pretext of safeguarding the Turkish Cypriot community and effected the partition of the island. The Turkish army of occupation remains 30,000 strong to this day. The collaborationist regime in the occupied territories has used this time to despoil what used to be the most prosperous part of the island of all its resources, human and natural. The Greek Cypriots were expelled, the Turkish Cypriots were dispersed, forests were set ablaze, aquifers poisoned, and the evidence of 4,000 years of civilization dismantled bit by bit and sold to foreign fences. In place of what used to be came a squalid proving ground for the Turkish army, an open prison for Turkish Cypriots, 80,000 Anatolian settlers, drug smugglers, criminals on the run and gambling dens.

In the meantime, the free areas of Cyprus prosper. Per capita income is surpassed only by Italy and France in the Mediterranean. Civil society has taken root and flourished. The sciences and the arts are cultivated and trade and industry vigorously pursued.

Given this dichotomy in the realities of Greek and Turkish Cypriots, can there be hope? The answer is a resounding, unequivocal, Yes! It took almost half a century for the Soviet Army to be dislodged from the Baltic States, annexed by the Soviet Union following the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact. It will take less than a quarter for the Turkish army to leave Cyprus.

Why this optimism? Because justice eventually prevails. Because the generation that chose to hate, and indoctrinated its offspring in hatred, is dying off, and their children are finding the fruit of hatred bitter. As the generation that chose hatred departs the division imposed by the Turkish army will go with it.

The World of Cyprus hopes to express this optimism of renewal. It hopes to explore the past and present realities of Cyprus objectively, always in the hope of the future. Welcome, and join in the journey.

Peter Gavriel
Editor in Chief, “The World Of Cyprus”
Sofronis Clerides

Sofronis Clerides grew up in Strovolos, on the outskirts of Nicosia. His family originates from the mountain villages of Agros and Agios Theodoros, in the Pitsilia area of Troodos. He attended high school at the English School in Nicosia, from where he graduated in 1987. After fulfilling his national service obligations, he continued his studies in the United States. In 1993, he received his Bachelor's degree in Economics and mathematics from the University of Wisconsin at Madison, and continues to be a supporter of the Badgers ("Go, Badgers!"). He is currently working on his Ph.D. in Economics at Yale University. His main interests are industrial organization and microeconomic theory, with particular emphasis on firm behavior and market structure. His current research focuses on dynamic aspects of firms’ pricing and product selection practices.

When not pursuing economics - which is not as often as he would like - Sofronis likes to read, play soccer, accept invitations to dinner, and talk about Cyprus (a poor substitute to being there, he freely admits).

Ersi Demetriadou

Ersi Demetriadou was born in Kyrenia, on the north coast of Cyprus. She was uprooted together with 200,000 other Greek Cypriots from her home by the advancing Turkish troops that invaded the island on July 20, 1974 and are now occupying 37% of the land territory of Cyprus.

She holds a Bachelor degree in psychology and sociology from Fort Hays State University, a Master degree in psychology from the New School for Social Research in New York and a Master degree in history from New York University. Her academic specializations include modern European history, women's history and Cyprus history. Within the latter field, she has done extensive research on dowry customs, family law and administrative and financial aspects of British colonial rule. She is currently completing her Ph.D. dissertation at New York University on "Contested Visions: Nationalist and Colonialist Politics in Cyprus under British Rule, 1878-1915." She has been the recipient of many fellowships from New York University and research grants from private organizations.

When not on the Web, she can be found in the libraries of New York City, London or Nicosia or tending to her large cacti garden.

Peter Gavriel

Peter Gavriel is a lawyer in Chicago. He is an English School old boy, received his university education in the United States and got his law degree from Loyola University Law School (Chicago) in 1981. His family derives from the villages of Dhiorios and Larnakas-tis-Lapethou in the Kyrenia District. Peter looks forward to peacefully reclaiming his family ancestral grounds soon. In the meantime, he bides his time in his second home, with wife Beth and daughter Kate. He is interested in everything and enjoys opera, the theater, and braised pork with colacassia, tomato and coriander.

Tassos Kyriakides

After completing his B.Sc. in Biochemistry at UCLA in 1993, Tassos shifted his attention to the field of Epidemiology and Public Health. His interest in the field was probed even more by the increase in the number of HIV infections and AIDS cases in Cyprus. In the summer of 1994, he submitted a proposal to the Government of Cyprus for an epidemiologic study, in order to assess the level of HIV-1 infections among military recruits; the proposal is still pending.

Tassos’ interaction with the medical field dates back to 1986, through his capacity as a coordinating assistant for the Lebanon and Cyprus Projects training seminars. His general field of research interest falls within the field of Infectious Diseases Epidemiology, and, more specifically, Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD). Tassos’ doctoral thesis project deals with the (Continued on page 9)
**Kypros-Net**

*Introducing Kypros-Net*

http://www.kypros.org  
kypros-net@kypros.org

Kypros-Net is a new Internet based information center concerning Cyprus. Founded by a group of volunteers as a not-for-profit organization, Kypros-Net is building an extensive online resource site about Cyprus for use by the general public. Kypros-Net establishes this much needed dedicated resource about Cyprus and its people, by providing publications, important documents, treaties, reports, as well as news concerning Cyprus on a daily basis.

**“Since our inauguration of March 10, 1997 Kypros-Net has reached an average of 130,000 hits per week on our server!”**

Our World Wide Web Pages, located at the address http://www.kypros.org already comprise the richest online information center about Cyprus and its people. Our server already hosts mirroring of a large number of Governmental and non-Governmental organizations’ Web Pages portraying the various facets of life in Cyprus.

Since our inauguration of March 10, 1997 Kypros-Net has reached an average of 130,000 hits per week to our server!

In this first issue of our monthly Newsletter we would like to thank all our readers for your support and to invite you to continue to visit us often.

Currently at our Home Pages you can find the following sections:

**Kypros-Net**
- Organization  
- Team  
- Contact Information

**Projects**
- Current News/Events  
- Newsletter  
- Cyprus Constitution

- A Selective Bibliography

**Affiliated Projects/Mirrors**

**Government of Cyprus**
- Press and Information Office (PIO)  
- Agricultural Research Institute  
- Cyprus Productivity Centre  
- Nicosia Municipality

**The Cyprus Home Page**
- Introducing Cyprus  
- Tourism  
- The Cyprus Republic  
- Picture Gallery  
- Culture  
- Green Cyprus

**Cyprus Problem Page**
- Brief Overview  
- Detailed History  
- Constitutional Aspects  
- Violation of Human Rights  
- Missing Persons  
- Enclaved Greek Cypriots  
- Destruction of Cultural Heritage  
- UN Peace Keeping/Documents  
- European Stand  
- Greek Government's Position  
- Foreign Press

**Occupied Cyprus**
- Arsos - Dhavlos - Katokopia - Lambousa - Lapiathos - Lefkoniko (1) - Lefkoniko (2) - Lysi - Mandres - Morphou - Vatili

**Other Mirrored Pages**
- Byzantine Art  
- Loizidou Vs Turkey  
- Cyprus Embassy Newsletter  
- Elections Page  
- Cyprus Sports Page  
- Zyperm Page  
- The 9th of July 1821  
- Lista Kypros  
- Cyprus List

Comments and recommendations are very welcome at the address,  
Kypers-Net@kypros.org
The history of the first Greek newspaper published in Cyprus begins on May 21, 1878, in Cairo. At an informal meeting of the Cypriot Brotherhood, a social, charitable and educational association of Cypriot expatriates in Egypt, it was proposed that a weekly newspaper by the name of "Kypros" be established in Cyprus.

Theodoulos Constantinides, a Cypriot who had spent many years in Egypt teaching at the Greek schools in Alexandria and Cairo volunteered to assume the responsibility of publishing this newspaper at Larnaca. He was willing to quit his job at the Cairo Patriarchate Greek school and repatriate to Larnaca with his family in order to become the publisher and editor of "Kypros." The Cypriot Brotherhood members present at this meeting promised to financially support Constantinides in purchasing a printing press and to cover his expenses until the time the newspaper became financially independent through annual subscriptions and sales. Constantinides was optimistic that financial independence should not prove difficult with a number of subscriptions coming from Cypriot expatriates living in Egypt and sales in Cyprus. He was also confident that with a printing press on the island, of which there was none at the time, he would be able to assume some of the printing business commissioned outside the island by the cigarette and tobacco merchants.

There was no time to lose. That same evening Constantinides traveled to Alexandria where a printing press was available for sale. The necessary permits were obtained from the Ottoman authorities for publishing a Greek weekly at Larnaca and after Constantinides finished giving the final examinations at the Patriarchate Greek school in Cairo, he sailed for Larnaca arriving a few days after the Ottoman government handed over administration of Cyprus to Britain.

Despite the permits previously obtained from the Ottoman authorities, Constantinides was not allowed to begin publication of "Kypros" by the British military government. Sir Garnet Wolseley, the first British High Commissioner, was opposed to freedom of the press. He nevertheless gave permission for the commencement of publication of "Kypros" by mid-August on condition that an English language weekly would be simultaneously published by Constantinides. Having no other option, Constantinides hired W. Palmer, a British national who claimed to be a "Times" reporter and had arrived in Cyprus with the influx of adventurers and speculators following the British army, to be the editor of the English language weekly "Cyprus."

On August 29, 1878, the single sheets of "Kypros" and "Cyprus" simultaneously appeared at Larnaca. The two newspapers had nothing in common. In the first editorial of "Kypros" Constantinides praised the change in government and promised to work hard toward achieving the goals envisioned at the Cairo meeting. That is, serve the island's need in raising educational levels and providing information useful to the inhabitants always maintaining high journalistic standards. The English editor of "Cyprus" was more concerned with reporting on the activities of the British contingent, giving the results of horse races and cricket matches, and announcing the arrival of new shipments of whiskey and beer from England.

Unfortunately for Constantinides, sales and subscriptions to "Kypros" and "Cyprus" were inadequate and the amount of printing work commissioned by the British government and the cigarette and tobacco merchants insufficient to defray costs. Before long he found himself in financial difficulty. Sometime toward the end of the year or early January 1879, Palmer proposed to Constantinides that he rent to him the printing house for one year at which time both "Kypros" and "Cyprus" would continue to be published. Constantinides would remain the editor of "Kypros" for a fixed monthly salary of £4. Palmer's financial savvy proved less than that of Constantinides. He soon took out a loan from Henry S. & Co., a British trading company established at Larnaca after the occupation, using his rented printing house as collateral. Being unable to meet his payments, Henry S. King & Co. confiscated the printing house despite...
Constantinides protests that Palmer could not mortgage property that did not belong to him.

Constantinides took his case to court, won his claim in the Daavi Court of Larnaca (the Ottoman district court) but lost on appeal to the newly constituted High Court of Justice where no Cypriot judge was sitting. Chief Justice Lushington Phillips ruled that Henry S. King & Co. was now the legal owner of the printing house ignoring the fact that the property belonged to Constantinides. Constantinides suspected a plot to silence him and close down the only Greek paper published in Cyprus at the time. But even if that were the case, it was a premature and unproductive act. By June 1879, Constantinides established a new political weekly, the “Neon Kition,” which remained in publication until June 1884, briefly expanding to include an English language edition in 1882. “Cyprus” continued to be published until 1882 by Henry S. King & Co, which kept Palmer until 1880 as its editor.

Sources:
“Neon Kition.” Year 1, Nos. 1-50, Larnaca, 1879-80.
“Kypros” and “Cyprus.” Year 1, Nos. 1-27, Larnaca, 1878.

Before long, other Greek and English language weeklies appeared in different towns of the island. First among these was "Aletheia," published in Limassol by Aristotelis K. Paleologos in November 24, 1880. By 1888, four weeklies were firmly established in the island, with an average circulation of 2,500 copies. The first Turkish Cypriot weekly, "The Saded," appeared in 1889, an earlier attempt in 1880 aimed at a mainland audience having failed.

Despite the initial difficulties faced by Constantinides in establishing a Greek newspaper in Cyprus and the initial objections of the local British authorities to freedom of the press, the Cypriot press flourished in the years that followed. Up until the turn of the century, 17 Greek, 7 English and 4 Turkish language weeklies appeared at different times addressing their audience's need for information regarding local affairs and international events. Up until 1931 Cypriot newspapers remained free from censorship or undue government restrictions.

Poetry

To Understand
We called upon each other
In a foreign tongue
We came together
In a foreign land

Fierce enemies, no less strangers
Raised on bitter icon dangers
Insidious walls entangled within.
Enemies within?

In fleeting lives
A precious time, a rare chance
To see
To hear, to learn
To touch firsthand

Refusing to stay hostage
Once
Twice, three
A thousand times
Come together we must

In a foreign land
In our land
In our tongue
To touch the heart
To understand

Who is the enemy?
To ask.

Stathis Mavrotheris
HEALTH

Viral Meningitis in Cyprus, July-August 1996: The bell that rang. Have we heard it? By Tassos Kyriakides

Last summer’s ‘outbreak’ of viral meningitis in Cyprus has, hopefully, served as a wake-up call for the Health Authorities. A total of three-hundred and sixty-four cases had occurred during the ‘epidemic’.

In order to put things in perspective we should first define what constitutes an epidemic: “An epidemic, is the occurrence in a community or region of a group of illnesses of similar nature, clearly in excess of normal expectancy”. Furthermore, it should be noted that even a single case of a communicable disease long absent from a population (e.g. smallpox) or first introduction of a disease, is considered as a potential epidemic.

On July 5, 1996, the first case of viral meningitis was recorded in Limassol. Subsequently, admissions of cases of meningitis increased dramatically, peaked on July 31 at 23 admissions, and started declining thereafter. A closer look at the definition of the epidemic, suggests that for a disease to be coined ‘epidemic’, baseline data must be used for comparison. This means that a well-structured and rigorous surveillance mechanism should be in place, so that at any given time, and whenever the first case of any disease is diagnosed, baseline data for that disease can be pulled up. Only then, can we both efficiently and promptly detect ‘epidemics’, and prevent the spread of the infection at hand to the minimum possible.

Cases were concentrated in the district of Limassol; overall there were 43 admissions per 100,000 population in Cyprus. The following table summarizes the collected data up to and including Aug 11, 1996.

Eighty seven percent of cases had occurred in children under 14 years of age; children under 5 accounted for 56% of the cases. In infants the disease was characterized by fever and irritability and about 40% had vomiting episodes. Older children had fever, headache and neck stiffness.

Laboratory diagnoses were done using three types of specimens: cerebrospinal fluid (CSF), stools and blood. Results from testing of such specimens pointed to the direction of an enterovirus, Coxsackie B5, as the etiologic agent of this outbreak. Coxsackie B5 is a very small RNA enterovirus of the family Picornaviridae, and is often associated with outbreaks of viral meningitis. This agent is a very small, icosahedral virus, that can be easily destroyed by chlorine, high temperatures (above 50°C). This virus is stable at pH 3-10, and can thus withstand the acidic environment of the stomach, thus enabling them to multiply in the lower digestive system. The virus can then enter the blood stream, and invades certain organs (e.g. the meninges causing meningitis) and is excreted in the stools.
Virus shedding from the stools can persist for 6-12 weeks, and from the respiratory tract for up to 3-4 weeks. The main route of transmission is the fecal-oral, and rarely via the respiratory tract.

In an attempt to identify ‘risk factors’, a questionnaire was administered to 75% of the cases or their parents. However, no particular factors have emerged that were considered risk factors for disease transmission. The Ministry of Health, nonetheless, concentrated its efforts and control measures on health education regarding personal and household hygiene for the general population. On July 22, a series of measures were put in place, in an attempt to contain the spread of the epidemic.

It is also important to note that 50%-80% of those infected by the enteroviruses remain asymptomatic. Also, only 1%-2% of those infected will develop symptoms of viral meningitis. So, if there were 364 cases of viral meningitis during last summer’s outbreak, one can easily come to the conclusion that anywhere between 15,000 and 30,000 individuals were infected by the enterovirus, who either were asymptomatic, or manifested flu-like symptoms, but nonetheless were spreading the virus to other susceptible individuals.

There are neither acute-phase nor any long-term sequelae of the enteroviral infection. Infants are the most susceptible due to the lack of antibodies; antibodies to such enteroviral infections accumulate with age.

Following the end of the epidemic, the Ministry of Health prepared a report on Viral Meningitis; this report includes information on the etiologic agent, data from the outbreak, as well as control measures and hygiene practices that should be implemented in future in order to avoid new epidemics.

Last but not least, this epidemic, has served as a wake-up call for health authorities and will have an impact on how future epidemics are dealt with. The World Health Organization has provided assistance to the Ministry of Health in analyzing and presenting the data from this outbreak, and has also provided some recommendations that would improve the Ministry’s ability to manage epidemics in the future:

- a coordinated team approach within the Ministry of Health in response to the threat of infectious diseases; this would avoid time-lag between diagnosis of first case and setting-up of an investigative committee, and would enhance risk factor analysis
- the establishment of a rigorous, well-maintained surveillance system which will rely on systematic reporting by health practitioners and health institutions of any unusual occurrences or of unusually high numbers of a particular disease; such a system would have to rely on ‘case-based’ and not on ‘time-based’ data collection
- the establishment of a systematic feedback mechanism to the providers of disease information, as well as a communication system that would speed up the relay of information, both from and to the Ministry of Health.
- the strengthening of the analytical and epidemiological resources of the Ministry

The epidemic of viral meningitis that occurred in Cyprus last summer, attracted a lot of attention and has reminded us yet again that the threat of infectious diseases is something that should be taken very seriously. As new infectious diseases are emerging, and as old, ‘forgotten’ diseases are re-emerging, we should make every effort to stay alert and ready to manage such potential threats. The structure of Public Health authorities should be revamped in anticipation of future outbreaks, and epidemiological resources should be improved and strengthened. In the aftermath of the viral meningitis epidemic, the Ministry of Health seems to be making a step in the right direction.

Source:
Dr. Maria Koliou Mazeri, Iogenis Miniggitida, Ministry of Health, Nicosia, 1996.
Last March, the Central Bank of Cyprus announced the reduction of interest rates by half a percentage point. The maximum rate on deposits was lowered from 7% to 6.5% effective immediately. The reduction of the lending rate from 8.5% to 8% will be effective July 17. This is only the second change in the maximum lending rate since it was set at 9% by the Interest Law of 1944. The rate had remained fixed at that level for half a century, until it was lowered to 8.5% in the end of 1994.

Although regulation of interest rates is going out of fashion these days, Cyprus is certainly not unique in imposing limitations on the rate one can charge on a loan. The notion of interest has existed for thousands of years. In most organized societies, the charging of interest (or usury) was considered immoral and exploitative. Since lending is a temporary transfer of money from someone who has a lot of it to someone who does not, it is easy to see why that was the case. As a consequence of this perception, laws against usury were often introduced, and some have been traced as far back as the Babylonian code of Hammurabi of 1800 BC.

Most major religions have held strong beliefs against usury throughout history. In addition to the exploitation argument, they also considered it unethical on theological grounds. They argued that interest is equivalent to a charge on time. But only God owns time, and it is thus immoral for mortals to put a price on it. Islamic law prohibits usury to this day.

Eventually, the charging of interest became standard practice. It came to be understood that by granting a loan, one forgoes the income that could have been generated by the productive use of the money. Interest serves to compensate the lender for that loss. Usury laws did not go away, however. They merely shifted objectives, aiming to set limits on the rate of interest one could charge, rather than prohibit the practice altogether. The Cypriot Interest Law is an example of that.

In the last few decades, complete deregulation of interest rates has gained wider acceptance. There are three main economic arguments against statutory limits on interest rates. The first has to do with savings. If the nominal rate of interest is fixed, then at times of high inflation the real interest rate (the nominal rate minus the rate of inflation) can be negative.

In other words, money kept in the bank actually loses purchasing power over time. This clearly provides little incentive for people to save. Low saving implies limited availability of funds for investment, and low investment hinders the growth of the economy.

This argument usually applies to countries with very high rates of inflation, and is thus not particularly relevant to Cyprus, where inflation has been largely kept in check. Indeed, the rate of savings in Cyprus compares quite favorably with that of other developed countries.

The second line of criticism is concerned with the effect that interest rate regulation has on the allocation of funds in the economy. Loans are used to finance either consumption (such as car purchases) or investment (such as purchases of machinery and establishment of new businesses). With every loan comes a certain risk that the borrower will be unable to pay back the amount borrowed; this risk varies for different types of loans. Lenders would like to "penalize" risky loans by charging a higher interest rate on them. If they are unable to do so (say, by law), they might decide that the return is not worth the risk, and opt not to finance risky projects. Therefore one would expect that in an economy with a fixed interest rate, risky ventures will not be able to attract the necessary financing. This is troubling, however, as risky ventures are the ones that drive economic growth, not the relatively safe consumption loans. Furthermore, when the cost of borrowing is fixed, considerations other than credit-worthiness (contacts and personal networks) would bear less weight in the decision process.
favors, for example) often determine who gets loans, thus exacerbating the misallocation problem.

This criticism is thought to apply to Cyprus. Many experts agree that the fixed interest rate, along with the lack (until recently) of a capital market, has led to too much "investment in concrete" (mostly hotels and other tourist accommodations), and too little investment in other kinds of business ventures and industries. The Cyprus economy, in other words, over-specialized in tourism, which was perceived as a "safe" investment with a risk factor that was within the acceptable limits prescribed by the statutory rate of interest. This has begun to change in the last few years with the growth of the financial and service sector of the economy. It is hoped that this trend will continue, thus leading to a more versatile Cyprus economy.

The final argument against regulation is that fixed interest rates deprive the monetary authorities of a valuable tool in their effort to manage their national economies. During times of economic stagnation, a reduction in the interest rate can boost the economy by making it easier for businesses and individuals to borrow. At times of high growth, a higher interest rate can help keep inflation under control. Thus, the ability to manipulate the interest rate is a very powerful tool, and it is one that the Cyprus Central Bank had been deprived of until a recent change in the legal framework.

The deregulation of interest rates, along with the abolition of exchange controls, will be one of the most important steps Cyprus will have to take as it continues its preparation for entry into the European Union. This will come as a bit of a shock to many Cypriots (banks included), who for the last 50 years have not had to worry about changing interest rates.

There is certainly something to be said for stability. But, provided the necessary steps are taken to ensure healthy competition among banks, this is a change that the Cyprus economy should be able to handle relatively smoothly.

(Continued from page 2)

pharmaco-epidemiology of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV-1) and the impact of the development of drug-resistance on the epidemiology of HIV.

He is also interested in the epidemiology of Emerging, Re-emerging and Sub-merging Infectious Diseases, and the various enabling factors that contribute to the evolving epidemiology of such diseases. He has been very closely involved with the presentation of seminars over the Internet on Emerging Infections/Diseases as an assistant of the Emerging Infections Information Network. Tassos’ personal interests, besides soccer, include photography and the interesting lifecycle of a specific species of cicadas (zizirol as we call them in Cyprus)

Nicos Nicolaou

Nicos Nicolaou is from Arso, of Larnaca, Cyprus. He grew up in Larnaca, and attended the American Academy. He received his B.Sc. in Mechanical Engineering at Michigan Technological University, and is now a candidate for his M.Sc. in Engineering Mechanics. Nicos is currently conducting his thesis research at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, Maryland.

Nicos has great interests in the Internet, understanding other cultures, and in sports. Anything that has to do with Cyprus gets his attention. He will not rest easy until Cyprus is free.

Minos Orphanides

Minos Orphanides set out as a youthful skeptic to discover the inner workings of our mind through the study of psychology in the United States. While in the United States, he came to the gradual realization that neither our brains nor our minds work in self-contained isolation, but rather in a world, created "en sophia" ("in wisdom"). He came to the realization that he would best attain his optimal function in Orthodox spirituality. He is puzzled by how an uneducated old-timer can work miracles through prayer while the rest of us are overwhelmed by what wine to match with poultry.

Minos currently works at the Folk Art Museum in Nicosia, studying the folk traditions of Cyprus. He makes frequent trips to the countryside and the monasteries, to study and document such traditions as still exist, before all is plowed under by the juggernaut of "development". He is, also, the program director at Radio Anastasis, and keeps in close contact with Orthodoxy on the Internet.

(Continued from page 2)
The exuberant declamation "Oh, what a friend I have in Jesus", and the joyous admonition to "hug your neighbor and tell him you truly love him" are typical of the extroverted spirit of the West which informs the realm of faith along with every other sphere. The Christian believer in the West, especially America, is continuously urged to make public display of the inner joy that comes with faith.

In the Christian East, however, where Cyprus is firmly rooted, a more restrained ethos was developed over the last two millennia. The Christian believer is encouraged to "do his good and cast it in the sea", rather than "proclaim it to the mountains". It is not thought necessary to constantly proclaim love for one's neighbor, a love "in the image and after the likeness" of the love of God, because the existence of that love is taken for granted. The "game of love" played by young Christians in the East is not one of romantic discovery but rather of gradual recognition, through the perception of subtle signs, of the Christian love that surrounds them. Even though all may not recognize the signs, and some may never fully become aware of the love, both signs and love are there, and, like myths and fairy tales, affect the development of each young man and woman and make them better persons.

Yet it seems that the ability to comprehend the ambient Christian love is slowly being lost, that both the signs and the search have refocused on the romantic, and that even romantic love may be loosing ground to predatory eroticism. Indeed, the crude "kamaki" of the tourist haunts is beginning to branch out in Cypriot society at large. This development is not wholly unexpected for Cypriots have been slowly straying from the mythic and mythopoeic aspects of their culture, shutting off the right side of their brain and adopting a rationalist, materialistic mindframe from the West, especially the United States. Along with technological progress, the supplantation of traditional Cypriot culture brings a slow degradation of traditional qualities, developed over thousands of years. To the extent this portents the disappearance of superstitions, such as belief in the evil eye, it is welcome. To the extent it portents the disappearance of other traditions and characteristics, it is not.

One traditional Christian quality at jeopardy is solemnity, that serious quality we read about in the novels of Papadiamantis. Solemnity should never be confused with grimness. It is the quiet joy experienced by a farmer who comes home after a tiring day of toil in the fields, a joy not acted out, derived from being in the presence of his children. It is, also, the quiet joy experienced by a mother and housewife who has just baked a masterful pastry and anticipates the happy response that her children will give. We do not need to be farmers or housewives to experience this joy. It is something a student can attain when completing a term paper, a person in the street when depositing refuse in the proper container rather than littering, a Christian believer praying silently over another without telling anyone of his prayer.

Another traditional Christian quality at risk is sorrow. By this we should not understand the ostentatious grief of hired keeners but the regret one feels for malicious deeds or thoughts, the sorrow that nourishes the soul with the hope engendered by repentance. An old man was once asked "Would you not have liked to live in the time of Christ, to witness his ministry first hand and to count yourself amongst his disciples?" The old man replied with regret "No, for most assuredly I would have been amongst those who crucified Him." His response was imbued with the humility that comes from truly knowing one's inner
self the goal towards which modern psychology aspires but never attains and illustrates the sorrow that comes from the recognition of one’s shortcomings. It is the sacred sorrow of the Publican, felt in private, not the profane "humility" of the Pharisee, displayed in the Temple.

Sorrow is a quality apparently forgotten, especially amongst the young men and women who have studied abroad. The surfeit of technology and information creates patterns of thought and deed which demand instant gratification of every want and need. Yet as Kavafis says of the man who received honors and palace favors "your soul longs for other things, it cries for other things." Because Cypriots have lost the ability to recognize the longings of their soul, there was need of a sign. In the past, such signs were provided in the guise of war, earthquakes and epidemics. Thanks be God, He was more lenient this time around.

"Regardless of whether the weeping icon signifies a call to repentance or a warning of calamities to come, it is up to each of us to take heed"

On February 1, 1997 a novice monk at Kykko Monastery noticed that both Our Lady and the Christchild in the icon of Panagia Paramythia (Our Lady the Talebearer) appeared to have tears flowing from their eyes. Archbishop Chrysostomos, addressing a packed congregation at Kykko on February 5, 1997, declared it to be a true miracle, a call from God to repentance, and a foreshadowing of calamities to come. The Abbott of Kykko, also, interpreted the tears as a call to repentance but thought that Our Lady was expressing her compassion for Cyprus rather than foreshadowing disaster. Other respected figures of Cypriot monasticism and the clergy, without dismissing the "calamity" interpretation altogether, urged that prophetic attributions cease. It was their opinion that the icon’s tears were a call for renewal in the faith of Christ and any disaster to come would be but a temporary test for those whose place their faith in Christ. Indeed, many have remembered the prophecies of St. Cosmas of Aetolia regarding the fate of Hellenism in the Last Days, and many have reformed their lives, weeping over unrecognized sins transformation effected by the icon.

A few days after the icon at Kykko started weeping, the icon of Our Lady at St. George’s church in Mammari, a village on the Green Line, also, began to weep. The parish priest gave numerous accounts of the tears witnessed by his congregation and the effect it has had on his parishioners. Not long afterwards, St. John the Theologian, the Archangel Gabriel and another icon of Our Lady began to weep and some pilgrims reported that they detected tears even on little paper icons they had brought to the church to be blessed. The phenomenon spread. On February 14, 1997, the parish priest at St. George’s church in Strovолос reported that a fourteenth century icon of Our Lady, also, began to weep. He agreed that it was a call to repentance. God knows what will follow. Enough signs have been given, for as St. Paul said in his letter to Titus, we have been admonished not once but twice (if not more).

The story of how the iconographic type of Panagia Paramythia, of which the icon at Kykko is but one of many renditions, came to be, is depicted in a fourteenth century fresco at Vatopaidi Monastery on Mount Athos, the Holy Mountain of Eastern Orthodoxy in Northern Greece. According to the fresco, Saracene marauders lay in ambush outside the gates of the fortress-like monastery, waiting for the monks to come out in the morning. After the morning liturgy had finished, however, and as the monks were preparing to open the gates, Our Lady’s icon spoke to the Abbott and told him the Saracenes lay in ambush outside. The Christchild in her arms tried to stop her by covering her mouth, telling her the Saracenes had been sent by Him as punishment for the monks’ degeneracy. Our Lady gently pulled the hand away, saying that no sinner who heeds the call to repent deserves physical annihilation. The icon, which till then had been of the usual style changed shape, with Christ trying to cover Our Lady’s mouth and Mary gently pulling it away. The weeping icon at Kykko dates from the sixteenth century and comes from the deserted monastery of Eliakon.

Regardless of whether the weeping icon signifies a call to repentance or a warning of calamities to come, it is up to each of us to take heed. If we accept neither interpretation, it befalls upon us to provide some other interpretation of our own. If we have even the slightest suspicion that Our Lady may, indeed, be weeping for us, we will have trouble totally dismissing the call. It is hard, once you have seen the light to close your eyes again.

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Water surrounds Cyprus yet there is little of it available. Does this sound familiar? For most parts of the world it does. Though water constitutes about 70 percent of our planet’s surface, only a tiny portion of 0.007 percent is readily accessible and suitable for direct use by people and their needs.

Cyprus’ water shortage brings limitations to its economy and general development. These limitations have been very evident in recent years as the island has gone through some severe droughts. In addition to domestic, agricultural and industrial demands for water, a wide range of procedures, and the techniques and technologies employed, have acted to reduce excessive water use, and alleviate extreme water stress.

Several hundred million pounds (pound 1 CY=$2US) have been allocated by successive governments to develop, exploit and safeguard potential water resources. The Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and the Environment has formed a Water Development Department which is charged with the responsibility for the execution of the overall policy on water resources, which encompasses the planning, design, and construction of water projects in an amb-

“Cyprus’ water supply depends almost exclusively on rainfall which ends up in dam reservoirs ... Water has become the island’s most precious resource”

ecosystems are bound to be harmed by the lack of this precious element in our environment.

Cyprus’ water supply depends almost exclusively on rainfall which ends up in dam reservoirs. The rainy season is limited to four or five months, from November or December to March or April. The island's rivers do not flow year round except for a few streams in the Troodos mountains. This year the drought has been particularly severe. The minimal rainfall during winter left the water dams on the island with only a fifth of their total capacity.

Water has become the island’s most precious resource. As far as the domestic water supply is concerned, almost 100% of the population enjoys household delivery of good quality drinking water through an extensive water supply grid. Some rationing measures have been put in effect, including a 10% cut in supply to all users and a 30-40% cut in supply to agricultural users growing seasonal crops, and there has been strict implementation for the laws governing excessive use. The water management procedures adopted, the comprehensive application of those proce-

Several short term solutions have been the importation of fresh water from the island of Crete. The necessary infrastructure and installations were built to handle the unloading and storage of the precious cargo, transported to Cyprus in tanker ships. A per-
A permanent solution lies in converting the inexhaustible supply of sea water to potable water through desalination. Desalination alleviates the demands currently placed on the water catchment system and will allow more water to accumulate in the island’s 22 major and 18 minor dams, as well as the 24 good-sized catchment ponds spread all over the island.

Several major projects were built and more are being planned for the future. The Yermasoyia-Polemidia Project was completed in 1979, providing water for irrigation purposes. It involved two dams, as well as conveyance and distribution systems. The Paphos Irrigation Project was completed in 1983 and is based on the Asprokremmos dam in the south-western coastal plain. The Pitsilia Integrated Rural Development Project was completed in the mountainous central part of Cyprus in 1984. It involved construction of earth ponds, a dam, and irrigation and domestic water supply systems throughout the region. This was considered a vital project in controlling the exodus of rural people to the towns. The Vasilikos-Pendaskinos Project, finished in 1987, had as its basic objective the development of surface water for both irrigation and domestic water supply, for Nicosia, Larnaca and the free Famagusta areas.

The Khrysokhou Irrigation Project is located in the north-western part of the island and is intended to supply irrigation water in the area. Its main water source is a dam completed in 1986, while its main conveyor and irrigation distribution systems were completed in 1987. The Southern Conveyor Project is the largest water development project ever undertaken in Cyprus. It starts from the western Dhiarizos river in Paphos and extends to the main potato producing area of Kokkinokhoria in the areas south-east of Famagusta. It collects and stores surplus water that would otherwise flow into the sea, and conveys it, using regional water carriers, to areas where it is needed the most. Phase One includes the Kouris dam, reservoirs and distribution networks that have been recently completed. Completion of Phase Two is expected by 1998. New water works are continuously being planned and built.

Desalination takes sea water and makes water fit to drink. This method, already employed in various other countries, is now fully operational in Cyprus, as well. As of April 3, 1997, a water desalination plant began converting the salty water of the Mediterranean into drinking water under the strictest European standards of quality. The President of the Republic Glafcos Clerides inaugurated the island’s first desalination plant on the south-eastern coast near Dhekelia. "After the Cyprus problem, water shortage is the most serious problem our country has to deal with", said the President. This major step in the effort to tackle the Cyprus' chronic water shortage problem is but the first of numerous desalination plants to be constructed around the island. It will primarily satisfy water demand for the resort areas of the free Famagusta District. The area has had booming tourist development in recent years that has kept demand for water at high levels, especially during the hot summer months. The President added that the government has drawn a strategic plan to cover the period up to the year 2010. Of course public awareness and conscious use of water at all times is an important factor for water conservation.

Campaigns to encourage people to exercise special care in order to save water wherever possible are in effect. Especially during summer months, when the influx of visitors riches its peak, efforts are launched to educate people on the necessity for reasonable, cautious consumption. The responsiveness of the public has always been encouraging, and commensurate with the measures employed by the government. The mass media often host discussions with the public on water conservation, posters are published and advertisements remind television viewers of the on-going need for everyone’s contribution.

Saving a drop of water here, a drop of water there, will definitely leave more water everywhere.
Trust me, they still exist. There are still trails that lead up and down hills, that wind for miles and miles taking you nowhere but the middle of nowhere, yet close to a world of modern amenities. My opinion will fade to insignificance after you explore Cyprus on a bike and discover its hospitality in areas you never imagined existed. There are places around the island’s natural mountain-biking terrain that offer excitement knowable only to the dedicated, select few. I am not one of them.

Cyprus is a natural mountain-biking place. Its varied terrain offers many opportunities for exciting trekking in different tracks, making the island a paradise for the sport’s enthusiasts. Due to the excellent weather conditions, both mountain and road cycling can be enjoyed through the year.

Bicycle renting facilities available in all towns and sea-side resorts make the sport convenient for everybody. A most exciting way to enjoy the benefits of cycling is to combine it with the pleasure of exploring the environment.

Traveling through a series of deeply incised chalk plateaus you encounter serpentine paths on the hillsides and valley floors, and astonishing views. A country road turns out to be an ancient land route that takes you through an archaeological site. Such is the Akamas and the dazzling Dhiairizos Valley, both rich in history, that make your ride through secluded wilderness full of flowers and grasslands a magical journey on slopes devoid of human habitation except the odd cottage or religious monument.

The landscape offers great variety and contrast. The Troodos mountains, almost two kilometers high at the peak of Mount Olympus (1,951m), is rich in forest, slope, narrow valley. Close encounters with the moufflon on Troodos should be no surprise. This wild caprine, halfway between a mountain sheep and a goat, can sometimes come to your rescue. Should you run into a dead-end following a road on a steep hill, follow a well tested local tradition, a trick of Cypriot shepherds that will lead you to clear passage: Ever wonder why goats lead in a herd of sheep? Shepherds trail their goats in unfamiliar territory because the animals logically latch onto the most natural path through hilly landscape. So does the moufflon. As you will most probably not be accompanied by the local animals as guides, follow the trail created by their droppings, a welcome sight when stranded in unfamiliar terrain.

A nice contrast to the mountainous terrain of the Troodos is provided by the Mediterranean shoreline, with its stunning sea-side views. Glorious bays, most often deserted, with crystal clear waters offer a nice way to cool off during the hot summer months.

And at the trek’s end, or during a break, a most rewarding experience awaits: Cypriot meze, an array of local dishes that will satisfy the most ravenous of appetites.

Traffic regulations, generally correspond to those in Europe. However, traffic in Cyprus moves on the left hand-side of the road, not on the right. Cyclists are advised to avoid cycling along the main roads on weekends, especially during the summer when traffic is heavy. If possible, cyclists, should avoid riding due west in the late afternoon, as the glare of the setting sun can blind both the cyclist and motor vehicle traffic behind him creating potentially dangerous conditions. Sunglasses, along with helmets, should be worn at all hours of the day.

The Cycling Federation’s “Cycle Club”, organizes various non-racing cycling activities and events where everyone is welcome to participate.
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Editor in Chief: Peter Gavriel
Assistant Editors: Stathis Mavrotheris  
Nicos Nicolaou
Technical Support: Panayiotis Zaphiris

Communication is a two-way process, thus we welcome comments and contributions from our readers. Please direct all letters to:

The World of Cyprus
P.O. BOX 341
College Park, MD 20740
USA

e-mail: newsletter@kypros.org

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All electronic correspondence may be directed to,

kypros-net@kypros.org

For more information visit,
http://www.kypros.org