



# NEWSLETTER

16<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIAD IN INFORMATICS [www.ioi2004.org](http://www.ioi2004.org)

## SCHEDULE

### contestants

9:00 ACROPOLIS TOUR

17:00 Activities

### leaders

9:00 ACROPOLIS TOUR

17:00 GA MEETING 5  
*Problem Selection*

20:00 TRANSLATIONS  
*Translation Rooms*

### guests

9:00 ACROPOLIS TOUR

13:00 Option to prolong stay  
(unescorted) for shopping  
and lunch

## THE PEOPLE HAVE SPOKEN:



## Difficult and demanding, the first contest of IOI 2004

“Oh, it was difficult, very difficult”... The reactions of most students taking part in the first contest of IOI 2004, yesterday morning, were not very jovial. The “IOI Newsletter” reporters talked to many of them and the verdict was close to unanimous on two subjects – the degree of difficulty encountered and the quality of life here – only two out of nine told us that the questions asked were not so difficult and only one of them was not very happy with accommodation – well, OK, he conceded, at least it’s better than the students dorms, usually used on such occasions...

Prachaya Phaisanwiphatpong from Thailand said that he answered only two questions – he hoped for something better but... next time!

Andriy Grynenko from the Ukraine was not very pleased, too, with his result although he got a 100 mark out of 300. But he told us that this is his first time in IOI, so... the future is his.

Ricardo Martinez is from Spain and he thinks that yesterday was not his lucky day, as he couldn’t answer all the questions. Yet, he is sure that many other guys around him did better – at least, he likes the place very much!

The results were not as good as he had hoped for Niko Kiirala from Finland - his answers were “almost correct” and got “something like 65”. And... “God, this is a big place, you’ve got here – quite different from the places we’ve stayed in similar events, before”.

Speaking on behalf of the Greek team, Eleftherios Katsivelos, told us that the questions posed yesterday were easier than the ones posed in the Balkan Games, some months ago, so their results were rather good. But, he is afraid that tomorrow’s contest will be much more difficult.

“The subjects were difficult, my score was only 60” says 16-year-old Roman Kim from Kyrgyzstan.

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**Tips for the Parthenon day: wear comfortable shoes, take a hat with you and drink a lot of water!**

## Question of the day to...

**Prof. Dimosthenis Assimakopoulos,  
vice rector of University of Athens**



**What makes IOI so different?**

The IOI is so different from every other Olympiad because its subject develops constantly and dynamically, as high technology evolves day by day, minute by minute. Especially for the youth taking part in IOI 2004, we must take into account that: 1. all of them are already winners, because they were selected among many others in their respective countries 2. all of them are already winners because they manage to keep up with the latest scientific and technological applications, that are so different from place to place- in parallel with their basic education 3. all of them have already won a medal in courage, because they take part in an international, 80 countries contest. We congratulate all of them and promise that the University of Athens will offer every possible support.

## We couldn't make it without them!



Every important event needs help from people who love giving their best without asking anything in return. The Athens 2004 Olympic Games succeeded partly due to the continuing efforts of thousands enthusiastic volunteers.

Here in the IOI Village we have our own group of volunteers. 50 young girls and boys who are more than happy to try and make every reasonable request happen.

You saw them waiting for you at the airport or carrying photocopies and boxes around the IOI village or counting every delegation's members in the buses or even sleeping (the first 2 days were very difficult) at the lounge in the very early morning. They are your guides and the organizing committee's best helpers.

Most of these generous youngsters are studying or are interested in informatics, as are you. Some of them were contestants at the Pan-Hellenic Competition of Informatics and are keen on participating in an international competition.

They can help you come in touch with the Greek culture and life style and are very keen on learning yours.

The organizing committee is grateful to all of them. Thank you volunteers, we couldn't make this Olympiad happen without your priceless help!

## PROFILES



### T.E.I. of Athens Department of Informatics

The Informatics Department of the Technological Educational Institution (T.E.I.) of Athens was founded and welcomed its first students in October 1983, and saluted its first graduates in 1987. The main specialization of the graduates is software and system analysis, programming and materialization. Apart from its educational activities, the Informatics Department participates in Applied Research programmes financed by the Greek Government, European Third Degree Institution programmes (ERASMUS, TEMPUS), programmes that aim to the cooperation of Industry and Education, as well as in programmes of Research and Development.

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"We thought that it would be more difficult and we were prepared for that, but it turned out that it was easy – however, I'm not so satisfied with myself, because I made some stupid mistakes" was the surprise confession of Jakub Lacki from Poland, who stopped his net-surfing along with Kuras Thomasz, to talk to us, but wouldn't reveal his score! "The questions were much harder than the ones posed last year" adds his pal, who hadn't taken part in IOI 2003, yet it was obvious that he had prepared well... "If I knew how easy it was, I could have made a better program – by the way, this place is great! I can see the Olympic Stadium from my room and it looks wonderful!" he adds. Leo Hatvani from Bosnia & Herzegovina was the last –but not least- to answer our questions. A "veteran" as he had also been to Wisconsin, he doesn't like comparisons, so he cannot say if this year's questions were harder than last year's but, well, they were rather difficult this time... and wow, "the place is brand new and just great!" Better luck to all of you, tomorrow!



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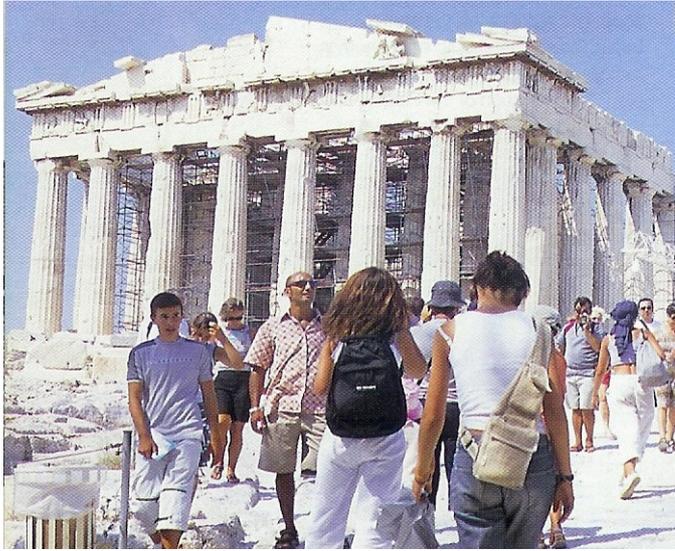
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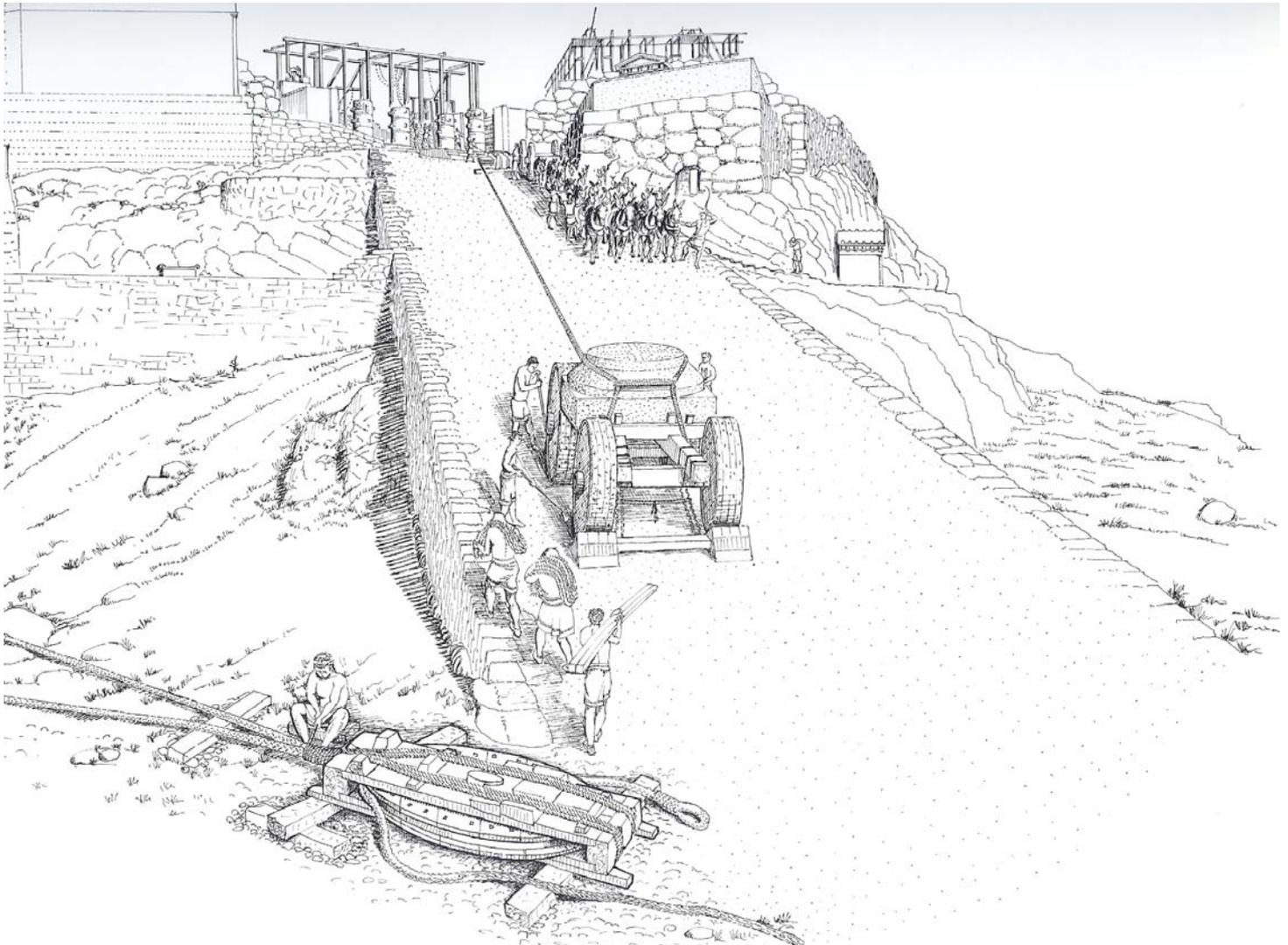
# Off to Acropolis!



Yet, what everybody calls "Acropolis" is actually the Parthenon, the temple dedicated to Pallas Athena, which is the main building on the hill of Acropolis (a word that in Greek means the far side of the city, as this was the place the local leaders preferred to build their own, well-protected homes). As John Julius Norwich comments in his "Great Architecture of The World", "The Parthenon... enjoys the reputation of being the most perfect Doric temple ever built. Even in antiquity, its architectural refinements were legendary, especially the subtle correspondence between the curvature of the *stylobate*, the batter, or taper, of the naos walls and the *entasis* of the columns."

The temple featured numerous architectural innovations and sat on a base 70 meters long and 26 meters wide. Constructed in the 'Doric' style it had 17 columns along its length and eight columns along its width, each of which was over 10 meters high and 2 meters in diameter. The corner columns were slightly larger in diameter, with their spacing reduced to make it possible for the frieze to conform to the rule that it must terminate with a triglyph. The steps were 508 mm high, too high to use, so intermediate steps were provided at the centre of each of the short sides.

**Acropolis –which you are going to visit today- is a magical word, known all over the world. Although not included in the list of the seven wonders of the ancient world (along with some other buildings of lesser importance), Acropolis still fascinates the people not only as an excellent example of refined architecture, but also as a symbol of Athens, the city-state where democracy was born.**





Right-angled buildings tend to create an optical illusion that can make them look top heavy. To compensate for this effect, the Parthenon's columns utilise an architectural effect called *entasis*, and get gradually thinner from the middle up.

The Parthenon was made of marble, brought from Penteli mountain near Athens. Professor Manolis Korres who has spent almost his whole life "resurrecting" the Parthenon has depicted in a series of fine sketches (two of them you can see in these pages) how the super-heavy blocks of marble were transported in Athens, carved and then put in place on the fine building.

The magnificent figures carved into the frieze, the space between the top of the columns and the rooftop are some of the finest ever example of ancient sculpture. Lord Elgin, a British diplomat, removed many of these from the ruins, in 1801. Shipped back to Britain, they are now housed in the British Museum, whose ownership of them has been disputed by the Greek state ever since.

When work began on the Parthenon in 447 BC, the

Athenian Empire was at the height of its power. Work on the temple continued until 432; the Parthenon symbolizes the power and influence of the Athenian politician, Perikles, who championed its construction. Architects were Iktinos and Kallikrates, while of special importance was the role of the famous sculptor, Phidias. Because the Parthenon was built with Delian League/Athenian Empire funds, the building may be read as an expression of the confidence of the Athenians in their own imperialism. But the piety of this undertaking should not be underestimated; the Persians had sacked the temples on the Athenian acropolis in 480 BC, and rebuilding them fulfilled the Athenians' "debt of gratitude to heaven for the defeat of the Medes."

In the late 6th century AC the Parthenon was converted into a Christian church, and from about 1204, under the Frankish Dukes of Athens, it served as a Latin church, until it was converted by the Turkish conquerors into a mosque, in 1458. Restoration efforts began just after the establishment of an independent Greece and works are still getting on, even to our days