

LEE

180° FROM ORDINARY

RO

JO LEE TALKS TO ANDREW GREIG: MR INTRIGUE!
BONO! WHY IS HE FAMOUS?
JIA ZHANG-KE – ADESTE GOLD MEDAL LAUREATE 2011
DESERT RAILWAY – EMIRATES' NEW MEGA PROJECT



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THE ADESTE MEDAL



WE INVITE

corporations / individuals to nominate those who have achieved.

Foresight requires a curiosity as deep as it is boundless... and our greatest incentive should be in helping those who are young.

We at JO LEE give you an 'open' invitation to embrace those who may otherwise not be recognized and to assist them in 'seeing the future before it arrives'.

The ADESTE Gold Medal will be awarded to 'The 40 and under Unsung Heroes' for achievements in the categories of the Humanities, Social Justice, Technology, Arts, and Medicine.

Readers around the world are urged to submit nominations.

Please! Submit the name of someone you believe is deserving of such an award.

Nominees should have either achieved extraordinary findings, or excelled beyond their limits in inspiring others to 'touch the stars'.

THE LAUREATE

Successful Laureates will receive the exquisitely designed ADESTE Gold Medal.

Laureates are to be announced February end.

CRITERIA

The achievement of the Candidate should be of a significant magnitude which will positively benefit mankind by advancing the ability to meet a basic need or, it should be a new, original and meaningful discovery.

ADESTE takes as its Credo: The lessons behind Man to Universe.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Birdie Castonguay
CORPORATE DIRECTOR
MONTRÉAL – QUÉBEC

Directors Are In Demand is an excellent reminder of the problem of industry leaders demanding sheep for directors. CEOs have probably created the success of the company despite others' advice and have supreme confidence in their plans. They have been appointed CEO because of the confidence of the company in their plans. How much can the Board question plans developed in conjunction with the CEOs officers? (Power Issue)

Bill Partner
ATTORNEY
NEW YORK – NEW YORK

To the extent that the author's theory is correct in Pros & Ex.Cons (Power Issue), it now appears that the worm has turned and the newly elected congressmen may reverse the trend of "lying" to the extent it has been encouraged by legal ethics; i.e., the new congressmen are not predominately lawyers. A promising trend!

Patricia McLeod
LA OPERA
LOS ANGELES – CALIFORNIA

Heide Betz's photos on Wagner's Der Ring des Nibelungen are gorgeous in color and scale and I love her article. I love it even more in print. (Power Issue 2011)

Zander Frieland
EXPORTER
HONG KONG – CHINA

What a fascinating magazine, JO LEE: A kaleidoscope of lifestyles and perspectives from the evil rich to the calm, and perhaps complacent, fisherman. How human nature is fashioned and molded into infinite patterns is stunningly revealed. Through reading your magazine, I gain perspective on the broad possibilities of living. Thank you.

Shuichi Tanaka
TECHNO SPECIALIST
NAGOYA – JAPAN

It is thrilling to read about one country after another conquering its problems, usually starting with hunger. All it takes is good government, because the solutions are available. So it will be a pleasure, one of these days, to visit Honduras. (Power Issue: In A World Without Hunger)

Gemma Gravois
TRANSLATOR
BRUSSELS – BELGIUM

Congratulations on your Power Issue and in particular, Riding The Rails In Style. We reside in Belgium and recall our rail trip through the Canadian Rockies, just as grand as described! One of the great train rides in the world. And Banff and Lake Louise make a perfect destination. Fond memories.

Hamilton Spear
CORPORATE CEO
DALLAS – TEXAS

I find Gail Regan's The Marvelous Maverick fascinating and quite insightful into the changing society of the USA. I must read Mad Men. Ms. Regan touches on the new generation that is evolving out of the freewheeling "mad men". Having lost the anchors of a rigid economic structure, religion and society, what do we now leave to the next generation? They cannot follow and they cannot revolt; they seem to be clinging to dependency. (Power Issue, 2011)

Emmett D. Moelstrum
SEARCH CONSULTANT
WELLINGTON – NEW ZEALAND

Our Emotional Footprint (Power Issue) is, yes, a double entendre. Our leaders show little civility; but then there is us. All of my personal contacts are civil. Why is it that being a leader brings out the worst in mankind? Is it a fear of being wrong and already hitting back at a perceived criticism? I discuss politics with two members of opposite parties in a very civilized way. We value each other's thoughts and evaluate information presented in the press. JL



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THE PROVOCATIVE & CHALLENGING WORLD OF ARCERI

Gene Arceri has gained world attention as a writer, critic, award winning PBS reviewer and publicist. A native New Yorker, Gene resides in San Francisco and spends considerable time in London. Among his best selling books are: 'Elizabeth Taylor: Her Life. Her Loves. Her Future', Susan Hayward's 'RED' and 'Charlie of Nob Hill'. {San Francisco's most famous cat} arcgen@sbcglobal.net



Monte S. Bell

WITS END

Monte S. Bell was a practicing architect in San Francisco for almost 40 years while affiliated with Sidmore, Owings and Merrill before forming his own firm in 1970. Born in Vancouver, Canada, Monte is now retired and living in Vermont. Always interested in art, he began drawing cartoons for his high school magazine and has continued cartooning to the present.



Andrea Buckett

YOU ARE WHAT YOU ATE

Andrea Buckett, Dr. of Homeopathy, lecturer, writer, renowned food expert – is passionate about helping people feel young. She is a graduate of The Homeopathic College of Canada and her successes to date have become a sole focus on the body's benefits and pleasures of great food.



Stanley J. Dorst

PROS & EX.CONS

Stanley J. Dorst is a retired officer of Chevron Land Development Co. and CEO of Grosvenor Development Co. He's been advisor to European governments and private companies as Vice-President of The International Urban Development Association and advisor for The International Executive Service Corps on behalf of the United States State Department Agency for International Development.



Carla Dragnea

EDITOR AT LARGE

Carla Dragnea is a Biologist whose interest in feature writing has encompassed 'the study of life'. In September, 2008, she was appointed Intellectual Advisor to the YES! E-Help Campus which assists 11+ million young people worldwide with their problems, each month. yesintl.com



Kelechi Eleanya

WHEN ANGELS CRY

Kelechi Eleanya, a UNDP Coordinator, is an economist and a committed development expert. He holds a degree in Renewable Natural Resources Management and a Master's in Forest Economics.



Lois M. Gordon

YES, VIRGINIA! COME – EXPLORE WITH ME

Lois M. Gordon is a world traveler and resides in California's Silicon Valley. She has spent her life as wife and mother, chairing several committees and indulging in her passion for reading and writing poetry.



John Paul Jarvis

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN NUTS

Paul Jarvis has enjoyed a full corporate career as CEO of four subsidiaries of foreign multinationals and served on six boards. Board and boat sailor, tennis player, terrible musician all tempered by eclectic friends – affords a basis for views and opinions on a broad range of topics.



H. Gail Regan

THE MARVELOUS MAVERICK

Gail Regan is vice-chair of Cara Operations. She chairs Energy Probe, is a member of the Canadian Association of Family Enterprise, the Family Firm Institute and the Strategic Leadership Forum. She has a PhD in Educational Theory and an M.B.A. in Finance. Her background in sociology and her personal experience of business have given her an intellectual interest in the problem of evil.



Ray Scotty Morris

L'OCCHIO / THE EYE

Ray Scotty Morris is an internationally renowned photojournalist and successful San Francisco society photographer. He has won 29 photo awards in just ten years – local, state and national, including best news picture of the year. Scotty has received a Certificate of Commendation from the U.S. Senate along with the distinct honor of being written into the 107th U.S. Congressional Record.



Dr. Margaret R. O'Keeffe Umanzio

THE POET'S CORNER
Dr. Margaret R. O'Keeffe Umanzio, Peggy, has been an advisor to CEOs and corporate executive teams. She was a cofounder of the first fully-integrated alternative public school in the U.S., has lectured at Boston University as well as at Stanford, Berkeley and Tufts. She is currently writing a book titled Delivering on the Promise.



Sally Anne Reisner

THE POET'S CORNER

Sally Anne Reisner grew up in San Francisco's Bay Area and then taught in an urban-suburban high school in New Jersey for eighteen years. At the age of fifty she left her job, re-married and focused on her writing.



Vera Resnik

THE POET'S CORNER
Born in Prague, Czechoslovakia,

Vera Resnik lost most of her family in the Holocaust. Her volunteer work in the New Jersey court system – as a conflict resolution resource and advocate for children's rights – led to a court appointment to the child review committee. Today, Vera's writings are widely read.



Craig Ricker

THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

Craig Ricker is a prolific writer and among the world's best photographers. He went to Russia to develop an understanding of its world from the inside and to accurately portray their life predicament within his books.



Saul Levine, MD

DOUBLE ENTENDRE

Saul Levine, MD, is Professor of Clinical Psychiatry at the University of California and the Head of Psychiatry at Rady Children's Hospital in San Diego. He is an international author and former host of a long-running television advice show. He is especially interested in the paradox of humanity: our capabilities to be benevolent and inspirational, yet also to be greedy and destructive.



Heide Van Doren Betz

THE RICH & THE FAMOUS

Heide Van Doren Betz, an Art Consultant specializing in Ancient Art and Icons, has taught Art History and created world famous collections of Antiquities and Icons. Her accomplished photography was shown in a solo exhibition at the Winkelmann Museum in Germany.



David C. Wesonga.

THE POWER OF MOMENTUM

David C. Wesonga is Founder/ CEO - Elite Media Partners/ Eastlandah, The Media Company; Founder, Kayrox - East Africa's first online lending bank; Founder - Afrizo, the Online TV; Executive Advisor to CEO - Plan Care Kenya; Board Director Citijournal; Silver Inductee - The International Library Of Poets and the recipient of the 2008 prestigious ADESTE GOLD MEDAL. JL



PHILANTHROPIC

As we see the world through the eyes of Unsung Heroes – experiencing possibilities undreamed of, we embrace more and more the multitude of Global Nominations submitted, during 2010, within the five ADESTE categories: Humanities, Social Justice, Arts, Technology and Medicine. We are reminded through the Nominees of The ADESTE Gold Medal how many wonderful people are doing amazing things from corner to corner in this chaotic world. We too, are reminded, that the most important aspect, the heart, of ADESTE is to discover “the 40 and under” Unsung Heroes who “outperform” in a globe of billions.

Critics and film directors have described Jia Zhang-Ke as perhaps the most important filmmaker working in the world today. Filmmaker, Director, Producer, Jia Zhang-Ke has battled “The Machinery of Oppression”. He embraces the extreme limit of virtue with so much courage!

opposite: Jia Zhang-ke on location in Chengdu, China while shooting 24 City, one of his acclaimed films.

JO LEE MAGAZINE AND ITS 21 WORLD VOTING MEMBERS OF ADESTE PRESENT WITH PRIDE THE 7TH ANNUAL ADESTE GOLD MEDAL LAUREATE 2011

Jia Zhang-Ke

BY JO LEE MAGAZINE
NEW YORK / SAN FRANCISCO / HONG KONG / LONDON / TOKYO / ROME / TORONTO
PHOTOGRAPHY BY XSTREAM PICTURES

Jia has had the extraordinary opportunity to make the greatest impact on a wide cross-section of his people – portraying an authentic face of the globe’s fastest-evolving and most mysterious superpower, China, as he battled back from extreme adversity and censorship, finally winning over even his own government.

Jia Zhang-Ke is different from other film directors. He is a rare breed, responsible for helping millions of people understand China’s social issues through years of agonizing persistence!!

Equally important, is that several scholars and intellectuals are interested

in watching his films: because he tells the truth about the Chinese society and its social issues.

Jia’s focus is not on commercial movies, or using a lot of pop stars. Instead, he saves thousands of dollars by using regular people within China to play their own life roles in his films.

Jia has made many documentaries, non-fiction films, talking about some very sensitive social topics, including: a) migrant workers’ lives; b) low income families; c) how the Chinese government’s decision-making affected normal people’s lives, and; d) the Three Gorges Dam Project, the world’s largest capacity

hydroelectric power station. His early films, a loose trilogy based in his home province of Shanxi, were made outside of China’s state-run film bureaucracy, therefore are considered “underground” films. In 2004, Jia’s status in his own country was raised when he was allowed to direct his fourth feature film, *The World*, with state approval.

JO LEE Magazine applauds, congratulates and reveres Jia for his compassion for his countrymen and the world at large.

JL



Trying For A Girl (Or A Boy)

BY H. GAIL REGAN
TORONTO – CANADA

Complex institutions are hard to fix, especially when they interconnect with other complex institutions to make a system. Canada's effort to obtain population stability is a case in point.

Married Canadian women have a high participation in the labor force and busy lifestyles after work, so children are a challenge. When parents have two children of the same gender, they may want another one of the opposite gender. A girl if they have boys. A boy if they have girls. Their resources may be over-stretched, but couples often truly desire the luxury of another unique baby.

As many Canadian women have no children at all, or only one, the fact of the matter is that the population will approach stability only if nuclear families have three. But how is a married Canadian woman supposed to work full time, entertain her husband, get her existing children to hockey games or ballet lessons, and look after a baby? Forget it. The feasible solution for a family, two children at most, is not the optimal solution for the

nation, two children at least. (In truth, third children are risky for family and nation. Born to older mothers in busy families, required attention may not be easy to provide.)

Population decline works against economic expansion. But sometimes trends can encourage the new spending and investment that population growth would have caused. In the previous decade we had the communications technology trend that busted, and then owned-housing, whose blowout nearly took down the world's economy. Produced in a spirit of enthusiasm, these two trends are like vulnerable third children. They have been unique, exhausting and demanding of attention. Like third children, the system needs trends, and special care may be required to handle them when they happen.

Why can't population growth substitute for risky trends? It would be helpful for Canada if Canadian women had more children, but not if they stress out and quit work, thereby bankrupting their families and the

country. Canadians endlessly adjust tax codes and child support offerings in an effort to encourage both work and reproduction. These interventions may help, but only in the sense that they stop more rapid population decline. Interventions do not cause growth; commitment and risk-taking do.

Just as some Canadian families try for a girl or a boy, the world needs passionate trends. When an actual baby is a difficult, parent, siblings and community may rally to raise a good enough child. Similarly, when a trend gets out of hand, measures may be needed to restore order. Interventions may be necessary but they cannot provide the dynamism of an extra child or a new trend. Growth does not happen without risk.

Today's lost jobs, foreclosed homes, distressed governments, and failed banks are burdensome. Will we collectively rally to learn from the experience and move forward? What's the alternative? We've had the baby.

JL



Competition

BY STANLEY J. DORST
SAN FRANCISCO – CALIFORNIA

My idealistic outlook may thus have gone awry by the time this reaches you. But some ideas stand the passing of time.

I read *The Wall Street Journal* because it appeals to my sense of what is truly occurring in society, like the teachings of Jesus appeal to me as a true guide to a successful and happy life.

Business leaders are often portrayed as interested only in money, and in order to obtain it they are unscrupulous, selfish and plotters of evil conspiracies. A person on a television show contributed the opinion that “Wall Street” was the cause of current unemployment, that they were making huge salaries while everyone else was suffering, and that they should be controlled by the government.

I cannot claim that there are no businessmen plotting conspiracies, but certainly the industrial executives I knew were not, and their salaries per employee were only a few cents per hour. That is to say each employee might be contributing 10 cents per hour to pay the president.

I prefer instead the concept of “unintended consequences” to explain an undesirable program rather than a conspiracy of business leaders. I

think this is what happened when “Wall Street” initiated a new form of investment paper made up of packages of house mortgages. It was intended to meet the government’s directive to expand home ownership beyond those who could afford homes with normal financing paper. The result was not expanded home ownership, but rather widespread foreclosures. This “unintended” outcome came about not as a result of an evil Wall Street conspiracy, but because all the parties, from congressmen to home buyers, as well as the finance people and the government regulators, made an erroneous assumption – that house prices would continue rising as they had year after year.

We do not consider winning in sports an evil objective in our society, so winning in business should be viewed similarly. It is an adult competition that can be won fairly or can be pursued unfairly.

As in sport, there are ways of winning unfairly that appear easier, and may be easier. So why do we find that illegal practices do not prevail, but in fact fairness in sports and in life is the rule, not the exception?

I can only say that the vast majority of executives and politicians I have

known believe that a world that follows fairness is better for everyone, including themselves.

Well, today breeds good intentions and, for the moment, tolerance of those who cheat. By the time you read this I may be seriously considering that my competitor was unfair and I should get even with him.

Should I set aside my programs and pursue this person who exemplifies the evil in our world?

What do you think?

JL

THE WORLD LUXURY IMAGE

*Prize-Winning Photo Of
Sophia Loren In 1964*

BY RAY SCOTTY MORRIS
SAN FRANCISCO - CALIFORNIA







Jo Lee Talks To Andrew Greig: Mr. Intrigue!

BY JOSEPHINA LEA MASCIOLI MANSELL

It was one of those times when the world was chaotic at the airport – the Cleveland airport. Flights were delayed, cancelled, not cancelled, depending on whom you spoke to, with the First Class Lounge closed for renovations, and redirection... seeming like... the other end of heaven! There I was! Too much luggage, an over-sized Harrods bag pulling down on my left shoulder, barely staggering in my four-inch heels and – my phone rang! “Hey, is all well Jo Lee? Where are you?” It was one of my editors telling me he needed “a few seconds” at that very moment to discuss a possible interview with this fascinating guy! He lived in Costa Rica and was the brains behind VizzEco Inc., the only global Google Apps reseller.

About one week passed and there I was! Sitting across from one of the rare, brilliant geeks who was “way” out there. His mind, so beyond comprehension, his philanthropic caring – above most levels of graciousness: his charm – catchy.

Growing up in a small, Ontario, Canada town, couldn't have been easy for a young boy like Andrew Greig.

Plagued with a litany of such debilitating neurological challenges as dyslexia, attention deficit and bipolar disorders, young Andrew also suffered from symptoms of glycemia and thyroid problems. Coupled with genius – one can only imagine the inner turmoil.

So what did he do? It was during his very, early years that Andrew came up with a plan. He would solve parts of his discomfort by skipping four out of five days of his week at school. By the time he reached high school he was expelled for lack of attendance. This lack, of course, hadn't prevented him from maintaining a 90 percent average grade, becoming a star athlete, and creating his first company, a DJ business.

Today, Andrew moves in big circles. As a techno geek, he made and lost his first million at the age of 27. He became an entrepreneur who envisioned a way to use technology flow to eradicate poverty and maybe even usher in a greener earth while he's at it.

Andrew is the modern-day Will Hunting, with a tinge of Gandhi and Robin Williams sprinkled on top. He is a modern-day prophet who came from a humble beginning with a single mom, and an alcoholic father who liked to let him know who was boss.



opposite: Andrew's idea of a massage at Ben's Permaculture Retreat in the mountains in Costa Rica.

My question? How can we uncover the mystique that is Andrew?

Andrew is anything but average. He flirts with all aspects of human endeavor. Whether it is business or relationships, spiritual or financial, or any part of mental, emotional and physical health, Andrew presses the edges of his humanness.

His view of life is that of a spectator, player and coach. He wants to watch, play and then coach, although coach is a strong word for envision. He watches with a keen eye for the missed opportunities and (in football terms) illegal procedures. He then jumps into the game to play because life, after all, is experiential – always looking to laugh, sort the urgent from the important, and attract the right people into the play. And then, when he's bitten off more than he can chew, he organizes a team that supports his vision.

Some great people see the world from 30,000 feet, while Andrew sees the world from 100 kilometers – at the earth's Kármán line – at 360 degrees. {The Kármán line is the edge of earth's atmosphere.} Add to this the desire to be ambitiously lazy and you have an interesting human specimen called Andrew Greig.

Andrew shares with very few people the deep pools of passion that drive his visions and hopes for change. Andrew is like a 1,000 piece puzzle. If you don't start with the edges, you'll never piece that whole thing together.

We know Andrew is not a negotiator; he is a masterful “manafestor” who already knows the outcome of a meeting before he enters the room. We know he is kind, thankful, generous, and can hit anyone right between the eyes when necessary. Life is custom ordered through “serendestiny”.

He is a friend to some of the most global thinkers and wealthiest people on the planet and they all love to be in his company.

By 2004 Andrew had discovered that free communications and entertainment is an aphrodisiac for people. Going global, he thought, is just a matter of money, so Andrew created the path of least resistance for people to communicate and remove themselves from poverty by way of a borderless contract with Google. And the geeks shall inherit!



opposite: Leaving a Google Inc. meeting in Mountain View, California.

JO LEE: Andrew, it would be an understatement to say I'm intrigued! I'm so excited about our interview. Tell me about some of the power people you've met and what they wanted from you and you, from them.

ANDREW GREIG: Jo Lee, so many come to mind. After Robert Cringley's PBS article on one of my projects, many venture capital companies, governments and executives from large companies contacted me to learn how to monetize and productize my little design. Mark Shuttleworth, for one.

Mark sold his first venture to Varisign before he became a billionaire and was the second space tourist to visit the international space station. Mark founded Ubuntu, a company that used our thin client, mini computers for its call center infrastructure. Through Mark and his people, I was invited to come to the Google head office in Mountain View, California where I met Sergey Brin and Larry Page and the people at Google – launching Google Apps for Business. This meeting resulted in VizzEco, my company, becoming one of the very first Google Apps for Business resellers.

Then there's Steve Mosher of Openmoko who's led strategic initiatives, including the development and launch of the very first MP3 player with 80 percent market share and the first 3D graphics card for open source developers' smart phones, creating whole new market segments. Steve is one of VizzEco's team members.

Guy F. de Téramond Peralta introduced me to EARTH University in Costa Rica and to Franklin Chang-Díaz. Franklin has more hours booked in outer space than any other astronaut. He privatized a plasma energy project he invented at NASA that now provides the propulsion for many projects in space. He also invented the Variable Specific Impulse Magnetoplasma Rocket. When Guy introduced me to EARTH U, I met the then president of Costa Rica, Óscar Rafael de Jesús Arias Sánchez, and Muhammad Yunus, the economist who founded the Grameen Bank and won a Nobel Peace Prize.

Sr. Sánchez was president of Costa Rica from 1986 to 1990 and again from 2006 to 2010. He was awarded a Nobel Peace Prize Laureate in 1987, the Albert Schweitzer Prize for Humanitarianism, and is a trustee of Economists for Peace and Security. Mr. Yunus' speech was moving and helped inspire the new 4-Play sphere compu-phone we are working on. Cell phones are the best way to get people out of poverty but we need a better version that suits the needs of the emerging markets.

Mr. Herb Phillipps Jr. (MBA, CMA), a long time friend and mentor, is a technology innovator and a pragmatic visionary. Herb was the first to put trading records on a computer and was a pioneer of on-line banking. Currently head of his inspired consultancy, HIPNET Inc., Herb took a bankrupt Jamaican bank and made it into the number one earner in the Caribbean in five years, NCB Jamaica Limited. His other clients include AIC Ltd., Global Bank of Commerce (Antigua), InterTrade Financial Corp. (Jamaica) and Fujitsu Jamaica Ltd.

Alexander Eisen and I became fast friends. Alexander has worked for the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) protecting the Pentagon from live computer intrusions, is a member of Mandiant, and became part of the recent project where China broke into Google. A National Security Agency-sponsored Computer Science Information Assurance Fellowship award sparked his career.

Most recently, I've engaged in a synergistic partnership with James "JR" Ridinger and his wife Loren, the



opposite: Hiking up the mountain toward the 1,200-foot Diamante Waterfall.

husband and wife team that founded Market America – THE up and coming social shopping giant that purchased Shop.com, second only to Amazon.com.

Another recent relationship that inspires me is with Dynamic Fuels, a transitional technology company that can drastically reduce fuel consumption and pollution through an inventive process. I'm honored and proud to have been appointed to the Advisory Board.

JL: You've come a long way from the town you grew up in and where you shouldered a lot of pain. Tell me about the early years?

AG: Jo Lee, my mom was a single mother; my dad was a classic alcoholic. They divorced when I was about age six. My sister Kelly is three years younger than I am.

My mom worked long hours for 28 years at the Canada Employment Agency. We were not poor but definitely not rich. It allowed me to be very independent. I told my mom I was considering becoming a male stripper. Her response was: "Great, I will be in the front row to support you!" Needless to say I didn't go that route after the image I had in my mind. I left high school at grade nine and started a DJ company.

JL: Where on earth did you ever find help to work around your early trials? Was there anyone, anywhere in your vicinity even close to your wavelength? What was it that enabled you to bring yourself into the competitive world you now work in?

AG: I found myself innately attracted to the use of bleeding edge technologies in all my ventures. Constant use of the esoteric became the backbone of my businesses. As I have often said: "Be the collector, connector and perfecter of all the genius of the universe, and then build a go-to market strategy so you have no competition."

I have a built-in thirst for how the dynamics of economical, ecological and sociological systems work. I see the world's systems as tapestries of collective, connective consciousness. These are my playgrounds of thought, where I'm at my best.

JL: I read that you had established your own neighborhood communications system in the early 2000s. Was this your first business venture?

AG: VizzEco, Jo Lee, started from a PBS article called The Limits of Sponge Bob Square Pants by Robert Cringely, whose work has appeared in The New York Times, Newsweek, Forbes, Upside, Success, and Worth – writing about technology in business with great success in predicting future trends. This article was about my project, which showed that communications and computing, as well as entertainment, can be delivered as a wireless converged utility model leveraging free and open source software. I even had a smart phone that was a combination of Blackberry, iPhone and Mini Tablet all in one. That was 2004.

This article sparked thousands of e-mails and calls and meetings with educators, government, schools and companies – venture capitalists. I learned from this and started to monetize the vision.

The article touched many people and I had people from all over the world contact me – executives at CICSO Systems Inc., Battery Ventures, university professors.

opposite: Under the Diamante Verde {green diamond} Waterfalls – in the middle of Costa Rica’s rainforest.

JL: How did you make that first million?

AG: Built a company that sold satellite entertainment.

JL: You have said, “Costa Rica cured all that” referring to the fallout from your business loss. How so? Did the country’s innovative Universidad EARTH – affectionately called EARTH U – have anything to do with this, Andrew?

AG: Jo Lee, Costa Rica is amazing. I found myself doing things I’ve never been able to do without much effort. There is a 13,000-foot mountain called Chirripó Mountain where you can sit and watch the sun rise on the Atlantic and set on the Pacific from one position. Costa Ricans report the highest life satisfaction in the world and the country is on track for becoming carbon neutral by 2021. It’s a magical mix of high tech and nature, has the largest microchip plant with Intel and IBM’s largest training centre. Costa Rica highly influences other countries world wide in business and green. EARTH U is an amazing, 20-year-old foundation for sustainable agriculture where they are fostering the next Gandhi.

JL: Andrew, EARTH U inspired you. Out of Costa Rica came many ideas. Tell me more?

AG: Jo Lee, let me give you two examples.

I am looking into how, cacao, an ancient super-food currency can be an answer to some of the most pressing socio-economic and ecological issues of today. Cacao was an ancient currency, rainforest candy.

Compu-phone 4-Play is a phone and computer in one that creates its own free wireless ultra high-speed network between the two devices. It uses kinetic energy that is shared wirelessly between the units. It also shares resources by forming a distributed computing grid and storage. The sphere compu-phone is called 4-Play because that’s what kids call it when they get their hands on this really fast, wireless network that has super-computing power.

The wireless transmission will pick frequencies that will heal you instead of causing cancer, etc. Quantum physics feedback from the device will detect the users chakras frequencies. The built-in LED projector is capable of sharing resources like storage and processor cycles. This addresses the need to reduce carbon and e-waste by creating a pocket device that can reduce the need for laptops, desktops and TV cell towers and server farms.

JL: While we are talking about Costa Rica, maybe this is a good time to ask you about your interest in the mysteries of the ancient stone balls.

AG: Jo Lee, the stories about the stone spheres are the inspiration behind the 4-Play project. Many stories: They sit on energy spots. They collect energy and share it between them in a mesh. You can communicate between them. They represent a model of what you see in the night sky, constellations.



opposite: Under the Diamante Waterfalls is a wilderness Ashram, the Diamante Verde Spiritual Sanctuary, one of the most powerful healing vortexes on the planet.

There are more ancient stone spheres than you can see with the naked eye; they are representations of heavenly bodies that you can only see once you are in space.

The stones date back to somewhere between 400 and 800 BC.

JL: Andrew, you, among a myriad of ventures, are a founding partner in VizzEco and this is what has intrigued Google. Can you tell me about your company and what you're setting in motion with Google and how THIS will set the world in m-o-t-i-o-n.

AG: VizzEco brings together a unique blend of people, core competencies, agreements with Google and innovative business models to address the problem of scaling in the Small Medium Business (SMB) market.

Three million companies have already gone Google including 60 percent of the Fortune 100 including GE, Virgin, National Geographic, and Land Rover. As Google pushes its solution down market to SMB and geographically toward Brazil, Russia, India and China (BRIC) where SMB represents 90 percent of the economy, VizzEco is positioned to capitalize on the shift from Microsoft to Google in this marketplace.

To date, VizzEco has been delivering 50 to 70% savings on the cost of email for businesses. In order to dominate this market, VizzEco has pulled together a team of seasoned professionals with complimentary backgrounds.

With 15 years of experience in providing IT services to the SMB market and with experience selling Google phones and green computing, VizzEco has the talent and the technical understanding to dominate this market.

Our goal is to provide a utility-like model of computing and communications that is the most cost effective and lowest possible carbon footprint through a franchise opportunity. Imagine paying one monthly fee per employee that includes everything – including hardware!

JL: And is this where your ingenious idea for BRIC comes into play?

AG: Yes, providing a geopolitically neutral and completely open source solution for BRIC. As a Canadian company, we can provide solutions to BRIC that address the needs of keeping their data local and tailored to their cultures. Canada is known as a culture that has successfully provided the world with infrastructure like roads to Blackberries to banking.

JL: Google has been called the most powerful brand in the world. You have suggested Google is "taking over the world". How do you see that power working?

AG: Google has used open source Linux software and that creates an opportunity for other companies to build on what Google has started. One can highly customize the offerings. Google only intended to



opposite: At the beach in the South Pacific's Dominical, Costa Rica.

create a standard in the market. HTC and many other companies have their own distinct look and feel to their versions of the Google Android smart phone. Google Business is enabling and empowering other companies to build their brands in the new cloud computing market.

JL: And the power of the Internet? Without question, your genius is using this to further your quest for a planet with "clean air, clean food, clean water"?

AG: Jo Lee, what is it we can do at this moment to affect the most positive change {increase prosperity} with the least effort as quickly as possible in a sustainable, eco friendly way for all life on this planet?

We need decentralization and dissemination of information, giving everyone a voice on an independent, decentralized, shared wireless network with the devices themselves forming the network and user devices for communications and computing that is also the infrastructure. Think of having applications that teach you to become self sufficient, pointing a phone at water and taking a picture that analyses it and tells you if it's drinkable and if not, how to make it drinkable. Or, even how to get water where you are; same for food and shelter and health. Basically, taking indigenous wisdom and making it into an experimental game you play with your phone so people can live off the land and be healthy.

JL: You are so optimistic that technological innovation and social networking can reduce such massive challenges as world poverty and our burgeoning carbon footprint. You have said it is the job of the younger generation now. Are they living up to your expectations?

AG: Yes. We have to create new world leaders. The use of social networking in the Middle East events earlier this year proves that. The youth are waking up to the new influence they have – access to money at a much earlier age, borderless social events, the ability to change the way things are run on a global scale in a heart beat! We have only seen the tip of the iceberg.

JL: Wael Ghonim, Google's 31-year-old Head of Marketing for Google Middle East and North America, took Egypt by storm almost single handedly. You have a distinct theory, don't you, as to how Wael should have continued to embrace the fold?

AG: Social networking has empowered the youth to effect rapid and huge change in government. But this leaves a vacuum. In many countries, the military are left in charge. We need a platform for crowd-sourcing new leaders who can be thrust into positions of leadership and not pause midway through.

JL: Andrew, what is the #1 most important philanthropic goal to you at this moment in time?

AG: Human potential. For people to socially and economically uplift themselves through fostering an environment that will increase their self-esteem.

JL: What's going to set the world: talking?



opposite: Muhammad Yunus, founder of Bangladesh's Grameen Bank, and Andrew at EARTH University in Costa Rica.

AG: The youth are terraforming our global culture, changing the present agreement with the universe. It's known as the emotional buy in. By being hyper connected they become one. Simply sit in on a kindergarten class and you will get a peek at our future. Social teaching, crowd sourced learning, on a global scale. Look at Wikipedia: learning is now interactive and you're part of the course. We are shifting from the knowledge and networking culture to the age of the knowing. Just look at what a kid knows today compared to five years ago. You Tube is only five years old.

JL: Andrew, are you extremely complicated to appear so simple?

You lead with vision and an uncanny ability to create order from chaos. You're constantly challenging the status quo. You make no apologies for your voracious appetite for the kinds of change that propel humanity toward a healthier, greener future.

AG: Yes. And no apologies, Jo Lee. I'm enlightened in ways that are well beyond teachings.

JL: So, you make the impossible possible and the possible impossible.

You tell me Andrew that peace is a by-product of sharing; anything centralized becomes a poison; there is no such thing as free advice – out of contrast comes clarity – you must PAY attention. I love it. Can you explain?

AG: There are certain truths that I have learned that serve the higher good. You cannot create or destroy anything in the universe. Only change its form. That's the magic!
As we shift our energy with the planet, we realize humans are much more advanced than a DNA gives credit for.

JL: Where are you, at this moment, in body and mind?

AG: Let's just say that laughter, yoga and meditation is amazing, Jo Lee. Sometimes I feel like a fire hose of energy and information. I like to create order from chaos; challenge the status quo. I have a voracious appetite for the kinds of change that propel humanity towards a healthier, greener future for all.

JL: You know, one of the most touching things you've shared with me, is how your mom had this magnificent way of diffusing your energy – she would aggressively chase you, put you on the ground and tickle you. What an incredible human being!

AG: The best!

What an exciting time this has been, Jo Lee! Thank you for this opportunity and for being such an inspiring role model.

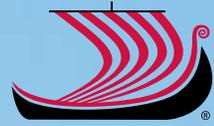
JL: A great pleasure, Andrew, all wrapped into continued intrigue.

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Twin Houses, Oceans Apart

BY LOIS M. GORDON
SILICON VALLEY – CALIFORNIA

Muckross House in County Kerry, Ireland and Filoli, located in Woodside, California just south of San Francisco, are two homes with a shared past.

Every year over a million visitors tour Filoli (pronounced Fie-low-lee). Named for Fight, Love and Life, part of the original owner's credo: Fight for a just cause. Love your fellow man. Live a good life.

Inside the historical Filoli mansion there are many reminders of Kerry: paintings and murals depicting scenes of Muckross Abbey, Muckross House, Brickeen Bridge and Ladies View.

How did the similarities come to be? In 1837, Henry Herbert and his wife Mary moved to the Muckross Estate near Killarney. Six years later, they hired an architect to design the 65-room building that became Muckross House.

Henry was involved in Irish politics, and Mary became known as a water colorist. Queen Victoria was once a

guest at their home and Mary gave her several of her paintings.

After the deaths of Henry and Mary, the house sold to a member of the Guinness family who rarely visited the estate. Another couple, Maud Bourn from California and Arthur Vincent from County Clare, married and loved the Muckross Estate house so much that her father bought it and the 11,000 acres for them as a wedding present. The father, William Bowers Bourn II, was born in 1857; his father had made his fortune from mining gold and some from a winery.

In 1906, he and his wife and daughter sailed to Europe. It was on this trip that daughter Maud met Arthur Vincent and fell in love. During the holiday they visited Ireland and Killarney where the natural beauty was enchanting.

The father then purchased an estate in Woodside, California. Knowing how much his daughter and son-in-law loved the Irish home, he hired

an architect to design and build the mansion, having many of the splendors of Muckross House installed at Filoli.

Both homes are magnificent, with beautiful gardens. Muckross House has larger grounds and waterfalls. It even has horse-drawn buggy rides around the grounds. When I was there, along with friends, we teased our young, 18-year-old driver unmercifully. He enjoyed it and we enjoyed it. It is a treat to tour the homes and go back in time.

Both homes are now run by volunteers and open to the public for a fee.

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* Special thanks to John Berkery of Dublin, Ireland for his help on this article.

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And I’ll Bet The Sweeps On That!

BY DR. ANDREA BUCKETT
TORONTO – CANADA

Q: I am sick of eating chicken breasts! Is there another healthy meat I can include in my diet? Astor – Victoria, British Columbia

AB: I am with you on this one! Boneless, skinless chicken breasts seem to be the go to healthy choice, but who decided this was the only option? It is ludicrous to believe that one part of the animal is better for you than others; they all have a place in a healthy diet where variety is key! We are a society caught up in quantity (calorie counting) over quality (nutrient content). In fact, we should be eating every part of the animal to gain the most health benefits. While eating organ meats may be a stretch for some, let’s start by adding some bone-in, skin-on chicken thighs and legs. Simply roasted, the skin contains valuable fat-soluble vitamins and anti-microbial fatty acids, while the dark meat contains more minerals than the white!

Q: I was recently on vacation and had fresh coconut water. Can I buy

this in a can and what health benefits does it have? Mineau – Paris, France

AB: Coconut products are taking the health food industry by storm, and the water is no exception! You can purchase canned coconut water in your regular grocery or health food store. Try to seek out unsweetened options. This tropical water is the perfect replacement drink for sugary and chemical laden sport drinks. High in electrolytes like potassium, sodium, calcium and magnesium, this power fuelled beverage also costs less per bottle than the sports drink!

Q: I love making stuffed artichokes. The only problem is that I use breadcrumbs made from white bread. Is there an ingredient I can substitute? Tête – Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

AB: This is a great question! We all love the comforting flavor and texture of breadcrumbs but don’t necessarily enjoy the empty calories. My alternative is almond flour! Similar in texture, this is

simply ground almonds. You can either make your own by grinding skinless almonds, or buy it in your health food store. Containing more protein, calcium and vitamin E, this is a great alternative!

Q: How can I avoid MSG in my food? Loviisa – Helsinki, Finland

AB: MSG (monosodium glutamate) is in many packaged foods, frozen foods and fast foods; it is lurking in too much to list. Unfortunately, it can be listed under a different name. Here are some of them: broth, casein, glutamate, and hydrolyzed or autolyzed yeast. Read your labels; avoid this excitotoxin at all cost!

JL



**RAPID
RESPONSE
TEAM**

opposite: GlobalMedic founder Rahul Singh installing a GlobalWater household water purification system in a village near Tonle Sap, Cambodia.

Making The Difference: One Glass At A Time

BY RAHUL SINGH
FOUNDER – GLOBALMEDIC
TORONTO – CANADA

In our world of technology, fast cars, and flat screens, nearly a billion folks do not have access to clean water. Parents lose time away from work and income caring for their sick children. Babies die for no reason. The vicious cycle repeats itself as the world's poor struggle to develop without a basic staple of life.

GlobalWater is a unique, recently launched social entrepreneurship designed to be an agent of change. Developed by GlobalMedic's emergency response team, GlobalWater provides clean drinking water to victims of disaster and creates an opportunity whereby every day people can support families in need by giving them the gift of clean water.

The answer is simple: purification at the household level – be it a mud grass hut, an adobe brick dwelling or tarp covering a cardboard floor in a refugee camp.

GlobalWater combines four quality, Canadian-made ceramic candle-style filters, placing them between two 20-liter buckets, and adding a spigot and a lid, to create a basic filter.

The magic happens when families pour the water they collect into the

top bucket and gravity pulls that dirty disease-ridden water through the filters. Clean drinking water is produced and stored in the bottom bucket. It's that simple. No moving parts, and gravity is the fuel.

The impact is huge. Imagine a world without cholera, typhoid or other nasty water-borne killers. A world where kids didn't die because of the water they drink. A world where a young mother stricken with AIDS has a fighting chance to stay healthy and beat the disease because her water source was pure.

The emergency responders who volunteer for GlobalMedic also donate their time building and assembling these units. Volunteer labor, corporate breaks on pricing, and donated space help keep the costs low. Around fifty bucks gives a family clean water for about a year. In places like Haiti, that translates to an average cost of about seven dollars per person per year.

The reward for a volunteer is tangible: knowing you assembled a device that will keep kids alive. Typical donors are edgy, young and urban. They want to make a difference and know that their contributions, no matter how small,

save lives. GlobalWater is expanding its scope as an agent of change. Large international NGOs are buying in and funding missions where water units are given to those in need. UNICEF has bought in, endorsing the units as safe and applicable.

In 2010, GlobalMedic dispatched 5,000 units around the world. Earthquake victims and schoolchildren living in Haiti's perilous tent cities benefited. The rural poor of Pakistan fleeing massive floods benefited. Families that were being resettled into villages cleared of mines received units in war-torn Southern Sudan. Over 30 thousand people benefited. The idea was successful enough to fuel the launch of GlobalWater earlier this year.

The next step is to convince more donors and governments that even miniscule amounts of monies from them would help in mobilizing the good people of this world.

Together with GlobalMedic, they will get the world clean water to drink. www.globalH2O.ca

JL

The Poet's Corner

PHOTOGRAPHY BY VERA RESNIK

MYKONOS

Whitewashed stucco buildings
with brightly colored shutters and doors
painted blue, red, yellow and orange
line the cobblestone streets of Mykonos.
Cube-shaped houses form a semi-circle
around the bay. At noon we sip cold beer
in the welcome shade of an island bar.
Pelicans pose in the crystal-clear
blue waters of the Aegean Sea.
We reach out to touch them.

Bougainvilleas, clematis and aging geraniums
cascade from wooden balconies.
Small quaint churches are everywhere.
Stucco windmills with thatched roofs line
the hillside. Once used to grind grain,
they are now private homes.
We explore the village, twisting through a maze
of narrow lanes created to thwart pirate raids
and gusting winds of long ago.
The present and the past merge.

©Sallyanne

THE STRENGTH OF THE WEAK

Just about to reach four in the Ante Meridian.
I cannot seem to reach a state where my river may rest.
Place a dam near my heart, for it is the only way.
Danger will approach in the form of rapid eye movement.

Shotgun shells hit the pavement of my mind.
The Glass, for whatever reason, doesn't break entirely.
I know this will only make sense to the weak.
Weak, only because hearts can only handle so much.
Weak means the mind pumps stronger than ever.

It is when you are weak, that you must meet your full
potential.
The importance of breathing becomes important.
You can choose between a shot of adrenaline, or a one-way
vacation.
It is times like these, weak ones, that the door of self-
discovery is truly unlocked.

The small is what matters. Petite is for a reason.
To hide the answers from those who are too naive to know.
Those who look for an elevator will only find stairs.
Too bad they will only use them to rest upon...

©timwsnelgrove

Tim W. Snelgrove has become a distinguished poet whose
free spirit is an encompassing embrace for dealing with the
broken culture he is surrounded by everyday. He is 18 years
old.



FRIEND

Time approaches to say farewell.
I sit facing my old friend, embraced by sadness
emotion tugging my core, filling every nook and
cranny of my heart.

Your pained cries unseen by other eyes that no
longer see, their solicitude has escaped their souls.
Lack of vision permits existing in darkened
uncaring complacency.

My smiles, frowns, religious affiliation, clothing,
mood swings, silences, expounding utterances
produce only your acceptance.
Steadfast friend, rooted in strength, you remain
unshaken in unwavering stillness through seasons
and storms of life.

Draped in diaphanous fog of mystery, beautiful at a
distance or at arms length, your magnificence
enthalls ones aesthetic sensibility.

In the company of my old friend, the mountain, I
walk in gratitude among the trees which swallow the
suns energy.

A tear drops, lands on my friend.
I say goodbye.

©Veraresnik

ANTONIO RAPHAEL RODRIGUEZ UMANZIO AKA TONY ROMA

Slinky, smooth, soothing, slithery, silky, satiny kitten fur
Can you feel it, did you feel it, feel it?

Long, lanky, limp, lithely, lovely, oh so lovely kitten paws
Watch him plop, pick one up, plop one down.

Perked, pointed, prick light ears, thin skin, red veined lines
running everywhere
See the light shine through the insect wings!

Gold, bronze, green, sparkling, dead stare, headlight eye
glare, glare into my soul
Dart, dart, stare, stare.

Smiling lips curved up like the mouth of the wooden
puppet,
pull whiskers and make him laugh
Mow, wow, mow, wow.

Tony Roma saucy, struttly kitty
parading up and down like a black
licorice candy stick wiggling, wiggling
Chase him, chase him
Catch him, love him before he is gone forever.

©margaretumanzio JL



Dining On The Coast

BY JO LEE FOR JO LEE
TORONTO – SAN FRANCISCO
PHOTOGRAPHY BY RAY SCOTTY MORRIS

Dear Friends,

As the glory of summer evenings fades to memories, the crisp dramatic colors of sand, flowers and green seduce the senses and we are lulled into a dream-like impression that we are in control of our destiny. Take heed. Perhaps we are. Perfect evenings we bring in our state of mind as we gather with friends before a dinner of love. Will you join me and become entrenched in stealing away from the bustle of life as we savor an evening on the coast?

The rigorously formal waters of the Pacific flow like an exciting symphony with dramatic interplay from the breeze. The intense contrasts of burnt cobalt and cornflower blues of the glazed chintz cloths are repeated in the chrysanthemums amassed in the unusually shaped wicker baskets atop blankets of blue.

I choose boldly scaled Metternich paneled crystal goblets and wooden-handled silver wine caddies. They, like the classic “King William” flatware with its pistol-handled knives, are in perfect harmony with the eighteenth-century Chinese export ware-inspired “Blue Canton” china – laid upon trays on each blanket of blue.

My setting.. a warm mixture of charm and animated drama with crystal hurricane lamps protecting the glitter of candles from the evening breeze.

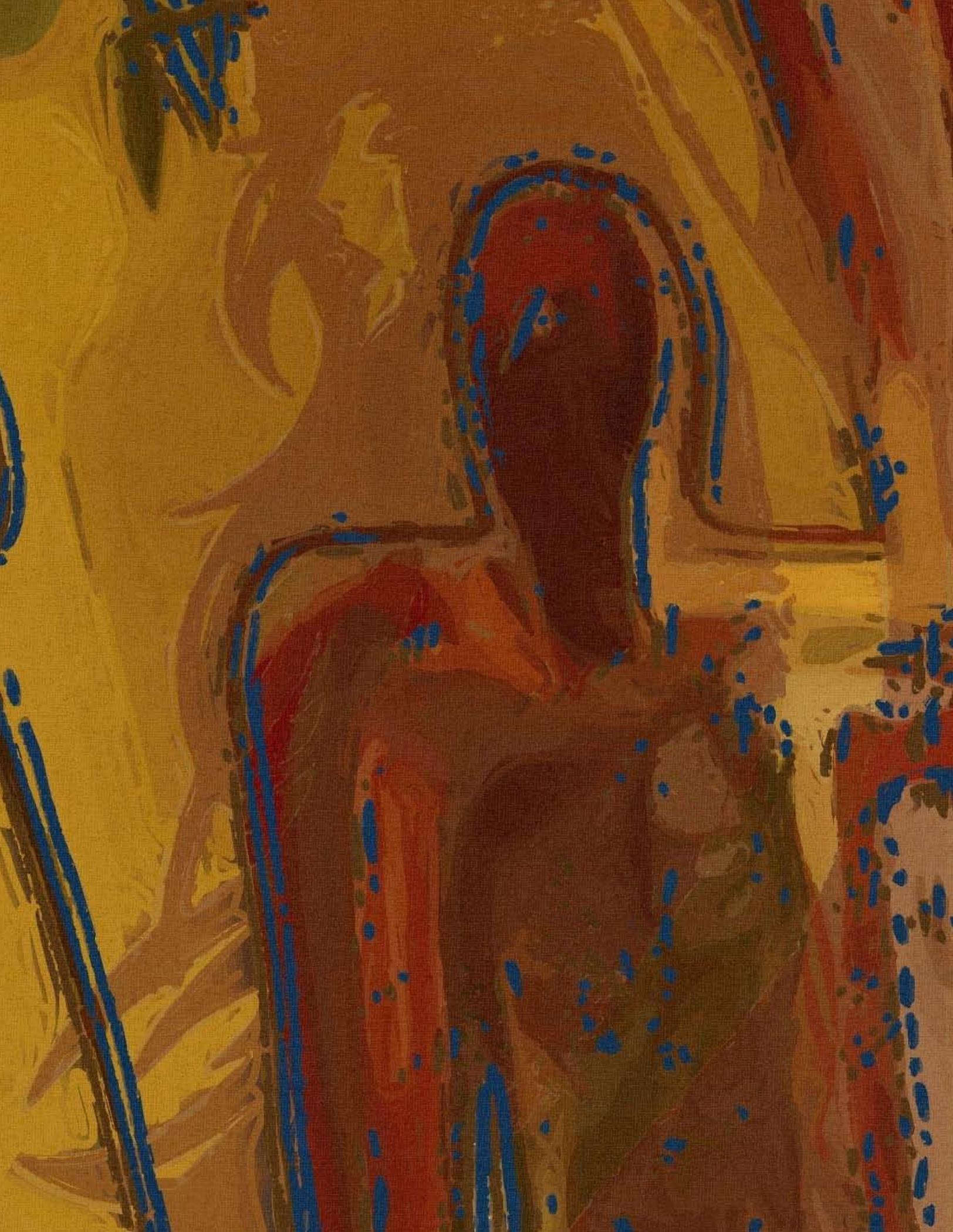
The title of my coastal dinner is... WORLD LUXURY WITH YOU

How this dinner ends is up to you – or is it? Human nature is a powerful force and has a mind that certainly is directed by every one of us. So as we plan for a perfect night and hope for that gentle breeze – I say to you..

Buon appetito e saluti from my blue blanket on the coastal sands, to yours.

Jo Lee

JL



Love, Marriage And Money

BY JOHNETTE DUFF – ATTORNEY AT LAW
HOUSTON – TEXAS

The F-Word. Finances!

Combining love and money may be the biggest stumbling block on the path of true love, creating more rifts in relationships than in-laws, drug and alcohol addiction, or infidelity.

Financial power struggles challenge even the most solid partnerships. Unfortunately, money too often equates control in a relationship. The delicate balance of power between partners is dependent on the successful combination of love and money.

In the majority of relationships today, both members contribute financial resources. Despite the strides women have made toward financial equality on the job, though, men still have greater earning power. In general, with more disposable income, men invest more money and take greater risks than women.

Everyone has opened a bank account, paid the rent or mortgage, kept the telephone and electricity turned on. When you make the decision to share your life with someone, though, such mundane issues suddenly become complicated. Do you keep separate bank accounts or do you put all the money in one account? How do you

split monthly expenses? Do you each pay a portion or do you pay bills out of a joint account? Should you be able to sign on your partner's bank account? Did one of you bring assets to the relationship that the other uses, such as a car or a home, for which expenses should be shared?

Many modern couples keep their finances separate, while others opt to pool all their funds. Making the decision on day-to-day handling of what was formerly "his" and "her" money can be a tough one.

There are benefits to keeping separate property funds separate and maintaining certain assets in one name only. Keeping other monies separate may create logistical problems along with a diminished sense of common goals for the future. Combining funds also gives a couple greater borrowing and investment power.

Determining a financial plan that works might take months; many couples struggle for years before reaching a balance. Defining and discussing financial styles is the first step, setting goals is the second.

Are you both knowledgeable about banking, insurance, investments,

credit cards? The routine business of a new life together should include the following:

- * Reevaluation of life, health, auto and other insurance coverage
- * Change of beneficiary on insurance policies and company pension plans
- * Notifying social security of marriage to ensure eligibility for a spouse's benefit and change of tax withholding
- * Assessment of the impact of remarriage on alimony or pension/retirement benefits from a prior marriage
- * Consultation with an accountant to learn what impact marital status will have on federal or state income tax obligations
- * In a remarriage, be aware that the income of a new spouse may impact eligibility for financial aid of college-age children from a prior marriage.

Your goal in tying the fiscal knot is to protect your spousal rights and save money. Begin your research before the wedding and make sure you follow through.

JL



EARTH University President José Zaglul Proves The Power Of Education.

BY KRISTINE JIMÉNEZ
GUÁCIMO – COSTA RICA

On August 24, 1947, in the small town of San Ramón, Costa Rica, Lebanese immigrant Wajib Zaglul wrote a poem on the day of his son's birth. Capturing his deepest hopes and worries for his son's future, the poem is prominently displayed in José Zaglul's office on the EARTH University campus in Costa Rica.

"My grandfather was a farmer in Lebanon and had a very difficult life. My father only completed third grade, but he understood the value of education and came to Costa Rica so that his children could study. I have seen in my own family how transformative education can be in just one generation."

As president of EARTH University, Dr. Zaglul, who holds a PhD from the University of Florida, has dedicated his professional life to providing educational opportunities to young people from around the world who, like his father and grandfather, would not have the chance to go to college.

Created in the mid-1980s with funding from the U.S. government, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and the Costa Rican government, under Zaglul's leadership this non-profit, international institution has established itself globally as a model for development. Its rigorous, four-year

academic program and international faculty have caused some to call it the Harvard of agricultural sciences, but what makes the program stand out is its experiential, student-centered approach and emphasis on values, entrepreneurship and social and environmental commitment.

EARTH University relies on donors to provide opportunities to young people who want to make a difference in the world but lack the resources for a higher education. Donations provide approximately 80 percent of EARTH's students with financial aid.

"We hand pick our students, looking for individuals who will take advantage of this opportunity to spread hope, peace and prosperity. It is an investment in our future," comments President Zaglul.

The approach seems to be working. According to the institution's annual alumni survey, some 44 percent of EARTH graduates are generating employment, 41 percent are increasing farmer living standards, and 23 percent are running their own businesses.

Visiting EARTH provides a dose of optimism, and visitors to its verdant campus, located in Costa Rica's Caribbean Lowlands, are unanimously captivated by its people and their

commitment to building a better future.

"We measure our success not in dollars or prestigious positions," remarks Zaglul. "We tell our students and alumni that wherever they are in the world, their responsibility is to make a positive difference, share their knowledge, and contribute to the well-being of the planet.

"I tell them, 'Don't worry, we just want you to change the world'," laughs Zaglul, with a warmth and charisma that has earned him the affection of EARTH's students and staff.

And the institution's students have responded. Cean Reginald of Haiti, who graduates in December 2011, explains, "More than being a university, EARTH is the beginning of a new life. Through teamwork and ethical values, the main strengths of our education at EARTH, I learned to take advantage of differences among people and use them to move ahead. Now, I don't ask what my country can offer me, I ask myself how can I contribute. This is what EARTH is doing: it gives a chance to people like me to dream again, to discover opportunities and transform themselves."

JL



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The Role Of Dignity H.R.H. Shāh Karīm al-Hussaynī The Āgā Khān IV

BY MORIT FRENCH
NAIROBI – KENYA

He is the wealthy leader of a religious group with millions of followers, a Harvard graduate, the grandson of the former president of the League of Nations and the stepson of the late and beautiful Rita Hayworth.

Ismailis, who live in over 25 countries around the world, mostly in central and southern Asia, believe that the Āgā Khān is the legitimate heir to the Prophet Muhammad. There are an estimated 12 to 15 million Ismailis worldwide who revere the Āgā Khān as their spiritual guide.

The Āgā Khān is founder and chairman of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN), one of the largest private development networks in the world. It coordinates the activities of over 200 agencies and institutions, employing a total of 70,000 paid staff. Its partners include numerous governments and several international organizations. AKDN agencies operate in social and economic development as well as in the field of culture, with special focus on countries of the Third World. The network operates in 35 of the poorest countries in the world and is statutorily secular.

Born in Geneva, Switzerland on December 13, 1936, Prince Karim Āgā Khān IV is the eldest son of Prince Aly Khān, (1911–1960) who, with his

wife Rita Hayworth, had a daughter, Princess Yasmin Āgā Khān, half-sister of the Āgā Khān.

Following the death of his grandfather, Sultan Muhammed Shad Āgā Khān, Prince Karim, at the age of 20, became the 49th Imām of the Ismailis, bypassing his father, Prince Aly Khān, and his uncle, Prince Sadruddin Āgā Khān, who were in direct line of succession.

In his will, the Āgā Khān III explained the rationale for choosing his eldest grandson as his successor: “I am convinced that it is in the best interests of the Ismaili community that I should be succeeded by a young man who has been brought up and developed during recent years and in the midst of the new age, and who brings a new outlook on life to his office.”

Upon taking the position of Imam, the Āgā Khān stated that he intended to continue the work his grandfather had pursued in building modern institutions to improve the quality of life of the Ismaili community. The main themes that the Āgā Khān emphasized were development, education, interracial harmony, and confidence in religion.

The Āgā Khān has described his role of Imam as being a guide to Ismailis

in the daily practice of Shia Islam, a duty that requires an understanding of Ismailis and their relationship with their geographic location and their time. The role and responsibility of an Imam, respectively, is to interpret his religion to the community, and to do his utmost to improve the quality and security of their quotidian. This role is not limited to the Ismaili community but also extends to the people with whom the Ismailis share their lives, locally and internationally.

During the Pope Benedict XVI Islam controversy, His Highness said: “I have two reactions to the Pope’s lecture: There is my concern about the degradation of relations and, at the same time, I see an opportunity, a chance to talk about a serious, important issue: the relationship between religion and logic.”

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Desert Railway Emirates' New Mega Project

BY ANDREW PORTHULL
RIYADH – SAUDI ARABIA

United Arab Emirates (UAE) boasts the world's tallest building, man-made islands in the shape of palm trees, and is about to take its next ambitious step – linking cities by rail over the desert.

Already investing heavily in airlines and airports, as well as roads and public infrastructure to attract and support growing commerce, the seven emirates are leaving nothing to chance as they bet on a freight and passenger network to help drive growth.

Even as the federation struggles to regain its footing after the 2009 Dubai debt crisis and an exodus of investors, it is betting that there will be enough economic activity to justify the rail system.

UAE's Union Railway plans an \$11 billion (all costs in U.S. dollars), 1,500 km railway project across the federation, estimated by 2017, connecting Saudi Arabia via Ghweifat city in the west and Oman via Al Ain in the east.

The network will integrate the oil and natural gas hub of Ras Laffan Industrial City in the north with the refinery town of Mesaieed in the south, and a high-speed link between Qatar's

new Doha International Airport and Doha's city's centre.

Construction will run until 2026, and will include freight, passenger trains and a metro. A long-planned \$3 billion bridge linking Qatar with Bahrain has been put on hold and the project team scaled back amid escalating costs and increased political tension.

The 40 km causeway linking gas exporter Qatar to the island kingdom of Bahrain was set to play a key role in improving infrastructure connections between Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) members. Qatar also wants to build a bridge connection to neighbor Saudi Arabia via a 40 km causeway to Bahrain. These causeways would be among the world's longest.

Bahrain said in 2009 it would study an \$8 billion railway project stretching over 184 km, including a mix of light rail trains, monorails, trams and other systems. But these investments were part of plans to link Bahrain and Qatar with a bridge, a project that is stalled due to political tensions between the two neighbors.

Oman's 500 km National Railway

Project will connect ports, airports and free zones and is expected to generate revenues of about \$250 million in its first year of operation. The government plans to award construction projects in three phases with transport and rail companies such as Bechtel, SNCF, China Railway and Hyundai having shown interest in the pre-qualification bids for contracts.

Kuwait said in 2008 it was planning an \$11 billion rail network that will include a metro system for its capital. A 245 km line will run from the northern border with Iraq to Saudi Arabia in the south, with links to airport and seaport.

In Kuwait City, where traffic clogs roads in rush hours, a four-lane, 171 km metro is planned costing \$1.3 billion.

Yemen said last year it would launch a \$3.5 billion rail project as part of plans to upgrade infrastructure in the war-torn country. The 2,500 km passenger and cargo network will run from the Saudi border along the Yemeni coast, passing through the main port of Aden, to Oman, where it will join the network linking the six GCC members.

JL



Bono! Why Is He Famous?

BY YALE ARMOR
DUBLIN – IRELAND

He never pretends to be more than he is at five foot eight. So why is he famous? Because of magnetism most people would do just about anything to get.

His band, U2, formed in Dublin, Ireland on September 25, 1976, has sold more than 150 million records worldwide. They've won 22 Grammy Awards and they're growing in popularity.

Bono was born Paul David Hewson in Dublin on May 10, 1960. Before Bono was born, a fortuneteller told Bono's mother, as if by premonition, that she would have a son that would be famous. Famous might have been an understatement.

As a schoolboy Bono was a troublemaker, the class clown of Mount Temple High School, and was considered to be a "cool" kid who had a tendency to do weird things. Bono joined a group of kids known as The Lypton Village, which is how he received the name Bono Vox, after a hearing aid sold in a local Dublin store.

Bono hated his nickname at first, but then learned that Bono Vox meant

good voice in Latin. Ironically, he was not given the name because of his singing voice, which at the time, he did not even have. He was given the name because he was never calm.

In 1976, drummer Larry Mullen Jr. placed an ad on a bulletin board at Bono's high school searching for fellow musicians. Of the seven musicians who attended Larry's house to audition, guitarist Dave Evans, bass guitar player Adam Clayton, and Paul (Bono) Hewson stood out the most – Bono for his charisma and personality, for he had no musical talent whatsoever. The leadership quickly went to Bono, who immediately took charge. Bono gave Dave Evans the name The Edge, and started writing songs and learning how to sing, and thus came to be the band known today as U2.

Bono is known not only for his antics on stage while performing – he used to climb any type of scaffolding on stage, until he once fell and got injured – but off stage as well. He and band members caused havoc while shooting the video for Where The Streets Have No Name on a roof without permission before the police intervened

and stopped the filming. Today, band members have banned Bono from drinking coffee; it makes him too hyper. Bono may have been given his nickname for never being quiet, but now it's evident he was really given the name for its original meaning – good voice.

While his constant devotion to U2 can never be doubted, Bono has ridden his fame to the point where he has been able to branch out from U2 onto his own pet political and charitable projects such as his contribution to Band Aid's Do They Know It's Christmas single, his duet with Frank Sinatra for Sinatra's Duets album, a performance with U2, Brian Eno and Luciano Pavarotti for Passengers, and writing a short story and screenplay entitled The Million Dollar Hotel.

U2 remains one of the top bands in the world, if not the very top.

Bono is married to Alison Stewart, his wife of 18 years.

JL



Eike Fuhrken Batista – A Genius In Brazil

BY MAICOL GARRIDO
SÃO PAULO – BRAZIL

In Brazil, perhaps the only thing that's bigger than Eike Fuhrken Batista is Pão de Açúcar, the peak that dominates Guanabara Bay in Rio de Janeiro. Sugarloaf Mountain, as it is called, stares across to his 10th floor office in the Praia do Flamengo building. Six years ago Batista swore he'd become Brazil's richest man. Now he is, with a net worth of \$27 billion, two-thirds of that gained over the last 12 months.

Batista, 53, has made a lot of money in resources and other services, but two-thirds of his fortune comes from a relatively new source – OGX Petróleo e Gás Participações, the oil-and-gas exploration company he founded in July 2007 and took public a year later. "If you compare the 17,000-to-1 ratio of success for gold discoveries to the 2-to-1 ratio for [offshore] oil, you can see why I became so enthusiastic about creating OGX," he says.

After roughly 25 years in precious metals Batista decided to bet on oil. In November 2007, four months after he formed OGX, state-owned Petrobras announced the discovery of an oil bed in the Santos Basin Tupi area, off Brazil's southeastern coast. The largest discovery ever made in Brazil.

Batista, who has long had connections within Brazil's government, had been

in touch with Paulo Mendonça, a 34-year veteran of Petrobras who had just retired as its chief of exploration. A little inducement persuaded Mendonça to set aside retirement and work for the new company, along with six experienced colleagues. "In the end, if you spend on know-how, the risk you're taking on is smaller," says Batista. Especially on know-how that's so well connected!

OGX was created just in time to become one of the first, and last, big players in an auction of exploration licenses by the Brazilian National Petroleum Agency. Only two weeks before the leases went up for bid, the Brazilian government decided to remove the most promising 41 blocks closest to the Tupi field that Petrobras had just discovered. The multinationals jockeying for those reserves were sidelined. Meanwhile OGX offered \$800 million for the exploration rights on 21 concession blocks in four different shallow-water basins, in some cases outbidding Petrobras. Batista pulled out \$375 million from his own pocket; the rest came from 12 investors (including the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan and New York City's Ziff brothers), some of whom had bet with him on earlier deals. After the bidding OGX held concessions covering

roughly 1.7 million acres, making it the biggest private player in oil and gas.

The company then contracted for five semisubmersible rigs and hired a survey ship to collect seismic data. OGX also built a 3-d oilfield visualization center five floors below Batista's office. Since most blocks are in shallow water and relatively easy to access, production costs could be as low as \$8 a barrel, compared with perhaps \$35 for offshore Brazilian crude trapped under thick layers of salt.

In June 2008 OGX raised \$4.1 billion in an initial offering, the largest in Brazil's history at the time. "You cannot exist as a \$20 billion company with speculation." Batista himself invested another \$450 million. "Luck is Brazil being in this stable economic position today; luck is Brazil having these blocks available for bidding. But it's also a lot about discipline and hard work and timing: When I did the IPO the price of oil was \$140. That wasn't my doing. That was luck."

JL



Arianna Huffington Is Selling Brilliance

BY MELANIE LIGHT VON
NEW YORK – NEW YORK

In person, she is charming and convincing in her arguments. Her identification of what won't work – pay walls and blocking Google, even if Rupert Murdoch has advocated just that – is complemented by the increasing success of news aggregator sites such as her own, Google News and The Daily Beast.

A self-styled maverick, Arianna Huffington has said many times over, “journalists have a lot to learn from user-generated content and vice versa.”

Less than six years after co-founding her news website, Arianna Huffington sold The Huffington Post for \$315M US, securing the titles of president and editor-in-chief in a unit to be named Huffington Post Media Group, which includes the management of AOL's news operations and other media enterprises such as TechCrunch and MapQuest.

Huffington, 61, was born in Athens on July 7, 1950. She moved to England at aged 16. While at Cambridge University, she became president of the Cambridge Union debating society before graduating with an MA in

economics in 1972. Her first book, *The Female Woman*, was published in 1973 and she has written 12 more on a range of issues from self-help and the power of Greek mythology to political satire and biographies.

She was in a relationship with the late Times columnist Bernard Levin for a decade before moving to New York in the early 1980s. Although initially known as a right-winger, she married some time Republican politician, billionaire oil tycoon Michael Huffington in 1986. They moved to Washington where he pursued a political career and she began rising to prominence during his unsuccessful Senate bid in 1994. The couple divorced in 1997.

After a switch in political ideology, she ran as an independent candidate for California governor in 2003, losing to contender Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Huffington's politics later moved to the left; her first foray into web hosting was Resignation.com, a site set up in opposition to Democrats and the then U.S. president, Bill Clinton. In 2005, Arianna branched out to attract an

estimated 25 million visitors a month by co-founding www.ariannaonline.com with Kenneth Lerer.

Lerer was the integral financial force in getting The Huffington Post off the ground. He played a large role in guiding the content in the site's early days and considered the wizard behind the curtain at The Huffington Post. Lerer will be stepping down as chairman and will continue to be an advisor and friend.

In 2006, Arianna Huffington was named in the Time 100 list of the world's most influential people, and last year was ranked 28th on the Forbes most powerful women in the world.

Huffington is also co-host of the Left, Right & Center political radio program, the weekly Both Sides Now radio show, she serves on several boards that promote community solutions to social problems, including A Place Called Home which works with at-risk children in south-central Los Angeles and serves on the board of trustees for Archer, a school for girls. She lives in Los Angeles with her two daughters, 20 and 22.

JL



Elephants Never Forget

BY JR MINKEL
NEW YORK – NEW YORK

Elephants have prodigious memories, particularly the matriarchs that rule elephant herds.

They say elephants never forget, but their brainpower does not stop there. A new study suggests they can distinguish threatening groups of people from those who mean them no harm.

Researchers working in Kenya presented a group with identical red garments worn for five days either by Maasai tribesmen, who slay elephants to prove their strength and daring, or by farmers of the Kamba tribe, who leave the elephants in peace.

After sniffing the clothing worn by the Maasai, the beasts turned tail and ran, but had much less reaction to the odor of the Kamba. The same elephants responded aggressively toward unworn red robes – the traditional color of the Maasai – but not toward odorless white clothing.

“It tells us a bit about how elephants classify the world,” says evolutionary psychologist Richard Byrne of the University of St Andrews in Scotland.

“Instead of treating humans as all one set, they’re able to discriminate within one set.”

Human minds effortlessly extract key characteristics common to groups of objects, he says, such as the redness of apples. But researchers are less sure whether animals can form similar categories.

Byrne says he, St Andrews colleague Lucy Bates, and the other team members began their experiment after talking to members of the Amboseli Elephant Research Project in Nairobi, Kenya, who told tales of odd elephant behavior.

“There were a number of reports of very inquisitive and sometimes aggressive reactions of elephants toward signs of Maasai, but not toward people brandishing spears,” he says.

Researchers have found that individual elephants can identify one another as strangers or old friends. Byrne says the fact that elephants seem to pick out particular cues from their environment that mark Maasai warriors, suggests

that the animals can actually classify whole subsets of a species based on the threat they pose.

The elephants’ different reactions to smell and color make sense, he adds, because the odor of a Maasai hunter implies that he is nearby, triggering fear that sends the elephant packing.

“It’s an innovative way of getting at the problem of what animals know about their environments,” says Karen McComb, an expert in mammal communication and cognition at the University of Sussex in Brighton, England. “The response is very appropriate to knowing what the threat was. It’s suggesting they have some sort of reasonably advanced understanding of the sorts of cues that are going to be dangers.”

As for what goes on in their heads and whether it resembles human consciousness, she adds, “We can only guess.”

So the next time someone says you have a memory like an elephant, take it as a compliment. **JL**



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The Lower Ends Of Momentum

BY DAVID C. WESONGA
NAIROBI – KENYA

There are things that bother me, and there are things that move me not an inch. I feel even less for the crazed drug lords of Mexico, where being a mayor, a most noble of professions, has become as dangerous as being a reform minded journalist in Iran.

But I do care about Africa. It's politics, socio-economic status and above all, her people. I care a lot about persons in Africa, and that is why, I am bothered.

Sudan went to the polls in a referendum meant to bring to birth Africa's newest nation, Southern Sudan. What a waste! Waste of resources, waste of time and waste of international space.

From the word go, it was obvious Southern Sudan wanted to secede and be independent. What would you expect with the predominantly Arab north and the black south ever on the warpath? Then add oil reserves into

the mixture and what is supposed to be common becomes political and tactical.

The earliest voice of reason in this chaos, Dr. John Garang, revered leader of the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement (SPLM) who'd spent 21 years fighting for Southern Sudan, died in an ill-fated plane crash just after the signing of a peace agreement. He was the only one who ever thought Sudan as a whole could live without splitting.

President Salvar Kiir took over the reins of power and, being an ardent supporter of secession, led the way in calling for autonomy. In the north, President Omar Bashir, a radical, wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC), among others, on charges of genocide, wants a unified Sudan – for personal gains!

And that is what bothers me. That with each passing decade, African leaders become more uncompromising,

take hard-line stances without much thought of the people and seem hell bent on power and not on protecting their manhood – literally!

Think of Kwame Nkrumah, Nelson Mandela, Mwalimu Nyerere, Nasser, leaders of independence in Africa who served us with wisdom, and compare them to the school of the present – Mugabe, Bashir, Laurent gbagbo, Kibaki and Museveni and many others strewn across the African continent. Then, look at the anarchy they have created. It's like a transition – from good to bad. And the worst is yet to come!

If you will remember, 2011 began on a low. Coptics were murdered in Egypt, an Iranian plane went down with over 100 aboard, sectarian violence erupted in Iraq, disputed elections in the Ivory Coast led to a blood bath and, yours truly, side-stepped his alter beat in health.

We can only hope!

JL



Friendship

BY SAUL LEVINE, MD
SAN DIEGO – CALIFORNIA
PHOTOGRAPHY BY RON HENGGELER

I have always loved Carole King's song, *You've Got a Friend*, and, of course, Barbra Streisand's *People* "...who need people". Friendship obviously refers to that close personal and positive bond between people. We are a social species, and we need that feeling of being a valued part of a community, which I call a sense of belonging. The majority of us have been blessed by having close friends in our lives; we have received, and hopefully we have given, support and caring in these vital relationships.

Friends share each other's lives. They are on the same wavelength, sharing viewpoints and values, witnessing and participating in highs and lows, sadnesses and celebrations. Conversely, people without friends often experience the excruciating pain of vulnerability and loneliness, which you have surely felt at some point in your lives.

Learning how to get along with people is built on a foundation laid down during childhood. Children learn to interact with others, how to agree and disagree, exchange meaningful words and gestures, and how to accommodate to others' temperaments and feelings. These play a major role in how they make

and keep friends throughout their lives.

When we get blue or depressed, we tend to withdraw from human contact, often thinking that we are not likable or worthy of friendship. Paradoxically, this is when we are most in need of social supports and demonstrations of caring.

In a major study of young adults followed throughout their lives, one of the key discoveries was that those who had close, long-term friends fared better over time than those who were less social or more isolated. Close friendships enhance moods and functioning, and are highly correlated with better emotional and even physical health.

Friends exchange caring, solace and celebration. I have gained immeasurably from close friends who have been part of my life since childhood, and hopefully I have given them as much in return. Friendship has to be cultivated and nurtured for a meaningful relationship to last for many years.

The Internet enables people to find old friends and supposedly make new friends via social networks like Facebook, Twitter, Plaxo, and myriad

others. I find some of these online friendships to be more "virtual" than authentic. Usually these bonds are anything but meaningful; they are often like excuses not to engage deeply with other human beings. In the guise of generating friendships, the Internet ironically serves to keep people apart. Online friendships can never replace the meaningfulness and intimacy of face-to-face interaction.

Shared thoughts and feelings with friends during good times and bad are cherished experiences. Good friends are open, genuine and honest with each other, tolerant of each other's frailties and appreciative of their differences. They join in each other's celebrations, and later on, in their children's, and grandchildren's milestones. They are there for each other during illnesses and setbacks, and they participate in the marriages of their loved ones. Some are left to mourn the losses of their dearest old friends, almost as a loss of a part of themselves.

As Stephen Sondheim poignantly put it in his song *Old Friends*: "Here's to us, who's like us?" Simply put, good friendships are some of the best stuff of life.

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WORDS AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY HEIDE VAN DOREN BETZ
SAN FRANCISCO – CALIFORNIA

The first sight when arriving in the California desert is that of the towering, imposing windmills. The visuals are reminiscent of a science fiction film; rocky, sandy, tumbleweed ground with constantly spinning white blades churning away on slender, elegant columns. The windmills are like a gigantic art installation – think Christo – yet they provide an energy source that will supply about 20 percent of U.S. electricity in a few years.

Just a few miles further is an extensive oasis created out of the desert. Palm Springs and its newer luxury neighboring towns like Palm Desert, Rancho Mirage, La Quinta, Indian Wells and Big Horn afford many visual and cultural pleasures, recreational activities, and creature comforts. Most of all it is warm in the desert and it beckons those from the cold northeastern winter climates to bask in its sunshine. The temperatures soar to 120F degrees in the summer.

Centuries ago the Agua Caliente Cahuilla Indians settled in this rough

and punishing terrain in the canyons, where the giant palms, plants, animals and spring water supply allowed them to thrive. Around 1890, this entire area became popular as a recreational oasis. The Indian Canyons are now listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Today Palm Springs is a haven of creative Spanish and modernist architecture once owned by the rich and famous, especially due to the proximity to Hollywood. Homes by such masters of mid-century design as Frey, Wexler, Neutra and Lautner abound within the city as both residential and commercial buildings. In the “old days”, the studios were known to put into their stars’ contracts that they may not be further than a few hours away from the set at all times, therefore Palm Springs, about an hour and a half by car from Los Angeles, beckoned. Today, a tour of the old Movie Colony, where the custom estates of Dinah Shore, Frank Sinatra, Bob Hope, Elisabeth Taylor, Elvis Presley, Liberace, and Walter Annenberg can be seen, is one of the

most popular attractions. Golf courses are too numerous to count. Shops, restaurants and galleries for every indulgence line the streets of Palm Springs and Palm Desert. The Palm Springs Art Museum has an extensive contemporary collection of art as well as special exhibits. Galleries such as Maison Felice, Imago, and Heather James display quality exhibitions of upcoming and established artists.

With beautiful homes, elegant boutique hotels, golf courses, tennis courts, swimming pools, hiking trails, restaurants, galleries, shops, and more golf courses this is a small section of paradise on earth.

JL





The Kaufmann House, designed in 1946 by Richard Neutra, is one of the most famous examples of modernist architecture.



Architect, architectural historian and expert on all things Palm Springs, Patrick McGrew. opposite: The Palm Springs Art Museum showing the main, mezzanine and upper floors.



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Agua Caliente Indian Reservation, Palm Springs, as it was a hundred years ago, opposite: A door commemorating the home of Librace. The contents of the home were all sold upon his death



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opposite: Susan examining one of her treasures.

A Trinket From Spain

WORDS AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY RAY SCOTTY MORRIS
SAN FRANCISCO – CALIFORNIA

I have been a photojournalist for a very long time, covering stories all over the world. Countless countries, countless stories! They fade with time, but now and again you come across a story that remains so vivid in your memory. A Trinket from Spain is one.

I was in Madrid with friends having idle conversation, watching the world go by in a sidewalk café, and reading the Herald Tribune, when I came across an article on the abandoned villages of Spain. There are hundreds of these villages in Spain where the young leave for a better life, and slowly the villages are abandoned.

Torrónteras was the village mentioned but because it was high in the mountains with no roads it would be very hard to find. Seated next to me was a young American Rose from California whose great uncle was the famous Swedish explorer, Sven Hedin. Susan must have had some of his blood in her veins. "Let's find it and pick up a trinket as a souvenir of the trip," she said.

On no maps could we find the village of Torrónteras but the article mentioned the town of Sacedon and

a secondary road. So off we went with only an inexpensive compass. We parked the car and headed north, hiking up a mountain with no paths, across fields and orchards in an almost vertical mountainside. After three hours and not a single person in sight, we spotted a village in the distance.

As we entered the cobblestone path, a deathly silence greeted us. There was just the vivid blue sky, the red roofs and early afternoon heat, with still not a person in sight. Inscribed on the stonework on one of the first houses we saw was a coat of arms dated 1643 and the word Torrónteras. We had found Torrónteras!

The village was a sleeping beauty, history untouched. The church roof had caved in and Susan saw a piece of wood sticking out of the rubble. It was a very old chair with wooden nails, made by someone in the village for the priest. Some of the houses were opened with no locked doors. Susan entered others by a window and even went down a chimney by rope.

What she found were trinkets by the dozens; old leather water bottles, old keys, bed warmers and wooden tools and oil lamps – trinket after trinket.

Susan loaded her treasures onto the seat of the priest's chair and, after two hours in that lovely village: back down the mountain we went. It took five hours of agony to get back to the car because of all the trinkets on that chair. Darkness was upon us.

Torrónteras is still there; fast asleep, nestled in the mountains of Spain like life slowly fading away.

Susan and I married. She passed away last year and one of our two sons has the chair. I like to think of her like that lovely village shimmering in the warmth of the sun, blue sky and red roofs sleeping softly. We were married for twenty years. The pictures are from my private files and have never been published before.







Entering an abandoned house.

Susan climbing in through a window.







Susan at the abandoned olive presses.
next page: Susan dragging the chair from the church.







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THE NEXT 100 YEARS: ONE CHILD'S JOURNEY HOW SHE/HE WILL LIVE, LOVE AND NEVER REALLY DIE

Gender Equality And Child Survival

BY KELECHI ELEANYA
UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
ABUJA – NIGERIA

Gender equality stands out as one of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) set for achievement by the year 2015. Gender refers to the socially constructed relations, roles and responsibilities of women and men; these are culture specific and change over time.

Gender equality furthers the cause of child survival and development. This fact is undeniable because women are the primary caregivers of children, and women's well-being contributes to the well-being of their offspring. Healthy, educated and empowered women are

more likely to have healthy, educated and confident children.

Women's autonomy, defined as the ability to control their own lives and to participate in making decisions that affect them and their families, is associated with improved child nutrition. Other aspects of gender equality, such as education levels among women, also correlate with improved outcomes for children's survival and development.

For most families in Africa, the roles women play in the day-to-day life of

children is increasingly clear. Women spend hours cooking, caring and engaging in livelihood activities that ensure income generation for the family. Majorly concerned for their children's future, women are known to invest more in their children's education.

As the world marks the 100th year of celebrating women's achievements in development on an International Women's Day 2011, let's recognize the important link between gender equality and child survival.

JL



Atlantean vs. KGB Culture

BY CRAIG RICKER
MOSCOW – RUSSIA

Today's global strife can be summed up as the battle between Atlantean and KGB culture.

Atlantean culture refers to the Atlantean empire which now, in it's highly degraded form, is breathing it's last gasp as Western culture. Originally Atlantean culture was characterized by elevating truth and human excellence to divine virtues. This culture lived in accordance with the one supreme divine law; the law of becoming, unfolding or evolving into excellence or a higher plane. People ponder: how did they build the pyramids? The answer is that if an entire society, at every level, is dedicated, even worships excellence, then the architects, artisans, government officials and managers of that society will be of such high quality that building pyramids without modern technology becomes a reality.

KGB culture is the opposite pole. It is based on mafia law. It is characterized by institutional deception, and replaces excellence with the criminal mindset. In communist countries, this functions openly. Elsewhere it functions underground as Marxist insurgencies or in the West as liberalism or leftism.

In my nineteen years in Russia, I have come to understand that what

bothers people most is not tyranny but the violation of the universal law of evolution. Humans are hardwired to achieve. Once this universal law is broken, a train wreck ensues which spares nothing and nobody until the universal law of unfolding excellence is re-established and the criminal culture is swept away. Today's America is experiencing that train wreck.

What does the ancient Atlantis myth have to do with the collapse of modern America? Let's walk back through history and see. The Atlantis story is subject to great speculation. The most common idea is that Atlantis developed an ultra advanced culture in isolation on an island in the Atlantic and began to colonize the world, which was in a state of savagery. Atlantis suddenly sank into the sea with all its inhabitants leaving only it's remote outposts with a few Atlantean colonials to raise the flag. Plato said the island sank 9,000 years before his time, yet that culture was so vigorous that it still dominated much of the world.

The Atlanteans met their match in 313 AD when Emperor Constantine recognized the Christian church. Rome had endured much, but the principle of turning the other cheek

proved too ferocious. The monotheists destroyed the last Atlantean civilization in Mexico in 1519.

While the culture of the Americas was being destroyed, Martin Luther re-established the principle of free will in northwestern Europe, giving Atlantean culture a new foothold. From that moment on, virtually all human progress has come from the Protestant Atlantean world.

Today's Atlanteans are being overrun by KGB mono-criminalists. This culture perceives all other forms of community as competing criminal entities and fights to destroy them by whatever means are most suitable, and is succeeding.

What is at stake in this struggle? KGB culture is a world of infinite poverty. Atlantean culture is limitless prosperity.

JL



THE PROVOCATIVE & CHALLENGING WORLD OF ARCERI

opposite: King George V of Great Britain (right) and Queen Mary, (center) the future King George VI and his bride Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon. On the left are the Earl and Countess of Strathmore, Elizabeth's parents. April 26, 1923.

Royal Splendor The Splendor Of The Abbey For Millions To Rejoice

BY GENE ARCERI
NEW YORK – SAN FRANCISCO – LONDON

High in a tower in Manhattan lived an ex-King. I know, because I worked there as a teenager. It was the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, and the ex-King was the Duke of Windsor who abdicated his throne for the woman he could not live without. The Waldorf-Astoria is known as the “Unofficial Palace” of New York. I occasionally passed by the Duke, who seemed to me gentle, but sad.

“It is with the greatest pleasure that the King and Queen announce the betrothal of their beloved son the Duke of York to the Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon, daughter of the Earl and Countess of Strathmore, to which the King has gladly given his consent.” Such was the formal statement in the Court Circular on January 16, 1923.

On April 26, three months later, the wedding took place in Westminster Abbey. The years from 1923 to 1936 prepared him for the difficult task as King and Emperor. The crisis came to the Duke of York at his home at 145 Piccadilly where he spent the days of negotiations that preceded the

abdication of King Edward VIII and led to the accession of King George VI. Buckingham Palace became his residence.

To the King and Queen “home” was a word with definite significance. The King confessed that his most enjoyable hour of the day was when his wife and daughters, Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret Rose, had tea together. The children loved the scones their mother used to make with such Scottish skill.

When Britain's King George VI visited America in 1939, President Roosevelt greeted him as “George” and served him hot dogs at Hyde Park, his home on the Hudson River in Upstate New York. The monarch was enchanted.

Much history has flowed along the River Thames and under the bridges of London. And the passing years have found me living in San Francisco. On June 4, 1977, The Fairmont San Francisco hotel announced Her Majesty the Queen's Birthday Ball. That year, Prince Charles wrote from Buckingham Palace, “Forty-two years

ago, in 1935, my great uncle, the Duke of Windsor, led an appeal on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of his father, King George V. I now find myself in the proud position of leading a national appeal to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of her Majesty.”

An elderly lady, living on Nob Hill, with her cat, was determined to see Prince Charles in person, for he had won the hearts of all San Franciscans. The activities of the Prince as well as the elderly woman and her cat have been written into a book, *Charlie of Nob Hill*, which is dedicated to Their Royal Highnesses Prince William and Prince Henry of Wales. The author of this book is none other than me Gene Arceri.

April 2011 brought us another wedding at Westminster Abbey where Prince William married Kate Middleton with Prince Henry (Harry) as his brother's best man.

History not only repeated itself, it glorified it.

JL

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Holocaust Deniers

BY JOHN PAUL JARVIS
TORONTO – CANADA

I will cut directly to the chase; holocaust deniers are idiots.

Israel still has citizens with green tattoos from the death camps, difficult to refute.

Revisionists insist the holocaust didn't happen or the numbers are not viable. The efficient SS had back-up documentation including accounting records plus scientific studies of the human experiments with film for the hundreds of camps throughout the German Reich.

Israel has declared "never again" and taken strong measures to underwrite its resolution. This part of the Israeli persona appeals to the world but there is a much more sinister aspect. It helps to soften their sometimes brutal repressions.

In 2006, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, a Palestinian ally and vociferous critic of Israel, hosted a conference for deniers and revisionists, which the U.S. Foreign Service condemned as "baffling and objectionable". The attendees included David Duke, former Grand Dragon of the Klu Klux Klan, and for balance,

a delegation of Orthodox Jews in Hasidic attire.

My unquestionable source refuting Holocaust deniers emerged from a surprise comment while pheasant hunting. Pheasant hunts, like golf, are often used for entertaining clients and guests.

These events take place on private farms with game meals served, sometimes in the field. The "guns", as the hunters are termed, trail disciplined dogs along hedgerows, through briars and across fields. Hemingway, a fabled wing shot, wrote, "Pheasant hunting is worth whatever you have to pay to do it."

Quality dogs are an essential for a successful event and for years I enjoyed the services of Roy Elms a senior member of my skeet club. Roy was a handsome, diminutive Brit who field trialed Springer Spaniels and brooked no nonsense. He was my hunt master constantly accompanied by a cadre of dog handlers.

On this sunny, late winter morning, Jessie, Roy's top Springer bumped birds down range receiving a whistle

reprimand, Roy turned to me apropos of nothing and said with surprising vehemence, "If anybody ever tells you the Holocaust didn't happen, tell them to see me." He fixed me with a steely blue eye and turned towards Jessie to re-explain the rules.

Over our hunt it emerged that Roy "didn't shave" when he joined the King's Service in January 1945. In the spring, he was in Germany as part of the Allied 21st Army Group in Lower Saxony moving toward Berlin. The mission was to search the hamlets and villages for retreating Germans.

At 18, Roy was in the vanguard around the village of Bergen in the Celle district and one of the first Allied soldiers to come upon the abandoned SS death camp Bergen-Belsen. Sixty thousand inmates were still incarcerated in addition to 13,000 corpses.

His life changed forever. Holocaust deniers might want to discuss their theories with Roy.

JL



Making Sense of Your Finances



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Tips For Healthy Eating On A Budget

BY CARLA DRAGNEA
BUCHAREST – ROMANIA

Fast food, junk food and processed food are almost always cheaper than healthy, fresh food. How are people living on a tight budget supposed to eat wisely when healthier foods cost more? We are told that “proper eating” along with exercise can help prevent certain diseases such as heart disease, diabetes, and cancer and others.

We’re told that limiting cholesterol, and trans and saturated fat is heart healthy, but cheap foods are often filled with these fat tabs. We’re told that limiting sugar intake is important for many reasons, including decreasing the risk for obesity and type 2 diabetes, but many processed foods are high in refined sugars.

So, what are some practical steps to eating healthy on a budget? Sometimes people think eating healthy means you must shop at a certain grocery store or purchase only organic food. While there is nothing wrong with this, if you cannot afford to always shop the “right way”, there are some ways you can still

eat minimally processed, healthy foods on a budget.

Buy produce that is in season. These will be cheaper, support local farmers and are also good for the environment. During winter when produce is most likely not in season, save money by buying frozen fruit or veggies. Frozen produce is not less healthy than fresh and it can be stored longer. During summer months, stock up on fresh fruit or vegetables and either freeze or can them so as to have these foods for months ahead when such items are no longer in season.

Make a grocery list and plan your meals. Planning meals can save a lot of money and will cut down on food waste. There are many recipes for cheap, quick, healthy meals. A little planning can go a long way. Keep staples such as fresh fruit, eggs, canned beans and frozen veggies on hand.

Buy in bulk. Packaging is expensive. Buying in bulk is cheaper than buying

the same product in a smaller, pre-packaged container. Things that are easy to buy in bulk include nuts, oatmeal or other grains, dried legumes, dried fruit, and protein powders are some examples.

Practice cooking creatively. When you have leftovers from dinner, try to use them in another meal – add them to a pasta dish, veggie burrito or omelet, or fold them into a soup or sauce. Don’t waste food.

Grow your own healthy foods. You don’t need a lot of space to plant a few of your favourite vegetables, fruit and herbs. If space is an issue, use containers or planters. Get ideas from gardening magazines or do your research online.

JL



LUXURY LIONERS...

The True Origin Of The Internet

BY JO LEE MAGAZINE

NEW YORK / SAN FRANCISCO / HONG KONG / LONDON / TOKYO / ROME / TORONTO

In ancient Israel, it came to pass that a trader called Abraham of Com did take unto himself a young wife by the name of Dot. And Dot of Com was a comely woman, broad of shoulder, and long of leg.

Indeed, she had been called Amazon Dot Com.

And she said unto Abraham, her husband, "Why dost thou travel far from town to town with thy goods when thou can trade without ever leaving thy tent?"

And Abraham did look at her as though she were several saddle bags short of a camel load, but simply said, "How, dear?"

And Dot replied, "I will place drums in all the towns and drums in between to send messages saying what you have for sale, and they will reply telling you which hath the best price. And the sale can be made on

the drums and delivery made by Uriah's Pony Stable (UPS)."

Abraham thought long and decided he would let Dot have her way with the drums. And the drums rang out and were an immediate success. Abraham sold all the goods he had at the top prices, without ever moving from his tent.

But this success did arouse envy. A man named Maccabia did secrete (means hide) himself inside Abraham's drum and was accused of insider trading. And the young man did take to Dot Com's trading as doth the greedy horsefly take to camel dung.

They were called Nomadic Ecclesiastical Rich Dominican Siderites, or NERDS for short.

And lo, the land was so feverish with joy at the new riches and the

deafening sound of drums that no one noticed the real riches were going to the drum maker, one Brother William of Gates, who bought up every drum company in the land. And indeed did insist on making drums that would work only with Brother Gates' drumheads and drumsticks.

And Dot did say, "Oh, Abraham, what we have started is being taken over by others."

And as Abraham looked out over the Bay of Ezekiel, or as it came to be known, eBay he said, "We need a name that reflects what we are."

And Dot replied, "Young Ambitious Hebrew Owner Operators."
"YAHOO!" exclaimed Abraham. And that is how it all began.

Al Gore had absolutely nothing to do with it.

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