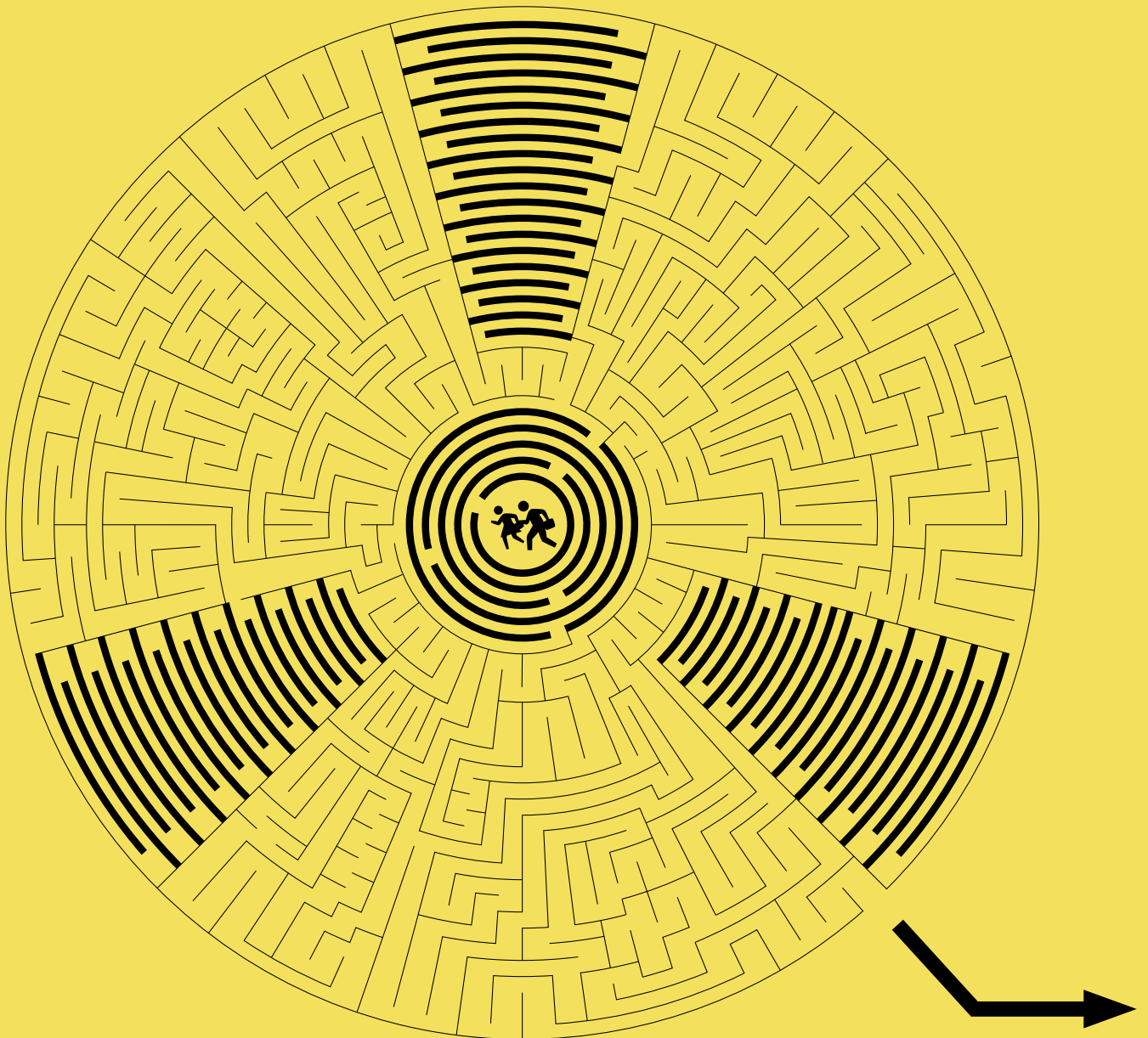




iNTERNATIONALIST
Winter 2006

Can a little lube stop AIDS? *p.10*
Dave Eggers and Sudan's Lost Boys *p.22*
Christopher Hitchens at war *p.44*
Israel's dirty secret *p.42*

FINDING A WAY OUT





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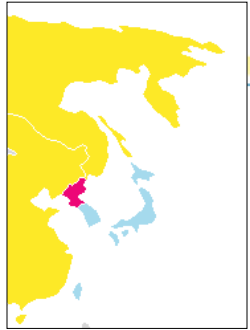
*Christopher Jones
Clothier / Haberdasher
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FOR A BRIEF MOMENT in the '90s, the world seemed like a peaceful place. The Cold War was over, the United States and Russia were no longer poised to destroy the human race with a shower of H-Bombs, and, finally, the world was able to let out a collective sigh of relief. Other problems persisted, but none that threatened global extinction with the push of a button.

Once again, we find ourselves at the edge of a nuclear precipice. As the *Internationalist* goes to press, North Korea claims to have detonated its first nuclear weapon. In the Middle East, Iran continues to insist that nuclear power is its inalienable right. And at home, the recent revelation that the Bush administration has considered using tactical nuclear weapons is fresh in our minds.

Which is why after a short hiatus, the *Internationalist* returns with this issue on nuclear proliferation. We hope that the following pages will, in a very modest way, contribute to a common dialogue, one that will lead to a civilization free of the mushroom cloud nightmare.



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Finding and tracking those elusive weapons of mass destruction.

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KIWI HIP HOP

All the beats + half the gats = twice the fun.

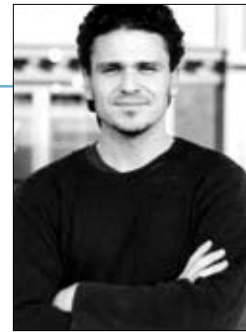
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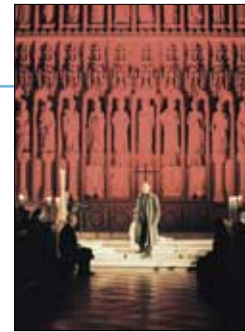
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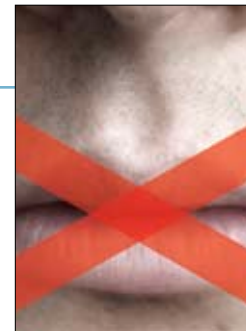
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The clock stops and the world says "cheese" at 11:11 p.m.

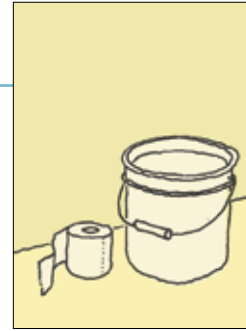
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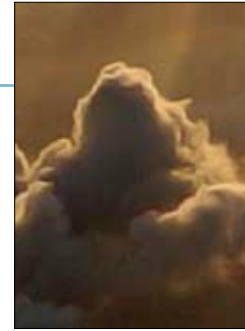
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PIMP YOUR BUNKER

How to kick it in style after the bombs stop falling.

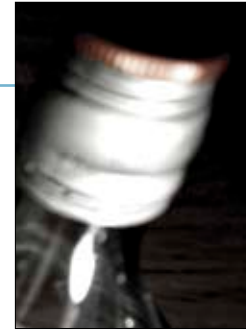
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Americans for Informed Democracy

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creative

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what

We promote programs that encourage discussion and debate about global issues and ideas. We want to interest you, intrigue you. We're here to make you think critically—to question, doubt, and strengthen your ideas. And yes, we also want to entertain you.

when

Quarterly. That's twice per academic semester. So really it's a mutated quarterly. There's the web version, too, which is updated daily.

where

Our offices are nestled in a small but charming loft in downtown Seattle. Our contributors roam the globe and can be found anywhere from Kansas to Turkey. Our readers are located at more than 150 college and university campuses around the country.

why

See who and what, above.

how

Donors, subscribers, and advertisers all make this endeavor financially possible. Free pizzas, day-old bagels, and bottomless cups of coffee also deserve significant credit.

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contact

INTERNATIONALIST
620 ALASKAN WAY, STE. 201
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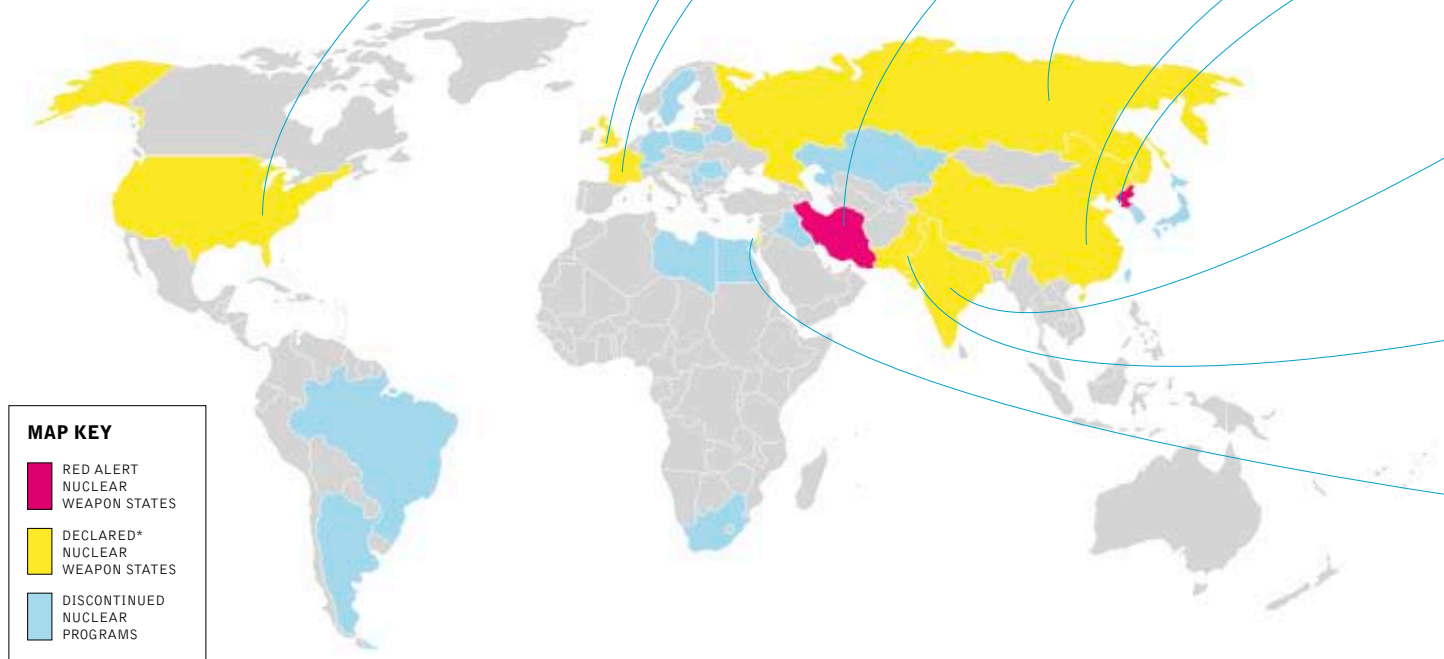
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WORLD VIEW

COUNTING DOWN

The trends are reassuring: the world's nuclear stockpile has significantly decreased since the Cold War, and several states have dismantled their nuclear programs altogether. But is the world any safer? Ambiguous reports, quick excuses, and clandestine alliances are ripe in the uranium enrichment business, and loaded weapons continue to point toward key locations (just ask residents of Kashmir or the Korean Demilitarized Zone). The global tally of 12,500 operational nuclear weapons is no chump change. Check out who's got 'em, who wants 'em, and who's grabbing headlines right now.



US
5,735 operational warheads, 4,225 inactive stockpiles
 As the only nation to ever deploy atomic weapons during warfare, the US has built approximately 55%—70,000—of the global supply of nuclear warheads since 1945. Although most of these warheads have been disassembled, the US Energy Department still stores over 12,000 intact plutonium pits from dismantled weapons.

FRANCE
350 warheads, including SLBMs, SSBNs, and air-to-surface missiles
 In the past decade, France has dismantled its land-based ballistic missiles and retired nuclear bombs intended for aircraft delivery. However, French scientists are currently developing a laser-beam weapon that will simulate fusion reactions, like those caused by hydrogen bombs. The Laser-Megajoule is scheduled for completion in 2011.

RUSSIA
5,800 operational warheads, including 549 ICBMs, 12 SSBNs, 78 aircraft bombers
 Credited with building 43% of the world's nuclear warheads since 1945, Russia remains secretive about its stockpiles and future nuclear plans. The Moscow Treaty limits Russia's strategic warheads to 2,200 by 2012, but the current rate of disarmament suggests its arsenal could shrink below this limit.

NORTH KOREA
5-15 weapons
 Perhaps the world's least stable nuclear power, North Korea claims to have tested a nuclear weapon as the *Internationalist* goes to press (10/10/06). The test comes after two decades of failed diplomatic efforts by the US to prevent the dictatorship from acquiring nuclear weapons. Though an immediate attack seems far from imminent, the display of nuclear technology threatens global nonproliferation efforts.

INDIA
40-50 assembled nuclear warheads, including land-based ballistic missiles, air-delivered weapons, sea-based SLBMs
 India and Pakistan are nearing an agreement regarding the unauthorized use of nuclear weapons, but considering last summer's US-Indian civilian nuclear cooperation deal, India's nuclear capability shows no sign of stagnation. *Defense News* reported that India will have 300-400 nuclear weapons distributed to air, sea, and land forces by 2011.

PAKISTAN
24-48 warheads (in 2001)
 Pakistan is the only Muslim nuclear state, and its capabilities are unknown. However, with help from Beijing, Islamabad appears to be constructing a new reactor capable of producing 50 warheads annually. But is it all hot air? President Musharraf recently disclosed that despite the hype, Pakistan's 1999 arsenal was not strong enough to penetrate India.

ISRAEL*
75-200 weapons, including bombs, missile warheads, possibly non-strategic weapons
 Although not officially declared, Israel generally has been accepted as a nuclear state for several decades. With the French blueprints, British fissile material, and US missiles, Israel claims to have built a "nuclear option, not in order to have a Hiroshima, but an Oslo."

UNITED KINGDOM
200 strategic and sub-strategic warheads
 True to a 1998 declaration by the Labour government, Britain apparently maintains fewer than 200 operational warheads. Britain's sole nuclear weapon system is a fleet of SSBNs loaded with 48 warheads each. The buddy-buddy relationship between British and American weapons designers means the two countries probably have similar arsenal blueprints.

IRAN
unknown
 After Iran failed to convince the world of its peaceful intentions and declined to suspend its uranium enrichment program, the US and the EU have urged the UN Security Council to impose sanctions against the rogue state. Scientific speculation suggests Iran lacks enrichment technology and instead bought uranium products from China in 1991.

CHINA
200 warheads, including land and sea-based missiles, aircraft, and short-range nuclear weapons
 According to a 2004 Chinese Foreign Ministry report, China possesses the smallest nuclear arsenal in the world. However, estimates place Chinese defense expenditures at double or triple officially disclosed figures. Among China's known arsenal is a liquid-fueled DF-5 intercontinental ballistic missile capable of targeting the entire continental US.

NUCLEAR TERMINOLOGY

STRATEGIC WEAPONS
 Weapons designed to threaten large populations or to generally deter attacks.

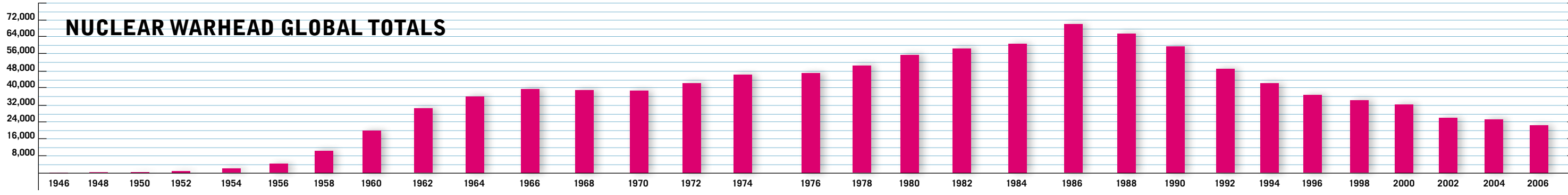
NON-STRATEGIC OR TACTICAL WEAPONS
 Usually smaller-yield weapons designed to actually be used on a battlefield in military situations (torpedos, mines, shells, "suitcase" bombs).

ICBM
 Intercontinental Ballistic Missile—a long range, rocket propelled, guided warhead.

SLBM
 Submarine Launched Ballistic Missile (a type of ICBM).

SSBN
 Ship Submarine Ballistic Nuclear—US Navy's hull classification for a nuclear powered submarine equipped to launch ballistic missiles (SLBMs). Also known as "Boomers," the "SS" can also stand for Silent Service, underscoring their stealth and first strike capabilities.

MIRV
 Multiple Independently targetable Re-entry Vehicles—The US and Russia developed these nasties in part to sidestep their non-proliferation agreements. Re-entry means into our atmosphere. No matter where you are in the world, these can seriously ruin your day. Launched from land or sea, a single MIRV can carry up to ten individually guided warheads, which would collectively have 250 times the destructive power of the bomb that leveled Hiroshima. Yikes.



The toughest job of them all

Changing the world

FIGURES

Zero Number of detainees at Guantánamo Bay who have been convicted of a criminal offense

141 Number of countries party to the UN Convention against torture and other ill-treatment

104 Number of signatories that have tortured people, according to a 2006 report by Amnesty International

5.3 Percentage of reported rapes in England and Wales in 2003 that resulted in a conviction

46 Percentage of reported rapes in the US in 2003 that resulted in a conviction

36C Average bra size of American women today

34B Average bra size of American women 10 years ago

Two minutes Average duration of sexual intercourse (after penetration) for humans

200 MPH Speed at which nerve impulses travel to the brain

20 Percentage of electricity in the US provided by nuclear energy in 2005

73 Percentage of emission-free energy generated by nuclear energy in the US in 2005

15,000 Number of cancer-related deaths in Americans born after 1951 due to radioactive fallout from Cold War nuclear weapons testing

<5 Percentage of HIV-positive children receiving pediatric AIDS treatment

3 Number of confirmed deaths from Avian Influenza in Iraq in 2006 (as of October 10)

93 Number of confirmed deaths from Avian Influenza in Vietnam in 2006 (as of September 28)

18 Number of different animal shapes in the Animal Crackers cookie zoo

2,744 Number of US military deaths in Iraq between March 2003 and October 8, 2006

100,000 Number of Iraqi civilian deaths since March 2003, according to British medical journal *Lancet*

7,000 Number of African Union monitors deployed in Darfur

13 Number of UN Security Council resolutions adopted on Darfur

Zero Number of United Nations peacekeepers deployed in Darfur

20 Percentage of Americans with a passport

\$3 billion US aid package to Israel in 2005

\$53 million US aid package to the Palestinian Authority in 2005

\$11 billion Amount spent on pet food in America annually

50 Number of Bibles sold in America per minute

60 Percentage of atheists and agnostics who say they own a Bible

43,252,003,274,489,856,000 Number of possible color combinations on a Rubik's Cube.



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ASK AN EXPERT

ANNA FORBES is the Deputy Director of the Global Campaign for Microbicides (GCM). The Internationalist asks her what it will take to get microbicides to the people who need them.

TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

"We seldom get anyone saying that they think microbicides are a terrible idea. What we get are people who've never heard of them—which is a problem when it costs as much as \$50 million to do a Phase 3 clinical trial."

SHOW ME THE MONEY

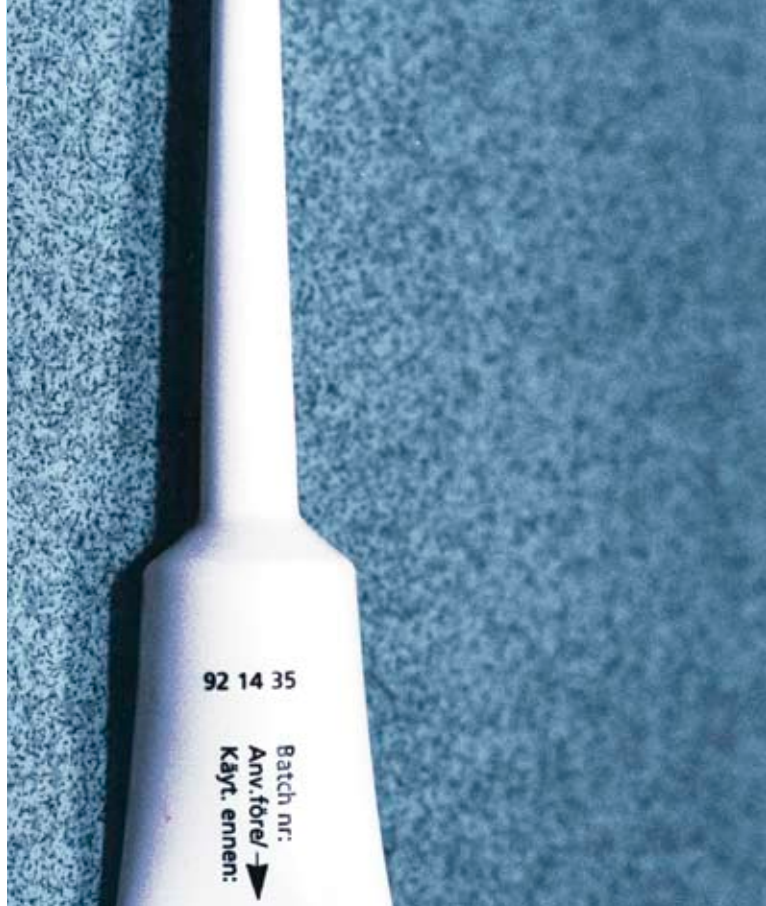
"The biggest problem is that major pharmaceutical companies have not invested in microbicide research. It's an unproven market, and it's not going to be an instant money-maker. It can't be. They have to be as cheap as condoms; that's the only way it's going to work. The big guys don't have to invest the upfront dollars; they can just wait for one of these little biotechs to prove that microbicides work, and then buy the biotech."

THE BIRDS AND THE BEES

"The other real obstacle we face is that to talk about microbicides, you have to talk about penises and vaginas and rectums. You have to acknowledge that lots of people are having lots of sex in lots of different ways, and people are uncomfortable with that. When they talk about HIV/AIDS, they're more comfortable talking about vaccines than about microbicides."

CROSS YOUR FINGERS

"There are four products currently in Phase 3 testing—that means we've already determined that they're safe, and now researchers are trying to determine if they're effective in real-life circumstances. If any of those four proves to be effective, we could have the first microbicide available by the end of the decade, but it's a little like betting on a horse race."



HOW TO

STOP THE SPREAD OF AIDS

IN THE 1980s, it was something that happened to "whores, queers, and junkies." Then in the 1990s, it became an "African problem." Now, six years into the new millennium, the most deadly pandemic in world history is taking on a terrifying new label: AIDS is fast becoming a "woman's disease."

In many places, infection rates for women are three and four times higher than they are for men, and AIDS has become the leading cause of death worldwide for women ages 10-19.

Stopping the spread of AIDS means preventing the transmission of HIV, and right now there are three ways to do that: 1) Abstinence, which provides no protection in cases of rape or forced marriage; 2) Mutual fidelity, which needs to be negotiated by two people—especially difficult when societies encourage men to screw around; and 3) Condoms, which are highly effective when used, but for too many women are not a viable option due to cultural dissonance and the need to bear children.

What's the solution? In the long run it's gender equality, universal access to health care, an end to poverty, and a cheap, effective AIDS vaccine. In the meantime it's microbicides.

Microbicides are topical creams or gels that, when applied before sex, prevent the transmission of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs). As the AIDS epidemic continues to outpace our response, the need for new and better prevention tools has become dire. Microbicides would fill a critical gap, giving women a way to protect themselves from infection that doesn't require their partners' consent. Plus, the non-contraceptive microbicides being developed would still allow them to get pregnant.

ZAK MENKEL



Stop that cell!

Above, an HIV-infected lymphocyte attaches to an epithelial cell from a human cervix. Microbicides work either by killing STI-causing agents or by preventing their attachment in a host, as in the picture above.

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PROFILE

PREPPING THE MASSES

NAME: MEGAN QUINN
AGE: 24
LOCATION: YELLOW SPRINGS, OHIO
OCCUPATION: OUTREACH DIRECTOR OF THE COMMUNITY SOLUTION

IT'S CALLED PEAK OIL, the theory that when humanity exhausts the earth of half of its oil supply, production will peak, then irreversibly decline, the result of which won't be pretty. Luckily for the world there's *The Community Solution*, a non-profit organization dedicated to educating the masses about oil depletion, its crippling effects, and how to ease the transition from stretch Hummer to cozy rickshaw.

Is there any way to prevent the Peak Oil crisis?

The debate is no longer "if" oil will peak, but when, and how quickly production will decline. The faster the decline, the bigger the crisis. If we continue to burn oil as if there's no tomorrow, then the American and world economies will crash much harder—and faster—after we start sliding down the peak.

What are the best and worst-case scenarios of the Peak Oil aftermath?

After the peak, oil will become increasingly scarce and expensive. There will be no immediate substitutes for oil to maintain economic growth in our debt-based, centralized economies. We will face oil shortages far worse than in the 1970s, resulting in worldwide economic collapse and perhaps nuclear confrontation over access to dwindling oil supplies.

In the best-case scenario, nations across the planet agree to reduce their oil consumption to avoid conflict, drastically curtail other energy use, decentralize their economies, promote local food production for local consumption, and install locally controlled renewable energy systems.

You're the Outreach Director for *The Community Solution*. What is the main goal you hope to achieve over the next 5-10 years?

First, we aim to educate people about the impending peak, what it means for their lives, and what they can do about it. We provide information and tools to help individuals cut their energy use, live more locally, and spread Peak Oil awareness in their communities. We hope that Peak Oil and climate change are widely recognized as two aspects of the same problem of over-consumption and that local and global efforts are made to prevent the worst.

What can we do to help prepare for Peak Oil?

First, we need to recognize that we will not live the materially abundant, over-consumptive, energy-wasteful lives that our Baby Boomer-era parents did. Second, we should re-examine our planned occupations, future goals, and consumptive habits in light of imminent oil scarcity and the long-term depletion of oil and other natural resources. Third, we have the responsibility to help our friends, family, and community during this tremendous transition.

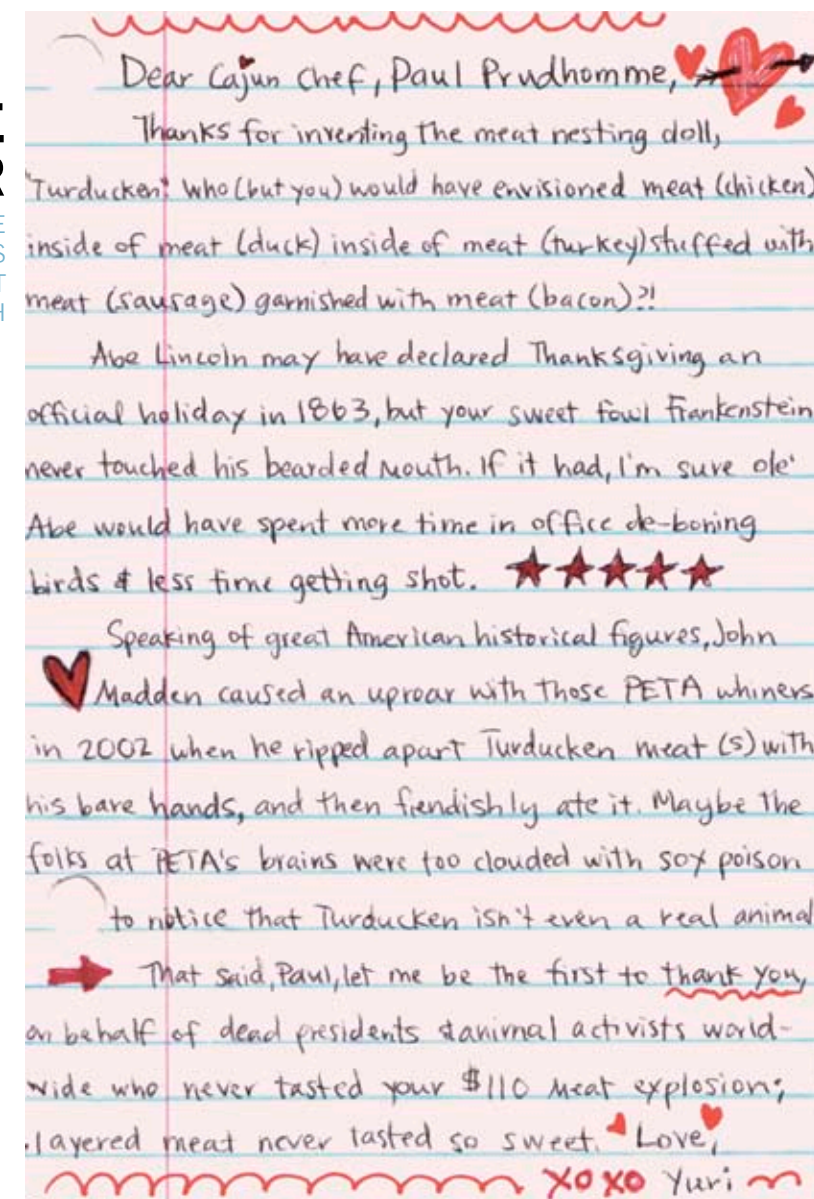
Your website references a new documentary called "*The Power of Community: How Cuba Survived Peak Oil*." What can the US learn from how Cuba deals, and is still dealing, with its own Peak Oil situation?

When the Soviet Union—Cuba's oil lifeline—collapsed in the early 1990s, Cuba lost half of its oil overnight. Transportation halted, people went hungry, and the average Cuban lost 20 pounds. In response, Cubans developed organic agriculture, urban gardens, small-scale renewable energy, and energy-saving mass transit while maintaining free health care and education systems. Cuba provides a model for how people can come together in a community to survive while using much less energy and preserving vital infrastructure.

INTERVIEW BY COTE SMITH

LOVE LETTER

TO LITTLE YURI'S LATEST CRUSH



ENLIGHTENED CONSUMPTION

IF YOU'RE IN THE MARKET for Unconditional Love, Empathy, or Clean Air, you're in luck. The FLOWmarket, an online supermarket based in Copenhagen, sells ideas wrapped in physical packaging. Founded by Mads Hagstrøm, the company is looking to sell "a mindset that [is] both material and immaterial." Feeling blue? Try Good Vibes in an empty spritz bottle. Clearly, the FLOWmarket, which sells goods globally, is somewhere between commentary and commerce, selling scarcity products as if they were real, tangible goods, for real, tangible dollars. And yes, the tangible goods are beautiful; white, familiar—yet oddly empty—containers highlighting their black block-font labels. The ideas for sale—A Feeling of Safety, Identity Finders, and many others—are even more beautiful. More important than its aesthetically pleasing visuals, the FLOWmarket's biggest draw is the way it makes consumers think about their consumption.



Ask God

Dear God,

Hello, I was wondering how you feel about religious extremists killing countless innocents in your name?
—Mortified in the Middle East

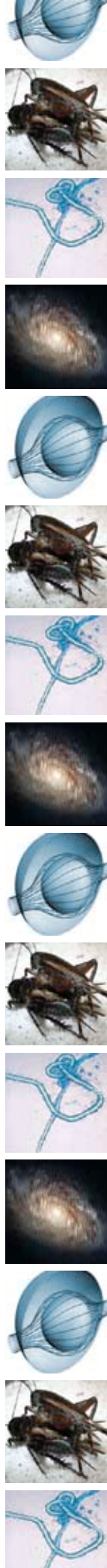
Dear Mortified,

First off, let me just say, “Jihad me at hello.” Get it? I love that movie.
Well anyway, to answer your question, I’m afraid you’ll have to be a little more specific. After all, it’s not like slaughtering one’s earthly brothers and sisters in the name of Me is some new fad. Perhaps you’re talking about that whole Crusades business—boy I’m glad that’s over. Given your geography, however, let’s assume your primary concern is Islamic extremism. Now, don’t get me wrong, I like the extreme—I like extreme sports, extreme makeovers, and if the mood finds me, I’ll even pop in the ‘80s rock ballad “More than Words” by the band Extreme—but not when it comes to religion. Not when it permits the theft of innocent life and the dissolution of the basic magnanimous wisdoms upon which religion was founded.

So yeah, I’d say I’m against it. Not to mention murder in general.
This might sound like I’m oversimplifying an immensely complex problem, but I’m a down-to-earth deity. Keep in mind, I did create the world in one week, and on one of those days I took a pretty solid nap. It also makes for an awkward moment when some dead guy shows up at the gates of heaven and demands a bunch of virgins. I mean, if the goal is to get to the place with the highest virgin population, maybe I should just move the Hajj from Mecca to the annual San Diego Comic-Con.

Your guy in the sky,

GOD



FINDINGS

CLOAKING CONCEPT UNVEILED

The key to invisibility, according to UK scientists, is “metamaterial,” a complex structure made of polymers and tiny metal wires. Incoming light is piped through the material, rather than reflected off it, rendering an enclosed object transparent. As reported in the October issue of *Popular Science* magazine, an invisibility cloak could be on the market within a decade.

SILENCE IS FOR VIRGINS

Ninety percent of male field crickets in Kauai, Hawaii have developed silent wings as a defense against a deadly, parasitic predator. The September 22nd issue of *Biology Letters* reported that the crickets mutated in less than 20 generations—a true wonder of evolution. Sadly, the evolved crickets no longer produce mating calls.

VALUE-ADDED VACCINES

American scientists working to contain biological warfare simultaneously make advances on more commonplace diseases. According to the September/October issue of *Foreign Policy*, the extra cash flowing into biodefense medical research—about a \$1.3 billion increase since 9/11—has funded the development of vaccines for Ebola, the Marburg virus, and Lassa fever.

THE OLDEST THING EVER?

According to the September 14th issue of *Nature*, Japanese astronomers have discovered the most distant galaxy yet. Located about 12.7 billion light years away, the galaxy was formed when the universe was just 750 billion years old. Scientific speculation suggests the new-found celestial system may be the first ever formed, pending forthcoming research.

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LIGHTBOX

26-04-1986

>> Though thousands have died, five million people still inhabit areas contaminated by the world's worst nuclear accident. In memoriam of Chernobyl's 20th Anniversary, seven artists from Russia, Belarus, and Germany painted, stenciled, and airbrushed their way across Pripyat, the town most devastated by reactor four's catastrophic meltdown.

At left, the eerily subtle "child with balloon" gets our vote for creepiest guerilla art shit of the year.

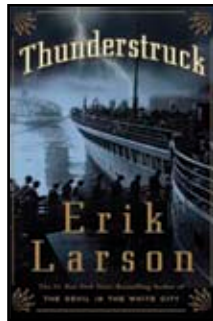
Photo by Sergey Abramchuk
Art by Denis Averyanov
 See more of these works at www.26-04-1986.com.

THE NOT-SO-CURRENT READ
**JEWEL-ENCRUSTED
 ALTAR GOSPEL BIBLE**

Price UNKNOWN
 Publisher UNKNOWN
 Origin RUSSIA, C. 10TH-12TH CENTURY

Though we can't get past the first few pages of this over-edited, literary discharge, its jacket design surely captures the spirit of an era. Nothing says "You're the overworked underclass and God loves you just the way you are" quite like this gilded cover, which your ruddy hands shan't ever sully.

MATT HACKETT



THUNDERSTRUCK
 BY ERIK LARSON
 CROWN (2006)
 \$25.95



THE CURRENT READ
THUNDERSTRUCK

THE BEAUTY OF READING most non-fiction is that even if the writing is atrocious, you can still close the book and think to yourself, "At least I've learned something."

Erik Larson's *Thunderstruck* is not like most non-fiction. Not only will you learn about quarreling scientists and the private life of one of England's most notorious murderers, you will seriously enjoy yourself along the way.

The real protagonist of *Thunderstruck* is a moment in history—in this case the opening years of the 20th century. Unlike other historians who have tried to capture an entire era on the page, Larson focuses on the events and characters that drive the narrative forward. Moreover, Larson's writing, as in his previous book *The Devil in the White City*, is taut, engrossing, and incredibly well researched.

Thunderstruck is about the tenuous relationship between two very different men, Guglielmo Marconi and Hawley Harvey Crippen. The former is a maniacally driven inventor, while the latter is an innocuous, gentle doctor who eventually murders his harpy wife, Belle Elmore, and then mutilates her corpse in an unthinkable brutal manner. Despite their close physical proximity, Marconi and Crippen never meet.

Larson weaves the stories of the two men together with turn-of-the-century wireless technology. More specifically, Marconi invented it, and Crippen was captured by it. Marconi, despite his lack of formal scientific training, spent years searching for the technology to make wireless communication possible, ultimately succeeding in 1901. Thus when Crippen tries to flee England by boat nine years later, the captain of the ship is able to wire Scotland Yard from his ship's recently installed wireless equipment.

Crippen's apprehension at sea is the climax of the novel. The other 350 pages jump between the doctor's tragic saga and Marconi's struggle to bend science to his will. But this background is not merely a vehicle to an exciting dénouement. Even if you've never had the slightest bit of interest in petty scientific rivalries or grisly murders, you'll still giggle as researchers snipe at each other in reputed scientific journals and you'll still cringe at the ghastly details of Belle's demise.

Larson's writing is like a window into the past: each incidental detail—the appreciation of the first showing of "Peter Pan," the discovery that 30% of London lived below the poverty line—reflects the world in which the characters live. It's this skill that makes *Thunderstruck* a cohesive, engaging, work. Though the scope of the book is daunting, Larson's exhaustive research and exuberant storytelling allow history to be more than just setting. It's the best kind of non-fiction: the *history* is the story.

DAVIDA MARION

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OPERA: NOW WITH STREET CRED

MATTHEW PEACOCK gives homeless people voices: as sopranos, tenors, and baritones. The founder of Streetwise Opera discusses the perfect harmony between two seemingly opposite social groups.



How did Streetwise get started?

I [was] volunteering for a night shelter in London, around the time when a British MP said that homeless people were the people you stepped over when coming out of the opera. People knew that I worked in opera. One [homeless] guy said, 'People have assumptions about [the homeless]. If we were in opera, that would change people's attitudes. They would see we are not stupid.'

Can you describe a bit about the world of opera?

Opera [gets] bad press sometimes because it seems to be high status and expensive. But when it's done with some honesty and reality, nothing comes close to it. It's the most incredible combination of visual and aural stimulus—the lights and the costumes and the music.



How does your program work?

We do one big production a year. The aim is to be of national significance so it gets good media coverage ... but also to give about a hundred participants a chance to be in a professional production.

Does your program work because of the specific needs of the homeless population?

What works with the homeless population is that they seem to be not as good as everyone else, and opera seems to be at the opposite end of the social spectrum, so it creates an interesting dynamic. Singing can bring something very powerful to lots of disenfranchised people. We worked with people who hadn't spoken in years, who started communicating and singing in our singing workshops.

How is it possible to arm your participants with enough musical training to prepare them for the performances?

With the homeless and ex-homeless, they've had such incredible lives that if you put them onstage, they will have a connection with the audience that very few people could have. You put that in a professional framework with amazing singers, and the singers bring their expertise, the participants bring their electrifying performance, and you get something that is more special than either group separately.

For more information, visit www.streetwiseopera.org.

INTERVIEW BY
ARIELLE ROSENBERG

NOT YOUR MOMMA'S TOMMY KINCAID

ALANNA HEISS thinks outside the gallery box. In 1971, she founded PS1 Contemporary Art Center (then called The Institute of Art and Urban Resources, Inc.), which has since become the second-largest non-profit, contemporary art museum in the US. As the museum's director, Heiss has curated more than 700 off-the-wall (and on-the-wall) exhibits. Here's a top-five list of Heiss's favorite, non-traditional art venues.

1. MASSACHUSETTS MUSEUM OF CONT. ART (North Adams, MA) Striving to be an open platform for interaction between making and presenting art, Mass MOCA's vast 13 acres house everything from inverted trees to amusement park rides.

2. SCHAULAGER (Basel, Switzerland summer months) The Schaulager doesn't curate exhibitions, at least not in the formal sense. As an open warehouse, visitors view "stored" art. The non-exhibit exhibit creates a secret life for un-curated art.

3. MART ROVERETO (Turin, Italy) The MART Rovereto (primarily interested in Italian futuristic art) is hosting an exhibit until January 2007 entitled "prettymucheverywordwritt en,spoken,heard,overheardfrom1989....," which is pretty much the best-named exhibit ever.

4. LUDWIG MUSEUM: (Budapest, Hungary) This cavernous museum displays international contemporary art as well as exhibiting and contextualizing the past three decades of Hungarian art.

5. KUNST-WERKE (Berlin, Germany) Located in a renovated margarine factory, the KW Institute features rotating modern art exhibits from German and international artists.



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INTO THE UNKNOWN

*Dave Eggers—author, publisher, and founder of McSweeney's Quarterly—spent the past three years writing his third novel, **What is the What?**. The book chronicles the displacement, persecution, and resettlement of Valentino Achak Deng, one of the Lost Boys of Sudan, who came to the US as a refugee in 2001. Like his previous two novels, **What is the What?** is a first person narrative, but it is written as Deng's autobiography and in his voice.*

Below is a passage from the beginning of the novel accompanied by an interview Eggers gave the Internationalist in September of 2006. He discusses the state of international politics, the violence and struggle the Lost Boys endured, and how a mythical "what" may be responsible for the strife in Sudan.

THE EXCERPT

WHAT IS THE WHAT?

PART 1, PAGE 12

In my life I have been struck in many different ways but never with the barrel of a gun. I have had the fortune of having seen more suffering than I have suffered myself, but nevertheless, I have been starved, I have been beaten with sticks, with rods, with brooms and stones and spears. I have ridden five miles on a truckbed loaded with corpses. I have watched too many young boys die in the desert, some as if sitting haphazardly. I watched them lifted from their feet, carried off in the animal's jaws and devoured in the high grass, close enough that I could hear the wet snapping sounds of the tearing of flesh. I have watched a close friend



When God created the very first man in Southern Sudan, according to the legend, he said "You are my chosen people and I love you and I will give you a gift. You have a choice between cattle, which you know very well and will provide milk and meat and a livelihood to you. Or, you can choose the what." The legend goes that the man chose the cattle, that he was very happy about that choice, and the Sudanese were very happy about that choice for thousands of years. But the question was and is, "What was the what?" In more recent thinking, the assumption is that [cattle] was not the right choice—that the "what" went to the Arabs in the north, and that was technology, arms, more sophisticated education, and a tactical advantage over the southern people.

Even these guys who came here with a lot of fanfare, there's still been a lot of struggle and a lot of difficulty.

I think there's a fair amount of media coverage about how great their lives have been—this guy or that graduated from college—but in reality, it hasn't been so glamorous or easy for most of them.

I think constant pressure needs to be placed on our government, on the UN, on Khartoum. John Prendergast, probably this country's most effective expert on issues concerning Sudan, has a plan to hit Khartoum's leaders in the wallet, which might be the only way to end the killing.

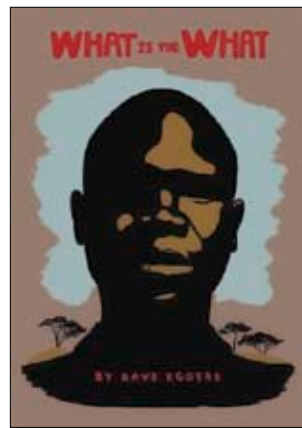
INTERVIEW BY DAVIDA MARION



of mine die next to me in an overturned truck, his eyes open to me, his life leaking from a hole I could not see. And yet, at this moment, as I am strewn across the couch and my hand is wet with blood, I find myself missing all of Africa. I miss Sudan, I miss the howling grey desert of northwest Kenya, I miss the yellow nothing of Ethiopia.

I am tired of this country. I am thankful for it, yes. I have cherished many aspects of it for the past three years I have been here, but I am tired of the promises. I came here, four thousand of us came here, contemplating and expecting quiet. Peace and college and safety.

We expected a land without war and, I suppose, a land without misery. We were giddy and impatient. We wanted it all immediately—homes, families, college, the ability to send money home, advanced degrees, and finally some influence. But for most of us, the slowness of our transition—after five years I still do not have the necessary credits to apply to a four-year college—has wrought chaos. We waited ten years in Kakuma and I suppose we did not want to start over here. We wanted the next step, and quickly. But this has not happened, not in many cases, and in the interim, we have found ways to spend time.



WHAT IS THE WHAT
MCSWEENEY'S BOOKS
OCTOBER 2006
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THE INTERVIEW

The book is in part about the struggle in America right now, but it also covers 15 or so years of Valentino's life in Sudan, Ethiopia, and Kenya. Books always have the luxury of space; you can go into more detail than a movie or magazine article can.

It started in the early 1980s, when the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA), a rebel group made up of Dinka men, rose up against the Islamic government. The government retaliated by attacking villages throughout the south—much like they're doing (or their proxy militias are doing) now in Darfur. Dinka children were subject to enslavement, so thousands of young boys fled their villages. The SPLA helped the boys make it to Ethiopia to the Pinyudo refugee camp. A few years later, when there was a regime change in Ethiopia, the boys were forced back into Sudan by Ethiopian soldiers. Thousands died while crossing back into Sudan. Eventually they made their way to Kenya, where they were the first settlers in the Kakuma Refugee Camp. They stayed there for about ten years, until they were resettled here.

Because there were so many thousands in Kakuma who wanted resettlement, the US wanted to make sure they were getting this certain segment—young boys who had been persecuted by government militias, and had made this epic walk to Ethiopia, but who had not been willing participants in the SPLA.



SHIBUYA SHOWTIME

Television as unpredictable as a sushi dive-bar

JAPANESE GAME SHOWS, with their signature mix of absurdity and comic high jinks, rate among the best television ever created. Here are four shows worth the expense of satellite television.

SANMA NO SUPA KARAKURI TEREBI

Translation Sanma's Super Gimmick TV
The Gist This variety show features a segment called "Elderly Folks' Pushbutton Quiz Corner," where very, very, old Japanese people answer rapid-fire trivia questions.
Why We Love It The drama of watching two 90-year-old women slowly inch their hands toward their buzzers.
Why the Japanese Love It "Sometimes they try to escape to the toilet, sometimes their artificial teeth fall down... Those accidents are funny. The guy running the quiz must really put an effort to keep things orderly."
 —Oki Taisuke

AINORI

Translation The Love Ride
The Gist Seven attractive young Japanese ride around the world in a giant pink van called "The Love Wagon." If at any point a passenger declares his love to another, and it's reciprocated, they kiss and get a joint air ticket home. If the feeling isn't mutual, the passenger returns to Japan—alone.
Why We Love it During the voyage, the travelers do good deeds, like building a giant pink school for African children.
Why the Japanese Love It "I love their van! It's really pink! I would be on this show right now, except they make you appear in a bathing suit at least once an episode."
 —Tomoka Yamamoto

GURU GURU 99

Translation The Rolling 99
The Gist Comedy-duo, "The 99," take two Japanese celebrities to expensive Tokyo restaurants with unmarked menus, invite them to order food, and then make their guests estimate the total cost of the dinner. If the contestants guess correctly, The 99 pay the bill. If they guess incorrectly, the guests foot the bill, which has climbed as high as \$2,000 dollars.
Why We Love It Sometimes the cast goes ice fishing. Just because.
Why the Japanese Love It "I love [host] Okamura. He's really tiny, and he can't have a girlfriend because he has bad breath."
 —Tomoka Yamamoto

SEKIGUCHI HIROSHI NO TOKYO FRIEND PARK II

Translation Hiroshi Sekiguchi's Tokyo Friends' Park II
The Gist When couples compete on the quiz phase of this show, one of them answers questions while the other runs on a treadmill. Miss a question or pass out and you're eliminated.
Why We Love It Later rounds occasionally involve playing air hockey against a man dressed as, say, a giant ice cream cone. Or a hot dog.
Why the Japanese Love It "My mom won't watch this show. She says the participants are having lots of fun, but she's not."
 —Tomoka Yamamoto

SALEEM RESHAMWALA

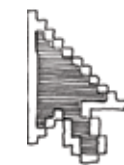


SINCE THEIR FIRST issue in May of 2005, *Candy* has been a showcase of art and design from Ireland and beyond. What started as a 28-page downloadable PDF newsletter has grown into an innovative 238-page salon. Each issue is packed full of striking design and interviews with artists and designers such as James Jarvis, the creator of the delightfully rotund In-Crowd collectable toys (think *Futura* meets Wallace and Grommit). *Candy's* one-year birthday issue featured

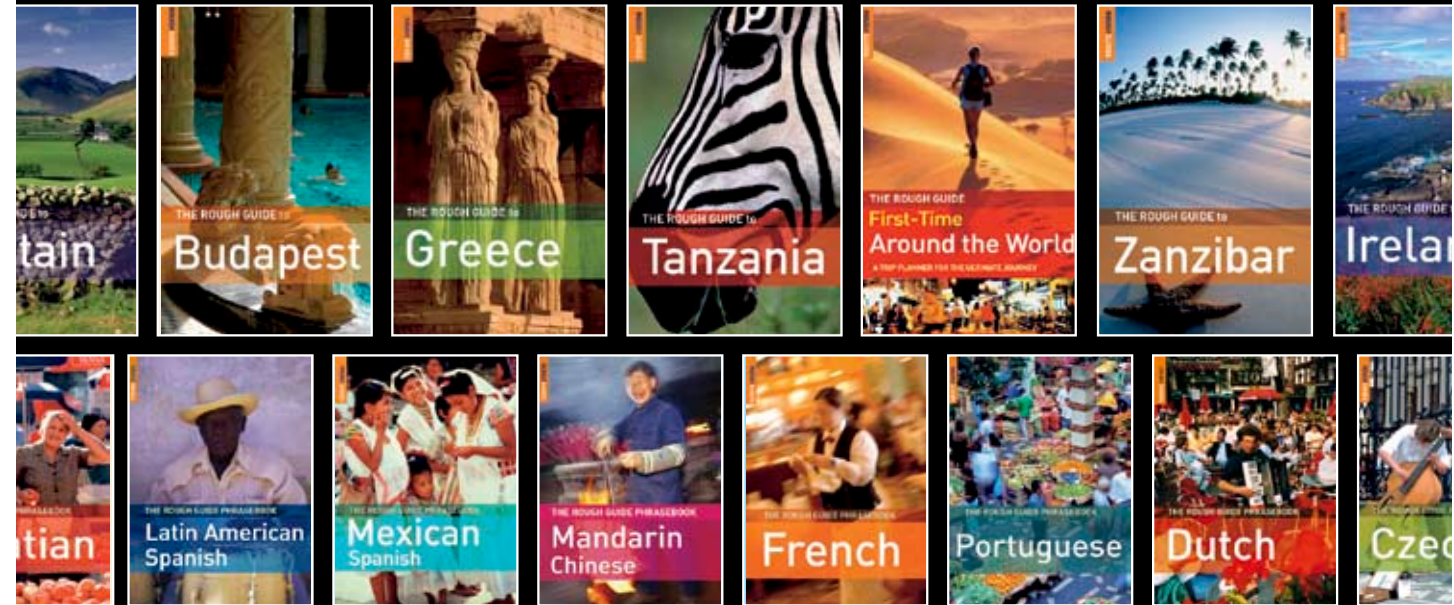
KUDOS! NICE WORK!
 THINGS WE THINK ARE NEAT



a jaw-dropping photo essay, which was shot over two days in the London Transport's lost-and-found. See it at www.candyculture.net



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FROM THE STREETS DOWN UNDER



NEW ZEALAND EMCEES
DROP IT LIKE IT'S HOT

ILL SEMANTICS

Good Musik

[Clientele Records/Illegal Musik, 2006]

With a lead voice reminiscent of Lil' Kim and tracks that sample Talib Kweli, Ill Semantics offers sharp rhymes and glossy choruses. Steady, wall-thumping beats, rapid-fire scratching, and a host of local guests round out this group's latest album.



CHE FU

High Score: The Best Of

[Sony BMG NZ, 2006]

A decade after releasing New Zealand's first platinum hip hop single, *High Score* highlights Che Fu's continued musical dexterity. His effortless fusion of crunk-esque chants and gospel-inspired ballads will have fans of both John Legend and the Yin Yang Twins singing along.



IT TOOK EIGHT YEARS for American hip-hop to cross the Pacific Ocean and crash the shores of New Zealand. It took even longer for New Zealanders to take this stranger into their homes and call it their own. But despite its late-bloomer status, New Zealand hip-hop today sounds, at least on the surface, just like its American cousin. If you listen past the beats, however, you discover an entirely different ethos of lyric philosophy and production.

As in the US, hip-hop in New Zealand is largely the domain of minority cultures—notably the native Maori, as well as Tongans, Samoans, and other Polynesians. But the familiar urban issues that pervade American hip-hop are chiefly absent from the New Zealand scene. The Polynesians were colonized, rather than displaced and enslaved. The 4 Corners rap on their track "Urban Maori," "I had to ask about my culture / what does it mean / he turned and laughed / you a city slicker boy / we learned from our past." Polynesians know exactly where they come from, which has allowed their culture to survive.

Contemporary living in New Zealand certainly follows a Western lifestyle, but the islands' political framework—a welfare state that provides universal healthcare—doesn't allow for the depths of poverty that can be found in the US. And so, the culture does not reproduce America's emphasis on the accumulation of individual wealth. As a typical example, The Crusader, an album put out by top Samoan rapper Scribe, is stacked with bravado, touting his lyrical prowess rather than his material wealth: In "Scribe Unltd," he explicitly plays down bling in favor of talent with the couplet, "Material things will return to dust eventually / I'll be the MC whose lyrics will last infinitely."

The violent imagery that is so prevalent in American hip-hop is also noticeably absent from most Kiwi lyrics. Perhaps New Zealand's stringent gun control laws, generous financial support, and universal healthcare lessen the prevalence of dire circumstances that might lead people to a violent lifestyle. Whatever the reasons, groups like Nesian Mystik, a multi-ethnic crew, have built their success on a bedrock of positivity. In their song entitled "Brothaz," they rhyme "My man we got history running deep beneath the physical / Connected together never rolling as individual."

Ultimately, tangible optimism seems to have taken the place of the standard American trappings of wealth and bitches. On an island nation with only about four million residents, there's understandably an underdog psychology that crops up when faced with breaking into any global market, a situation that breeds national unity and pride throughout the hip-hop community. It's as likely that you'll find an MC boasting about his own skills on the mic as giving shout-outs to other Kiwi acts.

It's refreshing to find New Zealanders rooting for each other—rather than feuding, as American artists have been known to do—in an attempt to pull together and draw some attention, both domestically and internationally, to what's happening on their remote archipelago. When my iTunes shuffles through the New Zealand playlist, my head nods to the attitude as well as the music.

WILL FAIN

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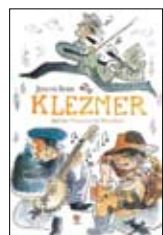
NOTEWORTHY
MOVE OVER, JACKIE CHAN



DISTRICT B13
[Magnolia, 2004]

It's France, and the year is 2010. When Lola, a young, pretty supermarket clerk is dragged off by an armed thug, her customer doesn't even blink. That's because she lives in B13—a walled-off ghetto in Paris where there are neither cops nor laws. The convoluted plot involves an armed neutron bomb and a crime-lord, but the reason you should watch this movie—and you really should—is David Belle, the actor who plays Leïto, Lola's heroic brother. Belle is the co-inventor of *parkour*, a French-derived sport that focuses on fluid motion, creating harmony between a person and whatever obstacle might be in his path. There are breathtaking chase scenes where Leïto and Damien, an undercover cop, contort their (extremely attractive) bodies to flow through the urban landscape while upbeat French techno urges them faster. At one point, Damien jumps through an open minivan window to land smoothly in the passenger seat. With only 24 hours to find the bomb, they jump, vault, and climb desperately to save the lives of the two million people living in B13 who are considered by the government to be problematic “scum.”

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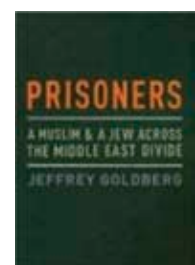
KLEZMER
by Joann Sfar
[First Second, 2006]

Klezmer music originated with Jewish musicians, wandering from village to village, playing their unique blend of music for food and lodging. Sfar's newest comic book details the lives and hardships of one such band of musicians, evoking Jewish folktales and art with her enjoyably rambling narrative and Chagall-inspired watercolors.



WORLDCHANGING: A USER'S GUIDE FOR THE 21ST CENTURY
by Alex Steffen
[Harry N. Abrams, Inc., 2006]

Finally, a practical, straightforward book that actually helps you live the way you wished you could. There's abstract writing to make the theory works happy, but also tons of clear step-by-step directives about everyday life for everyone who just wants to live and breathe a little (or a lot!) greener.



PRISONERS: A MUSLIM AND A JEW ACROSS THE MIDDLE EAST DIVIDE
by Jeffrey Goldberg
[Knopf, 2006]

As a Zionist, a Jew, and a Middle East correspondent for *The New Yorker*, Jeffrey Goldberg spends a lot of time with people who hate his guts. In his memoir, *Prisoners*, Goldberg tries to become friends with a devout Palestinian man. Not a big deal, right? Except that Goldberg was once the man's guard at Israel's largest prison.

USED PUT SOME MILES ON YOUR LIBRARY CARD



KEEP THE RIVER ON YOUR RIGHT: A MODERN CANNIBAL TALE
[New Video Group, 2001]

In 1955, Tobias Schneebaum entered the Peruvian Amazon a curious gay artist, emerging months later a traumatized gay cannibal. He returns 45 years later to find his tribe and conquer his demons. Both an intimate character study and a fascinating sociological documentary, this flick will shock and delight you, as well as make you wonder what *it* tastes like.



LOS HEROES
Estrellas de Areito
[Nonesuch Records, 1999]

Originally recorded in the late '70s, Los Heroes was all but forgotten due to the US embargo of all things Cuban. Its collaborators are many of the musicians on the Buena Vista Social Club series, except then, they weren't old and broken; they were young and full of hope.



THE SIDEWALKS OF NEW YORK: TIN PAN ALLEY
[Winter & Winter, 1999]

This edition in Winter & Winter's audio-film series evokes late 1800s Manhattan and the music that absorbed 28th Street's Tin Pan Alley. The music is nostalgic as well as diverse, showcasing the different kinds of musicians that flocked to the "Street of Songs" looking for success, but often finding nothing more than the gutter.

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WORLDLY ADVICE

SHASHI THAROOR

Shashi Tharoor was 22 years old when he earned his doctorate and began working for the UN. His career has taken him from refugee camps in Singapore, to peacekeeping operations in the former Yugoslavia, to Kofi Annan's inner circle. The renowned diplomat, humanitarian, and author talks about his life, his job, and how to be a force of positive change.

FIRST, care about what's happening in the world.

SECOND, get involved in international affairs societies and Model UN groups, take a stand on issues, write letters to editors. What's important is engaging yourself in the world.

FINALLY, I advise people to just do what they enjoy doing, and then leverage that skill. We need accountants; we need lawyers; we're not just all experts in humanitarian problems.

I WORKED TOO HARD for a period of time when [I] should have enjoyed a bit of life. I was terrified of my scholarship running out, and I had no other means of supporting myself, so I decided to get my work done as rapidly as possible. I'm proud of the work I did, but I'm not sure if it would have done me, or the world, any great damage had I taken the time to travel and grow up a bit.

MY KIDS ARE NOW 22 and just graduated, and I'm telling them to take a year off and figure out what they want to do with their lives, and I envy them. They've given themselves the kind of time I never did.

I'VE BEEN TO ALL SEVEN CONTINENTS and there isn't a particular spot that I'm dying to go, but I'd love to have the time and freedom to accompany an Indian cricket team and watch them play in the Caribbean.

IF WE WANT THE WORLD TO CHANGE, we [the UN] have to change too. Change in a direction that makes us more effective, more efficient.

WE'RE NOT A WORLD GOVERNMENT; we're an assembly of sovereign states. An intragovernmental organization is not meant to be an independent entity with its own political will. We borrow political will [from countries] just as we borrow resources from them—finances, military, everything. So when member states agree, yes, we make progress. When member states don't agree, the UN has never developed the capacity to solve the problem. We [saw] this in Lebanon.

MY TIME HEADING THE UN HIGH COMMISSION office for refugees in Singapore, at the peak of the boat crisis, was an extraordinary experience. When I put my head to the pillow at night I really [felt] that I made a difference to human beings who were not just abstractions, but people I could actually see. People are growing up French, American, or Canadian today because I was persistent enough to persuade people to take them into those countries. That's an amazing responsibility.

WHEN THE MEDIA LATCHES ON to a particular subject, sometimes they don't allow enough space for other considerations.

I REMEMBER ATTENDING A PRESS CONFERENCE OF KOFI ANNAN'S in the beginning of [2003] where he covered something like 16 subjects, and the only one that was reported on was Iraq.

IRAQ IS, OF COURSE, IMPORTANT. But there are plenty of other troubles around the world that don't get the sunlight of media coverage and popular exposure.

THE RELEVANCE OF THE UN HAS NEVER BEEN GREATER because we are now dealing with problems without passports: problems like climate change, disease, terrorism, drug trafficking, human rights, [and] refugees... The kinds of problems that by definition, nature, and origin are international. The solutions, therefore, have to be international. No one country, or group of countries, however rich or powerful, can solve these problems on their own.

TO KNOW THAT THE WORLD IS TAKING CHARGE—not any one government, [but] the collective interest of people—that's the great advantage of the UN. I think that in a global world where everyone's problems are also ours, the UN remains most relevant.

I BELIEVE IN THIS INSTITUTION. That's what has sustained me. We are actually able to channel the interests of all humanity. It really is an instrument for a better world, for a better life.

BOSSING AROUND

WHAT'S IT GONNA TAKE TO FIX THE UN?

BY AYCA ARIYORUK



If you ask United States policy makers to explain why reform at the United Nations has stalled, you'll hear one answer:

Developing countries, which comprise the majority of UN member states, are not interested in reform. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Blame for the failure of UN reform is often levied at the Group of 77 (G-77), a coalition of 132 developing countries—the largest coalition at the UN. In April, critics observed, the G-77 voted to block a package of reform proposals promulgated by Secretary-General Kofi Annan that were designed to make the organization more modern and efficient. In July, the group approved only limited measures.

In the first proposal, the Secretary-General sought to equip himself with greater power to manage the organization, by expanding his authority to shift resources to accommodate changing priorities without having to seek approval from the 192-member committee responsible for administrative and budgetary matters. The G-77, along with China, also rejected a second proposal to shrink the size of the budgetary committee from 192 to about 30-40 members. The reformed committee would have included only the UN's top ten financiers plus a group of rotating members from the developing countries. The idea was to allow faster decision-making, and to give the top contributors—such as the US, Japan, and the 25-member European Union—more say on how their money is spent.

However effective the two proposals might have been, they would have shifted power in the UN away from developing countries and into the hands of wealthier, industrialized nations. Spotting a bad deal, the G-77 decided to block the reform proposals rather than sacrifice their own foreign policy goals.

The G-77's actions, one could say, violate the spirit of the UN, a multinational organization where countries sacrifice sovereignty for the sake of a noble collective cause. But it is no secret that governments join the UN to pursue their national interests. Take John Bolton, the United States ambassador to the UN. Bolton has never shied away from speaking forthrightly of his mission at the UN. "The purpose of diplomacy is principally to advance your country's interest," Bolton told *Newsweek* in December 2006. "[I]f it [the UN] works, we will use it."

The United States has set the tone on UN reform, and following its example, other countries have explored every possible way to exploit the reform process to their ends. For instance, in 2005, knowing the United States would not consider the elimination of the veto in the Security Council—the body of the UN charged with maintaining peace and security between nations—the 53-member African Union put forward a proposal that would have given veto powers to three African countries. Currently, only five member

states possess veto power. The African Union knew the proposal, if accepted, would have been an even greater disaster for the Security Council, further impeding its ability to act efficiently and effectively. But they pushed anyway because the current veto holders refused to give up their privilege. In the process, the reasons behind Security Council reform—to make it more flexible, fair, effective, and accountable—were simply forgotten.

Who, then, is going to fix the UN? The next Secretary-General—South Korea's Foreign Minister, Ban Ki-moon—will be the primary agent charged with the task. Maintaining a delicate equilibrium of power among the industrialized and developing nations in the UN's decision-making machinery will be the key obstacle to UN reform.

In order to succeed, the Secretary-General will need the help of the United States to repair the mistrust directed at the country. For starters, the US needs to rethink its approach to reform. The spending cap the US placed on the UN budget to speed up the reform process both failed *and* poisoned the environment. The United States should adopt a 'carrots' policy toward reform, offering tangible incentives to poor countries. The US already missed one great opportunity to do so when it killed a resolution that would have given the General Assembly more say in naming the next Secretary-General—a decision currently made by the five permanent members of the Security Council.

But more opportunities await Washington. If Washington is serious about strengthening the office of the Secretary-General they should call for a single seven-year term for the Secretary-General instead of two five-year terms. Without the worries of re-selection, the Secretary-General could act more independently, especially from the five permanent members of the Security Council. The General Assembly would then be more willing to shift administrative and budgetary powers to the next Secretary-General, equipping him with the means to effectively manage the organization.

The United States must acknowledge that at the UN, the power of the ballot beats the power of the bullet and the purse. To foster an environment conducive to compromise, the US could start by offering small compromises itself. Likewise, the G-77 and other developing countries, which benefit significantly from the UN's services, should not be guided by a false sense of power simply because they have the votes to pass resolutions in committee. Otherwise, the next Secretary-General will remain just one person pushed around by 192 bosses.

Ayca Ariyork is senior associate of the United Nations Association of the USA's Global Policy Programs

THE AMERICANS ARE COMING... HOPEFULLY

GRAB YOUR PASSPORT. PACK YOUR BAG. IT'S TIME TO SAVE THE WORLD AND RESTORE THE GOOD NAME OF THE USA.

BY FORREST DUNBAR



These are bleak days for America's self-image.

The reminders come, nearly every day in the form of bullets and news bulletins, that in many parts of the world the US is deeply unpopular.

A recent Pew Foundation poll found that more than 70% of foreigners support the rise of another military power to challenge the US. Even in India, a close American ally, positive opinions of the US are down 15% in the last year. And Americans seem to have gotten the hint: 42% believe the US should "mind its own business internationally and let other countries get along the best they can on their own."

Yet, despite the twin trends of anti-Americanism and homegrown isolationism, every year tens of thousands of Americans travel overseas as volunteers to places that welcome their arrival. The US's leaders, eager to improve the country's stead in the world, are increasingly citing the volunteers as a model for the rest of the country.

"Do not sell us short," former Secretary of State Colin Powell urged in a speech last June. "One way not to sell us short is to take that which we still have as a valuable commodity—who we are and what we are—and send it overseas in the form of volunteers." The belief driving this policy objective is that direct contact with hardworking, well-meaning Americans is one of the most powerful antidotes to anti-Americanism. It is a belief shared by President Bush, who recently called for a doubling of the Peace Corps, still the nation's premiere international volunteer program, and bipartisan leaders like Democratic Senator Harris Wofford and former Bush advisor John Bridgeland.

Unfortunately, the total overseas volunteerism remains far below levels necessary to create real change at home and abroad. If nothing is done, this will remain unchanged into the future. The Peace Corps expansion promised by the Bush administration never materialized. The modest increase of \$30 million for the 2007 budget will only be enough to keep the number of volunteers at current levels with rising security costs.

The primary barriers to scaling-up international volunteerism are financial constraints. The Peace Corps is a unique program in that the volunteer experience is fully funded by the federal government. Volunteers receive free travel, housing, health care, and even a small stipend, for a modest price tag of \$300 million a year. In comparison, we are spending approximately \$195 million a day in Iraq. Yet the Peace Corps finds itself under persistent attack from Congressional budget hawks, making a significant expansion of the program unlikely.

Private volunteer programs demand hefty fees, putting the experience out of reach for many low-income Americans. Cross Cultural Solutions, one of the country's largest volunteers agencies, offers 2-12 week programs ranging from \$2,489 to \$5,206—a substantial sum. Other programs, like Doctors without Borders or Volunteers for Prosperity, place highly skilled American professionals overseas, but participation requires the financial

resources to work pro bono or at reduced rates, and the pool of qualified applicants is only so deep.

So what can be done? Lex Rieffel, a scholar at the Brookings Institution, has proposed an innovative way to get more Americans in volunteer positions overseas. By using federal catalyst funds to leverage already-existing non-profit networks, the government could reduce program fees and increase the number of Americans serving overseas. In other words, the government could subsidize NGOs, to help them expand and make volunteer opportunities more widely available to Americans. This kind of stimulus program is the basis of AmeriCorps*State and National, one of the most successful initiatives of the last decade. "In 2005, at least 50,000 Americans participated in NGO and corporate programs," Rieffel said. "That number could be [doubled] with a program like AmeriCorps that leverages private funding."

Appropriating federal funds can be accomplished in two ways. The first would be to amend the authorizing legislation of the Corporation for National and Community Service (AmeriCorps' oversight agency), which is currently prohibited from funding overseas projects. This would be accompanied by an increase in funding for CNCS. The second is the creation of a new organization, either within or outside CNCS—something like AmeriCorps*International. Because the programs this agency would support with grants would not be fully funded by the government, the cost per volunteer would be substantially lower than that of the Peace Corps. This is not to suggest that the Peace Corps be cut. AmeriCorps*International could serve as a complement to the Peace Corps, attracting applicants unable to commit to the Peace Corps' 27-month duty, thereby reducing the Peace Corps' attrition rates. AmeriCorps*International might also have a better chance to receive funding in today's suffocating budgetary atmosphere, particularly if the grants were available to faith-based organizations for non-proselytizing purposes.

Whether it is through AmeriCorps*International, the Peace Corps, professional programs, NGOs, or independent projects, the fundamental goal is getting more American feet on foreign soil in constructive, interdependent ways. International volunteerism binds the US to the world, and simultaneously communicates the best aspects of America to foreign populaces, unfiltered by politics, rhetoric, or media biases. We owe it to the world—from which we have received so much—and to ourselves, to vastly scale up international service. In the words of Muhammad Ali, "Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on Earth."

Forrest Dunbar is a 2005 Truman Scholar and a former intern at The Brookings Institution. He is currently serving as a Peace Corps volunteer in the nation of Kazakhstan.

A

What do Pluto and Star Jones have in common? Up until 2006, both were mistaken for planets. But seriously folks, it's been a turbulent year on Earth, and we think a moment of reflection is in order. We've chosen the following events not as a comprehensive recap, but as a cross-section of the last 12 months. Some were big news; some were obscure. Some make us nervous, and others make us laugh, but each of them had a hand in shaping our year. So here it is, 2006, alphabetized for your pleasure.

2006 YEAR IN REVIEW

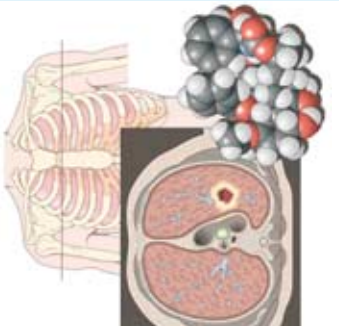
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G

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE
In his State of the Union address in January, President Bush admitted it: "America is addicted to oil." He followed the statement with a plan to reduce US oil imports from the Middle East by more than 75% by 2025 through the advancement of clear-air technologies. Yet at the end of the year, Al Gore is still the only national figure loudly trumpeting the, er, *Inconvenient Truth* of America's oil addiction.

AGING DICTATORS
In a last-ditch attempt to escape justice at the International Criminal Court, Slobodan Milosevic decided to croak in March. In July, Fidel Castro "temporarily" handed over power to his brother, Raul, but Fidel's subsequent absence from media appearances begot widespread conspiracy theories suggesting that he had died. Wild celebrations in the Cuban-American community ensued. In the meantime, General Alfredo Stroessner, the 35-year "president" of Paraguay, known for his cruelty and Nazi sympathies, kicked the bucket mid-August.



A

CURING CANCER?
This year, mad scientists Omid Farokhzad and Robert Langer found a way to cram a lethal dose of a chemical called docetaxel into a polymer one-thousandth the width of a human hair. The polymer dissolves only inside cancerous human cells, and docetaxel kills prostate cancer. Brilliant! Though this brand-new treatment has some exciting potential, funding problems and time-consuming safety tests have kept it under wraps in 2006.

BUFFETT, WARREN
Not to be confused with the crooner who shares his surname, Berkshire Hathaway giant Warren Buffett gave over \$40 billion to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in June. The gift came with only one stipulation: the Foundation must give away about \$1.5 billion each year, plus all the money it will have accumulated from the investment of it. This all shakes down to a substantial amount of funding for preventing and finding cures for malaria, HIV/AIDS, and tuberculosis in the next decade.



DEMOCRATIC ASPIRATIONS
In the past year, we've learned that spreading democracy is a lot like contracting Mono: it's more difficult to do than you've heard, and it won't win you any friends. Before Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood won elections in Palestine and Egypt, "planting the seed of democracy" in the Middle East seemed like a foolproof plan to win the hearts of our enemies. Oops. But as long as cooing autocratic dictators in exchange for their oil is the other option, both ends of the political spectrum are still rolling up their sleeves for representative government.



FOOT-IN-MOUTH
(Not so) heart-felt apologies were ripe in 2006, from the Vatican to Capitol Hill. In September, Pope Benedict XVI apologized for sparking a worldwide conflagration when he remarked that the Prophet Muhammad contributed "things only evil and intuman" to the world. Sen. George Allen, R-VA and a 2008 GOP contender, twice used the word "macaca"—the name of a monkey native to Asia—to refer to a political opponent's aide. Allen has since apologized to the aide, who is of Indian descent.



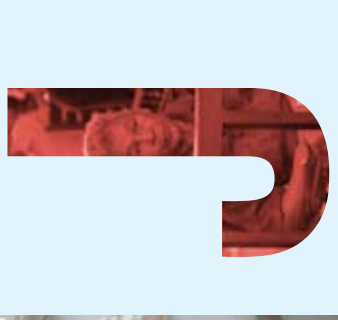
GOVERNMENT EDUCATION
By Summer 2006, all public school teachers were supposed to have been labeled "highly qualified," according to the much-maligned No Child Left Behind Act. Instead, teachers' unions spent the season trying to overthrow the plan entirely, insisting that its rigid systems of qualification and standardized testing are not effective. We'll have to wait to see if No Child Left Behind is left behind itself.



HOBBITS?
The 18,000-year-old bones of "little people" that were found in Flores, Indonesia in 2004 were the subject of renewed debate this fall. Some insist that the bones are evidence of a previously undiscovered, Frodo-sized species (dubbed *Homo floresiensis*) of the ancestral human family. Another international team of paleontologists and anatomists argue that the little people were just modern homo sapiens, suffering from microcephaly, a disorder that causes smaller-than-normal head size. So that's where Bilbo went!



IMMIGRATION DEBATES
Throughout the summer months, hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets, wrote their representatives, and otherwise debated Republican-sponsored congressional immigration reforms. The new bills (HR 4437 and S 2611) included building a fence between Mexico and the US, increasing border security, and provisions for current illegal immigrants to gain citizenship.

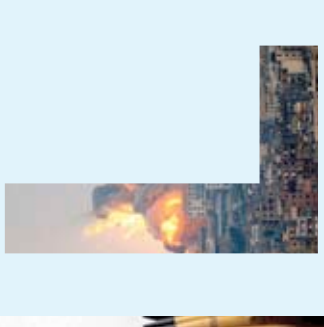


JUST DESSERTS
Surviving leaders of the Maoist-extremist Khmer Rouge organization will finally be brought to court for the humanitarian atrocities and acts of genocide they committed in Cambodia between 1975 and 1979. In July, Justice Minister Ang Yong Vathana announced that the judges had been sworn in and that the tribunal would begin mid-2007.

KOSSOCK CONNECTIONS
To its critics, the left-wing blogging alliance known as Daily Kos is an over-typed media phenomenon with a go-nowhere agenda. But with Jimmy Carter, John Kerry, Ted Kennedy, and Harry Reid stuffing Kos' coffers, they've proven they can be a potentially formidable political force. An official endorsement for Connecticut Senate candidate Ned Lamont (who beat Joe Lieberman in the August primary) launched the blog into front-page news and left both parties clicking "refresh" with bated breath.



LEBANESE-ISRAELI WAR
The Iranian and Syrian-backed terrorist organization, Hezbollah, kidnapped two Israeli soldiers in July. Israel responded with an air attack. Hezbollah with rockets, and by August we had a full-scale war, which ended, predictably, in horrible civilian casualties and a half-hearted ceasefire. At a G-8 conference, President Bush commented glumly, "It's now become clear why we don't have peace in the Middle East."





MEMORY SLEEP

Beauty sleep was so 2005. In July, *Current Biology* gave us another reason to leave the library and hit the sack. According to the research, people who went to sleep after studying number pairs had a 76% recall rate during a test the following morning. Those who stayed up, studied other things, and completed "distracting tasks" (PlayStation, anyone?) remembered only 32%.



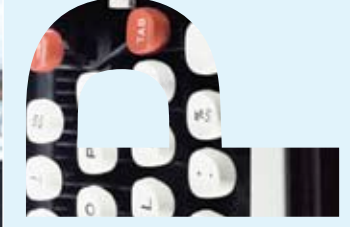
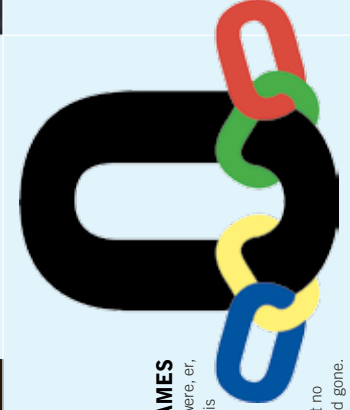
NEOCONSERVATISM

For a while there, neoconservatism was the buzzword to end all buzzwords. But it became passé when even Francis Fukuyama, one of the brains behind the political movement, renounced the idea earlier this year in a *New York Times Magazine* article. Fukuyama went so far as to compare neoconservatism to Leninism, arguing that a unilateral overthrow of an authoritarian regime leaves everyone involved with more troubles than they bargained for. Whoops!



OLYMPIC GAMES

The Winter Games in Turin this year were, er, there were Winter Games in Turin this year? With ratings down 40% from Salt Lake City in 2002 and a conspicuous lack of dramatic overtones (Kerri Strug, anyone?), the only mark the Olympics made on 2006 was that no one really noticed they'd come and gone.



PEN PALS

Just when it seems like old-fashioned diplomacy died with the poodle skirt, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad goes and sends an 18-page, single-spaced letter to President Bush in May, marking the first contact between the two nations' heads of state in 26 years. Unfortunately, Ahmadinejad is insane. Instead of addressing the current nuclear situation, the letter intimated that Holocaust may or may not have happened and that the US government may or may not have been involved in the 9/11 attacks. Bush didn't write back.



QUACK CURES

The stem cell research conducted by Hwang Woo Suk gave hope to millions with currently incurable diseases. But when he admitted in January of this year to faking the results of an attempt to extract stem cells from cloned human embryos, his rise to international fame was replaced with a plummet to international embarrassment. A word to the wise in the scientific community, don't make shit up.



SURVEILLANCE ISSUES

In an August trial between the ACLU and the NSA, a federal judge ruled that eavesdropping on telephone conversations between American and foreign parties without a warrant from the US Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court is illegal. President Bush responded by saying that spying for counter-terrorism purposes is legal nonetheless, based on "inherent presidential powers."



RADIO STARS, RIP

While FM radio isn't quite dead, listening time and ratings dropped significantly in 2006, partly due to cult-followed personalities such as Bob Dylan and Howard Stern defecting to XM satellite radio. But XM did not revolutionize the airways in 2006 like analysts expected. Access to iPods and ubiquitous free, a-hem, *pirated* music were blamed for the lack of interest. But with AirTran, Jet Blue, and United all outfitting their aircraft with XM content early this year and monthly subscriptions to XM dropping to below \$10 a month, perhaps it won't be long before XM kills the radio star.



THWARTED TERRORISTS

On June 2nd and 3rd, Canadian police arrested 17 members of an Islamist terrorist cell in Ontario. The group had evidently been planning to open fire on crowded areas and truck-bomb major government sites. Two months later, on August 10th, United Kingdom officials arrested 24 in connection with a plot to combine an explosive cocktail of liquids aboard flights from the UK to the US.



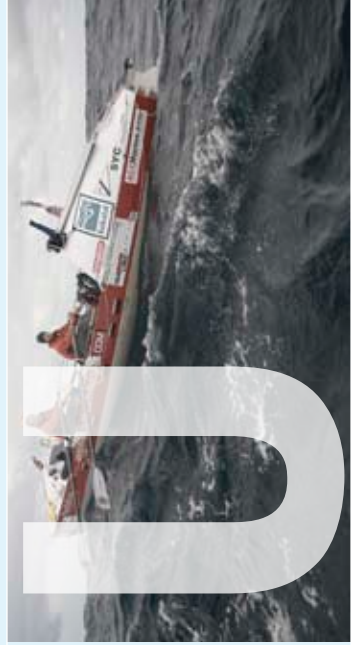
UNBELIEVABLE FEATS OF STRENGTH

Four Seattle-based men, aged 23 to 28, spent 72 days rowing a boat across the Atlantic Ocean, from New York to Falmouth, England, becoming the first American team to ever make the voyage. Their team, OarNorthwest, returned home having raised more than \$25,000 for the American Lung Association and earning an entry in the Guinness Book of World Records.



WORLD CUP SOCCER

Much was made of the enthusiastic, star-spangled-banner-draped fans at the World Cup this year in Germany. That's because as far as population ratios are concerned, the US fan base consisted of four guys and a tube of face paint. But hey, according to the BBC, what US fans "lacked in numbers, they made up for in spirit"—spirit that was rewarded by one of our boys' most dismal World Cup performances ever, in which they won none of their three games and scored one measly goal.



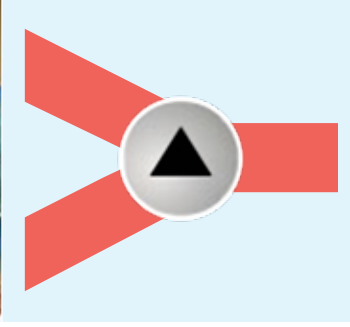
VALLEY OF THE KINGS

The unearthing of a new tomb in the Valley of the Kings in Egypt this February sent the staff of the Discovery Channel into a tizzy. Although Egyptologists had initially hoped to find five sarcophagi and the remains and riches of ancient royalty, they found an ancient storage facility instead. Jars of embalming fluids and never-before-seen flower-garlands were pretty cool, anyway.



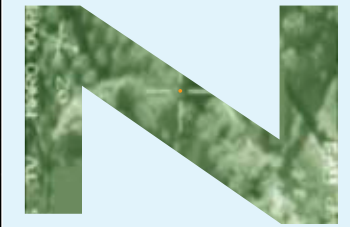
XENA, WARRIOR PLANET?

The discovery of a new icy sphere—dubbed "Xena"—outside Neptune was publicly announced in July 2005, but debate about whether or not it should be called a planet raged throughout 2006. Because both Xena and Pluto are technically part of the Kuiper belt (the icy disk of debris orbiting the sun beyond Neptune) the August decision to exclude Xena from planethood demoted Pluto as well.



YOUTUBE

User-generated websites like YouTube, MySpace and Google Video have transformed the web into a three-dimensional world of homemade videos and webcam diaries. YouTube, one of *Time* magazine's "coolest websites" of the year, serves 100 million videos per day. With over 20 million visitors monthly, the site's massive fan base has marketers drooling over advertising possibilities and loose-tipped politicians cringing; just ask Sen. George Allen (see "Foot-in-mouth"), whose well-known blunder had over 200,000 views in the month following his remark.



ZARQAWI

In June, Abu Masab al-Zarqawi, the leader of the al Qaeda network in Iraq, was killed in a US air strike. Regardless of dramatically declining public opinion on the Iraq War in general, people on both sides of the aisle celebrated the death of a man who had declared all-out war on Shia Muslims, the US, and all infidels in general. Unfortunately, his death had no real effect on reestablishing stability in the region.





BLOOD MOUNTAIN

Its riches seduced empires.

Its caverns stole the lives of eight million people ... and counting.

Inside the silver mine at the top of the world.

BY GARETH MASON

THE THREE-HOUR DRIVE FROM the colonial capital of Sucre to the cloud-city of Potosi, Bolivia, leads up twisting mountain roads through an increasingly barren and unpopulated land littered with the rusting detritus of old mining operations. Perched at over 4,000 meters, Potosi is the highest city in the world. The air is so thin up here that every step demands a physical effort. It's not until you arrive and your lungs begin sucking for breath that you know exactly what it means to live at this extremity of the Earth.

Stretching high above the dusty old city is a huge mound of tanned earth, carved sharply from the landscape into a mountainous cone. This is the reason I've come to Potosi. It is the only reason anyone has ever come here—apart from the Indians that lived here from the beginning.

Over the centuries, this mountain has had many names. To the Spanish, it was known as *Cerro Rico*, "Rich Hill"; to the local Quechuans, it was *Sumag Orko*, "Magnificent Hill." These are the names given to a mountain that hid in its core thick veins of silver—natural wealth so plentiful that it inspired the Spanish idiom *Vale un Potosi*, "Worth a Fortune." The mountain holds such prominence in the Bolivian national imagination that it is illustrated at the center of the county's national crest.

It was the silver in the *Cerro Rico* that drew the Spanish to Potosi in the 15th century. And it is the active mines that remain here today that I've come to see, five-hundred-and-fifty years after Potosi was built into one of the most illustrious cities in the world, and then abandoned. In that time, imperial empires have come and gone, replaced by corporate ones and a trickle of adventure-seeking tourists. But little else has changed. Every day, many of the indigenous people in Potosi still descend into the bowels of the mountain, though the ancient shafts are mostly anemic today except for deposits of ore. The people mine in much the same way today as they always did, which is to say in some of the worst, most primitive conditions you can imagine.

According to legend, when the Inca emperor Huayna Capac first discovered the riches in the mountain in 1462, a booming voice told the Incas that the silver did not belong to the them. It was for the white men who would one day come from far away. Believing they had heard the voice of god, the Incas obeyed the command and declared the mountain a sacred place. History hasn't recorded whether the booming voice was spoken with a lisping, Castilian accent.

The Spanish "discovered" the silver in 1544 and founded the city the next year. From an original workforce of 170 Spanish and 3,000 natives, by 1610 Potosi had grown to some 160,000 inhabitants—the combined populations of London and Paris. These included Old World artisans and engineers following the seductive whiff of riches from a real-life El Dorado. But the bulk of the swelling population were slaves—mostly former citizens of the Incan empire that stretched thousands of miles down the spine of the Andes from Lima to Lake Titicaca. The Spanish also brought African slaves, who fared the worst due to the extreme altitude.

My guide into the mine, Helen, knows most of the miners around whom she conducts her tours. Beginning in 1980, the government began transferring ownership of the mines to workers cooperatives. Around 6,000 locals now work the 120 or so mines dotted around the *Cerro Rico*—about half the workforce from the days of slavery. On our hike up to the mine, Helen discusses a community welfare scheme with one miner and chats with the widow of another.

At the top of the mountain, Helen leads me and a few other tourists into a small room near the mouth of the mine, inside of which stands a shrine to the mine god, Tio, or "uncle." The Spanish created Tio in the image of the Christian devil to frighten the miners into labor. A garish dummy embodying this less-than-avuncular deity is surrounded by pin-ups of blonde *gringa* models. Here, the workers drip fierce Lati firewater called Puro onto the ground and balance cigarettes in Tio's mouth, hoping for a profitable day's work. Bright strips of cloth mark the mineshaft in his honor.

"This is not a museum," Helen warns us before we enter the mine. "It's a working mine and its conditions are the same as when it opened 500 years ago."

The shaft we enter is horizontal, sometimes dipping into claustrophobic holes through which the miners, their cheeks swollen with wads of narcotic cocoa leaves, shift the largely worthless ore by hand. They fill up wheelbarrows or carts and push them out to the entrance. "Around 80 wheelbarrows a day on average for a 12-hour shift, or 350 bags of ore," says Helen. "If it's a good day, they make around \$5." The miners sell their ore to refineries that ship it unprocessed overseas.

The dank interior of the mine has been hacked out by hand. Low humid corridors run off unexpectedly in hopeful new directions, their rickety, fragile progress extending crookedly for hundreds of meters. To get through the mine, tunnelers are often forced to scramble and splash about on their hands and knees in the mud. Often, the deep, shrinking shafts frighten off the more claustrophobic tourists.

"Can you smell that?" Helen asks. "It's the smell of very old air, trapped inside until released by some new digging. It's these poisonous gases that kill the most, usually arsenic or sulfuric acid."

Oxygen masks are an unknown luxury. Around 20 miners die working here each year. Many more suffer from respiratory illnesses such as silicosis.

Most miners don't make it to 40 years old. The local hospital overflows with victims of what is locally called, "mine disease." Often pensions can't be collected until the disease has developed so far that the victim can't enjoy his retirement for long. About 1,000 children under 12 years old also work here.

From 1545-1825 about eight million people died working in these mines. That's about the size of the current Bolivian population. The average working lifespan was six months, and it was said that for every *peso* coin forged, ten slaves died. Many never began their second shifts after living underground for months in temperatures topping 100 degrees. *Cerro Rico* is less a mountain than a mass grave.

Over 300 years, the mines yielded 70,000 tons of silver, enough to pay for centuries of imperial projects, including the Spanish Armada. The English sailor Francis Drake plundered enough silver from Spanish galleons to significantly underpin England's growing wealth. The silver's injection into the European economy stimulated trade as far away as India. Bolivian schoolchildren are told the mine held enough silver to build a bridge to Spain. They are also told that a second bridge could have been built back with the bones of those who died mining it.

After shuffling along for 100 meters or so, we find some workers chipping away at an unpromising piece of wall. Their shabby clothes are coated in a thick layer of dust—their expressions ambivalent towards tourists who try to soften their intrusiveness with gifts of water, dynamite, and chocolate. The miners use pick-axes and lamps instead of drills and torches, as you would see in a modern mining operation. Running along the roof ahead is a thin streak of tin that, along with zinc, is now the miners' main source of income. Mining it, we are told, could very well bring down the unsupported roof.

After the Spanish extracted 820 million silver coins worth of silver, most of the mountain's richest deposits were exhausted. But in 1572, the Spanish Viceroy, Francisco Toledo, introduced mercury into the extraction process, and the digging continued. Over the next three centuries, several hundred tons of this poisonous metal were dumped into the Potosi water basin. The deadly drain-off now swills alongside the lead, cadmium, and arsenic of later deposits. The mined ores become acidic when combined with water and pollute the local water supply. The laws needed to clean up this hazard are neither tough enough nor effectively enforced.

Modern technology hasn't touched the miners' lives, but it has found 154 tons of untouched silver in the *Cerro Rico*—the world's largest existing deposit. By 2007, a clutch of foreign companies is expected to be working with the Bolivian national mining companies to excavate the newly found deposits.

The results of a recent survey in Potosi show that its residents overwhelmingly oppose the idea of letting foreigners profit further from the few remaining riches of the continent's poorest country. That the mountain's famous crown might be lopped off to more easily remove the new deposits, as has been proposed, doesn't go down well with the locals either. The Bolivian national crest would look less impressive adorned with only half a hill.

Their fears are, perhaps, best illustrated by the story I hear in the Casa de Moneda, the museum built inside the thick stonewalls of the old, Spanish mint. It concerns a Florida-based salvage company that found the wreck of a treasure-laden Spanish galleon in the 1980s. Around 175,000 coins were recovered, valued at around \$300 million. From the horde, a single coin, now sitting in the Potosi museum, was given to the Bolivian nation. Overlooking the museum courtyard hangs the mask of a white human face wearing a smirking smile. It looks set to leer greedily into the foreseeable future.

Gareth Mason is a freelance journalist based in London. His work has appeared in *The Guardian* and *The Sunday Times*.

Don't let the prospect of nuclear fallout get you down...

In the event of a global nuclear catastrophe, it never hurts to be prepared. And while the requisite water, first aid, and other supplies in a basic preparedness kit will keep you alive in a bunker for a week, they won't save you from boredom. To combat the potential stalemate of waiting for the fallout to clear, we've assembled a list of nuclear doomsday essentials. Follow our hot tips to survive a nuclear catastrophe in style.

PIMP your BUNKER

Hot Tip #1: Eat Like a (Confined) King

With so many canned delicacies to choose from, who needs a fridge? Save time and precious fuel with simple—yet elegant—meals.

Explosive Chili
Leave your stomach happy and your bunker mates running for cover.

- 1 can Vienna sausage, chopped
- 1 can kidney beans
- 1 can stewed tomatoes
- 1 tablespoon Tabasco sauce
- Mix all ingredients in a large bowl, serve, and enjoy.

Hot Tip #7: Hydrate

In 1951, Las Vegas bars debuted the Atomic Cocktail as a commercial response to the new Nevada Test Site 65 miles away. What better way to wash away the radiation than with something cold, sparkly, and explosively potent? On bomb nights, as one bartender recalled, by the time the "shot" went off, "We'd have done more business than if we had television in here." Quench your thirst and calm your nerves with an explosive drink straight from the Cold War.

The Atomic Cocktail

- Stir well with cracked ice:
- 1 1/2 oz vodka
- 1 1/2 oz brandy*
- 1 teaspoon sherry**
- Strain into chilled cocktail glass and add
- 1 1/2 to 2 oz cold brut champagne.

* French (go for a cognac, if you feel like being a sport) or Spanish.
** Amontillado or Oloroso.
Note: If you use the sweeter Spanish brandy, opt for the drier Amontillado sherry. Conversely, if you use the (dry) cognac, choose the (sweet) Oloroso. We strive for balance in all things.
-David Wondrich, *Esquire* magazine's Drink Correspondent

Hot Tip #6: Stay Sharp

Get acquainted with the nuclear lifestyle's eerie past and read up on how you can unleash a radiation disaster all over again.

The Radioactive Boy Scout: The Frightening True Story of A Whiz Kid and His Homemade Nuclear Reactor
by Ken Silverstein
[Villard, \$13.95]
An over-ambitious teen turns his backyard garden shed into a nuclear hotspot.

Waiting for the End of the World
by Richard Koss
[Princeton Architectural Press, \$19.95]
The perfect coffee table conversation starter: a photographer's exploration of bomb shelters around the world.

Hot Tip #2: Make a Mix Tape

Coupled with catchy lyrics and foot-tapping beats, nuclear war doesn't sound half bad.

Yo La Tengo— "Nuclear War"
"It's a mother fucker, don't you know, if they push that button, your ass gotta go."

The Postal Service— "We Will be Silhouettes"
"Because the air outside will make our cells divide at an alarming rate, until our shells simply cannot hold all our insides in, and that's when we'll explode (and it won't be a pretty sight)."

The Clash— "London Calling"
"The ice age is coming; the sun is zooming in. Engines stop running, and the wheat is growing thin. A nuclear error, but I have no fear because London is calling."

The Smiths— "Ask"
"If it's not love, then it's the bomb, the bomb, the bomb, the bomb, the bomb, the bomb, the bomb that will bring us together."
Nena— "99 Red Balloons"
"It's all over, and I'm standin' pretty in this dust that was a city. If I could find a souvenir, just to prove the world was here."

Hot Tip #4: Know Thy Enemy

Catch up on Hollywood's evolving nuclear villains and contemplate who might have dropped the bomb this time.

Dr. Strangelove (1964)—Stanley Kubrick's classic Cold War parody about how fixating on one's "precious bodily fluids" can lead to a nuclear holocaust.
Bad Guys—Renegade US generals, fascist paraplegics, doomsday weapons

Crimson Tide (1995)—Post-Cold War and unsure who to blame for evil, *Crimson Tide* follows tradition with a twist, as US submariners argue whether or not they've received a transmission to nuke Russian separatists.
Bad Guys—Russian Rebels, communications technology

The Peacemaker (1997)—At last, the menacing Ruski's storyline is ditched for a more up-to-date scenario: terrorism.
Bad Guys—Bosnian terrorists

Sum of All Fears (2002)—Just a year after 9/11, the movie didn't hesitate to exploit our fears by destroying Baltimore, but not before portraying the terrorists as neo-Nazis instead of Islamic extremists.
Bad Guys—Neo-Nazis, whoever cast Ben Affleck as the lead

Hot Tip #5: Keep Fit

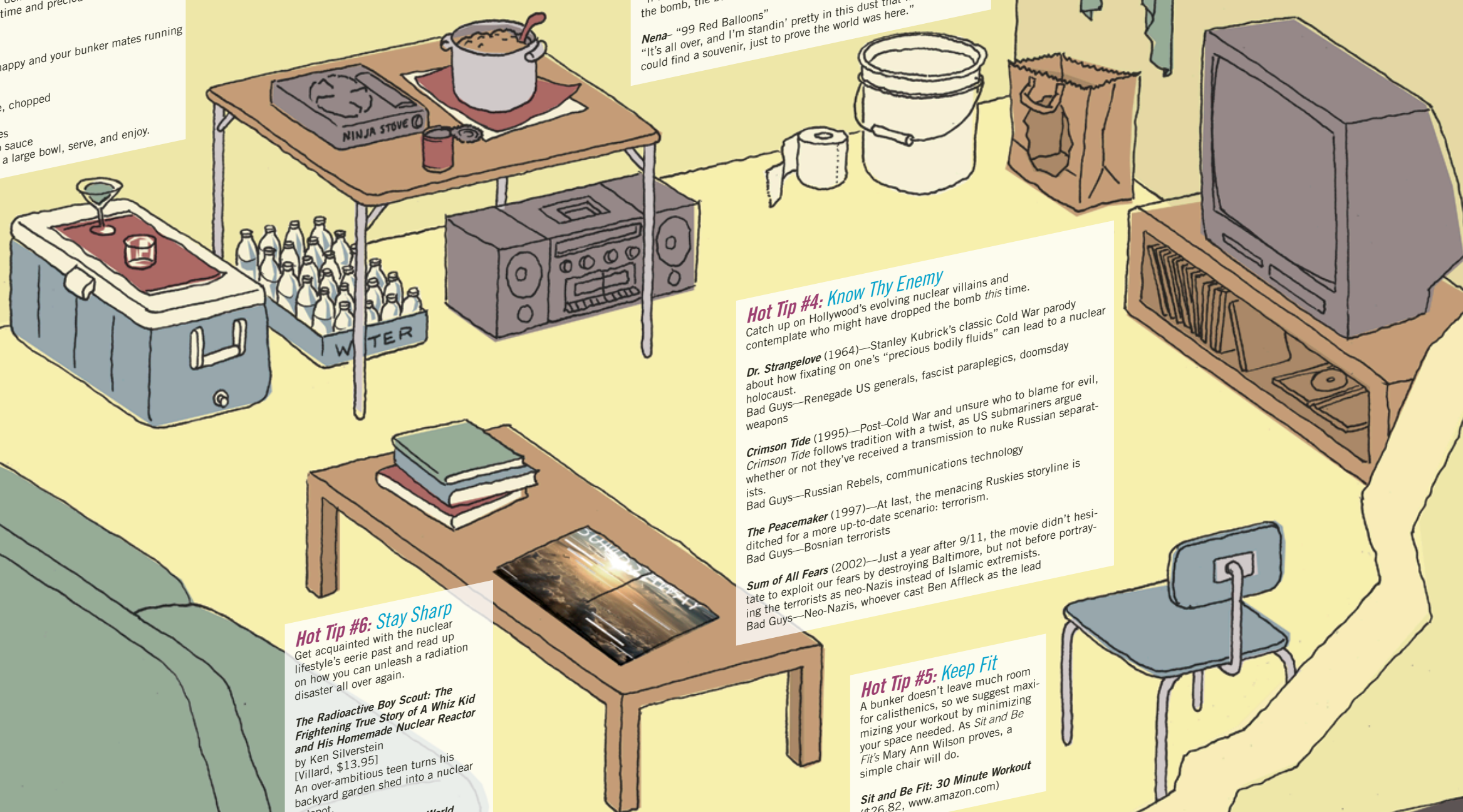
A bunker doesn't leave much room for calisthenics, so we suggest maximizing your workout by minimizing your space needed. As *Sit and Be Fit's* Mary Ann Wilson proves, a simple chair will do.

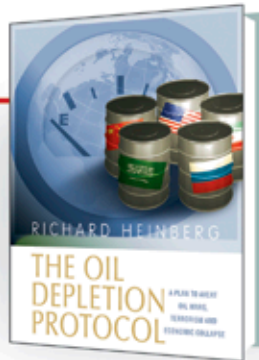
Sit and Be Fit: 30 Minute Workout
(\$26.82, www.amazon.com)

Hot Tip #3: Be a Trendsetter

This season, brown is the new black. If the temperature drops inside your bomb shelter, a simple wrap-around hat will not only keep you warm, it will make you the envy of your bunker.

Fallout Fashion
Wrap a bath towel around your head, neck, and upper body. Cover the towel with a paper bag, including a hole for the face. Tie around neck with a strip of cloth.
(<http://www.oism.org/nwss/s73p926.htm>)

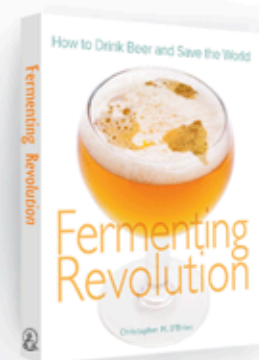




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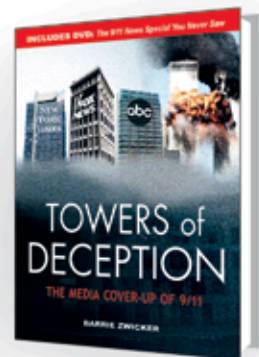
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How the media are complicit in hiding the fact that 9/11 was an inside job. \$24.95

(BOMBS AWAY, P. 53)

States might confront nuclear war in a fight over Taiwan, which Beijing considers a renegade province.

In Northeast Asia, North Korea continues to make plutonium to build up its nuclear arsenal and has alarmed the world with its long-range ballistic missile tests, most recently on July 4, 2006. Japan, in particular, has reacted strongly to these tests. If Tokyo wanted to, it could make dozens of nuclear weapons from the plutonium it has stockpiled for its civilian nuclear power program. Chinese officials have expressed concern about Japan's growing plutonium stockpile. The North Korean nuclear and missile programs, thus, could spark an arms race in Northeast Asia. A nuclear war could occur if North Korean leaders believe their regime is under attack or about to collapse.

Probably the direst nuclear nightmare involves Russia and the United States succumbing to inadvertent nuclear war. The government and the news media are focused on terrorists or the nuclear threat from so-called rogue states such as Iran and North Korea. Yet, more than 95% of the world's 27,000 nuclear warheads are in Russia and the United States. Both countries still place extraordinary value on maintaining nuclear weapons. Many events could trigger this catastrophic scenario. In January 1995, an accidental nuclear war almost played out in real life when a scientific rocket launched from Norway was for several minutes mistaken by the Russian military as a nuclear-armed missile fired from a submarine near the Russian coast. The suitcase, often called "the football" in the American context, containing Russia's nuclear war plans was opened. Russian President Boris Yeltsin came within a few minutes of ordering a retaliatory attack. As Russia's early warning system continues to weaken, more of these incidents could happen, continually risking accidental nuclear war.

STEPPING BACK FROM THE BRINK

If we act now, the world can avert these nuclear dangers. A fundamental first step is to devalue nuclear weapons. IAEA Director-General Mohammed ElBaradei, who shared the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize with the IAEA, asked in his Peace Prize speech, "How do we create an environment in which nuclear weapons—like slavery or genocide—are regarded as taboo and a historical anomaly?" Slavery and genocide have become, at least in civilized circles, repulsive. Nuclear bombs have yet to stimulate worldwide disgust.

In a press interview in December 2005, ElBaradei hit on the appeal of nuclear arms. He said, "You must practice what you preach. I can't ask my son to stop smoking when I

have a cigarette dangling in my mouth." Like smoking cigarettes, possessing nuclear weapons can bestow glamour. Despite numerous public health campaigns to underscore the health hazards of smoking, many people still smoke because this activity has the allure of sophistication as well as charismatic and wild power. Similarly, nuclear weapons draw part of their cachet from the fact that the five permanent members of the UN Security Council all possess these weapons. Only these members have veto power. While permanent membership does not require ownership of nuclear weapons, this historical artifact still makes a powerful impression. India, for instance, has decried the double standard between the nuclear haves and have-nots, but it developed nuclear weapons partly because it was motivated by the belief that these weapons are a status symbol. New Delhi has long sought to gain a permanent seat on the Security Council. A way to decouple nuclear weapons possession from Security Council veto power is to act on UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan's proposal to expand the Council's permanent membership to include major regional powers that do not own nuclear arms.

Perhaps lessons can be learned from campaigns that have outlawed classes of weapons. The community of nations has enacted treaties that have abolished biological and chemical weapons. Nonetheless, nuclear-armed countries have yet to relegate nuclear arms to the ashbin of history because such weapons are the ultimate type of weapon of mass destruction. Nuclear arms seem to offer an ultimate insurance policy protecting a nation from existential attack. But nuclear arms did not save the Soviet Union from internal collapse, and the large expenditures of the nuclear arms race may have been partly responsible for its demise. Possession of nuclear weapons did not prevent the United States from suffering defeat in Vietnam and fighting several other armed conflicts during the past 60 years.

Another way to de-legitimize nuclear weapons is to consign them to at most only deterrent use. Nuclear-armed countries should commit to never using these weapons against non-nuclear countries and should adopt no-first-use pledges. Russia and Pakistan, however, point to the difficulty in carrying out these commitments. Both countries find themselves in inferior positions with respect to their conventional military capabilities as compared to the United States and NATO in Russia's situation and India in Pakistan's situation.

We can dust off Cold War history to find the tools to try to fix these arms imbalances. Although arms control has fallen out of favor with the Bush administration, it is



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WHAT'S IN A WORD?

In our complex world, is anything foolproof? Do you pity the fool?

The Internationalist and Foolproof, a Seattle-based non-profit dedicated to articulating and amplifying progressive thought, want to know what issues you'd bet your life on.

In 500 words, tell us what concepts and images best represent the word "foolproof," and why.

The most creative and innovative essay will be published in the *Internationalist*. The winning author will also receive airfare and accommodations for two to attend a Spring 2007 Foolproof presentation in Seattle. Upcoming speakers include Molly Ivins and Sarah Vowell.

For full contest details, check out www.foolproof.org.

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Foolproof



time to re-equip ourselves with this powerful negotiating tool. Verifiable arms control can provide predictability and transparency of the other side's military development and through dialogue, can build greater insight into the other's intentions. In particular, the United States and Russia could instill greater confidence in peaceful intentions and reduce the risk of accidental nuclear war by agreeing to ratchet their nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert. Ultimately, the nuclear-armed powers need to follow through on the commitment in the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) to pursue nuclear disarmament.

In recent years, the NPT has suffered a crisis of compliance. In January 2003, North Korea left the treaty; in February 2005, it declared itself a nuclear power; and in October 2006, it demonstrated at least a rudimentary weapons capability by testing a low-yield nuclear device. Iran has cited its "inalienable right" under the treaty to gain technologies that can make nuclear fuel or nuclear bombs, while raising concerns about the intention of its program. Although the IAEA has an important watchdog role to play in these hard cases, it cannot force countries to disarm and only has as much authority as member countries are willing to give it.

In addition to providing the IAEA with adequate authority to investigate proliferation concerns, member countries also should give the IAEA enough funds to hire sufficient competent inspectors and buy or develop technologies that can spot proliferation activities. The IAEA is understaffed and underfunded. Currently, 250 IAEA inspectors are responsible for inspecting 900 nuclear facilities in 91 countries. (Total staff numbers are around 650.) In contrast, Walt Disney World employs more than 1,000 security personnel to protect its amusement park. The IAEA's annual budget is about \$120 million, which is comparable to the payroll of the Washington Redskins football team.

The failure of the IAEA to find Saddam's nuclear weapons program before the 1991 Gulf War led to development of the Additional Protocol, a strengthened approach to safeguards that provides greater access and authority for the IAEA. But many member countries have yet to sign and implement the Additional Protocol. For instance, Iran was voluntarily adhering to the Additional Protocol, but stopped doing so in early 2006, thereby severely curtailing the IAEA's ability to investigate Iran's suspect nuclear program. Even with the Additional Protocol, a proliferant country could try to hide nuclear weapons facilities. Still, the world would be more secure against proliferation if all countries signed and implemented the Additional Protocol.

But what are countries who are concerned about proliferation willing to do to stop it? Is war the answer? The Bush administration thought so with Iraq, but claims of Iraqi WMD programs turned out to be largely fallacious. Whether as a consequence of faulty intelligence or because of concerns about a hidden Bush administration agenda, the war in Iraq casts a long shadow over claims about an Iranian nuclear weapons program. As of early 2006, inspectors have not found "smoking-gun" evidence of such a program in Iran.

Like smoking cigarettes, possessing nuclear weapons can bestow glamour.

Also, insurgencies in Iraq and Afghanistan underscore the limits of American power, despite being the world's sole superpower. Faced with these constraints, the Bush administration has mainly pushed for multilateral diplomacy in trying to resolve problems with Iran and North Korea.

Like Chinese handcuffs, the harder opposing sides pull at the problem, the more they are trapped. ElBaradei has cautioned, "You can't use force to hinder a country from obtaining nuclear weapons. By bombing them, you only delay their plans. And they'll come back and seek revenge." The trick to release fingers caught in Chinese handcuffs is to push a finger inward, relaxing the tension and then allowing each finger in turn to twist free. With nuclear dangers, reduction of tension can occur when the nuclear-armed countries live up to their part of the bargain to give up their nuclear weapons and when the haves and the have-nots work together to address security concerns without resorting to nuclear arms.

An adjunct assistant professor at the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, Charles D. Ferguson is a fellow for science and technology at the Council on Foreign Relations and is a coauthor of The Four Faces of Nuclear Terrorism (Routledge, 2005).

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<http://languageselnahual.com/>

FINCA PROJECT. The people of Costa Rica deserve to be unable to see the forest for the trees just as much as anyone else. This organization helps out through small-scale tropical reforestation and environmental education!

www.fincaproject.org

GRIDSKIPPER. The name "gridskipper" sounds weird, and for some reason reminds me of gross "mud puppies." But don't be fooled, this is a cool urban travel guide, NOT a website devoted to disgusting aquatic salamanders.

www.gridskipper.com

IKANDO. Volunteer placements in Africa ranging from schools for the deaf to HIV/AIDS prevention.

www.ikando.org

MAGELLAN'S. Where else can you find that watch with a

built-in pop-up magnifying glass and flashlight? Impress the ladies and confuse the fellas with products from this travel supply store.

www.magellans.com

THE MOUNTAIN FUND. Only real jerks hate mountains. Also, only real jerks hate people. So, unless you are, you know...a real jerk, you should go on a trek and volunteer in Nepal, Peru, or Central Asia, because more than 800 million people living in mountain areas need help.

www.mountainfund.org

TRAVELosophy. Students and teachers traveling to the Middle East, Europe, Africa, or Asia (but not Antarctica—sorry) can find discounted rates here.

www.itravelosophy.com

Tsunami Volunteer Center. Volunteer with this Thailand-based NGO that aims to empower people adversely affected by the tsunami. (I guess it's unnecessary to say "adversely," since probably no one was beneficially affected by it.)

www.tsunamivolunteer.net/english

VOLUNTEER SERVICE AND SUPPORT NEPAL. Into travel? Into Monks? Into Buddhism? You need to get into this. Like, now.

www.volunteer-nepal.org/volunteer-nepal_monastries.html

worldwide diary

FAITH IN NATHAN. Do you have faith in Nathan? I'm not convinced if I do yet, but I do like that this blogger living in Tel Aviv has included lists of things he hates, likes, and things that he wants from America.

www.ngng.co.il/

GUS ALMIGHTY. I'm pretty sure I can't do better than his own description: "A global perspective, influenced by meditation, liberal education, overseas living, hallucinogens, and a high lead count."

www.gusalmighty.com

MEETING PEOPLE ONLINE.

Think *Sex and the City*, through Yahoo personals and online chatting, in Haiti. Or don't, but it's your loss.

www.chatteress.blogspot.com/

MOODLOGIC. Read all about Wamy! He's a student in Bangladesh, believes that Islam

has a solution to the problems we are facing in the world today, and likes hanging out with other Bangladeshi bloggers.

www.moodlogic.blogspot.com/

MY.....THOLOGY. Because anyone who uses excessive ellipses is all right by me. This is a Kenyan blog documenting "thoughts, desires, emotions, and life." Get it? "MY"...thology?! Whoa.

www.mogax2000.blogspot.com/

PARTY ANIMAL PLANET. Is this a blog from 1995, when the phrase "party animal" may have been cool? No, no, no; it's just European. Find out when/where parties in Belgium are going to be so that you can meet up with some party animals.

www.partyanimal2005.blogspot.com/

look

ARTCYCLOPEDIA. Check out this art database for images, information, and...uh... art.

www.artcyclopedia.com

BILLBOARD LIBERATION FRONT. Since 1977, the BLF has been helping big companies like

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Levi's and Camel improve their marketing strategies. Definitely check out some of their billboard revamp pictures; they are quite impressive.

www.billboardliberation.com

GROVEL. Graphic novels galore! Reviews, pictures, and all kinds of things that are dorky and amazing at the same time.

www.grovel.org.uk

JACKSON POLLOCK. Ever look at a Pollock painting and think, "I could totally do that in about 3 seconds"? Now you can.

www.jacksonpollock.org

MUSEUM OF BAD ART. Art so bad that it will hurt you, but in a good way, like the song "Hurts So Good," which I always imagine to be sung by Bryan Adams, but which is really by John Mellencamp.

www.museumofbadart.org

UNDERGROUND ART GALLERY.

Underground art (graffiti, zines, and the like) is good for you, even if you forget about it sometimes. It's sort of the artsy equivalent to lycopene, which I contend is the most underappreciated antioxidant.

www.e-underground-art-gallery.com

out and about

ALIVE FOUNDATION. I'd guess that at least 95% of the human population would rather be alive than dead. People in Ghana are no exception, so why don't you go there and help people stay that way?

www.alivefoundation.kabissa.org

GLOBAL WITNESS. Do you like witnessing things? Do you live somewhere on the globe? Volunteer here to investigate environmental travesties and

keep corporations accountable.

www.globalwitness.org

JIFUNZE PROJECT. "Jifunze" means "learning" in Swahili. Don't worry; you don't need to actually speak Swahili to help out in rural Tanzanian communities. Or do you? (No.)

www.kitetocerc.org/jifunze/involved/internships.htm

OUTDOOR JAPAN. Unless you plan on spending your trip in Japan watching funny game shows in your hotel room (not that there's anything wrong with that), consult this bilingual travel magazine for exciting ways to spend time in the open air.

www.outdoorjapan.com

STUDENT WORLD ASSEMBLY.

Check here for conventions. They are probably a lot like the conventions in the movie *Trekkies*, only less about *Star Trek* and more about global democracy.

www.studentworldassembly.org

WORLD NEIGHBORS. Instead of adopting a puppy or tarantula, adopt an entire village.

www.wn.org

WORLD YOUTH EMPOWERMENT FOUNDATION.

Get empowered, though probably not invincible, by using this Nigerian network to find community projects all over the planet.

www.worldyouth1.tripod.com/

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THE INTERNATIONALIST Go behind the scenes at INTL HQ to find out what happens when 7 editors stop being polite, and start getting real.

www.intmag.org

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Anonymous, Dave Anderson, Dave Balaam, Victor Blum & Sandy Solomon, Cheryl & John Broome, Michael Brustkern, Peter Cleary, Anne & Tim Collins, Andrea Davis, Jean Dixon, Mike & Megan Gallegos, Peter Gilbert, Amy Heppe, Darryl & Kathleen Johnson, Sunil Kukreja, Kathryn Lilly, W. Lauth, Mary & Lance Laver, Regina Luk-Akaka, Gary Manca, Courtney & Steve Marsters, Monica Martinez, Dan Mathewson, Bruce Moen, Jill & Tyler Moore, Cyrus & Betsy Nowrasteh, Nancy & John Parker, Sandy & Kris Rao, Jo & Charles Spence, Elaine Sloane, Roger & Susan Sullivan, T.E. Theiss, Lauren Ulvestad, James Warjone, Brendan Williams

Dean's List

Anonymous, Travis & MaryEllen Atkins, Alison Collins, Michael & Anita Cook, Anthony Gilbert, Jody Gilbert, Don Goodman, Eve Hanssen-Wood, Dene & Emily Hurlburt, Laura Inveen, Mary Littell, Joyce & John McClain, Jill Montgomery, Ross & Kellene Parker, Sandy & Kris Rao, Mrs. Esther Ryan, Aleatha Scholer, David Spooner, Christine Sproul, Warren & Tara Swanson, E. Elizabeth Ullery, David Watson, Donald Watson

Honor Roll

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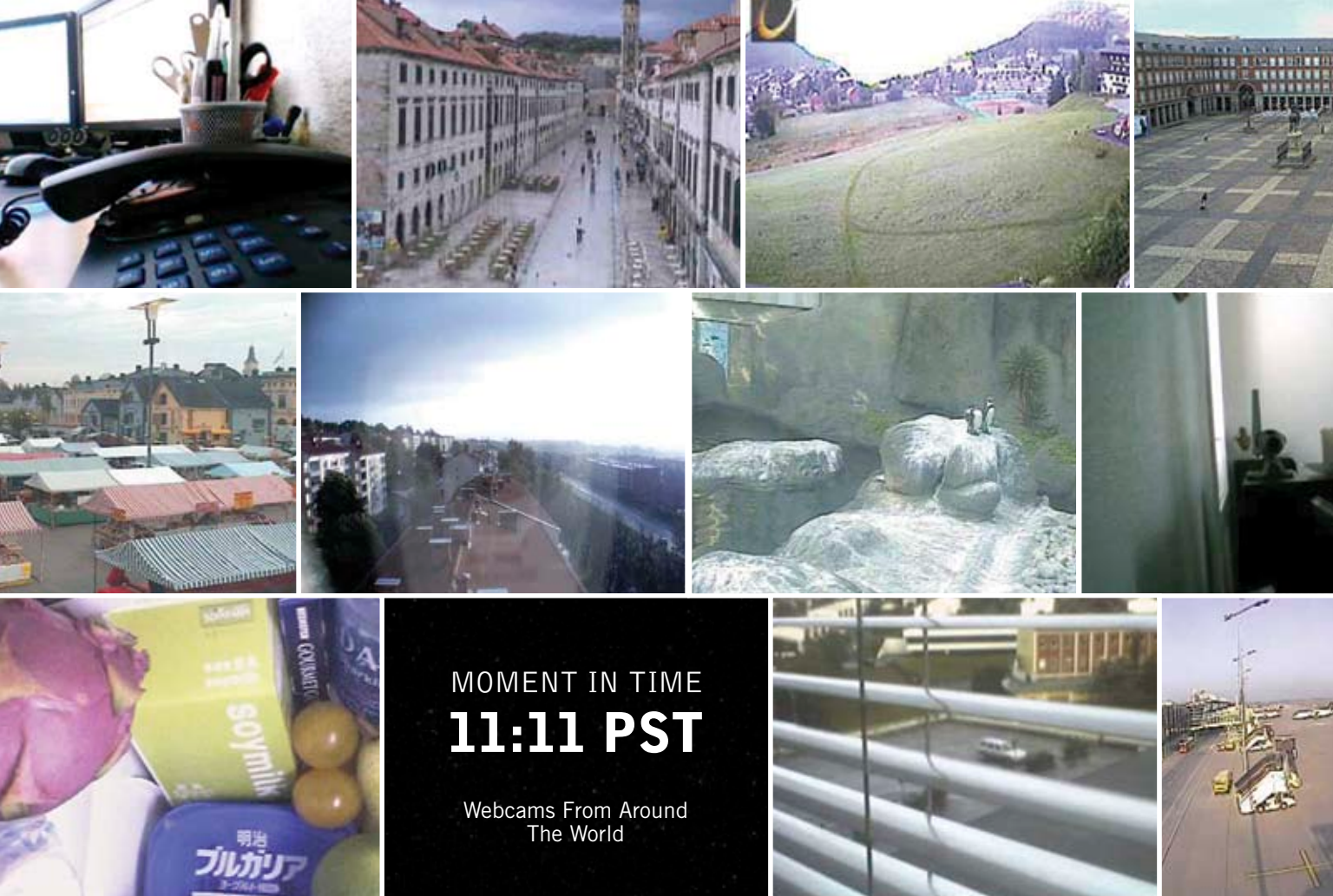
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AhmadineBadASS!'s Interests

General	Pomegranates, Baklava, Disney)<>((
Music	"Bringing Sexy Back" J.T. #1
Television	<i>Survivor: Middle East</i> , <i>That '70s Show</i> Anything on <i>Oxygen</i>
Books	The Holy Quran, <i>Uranium Enrichment for Dummies</i> , First half of <i>War and Peace</i>
Heroes	Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khomeini (RIP), Mel Gibson, Alladin

AhmadineBadASS!'s Details

Status:	Married
Orientation:	Toward Mecca
Hometown:	Tehran
Religion:	I Heart Mohammad
Zodiac Sign:	Shut up, pagans! (Scorpio)
Children:	2 (3 if you count girls)
Education:	PhD in Traffic and Transportation Engineering and Planning. (Look it up.)

AhmadineBadASS! is in your extended network

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Why nuclear power, really, really, really is our inalienable right. No, for reals... [[view more](#)]

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AhmadineBadASS!'s Blurbs

About me:

Just your typical Iranian President, sensitive, caring, a bit of a perfectionist. People think I'm this big tough guy, but when they call me things like "megalomaniacal," and "bat-shit-crazy," it hurts me deep inside, and makes me want to behead them slowly with a rusty saw.

Who I'd like to meet:

- Salman Rushdie, so I can... chat with him about that book of his... like Oprah does... but with a rusty saw.
- That Oppenheimer guy

AhmadineBadASS!'s Friend Space

AhmadineBadASS! has **68,017,860** friends



AhmadineBadASS!'s Friend Comments

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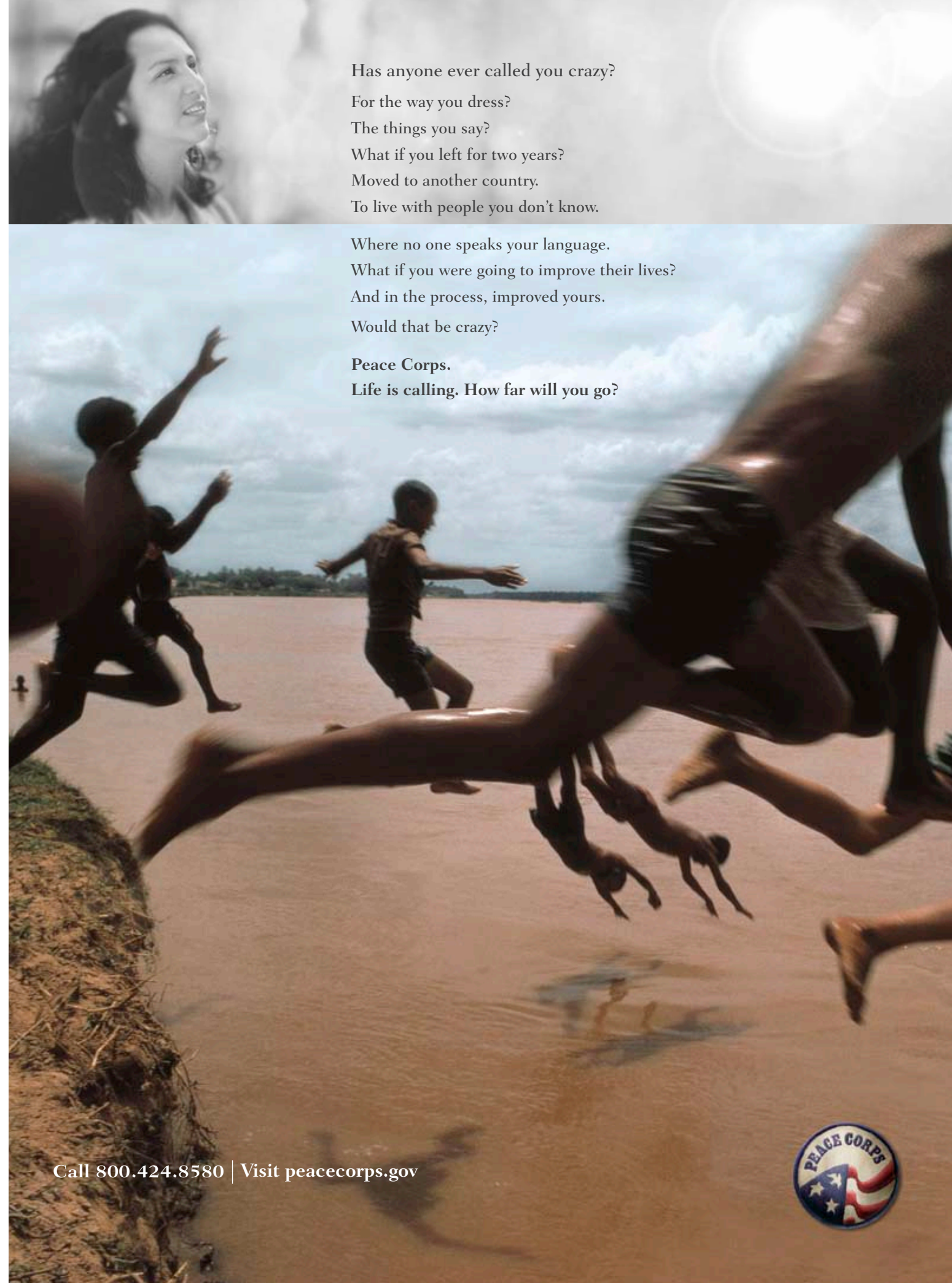
- bushy**

Hey, A-Jad, what up with that letter? Dude, do you really think I can read... I mean, have the *time*, to read 18 pages? Just text me next time, man.

-Peace (Get it? "Peace" LOL)
- HuGoGirl3000**

Yo- you gotta check out this Chomsky guy. I know he's a Jew, but dude, this book'll seriously change your life! Wanna borrow my copy?

;O)



Has anyone ever called you crazy?
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The things you say?
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