

Diplomat &

INTERNATIONAL CANADA

WINTER 10 | JAN-MAR



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WHO DETOXIFIES
JIHADISTS**

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SAYS HE'S JUST AN
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Alastair Sweeny on the rise of the BlackBerry
Fen Osler Hampson on the dogs of war
Jennifer Campbell on the return of John Manley





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America's new man in Ottawa

President Barack Obama's man in Ottawa arrived in October and almost immediately left his elegant Rockcliffe digs. David Jacobson, a Chicago lawyer before his diplomatic career began this fall, took the advice of his predecessors and set out to see every province and territory. Before the end of 2009, he'd visited all 10 provinces. The territories are on his schedule for the new year.

During a stop back in Ottawa, he sat down with *Diplomat's* publisher, Donna Jacobs, to tell a bit about himself and to talk about his boss, his new job, his priorities, his views of Canada and his pet peeves. Find out about all of these in the wide-ranging interview that begins on page 22.

An equally compelling read tells the story of Muhammad Robert Heft, a 37-year-old Winnipeg native who converted to Islam while overcoming a gambling addiction. He works with young Muslims – among them would-be radicals – to show them their true religion and to dispel their anger with the West. He talks about his own early *jihadist* thoughts and how he's worked with two members of the Toronto 18, the group of young Muslims who were stopped before they could carry out plans to bomb the Toronto Stock Exchange and other buildings. It's an eye-opening read about one man's past struggles and his determination to make amends with a so-

ciety he feels has given him much.

Since January is a time to look ahead, we have a technology story that examines what's coming on the electronics front. Small devices – author-historian Alastair Sweeny calls them TeleBrains – will one day serve as additional grey matter. Mr. Sweeny discusses such technological innovations in his latest book, *BlackBerry Planet*, which we excerpt in our Dispatches section. Further in the same section, there's a lively analysis by psychologist Brian R. Little, professor emeritus at Carleton University. He draws on his research to contrast the way an introvert and an extravert might handle their respective diplomatic posts.

Up front, we have a column by another Carleton professor, Fen Hampson, director of the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs, who offers a forecast for the coming year in international politics. With it, we show a chart of the world's failed states, produced by The Fund for Peace and *Foreign Policy* magazine.

Books editor George Fetherling has a piece on Karen Connelly, the Canadian whose most recently published *Burmese Lessons: A Love Story* tells the story of her love affair with the country. We also have an excerpt from Ottawa author Denise Chong's latest book, *Egg on Mao*, which examines the life of Lu Decheng, who defaced Mao's portrait during protests in Tiananmen Square in 1989 and was imprisoned for it. He was eventually released and now lives in Calgary.

In our Delights section, we have ways to build a wine cellar, after-ski entertaining tips, a history of Canadian Olympic successes and a feature on the Norwegian ambassador's home. You'll also want to check out our new regular listing of upcoming national days.

As we begin our 21st year of publishing this magazine, everyone here hopes you enjoy this first issue of the decade.

Jennifer Campbell is *Diplomat's* editor.

UP FRONT

Ben Welland photographed David Jacobson at his Ottawa residence. What struck him about the shoot was the house: "Who knew that we had a deep-south style plantation estate right here in Ottawa?" he said. "That lawn. My god. You could barely see the house on the horizon. Not quite the White House, but a rather believable facsimile – the carpets, the furniture, the print of George Washington on the wall. All nice touches."



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Alastair Sweeny



Mr. Sweeny is an Ottawa historian, author and web publisher who specializes in Canadian business history. He is currently completing a book on the Athabasca oil sands called *Black Bonanza*. He also has 20 years experience in digital publishing with such clients as Encyclopaedia Britannica, Microsoft Inc. and Bloomsbury Publishing. He is currently producing a line of innovative web-based textbooks, including *History of Canada Online* and *Civics Canada Online*.

Brian R. Little



Brian R. Little has been a pioneer in the field of personality science. He received his PhD from the University of California at Berkeley and has taught with distinction at Oxford, Carleton and Harvard universities. The graduating classes elected him one of their favourite professors at Harvard for three consecutive years, and he won the 3M Award, Canada's highest honour for university teaching, in 1995. He is currently distinguished research professor emeritus at Carleton.

CORRECTION

In the October issue, *Diplomat* misattributed a photo of the Emir of Qatar. Below are photos of the Sultan Qaboos bin Said of Oman and Qatari Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani.



Oman



Qatar

Peter Milliken sets a record

Excerpts from Hansard, October 21, 2009 on the occasion of Liberal MP Peter Milliken's record-setting service as Speaker of the House of Commons.

Jay Hill, leader of the government in the House of Commons, Conservative Party:

Mr. Speaker, your tenure has now surpassed Speaker (Lucien) Lamoureux's record of 3,177 days in the chair of the House. That alone is remarkable. However, it should also be noted that, unlike previous record holders, you were not placed in the chair as a result of a motion moved by the prime minister. You have held office as a result of three elections by secret ballot and one acclamation by the membership of the House.

I would further submit that what truly makes your long tenure all the more extraordinary is that you were elected the last two times from the opposition benches. More specifically, so far, you have occupied the chair 57 percent of the time while your party was in government and 43 percent of the time while in opposition. Obviously, you are viewed by the vast majority of members as both unbiased and objective.

Since you will have many more days in the chair and doubtless many more significant rulings to formulate and deliver, this is not the day to summarize your career or your judgments, nor to eulogize. That will have to wait for another time. You may have broken the endurance record, but the ordeal is not over.

Given that this record has included five years of minority government and five tie votes requiring the use of the casting vote, it is clear that your speakership will resonate into the history of the House.

Michael Ignatieff, leader of the opposition, Liberal Party:

Mr. Speaker, I rise to add a few words from this side of the House, in recognition of your public service and your work as Speaker of the House.

You have commanded the respect and affection of the whole House. Despite the divisions that are obvious in this chamber, I think it is easy for this side of the House to subscribe in its entirety to the kind words offered by the government House leader.

I want to add a few personal notes. One of the things that I noticed about your



This fall, House of Commons Speaker Peter Milliken, shown in his office, surpassed former record-holder Lucien Lamoureux's record of 3,177 days in the chair.

biography is that you began to subscribe to Hansard at the age of 16. In many other people this would be regarded as an alarming propensity, but that propensity has been only to the good of this House. Your knowledge, love and affection for the traditions of this House have guided you well and you obviously began your understanding of them at a very early age.

You left a very prestigious legal career to enter politics. You entered the House in 1988, defeating Flora MacDonald, the former member for Kingston and the Islands, who also commands universal respect.

You were elected Speaker of the House in 2001, and re-elected in 2004, 2006 and 2008.

Last week, you became Canada's longest-serving Speaker of the House.

Ten deciding votes have been cast by speakers since 1867 and you, sir, have cast five of them, which is an extraordinary historical achievement.

You command the universal respect of the House for your rulings, for your judg-

ment, but above all, for your sense of humour. All of us know that you combined a very particular equilibrium, eye-rolling disbelief at the follies and antics of this chamber, combined with a deep respect for its institutions and its traditions.

Gilles Duceppe, Laurier-Sainte-Marie, Bloc Québécois:

Mr. Speaker, speaking for myself and for all of my Bloc Québécois colleagues, congratulations.

After eight years, eight months and twenty-two days in the Speaker's chair, you have become the longest-serving speaker in the history of the House of Commons.

Your conscientious and impartial work, your fair decisions and your constant desire to serve the best interests of members from all parties are some of the characteristics that qualify you for this highly valued role in parliamentary democracy.

I can say that . . . it has not always been easy. Far from it. Everyone here knows



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that. There have been many confrontations, arguments and heated exchanges. I can imagine what that has been like for you.

You have had to make decisions that are sometimes difficult, sometimes sensitive and sometimes firm, but they are always important. What is remarkable is that you are always able to get everyone to accept them. We are grateful for your good judgment, your tact and your sense of humour.

Jack Layton, Toronto-Danforth, New Democratic Party:

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honour a man who embodies integrity, skill and tradition, someone whom my colleagues and I have had the distinct privilege of working with over so many years. Of course I am talking about you, Mr. Speaker.

Speakers have an integral role in our parliamentary system, one that is very deeply rooted in history, as you know. Since first being elected to the post in 2001, you have fulfilled your duties with dedication and prestige.

As Speaker, you fought hard to preserve decorum and civility. We have not always made that particularly easy for you but you have never given up. You have seen it all, really, the controversies, the occasional collaboration, the first and last, the majorities and the minorities.

However, I would have to say that as far as we are concerned, throughout it all you have demonstrated fairness.

Speaker of the House Peter Milliken, Liberal:

I would like to thank all of the honorable members who have shared their remarks on the subject. I appreciate your comments, just as I appreciate the support of all members of the House who voted for me to be their Speaker, the servant of the House.

I appreciate very much the pleasure of working in this job. I guess I have since I first became the Deputy Chairman of Committees of the Whole House in 1996 or so. It is always fun presiding but I do miss the opportunity to heckle. I also miss the opportunity to make speeches and encourage heckling from others to help make the speech more exciting, but I enjoy watching it, too.

I hope that the Question Periods for the rest of the week are a little more tranquil than today's was. It is always entertaining being here and working with you and I appreciate it very much. ■

The dogs of war: off the leash, again

The number of violent conflicts is on the rise around the world



FEN OSLER HAMPSON

"Cry 'Havoc!' and let slip the dogs of war." Shakespeare's Mark Antony issues this call for revenge shortly after Julius Caesar's murder by his erstwhile friends and associates. Antony's vision of revenge includes chaos, "domestic fury and fierce civil strife," and with "the dogs of war" as the instrument of destruction. Once unleashed, these dogs cannot be called off. Such fury and strife appear to be the hallmarks of the modern age.

Three hundred years after Shakespeare wrote *Julius Caesar*, these dogs still roam freely on nearly every continent. Since the end of the Cold War, we have witnessed the outbreak or continuation of sectarian violence in the Balkans, Africa, the Middle East, South Asia and elsewhere around the globe; the emergence of a more lethal and global brand of terrorism; and a growing cultural divide between Islam and the West. At the same time, international norms and institutions, which helped check the proliferation of nuclear weapons and other technologies of mass destruction during the past century, have eroded as a number of states — North Korea, Pakistan, and India — have crossed the nuclear threshold. And others, notably Iran, exploit loopholes in the nuclear non-proliferation treaty to step ever closer to it.

The good news is that there are no major conflicts among the great powers of the international system to threaten global stability. That is mainly because none of the major powers of the international system — nor any of the rising powers — seeks to challenge it through a revolutionary foreign policy.

Over the past 50 or so years, we have gone from a bipolar — Soviet Union versus United States — to a unipolar system in which the U.S. is the predominant power, but one that has played a



Village residents flee large-scale fighting in Abyei, between the Sudan Armed Forces and the Sudan People's Liberation Army. Sudan is third on the 2009 Failed States Index (see page 9).

critical role in managing and maintaining the current international order. We may now be entering a third hybrid phase of "weakened" or "soft" hegemony coupled with "aspiring multipolarity" as the great powers of Asia, China and India in particular, begin to assert themselves on the world stage. The European Union is also part of this new multipolar equation. This emerging set of multipolar relationships does not pose a threat to world order if the great powers in the system continue to believe that stability serves their core national interests, especially their own economic and political survival. Like the 19th Century's orchestrated balance of power though, stability is not automatic. It will require leadership and deft diplomacy to manage these relationships and the latent rivalries than come with the assertion of great power status.

Although the former Soviet Union and perhaps, to a lesser extent, China, once viewed themselves as revolutionary powers, this is no longer the case. Russia may have lingering great power ambitions, but they are confined largely to its periphery and its economy is too weak for it to play any kind of serious imperial expansionist role. China, with its embrace of free

markets and capitalism, is essentially a status-quo power in terms of the global political economy. So, too, is India. Russia and China also have key positions in the world's leading international institutions, the UN in particular, through their seats on the Security Council.

The bad news is that risks of instability and conflict in many regions of the world are on the upswing. The Center for International Development and Conflict Management at the University of Maryland, which tracks global trends in armed violence, points out that, although there was a steady decline in the number of active conflicts around the globe immediately following the end of the Cold War, the trend is now rapidly reversing itself with a resurgence of armed conflict and violence in many countries. Furthermore, many of the peace agreements that were concluded in the 1980s and 1990s to end sectarian strife have collapsed.

Since 1982, the number of "significant" terrorist attacks—those that have involved "loss of life, serious injury or major property damage" — has risen steadily as the horrific attacks on the United States on Sept. 11, 2001, and more recently in Baghdad, Islamabad, and



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Mumbai all too tragically lay bare.

Although terrorists continue to lack the technological capacity to build nuclear weapons — or other weapons of mass destruction — there is little grounds for complacency. The proliferation of such technologies increases the risk that they will fall into the wrong hands. The number of countries that have nuclear weapons has doubled since the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty came into force in 1970. Many others are trying to acquire the capabilities to enrich uranium and separate plutonium. As two former U.S. secretaries of state — George Schultz and Henry Kissinger — and former U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry warn, the world is now on the precipice of a new and dangerous nuclear era.

Today we confront a multiplicity of old and new security threats. As an example, consider the increasingly salient fragmentation within the Islamic world and

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between it and other cultures and regions. While the members of al-Qaeda may be unified by a hatred of the United States and the West, the societies that they spring from are struggling with much more basic issues: the tensions of modernization, including unequal wealth distribution and unmet social needs and expectations; suppressed democracy; internal divisions and unstable neighbourhoods. The anti-Western mobilization is but a new trigger in an already explosive environment.

Other developments also threaten political stability. The “third” wave of democracy has witnessed the emergence of democratically elected, populist authoritarian regimes in Latin America and the Middle East — regimes that are distinctly “illiberal” in the practice of governance

and that, in some cases, pose a direct threat to their neighbours. We see this with Venezuela and the antics of its unpredictable leader, Hugo Chavez, who has intensified the threat of conflict with Colombia.

(The century-long first wave of democracy started in the early 1800s. The second wave started after the Second World War. The third wave began 1974 and continues to surge into the 21st Century. According to Freedom House’s 2008 count, the current number of electoral democracies stands at 119, of which 89 can be classified as free — or 46 percent of the world’s 193 countries.)

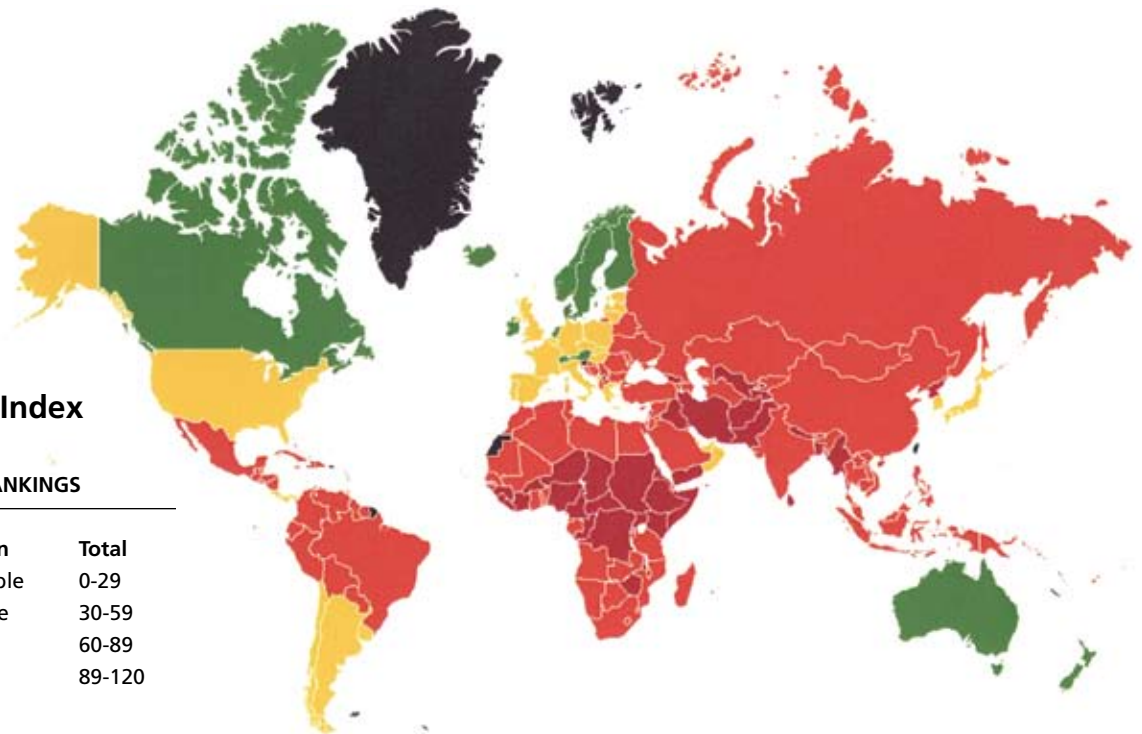
Many countries are also teetering on the precipice of instability. Although some of these countries have embraced democracy, it is literally only skin deep. State institutions lack political legitimacy. The fact that so many countries are susceptible to internal conflict and social disintegration suggests there is still enormous potential for instability in the international system. The annual “Failed State Index,” developed by the Fund For Peace and *Foreign Policy* magazine (reprinted on pages 9 and 10), identifies some 60 countries as being on the verge of political and economic collapse. At the top of the list are Somalia, Zimbabwe, Sudan, Chad, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Guinea and Pakistan.

Regional stability also continues to be compromised by those longstanding conflicts that fester and that largely remain “intractable.” For example, Israel-Palestine, the Indo-Pakistani dispute over Kashmir, North versus South Korea, and the fundamental conflict — despite a recent thaw — between China and Taiwan over Taiwanese independence, goes on. Many of these conflicts have refused to succumb to repeated rounds of negotiation or third-party efforts to broker some kind of lasting political settlement.

George Mason University scholar Monty Marshall argues that “the most troubling regional sub-systems in the Globalization Era are the ‘regions’ constituted by the sub-Saharan African countries and the pre-dominantly Muslim countries, which stretch from Morocco and Senegal in the west to Malaysia and Indonesia in the east.”

The levels of income inequality within African countries are only slightly greater than income inequalities within Muslim countries. Sub-Saharan Africa is one of the conflict-ridden regions of the globe

Continued on page 10



Failed states Index

STATE STABILITY RANKINGS

Color	Condition	Total
Green	Sustainable	0-29
Yellow	Moderate	30-59
Red	Warning	60-89
Dark Red	Alert	89-120
Black	N/A	

Country	Rank	Total	Demographic Pressures	Refugees/IDPs	Group Governance	Human Flight	Uneven Development	Economic Decline	Delegitimization of the State	Public Services	Human Rights	Security Apparatus	Factionalized Elites	External Intervention
Somalia	1	114.7	9.8	9.9	9.7	8.5	7.7	9.5	10.0	9.9	9.9	10.0	10.0	9.8
Zimbabwe	2	114.0	9.8	9.1	9.1	10.0	9.7	10.0	9.8	9.8	9.9	9.7	9.5	7.6
Sudan	3	112.4	9.0	9.8	9.9	9.0	9.6	7.0	9.8	9.5	9.8	9.7	9.5	9.8
Chad	4	112.2	9.3	9.4	9.8	7.8	9.3	8.3	9.8	9.6	9.5	9.9	9.8	9.7
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	5	108.7	9.7	9.6	8.9	8.1	9.3	8.3	8.6	9.2	9.0	9.7	8.7	9.6
Iraq	6	108.6	8.7	8.9	9.7	9.1	8.6	7.6	9.0	8.4	9.3	9.7	9.6	10.0
Afghanistan	7	108.2	9.3	8.9	9.6	7.2	8.4	8.3	9.8	8.9	8.8	9.9	9.1	10.0
Central African Republic	8	105.4	8.9	9.0	8.6	5.7	9.1	8.4	9.3	9.3	8.9	9.6	9.5	9.1
Guinea	9	104.6	8.5	7.1	8.2	8.6	8.9	8.7	9.8	9.2	9.0	9.4	9.2	8.0
Pakistan	10	104.1	8.3	8.6	9.6	8.3	8.8	6.4	9.1	7.5	8.9	9.5	9.6	9.5
Ivory Coast	11	102.5	8.6	7.8	9.0	8.4	8.1	8.3	9.1	8.0	8.5	8.5	8.5	9.7
Haiti	12	101.8	9.3	5.8	7.3	8.6	8.2	8.9	9.2	9.5	8.5	8.4	8.3	9.8
Burma	13	101.5	9.0	8.8	8.9	6.0	9.5	8.2	9.5	9.0	9.0	8.4	8.7	6.5
Kenya	14	101.4	9.0	9.0	8.6	8.3	8.8	7.5	9.0	8.0	8.2	8.0	8.8	8.2
Nigeria	15	99.8	8.5	5.3	9.7	8.3	9.5	6.6	9.2	9.0	8.6	9.4	9.6	6.1
Ethiopia	16	98.9	9.4	8.0	8.2	7.7	8.8	8.3	7.9	8.2	8.5	7.5	8.8	7.6
North Korea	17	98.3	8.5	6.0	7.2	5.0	8.8	9.6	9.8	9.6	9.5	8.3	7.8	8.2
Bangladesh	18	98.1	8.9	6.9	9.4	8.4	9.0	8.0	8.5	8.0	7.6	8.0	8.9	6.5
Yemen	19	98.1	8.8	7.9	7.7	7.4	8.9	8.2	8.3	8.5	7.7	8.4	9.0	7.3
East Timor	20	97.2	8.4	9.0	7.3	5.7	6.8	8.4	9.4	8.4	7.0	9.0	8.8	9.0
Uganda	21	96.9	8.7	9.3	8.0	6.5	8.7	7.6	8.0	8.0	7.7	8.2	8.2	8.0
Sri Lanka	22	96.7	7.5	9.3	9.8	6.9	8.5	6.1	9.0	6.6	8.5	9.2	9.2	6.1
Niger	23	96.5	9.5	6.4	8.5	6.3	7.6	9.2	8.7	9.5	8.2	7.4	7.1	8.1
Burundi	24	95.7	9.2	8.1	7.5	6.5	8.4	8.0	7.5	9.0	7.6	7.3	7.7	8.9
Nepal	25	95.4	8.3	6.8	8.7	6.0	9.3	8.5	8.0	7.4	8.7	8.1	8.4	7.2
Cameroon	26	95.3	8.0	7.5	7.2	8.0	8.9	6.9	9.2	8.0	8.0	7.8	8.7	7.1

Country	Rank	Total	Demographic Pressures	Refugees/IDPs	Group Governance	Human Flight	Uneven Development	Economic Decline	Delegitimization of the State	Public Services	Human Rights	Security Apparatus	Factionalized Elites	External Intervention
Guinea-Bissau	27	94.8	8.6	6.5	5.8	7.0	8.5	8.5	8.6	8.7	8.0	8.5	8.0	8.1
Malawi	28	93.8	9.3	6.3	5.9	8.3	8.5	9.1	8.3	8.8	7.5	5.6	7.8	8.4
Lebanon	29	93.5	7.0	9.0	9.2	7.2	7.4	6.3	7.8	6.2	6.9	9.1	9.1	8.3
Republic of Congo	30	93.1	8.9	7.8	6.5	6.1	8.0	8.0	8.6	8.8	7.9	7.8	7.1	7.6
Uzbekistan	31	92.8	7.9	5.3	7.4	7.0	8.7	7.2	9.0	6.6	9.2	9.0	9.0	6.5
Sierra Leone	32	92.1	8.9	6.9	6.6	8.5	8.4	8.6	7.4	8.7	7.0	6.1	7.7	7.3
Georgia	33	91.8	6.4	8.3	8.5	6.0	7.5	6.0	9.0	6.3	7.5	7.9	8.9	9.5
Liberia	34	91.8	8.6	8.0	6.1	6.8	8.5	8.2	7.0	8.5	6.7	6.9	7.9	8.6
Burkina Faso	35	91.3	9.0	6.0	6.1	6.5	9.0	8.2	7.9	9.0	6.5	7.5	7.6	8.0
Eritrea	36	90.3	8.6	7.0	5.8	6.5	6.0	8.6	8.6	8.6	7.9	7.4	7.7	7.6
Tajikistan	37	90.3	8.2	6.4	6.9	6.5	7.3	7.5	8.9	7.6	8.6	7.5	8.4	6.5
Iran	38	90.0	6.5	8.5	7.6	6.8	7.4	5.5	8.3	6.0	8.9	8.6	9.1	6.8
Syria	39	89.8	6.1	9.2	8.2	6.8	8.0	6.8	8.8	5.7	8.6	7.8	7.8	6.0
Solomon Islands	40	89.6	8.0	5.0	7.5	5.0	8.0	8.3	8.3	8.4	7.0	7.2	8.0	8.9
Colombia	41	89.2	6.9	9.2	7.2	8.5	8.5	4.3	7.9	6.0	7.2	7.5	8.0	8.0
Kirgizstan	42	89.1	8.0	5.3	7.2	7.5	8.3	7.6	8.3	6.5	7.6	7.7	7.3	7.8
Egypt	43	89.0	7.6	6.9	8.0	6.2	7.6	7.0	8.6	6.4	8.4	6.2	8.1	8.0
Laos	44	89.0	8.2	5.9	7.0	6.6	6.0	7.5	8.2	8.0	8.5	7.6	8.3	7.2
Rwanda	45	89.0	9.3	6.9	8.7	7.2	7.3	7.5	7.9	7.3	7.3	4.6	8.0	7.0
Mauritania	46	88.7	8.7	6.2	8.2	5.0	7.0	7.8	7.0	8.5	7.1	7.9	8.0	7.3

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Continued from page 8

and many Muslim countries have experienced an increase in armed conflict and violence in recent years. Pivotal states that are relatively stable in Africa and the Muslim world, like Egypt, Nigeria, and South Africa, are also coming under growing political pressure because of their sluggish economic performance, growing internal divisions, and inability to provide economic opportunities for the majority of their citizens.

It is not just idealism but also self-interest that dictates why we should pay greater attention to the poorest, weakest and most conflict-prone parts of the world. Countries in sub-Saharan Africa and the Muslim world are a key source of global instability as evidenced by the terrorist and criminal networks they spawn and by the exodus of refugees.

We also need to get serious again about nuclear non-proliferation. Canada is the world's leading exporter of uranium and a major supplier of nuclear reactor technology. We are also a longstanding champion of nuclear non-proliferation and have been a key supporter of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Non-

Proliferation Treaty (NPT), and the development of other nuclear safeguards.

Canada is well-positioned to work closely with others, including the United States, to strengthen and preserve the integrity and structure of the NPT regime so that there are proper firewalls in place for countries which have (or intend to pursue) nuclear energy programs. Multilateral governance of the nuclear fuel cycle is an important way to reduce proliferation risks from the revived use of nuclear power.

We need to reinvigorate Canada's nuclear non-proliferation diplomacy. We should also work closely with the U.S. and other suppliers to explore proposals for a "fuel leasing" system under which countries that provide uranium or plutonium reprocessing services take back the spent fuel for reprocessing and disposal.

At the same time, we have to recognize that some things are truly beyond our control. Uncontrollable events and crises will still catch all of us by surprise. And we should be prepared for it.

Fen Hampson is Chancellor's professor and director of Carleton University's Norman Paterson School of International Affairs.

Giving back to Ottawa

Thea Geerts is the wife of Netherlands Ambassador Wim Geerts and the mother of two young girls. No doubt she's busy enough being a mom, but as an ambassador's wife, she must co-host lunches and dinners at the official residence. Still, Ms Geerts finds time to help out in the community which she will call home for the next three years.

On any given day, you might find her in the kitchen at the Ottawa Mission, chopping vegetables for soup and then serving it to the less fortunate people who stop by for a meal. Or, she could be at the Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre where she gets to keep up her professional skills as a physical therapist in the veterans exercise program.

"I'm very happy I found something where I could combine volunteering with my own training," Ms Geerts says of the work at the Perley and Rideau. "It's a good combination."

There's also a chance you'll find her at Queen Mary School, tutoring Grade 3 math, or reading to younger children at Manor Park School. Both of these programs are run by the Ottawa Centre for Research Innovation (OCRI). For the Manor Park reading sessions she's joined by 10 other diplomatic spouses.

"We try to go in every week and read to the children in the first grade," she said. "It's a school with a large population – part from Rockcliffe, part from Vanier. You have some kids whose parents are diplomats and other kids whose parent probably work three jobs just to pay the rent. A lot of kids aren't necessarily read to (in their homes), so we read to them and show them how much fun it is to read."

Ms Geerts' reasons for volunteering are simple.

"I like to do something here. I worked full-time until two days before we came here so I like to keep busy," she said. "Just doing lunches and dinners isn't enough for me. Volunteering is a great way of meeting new people and helping out in the community. It's very rewarding. If you have spare time, this is the thing to do – help out."

She's not the only diplomatic spouse who thinks this way. Mary Doherty, whose husband is a legal attaché with the U.S. embassy, helps the Nepean Equestrian Centre run a program for adults with

mental disabilities. Through the Ottawa-Carleton Association for Persons with Developmental Disabilities, they bring adults to the centre, and teach them to ride horses. "We tack up the horses and lead them while they're riding," Ms Doherty said. "It's fabulous."

An enduring memory of her volunteering with this group is an ink drawing done for each of the volunteers by one of the grateful new equestrians. "My oldest daughter liked it so much she took it and hung it in her room."

Ms Doherty also volunteered as team captain for Elmwood School's Run for the Cure team this year, which raised \$35,000 – more than any other school in the region.



Diplomatic spouses take part in OCRI's Manor Park Primary School Ottawa Reads program. Back row from left, Thea Geerts (Netherlands), Clare Cary (United Kingdom), Marjatta Piipponen (Finland), Josée Amelete (Togo) and Carolina di Giramolo (Italy).

"I do it because I have the time, and because I'm very fortunate," Ms Doherty says. "I have four healthy kids and a wonderful husband. I'm lucky and I need to give back."

For her part, Debra Sinnhuber, wife of the Austrian embassy's consul, uses volunteering as a way to get out in the community and meet local people. Last winter, she happened on a chance to talk to various groups about nutrition through a program run by Ottawa Public Health. Her previous nutritional knowledge was limited to being a mother of three but that was fine because public health trains its volunteers.

"We do different topics, from good nutrition on a low budget, to safe food-handling," Ms Sinnhuber says. She speaks to everyone from seniors to young, homeless men, and considers herself "lucky to find this." ■



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When Spain's Foreign Affairs Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos visited Ottawa last September, he delivered a speech at the Centre for International Policy Studies at the University of Ottawa. There, he explained the striking similarities between Spain and Canada, even if your image of a Spanish man is someone basking in the warm sunshine on the beach and our image of a Canadian is someone fishing through the ice near his igloo.

The fact is that Spain and Canada share common challenges, both nationally and internationally. We are two countries with a great geographic diversity, a decentralized territorial structure, developed economies that are considered 8th and 9th in the world, with tolerant and open societies that value social policies and request good services for their taxpayer's money.

Based on these foundations, it is only logical that we share a common vision of the world as two countries that are considered middle powers but develop global policies. Our diplomacies share the same values and principles, and are guided by very similar priorities. They show up in our defence of a "smart diplomacy" before the use of force, our commitment to an efficient multilateralism, our advocacy of human rights, or our efforts to fight poverty. On arms control and non-proliferation, our positions are equally close.

Spain takes over the presidency of the Council of the European Union in January 2010. It will be a period where the EU will show its commitment to play a more proactive global role after the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty. Canada can count on

our full support on the shared endeavours towards a more solid and comprehensive partnership. The occasion to test our commitment will be at the EU-Canada Summit to take place in May.

Also in 2010, Canada will chair the G-8, with meetings to be held in Muskoka

in June. This happy

coincidence will give Madrid and Ottawa the opportunity to fine-tune our respective agendas and to work on the complementarity and mutual reinforcement of both our presidencies. We will also work together within the framework of the G-20 in which Spain has been participating since the Washington Summit in November 2008.

Our shared expectation is that our bilat-

eral relations will also be further strengthened. We have the tools for a qualitative leap forward to a new level of cooperation on the diverse items of our agenda. But I wish to focus on a case in point: Latin America.

I will not dwell on the Spanish heritage in Latin America – so much has been written about it as our relations have a 500-year foundation. I will instead focus on the relationship in the 21st Century. Today, Spanish relations with Latin America are privileged, and not just because we share a language and a common civilization. There is a constant flux of exchanges through all kinds of networks, be they language, trade, universities, science, culture or environment. The Ibero-American Summits have developed into a rich framework of interconnections that extend to all areas of life in an interactive, participative, social way that enriches both sides of the Atlantic.

Canada has developed a new strategy for the Americas, which has been reinforced with the designation of a minister



Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos visited Ottawa last fall. He met with Peter Kent, Canada's minister of state for the Americas, about Spain and Canada working together in the region.

ALBAN BODINEAU © COUNCIL OF EUROPE

of state for the Americas. Based on three pillars (democratic governance, prosperity and security), it extends Canada's commitment to a wide range of actions including establishing new free trade agreements, increasing efforts in cooperation for development, and strengthening regional organizations that engage both the public and the private sector.

Our respective officials hold frequent consultations on Latin America. The political dialogue is always fruitful, allowing us to refine our assessment in certain areas. It helps bring many of our own viewpoints together and strengthens our initiatives in the multilateral forums – especially the Organization of American States, where Spain is an active observer.

But the reach of our consultations goes beyond that. Considering that our shared vision of world affairs, our strong presence in Latin America and our commitment to development could lead to duplications, Spanish officials asked Canadian counterparts: Why not work together, looking for added value and synergies through our greater capacity as partners, to accomplish more ambitious goals?

Of course, this is more easily said than done. While we already envision our contributions in specific projects, we also need to establish common standards and procedures on matters such as accountability. For example, we must find out how to combine our legal systems regarding procurement, and coordinate our local policies on staff. In other words, there's a lot of spade work to do. But once completed, it can then be useful not only in Latin America but in any other areas chosen for bilateral collaboration. Our common Latin American achievements will set a precedent and open new opportunities. Our commitment is strong and we want to get it through as soon as possible.

I will finish where I started. Last September in Ottawa, Mr. Moratinos held a meeting with Peter Kent, Canada's minister of state for the Americas. I witnessed their mutual enthusiasm about getting this work done. Mr. Kent has now been invited to Spain, where he will meet Juan Pablo de Laiglesia, Spanish secretary of state for Ibero-America, along with Mr. Moratinos. It is time to close the circle and put a specific proposal on the table that gets Canada and Spain to work together in Latin America. We should be working hand in hand, not just side by side.

Eudaldo Mirapeix is Spain's ambassador to Canada.

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CEO of CEOs: On trade, Buy American and Canada's global role

John Manley is starting a new job with the new year. For the past five-and-a-half years, the Ottawa native has been practising law in Toronto with the firm McCarthy Tetrault but now, as CEO of the Canadian Council of Chief Executives, he's returning to Ottawa, and indeed to the building where he first practised law in 1978. He replaces Thomas d'Aquino, who ran the council for nearly 30 years.

Although obviously still a Liberal – after all, he was industry, finance and foreign affairs minister, as well as deputy prime minister, under Liberal Prime Minister Jean Chretien – he also recently served as chair of the independent panel on Canada's role in Afghanistan and was selected to do so by Conservative Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

He sat down with *Diplomat's* editor, Jennifer Campbell, to talk about Afghanistan, trade

and how Canada needs to be more like Norway.

Diplomat magazine: You've been in Toronto for a few years?

John Manley: Yes, I've been kind of a reverse MP. I see them all at the airport Monday and Thursday. I'm going out, they're coming in.

DM: Describe your new job.

JM: It's an organization I've had a lot to do with over the years. As a minister, when I was invited, I would attend their meetings, in part because it was a very efficient use of a minister's time. You'd see 70 or 80 CEOs of major Canadian companies in one sitting and get their take on what's happening with the economy. So I've always found it a very valuable organization from that point of view. I think it's becoming increasingly important for Canada to build broad consensus on important public policy issues and I think that these people – 150 CEOs of essentially our largest companies – need to be engaged and they need to understand how public policy is made. They need to express a view of the kind of society they want Canada to be.

DM: Public policy is important to you, isn't it?

JM: That's always been my greatest interest. That's what motivated me to run for Parliament in the first place. I had some wonderful jobs, even when I was in opposition. (Governor of the Bank of Canada) Mark Carney reminds me that they still refer to a report I did as chairman of the sub-committee for the finance committee when I was in opposition. It was on monetary policy and the role of the Bank of Canada. So that's stuck around. It gives me a lot of satisfaction to engage in issues like that.

DM: How much of a role does your new organization have when it comes to foreign policy in Canada?

JM: I think it has elements. Certainly trade, and in-bound investment, and out-bound investment to some extent, so primarily on the economic side of foreign policy. You've got a group of people who are smart, well-informed and leading important enterprises in Canada. They have views, as well, on Canada's role in the world but their interests aren't as directly related to our broader foreign policy in the sense of political, human rights, and the role of the Canadian military. They're very directly involved in the economic side, less so on the political side, but they may have important opinions.

DM: Can you tell me a little bit about your time in Afghanistan when you were chairing the independent panel on Canada's future role there? Another panel member, Pamela Wallin, said it was life-changing for her.

JM: We had a really in-depth visit and a really intense period when you think that we did our work in a little over three months. I like to compare us to the report that (they) did in the U.S. on Iraq. It took them nine months and we saw as many witnesses as they did. And we saw them all ourselves – we didn't have sub-committees. We talked to anybody who would talk to us and had some expertise in the subject matter. It was filtered a little bit for us by the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs (at Carleton University).

We also had a very intense visit into four provinces in Afghanistan. We saw as much as anybody could see in a short



period of time and we talked to a variety of people, from representatives of government to NGOs, businesses, private citizens, schools. We were in several schools. We talked to teachers, and those trying to run schools. It was a very broad-based experience and I think it moved us all.

DM: What sticks with you?

JM: Afghanistan is, in some ways, a world of conflicting images, where you'll look over here and see something that just makes you despair. Then, you look away, and you look back, and you see hope. (It's had) incredible difficulty getting out of the past, the roots of tribalism, ethnic fighting and war-lordism and the conflicts of the civil wars. And yet a school opens and it's full the next day.

There was a woman I met who was a construction engineer, running a project in the city of Kabul. She was very proud of the project but more proud of the fact – having graduated from the University of Kabul herself in engineering before the time of the Taliban – that her daughter was now graduating from the University of Kabul, having been home-schooled by herself and her mother, at great risk, during the time of the Taliban. So you get these glimpses that are really encouraging. And, you get so much bad news, and a deteriorating security situation.

DM: Should Canada pull out in 2011?

JM: I don't think we should pull out, if you mean drop everything. I think Parliament has spoken on our military commitment and I suspect that our armed forces are reaching the limit of their endurance in terms of the level of their engagement. I have no doubt that the work in Afghanistan will not be finished in 2011. I also believe that it's not a static situation in terms of the preparedness of Afghan security forces to take on ever increasing responsibility for their own security. That's moving; it's not static. We know it's the third poorest country on Earth. There will be a need for development assistance, training, teaching, construction assistance for years to come. We have to remain engaged. We've put a lot of time, and effort, money and lives into this and I think it would be a mistake for us to abandon that. We should stick to it and continue to make a contribution.

DM: In your new job, what are the top three issues you'll have to tackle right off the bat?

JM: I think the biggest single issue that's

emerging – where public policy and the economy overlap – is how to tackle the climate change issue. It seems to me that the U.S. is moving toward a mechanism to price carbon and that, therefore, means

that we have to be very careful how we craft our own climate change response so that it not be contradictory and that it be consistent in a way that satisfies the U.S. protectionist interests which are always

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that. I'd put that into the broader category of the Canada-U.S. border issue. Buy American itself is not unimportant but it has limited application. It's more important symbolically than it is economically. I bear the scars from 1994 – trying to get our provinces to agree to buy Canadian, outside their own province. They weren't prepared to move on that enthusiastically. And municipalities kicked up a huge fuss. So we're not exactly on the high moral ground when it comes to provincial and local procurement. If the effect of Buy American is that it opens up procurement to all Canadian companies, that would be pretty good in itself.

Buy American, as a symbol of rising protectionism in the United States, should be a major concern. But it is only state and local procurement and it is only the amount that's in the stimulus package so that's in various stages of being spent and contracted for already and time is marching on. I think the more important element would be (recognition) that we need to treat this economic space in North America differently than we treat the rest of the world. That just makes sense for the United States as well as for Canada. That's a message that's hard to deliver in Washington. We have a lot of trouble getting on the agenda in Washington.

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SAME FOR 10 YEARS, AND
HAS BECOME VERY RIGID.

DM: Speaking of trade, how important is the Canada-EU agreement?

JM: I think the potential for us doing more with the EU is one that's long overdue. The thing I admire about the EU is that it is able to continually move forward, compared to NAFTA, which has stayed the same for 10 years, and has become very rigid. The EU is constantly moving forward, making progress on a number of things. So it's a dynamic environment and it's become a huge economic bloc. Canada hasn't historically had much in

its DNA to figure out how to deal with Europe as an entity, rather than dealing with the UK, or France, or Germany or Spain. I think, ironically, the fact that the initiative of Canada-Europe was started by (Quebec Premier) Jean Charest is quite a good thing, even though I'm indisputably a fed. It seems to me that one of the obstacles we've had to doing anything with Europe was that they would say "we function as one entity; why can't Canada?" So to get the provinces out front and to realize the benefits of these trade links with Europe is a really positive thing. That shows promise.

DM: The provinces are still a concern for Europe.

JM: I know. European leaders have told me in the past that they're not interested

until the provinces are there. Otherwise, why bother, why waste their time? They're busy negotiating trade agreements all over the world and Canada's way down their list in part because they think our provinces are just too big an obstacle.

DM: What about the council's role in promoting exports of Canadian technology?

JM: Among the 150 companies, I would guess you've got the majority of our exports represented, both in terms of technology and finished goods as well as natural resources, which also are major users of technology and developers of technology. You've got roughly 80 percent of private sector GDP within those companies so it's the major player. It's a huge percentage. So, whatever the issue – and



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this is why, as a minister, I found it so valuable – if you want to get a business perspective in terms of trade flows and transfers within the economy, this is one of the key places to look.

DM: Finally, as a former foreign minister, how do you see Canada's place in the world?

JM: I think we need to decide what it is we want to be. In some ways, I think the role we used to play has been supplanted by some smaller countries. Norway comes to mind as a country that's been in the lead in terms of development assistance, diplomacy. Even for 4.5 million people, it has an effective defence force. It only does a few things – not everything. It's had influence beyond a country of its size. Canada used to be there, a really influential smaller power.

To some degree, in some areas, our role in Afghanistan has restored us to be able to claim that role. We can't be everywhere and do everything but we can choose some places and make the investment. We've got to be focused and stick with it. I think the world needs countries like Canada, which aren't global superpowers but are willing to put lives and treasure at risk to support principles like the rule of law and respect for human rights. These are building blocks for the kind of world you want to have: Non-proliferation, accountability for international crimes and crimes against humanity. We can't always be talking and never acting. I think we're in a good position but we need to focus.

We have done a lot to support human rights, democracy, democratization movements, the establishment of the International Criminal Court, the landmines treaty. These are all things that are part of our brand. We also have shown that we can put a fighting force in Afghanistan that's the equal of any on the planet. We need to supplement what we're doing in diplomacy and development assistance so when it matters, we're able to influence outward.

Our proximity, in every way, to the United States is both a strength and a weakness. It's a strength because for the foreseeable future, it is the major force on earth. Our ability to work closely, to be an ally and a friend, and yet to be separate, is a strength. It's a weakness because sometimes we have confusion about how we define that relationship. We can sometimes lose ourselves in trying to distinguish ourselves from them. I think there's a certain futility to that. ▢



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Q & A

David Jacobson, U.S. President Barack Obama's man in Ottawa, talks about his priorities—trade, energy, the environment and border security are tops—and, informally, about himself

By Donna Jacobs

Sitting in the teal blue library

of his ambassadorial residence in Rockcliffe, the United States' No. 1 representative to Canada speaks with the broad-A accent of a mid-westerner. He speaks quietly and laughs easily at himself.

He hugs Max, the one-and-a-half -year-old Pomeranian-poodle mix who has made an enthusiastic escape from his wife, Julie, who is upstairs. She coaxes him back but later, Max races helter-skelter downstairs and leaps into the ambassador's arms for a romp.

On the grand piano sits a cluster of family snapshots. The couple's daughter, Wynne, 21, is studying at the University of Colorado; their son, Jeremy, 20, is in his first year at McGill University. Ambassador Jacobson is only weeks into his job which started Oct. 2.

Diplomat Magazine: Are you ready for a Canadian winter?

David Jacobson: I'm very used to wind and I'm very used to snow. Whether winters here are the same, better or worse, I'm used to them.

DM: Have your impressions of Canada changed since you started your coast-to-coast travels in this country?

DJ: Yes, my impressions have changed. Or they have been reinforced. This is, first of all, a very, very big place. And as I travel — and I try to do as much of it as I can — I'm reminded of this every day. I am really impressed by the warmth of the Canadian people and the warmth they've showed to me and my wife, Julie. They are unfailingly kind, polite and gracious. This has been great.

DM: As assistant to the president for presidential personnel (appointments), you could have had any one of 4,000 jobs. Why did you choose ambassador to Canada?

DJ: First of all, Canada's relationship with the U.S. is one of the most important relationships — if not the most important — that our country has. Our trade relationship, our energy relationship and the closeness of the people of Canada to the people of the United States — all these start from this special relationship.

Another reason I was interested in coming here is that the things I know most about, the things I have spent a career working on, are at the heart of the relationship between our countries: environmental issues, intellectual property rights, trade. These are things I know about and have worked on, for years and years, as a lawyer. I thought I might be able to create some value to the process.

A third reason is, and this has already been underscored for me, this is a great place to be. People are warm and the weather isn't warm. People are nice. People are great. It's a beautiful country, a diverse country — much like my country is. This combination of (things), in my

view, makes this the best job in the United States government.

DM: In a way, then, you chose...

DJ: Understand that the president chose. Make no mistake about that. President Obama chooses all the people who serve at the pleasure of the president.

DM: You were sent with some top objectives. Specify three.

DJ: I am always loath to pick my first choice as opposed to my second choice. It's like deciding which of your children you like most. But, having said that, the overriding objective that I have — not specific policy — is to take the message that (President Obama) has brought to my country — hope and change — and to try to bring these (values) across the border to the Canadian people.

DM: What hope and change would you bring to Canada?

DJ: I have this enormous pleasure in my job of representing someone who is very popular here in Canada.

Specifically, when it comes to policy, there are four areas that I want to focus on.

First is the issue of trade. Given the importance of the trade relationship, it is always going to be important.

Secondly, energy and the environment, which are two sides of the same coin, are issues which are only going to get more and more important in our country and, I suspect, in your country, too. I suspect I will spend a lot of time on these issues.

Thirdly, the border and how we strike the balance between security on the one hand and convenience on the other hand. I don't believe it is a zero-sum game, that you have either a secure border or convenient border. If we do this intelligently, we can have both.

The fourth area is how Canada and the U.S. co-operate around the world — not just in Afghanistan but in world organizations and elsewhere where our two countries have stood shoulder to shoulder for generations.

Those four subjects are the areas that will take up most of my time.

DM: What qualities make you suited to this job? What will come naturally to you? What won't?

DJ: I have to work on my interviews with the press. (He laughs.) Two of the things you have to be able to do as a lawyer, at least as the kind of lawyer I was, is that you have to be able to learn about things



The ambassador blogs regularly. From his Oct. 9 entry: "We also spent some time walking around Old Montreal and visiting our son who is in school there. Julie bought shoes. I bought poutine."

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quickly and that you have to be able to articulate your case clearly. I think those are two qualities that are going to be critically important here in Canada and for any ambassador anywhere.

I hope these (skills) will make me a better ambassador. I would like to think — ultimately this (judgment) is up to the Canadian people, the American people and my president — I would like to think that I could reinforce the president's view of how we deal with foreign countries and foreign government, particularly our friends. We have an opportunity to be

open, to be respectful and to be candid. These are qualities I'd like to think I've used in my past career that are going to help me here.

I have been involved in politics quite some time. I was in the White House (but) I have not ever run for elective office myself. I do think I am more of a public figure here than I was in the United States. And that is something I will have to work on. I am getting a baptism by fire here and hopefully I'll get up to speed pretty quickly.

DM: How do you feel when you are addressed as "Excellency"?

DJ: I'm not good at "Excellency." I'm not comfortable when people stand up when I walk into the room. I believe that I am an ordinary person who has had some extraordinary opportunities. And this is certainly one of them. When people call me "Excellency," I feel very self-conscious to tell you the truth. I feel like everybody else and I want to be treated like everybody else. And that's very important to me.

DM: What peeves you?

DJ: People who call me "Your Excellency." That's a new one. But, going back to what I said earlier, I want people to be genuine. I don't like it when people suck up — perhaps that's not a diplomatic phrase. I don't like that. I like people who are themselves. And when people aren't themselves, it bothers me.

It really bothers me when people don't try their hardest. I always told my children, from the time they were very young, that all I expected from them was that they tried their hardest. I didn't necessarily expect them to do well, I didn't expect them to succeed or not succeed. I expected them to try their hardest. And if they succeeded and they didn't try their hardest, that was not good. It was always to try their best. Sometimes, when I don't try my hardest — you can only be "on" so much — I'm very disappointed in myself.

DM: What worries you most about this job?

DJ: I think what most worries me is that the relationship between the U.S. and Canada is so strong — and I don't want to screw it up. I want to make sure I leave it at least as strong, and hopefully stronger, than it was when I got here.

DM: Are you really, as reported, unflappable?

DJ: (Laughs) We may want to get my wife in here. No one is unflappable.



Ambassador Jacobson stands at Cape Tormentine, New Brunswick, in front of the Confederation Bridge to Prince Edward Island.

DM: *Maclean's* magazine quoted your associates' description of you as unflappable.

DJ: I am even-tempered. I think that's a fair characterization. Like everybody else, I get frustrated, I get upset. I would like to think I have enough control over myself and my emotions that I don't let it get the best of me. There are moments when I'm particularly *not* unflappable — watching sporting events. But my professional life, I'd like to think that I'm at least calm.

DM: You are reputed to be a fine manager of time. What tips can you offer?

DJ: One of the things you need to do is to rely on good people around you. And I have very, very, very good people around me. I have to rely on their judgment and I have to rely on them being able to get things done because certainly I cannot do everything myself. I remember, many years ago, someone saying to me that the higher you get in an organization, the less

you do. And that is honest. What do I do? Well, I come in early in the morning, and I work really hard all day long, but I don't produce a product. I don't write things. I don't create as much as I administer a process. And I'm the face of this process to the people in Canada and back to my colleagues in Washington. And I have to learn to rely on others.

DM: Your top tip, then? Don't handle a piece of paper twice? See people in 15-minute segments?

DJ: Oh, that I were that careful.

I get up very early. Before my daughter was born, I used to sleep very late. My daughter is about to turn 22. She used to get up very early in the morning and I don't think I've slept past 8 o'clock in the past 22 years. And sometimes I get up at what my wife calls zero o'clock. I try very hard to read several newspapers, the *New York Times* every day and as much as I can of *The Washington Post*. I read the *Ottawa Citizen* and I read the *Globe and Mail*. I read

the *Star* — sometimes bits and pieces. And then my colleagues at the embassy provide me with other things that are not in those publications. I try to read a lot.

I usually get to the embassy before 8 o'clock and start with a meeting with the staff about what happened the day before in the news. And what I'm going to do that day. The night before, I'm given a briefing book with my schedule for the day and information about each meeting and why I'm meeting with someone and the issues I should read about first.

And then I go on this cascade of events that are very disparate, which is one of the things that makes this such a great job. Just by way of example, yesterday, I went from a meeting to an event at Roberta Bondar School where I met 600 grammar school kids and five astronauts. Parenthetically, if you ever need to be brought down to size, go and speak to a bunch of school kids before they're going to hear from astronauts. They don't want to hear from me. That (event) was great and I learned all about the astronauts' space flight — and then went into a meeting about a very serious national security issue with people from my staff.

It is the juxtaposition of these things that makes it incredibly exciting. I remember an episode on *West Wing* where the president was about to go into a meeting and he said to his staff, "You know, this is the greatest job in the world." Now I think to myself that *this* is the greatest job in the world.

DM: How do you rate your ability to assess people?

DJ: I'm not always right but I'm quick.

DM: What persuaded you to work on Mr. Obama's campaign?

DJ: Let me tell you how I met him and how this all transpired. I met the president right about 1999 or 2000. He was a state senator in Illinois — not a particularly high-level state senator but he had a very good reputation as somebody who was very smart and was likely to go on to good things. We had a number of friends in common but one in particular. He said, "you gotta meet this guy." I had lunch with him and he was indeed quite impressive. When he ran for the Senate, you might recall, he was by no means a shoe-in. Indeed, it seemed unlikely he would become the Democratic nominee. He had a couple of very strong opponents. But because I was impressed, I helped in his campaign.



If you want 600 grade school students to listen to you, don't compete with five astronauts, Mr. Jacobson advises. He did just that at Roberta Bondar Public School in the fall. Left to right: Renate Michael, administrative assistant; Christine Lanos, principal; Mark Polansky, commander; Julie Payette, mission specialist; Ambassador Jacobson; David Wolf, Christopher Cassidy, Thomas Marshburn, all mission specialists; and Harry de Roo, vice-principal.

DM: Describe his character traits — then and now.

DJ: When you meet him, I think the thing that comes through the most clearly is his genuineness. He is the same person in a meeting with two people as he is when he's standing in front of hundreds of thousands and on television in front of millions. He is intelligent. It is obvious he is intelligent when you talk to him. He is decent. One quality that always impresses me, regardless of circumstances, is that there is a quiet dignity about him that few people have.

He is a special guy. There is no question about it. He was a special guy at lunch in a hotel restaurant around the corner from my office in Chicago. He's a special guy in the Oval Office. He is the same special guy. I think that's part of the reason he connects with so many people in my country and also in your country. He is what he is. He understands what he is. And he's comfortable with what he is.

DM: You raised millions of dollars for Mr. Obama's presidential campaign.

DJ: Here's what I can say. I don't want to get into exact dollars, although there

are public reports (on fund-raising), particularly in presidential campaigns. I was deputy national finance chair of the campaign. The campaign raised hundreds of millions of dollars. My job was to see that this process went along smoothly. There were people who raised money in very large chunks within the confines of our campaign finance laws and there were millions and millions of people who gave money in very small chunks. My story — I always love to tell it — is that there was limit on how much you could give to the primary campaign — about \$2,300. And that ended in ended in June 2008. As of that time, there were 11 people who had given \$2,300 in a hundred separate contributions. Those were people who on average gave \$23 each time — who had given their rent money, had given their food money, to support Barack Obama. Quite frankly, they are the people who made the campaign special. Stories like this made me proud of what we were doing to raise money.

DM: What percentage of the campaign funds came from ordinary folk?

DJ: In terms of the number of contribu-

tions, probably 98 percent. I don't know (the precise percentage) but several million contributors — the overwhelming majority — gave small amounts. The average contribution was under \$100. Citizens across the country felt they were engaged because they gave money, they voted and they got friends to vote.

DM: What advice can you give for effective fund-raising?

DJ: Manage the process. We managed it very effectively (by using) cell phones. We used lots of technology. But one thing we were good at was this: We didn't begin by asking people for money. It didn't matter if I was going to someone looking or a lot of money or somebody who was going to make a very small contribution online. I didn't start by asking for money. I started out by engaging them in the process. Asking for money is the last thing you do, not the first thing you do. I think that's true in any fund-raising (but) it's particularly true in political fund-raising.

DM: How accessible is the president to you? How closely did you work with him in the White House?

DJ: Look, he's a busy guy. I have no intention of picking up the phone and chatting with him. He's got more important things to do. However, I'm quite confident that if there were a matter important enough to deserve the attention of the president of the United States, that he would talk with me about it.

I think the far more common situation is that the senior staff around him in the White House are mostly people I know — some of them quite well, either from the campaign or from my time in the White House. (Chief of Staff) Rahm Emanuel, for example, was a congressman from Chicago. These were people I worked with every day in the White House. It had better be pretty important before you call the president.

DM: Do you have breakfast? Do you exercise?

DJ: I definitely have breakfast. One of the best parts of being ambassador to Canada from the United States is the food. We have this great chef here and basically he'll make me anything I want. Dino Ovcacic is the executive chef and Dana Gosso is sous-chef. The food is incredible. I try as best I can to eat in moderation. I either eat cereal or sometimes they will make me an omelette. Granola. Skim milk. Sometimes we have fruit and they cut it beautifully. Sometimes I'll ask for an apple and it comes looking like a flower. It's most amazing. And the one thing (about this) that you should emphasize: This is not the way I am used to living. I have lived a normal life in a nice house.

I do drink a lot of coffee — black — as soon as it's available after I'm dressed. Probably around 6 a.m. I drink a lot of coffee probably until 10 in the morning, probably five cups, and then I stop because I will never fall asleep.

DM: And lunch?

DJ: Lunch tends to be catch as catch can. I usually eat in the embassy cafeteria. (The family dog bounds into the room and the ambassador speaks to him.) Yeah, Max, you're a famous dog. (He interrupts the conversation to tell Max's story.) Max loves it here. For him, it's like being Richie Rich. He's been living with my daughter, who is a senior in college at the University of Colorado, living in a one-room apartment, and Max comes here and it's like he's gone to dog heaven.

I have lunch in the cafeteria and try, to the extent I can, to eat in the cafeteria with people who work at the embassy and to



After touring Ottawa's ByWard Market, Mr. Jacobson blogs: "Julie bought a scarf. I bought two Obama cookies."

I DON'T NEED ATTENTION.
I'M COMFORTABLE WITH
ATTENTION — IT'S NOT LIKE
I WANT TO SHY AWAY FROM
IT, HIDE FROM IT.
BUT I DON'T NEED IT.
SOMETIMES I'M SURPRISED
BY IT. QUITE FRANKLY, I'M
SHOCKED WHEN I WALK
DOWN THE STREET AND
SOMEBODY SAYS "HI, MR.
AMBASSADOR."

try to meet as many of them as I can and to meet them in the least formal seating — where they don't have to stand up when I walk in the room. A typical lunch? A turkey or tuna sandwich. I don't eat salads as often as my wife would like.

DM: What's your favourite dinner and dessert?

DJ: I love Italian food. I love large portions. (Laughs.) I love lots of kinds of pasta and meat sauces. This sounds like a conversation I might have with Dino. I like fruits a lot — my favourite fruit is raspberries. I'm not a huge dessert guy. My wife likes anything chocolate. But I love ice cream. Chocolate. Nothing fancy.

DM: Do you work out to keep your stress level down?

DJ: I work out as much as I can. My day is long. I get up early and work late several nights a week — probably five nights a week. We're not done until 9 or 10 o'clock at night. Some of these things are dinners — it's a funny kind of work but it lasts

a long time. I've asked my staff to try to schedule an hour during the afternoon. There is a gym in the embassy basement and I can work out there for a while, typically on a treadmill or elliptical trainers. I just try to get my heart rate up a little. So the staff tries to schedule an hour. I figure that, if the president can do it, I can do it, too.

I do have a stressful job. I'll sign an affidavit to that effect. I used to exercise a lot. I used to run marathons and triathlons. I used to be quite athletic — before I went to seed. But exercise is (still) a part of stress management. I think another part of stress management is trying to be open and talking to people about issues. One of the most important things that helps me deal with the stress of the job is to have my wife here with me. She has been an enormous resource. I said in the confirmation hearing (in Washington), when I introduced her, that I hoped that I'd be a good ambassador but that I was sure that she would be the best ambassador's wife, ever. She's kind, she's smart and she's very organized. Sometimes this last one can be a virtue (laughs), sometimes a vice.

DM: Are you an introvert or an extrovert?

DJ: That's a good question. In my position here, and in what I've done in my professional life, extrovert is the right way to describe me. But I need to be open and engaging. That's part of my responsibility. I am a quiet person. I do not view myself, in the normal course of events, as a person who would walk into a room and be the life of the party.

I don't need attention. I'm comfortable with attention — it's not like I want to shy away from it, hide from it. But I don't need it. Sometimes I'm surprised by it. Quite frankly, I'm shocked when I walk down the street and somebody says "Hi, Mr. Ambassador."

DM: On policy questions, the U.S. and Canada seem to be rivals in the Arctic but allies at the same time. Is this something that will concern you?

DJ: As a general matter, the U.S. and Canada co-operate extensively in the Arctic. And I think the headline of this relationship, as in most other areas, is co-operation. There are a couple of areas, though, where we don't necessarily see eye-to-eye.

DM: Which issues are they?

DJ: One of them is this question of Canadian sovereignty over the Arctic. This is



President Barack Obama, in the Oval Office, with Ambassador Jacobson and his wife, Julie.

an issue that has been around for awhile. It won't surprise you that I've been around here for two weeks and I haven't solved it quite yet. But I'm trying. Give me another couple of weeks. (He laughs.) But it is an issue I'll have to focus on. Beyond this, I think the fundamental point is that we co-operate in the Arctic much more than we disagree.

DM: Please discuss the Buy America provisions in the Stimulus Act. Can the president not simply exempt Canada by invoking his authority to declare the exemption "in the public interest"?

DJ: I understand the concern which the Buy America provision in the Stimulus Act has caused for a number of our trading partners but particularly here in Canada. I think it's fair to say that most, if not almost all, conversations I have with government leaders here in Canada, have included the Buy America question. I understand it and I have conveyed this concern back to the president.

There have been a number of discus-

sions between International Trade Minister Stockwell Day and my government, the U.S. trade representative and myself on this issue. They have been characterized by both sides as constructive. These are difficult issues. We're working our way through them. Beyond that, I'm not sure it's a good idea for me to negotiate in the media. I hope that we will be able to work these things out but they're tough and there are difficult issues on both sides.

DM: Some Canadians are dismayed by the Buy America protectionism. Some Canadians want the Canadian government to play hardball with the U.S., using Canada's energy exports as a means of getting the attention of the U.S. government. What would you say to them?

DJ: The president believes very strongly in free trade. I believe very strongly in free trade. And the reason that we believe so strongly in free trade is because it is best for the U.S. and it's best for all of our trading partners, including Canada. The worst time to impose restrictions on

free trade, and (to adopt) protectionist measures, is in difficult economic times. This is historically when people have always wanted to do it. But we think and we believe it's important, as best we can, to resist these temptations on both sides of the border.

DM: The Canadian Chamber of Commerce says that 7 million jobs in the U.S. and 3 million jobs in Canada are dependent on cross-border trade. Canada is the largest customer of 35 states. What is the most promising proposal to solve the problems raised by the backlog of traffic at the border?

DJ: I believe that technology is a large part of the answer. I was at the border last Friday and I went back and forth several times, at several crossing points, and I was privileged to stand with border guards and watch cars coming across. In some instances, where people had Nexus cards, the crossing was easy and expeditious. I met with border guards in Canada as well to watch the process. When

it works at its most efficient level, when the technology is used properly — both with passenger and with commercial traffic — (the result) is incredible. I think investments in technology are going to go a long way toward what I said earlier — that we can have both a secure border and an efficient border.

I think the other thing that is very important is to invest in the infrastructure in order to facilitate this. A lot of infrastructure on both sides was built before the Second World War and it is simply antiquated for the needs of today. Fortunately, my government has invested a lot as part of the stimulus package and the Canadian government has invested a lot. But a lot of these things, because they involve construction, come with physical limitations. When I was at the Peace Bridge in Buffalo, one of the problems on the United States side is that there is just no land to expand the plaza facility. This is a problem and we're going to have to figure out a solution.

(Late in November, Public Safety Minister Peter Van Loan and Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano announced bilateral solutions to create more obstacles for terrorists and fewer roadblocks for legitimate cross-border trade. Initiatives include sharing data on currency seized at the border to choke off money laundering and terrorist financing and stepping up collaboration to combat human trafficking, especially during the Vancouver Olympic Games. Reduced obstacles include setting up safe-shipper programs and enlarging the NEXUS and FAST cards for trusted travellers and sharing biometric immigration data with allies.)

DM: U.S. tourism to Canada is falling off. Is the requirement for passports responsible?

DJ: No one knows how much of the fall-off in tourism is the result of travel restrictions, how much the result of the economy. If you go down to Disney World, they'll tell you that travel is way down there, too, and that it doesn't have anything to do with the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI). The economy — these are tough times. They are tough times for Americans and they're tough times for Canadians.

The purpose of WHTI is to have standardized and secure documentation. I was somewhat surprised that on both sides of the border, when I was there the other day, they were talking about how (the passport requirement) has made it



David and Julie and their Pomapoo, Max, who's in "dog heaven" at his Rockcliffe home.

THE PRESIDENT HAS
MADE IT CLEAR THAT
HE'S NOT ASKING CANADA
FOR ADDITIONAL TROOPS.
WHAT WE'RE CONCERNED
ABOUT IS HOW WE BEST
USE THE TROOPS WHO ARE
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SHOULDER TO SHOULDER
WITH AMERICAN FORCES, IN
THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY
WE CAN OVER THE NEXT
TWO YEARS."

smoother — because you're not delaying cars with hundreds of different kinds of documents. It is quicker to get people across the border. Now there is going to be a period of time when people either have to get enhanced drivers' licences or passports, or in my country passports or Nexus cards. And this is going to take time. But when it works, I think it can be more efficient rather than less efficient. There are four border crossings in Buffalo. I flew over them in a helicopter and then — the highlight of the trip — I flew over Niagara Falls, which was pretty cool.

DM: President Obama wants Canada to stay in Afghanistan after 2011. What's stopping him from going full-force in Afghanistan as he is withdrawing from Iraq?

DJ: The president took time to re-evaluate the situation in Afghanistan (in a way that is) consistent with the positions he has taken from the beginning. One of the things that he said about Iraq during the campaign is that we need to be as careful getting out as we were careless getting in. I think that says a lot about his mindset in this area. He is a careful guy. Period. But he has said he has to be particularly careful when the consequence of his action is to send other people's children into battle to die. And he wanted to make sure that he has the strategy as right as he can make it. He has been dealt a very bad hand in Afghanistan. A very bad hand. And there are no perfect options. But he wanted to do the best he could to make sure he has the strategy right and then, once he has the strategy right, he can start to make decisions about what resources are necessary to achieve that strategy. Quite frankly, I believe he should be applauded for that. If perhaps that same level of care had been employed several years ago, we wouldn't be in the difficult situation that we're in right now.

(After President Obama's December speech on troop levels in Iraq and Afghanistan, Mr. Jacobson said this: "The president, the American people and I respect and we honour the service, and indeed, the sacrifice of the men and women in the Canadian Armed Forces in Afghanistan. The president in his speech talked about how our friends have fought and bled and died with us in Afghanistan and that certainly applies to the Canadian people.

"As the president has said in past conversations with Prime Minister Harper, he's focused on the role of Canada in 2010. The president has made it clear that he's not asking Canada for additional troops. What we're concerned about is how we best use the troops who are there, who are fighting shoulder to shoulder with American forces, in the most effective way we can over the next two years.")

DM: (In the event of a re-election of President Obama) is there a chance that you will be ambassador here for eight years?

DJ: You'll have to ask the president that question. But I'm going to do the best job I can and hopefully he'll keep me here as long as I serve his purposes. ■



A man with a beard and a white turban is shown in profile, looking upwards and to the left. He is wearing a dark blue jacket over a black shirt. The background is dark with some faint, out-of-focus lights.

Detoxifying Canada's jihadists

How Muhammad Robert Heft works with troubled and radical Muslim youth to rediscover the non-violent instructions of the Koran. By Donna Jacobs

PART I – Muhammad Robert Heft

The scene is a huge conference room at Ottawa's Crowne Plaza Hotel. The topic: Terrorism, Cyberspies and a New 'Cold' War. Canada's top people in security and intelligence have convened to assess the risk of terrorism in one of the world's most peaceable places.

CSIS Director Richard Fadden speaks: "Terrorism itself is often portrayed not as a real crime but as a political one. Terror is downgraded to a form of dissent, an act of revolutionary charm rather than a criminal code offence and a violation of international human rights standards... We have a serious blind spot as a country."

RCMP Commissioner William Elliott warns that Canada cannot ignore “the reality and the severity” of the terrorist threats it faces. “Al-Qaeda-related entities serve as an inspiration to violent extremists all over the globe,” he says. “Al-Qaeda is both a brand and an ideology. It is an ideology that is at the heart of the radicalization of citizens of many countries, including Canada.”

And then, unscripted, Muhammad Robert Heft, white-robed and turbaned amidst a roomful of Western security experts in suits, stands up in front of the audience and speaks.

“I came here with Mubin Shaikh,” says the ruddy-cheeked, blue-eyed Protestant who converted to Islam in 1998. “Mubin was the police agent who penetrated and revealed the Toronto 18 to the RCMP and who is responsible for hundreds of us being safe.

“I think people don’t recognize that when you put your life on the line for the safety of Canadians, and people in the world, you get demonized in your own community because, in effect, they see you as a traitor. It’s very, very difficult to balance.”

(Mr. Shaikh is a controversial figure in the Muslim community because he received money from the RCMP for his work. Later, Mr. Heft says that Mr. Shaikh risked his life and his reputation trying to prevent terrorism. And even though the Muslim community is skeptical because of “past mistakes and run-ins with the RCMP and CSIS,” he believes Mr. Shaikh would have the support of the majority of Muslims had he refused financial compensation.)

Then Mr. Heft, who runs a social services and de-radicalization service at his Paradise Forever Islamic Centre in Toronto, makes his own more optimistic prediction.

He couldn’t have had a better audience. The annual CASIS conference (Canadian Association for Security and Intelligence Studies) was founded by Canadian academics to bring discussion on national security into a public forum. Besides CSIS, the RCMP, the Canadian Security Establishment and the Integrated Threat Assessment Centre, the conference attracts most of Canada’s academics who specialize in terrorism and security (many of whom presented ground-breaking papers on security threats).

“I forecast that that over the next few years, you’ll be seeing a lot of people like Mubin and myself,” says Mr. Heft. “You’ll

be seeing a lot of people coming forward from our community who want you to know that this look (gesturing to his Muslim garb) has been hijacked.

“So you have to differentiate between a person’s look and the ideas the person carries. To help do that, we want to let you know there are people working on a grassroots level, for free, in Muslim communities. To be independent, I can receive no federal funding whatsoever.

“Yet representatives of the U.S. in Canada have come to us to talk and to understand the Muslim mentality. The Canadian government comes to us for help. CSIS and the RCMP — we cooperate for the sake of justice. We try to help them understand the mentality of the people with deviant views — and keep these individual away from the vast majority of Muslims who are law-abiding citizens.”

Mr. Heft’s grassroots program, located on two floors of a modern medical building at 2045 Dufferin Street in Toronto, is nicknamed P4E. “Paradise Forever — there’s nothing better,” the Winnipeg-born former Lutheran says, “than meeting your Lord.”

The newly-renovated 18-bed Islamic centre, complete with prayer room, food bank, computer lab and social services offices, has a staff of three, including administrator Abdul Sharif Hamilton, a fellow convert from Montreal — and \$17,000 in security equipment.

But, by far, what has most captured the interest of Canadian intelligence agencies is the centre’s “theological detox” program.

Before Mr. Heft admits troubled young Muslims to intensive counselling and study of the Koran, he requires that would-be jihadists and misguided Muslims sit in a circle — which includes police — and confess and repudiate what they believed and acknowledge the harm that these beliefs could cause to themselves and to the average Canadian.

“I’ve been in contact with several lawyers of the Toronto 18,” he says, “and two of the men themselves.”

Mr. Heft described his detox operation in an interview with *Diplomat* magazine.

Young Muslim men arrive at the centre, sometimes angry new converts bent on *jihad* against the West. They’re either Canadian-born Muslims, or they were welcomed by Canada as immigrants. They can only stay at the centre if they seek a job, an education or a trade — and they pay \$400 a month. “We don’t run a wel-

fare operation here.”

“Yes, I deal with the most troubled,” says Mr. Heft, 37, who, as president, oversees the operation.

He adds that he would accept Toronto-born Omar Khadr at the centre if he is sent back to Canada from Guantanamo Bay in Cuba where he is charged with terrorism and with killing a U.S. soldier with a grenade in Afghanistan.

“It’s such a hot potato nobody knows what to do with him,” Mr. Heft says. “So I say give him to us for two years. Our place is under surveillance already. We’ve got security cameras. Family visits would be in English and supervised. I’ve got connections to the RCMP and CSIS. He could wear an ankle bracelet. We have a lot of support from the community with psychiatrists, psychologists and he could be confined, other than school and work, until he finished the program.”

Remarkably, Mr. Heft plays an open hand with jihadists and CSIS, the RCMP and Metro Toronto police.

The men who stay at his centre know that he meets with these agencies — all which have P4E either under surveillance or on their radar. He stands at the cultural fracture line of the Muslim and Western world.

“I educate the RCMP and CSIS on profiling,” he says. He also does bridge-building. Last year, he set up a soccer game between the RCMP and Muslim youth who might have been “a little apprehensive of the RCMP.” They ended the 4-4 tied game with a “no-holds-barred conversation.”

RCMP Superintendent Jamie Jagoe oversees national security investigations in his job as assistant criminal operations officer for the Toronto-based Integrated National Security Enforcement Team, Ontario Division.

“After the soccer match, the youth talked about some challenges that they’re faced with, just in their day-to-day life,” says Supt. Jagoe. “And some of our officers talked about what they do, just to help build bridges and develop a relationship with young people, a few of whom might encounter problems ranging from crime to drugs to radicalization.”

He says that outreach programs are paying off. “Since we started talking to the community about the phenomenon of radicalization of youth, and young people wanting to commit an attack on Canadian soil, we have seen an acknowledgement grow that has generated a dialogue.

“At first there was almost complete



Abdullah Mathew Braun, U.S. president of P4E; Abdul Shakur Brooks, of the P4E education department; and Muhammad Robert Heft in the Dubai desert.

denial and now people are willing to talk about it," he says. "Where Mr. Heft is taking that dialogue is first to accept that there is a problem.

"We're supportive of anybody who takes a community-based approach to dealing with these issues and certainly the solutions to these issues, I believe, are everybody's responsibility," he says "not just police. Mr. Heft is one of many people who are doing this work.

"Like young people experimenting with drugs, we have found there are those individuals who sometimes start down a certain path towards radical action. We want to prevent radicalization before it escalates to a criminal act."

Asked to describe his approach to radical destruction-bent Muslims, Mr. Heft tells a story instead.

Prior to the 2005 arrests of all but one of the Toronto 18, he worked at the biggest Muslim organization in Canada — the Islamic Foundation of Toronto in Scarborough.

"I was running my program from a three-bedroom brick house at 98 Robinstone Drive in Scarborough where up to 13 young men — perhaps one-third of them would-be jihadists or otherwise troubled young Muslim men — stayed three to six months.

"They were all young Canadian guys," he says. Their ancestries were diverse — Trinidadian, Italian, Spanish, Somali —

though some came from long-established families in Toronto and Nova Scotia.

"The only thing that some of the new Muslims in the house wanted to talk about was *jihad*," Mr. Heft says.

"Well, the house was a townhouse, so the walls were very thin. The neighbour was a Muslim. He goes to the mosque and he complains. He says: 'All these guys are doing is yelling and screaming about fighting *jihad* and they're keeping my family awake.'

"So what do they (the Islamic Foundation of Toronto) tell me?" Mr. Heft asks, frustration still evident. "They say: 'Kick the guys out of the house. We might shut down the house because it's too much work.'

"Now think about this: I've got guys in my house who are talking about *jihad* or pseudo-*jihad*. Now you're going to kick them out and send them where?

"Now on top of that, I told them that CSIS was watching the house — that CSIS had a great interest in the house. They said 'Oh, we don't want CSIS watching the house. Don't meet with CSIS anymore. Let's shut down the house.'"

(Mr. Heft says that he has met with CSIS agents monthly since about 2003, helping them identify threats in the Muslim community "not through spying on individuals but in helping CSIS understand and develop effective policies and procedures. We'd have coffee, sit and tal

and I'd generally update them on what we were doing.")

"I said, 'Listen, if we kick those guys out, basically, you're going to see them on the 6 o'clock news in six months from now. They're going to be in big trouble.' They were sympathetic to all the ideas that the people were spewing through the Toronto 18. Some of them *were* from the Toronto 18 — Fahim Ahmad and Jahmaal James and Ali Dirie — they all knew people in the house and were friends with them and some were trying to recruit the guys I was trying to help.

"The first person convicted in the Toronto 18 terrorist plot, a young offender, had come to our house as a 15-year-old. He wasn't allowed to stay there because he was underage. He ended up going to the Salaheddin Islamic Centre in Scarborough, because we couldn't house him. He and others were talking to Ali Hindi."

(Imam Hindi, the Salaheddin centre's imam, has ties to the Khadr family — some members of whom adhered to Osama bin Laden's goals and have been injured or killed in doing so — that are well-documented. Equally well-documented now through recent testimony and videotapes was the serious intent of the Toronto 18 plotters to set off fertilizer bombs in the CN Tower, the Toronto CSIS building, the Toronto Stock Exchange and an Ontario military base.)

Says Mr. Heft: "I resigned because I



From left, MP Derek Lee; Ibrahim Bomelha, adviser to the prime minister and ruler of Dubai; and Muhammad Robert Heft during their 2009 trip to Dubai.

refused to kick them out of the house." The Islamic Foundation of Toronto subsequently shut down the house.

Mr. Heft follows that story with another: "I had somebody at my centre, a Canadian-born white guy, who was trying to buy grenades and AK-47s. He found someone who had access to those weapons. That person came to me. Within 10 minutes, I got in contact with CSIS and let them know what was being talked about, and I set up a meeting between this person and CSIS.

"If somebody comes to me with information like that," Mr. Heft says, "that's an imminent threat." The man wanted to give the guns to his family, who are not Muslims. "Now he is being watched and has, outwardly, renounced those ideas. A lot of these new Muslims get caught up in conspiracies — like one day the Canadian government is going to collapse and the average person will be fighting for his life to protect himself."

PART II — The Muslim Way

It's the summer of 2009 and Mr. Heft and Liberal MP for Scarborough-Rouge River Derek Lee make an unofficial visit to Dubai with the help of the United Arab Emirates Ambassador to Canada, Mohamed Abdulla Al Ghafli.

Mr. Heft and Mr. Lee meet with Ibrahim Bomelha, personal adviser to Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, who is prime minister and ruler of Dubai and vice-president of the UAE.

The Sheikh's charity, the Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian and Charity Foundation Establishment, supports Mr. Heft's Paradise Forever (P4E) Islamic Centre in Toronto and its de-radicalization program for new converts with a yearly donation in six figures — whatever it takes, says Mr. Heft, to cover operating expenses.

It is one of the Sheikh's countless donations. Often he provides disaster relief on a huge scale, such as the 2,000 food kits distributed to victims of the Sumatran earthquake last October — each food kit feeding a family of seven for a month — along with 20,000 hygiene kits and 4,000 blankets. He sent emergency supplies and medicines, including milk for 30,000 malnourished Gazan children and food parcels, during Israeli and Palestinian fighting in the Gaza in January 2009.

The two Canadians also meet in Abu Dhabi with the United Arab Emirates Red Crescent Authority, the official charity of the UAE, chaired by Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al-Nahayan, president of the UAE. Mr. Heft says that the Red Crescent is raising \$1.3 million towards his purchase of the medical building where he rents 10,000 square feet on two floors.

Sheikh Khalifa's support for the Red Crescent Authority, which in the Middle East corresponds to the Red Cross, has totaled \$860 million in recent years and \$130 million in the first nine months of 2009 alone. According to the Emirates News Agency, the UAE Red Crescent has extended its help to people of 90 countries with services that range from disaster and

poverty relief and education to support for 52,000 orphans.

As they reach out for financial support, says Mr. Heft, Mr. Lee lends credibility to P4E: "Hey, these guys are on the up and up — help them out."

Mr. Heft puts it this way: "In 2006, it was hard to get community support because people were skeptical of whether the arrests (of the Toronto 18) were legitimate. Guys like me needed support, but at the same time, to be independent, we can't be funded by the government of Canada. So people can indirectly support us by vouching for our credibility."

Mr. Lee says he's impressed with the way Mr. Heft works.

"He tells youth under his care that there's nothing to fear. He re-orientes them to worship under the guidance of the Koran. And he tells them not to get sucked into this unholy violence advocated by al-Qaeda and those who associate with it."

Mr. Lee's parliamentary experience on national security is significant. The Queen's University law school graduate helped establish the first Commons subcommittee on national security, sat on the first five-year review of CSIS and pushed for oversight on the Canadian Security Establishment, Canada's signals intelligence agency. He is now working to set up a parliamentary committee to receive classified information, an arrangement he says exists in Britain, the U.S. and Australia.

Mr. Heft also sought out Dan McTeague, Liberal MP for Pickering-Scarborough East and opposition critic for consular affairs, who works to rescue Canadians detained abroad. Both MPs are active in local Muslim events.

Mr. Lee says both Canadian and U.S. authorities are interested in the P4E program.

Barbara Cordero, vice-consul at the U.S. consulate in Toronto, and Kirk van der Walde, deputy political counsellor at the U.S. Embassy in Ottawa, have visited his centre, Mr. Heft says, "and liked what they saw." Sometime within the next three years, he may open a similar program in Atlanta or Chicago.

Imam Hamid Slimi, chairman of the Canadian Council of Imams and president and founder of the Faith of Life Network, says Mr. Heft's program answers a great need among new Muslims.

They're looking for support because mosques and Islamic centres are still building infrastructure, he says. Many lack services for new Muslims — whether basic proper religious training to coun-

teract radical views or simple shelter. "Some of my students had nowhere to go in winter and Mr. Heft's centre provided them a place. That's the spirit of Islam — to shelter the unsheltered. We need more such programs."

Shaykh Yusuf Badat is imam at the Islamic Foundation of Toronto, one of Canada's largest mosques, with attendance of 3,000 for weekly Friday service. He's also executive director and secretary of the Canadian Council of Muslim Theologians. He has known Mr. Heft and his centre for five years.

Imam Badat says many young Muslims found a retreat at P4E. Many had histories with crimes and violence. Mr. Heft "got close to them and they trusted him and his counselors. The young Muslims opened up and found the right path, inspired through services provided by centre," says the imam. "Some of them still attend our mosque. Some got married, are very responsible, have families and are taking care of their kids and living normal lives."

He describes Mr. Heft's program as unique and highly professional: "It is well-laid out, well-structured, and well-connected with people in the community."

The centre's broad focus — helping young Muslims with drug addictions and family problems — reaches out to youth "in a Muslim way," Mr. Lee says, "and shows them they can find spiritual and temporal fulfillment in the Koran and in prayer and meditation."

During his first tour of the P4E centre, Mr. Lee says, he felt a nostalgic tug on seeing the former medical examining rooms turned into monastic bedrooms. It reminded him of his own years as a seminarian studying for the Catholic priesthood.

Mr. Heft, who until recently supported his wife and two young sons on \$18,000 a year, says he's perpetually short of funds for the centre. He had to suspend his food bank last autumn (which he estimates helped 400 to 500 Muslim and non-Muslim families in its seven months of operation.) He plans to reopen it in February.

His half-million-dollar budget goes to salaries (his take-home salary is capped at \$47,000.) He breaks down his expenses: Rent costs \$180,000. Participating in conventions, running television programs and other outreach efforts cost \$140,000. Sponsorship of new Muslim converts and salaries costs another \$180,000. Next year, the centre plans to hire a social worker and a full-time imam and provide \$100,000 in student stipends for overseas religious



A flame erupts from a building hit with a missile launched by U.S. soldiers in Mosul, Iraq in July 2003. Muhammad Robert Heft went to Iraq as a human shield a four months prior to this.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, SFC. ROBERT WOODWARD

study, with another \$50,000 for secular scholarships.

And the one big-ticket item: Buying the fully leased medical building to finance the centre. A letter from the federal government, vouching for his program, he says, would be helpful in fund-raising.

As for his focus, he says it's the centre all the way.

"I'm there seven days a week, I'm grassroots, I'm available. I'm not a guy who's walking around giving speeches to everyone. I'm out of my element (at conferences.) Even when I meet those people, it's only for a specific reason and then I leave. I'm not wining and dining."

Part III - Jihadist

About 13 years ago, Robert Heft hit rock bottom.

"I'd gone bankrupt," he says. "I lost about \$120,000 at casinos, Proline sports betting and bookies." He turned to the Bible. Conversations with the Palestinian clerk of a convenience store introduced him to Islam. He converted in 1998.

Ten months later, full of a new convert's ardour, he was cultivated by a Canadian Egyptian, a member of the radical *Takseer al hijrah* living in Toronto whom he'd met at the Halton Mosque in Oakville.

Mr. Heft describes the typical recruit-ment razzle-dazzle.

"He charms you because, first, he's an Arab and understands Arabic language. He's memorized the whole Koran and, I guess, as a new convert, you're an out-

sider. And there were many incidents in my first 10 months as a Muslim. I was welcomed and encouraged to turn to the community for support. When I asked for financial assistance, I was told I was under investigation for converting for money."

"You know, also, as a new convert you think (some of) these guys (in the Muslim community) are not real Muslims. They don't pray. They're not fasting. They're not following the religion. And that's how they (radicals) catch you.

"At first, radicals don't talk about warfare. They talk about things you can relate to — the community's lack of religiousness. They say that you have to understand Islam has gone underground, almost a society within a society.

"And then, as he charms you, he says 'Oh, there are millions of us around the world and we're all an underground part of this group. Our goal is to overthrow the Muslim governments and, secretly, the Canadian and Western governments.'

"And they recruit new Muslim converts who are perfect targets since we are able to move around freely, without a lot of suspicion.

"I was finished with the Egyptian (radical), but I happened to be in Egypt in 2003 on the first day of bombing in the Iraq War. They were broadcasting images of children with three-quarters of their brains blown out.

"I was staying with a couple of Egyptians who said they planned to go to Iraq and help the Iraqi people. I decided I wanted to go as well. I thought Saddam was an idiot and I had no problem with

him being taken out of power. I thought that the people on the losing end were the civilians. I went as a human shield.

"I don't think I was thinking really extreme thoughts. I had no intention of picking up an AK-47. I don't believe in guns.

"I used the word *jihad* because my struggle was that I felt there were a lot of idiots in the world who shouldn't be in power. It seemed America only chose idiots (where there was possible gain) in return — in Iraq's case, a tremendous amount of oil.

"I went through the Syrian border with a medical supply bus and went to Baghdad and ended up staying one night in a Sheraton Hotel. I spent most of my time in the main electrical plant until the main transformer was blown out by a bomb about a kilometre away. I spent my last night in the Sheraton, took a taxi from Baghdad through Kirkuk to the front lines in Mosul, re-entered Syria and flew back to Egypt and then to Canada.

"While I was there, I was inspired (by the concept) that the real enemy of Muslims was the ignorance they sometimes have of their own religion. Bombs were going off all around. Anti-aircraft guns were shooting at missiles overhead.

"If there were any circumstances in which a person was going to think about God, it was going to be in the time they were facing death. I realized that a lot of these so-called Muslim leaders or political movements have very little to do with Islam and much to do with their ambition for political power.

"I was analyzing the question: As a human being, where is my value, if I have any, best used? I thought these thoughts sitting there waiting for a bomb to come on me, with the vast majority of the human shields being Christian and people of other faiths. Eighty percent of the human shields weren't even Muslims.

"I was in the middle of shock and awe for a week.

"When I got back to Canada, my wife told me CSIS had called looking for me. I already knew CSIS people because, when I (previously) applied for a visa to Saudi Arabia, I believed the Saudi embassy might have contacted CSIS to have this person checked out. I was a guy with a big beard and a religious hat.

"So what have you been up to?" the CSIS agent asked me.

"I was in Iraq in *jihad*," I said.

"Do you think we can talk about that?" he inquired.

"That's how I got to a place where I

don't think they (CSIS) fear me, because if they want to know anything about me, they just have to ask. (Looking back,) I don't think I'm unbalanced when I believe there are some cases in world where people are unfairly being fought, Muslim or not-Muslim. I'm not a pacifist."

PART IV — Beliefs Today

Muhammad Robert Heft doesn't have to be politically correct. He is standing over chasms few manage to straddle. He meets all questions with disarming candour.

From his childhood in Winnipeg to an Islamic centre in Toronto, his path has been wildly indirect. Between these end pieces, he lived in Toronto, Montreal and Milton — where he lived from age eight until he married a Yemeni woman, 10 years ago. From 1996 to 1999, he owned and managed the men's Gen-X Hockey team in Milton. From 2001 to 2002, he taught English in Taiwan. In 2003, he started Paradise Forever Islamic Centre.

But there is another tale, one of his own fall to gambling and *jihad* — and his sought-after redemption. "For any harm I caused to another person," he says, "all I can do is to sincerely repent and change and show people I may have hurt in my past that I am sincerely trying to make up for it in how I live now.

"Any good that I do in the world, I give thanks and praise to God. And any mistakes I make, I ask those people and God to forgive me.

"I could never grasp the Trinity in Christianity," he says, explaining his conversion to Islam. "I never believed that God was a man, when God was the creator of man. I believed Jesus was a messenger of God and a prophet. Not God."

The details of his life are fresh in Muhammad Robert Heft's mind these days because he's working on his autobiography, due out this year. *From Blackjack to Iraq and Back: The making of a Fundamentalist* is being ghost-written by Donna Pearce, a co-writer/editor of books and Hollywood movies in the U.S.

Mr. Heft found Ms. Pearce online and told her his story. "She said it needed to be told to build bridges between Muslims and the West."

His own misguided and radical-thinking past has both equipped him and played a major part in driving him to start P4E.

"At the centre, I've had only a couple of people come through with the wrong idea. Outside the centre, between eight and 12 people, many affiliated with the Toronto 18, who used to very be anti-semitic, spoke a lot about warfare in general but are now trying to give back to Canada.

"We have a floor for women. Women don't get taken very seriously and it's not a good thing because some of the wives of these (radical) people are influential. I've seen people teach their kids some awful ideas. Some women are influencing children, close relatives and possibly their husbands. Sometimes we get infatuated by women."

Even as he walks the line between two cultures, he is not risk-free. "Once the RCMP came to me. They said that Ali Dirie, one of the Toronto 18, said he wanted to 'knock me out,' which is code for 'kill me,' the next time he saw me.

Ali Dirie moved with his mother to Canada from Somalia when he was seven. Last September, he pleaded guilty and was sentenced to seven years in prison for procuring weapons, arranging false travel documents and trying to recruit extremists for a domestic terrorist. In taped court evidence, he called white people the "No. 1 filthiest people on the face of the planet. They don't have Islam. In Islam there is no racism, we only hate *kufar* (non-Muslims)."

Members of the RCMP, who were monitoring Ali Dirie, came across the death-threat intercept, went to Mr. Heft and told him they were "morally and legally obliged to warn him." They asked if he wanted to press charges, says Mr. Heft. "I told them basically that the guy's a clown — I'm not really worried about it.

"I've had other people say they're going to kill everyone at the centre. And 99 percent of these people are full of hot air. I have confidence in my Lord and in government agencies trying to protect citizens who are trying to make a difference. I know these things are being intercepted and dealt with.

"The most effective *jihad* is your own internal struggle against your own desires, your own sins, your own problems. Look, these Muslims who justify suicide bombings and killing civilians — they'll lie, they'll cheat, they'll steal. They'll not follow the principles of Islam.

"They may be looking for the Koran to justify their desire to enact revenge for what they feel is oppression of Muslims, to justify their anger, frustration, their (casting) blame and vengeance.

"(But, if you kill my son, I have no

right in Islam to kill your son. I have a right to take you to a legal system, to a judge and to go through a legal process. Islam isn't about vigilantism. They feel angry because the Jews have Jerusalem, for example — and they feel they are justified by any means necessary to get Jerusalem back.

"Some Muslims are ungrateful for all the things Canada has given to them. On a theoretical level, extremists say 'God owns the world so what I take from North America — the welfare, the healthcare — I have no responsibility to be grateful to the people here, because God gave these things to me.' The Koran says to be favourable those who are favourable to you."

"Radical Muslims take something out of context in the Koran to justify killing. They say, 'Look all we're doing is doing what the Koran said. It said: Kill them. We're killing them.' "

Why? "Because they're not Muslim."

He says there is a "radical kind of so-called Muslims" who preaches world conversion by force. "God tells us in the Koran it is only for us to give the message. God changes the hearts of people. So you can't force somebody's heart to believe in Islam.

"I think the end goal of these radicals is not conversion. It's power.

"So I think we have blood on our hands as a community. We've had different leaderships throughout the history of Islam that maybe took things too far — like the Crusades did. But in general, there was no issue about the Jews, Christians and Muslims living together, with them having their own legal systems, but living with the protection of the Muslims."

Of course, he says, many people didn't come to Canada for religious purposes. "They came for a better life. Some came here to take (all the benefits given by Canada). And their goal is to bring relatives back from their country to Canada.

"They're not the problem, on a radicalization level. They're flabbergasted when they see someone on TV who talks about 'Death to America' and stuff like that. They're thinking, 'Oh, look you idiot, you're going to make my job harder to make money.'"

What should Muslims in Canada do to help rein in the radical members of their community?

"They have to become more balanced in their approach to the government," Mr. Heft says, "and more grateful to the community in Canada."

"Yes, the government is going to make

mistakes. Not everybody in the government or government agencies is a saint and they might have a bias against Muslims. But the vast majority of them are just average people who are trying to catch the bad guys. And it just so happens that the Muslims have some bad guys in our community.

"It's not because they don't have bad guys in the Jewish or Christian or other communities. But it just so happens that right now, we're that community and we have to recognize and take responsibility for those few people.

"We can't deflect our responsibility — 99.9 percent of the Muslims in Canada would never hurt anybody but that 0.1 percent is all it takes for us to be stereotyped."

Another solution: "Talk more openly about the problems that community really has, about *jihad* and radicalization of the youth."

To those few people who come to Canada, who hate the Western culture here and nurse ideas of harming Canada and Canadians: "We should tell them to go back to a Muslim country. Some of the stuff they get away with saying in Canada — if they ever said those things in some

Muslim countries, they would probably find themselves in a jail underground and they might disappear for the rest of their life.

"I'm guessing but I'd say nine out of 10 mosques are OK." He estimates there are 100 mosques in Toronto, where 60 percent of Muslims live, and perhaps another 100 more mosques located across Canada.

"Those (one percent) of imams are not preaching violence openly. No one is telling people to go and fight. But the approach is to inflame the community to not build bridges with Western society. Those imams preach that the West is unjust and responsible for the world's immorality and problems. So these imams just put a sort of a wedge between the people who are listening to them and the greater Canadian community.

"Canadians just don't understand. And we're not communicating. I think the non-Muslim Canadians are coming to the conclusion that we're not serious about cooperating for justice. They could care less if we play hockey and wear beards. They want to know we're team players when it comes to the safety of Canadian citizens."

Donna Jacobs is the publisher of *Diplomat*.



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RESEARCH IN MOTION

The State of BlackBerry Planet

By Alastair Sweeny

PART I

When U.S. President Barack Obama first took office, he went to great lengths to hold onto his BlackBerry device, so that he could keep in touch with his family and close friends.

BlackBerrys come with NATO-grade security built in but Obama only succeeded in keeping the device because technicians were able to boost the security. And there are limitations. He can only text people with the same software.

Asked what qualities this Canadian-built hand-held device has that makes it

so attractive to users, BlackBerry inventor Mike Lazaridis called it a form of telepathy — call it techno-telepathy — that allows users to connect instantly with their co-workers, team members, family and friends.

This quality has made the BlackBerry so successful that more than 35 million people around the planet now use Research In Motion's communicator, and the BlackBerry is a fixture in governments and corporations around the world.

Today, most of the Fortune 1000 companies use BlackBerry Enterprise Servers to securely manage their company e-mail,

and most major governments depend on BlackBerrys as well. The U.S. government is RIM's major customer, with almost 600,000 devices used in all government departments, the FBI and the military.

RIM's success and the reason the BlackBerry has become such an important tool in business and government dates back to 1984, the year Steve Jobs brought out his first Apple Macintosh. That same year, Research In Motion (RIM) began life in Waterloo, Ontario, as a small technology start-up in a one-room office.

From the start, RIM was a company with a difference: Mr. Lazaridis was practi-

cal and visionary at the same time, as well as a superb engineer. Financed at the start by family funds and a \$15,000 government loan, RIM's first big job was a \$600,000 contract making networked LCD display screens for General Motors Canada assembly lines. A decade later, Mr. Lazaridis stood onstage at the Academy Awards and accepted an Oscar from actress Anne Heche for RIM's Digisync Film Barcode Reader, a device that allowed film editing to be done as much as 10 times faster than the old way. It was a real revolution in Hollywood.

In the late 1980s, Canadian telecom magnate Ted Rogers asked Mr. Lazaridis to produce software for a new wireless texting service being developed by the Swedish giant Ericsson. From that point on, RIM started building miniature radios and modems to let PCs send data and messages over mobile networks. In 1996, they came up with the RIM Inter@ctive Pager 900, the world's first pocket-sized, two-way pager. When the Internet arrived with e-mail everywhere, RIM was ready with its first BlackBerry, the 950, a wireless wonder that synchronized with a user's desktop computer.

Over the following 10 years, RIM went on to develop the smart phone that we know today, attracting rivals Nokia, Apple and Google Android. Today, these amazing devices can let a sales team leader in an office or a farmer in the field access global knowledge over the Internet. Textual or audiovisual information that used to take days to move from one person to another now goes back and forth within minutes. This is revolutionizing the world of business and politics, and making the world more open and transparent.

The downside for some people is that they now have to do more work after office hours, but a BlackBerry can increase productivity, saving up to an hour a day of downtime according to the results of a 2007 Ipsos Reid survey for RIM. For some people, it can make the job easier, especially where it can replace the telephone for important communications.

However, for some, the addictive, immersive nature of smartphones is challenging their world of work. In offices around the world, many workers are drowning in e-mail excess, leaving people permanently distracted. BlackBerry use is very much part of the problem. It's now clear that constant BlackBerry checking can actually nullify gains made in productivity. A U.S. study, quoted in *BlackBerry Planet*, found that high-tech workers in-



Former U.S. Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton pose with a super-sized BlackBerry.

errupted in the middle of a task took an average of 25 minutes to return to it — if they did so at all.

BlackBerry bondage can also make family life suffer, as employees bring their

**DICK FADDEN, DEPUTY
MINISTER OF CITIZENSHIP
AND IMMIGRATION,
INSTITUTED WHAT WAS
CALLED "BLACKBERRY
BLACKOUT" IN HIS
DEPARTMENT. EMPLOYEES
WERE ENCOURAGED TO TURN
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THE LUNCH HOUR, AFTER 7
P.M. AND ON WEEKENDS, AS
A WAY TO MANAGE THEIR
WORK-LIFE BALANCE.**

work home and never really leave the office behind. Any gains people make in organizing family messaging and scheduling can get cruelly offset by upsets in work-life balance. Says Carleton Univer-

sity business professor Linda Duxbury: "Moderate users of the BlackBerry are okay, but for a growing number of people, the BlackBerry only contributes to stress and depression, and a decline in healthy personal and family life."

One Canadian official, Dick Fadden, deputy minister of Citizenship and Immigration, instituted what was called "BlackBerry blackout" in his department. Employees were encouraged to turn off their devices over the lunch hour, after 7 p.m. and on weekends, as a way to manage their work-life balance.

The problem of mobile overuse will certainly get worse before it gets better, as many more powerful features are being crammed into new releases of the BlackBerry and rival devices.

In the next 20 years, we're going to have to learn how to cope with whole new generations of even more advanced super phones that you can customize with extra programs. These, in turn, will evolve even further into a portable device more capable than the human brain itself, one that we can carry around in our pockets or even install under our skin, expanding our powers and connecting us directly with the whole intelligence of the planet.

The birth of RIM's BlackBerry and other mobile Web devices such as Apple's iPhone marks a major turning point in how we live and work. It also points the way toward a much more spectacular device that is now emerging — a tool I call the TeleBrain.

PART II: BOOK EXCERPT

The Rise of the TeleBrain

By Alastair Sweeny

We already have all the ingredients in place for digital telepathy. And we already use primitive TeleBrains. Increasingly sophisticated ones will arrive in the next 20 years through a number of engineering advances:

1) Storage. TeleBrains with multi-terabyte memory will soon surpass the storage capacity of your own brain. Science still does not know exactly how the human brain stores and represents information, and what are the storage limits, but Yoshihiro Shiroishi, of Japanese computer maker Hitachi, estimates our brains store around 10 TB (terabytes) of information. He says that, two Hitachi 3.5-inch, 5-terabyte hard drives will provide the same storage capacity this year. Next-generation 2-terabyte SDXC (eXtended Capacity) memory cards will be available as well. A terabyte is 1,000 gigabytes; it's been estimated that the Library of Congress holds 175 terabytes of text.

2) Processors. We're seeing the dawn of ultra-fast, dedicated processors, superior to the human brain in certain specialties. However, biological computing currently has silicon-based computing beat by a country kilometer. The processing capacity of a typical desktop computer is 25 billion instructions per second; your brain can do 100 trillion instructions per second, or 100 teraflops. In June 2008, IBM's Roadrunner supercomputer was the first to break what has been called "the petaflop barrier" of 1,000 teraflops.

3) Radios on a Chip. One billion Wi-Fi chipsets are being built every year. Professor Jan Rabaey of University of California at Berkeley says chipmakers will soon pack hundreds of dedicated radios on a single chip, and each person will link to thousands of these miniscule radios. Radio devices, he says, will become "cognitive." They will automatically find the most uncluttered spectrum and use

the best protocols available. Radios will also become more collaborative, joining a mesh network to collectively transmit large amounts of data faster and more efficiently. These radios will connect you directly with other people and other TeleBrains on more sophisticated networks and frequencies.

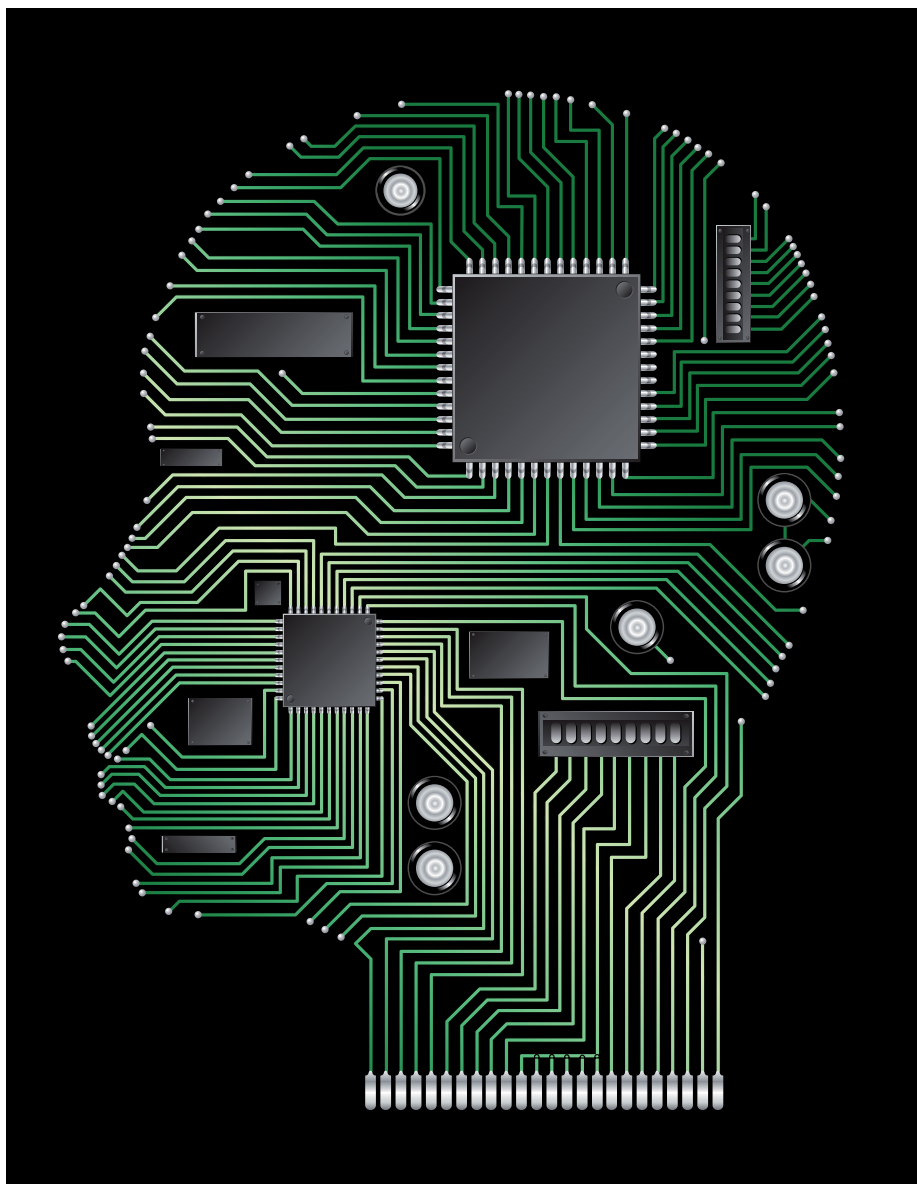
4) Spectrum. The amount of data you can get through a radio spectrum channel is rapidly increasing, and radios are on a similar trajectory as computers. Wireless broadband connectivity and the open Internet will wire your TeleBrain to the planet.

5) Speed. Cheap Millimeter-wave Technology (MWT) will soon deliver data short distances over the air at more than 20 gigabits per second, close to the speed you get over fiber optic connections. MWT operates at radio frequencies of between

60 and 100 GHz, on an uncrowded part of the radio spectrum used for radio astronomy and high-res radar. A system on a chip (SOC) with transmission speeds 100 times faster than Wi-Fi and 350 times faster than 3.5G cell phones has been created by Professor Jri Lee of National Taiwan University. It will cost about \$1 to produce.

6) Video. High-definition (HD) onboard cameras and projectors will let us stream what we see anywhere live or to a storage medium in the cloud. Texas Instruments' soon-to-be-released OMAP 4 family of low-power dual-core mobile chips will allow 1,080 pixel video playback, 10 times the web surfing speed, a 20 megapixel camera, and 130 hours of audio playback.

7) Implants. In some cases, people will prefer TeleBrain implants with brain-machine interfaces. We are already using



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rudimentary versions of this technology to help people with nerve damage to do tasks using microprocessors. Adding advanced Wi-Fi and Bluetooth will eliminate intrusive wiring and enable something akin to tele-twittering.

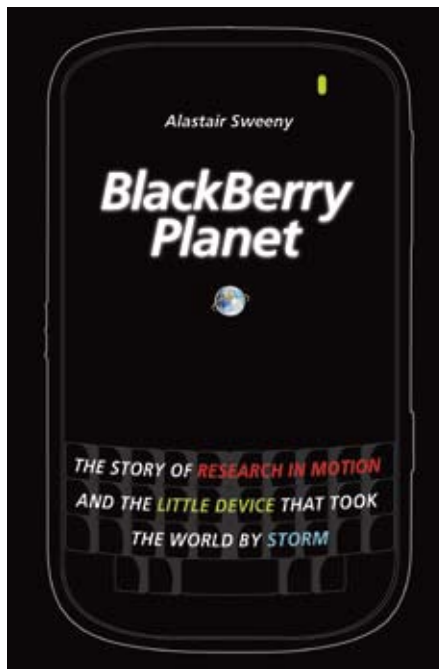
8) Personal Medicine. Your TeleBrain will contain all your personal medical information and genomic maps and will be able to monitor your health and suggest preventive supplements and activities to improve your odds of survival. Medical devices such as Dr. "Bones" McCoy's portable scanner from Star Trek will be able to scan your TeleBrain and use the information to reveal internal problems, and in some cases cure them.

9) Custom TeleBrains. We are now starting to customize, personalize, program, tailor, and train our TeleBrains through free and cheap programs we can download. We are using them to extend our own brains, senses and connections to our world. When needed, we will also link with custom-programmed TeleBrains, for example, to operate our smart cars and smart houses. Our personal information in the cloud will be permissions based, using social networking and a form of what Tim O'Reilly calls "personal CRM" — customer relationship management.

10) Whole Brain Emulation. In future, your TeleBrain will be able to hold a software model of your brain that is so faithful to the original that, when run on appropriate hardware, it will behave much like your original one.

11) TeleBrain Power. Wireless power management is a big problem, and things may get worse before they get better. RIM has pioneered many power-saving technologies, but we need superbatteries or power cells that can hold a charge longer so they can power hot processors and super-high-speed data transfers. Every increase in CPU power or data transfer speed equals a further drop in battery life between charges. The good news is, wireless charging is already here, with adapters that use magnetic induction to trickle electricity to your device. Future advances in electrical generation and storage will let your blood glucose or heart activity recharge your TeleBrain.

12) Googlepedia. You can already use Google Mobile App to speak your queries to the Googlepedia without pushing any buttons and do local searches without specifying your location. (See Google Mobile Apps in Action on the Web Support Site). Future TeleBrain tools will perform a lot of simple tasks the Internet is already



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ROB SPENCE IS HAVING
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AN ARTIFICIAL EYE. FOR
PEOPLE WHO WANT A
LESS INTENSE EXPERIENCE,
MOBILE 12-MEGAPIXEL
CAMERA PHONES WITH
HD VIDEO RECORDING
WILL SOON BECOME
COMMONPLACE. YOUR
TELEBRAIN WILL ALSO
BUILD A RECORD OF
EVERY CALL, MEETING,
E-MAIL AND ACTIVITY OF
YOUR LIFETIME,

doing, only better, faster, and with an ethos tailored to your needs. For example, it will:

- answer questions and suggest alternatives
- look for and contact new friends, or even a life partner
- do real-time speech interpretation, letting you talk effortlessly in other languages
- find the best interest rates and get you money or credit
- make you happy with its own artificial sunlight
- let the dog out and get a meal ready for you at home
- recharge the electric car; ask it to get some milk and eggs
- train you in microsurgery, with programmed AV learning, real-distance internship, and hands-on operation simulation
- vote and pay microtaxes, and handle your relations with governments
- check for potential danger on the road, rate your chances of being seriously injured, and take appropriate action.

13) Net Culture. Your TeleBrain use will help net culture continue to expand, creating dynamic commercial, educational, and social resources; what you put on the web will only be limited by your imagination and local bylaws. Vast search databases created by peer production, such as yours, will be held in the cloud and managed by database search engines such as Google Mobile App.

14) Life Recording: Canadian filmmaker Rob Spence is having a video camera implanted in place of an artificial eye. For people who want a less intense experience, mobile 12-megapixel camera phones with HD video recording (720 pixels at 60 frames per second) will soon become commonplace. Your TeleBrain screen can be always on, with touchable multiscreens, and options such as 3D. Cameras will be able to record the entire timeline of your life. Your TeleBrain will also build a record of every call, meeting, e-mail and activity of your lifetime, letting you access any data you ever come in contact with.

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Toward a free trait agreement

Personality and micro-politics play an important role on the cocktail circuit

By Brian R. Little

The Reception: First Blushes

The scene is a Thursday afternoon reception for a group of politicians, business leaders and members of the diplomatic community. Ian Hill and Edward Dale, two of the duly gathered, appear, at first blush, to be clones. Impeccably groomed, attentive to fellow guests, they each work the room with charm and vigour. Each is adept at the micro-politics of social influence. One of them, however, is paying a price for rising to this particular social occasion. The other is not. Later that evening, the two will be meeting as part of a small group. They will be negotiating the details of a complex development project that requires analytic sharpness and political sensitivity. One will falter. The other will soar. Which of the seeming clones is most at risk? What is going on here?

We will look over Hill and Dale to explore some of the challenges of rising to occasions in professional lives. One of these gentlemen is acting out of character, the other is not; one is expressing his fixed traits, the other his “free traits;” one is a true extravert, the other a “pseudo-extravert.” These differences are vital for understanding the complex lives of those in the upper echelons of international affairs.

The Elite Micro-Political Interaction Style

To understand these points, we need to challenge the pervasive assumption that leaders share a common personality. I believe that this is a myth. However, they do share a distinctive style of interacting that is clearly discernible among the guests at the reception this afternoon. I call this TEMPIS (The Elite Micro-Political Interaction Style). TEMPIS requires the orchestration of interactions so that appropriate levels of both warmth and dominance are expressed. Too much or too little of either and the person will be perceived as undiplomatic or ineffectual. The precise calibration for optimal effect requires skill and practice. Thus, when individuals are “on” and engaged in TEMPIS, they are pleasant, but never pandering, confident,



“Now remember: diplomacy first.”

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but without threat or condescension. Individuals learn TEMPIS through the social practices of the diplomatic professions and senior levels of management, politics and administration. Increasingly, novitiates wishing to enter the higher echelons of diplomacy and political life eagerly adopt specialized forms of TEMPIS-like conduct, such as table etiquette. One of the reasons Ian Hill and Edward Dale appear indistinguishable from each other on this particular Thursday is that each of them is in full TEMPIS mode. From their outward and visible appearance, they are the same. But we need to look closer. What do we see at second blush?

Fixed Traits: Set Like Plaster?

Although TEMPIS generates superficial similarity in style, there is considerable diversity in personality traits among leaders. Personality traits are biologically rooted, genetically influenced, differences in fundamental dispositions. Traits have an important and enduring impact upon how we think, feel and act. William James, the philosopher, believed that by the age of 30 such traits are “set like plaster.” Of the hundred of ways in which people differ from one another, five personality traits have emerged as particularly important. The “Big Five” traits are openness to experience, conscientiousness, extraversion,

agreeableness and neuroticism. Each is associated with different aspects of leadership. Those who are open, conscientious, and agreeable fare better than those who are closed, careless and cranky. Unless we are talking about creative accomplishment, those who are neurotic tend not to do so well. How about extraverts? That is the Big Five trait I will focus on to illustrate the ways in which Ian Hill and Edward Dale are dealing differently with their shared day. Let us assume that in terms of their first natures, Ian Hill is an introvert and Edward Dale is an extravert. What is the source and what is the significance of differences in this important trait of personality?

Human Personality: Arousal, Achievements and Antagonism

The source is biological, involving differences in brain functioning. Introverts and extraverts differ in their level of arousal in the neo-cortical areas of the brain. The neo-cortex is the part of the brain that is engaged when we are consciously engaged in daily tasks. For successful performance in these tasks, the neo-cortex needs to be optimally aroused, neither under-stimulated nor over-stimulated. Extraverts, like Ed Dale, are chronically under-stimulated in the neo-cortex. They need to seek out stimulation in order to optimize their levels of arousal and performance. Introverts, in contrast, are chronically over-stimulated in the neo-cortex. Ian Hill needs to reduce his level of arousal by lowering stimulation. The significance of the difference in first natures is both subtle and deep. It has important implications for the daily activities and achievements of Hill and Dale. It also helps explain their growing mutual antagonism.

A Glass of Extraversion, a Cup of Introversion

Extraverts, needing more neo-cortical arousal, typically seek out stimulation from their environments, so that a diplomatic social reception is precisely the kind of setting in which Ed Dale shines naturally. Introverts like Ian Hill, are more at risk for being over-stimulated. The bigger the buzz in the room the more challenging the reception will be for him. Ian has already slipped outside to seek a brief respite from over-stimulation. If this micro-political strategy had been successful, no one would have noticed and he would return to the reception with a better capacity to concentrate on convivial exchanges. Meanwhile Edward is at the centre of a group of fellow extraverts, sharing jokes and simul-

taneously maintaining an optimal level of arousal. Edward quickly slips into Ed then “Eddie” mode as the reception progresses and as the drinks are served. Ah, drinks. Alcohol has different effects on introverts and extraverts. In moderate doses alcohol lowers arousal level. A drink at a reception is, essentially, a glass of extraversion. However, being under-stimulated, the performance of extraverts is actually somewhat compromised by having alcohol, whereas that of the over-stimulated introverts is enhanced.

A “glass of extraversion” may make intuitive sense. But people are less likely to think of a drink of coffee as a “cup of introversion.” However, caffeine, as a stimulant, does have the effect of pushing all individuals in the direction chronically experienced by introverts. A couple of cups of coffee facilitates the performance of extraverts but compromises that of introverts, especially if the task is quantitative and done under time pressure. For example, an introverted person like Ian is more likely to zone out during a fast-paced budgetary briefing. The implications of these differences are noteworthy and worrisome – something as innocent as having as extra cup of coffee, for introverts, or an extra glass of wine, for extraverts, may compromise their problem solving.

Contrasting Competencies: Twin Piques

There is further evidence that introverts and extraverts have contrasting competencies. Other than in kindergarten, introverts have an advantage in academic subjects. This is not related to intelligence: Ian and Ed are equally bright intellectually. But whereas introverts need structure for effective learning, extraverts need a sense of engagement. Even today, when being briefed on a mission, Ian prefers written details prior to a meeting, while Ed actually learns better in face to face exchanges. Extraverts are better at short-term memory and are particularly good on their feet. Edward often creates the illusion of competency by relying on his short-term memory skills. Introverts are comparatively better at tasks involving long-term memory and fare less well on their feet unless they have prepared. The practical implications are again noteworthy – extraverts can often successfully “wing” a speech or briefing. Introverts, as Ian is about to find out, shouldn’t do “winging.” Another example of a performance difference is the quality/quantity trade-off. When confronting a pile of briefings, intel-

ligence reports or background materials for a new project, extraverts are likely to get everything completed, but risk making a few mistakes in the process. Introverts, in contrast, tend to adopt a perfectionist tilt and risk doing a few things flawlessly while dropping behind on other matters. They are patient and prudent. It may be apparent at this point that Ian and Ed may well drive each other to distraction. Each may experience fits of pique at the other. For example, Ed notices when Ian slips out at the reception and calls him on it. He asks “What the hell are you doing out here?” and Ian comes back in. The evening meeting is looming and things are getting complex.

Interaction Styles: the United Nations Dance

Extraverts and introverts also differ in the type of interaction style they adopt when meeting others. Extraverts spontaneously adopt an intense style. They stand close to others, make a lot of eye contact, engage in extensive body contact and act so as to increase the overall level of stimulation of the interaction. Introverts, by contrast, prefer to stand further apart, avert gaze, avoid unnecessary contact and, generally, to modulate their interactive exchanges.

As any well-travelled politician or diplomat will attest, different cultures place differential premiums on each of the Big Five personality dimensions. When representatives of an extraverted culture come face to face with those from an introverted culture, real challenges arise. Such encounters were videotaped at UN cocktail parties and the ensuing dynamics gave rise to what has been called the “United Nations Dance.” Confronted by an advancing cultural extravert, the cultural introvert unconsciously retreats, sometimes with a brief flicker of gaze aversion. The extravert, to be polite, continues advancing. The introvert, also to be polite, continues retreating. This is not suave. The resolution is brilliant but is only detectable if the videotape is sped up. The cultural introvert dances in a backward spiral motion, with the extraverted partner elegantly, if inadvertently, doing the mirror image. Similar scripts govern our verbal behaviour. Cultural extraverts prefer communications that are straightforward, simple and black-and-white. The cultural introvert prefers communications that are more complex, nuanced and spoken softly. When they get together to communicate, once again, intended affability may give rise to antagonism.

Opening night reception



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Free Traits: On Acting out of Character

Although relatively fixed traits have considerable influence on our professional lives, they are only part of the story. William James got it only 50 percent right in his speculations about traits being set like plaster. I believe human beings are essentially half-plastered. We often adopt what I call “free traits” that make our lives more complex. Free traits are actions that give the appearance of a fixed trait, but are actually strategic enactments of a social script that advance a personal project. A biological introvert, for example, can be a “pseudo-extravert” by acting in an extraverted fashion. Such free-trait behaviour advances a core project or valued role. For both Ed and Ian, the reception required adopting at least moderately high levels of extraversion during the course of the afternoon. For Ed, this was a matter of being his natural biological self. For Ian, it meant acting out of character, both in terms of acting differently than he might normally and acting in ways that were central to his character — his beliefs in what is valuable. So Ed is the ebullient extravert and Ian is the “pseudo-extravert” advancing his core project of maintaining relations with valued colleagues and potential al-

lies. Such behaviour is not rare. Nor is it restricted to the trait of extraversion. The other dimensions of the Big Five may also generate free-trait behaviour, such as a highly agreeable person who is strategically disagreeable in order to advance a core project of redressing a legitimate grievance.

The central question arises as to whether there may be costs associated with free traits. We hinted that Ian might be at risk for this. Let’s follow him from the reception to the critical meeting being held at a hotel down the street.

The Negotiation: The Hidden Costs of Free Traits

Ian Hill, remember, is a bright, committed and highly talented man. But he is biologically introverted. When he engages in free-trait extraverted conduct, his level of neo-cortical arousal increases but other changes occur, too. His autonomic nervous system begins to kick in, his heart rate increases and some at the reception notice he is a bit flushed later in the afternoon. Despite his expertise at TEMPIS, he is beginning to leak introversion. This is partially due to the fact that the reception takes an unexpected turn. Several delegates with whom negotiations were

going to be undertaken that evening show up unexpectedly at the reception. The usual social banter is punctuated by mock combative comments about the upcoming agenda. Ed enjoys the exchange — it energizes him. Ian tries to escape, but Ed has none of it. Nor do Ed and the others let up on the boisterous walk down to the hotel. The group decides to move right into the business meeting at the hotel without taking a break. Ian had anticipated an hour of decompression time, but now finds himself in the middle of some intense and demanding negotiations.

During the negotiations Ed rises to the occasion. He is focused, coherent, animated and effective. Ian is erratic: periods of protracted silence then moments of blustery blurtatiousness. He doesn’t live up to his end of the mission, and as they walk away from the meeting he simply says “Sorry.” Neither he nor Ed really knows what has happened.

Restorative Niches: Toward a Free Trait Agreement

What happened was this: There are costs to intense or protracted periods of free-trait behaviour. Acting out of character depletes our cognitive and emotional resources. If our scripts have been well learned, and if the situation is predictable, we can probably act as “pseudo-extraverts” without undue depletion and costs. However, if the situation becomes complex, such as the unanticipated afternoon switch from reception mode to negotiation mode, costs will be felt.


What might be done to mitigate the costs of free traits? I believe if individuals are able to access a restorative niche in which they can switch back to their first natured personalities, the costs will be diminished. This need not be a long period of time. For example, I happen to be a biologically introverted professor. But when I am teaching, I am engaging in something quite precious to me — the core project of exciting my students about a field I find exciting. So I engage in pseudo-extraverted teaching behaviour. I have learned over the years, however, that if it is a long lecture with a break, I need the break to escape the delightful but overloading entreaties of truly extraverted students. I prefer a walk by any nearby river. But I have been known to avail myself of the washroom from time to time. And to avoid the questions of extraverts who seem to find it enjoyable to carry out inter-cubicle conversations, I occasionally put my feet up to avoid detection. Although I

would not recommend this extreme strategy for all, I would recommend that we be aware of the need to find such restorative niches.

Indeed, I think we need a Free Trait Agreement. As a preamble to this agreement we need to consider the reasons why individuals need to act out of character. We do it out of professionalism. We can also do it out of love. But if others are unaware of the potential costs we incur, they are unlikely to understand our need for restoration. Despite Ian's attempts to escape the party, Ed just didn't get it. So the Free Trait Agreement would go something like this: I will act out of character to advance our mutual concerns if you afford me the opportunity to find restorative resources in which I can nurture my first nature. This means we need to let others know what our needs are. They need to know our fixed and free traits and the core projects that drive us. And, of course, the agreement will be reciprocal. It should be symbolically signed by those who feed and care for us. We need a multilateral free trait agreement for the prosperity of all.

Brian R. Little is distinguished research professor emeritus at Carleton University.

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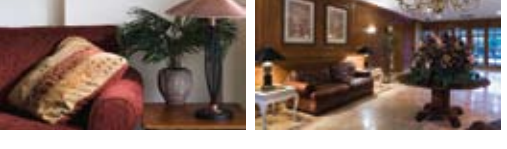


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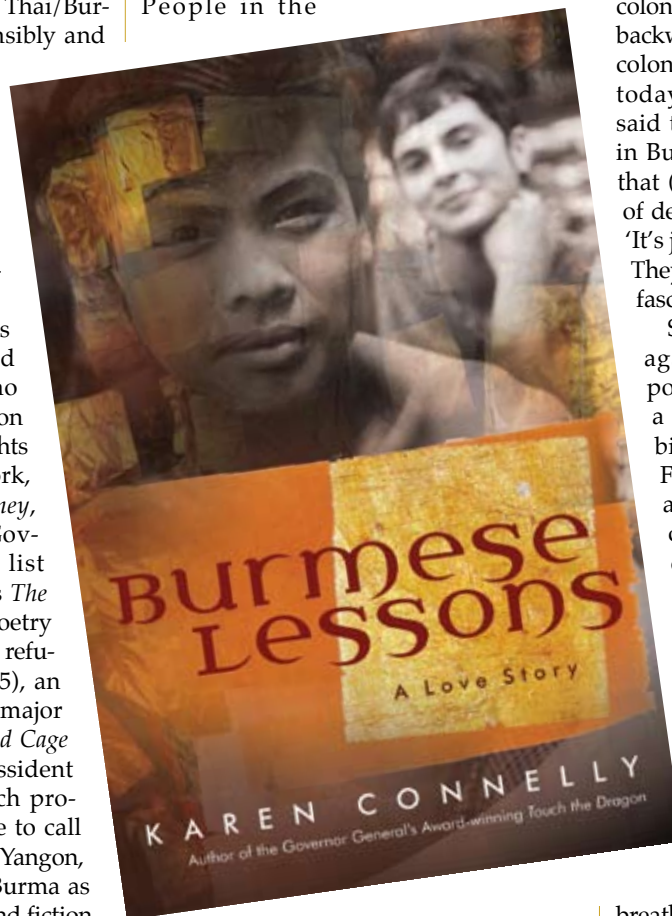
Pathologies of isolation – Burma's and our own

By George Fetherling

The subtitle of Karen Connelly's latest work *Burmese Lessons: A Love Story* (Random House Canada, \$32) can be taken two ways. One of the especially vibrant tiles in this sometimes heartbreaking mosaic of a book deals with a romantic relationship she had with an exiled Burmese democracy activist in one of the refugee camps along the Thai/Burmese border. (She tells me, sensibly and unaffectedly, that the Toronto architect to whom she's now married has agreed not to read it.) But the longer-lasting love affair is the one she has with Burma — and with the Burmese both there and in Thailand and in the exile community in Canada.

Ms. Connelly, whose friends call her Kaz, is a 40-year-old Toronto novelist and poet who also writes a variety of non-fiction that might be called human-rights travelogue. Her first prose work, *Touch the Dragon: A Thai Journey*, published in 1990, won the Governor General's Award. Her list of more recent works includes *The Border Surrounds Us* (2000), a poetry collection dealing with Burmese refugees, and *The Lizard Cage* (2005), an extraordinary novel that won major international awards. *The Lizard Cage* imagines the inner life of a dissident imprisoned in Rangoon (which pro-democracy Burmophiles refuse to call by the ruling junta's new name, Yangon, just as they reject referring to Burma as Myanmar). "So having poetry and fiction about the Burmese, and now this new book of non-fiction, I think I need to find other subjects," she says with a touch of perfectly understandable weariness, both physical and emotional. "But of course" — and she emphasizes this — "that's not to say that I'm done with Burma in terms of my personal interest and being active. I would love to go back and spend more time there, absolutely. I'd like perfect my Burmese. Perfect. Not the right verb! I mean that my Burmese is terrible and I'd like to improve it."

I give in to the temptation to ask her a question I've sometimes asked myself. Why do those of us interested in Burma expend such passion denouncing the vipers' nest of generals who have ruled the place so ruthlessly since 1962 (and particularly since the late 1980s) when there are so many other despots in the world who are at least as bad and frequently even worse? "You're right," she says. "There are worse dictators and more violent countries. But once you've been to Burma, once you've spent time there, the evil versus the good becomes a particularly compelling story. It's completely obvious that the men in charge and their cronies are so deeply corrupt, and in many cases, deeply evil. People in the



democracy movement, and even to a large extent in the guerrilla movements on the borders, are fighting the good fight, though that doesn't mean that they're perfect either and haven't had their own failures. Yet, as soon as you have some personal connection to Burma and the Burmese people, you become aware of how incredibly sincere they are and how there is something really special about Burma, something unique, in fact.

"It has to do with the way it's set apart on many levels, for there's no one unified

explanation. I've talked to many people about this and get so many different answers as to why they're moved by what's taking place there. They all seem to agree that there is something almost ineffable and intangible about Burma, something profoundly mesmerising, even if they can't pinpoint it."

She recalls one such conversation with the admired young Indian writer, Amitav Ghosh, whose novel, *The Glass Palace*, deals with Indians who fled Burma after the coup nearly 50 years ago. "I told him my theory about Burma's attraction — that because the country didn't have a chance to become very well-developed before the junta took over, it has remained this colonial Asian backwater, quaint as well as backward. But he said: 'You can go to such colonial backwater villages in India even today, but they're not like Burma.' He said that older Indian people who lived in Burma until the 1960s have told him that (their melancholy) is not about lack of development or about colonial history. 'It's just the way Burma is,' they told him. They still have nostalgia for it. I find that fascinating."

She talks about western sanctions against Burma, especially those imposed by the United States (the ones a cynic might say have been every bit as effective as those that brought Fidel Castro to his knees four decades ago). "One of the things I find quite common is that the same pathology of isolation that exists in Burma exists in us as well," she says. "We — Canada, the U.S., the West generally — don't have a terribly big interest in Burma most of the time." She tries to do an American redneck accent, laughing: "So what if some lefty Burma-lover condemn the dictatorship?" But she's no longer entirely pessimistic.

"There has been a bit of evolution on the sanction front. It was a breath of fresh air to hear that Kurt Campbell, the American assistant secretary of state for Asian affairs, initiated talks with the Burmese government: the first time in memory and obviously the result of months of secret statecraft. Now the U.S. government is going to have some type of dialogue with actual members of the junta. They consulted with dissident groups on the border, with democracy activists inside Burma, they have Aung San Suu Kyi on-side. That's the best news we've heard in, well, decades."

Students of foreign affairs, both inside

and outside government, naturally rely on officials, analysts, economists, academics, think-tank researchers and the like, rarely venturing into the world of those without letterheads. *Burmese Lessons* is a reminder of how self-limiting this approach can be, on occasion.

Another but far different example is *Paying Back Jack*, the new work by Christopher G. Moore (Publishers' Group Canada, \$24.95) — or for that matter, almost any of the twenty-some novels and thrill-



Author Karen Connolly

ers he has written about Thailand, Burma, Cambodia, Laos and parts of China. Mr. Moore is a former University of British Columbia law professor who relocated to Southeast Asia a generation ago. A close student of the above-named cultures and their subtleties, and of some of the relevant languages, he has accumulated a rich catalogue of insight into the politics, insecurities and sensitivities of the region — all this in addition to his being a natural storyteller, with enviable gifts of plot and dialogue.

The late George Woodcock, that sainted champion and explainer of Canadian literature, observed that poetry seems to grow in importance in times of repression and war because it becomes a sort of code for communicating what few dare say aloud. Perhaps something similar takes place between the lines of *Paying Back Jack*, in which Mr. Moore's Bangkok private investigator, a disbarred American lawyer named Vincent Calvino, becomes ensnarled in Thai politics. Ultimately Thailand's well-publicized disturbances of the past few years all seem rooted in the nation's anxiety about the health of the revered King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who is in his 80s.

Cherry-picking in Iran, Iraq and Central Asia

Not to be crass, but authors with particular knowledge of Central Asia and, of course, Iraq and Iran, have enjoyed boom times these past nine years, along with the people who publish them. Readers of a certain age will recall with what alacrity experts on Indochina rose from their mausoleums in the early- and mid-1960s and resumed breeding. In the beginning, most of them were French. But soon American industry, adjusting to changing market conditions, as it always does, retooled its word-factories. Then, just as now, one must sift carefully through the astonishing number of books that various confrontations and wars provoke.

One type of book that arises in such a situation is that written by a scholar capable of marshalling years of specialist research into a logical train of thought and a readable narrative suitable for the intelligent general audience. The gift is given to fewer than one might imagine. *Empires of the Silk Road: A History of Central Eurasia from the Bronze Age to the Present* by Christopher I. Beckwith (US\$35) and *Civilizations of Ancient Iraq* by Benjamin R. Foster and Karen Polinger Foster (US\$26.95) are outstanding examples of this sort of book. Both are published by Princeton University Press.

Prof. Beckwith of Indiana University explains how Central Eurasia was often the agent of great change — economic, demographic, political and religious — for as long as the Silk Road was the artery of east-west trade. Most of us already know this. He also elucidates how, by extension, the region has come to be such a troubled part of the world since then, the victim of mammoth geopolitical shifts. Rather than a dry point-by-point summary based on the map or on strict chronology, he concentrates on broad themes and key historical moments or developments (for example, "Central Eurasia Reborn"). When placed in sequence, these add up a full episodic picture. He is quite a feisty writer, as in his hot-tempered preface excoriating post-modern thought, not just in historiography but rather in all fields. Such rejection is part of the book's charm and utility. Prof. Beckwith is one of those scholars whose almost innumerable footnotes can be relished for their wonderfully obscure detail.

Civilizations of Ancient Iraq is altogether different. Benjamin Foster teaches Assyriology at Yale University and is curator of its museum's Babylonian collection. Karen

Foster, also of Yale, is an art historian who specialises in Near Eastern and Aegean art. Together they write in the careful and level prose that can sometimes distinguish a collaborative effort. They begin as they expect to proceed, reminding readers of the foundations, ancient almost beyond comprehension, on which the Iraq of the daily news is built. They do not step into the present except by clear implication. "This land saw the first towns and cities," they write, "the first states and empires. Here writing was invented, and with it the world's oldest poetry and prose and the beginnings of mathematics, astronomy and law. Here, too, are found pioneering achievements in pyrotechnology, as well as important innovations in art and architecture." The same cynic quoted earlier might mutter that the lead in pyrotechnology has proved unfortunate.

The authors continue: "From Iraq comes rich documentation for nearly every aspect of human endeavor and activity millennia ago, from the administration of production, surplus, and the environment to religious belief and practice, even haute cuisine recipes and passionate love songs." For me, the part of the above that proved most useful was the orderly analysis of how villages became cities and city-states and what this process meant to the growth of a type of self-confidence that, in the opinion of so many, was threatened by modernity and the West.

In the present circumstances, many publishers, seeing an opportunity, have brought back older works that perhaps might not be reappearing otherwise, or at least not all at once. Russia, the Middle East and, particularly, Central Asia have been the concerns of the British travel writer Colin Thubron. His 1994 narrative *The Lost Heart of Asia* (Random House of Canada, \$21.95 paper) was the third about his journeys along 11,000 kilometres of the Silk Road. It came after *The Silk Road: Beyond the Celestial Kingdom* (1989) and preceded *Shadow of the Silk Road* (2006). Given the timelessness of the subject and the author's consistently serious and elegant approach, one can begin here as easily as with either of the others.

Just as Mr. Thubron keeps returning to Central Asia, so Vita Sackville-West (1892–1962) kept returning to Iraq. Today this English woman-of-letters is remembered mostly for the influential garden at her estate, Sissinghurst in Kent, for her unconventional marriage to the diplomat Harold Nicolson and for her sentimental relationship with Virginia Woolf. In the late

1920s, however, she received a great deal of attention for a travelogue entitled *Passenger to Teheran* and the sequel just now reprinted, *Twelve Days in Persia* (H.B. Fenn, \$19 paper). It is an account of a journey she undertook to learn about the nomadic Bakhtiari people. In the mountains of the same name, in the southwestern region of the country, they still carried on with their beliefs and cultural traditions unmolested — though not for long. By then, the Reza dynasty was already a few years old, and the shahs would prove hostile.

Those events were almost simultaneous with the creation of the Iraqi state from the former Mesopotamia. The transformation was largely the work of Feisal I, Winston Churchill, Gertrude Bell, and of course T.E. Lawrence (“Lawrence of Arabia”). The enabling role played by the last of these, both on desert battlefields and in conference halls, has been told and retold in numerous biographies, the best informed and most revealing of which, in my view at least, is *Lawrence: The Uncrowned King of Arabia* by Michael Asher, published in 1998). Even so, some readers may wish to isolate Lawrence’s leadership in the so-called Arab Revolt against the Ottoman Turks in the First World War, from which the political events followed. For them there is *To Begin the World Over Again: Lawrence of Arabia from Damascus to Baghdad*, by John C. Hulsman (H.B. Fenn, \$34.50). Mr. Hulsman, a public policy intellectual, was a senior fellow at the Heritage Foundation in Washington, one of the major conservative think tanks. He now runs a foreign affairs consultancy in Berlin with special reference to the Middle East. His writing is engaging and not overtly ideological.

Lawrence, the guerrilla fighter, was an archaeologist and linguist by training, and is hardly the only famous example of the intellectual-as-warrior. One thinks, for example, of Orde Wingate, the British religious zealot who made his military name in the desert of British Palestine and later, during the Second World War, in the jungles of Burma. Winston Churchill considered him a wild genius. The Swedish explorer Sven Hedin (1865–1952) was not a soldier but had something of the same obsession with adventure. He is associated with the Silk Road and also, especially, with Tibet. (He was one of those who struggled to reach the forbidden city of Lhasa but, alas, failed.) The new edition of his book *The Trail of War: On the Track of ‘Big Horse’ in Central Asia* (H.B. Fenn, \$18.95 paper) deals with his work in Xinjiang Province in western China in the mid-

1930s. It has an eerily contemporary ring to it, because it deals with a revolt against the Han Chinese by the Muslim minority. Big Horse was the nickname of the charismatic local Uighur warlord Ma Ching-ying (whom the author gets near but doesn’t quite meet — like Lhasa all over again).

A decidedly Laurentian character of our own time is the enigmatic British academic wunderkind, Rory Stewart, a young man often talked about in important circles. There is a new paperback of his book *The Places in Between* (Penguin Group Canada, \$18), a perfectly controlled account of his daredevil walk across the breadth of Afghanistan — aided, like Lawrence or Sir Richard Burton in their own generations, by a mysterious mastery of local dialects and little-known customs. It is a fine book but lacks the inherited passion of, for ex-

ample, *Stranger to History: A Son’s Journey through Islamic Lands* by Aatish Tasser (McClelland & Stewart, \$32.99). Mr. Tasser, who’s not yet 30, was brought up in Delhi by his Sikh mother and did not meet his father, a Muslim, until, as an adult, he went to Pakistan for that purpose. So began an evocative series of remarkable experiences. Of course, such journeys of diasporic discovery have often resulted in memoirs of distinction. For example, the African-born Canadian novelist M.G. Vasanji recently won the Governor General’s Award for his account of the ancestral homeland in *A Place Within: Rediscovering India* (itself now a paperback—Vintage Canada, \$21).

George Featherling is *Diplomat’s* books editor.



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The story of the man who defaced Mao

What drove Ottawa's award-winning writer, Denise Chong, to sneak into China to research the life of a young man who, in an unheard-of act of public defiance, tossed eggs at the huge portrait of Mao Zedong that overlooked the historic 1989 student protest in Tiananmen Square? After a few weeks of restraint, the Chinese government ended the protest in gunfire, beatings and arrests.

Ms Chong answers the question easily: She and her publisher wanted to convey the importance of human rights in China. "In the rush to do business with China and the parallel effort of the China to woo the West," she says, "human rights had lost its profile."

In China, she literally stepped in the river, waited in the hospital, ate hot peppers in the marketplace and took the overnight train from Hunan province to Beijing – following the path Lu Decheng took as he carried out these ordinary activities. She chose Decheng, a bus mechanic and the most 'ordinary' of the three friends, who had impulsively joined the students because that might be the best and only chance in his lifetime to allow his people to live in freedom and dignity.

Beyond trying to experience Decheng's everyday life, in and out of prison, she interviewed him for hundreds of hours, often from his home in Calgary where he lives with his second wife and two sons. His two friends live in Indiana: Yu Zhijian, a teacher in China, lives with his wife and child. And Yu Dongyue, the newspaper arts editor who was beaten and tortured in prison – "he has a huge scar on his forehead" – is mentally incapacitated, says Ms Chong. He escaped China with his sister and lives under her constant care.

Ms Chong's previous books are similarly meticulously researched non-fiction: *The Concubine's Children* and *The Girl in the Picture: The Story of Kim Phuc, the Photograph and the Vietnam War* about Kim whose iconic photo was taken as she ran naked and crying after a napalm attack by the South Vietnamese Air Force during the Vietnam War.

"Is it so exceptional to desire freedom, to want it, and then to demand it?" asks Ms Chong, the Vancouver-born descendant of Chinese immigrants.



Author Denise Chong

"No, it is not the exceptional person who has the moral conscience. We all have it. Dignity, decency, goodness: If one doesn't stand up for these things, we all become a little more soulless. We're all complicit when these basic values erode."

Egg on Mao: The Story of an Ordinary Man who Defaced an Icon and Unmasked a Dictatorship

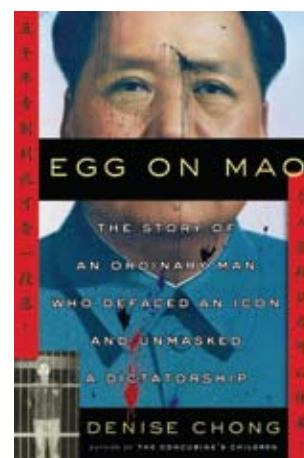
By Denise Chong
Random House Canada
\$32.95

The teenaged Lu Decheng and his girlfriend, Qiuping, both too young to be legally married, illegally living together and pregnant, duped family planning authorities with a falsified abortion certificate. They remain in hiding in the countryside, relying on their friend Hongwu to come to their aid when needed.

Qiuping put the word out to her friends that she and Decheng needed a safe house in which to ride out her pregnancy. Second Brother of the four Xiao brothers came through. The brothers had a half-finished house in the countryside, intending it as an investment until such time as they married. They offered it to Qiuping rent-free. The mud house was crude, but its location was ideal. Four kilometres from town, sitting halfway up a steep hillside and back 400 metres from a main road, the house afforded a clear view of anyone approach-

ing. Best of all, there was a clinic 2 kilometres away in the hamlet of Ji Li Bridge.

Already struggling to support Qiuping and himself, Decheng needed money to pay for her health care, the delivery and the stay at the clinic. Hongwu advised his



friend to ask his superiors at the bus station for a loan: "Tell them that you need money to pay for medicinal herbs to nurse Qiuping back to health after her abortion." Their response was so generous that it gave Decheng an idea. He approached a senior administrator whom he respected, and spoke of how he and Qiuping lived as husband and wife but wanted to formalize

their relationship. He spoke vaguely about how they had de facto fulfilled the conditions of marriage: they lived together and they had had a pregnancy. He succeeded at getting the necessary letter of reference to present to the marriage bureau that made no mention of them being underage.

Decheng and Qiuping timed their arrival at the bureau for the dying minutes before lunch. A lone female staff member was in the courtyard hanging her washcloth on a line. She was annoyed that the couple was infringing on her lunch hour. (Meal breaks were so sacred to every worker that pilots of China Airlines were known to make unscheduled landings to eat.) She took a cursory look at the letters and issued Lu Decheng and Wang Qiuping the marriage documents.

From dawn to dusk, at the Xiao brothers' house in the country, Qiuping, her belly swelling, joyously tended a hillside of vegetables that she had planted. When Decheng and Qiuping had been living itinerantly, they'd kept only what could be transported in the wooden crate on their bicycle. Now they accumulated the belongings that made the house feel more like a home.

With the approach of winter, Hongwu arrived with extra covers and blankets. Decheng stoked a brazier with diesel fuel, which he got free from the bus station, to generate heat. The acrid smoke was hardly worth what little warmth came of the fire. At night, the moss and lichen growing on the inner walls froze. By day, they seeped water.

Late in January, on a particularly cold night, Qiuping's contractions started. Hongwu and Second Brother arrived to help Decheng take her to the clinic. They lifted her into a wooden cart, and Hongwu pushed while the other two pulled, all the way to the Ji Li Bridge clinic. The doctor delivered a healthy baby boy. He announced the weight proudly: "Seven caties, two taels!"

Hongwu went to tell both sets of grandparents the good news. To smooth the way, he brought offerings of hard-boiled eggs dyed red to signify new life. He included firecrackers, choosing the smallest he could find to acknowledge the necessary secrecy that had surrounded the birth.

He visited Decheng's side first, going to see Stepmother Meilan. She rejected his offering. "First of all, I don't believe you. And second, even if there is a grandson, I won't go visit."

Housewife Wang was shocked that her daughter had a baby. "But she had an abortion! How can she be giving birth?"



From left, Yu Dongyue, Yu Zhijian, and Lu Decheng when they were reunited in the U.S. in 2009.

She said she wasn't interested in seeing any baby that Lu Decheng fathered, but she would go anyway because she wanted to see her daughter. She asked her husband to come with her.

"How can I go? I'm the deputy head of a state opera company! People will say, 'You cheated. You have an illegal grandson.'" Deputy Director Wang sat, shaking his head. "This will be very bad for all concerned."

Some five years later, the young couple, having faced down obstacles, from the authorities hounding them about their having married when underage, and having had an illegal pregnancy, now had only the certainty of separation. For defacing Mao's portrait, the state has sentenced Lu Decheng to 16 years, Yu Dongyue to 20 years and Yu Zhijian to life. For a few short months in late 1989, the three are together, newly transferred from a prison in Beijing to one in Hunan.

Prisoners who'd committed counter-revolutionary crimes were permitted visits only from family. Sadly, Zhijian's and Dongyue's were unable to visit and only Qiuping showed, but always, with a care package.

Qiuping's cooked treats were a relief from the prison fare. At Decheng's first meal here, when he saw that one of the wooden vats contained rice, he could hardly wait to fill his bowl. It took several meals at this new prison before he noticed the mould and the worms mingled in with the coarse, stale grains.

To prepare the vegetables, the prison cooks tossed them into a huge tub of stale, dirty water, scooped them out into an immense wok over a fire, raked them with a farmer's hoe, then emptied them into the wooden vats. The vegetables, entangled

with weeds and pebbles, were so raw that they were still crawling with insects. Some new detainees shrugged. "The big bacteria in the food will eat the small bacteria," they said.

Most of the talk among the three was of the world beyond the high prison walls. News from outside found its way in. Personnel and prisoners being transferred in and out fed the prison grapevine. Developments in the Communist world made for the hottest topic of conversation among the three friends. In their last prison in Beijing, they had heard nothing of the breach in the Berlin Wall on November 9. They were stunned to learn of the collapse of regimes in quick succession in East Germany, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary. In late December, they watched television reports of the capture and summary execution of Nicolae Ceausescu, the Romanian president, and his wife, Elena. Such a rising tide of democracy gave the three friends from Liuyang hope. China was the odd nation out, using violence and imprisonment to preserve its regime. Surely, international pressure would force China to release high-profile inmates such as them.

Decheng was released nine years later, in 1998; Zhijian in 2000; and Dongyue, one of the longest serving 1989 inmates, in 2004.

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The essence of wine collecting is drinking it



PIETER VAN DEN WEGHE

You know you're getting serious about wine when you start to read books about grapes, seek out obscure appellations and anticipate hyped wines with Beatlemania-like zeal. You may also suddenly notice a precious few cubic feet of your abode has been taken over with a pile of wine. Not that there's anything wrong with that. Every wine

WITH THE RIGHT WINES, AGING CAN BRING SUBLIME REWARDS. WHILE SIMPLE WINES GROW THIN AND LOSE THEIR COMPELLING AND SEDUCTIVE SPIRIT, AGE-WORTHY WINES TYPICALLY DEVELOP THE HARMONY, BALANCE AND SUBTLETY THEY LACK IN THEIR YOUTH.

lover needs a proper collection. The trick is to start and maintain the right collection for you. Otherwise, you may end up with a hodgepodge of awkward wines you can't find occasion to enjoy. However, with a vision, a strategy and the proper space, you can build a suitable collection.

Your wine collection should reflect your interest in wine. What is the purpose of your collection? Is it to have wines on hand for everyday drinking, or are you looking to age wines to develop them? If you get little sensory joy from the flavours and style of an aged wine, then collecting for the sake of aging should not be your goal. Some small experiments can help you discover if this is the case. Do a little research through wine reviews and wine

mongers to find a wine that has some short-term aging potential. A white wine is often a good idea as its developmental arc tends to be shorter and thus faster than that of a red. Purchase four bottles of this wine. Open one immediately and take some detailed notes on your impressions. Open the second bottle just before the suggested best-drinking time, another at the anticipated peak and the last a bit afterward. Continue to record your thoughts throughout. Repeating it a few times with other grape varieties and different appellations and producers will help to build an idea of what level of aging influence you generally enjoy in wine. This level should then be the goal of your collection and will help decide the respective size of its two main parts: wines for everyday use and wines for aging.

Now that you know what you want to buy, plan your collection and stick to it. Keep an eye out for tremendous values in everyday wines and grab age-worthy wines when available. Red Bordeaux from 2005 is an obvious candidate for the latter category, but also look at 2006 white Burgundy, 2007 German riesling, 2004 barolo and 2006 cabernet sauvignon from South Africa's Stellenbosch region. Above

all, keep drinking. Many collections balloon in size because purchases outrun consumption. Everyday wines should be fast-tracked for opening so they don't linger. While it can be quite interesting to see where your wine-of-the-moment ends up in 18 months time, it's a little sad having old favourites linger too long. For example, there are all sorts of fantastic aromatic whites from Niagara's 2008 vintage which just scream to be drunk now but will be very different beasts two summers from now.

However, with the right wines, aging can bring sublime rewards. While simple wines grow thin and lose their compelling and seductive spirit, age-worthy wines typically develop the harmony, balance and subtlety they lack in their youth. As flavours develop, savoury aspects become more apparent and tannins soften. That said, there is simply no purpose or reason to attempt to age wine if you cannot provide the proper conditions.

When considering the home of your wine collection, the four physical conditions required are coolness, darkness, dampness and stillness. Basements are great, but, if no basement is to be found in your domicile, a closet or pantry along



It's fun to build a collection of wine, but don't forget that the purpose is to drink it.

ISTOCK

an exterior wall can suffice. Try to avoid vibrations, dryness and light, keeping in mind that temperature really is the key. Though wine can tolerate very short exposure to some extremes, all wine should really be stored under 21°C while the ideal temperature for aging is around 13°C. Unless artificially controlled, temperature variations will always naturally occur and, as long as they do not exceed one degree over the span of a day or eight degrees over the span of a year, they should not negatively impact the wine. Also, bottles with natural corks should always be stored on their side. When bottles are kept standing up, the corks dry out, compromising their seal and allowing oxygen to enter the bottle. This results in oxidized, sherry-like wine.

One final note: Stay organized. Stick to the anticipated drinking times you've decided on. Sometimes that means creating occasions to open your wine. Though many bottles of wine are certainly a pretty sight to behold, wine is paradoxically only truly enjoyed when it is going or gone. Don't be afraid of this, or you will be presiding over a substantial collection of tired plonk. Wine is at its best when it's enjoyed.

Pieter Van den Weghe is the sommelier at Beckta dining & wine.




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Après-ski dining



MARGARET DICKENSON

Skiing, skating, sledging, long walks in the crisp frosty air — indeed outdoor winter activities of any kind — have a rejuvenating effect. Our skin is tight from the uninterrupted exposure to the cold air, fingers tingle, toes pinch, eyes water and noses run. But, somehow it all feels good. It's a positive type of pain, an agreeable punishment that we accept and, indeed, enjoy. Yes, we have met the challenge of the great Canadian outdoors and we are quietly proud of our accomplishment. So now it's time to reward ourselves.

As families or individual family members return home, they quickly abandon outdoor thermal clothing and slip into something cozy before wrapping chilled hands around a hot mug of tea, coffee, hot chocolate, soup or warm spiced red wine.

Now, light the fireplace, turn on the music — this is the moment for casual comfort, warmth and relaxation. It's time to cocoon. As the winter sports enthusiasts drain their mugs of warm drinks, a hot snack should be on its way from the kitchen. Baked brie topped with a chutney, warm thick vegetable dips, quesadillas, gourmet mini-burgers or a simple cheese fondue are always a hit. They can be prepared in advance so they are ready for the oven or a grill. For even more convenience try a quickly put-together charcuterie tray with a basket of warm artisanal bread.

Après-ski (or whatever other outdoor winter activity) entertaining can be fun. Those who have joined you in the outing, will be delighted to continue the day's adventure indoors, in the warmth of your home. The dress code should be winter casual (e.g., warm sweaters and slacks or skirts). Mulled wine, cider or beer can replace those hot beverages which the family enjoyed; however, regular wine

should also be available. You might also decide to decorate for the occasion. Pine cones arranged in glass vases or bowls and groupings of candles in strategic spots are among my favorite tricks.

If the invitation includes dinner, set the table with a sense of relaxed pizzazz — candles, coloured napkins, chunky stemware or pottery cups for wine, pine cones and boughs for a centrepiece. It need not be either extravagant or expensive but it should reflect the mood of the occasion.

The menu should be prepared in advance with only last minute assembly and cooking to do. Serve at least one hors d'oeuvre before heading to the table. Keep the menu simple — three courses is perfect. You will want to start with a hearty, piping hot soup before moving on to a comfort food type of main course, be it a pasta, a braised or baked dish, mussels, a hot and cold combination (e.g., hot baked potato and winter vegetables with a piece of previously grilled and chilled fillet of salmon) or perhaps tourtière. I would be tempted to serve my full-flavoured, uniquely spiced coconut cream kaffir lime shrimp where the sauce can be prepared in advance and refrigerated for up to two days or frozen for months. Then, it's

just a matter of heating the sauce, then adding sliced water chestnuts along with peeled and deveined jumbo or colossal shrimp which take only minutes to cook in the sauce. The accompanying asparagus spears and rice could be cooked the morning of, ready to be reheated shortly before serving.

When it comes to dessert, in the glow of candlelight and after a day in the crisp outdoors, a tray of specialty regional cheeses, fresh fruit and wonderful local rustic bread should please everyone. But don't forget to pass the chocolates before guests leave.

Bon Appétit!

Margaret Dickenson is author of the international award-winning cookbook *Margaret's Table – Easy Cooking & Inspiring Entertaining*. See www.margaretstable.ca for more.

Coconut Cream Kaffir Lime Shrimp

Makes 4 servings

Accompaniment tip: This recipe must be served with rice. Include a fresh vegetable of choice (e.g., asparagus) or a simple salad (e.g., mâche, spring mix).



Coconut Cream Kaffir Lime Shrimp

LARRY DICKENSON

1 small can (8 fluid oz/227 mL) water chestnuts, drained and sliced
1 lb (450 g) jumbo shrimp, peeled (with tails attached) and deveined

Sauce

2 tsp (10 mL) cornstarch
1/2 cup (125 mL) coconut milk
2 to 3 tsp (10 to 15 mL) peeled and grated fresh gingerroot
2 tsp (10 mL) finely chopped fresh garlic
1 1/2 tbsp (23 mL) vegetable oil
1 cup (250 mL) finely chopped onion
1 1/2 to 2 tsp (8 to 10 mL) Thai red curry paste*
1 1/2 cups (375 mL) coconut cream**
1 1/2 to 2 tsp (8 to 10 mL) crushed*** dried kaffir lime leaves
1/3 tsp (2 mL) salt
Pinch granulated sugar

Garnish

1/2 cup (125 mL) roasted whole cashew nuts
sprigs of fresh herbs (e.g., coriander, lemon basil)

1. Whisk cornstarch into coconut milk; set aside.

2. In a large deep skillet, stirring constantly, sauté ginger and garlic in hot oil over medium heat for less than a minute.

3. Add onion; stir frequently and cook until translucent but not brown. Add curry paste; stir constantly to combine well, cooking mixture for two minutes.

4. Add coconut cream and crushed dried kaffir lime leaves; blend well. (Note: I freeze any leftover portions of curry paste, coconut milk and cream for future use, in labeled airtight plastic containers.)

5. Whisk in coconut milk mixture and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and allow sauce to simmer for a few minutes, stirring frequently. Add salt and sugar. (This makes about 2 1/2 cups or 625 mL of sauce.)

6. Just before serving, add chestnuts and shrimp to heated kaffir lime coconut sauce over medium-low heat. Turning constantly, cook shrimp for a few minutes until shrimp are pink and centres are barely opaque (about 2 1/2 minutes. Avoid over cooking.) If necessary, adjust consistency and/or flavour of sauce by adding a touch of coconut milk or cream.

7. Transfer shrimp and sauce to serving bowl(s)/plates; garnish with roasted ca-

shew nuts and sprigs of fresh herbs.

* There are several varieties of Thai red curry paste. Some are fibrous in consistency, others are more starchy. I use the fibrous type which tends to be stronger in flavour. If using the starchy type, you may have to increase (even double) the quality of Thai red curry paste recommended in this recipe.

** Option: For a lighter sauce, substitute a portion of the coconut cream with coconut milk. Using a "light" variety of coconut milk is not recommended as the flavour is reduced.

*** Dried kaffir lime leaves are available at oriental food stores. Crush the leaves in a spice grinder before transferring them to a large sieve set over a bowl. Rub the crushed leaves through the sieve; discard all hard ribs and bits remaining in the sieve. Use only the tender crushed leaves which pass into the bowl.

Make ahead tip (Steps 1 to 5): The sauce may be prepared in advance, placed in an airtight plastic container and stored refrigerated for up to two days or frozen for months. ▢

Ma Cuisine



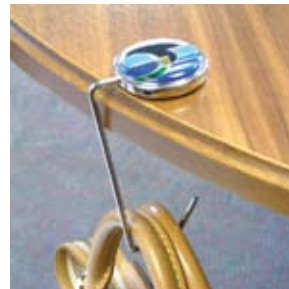
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Breakfast Norwegian style

By Margo Roston



ALL PHOTOS DYANNE WILSON

The residence of Norwegian Ambassador Else Berit Eikland was built in the 1880s and has plenty of room for entertaining.

Something is wrong with the waffle maker and Norwegian Ambassador Else Berit Eikland is worried that one of her country's specialties won't be perfect for breakfast. But by the time we sit down, the Norwegian machine is behaving better and the cook is serving the delicate waffles with sour cream, jam and fresh fruit in the dining room of Crichton Lodge, the oldest home in Rockcliffe Park.

"Just roll them up and eat them with your fingers," says the relaxed hostess and mother of three, who has quickly settled into the Gothic Revival villa. The ambassador is enthusiastic about its early Victorian history, expressed by the stone exterior and white gingerbread trim, and about the story the house seems to tell.

When she arrived at the end of August, it was a dark, rainy night and "the house looked like something from Harry Potter," she says. "But it comes alive in the mornings," when she's up early, in the dark,

walking the dog and then overseeing breakfast for her children as the sun starts to fill the spacious rooms. Squeaks in the old floorboards in the eight-bedroom, nine-bathroom home, make even the floors seem alive, she says.

Built in the 1880s on a hill overlooking the grounds of Rideau Hall, the Lisgar Road home belonged to Thomas McLeod Clark, son-in-law of Thomas McKay, one of Ottawa's founding fathers. He moved in after the death of his wife, Jessie, and named it after Jessie's mother, Ann Crichton. After Clark's death in 1901, his daughters rented the house to Lord Dundonald, General Officer Commanding the Militia, but a few years later it was purchased by Minerva Rundle, who bought the house for her daughter and son-in-law, Aleph von Anrep, an engineer with aristocratic roots. The house was renamed Fridland and was sold in 1930 to Dr. Theodore Howell Leggett, president of the Canadian

Medical Association, who renovated it, moving the front entrance forward and adding a sunroom.

When the Norwegian government bought the house in 1949, officials restored the original name and hung the Crichton Lodge sign, once owned by Jessie and Annie McLeod Clark, in the front hall.

The home's latest resident clearly thinks it's wonderful and so does her dog, nine-year-old Pelle, a cuddly bichon frise who seems to rule the roost. He travels with his own sofa, which has been lovingly transported to all the ambassador's assignments, including her last posting in London, and now to the main-floor study in Rockcliffe.

The ambassador and her husband currently share a transatlantic marriage. "Like many other diplomatic spouses, he stayed home," she says. "He's a bank director and didn't want to give up his job." Two of their three teenage children are in



school in Ottawa. The third, Tjolv, 19, is on his way home for mandatory military service.

The ambassadorial abode is plenty big for its three human (and one canine) residents. But in spite of its spaciousness — including a generous reception room and a large, comfortable dining room which leads out to a secluded patio — the house has an intimate feel. With the exception of Anrep's renovations, which included an outdoor balcony off the second-floor master bedroom, the house remains as it was, with pine floors and leaded glass windows in the main-floor study. On one side of the house is a three-car garage, while at the back in what was once a stable, there is an apartment for the staff driver and his family.

While much of the art work in the reception and dining rooms belongs to the embassy, including several pieces by Norway's iconic Edvard Munch, the ambassador has brought a striking abstract painting by her friend, artist Anya Magnusson, and Hadeland glass candlesticks which twinkle in the morning light. While she enjoys the simple uncluttered decoration in the house, Ms. Eikland would like to refurnish throughout with new, contemporary Norwegian furniture.

She will be spending a month with her country's royal family in Whistler for the Vancouver Olympics and Paralympics, but, "I hope I don't have to ski with the Queen," she says ruefully, noting the athletic ability of the royal family. Norway will send a team of 200 athletes to the games. Another big event will be the annual Christmas party at the house, where she promises there will be a female Santa Claus.

After a stroll around the grounds and patio, the ambassador smiles. "It is a happy house, don't you think? You can tell that happy people lived here."

Margo Roston is *Diplomat's* culture editor.



Left: Ms Eikland and her nine-year-old bichon frise, Pelle. Above: a cozy sunroom has been restored to its original splendour.

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The 90-year warm-up for the Winter Olympics 2010

By Laura Neilson Bonikowsky

You might think a country with plenty of winter would be guaranteed plenty of Winter Olympic gold. Alas, Canadian athletes, historically, have not harvested an abundance of shiny metal on the snowy playing field. But perhaps that is changing. Canadian athletes won big in 2002 and 2006, setting the stage for 2010 as the year Canada rules the Games.

The Winter Olympics are relatively new. Figure skating was a demonstration event at the Summer Games of 1908 and 1920. Ice hockey appeared in 1920, but the International Olympic Committee hesitated to inaugurate a separate winter event because of the geographic limitations of winter sports. In 1921, though opposed by Baron Pierre de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympics, the committee voted to hold an "International Sports Week" in Chamonix, France, in 1924. The event was successful and in 1926 was retroactively named the First Olympic Winter Games.

Canadian winter athletes have most often skated to the medal podium. Canadian hockey teams took the gold in 1920, 1924, 1928, 1932, 1948 and 1952. Figure skater Barbara Ann Scott won post-war gold at St. Moritz in 1948. In 1956, at the first televised games, in Cortina, Italy, the Soviets ended Canada's domination of hockey.

Canada won gold in slalom and pairs skating in 1960. Canada boycotted hockey in 1972 in Sapporo, Japan, to protest eligibility rules that considered government-paid Eastern bloc players as amateurs but excluded Canada's professionals. Innsbruck hosted the 1976 Games instead of Denver, moved there when Denver voters rejected publicly funding the Games. Here, ice-dancing was a competition for the first time and Canada's Kathy Kreiner won the giant slalom by 0.72 of a second.

In 1988, Calgary hosted the Winter Olympics and, as at the Montreal Summer Games, Canada found no gold on its home turf. The 1992 Games were followed quickly by 1994's in Lillehammer when the winter schedule changed to alternate with the Summer Games. Miriam Bédard won two golds in biathlon. The weather wreaked havoc on skiing at the 1998 Nagano games and the Canadian hockey team failed to win a medal despite profes-

sional players being allowed.

In Salt Lake City in 2002, Canadian athletes seemed to hit their stride, placing fourth in the medal standings with a total of 17 medals, the country's highest medal count to that date. They included six gold, three silver and eight bronze. Jamie Salé and David Pelletier shared gold medals with Russian skaters Bereznaya and Sikharulidze after a judging scandal. The speed skaters' eight medals were the biggest contribution to the total count; Marc Gagnon added two gold and a bronze to previous wins, bringing his total to five from 1994 to 2002, a new record. Speed skater Clara Hughes became the first Canadian to win at both Summer and Winter Olympics, having won two bronze medals for cycling in 1996. Canada's crowning achievement was hockey gold, taken by both the women's and men's teams and assisted by Edmonton icemaker Trent Evans who placed a loonie at centre ice for luck.

That luck held in 2006 at Torino, the country's most successful Winter Games ever. Canada placed third in the final medal count with 24 — seven gold, 10 silver, seven bronze. The women bested the men in the medal count. Jennifer Heil (moguls), Chandra Crawford (cross-country sprint), Cindy Klassen and Clara Hughes (speed skating) all won gold, with Ms. Klassen winning a total of five medals. Duff Gibson (skeleton) took gold and Bradley Gushue led the men's curling team victory. And Canada was golden in women's hockey, the team led by Cassie Campbell.

The last two Winter Olympics give Canadians hope that a trend has been set and the country's athletes are on a winning streak. Will 2010 be the year that Canada leads the medal count? What a victory that would be, won on home turf.

Laura Neilson Bonikowsky is the associate editor of *The Canadian Encyclopedia*.



1948: Barbara Ann Scott was welcomed home after her Olympic skating victory by vast throngs shouting 'Hail to Queen Barbara.'


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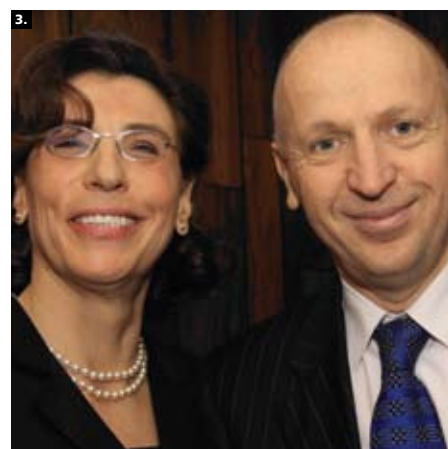


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THIS PAGE : 1. To mark the 40th anniversary of the first of September Revolution/National Day of Libya, Chargé d'Affaires Al Hussein A.M. Elzawawi, right, hosted a reception at the National Gallery of Canada. He's shown with Abdulla Nasher, former Yemeni ambassador to Canada and now a consultant in Ottawa. (Photo: Jennifer Campbell) • 2. The Barbados High Commission hosted a fashion show at the residence last fall. Ulle Baum attended. • 3. Sharon Luckman at the Barbados fashion show. (Photos: Lois Siegel) • 4. The 24th EU Film Festival took place in November and December. Shown at the press launch are, from left, Jack Horwitz, chairman of the Canadian Film Institute; Sylwia Domisiewicz, Polish press and protocol officer; Swedish Ambassador Ingrid Iremark; and Tom McSorley, executive director of the Canadian Film Institute. (Photo: Ulle Baum) • 5. Prime Minister Stephen Harper went to Washington in the fall to meet with U.S. President Barack Obama. (Photo: PMO)



THIS PAGE 1. Jamaican High Commissioner Evadne Coxe returned this fall to Jamaica as permanent secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Ms Coxe, second from right, is shown at a Fairmont Château Laurier farewell with (from left) Jean-Robert Menos, husband of Haitian chargée d'affaires Nathalie Menos-Gissel; Joyce Kallaghe, wife of the Tanzanian high commissioner; Ms. Menos-Gissel; and Zimbabwean Ambassador Florence Chideya. (Photo: Sheryl Corinaldi) • **2.** Naira Akopian, right, wife of Armenian Chargé d'Affaires Arman Akopian, hosted the Slavic diplomatic hospitality group in November. She's shown in front of a work by Armenian sculptor Levon Tokmjian, with Sholpan Belgibayeva, wife of Kazakh Ambassador Yerlan Abildayev. (Photo: Ulle Baum) • **3.** Romanian Ambassador Elena Stefoi held a national day reception in December. She's shown with Ukrainian Ambassador Ihor Ostash. • **4.** Thai Ambassador Adisak Panupong hosted a national day reception in December. It featured a cultural presentation with several dancers. • **5.** A woman dances in front of a portrait of Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej. (Photos: Lois Siegel)



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THIS PAGE : 1. Norwegian Ambassador Else Berit Eikeland played host when Olympic torch-bearers Jonathan and Matthew MacDonald made a quick stop on the way past her residence. She served traditional Norwegian cookies and drinks and reminded those who asked about the 1994 Games, which Norway hosted in Lillehammer. • 2. Taiwan Representative David Lee was on hand for the opening of the T&T Supermarket at Hunt Club in Ottawa. From left, Cindy Lee, president of T&T Supermarket Inc, Jack A. Lee, director T&T's board, "the God of Fortune," Mr. Lee and his wife, Lin Chih Lee. (Photo: George Wu)



THIS PAGE 1. The Swedish embassy organized a Christmas concert, together with the embassies and high commissions of the European Union, at Notre Dame Cathedral Dec. 4. (Photo: Ulle Baum) • **2.** To mark the national day of Korea, Ambassador Chan-Ho Ha and his wife, Young Shin Kim, hosted a reception at the embassy. (Photo: Jennifer Campbell) • **3.** The Embassy of Yemen, the chair of Arabic Studies of the University of Ottawa, and Bridges Canada co-hosted an art exhibit of images of the Queen of Sheba by Yemeni artist Mazher Nizar at the University of Ottawa. Mr. Nizar, right, is shown with Yemeni Ambassador Khaled Bahah. (Photo: Ulle Baum) • **4.** On the occasion of the 199th anniversary of the independence of Chile and the beginning of the bicentennial year, Chilean Ambassador Eugenio Ortega and his wife, Carmen Frei, hosted a reception at the Château Laurier. • **5.** The International Women's Club of Ottawa hosted a tea this fall at Orléans United Church. Here, Liz Meyers pours for Thea Geerts, centre, wife of Netherlands Ambassador Wim Geerts, and Sabine Witschel, wife of German Ambassador Georg Witschel.

New Heads of Mission

Farid Shafiyev
Ambassador of Azerbaijan



Mr. Shafiyev has been the chargé d'affaires at the Ottawa embassy since 2007 and was recently promoted to ambassador.

After high school, he served in the armed forces for two years before beginning studies that led to a master's degree in public administration from Harvard University.

In 1996, he joined the foreign service working on political-military issues and the United Nations. He was posted to the UN in New York from 1998 to 2001. Beginning in 2005, he spent two years as counselor in Ottawa before becoming chargé d'affaires and finally, ambassador.

He speaks Azerbaijani, English, Russian, Turkish and some French and is married to Ulkar Shafiyeva. They have one daughter.

Matthias Brinkmann
Ambassador of the Delegation of the European Commission
Mr. Brinkmann comes to Ottawa from



Brussels, where he was responsible for relations with non-EU countries in Western Europe, in the directorate general for external relations.

He joined the European Commission in 1983. From 1987 to 1990, he was seconded to the Danish ministry of research. From 1992 to 1996, he served in the European Commission's office in Stockholm, first heading the press and information section, and later as chargé d'affaires.

Before joining the Commission, he worked for the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva and as a judge at the administrative court in Hamburg.

Mr. Brinkmann has studied law and political science in Göttingen, Freiburg and Strasbourg and has a doctorate in international law. He speaks German, French, English and Swedish. He is married to Madeleine Daumerie and has four children.

Richard Benjamin Turkson
High Commissioner for Ghana
Before his appointment to Canada, Mr. Turkson had retired from the Ghana public service and was consulting for non-



governmental organizations. A lawyer by profession, he has practised extensively in Ghanaian courts, including as barrister-at-law and solicitor at the Supreme Court.

From 1990 to 1993, he was regional director of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, which is headquartered in London, and from 1993 to 1995, he was a legal consultant for that organization. In the academic world, he has been dean of the faculty of law at the University of Ghana and visiting professor at Temple University Law School in Philadelphia. In addition, he led several of Ghana's government delegations to meetings at the UN and The Hague.

Ljuben Tevdovski
Ambassador of Macedonia
Most recently, Mr. Tevdovski has been a member of the Macedonian president's council of foreign affairs and adviser to the president on public diplomacy. Previously he led the national priorities section in the Macedonian ministry of foreign affairs.

Mr. Tevdovski is member of the editorial board of *Crossroads*, Macedonia's foreign policy journal, and a lecturer on diplomacy in the ministry's diplomatic

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academy. Previously, he worked as deputy-director of the Holocaust Fund of the Jews in Macedonia.

He completed his master's in contemporary diplomacy at the University of Malta. He is married to Violeta Tevdovska and speaks Macedonian, English and Italian.

Tundevdorj Zalaa-Uul
Ambassador of Mongolia

After finishing studies in political science in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, and studies in philology at the University of Bucharest, Mr. Zalaa-Uul joined the ministry of foreign affairs in 1980, as an attaché. He was first posted to Romania as third secretary. He returned from 1993 to 1997 as chargé d'affaires. In between, he held positions at



headquarters. From 2001 to 2004, he was counselor at the embassy in India. Prior to his Ottawa posting, he spent four years as counselor in the department of the Americas, Middle East and Africa at the foreign ministry.

Mr. Zalaa-Uul is married and has six children. He speaks Mongolian, Romanian, Russian and English.

Osamah Ahmad Al Sanosi Ahmad
Ambassador of Saudi Arabia

Mr. Ahmad's first diplomatic posting was in 2001, as Saudi Arabia's ambassador to Poland. That was followed in 2005 by a four-year posting to Iran.

Born in Medeeniha, he obtained a bachelor's degree in political science at the King Saud University in Riyadh and later



completed a master's in art management at the University of Redlands in California.

Mr. Ahmad speaks Arabic and English. He is married and has four children, three daughters and a son.

David Cary Jacobson
Ambassador of the United States of America

Mr. Jacobson is a lawyer but he most recently served as President Barack Obama's special assistant for presidential personnel. Before working in the White House, he spent 30 years working in commercial, class action, securities, insurance and business litigation as a partner at the law firm Sonnenschein, Nath & Rosenthal LLP. While working there, he founded Atom-



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Works, an organization that encourages nanotechnology in the Midwestern United States by bringing together corporate, civic and academic leaders.

Mr. Jacobson has a law degree from Georgetown University Law Center and a BA from Johns Hopkins University.

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January	1	Cuba	Liberation Day
	1	Haiti	Independence Day
	1	Sudan	National Day
	4	Myanmar	Independence Day
	26	Australia	Australia Day
	31	Nauru	National Day
February	4	Sri Lanka	National Day
	6	New Zealand	National Day
	7	Grenada	Independence Day
	11	Iran	National Day
	15	Serbia	National Day
	16	Lithuania	Independence Day
	17	Kosovo	Independence Day
	18	Gambia	Independence Day
	22	Saint Lucia	Independence Day
	23	Brunei Darussalam	National Day
	23	Guyana	Republic Day
	24	Estonia	Independence Day
	25	Kuwait	National Day
	27	Dominican Republic	Independence Day
March	3	Bulgaria	National Day
	6	Ghana	National Day
	12	Mauritius	National Day
	17	Ireland	St. Patrick's Day
	20	Tunisia	Proclamation of Independence
	23	Pakistan	Pakistan Day
	25	Greece	Independence Day
	26	Bangladesh	National Day
April	4	Senegal	Independence Day
	16	Denmark	Birthday of Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II
	17	Syria	National Day
	18	Zimbabwe	Independence Day
	26	Tanzania	Union Day
	27	Sierra Leone	Republic Day
	27	South Africa	Freedom Day
	27	Togo	National Day
	29	Israel	National Day
	30	Netherlands	Birthday of Her Majesty Queen Beatrix



DYANNE WILSON

Mayor Larry O'Brien (left), parties with British High Commissioner Anthony Cary and his wife, Clare, at the Snowflake Ball.



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A carver at Ottawa's annual Winterlude festival.



DYANNE WILSON

A shrimp "tree" at last year's Kuwait national day.

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BY RAFET AKGÜNAY
Ambassador of Turkey

It has been nearly one-and-a-half years since I assumed my duties as the Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey in Canada. As part of my duties, I try to travel across this vast, beautiful and diverse country at every opportunity to see as much of it as I possibly can. I am

also happy to see that many Canadians I meet express interest in visiting Turkey.

Turkey is an appealing destination for many reasons. To begin, our country is uniquely situated on two continents, presenting unparalleled sights and experiences for travelers.

Often referred to as a bridge between Europe and Asia, Turkey is a crossroads of civilizations. Since 12,000 B.C. to the 21st Century A.D., many civilizations lived in this vast land and left behind invaluable remnants of their cultures. From the Neolithic site of Çatal Höyük, to well-preserved ancient Greek and Roman ruins, from Byzantine churches to Ottoman mosques, the layers of history in Turkey present a stunning architectural, archaeological and religious legacy.

Some of the best-preserved Greek

and Roman ruins are scattered throughout southwestern Turkey. Visitors can wander through ancient theatres, stadiums, temples, and streets – after all, the Romans had a presence in Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey) for close to 1,500 years. Ephesus, Turkey's most-visited archaeological site, is a place to 'soak up' history as you literally walk in the footsteps of the Romans.

A trip to Turkey could well start with Istanbul, a very special city, indeed. It is historical and modern, and even post-modern in spirit. It is a cosmopolitan mega-city with all the richness and challenges this brings. As a travel destination and as a city to call home, it caters to all tastes 24/7. The cliché "East meets West" almost fails to capture the real cultural potential of the city.

As a result of centuries of multi-

cultural interaction, Turkish cuisine is one of the richest in the world. The food is undoubtedly a tourist attraction all unto itself. The refined synthesis of Mediterranean and Asian traditions is arguably unmatched. For those keen followers of gourmet enterprises, memorable restaurants will be found not only in such large cities as Istanbul, but also across the country, especially along the Western coast.

What may be called the Turkish Riviera, the western and southern coastlines, is, in fact, a highly popular destination in Turkey. It is known not only for its wonderful beaches, many hidden small getaways, award-winning resorts and gem-like boutique hotels, but also an exceptionally rich cultural and historical setting resembling an open-air museum. Combining all this with the spectacular yachting tours, known as the Blue Voyage, makes this a 'must-see' destination, if you have the chance.

Tourists who have returned to Turkey year after year are seeking new experiences -- taking eco/green holidays, visiting therapeutic spas, golfing, following special itineraries to explore the history of faiths (Judaism, Christianity, Islam), treading ancient walking paths, rafting and, in winter, enjoying skiing. One will find these opportunities in different parts of the country, not only on the Mediterranean, the Aegean or the Black Sea coastlines, but also inland, in such idyllic regions as Cappadocia.

Turkey, the site of two wonders of the ancient world, is a present-day marvel as the cradle of civilization, the very center of world history and a modern Westward-looking republic. It is a country of fascinating contrasts, where antiquity is juxtaposed with contemporary, the familiar with the exotic; where sun-swept beaches beckon less than an hour away from snow-capped mountains and everywhere visitors are treated to the extraordinary warmth of the Turkish people.

The sheer variety of Turkish culture and history make Turkey a preferred tourism destination for travelers from many countries, especially in Europe. Tourism to Turkey has increased steadily in the last 10 years, reaching around 27 million visitors in 2008.

Notably, in the last few years, the number of Canadians visiting Turkey is also on the rise. Some visit Turkey via international cruise ships; others prefer a



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ON THE MEDITERRANEAN COAST

longer and more fulfilling experience in Turkey. With the start of Turkish Airlines' direct flights from Toronto to Istanbul since last July, travel from Canada to Turkey has become much easier.

I am also offering some attractive ideas to consider and to enjoy while in Turkey. Bon voyage!

Diverse Array of Cruise Ships Offer Turkish Delights

An incredibly diverse flotilla of cruise ships – from plush luxury liners and massive resort-style mega-vessels to intimate adventure-style ships – ply the crystal blue waters of three surrounding seas as various cruise lines offer cruise itineraries calling at the Turkish ports of Antalya, Bodrum, Canakkale, Dikili, Istanbul and Kusadasi.

From cosmopolitan Istanbul to historic Kusadasi, cruise passengers will find Turkey's compelling history and traditions well within reach. Vacationers who visit Turkey for the first time aboard cruise ships consistently find more than they can explore in a one-day port call. As a result, a large percentage of first-time cruise visitors return for longer land stays. At Istanbul, passengers can opt for excursions to Topkapi Palace, the Hippodrome and the Blue Mosque. From Kusadasi, cruise passengers will enjoy excursions to Ephesus, among the ancient world's largest and most significant archeological sites. At sea, passengers sailing the waters of the Aegean will marvel at Turkey's diverse topography, from its spectacular coastline to its majestic mountains, plush valleys and awe-inspiring plains.



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Golfers “Play Through” Center of World History

Turkey - The Birthplace of Civilization – On Par with World’s Most Civilized Sport

In recent years, the growth in popularity of Turkey as a golf destination has prompted the development of 11 new world-class courses (by the end of the decade) to complement the courses already attracting golf aficionados seeking exotic luxury at accessible prices.

While Turkey’s Biblical landmarks, ancient ruins and historic shrines are safely out of reach of soaring Slazengers, they provide intriguing backdrops to challenging play and lend a cultural bent to the sport of pre-and/or après golf, for which Turkey presents captivating options. Coupled with breathtaking landscapes, a climate that affords year-round outings and an internationally acclaimed cuisine, these unique landscapes make coastal Turkey one of the world’s most desirable and fastest-growing destinations for duffers. Moreover, English, as the language of luxury travel,

is universally spoken at Turkey’s glamorous golf resorts and clubs. And the favorable currency exchange rate, complemented by budget-friendly greens fees (lower than those at many public courses in the U.S.) make Turkish tee-offs a remarkable value.

A good example is the Belek Borough, in the popular leisure region of Antalya. A particular hotspot for golfers, it boasts a cluster of Turkey’s most attractive golf resorts with some 81 holes. The Antalya area is dubbed the “Turkish Riviera” because of the chic clientele of its sumptuous hotels and resorts who relish the 300 days of annual sunshine and who enjoy its breathtaking beaches, which have been awarded the top environmental Blue Flag designation. Its golf resorts sport luxurious accommodations, exquisite culinary choices and pampering service.

Highlights of the Belek Borough include: the Gloria Golf Resort, Turkey’s premier golf hotel with particularly sumptuous bungalows, villas and suites, presenting a challenging 18 holes of play by French golf architect Michael Gayon and set amidst spectacular wooded pine forests at the foot of the Toros Mountains. The National Golf Club, just 25 minutes from the Antalya airport, features a course designed by European Ryder Cup team member David Feherty among pines and lakes. And the Nobilis

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

Here are some unknown facts about Turkey and its past. I hope you will find them interesting.

Anatolia is believed to be the birthplace of Homer, King Midas, Herodotus, St. Paul the Apostle and St. Nicholas, also known as Santa Claus.

Istanbul is the only city in the world located on two continents, Europe and Asia. In its hundreds of years of history, it has been the capital of three great empires – Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman – and is today a vibrant city shining with new life, vitality and progress.

Turkey is noted for having one of the three (together with French and Chinese) most famous and distinctive cuisines in the world.

The oldest known human settlement in the world is located in Catal Höyük, Turkey, dating back to 6500 B.C. The earliest landscape painting in history was found on the wall of a Catalhöyük house, illustrating the volcanic eruption of nearby Hasandag.

Two of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World stood in Turkey -- the Temple of Artemis at Ephesus and the Mausoleum of Halicarnassus in Bodrum.

The Virgin Mary’s house, where she spent her last days, situated on the top of Bülbüldag (Ephesus), is considered a holy place for many religions.



THE VIRGIN MARY’S HOUSE, EPHESUS/IZMIR

The Asian side of Turkey, namely Anatolia, has been home to a number of important civilizations, such as the Hittites, Phrygians, Byzantines, Seljuks and the Ottomans -- some of them since before 9,000 B.C. They left behind remnants that have especially fascinated visitors interested in history and archeology.

Golf Resort, with its Dave Thomas course, is framed by the spectacular wooded scenery along the Belek Acisu River.

Belek, like many other spots along the Turkish Riviera, also offer attractive resorts for **honeymooners**. Recently, increasing number of couples have been opting to get married in these romantic locations where they can also find special matrimonial arrangements in the historical churches of the region.

Turkish Hot Springs and Spas Offer a Unique Resort Experience Without the Gimmicks

At a time when so-called “spas” are sprouting up in venues as disparate as hotel suites, nail salons and even dentists’ offices, Turkey’s spas speak to the origins of the term and concept. The health-giving properties of Turkey’s natural hot springs have been renowned since antiquity. The ancient city of Hierapolis was built on the site of the rich mineral waters of Pamukkale. The Balcova/Izmir hot springs are located on the site of the Baths of Agamemnon, known and used in Roman times for their therapeutic qualities. No doubt the residents of the ancient Lycian city of Caunos bathed in the mineral-rich mud of nearby Koycegiz Lake. These spas and many others still in use are perfect for alleviating discomfort from a myriad of health problems or simply for treating your senses to an unforgettably pleasurable experience. The most popular spas are concentrated in the Marmara and Aegean regions of western Turkey and are easily accessible from Turkey’s major cities, Istanbul, Izmir and Ankara.

The most visually arresting of Turkey’s spas is Pamukkale (“Cotton Castle”) located in the South Aegean region. Famed for its immense snow-white cliffs formed by cascading mineral-rich waters, the natural hot springs provide water to a number of neighboring contemporary hotels. These resorts boast treatments that range from classic saunas and Jacuzzis to more specific programs that include massage, paraffin, mud and herb baths, underwater gymnastics and diet programs.

On the Marmara Sea in the Cekirge district of Bursa, the Ottoman baths known as Eski Kaplica have been in use for more than 2,000 years. Here, the ancient domes have been converted into luxury spas that specialize in vari-



BLUE VOYAGE, THE SAILING PARADISE OF TURKEY

ous treatments such as steam baths, underwater massage and electrotherapy. Architecturally stunning, the hall consists of two domed rooms extended with semi-domed areas. Cold and hot rooms contain private bathing spaces along the walls, while eight Byzantine columns form an inscribed octagon in the center of the room for public bathing.

Clear Sailing in Turkey

Turkish Coasts Offer a Different Perspective on the History of Mankind

Embraced by the azure waters of four seas – the Black, Marmara, Aegean and Mediterranean – Turkey boasts more than 5,000 miles of magnificent coastline for world-class cruising and a large licensed fleet of power and sailing yachts for bareboat or full-crewed charters to ply its shores. Home to 127 Blue Flag beaches and 12 Blue Flag marinas, much of Turkey’s coastline remains pristine, affording innumerable private anchorages.

Large modern marinas are placed strategically along the shore to accommodate provisioning, chandlery and fueling requirements for charters and private yachts. Foreign sailors may also choose to dock their yachts in Turkey at a licensed yacht harbor for the purpose

of storage, maintenance or repair for a period of up to two years, and may leave the country using any form of transportation they choose. Whether tossing off the lines for day sail or an extended cruise, picturesque coastal villages, awe-inspiring remnants of long lost civilizations and breathtaking landscapes offer countless reasons to drop anchor.

Turkey’s coastal attractions and their accessibility via the canals and rivers of the European waterways system draw all manner of vessels from the world over. However, an indigenous craft, the gulette, is particularly well-suited for gunkholing (shallow-water boating). The one- or two-masted broad-beamed craft, which have evolved from cargo and fishing boats traditionally built in the Bodrum area, are celebrated for seaworthiness combined with commodious comfort – large living areas, wide sun decks, spacious cabins and a large open-air lounge area aft.

Gulettes, accommodating eight to 12 people, typically ply the Aegean and Mediterranean coasts on a “Blue Voyage.” They feature many itineraries, some in which deep blue waters lap at the roots of primeval pine forests. Driven by the whims of the wind, Blue Voyagers become at once more attuned to nature even as they marvel at man-made wonders. They can wander through the ancient ruins, relax on Cleopatra’s private beach and sail past the eternal fires of Mount Olympus. Easily booked through any number of tour operators or charter companies, Blue Voyages offer an intimate, yet luxurious, setting to explore the history of man from the perspective of the sea, the original source of all life.

With an eight-month -- April through November -- boating season, the Aegean and Mediterranean coasts proffer the largest number of marinas, many of them virtually self-contained resort destinations.

A popular point of embarkation is what the Turks call “Beautiful Izmir,” an ancient and cosmopolitan city at the head of the long, narrow Gulf of Izmir, lined with its beckoning beaches.

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JOAN JOSEP BOINY / TEMPLE DE LA SAGRADA FAMÍLIA

Barcelona's Sagrada Família, one of the world's most sublime pieces of architecture, is still a work in progress, nearly 130 years after the first stone was laid.

Spain's amazing architecture

By Jennifer Campbell

Gazing up at an architectural treasure, tourists often think about – and ask – just how long it took to build something on that scale all those years ago. This kind of amazed reflection happens all over Europe, but a couple of buildings in Spain give a whole different dimension to the time-space puzzle.

Barcelona's Sagrada Família church is one of the most sublime pieces of architecture imaginable. And yet it's unfinished. It's been 128 years since builders broke ground and it was one year later that Art Nouveau architect Antoni Gaudí took over the project initially envisioned by diocesan architect Francisco de Paula del Villar.

Gaudí worked on the monumental project for 43 years, until he died in a freak accident in 1926. On his daily walk to his masterpiece, he was run over by a tram. Definitely not a conventional middle-class citizen, the injured man was disheveled to

the point that passing taxi drivers avoided him, thinking he was a vagrant who wouldn't be able to pay the fare to the hospital. Eventually, someone did stop to help but he died a few days later of his injuries, at age 74. Residents in Barcelona, en masse, dressed in black when they learned of his death.

Today, his building, with its radically different facades on all four sides, and its soaring arches carved into a "celestial forest" on the inside, remains a work in progress. People worship there weekly, but often amidst scaffolding as workers continue to carve out Gaudí's vision, funded entirely by donations from thousands of tourists. At the current rate of work and donations, the project could be completed by 2030.

Barcelona is also the site of Gaudí's home, now a museum, and other buildings the national hero designed.

Another time-bound architectural wonder in Spain, and the one that tops the don't-miss list, is the Palacio Real in Madrid, the official residence of King Juan Carlos and his wife, Queen Sofía. They don't actually live there, preferring instead a smaller palace on the outskirts of the city. They use the Palacio Real only for special occasions. This means about 50 of its 2,800 rooms are open for public tours.

There isn't a dull spot among any of the viewable rooms, but the real gem is the tiny and unforgettable porcelain room. From a distance, the walls seem papered in heavy patterns but get closer and you'll see the reality – porcelain. This is no *trompe l'oeil*. Those elaborate flowers and swirls of pink, green and gold are actually jutting out from the wall. The room was the brainchild of King Carlos III who had the royal porcelain factory create the pieces to cover the entire room's wall and ceiling space.

Other interior walls of the palace feature works by Diego Velazquez, Caravaggio, and Francisco Goya, to name a few, and, on the right hand side of the courtyard, you'll find the Royal Armoury and its weapons, some of which date back to the 13th Century.

The palace itself, Europe's largest, is on the former site of the 9th-Century fortress known as Alcazar. It was rebuilt by Carlos I and Felipe II in the 1500s and, when fire destroyed it in 1734, Felipe V had the new palace built on the same site. Construction began in 1738 and concluded during the reign of Carlos III, whose porcelain room was completed in 1771.

Seeing either building is worth the trip to Spain and seeing both is a perfect excuse to take in both great cities. Take the high-speed train from Madrid to Barcelona (for less than \$100) and you'll also see the Atocha, Madrid's architecturally awesome main train station which has been rebuilt



Madrid's Palacio Real, the official residence of the country's king and queen although they only use it for special events, is a great architectural experience.



PEPE NAVARRO / TEMPLE DE LA SAGRADA FAMILIA

The Sagrada Família's "celestial forest."

since the terrorist attacks of 2004. While you're at it, a day trip from Madrid to Toledo (again the train is an easy way to get there and it only takes about an hour) is also architecturally rewarding. In 1986, the entire city was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. The city centre – one of the former capitals of the Spanish Empire – will take the day to explore. While you're doing so, there's no doubt you'll be compelled to exclaim "Holy Toledo!"

Jennifer Campbell is the editor of *Diplomat*.

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