Editorial

When I was a kid there was a Greek film often shown on television with the hero having to go to a psychiatric clinic. It was a comedy alright. So the man walking around the hall he met a Napoleon, a Julius Cesar and a few more characters but the funniest one was a man sitting on a chair and moving backwards and forwards all the time. The hero asks the doctor what’s wrong with him and the doctor explains to him that he thinks he is a clock. The hero gets closer and says to the clockman, you are two minutes late, and the man stops breathing for two minutes to get to the right time.

Ok writing this it sounded very evil but watching it was really funny. But somehow that was the first time I fully realized the meaning of time and how personal time is and I try to explain that better in an article in the informa section of this issue. Issue 10 of the Ovi magazine and nearly a year from our first issue. The first title and them was “3 men and a dead line” and it was just Asa, John and I trying to cover everything. From politics to environment. Be funny and serious, creative and complex the same time. And all that with John been on the other side of the ocean. It was fantastic time and be sure we had no idea what we were up to. Not that now we have, is just that we are more confident on what we are doing. And that thanks to all of you who reading the magazine wherever you are, from Europe to Japan and Africa, from Australia to Chile, thank you very much.

The last few months the lay out of the magazine has been a big issue for us and from some mails we got we know that many of you didn’t like the frames. With this somehow anniversary issue we make the next step into a lay out without frames hoping soon to make the next one. And here a small complain, we have a forum where you can talk, criticize or tell us your opinion. Do join, is easy, you just have to register.

Issue 10 is all about TIME. We thought that since we are near a year of our first issue, in front of a new year with all its promises and of course one year older all of us to write something about time or even better give everybody the chance to think about time. Asa, John and I like for the first issue we are in a short of a time machine. We have one year of experiences and shocks with two small daughter to change our lives gradually.

When we started we were looking for guests’ writers, now a year after we have twelve people joining the Ovi every month and the number is gradually increasing. From this issue we are having a new cartoon as well, a friend of America who seems to be a real party animal with his ‘death of the party’ cartoon. Thank you all.

Another new thing for this issue of Ovi is our new Ovi-Fiction section where you can contribute with short stories, poems, scripts and whatever else you want. We have many dream for this section and we are thinking that in the future we must be able to have books on line as well.

As I said we have many dream with ovi magazine or better the ovi project since it is a whole project for us and we will try to have new things as often as we can.

I hope you will all have nice holidays, merry Christmas, and a very happy new year.

Thanos
After ‘Religion’ last issue, I find my faith in Ovi stronger than ever and it is leading Thanos and I into temptation. We want Ovi to provide us with our daily bread, we want to forgive those who trespass against us, but it will take more than a verse or two from the good book.

This editorial opening would have been perfect for issue nine, yet issue ten features the topic of ‘Time’. Personally, writing about religion was far easier than jotting down my thoughts on time because it is such a slippery subject with little definition. Time is an ambiguous fellow, whether philosophically, astrologically or chronologically, but we set ourselves the challenge and we must live up to its demands…or just ignore it and write what we want.

Ten issues, ten voids and every single one worth it. Our style has developed over the year, the site has begun the long-awaited change to single frame and it will continue to improve, until you are pouring your soul into Ovi too.

If you don’t know by now, Ovi is Finnish for ‘door’ and issue ten takes us on the ‘Doorometer’ to 10 Downing Street. We are strange here at Ovi Magazine but that is why you like us and we like you, in return…for Ovi is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Asa

Ovi’s Ten Commandments:

1 – Thou shalt believe in Ovi.

2 – Thou shalt read other online magazines, but not create others in our likeness.

3 – If thou take Ovi’s name in vain, email us your criticism.

4 – Remember to read Ovi daily.

5 – Honour the fathers of Ovi by informing your friends about us.

6 – Thou shalt add Ovi to your bookmarks.

7 – Thou shalt not cheat on Ovi.

8 – Thou shalt not plagiarise.

9 – Thou shalt not lie about something you saw in Ovi.

10 – Thou shalt not covet Ovi. Email us and join our writing team.

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Once again, we are joined by a number of guests and they have each completed a sterling job writing, drawing or composing; it seems they have taken Ovi’s Ten Commandments to heart. How can you not take this magazine to heart? We have given so much of our souls to this project that we are emotionally void for the days after each new issue appears online.
Imagine sitting at your favorite café when—all of a sudden—an idea so original, and with so much potential pops into your head that you flag down the waiter for a pen to scrawl it on your napkin. Pure genius! How did you not think of this sooner? A moment later, you decide to recite your epiphany to the entire table, fully expecting a toast to your brilliance. But somehow the thought has wilted iceberg lettuces on your club salad.

Why do some ideas ignite our imaginations? How do certain concepts find their own momentum and change the world, while others are disregarded in the side notes of history? How do you go from a glass of Guinness to something that I’ll never forget. Maybe it was the Guinness at work, but it was a break-through epiphany at the time—and still is: breakthrough ideas have to resonate on both the individual and collective levels. They connect people through increased self-awareness. Connection through personal empowerment is the distinguishing mark of most any breakthrough idea, whether it’s a musical phenomenon like the Beatles, a communications revolution such as the Internet, or a journalistic epoch like the Ovi.

The tipping point is when the big idea becomes a reference point of public consciousness, giving a voice to something within each individual, while providing a way to carry this self-knowledge out into the world. This is exactly what Ovi Magazine has been to me: a connection to the world and myself. To know this relationship than I receive.

Great ideas serve a myriad of purposes and fulfill numerous needs in our daily lives. From salvation to silverware, you’d be hard-pressed to find any continuity in the function of breakthrough ideas. But the form of these ideas is another story—a story that that, for me, started in Finland.

Ten issues and nearly two years ago, Thanos and Asa taught me something that I’ll never forget. Maybe it was the Guinness at work, but it was a break-through epiphany at the time—and still is: breakthrough ideas have to resonate on both the individual and collective levels. They connect people through increased self-awareness. Connection through personal empowerment is the distinguishing mark of most any breakthrough idea, whether it’s a musical phenomenon like the Beatles, a communications revolution such as the Internet, or a journalistic epoch like the Ovi.

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By Asa Butcher

MMVI

A marriage, seven milestone birthdays, a Pearl wedding anniversary and my daughter’s first birthday are all scheduled for celebration in my 2006. Six years have rapidly passed since the arrival of the Millennium and it is a shock to think that we are over halfway to 2010; I wonder if it will be anything like the 2001: A Space Odyssey sequel.

Following the Gregorian calendar, the year begins and ends on a Sunday, Easter (Western) is observed on April 16 (Eastern, April 23), Christmas Day on a Monday and the year has been designated International Year of Deserts and Desertification - that is ‘deserts’ and not ‘desserts’, which would be a far better celebration. In addition, Chinese New Year marks the arrival of the year of the Dog.

Thinking about time I always come to the conclusion that time is something totally personal. A few years ago I had a very bad accident and I’m sure that after one point time stopped.

During 2006, we are scheduled to see Microsoft’s Windows Vista, Estonia adopting the Euro as its currency, the release of the Sony Playstation 3 and Nintendo Revolution, plus the 51st Eurovision Song Contest held in Greece and the new Wembley Stadium officially opened. When it comes to sport, 2006 has both the XX Olympic Winter Games in Italy and the 18th FIFA World Cup, which will hopefully see England win the trophy for a second time.

365 days lay ahead of us, what they hold we do not know. We can only hope that there will be no natural disasters, wars, famine, disease and riots, but we know that they will make their appearance throughout the year.

- Don’t forget 20/06/2006, 20:06

On the subject of dogs, 2006 is the arrival of the year of the Dog. Chinese New Year marks the better celebration. In addition, the arrival of the Millennium years have rapidly passed since the release of The Story of the Last Day and night, seasons identify time, but the language is there to make time part of what we are. Returning to the beginning, time is something so personal and illogical at the same time. You see? Time again.

You watch a film, which is supposed to have ‘real time’, the hero moves around for 24-hours while the film lasts only two hours and you have the feeling that you lived the hero’s twenty-four hours. Sometimes we wish the day had thirty-six hours so we can do all the things we were planning to do.

To write this article took me four hours thinking and thirteen minutes to write it, even though I feel that I have been in front of the keyboard writing for ages. Just imagine how much better use of time we would have if we could control time.

By Thanos Kalamidas

Time personal

Days and years? I got them in only a few months while my most miserableonds while my most miserable

To write this article took me four hours thinking and thirteen minutes to write it, even though I feel that I have been in front of the keyboard writing for ages. Just imagine how much better use of time we would have if we could control time.

Oddly enough, the reason we consider time as something totally measured is the language. All the verbs represent time, but the language is there to make time part of what we are. Returning to the beginning, time is something so personal and illogical at the same time. You see? Time again.

To write this article took me four hours thinking and thirteen minutes to write it, even though I feel that I have been in front of the keyboard writing for ages. Just imagine how much better use of time we would have if we could control time.
Forthcoming presidential elections

As the race for the forthcoming presidential election is at its tightest, the main theme in the discussion so far has been the president’s powers. The Green League’s candidate Heidi Hautala has suggested that the president be stripped from her de jure position, as foreign policy co-leader, but this thought has met with fierce resistance from the the rest of the candidates - Tarja Halonen, Matti Vanhanen, Sauli Niinistö, Henrik Lax, Bjärne Kallis, Timo Soini and Arto Lahti.

Even though the powers of the president systematically have been reduced since the Kekkonen-era, compared to most of the other countries in the European Union, the president of Finland still possesses, both in practice and in an ideological sense, influence. The President conducts Finland’s foreign policy in co-operation with the Government and decides upon foreign relations with other states.

What do we really know about time? Hands up if you own an alarm clock?

Time is a perception, a man made view on something we only think we know and understand.

We know the calendar we use now was introduced by the Roman Emperor Julius Caesar and later changed to the Gregorian, the reason for the change an a problem we still have today is it’s not 100% accurate if we had a perfect system we would not have leap years.

Which brings me to the theory if we were all in sync with the earth’s natural time we would have no use for alarm clocks! The Mayan people had a far superior mathematical system concerning astronomy and time how come we know it exists if we don’t use it, ok asking the people of the world to adapt to a new system would be almost impossible but it may help us to understand the world we live in a little better and maybe respect it more as our forefathers did. The Mayan calendar also took into account the time cycle of the moon, sun and Venus, which we have only been able to calculate accurately in recent years.

One important factor of time is time itself, lets use the musical term “tempo”. Humans have been out of tempo with the world now for a couple of hundred years and because of this we have abused the planet we live on, repercussions are coming and we are too blind to see.

Sweet childish days, that where the rest of our lifetime will probably be. - William Wordsworth

Take care in your minutes, and the hours will take care of them. - Benjamin Franklin

The proposition of the Government which gave the president a veto is found inconsistent with the constitution.

Furthermore, the debate before the actual presidential election is, in my opinion, of great importance. Even though a candidate from a small party does not have the same realistic chance to be elected s/he can make an important input in bringing up topics that are not habitually discussed. Henrik Lax from my party has on several occasions had the opportunity to raise issues such as tolerance and non-discrimination towards people with foreign background.

Eva Biaudet has been a Member of Finland’s Parliament since March 1991, she is the former Minister of Health and Social Services and is a member of the Swedish People’s Party.

My greeting to you is to read, investigate, consider, make a decision and vote!

Merry Christmas!

Eva Biaudet

Time - a fine line

Also a factor of time is self realization of your time here on planet earth, how many billions of people spend their time rushing from A to B without experiencing the real value of time, which is that this time is your time every moment every hour every day.

One part of Buddhist philosophy is realization of the moment, wether you believe in reincarnation or not the truth is that your time here on earth in earths huge time scale is very small, so take the time for your self very seriously its not being lazy that is another misconception of time.

Take the time for being with family and friends enjoy a sunset and a sunrise. Enjoy the beauty that Mother Nature provides for us and try getting your self in sync with her time.

Dost thou love life? Then do not squander time, for that is the stuff life is made of. - Benjamin Franklin

Take care in your minutes, and the hours will take care of themselves. - Lord Chesterfield
A common left-wing viewpoint is that human beings are innately, inherently, naturally good, and that to the extent that they are bad it is because of the dysfunctional nature of their society or of civilization as a whole. Most of what is wrong in society can be viewed as the fault of hidebound tradition and dysfunctional, or outdated patterns of living. Some date this thinking with the philosopher Rousseau, but I think it’s probably far older than that. Still, let us for the sake of discussion call that the Rousseauian view.

A common right-wing viewpoint is that human beings are innately wicked and wretched. Only by careful inculcation of the proper spiritual mindset and rigorous teaching can we be made anything other than depraved. Even to the extent we succeed in raising people above the level of savages, we are always on a slippery slope, and should we slip too much then the result will be savagery and depravity and madness. Although this view predates Hobbes, let’s call this the Hobbesian view.

I think that if you look carefully at a lot of political arguments today, especially the most vociferous, most of them seem to stem from people arguing (whether consciously or not) from one position or the other.

Which is rather frustrating for those of us who consider both positions innately flawed. If you believe there is indeed such a thing as human nature, but that human nature is neither inherently depraved nor inherently selfish nor inherently selfless, a lot of people are simply puzzled when they argue with you. You wind up agreeing a lot with the Hobbesians, but then you say something that makes them suddenly turn and look at you like you’re from Mars (like, “looking at porn ain’t so awful” or “one sin does not necessarily lead to another?”) You also say a lot of things that make the Rousseauians say “right on!” but then say something that utterly infuriates them (like, “boys and girls are innately different, exceptions notwithstanding” or “capitalism is imperfect but works far better than socialism”).

Some call this thinking “third way,” and point to politicians like Tony Blair and Bill Clinton (and the more astute among them add George W. Bush), but it would be nice if we had a philosopher-figurehead to which to attach this line of thinking. Although it may be gauche to suggest a living thinker, would Pinkertonian perhaps be a good label? Or is there someone dead to which we might better attach this line of thinking?

Suggestions will be cheerfully entertained in the comments, as well any serious arguments in the related concepts discussed in this missive.

http://www.deanesmay.com/posts/1134212164.shtml

By Dean Esmay

We keep hearing calls for a solution to the nation building efforts of the United States Forces in Iraq so that our troops can finally exit the quagmire of false pretenses.

The Bush Administration keeps stating that “we” cannot leave Iraq until the votes for democracy are complete; until the Iraqis can protect their citizens, not until........

Well, not until we realize the inevitable will the true Iraqi solution come forth. What is that solution you ask? The solution is the one that should have been sought from the very beginning, the obvious one, the one that Iraqis are in the midst of forming themselves through violence instead of diplomacy.

Has it occurred to the Bush Administration that this secular and non-secular warfare is not going to end until the most important lines are finally drawn. (and tragically at the cost of innocent lives,) --- the lines are boundary lines, separating each “tribe” into their own ruling domains. Anyway, even after the United States withdraws from Iraqi civil wars are inevitable. Just look to the secular, and non secular lines drawn presently; lines that mark territories guarded by numerous militias that answer only to their own leaders.

So why not do the most logical thing --- divide the country into three: Kurds, Sunnis, and Shiites. The only disagreements there would be the resources.

Mankind has always and will always fight to the end for their country, their territory, their religion, their everything. That is a Truth of any country, any heritage. Call it nationalism, call it anything you want except an untruth. If put to a vote of the Iraqi people, they too would choose their own domain instead of sharing it with “enemies”. Does Israel/Palestine come to mind, --- Chechnya...?

Anyway, now after the United States withdraws from Iraqi civil wars are inevitable. Just look to the secular, and non secular lines drawn presently; lines that mark territories guarded by numerous militias that answer only to their own leaders.

So why not do the most logical thing --- divide the country into three: Kurds, Sunnis, and Shiites. The only disagreements there would be the resources.

It’s all a matter of economics and equality in sharing the country’s wealth. I’m sure that can easily be hammered out to the satisfaction of each party. Then and only then can true nation building take place. That should have been the goal from the beginning.

I don’t know if that approach is past its time, I hope not, but perhaps it’s worth diverting our efforts towards that solution. Unfortunately here too I doubt if the Bush Administration would condone such a change in its policy, because that would mean admitting a mistake --- and aren’t they all infallible --- in their own words, in their own minds.

“Stay the Course” has been their eternal mantra. Too bad the Captain is below deck snoozing (or hiding) while the fanatical First Mate steers a course towards a waterfall.

Ironically, many of the greatest victories in history, both military and political, have come through leadership that was able to improvise, to see the need to change strategies, even if doing so it meant admitting mistakes. During moves require Courage, while Strength requires character, and Wisdom usually ensures a final, lasting victory.

Now, does anyone in the Administration have the Strength, Courage, and Wisdom to fully understand the future --- and not use the excuse of, “...nobody could have predicted, nobody could have imagined.”

Seems I’ve heard Republicans use that excuse frequently in their past, from the fall of the Berlin Wall to the insurgency in Iraq. It has now become an idiot’s excuse to the very end of time.

If they only saw the Truth............. then they could predict the future!

Bbohdan Yuri

The Inevitable
Who will become the twelfth president of Finland, will President Halonen keep the keys to the Presidential Palace or will anybody without Finnish citizenship actually care? The 2006 Finnish presidential election campaign is raging – that is ‘raging’ Finnish-style and the candidates are beginning to look vaguely interested…or is that interesting?

The first televised debate between all eight presidential candidates was broadcast recently and the principal disagreement was over the President’s right to deploy Finnish troops in EU crisis management operations. Yes, you read that right. This huge issue affects every Finn and gives many a sleepless night, be sure of that.

Mocking the presidential elections should make you feel guilty because it is so easy. One of the latest news stories was Halonen making a big deal about the president’s role as Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces, which only a ceremonial role anyway. Unless I am mistaken and she is planning to lead Finland into another war, in which they lose again - two wars and two losses in 88 years of independence.

Meanwhile, Halonen and Vanhanen incurred the wrath of the other candidates when they suggested amending the constitution to safeguard the president’s powers. Would that be the power to solve unemployment, protect the environment, curb crime and fight poverty? Or is it deciding the colour of the invites for the Independence Ball every December 6th?

Let’s not forget that the President of the Republic is elected directly by the people, meaning that non-Finns should butt out and pay their taxes. You’ll love this part, the Presidential campaigns of Parliamentary parties come to a total of approximately €2.4 million and this comes from the taxpayers. I am not allowed to vote in these elections funded in part by me, so I will support Professor Arto Lahti. Professor Arto is not endorsed by the Parliamentary parties, which means he has had to find all of his own funding.

Halonen and Niinistö’s campaign budgets have both exceeded €1 million, while good old Prime Minister Vanhanen has a projected budget of €1.5 million. Back up a moment. The current Prime Minister is running for President while still in office, plus he is serving on municipal council. Correct me if I am wrong, but in almost every other country you would have to resign from your post before seeking another job at this level. The job of Finnish PM can’t be that hectic if he has time to campaign, maybe he is also Stockmann’s grotto Santa.

Understanding Finnish politics has become a very difficult concept for me. It brings to mind Socrates - the more I learn, the less I know or understand. In January, Finland has to face presidential elections with candidates from all the political parties with more chances given to the old president, Halonen, the prime minister Vanhanen and a former minister and now an EMP Niinistö.

Till now everything is fine, I suppose there is nothing wrong with their names, must be all the good old traditional Finnish names, but...there is always a damn ‘but’ following. The prime minister is a candidate? The prime minister was a candidate for the local municipal elections last year as well and he was elected. So here we are with a prime minister who is a member of a town hall council and now he wants to be a president as well.

I mean the man is spending all morning taking care of the nation, planning the foreign policy and the defense, then he has a vegetable sandwich – he is a ‘back to nature’ life freak – runs to a small village out of Helsinki and wants to watch the last replay of the Sopranos on TV. He’s not a bird, he’s not a fish, he’s a…professor!

Voting begins on Sunday 15th January at 0900 and will hopefully result in a winner gaining over half of the votes cast. If one candidate fails to obtain over fifty percent of the votes, then a second round between the top two candidates is scheduled. The winner formally enters office on 1st March.

There are eight candidates butting it for the six-year job and they are as follows, Tarja Halonen (Social Democratic Party), Heidi Hautala (Green League), Arto Lahti (independent), Heikki Tuominiemi (Christian Democrats), Sauli Niinistö (National Coalition Party), Timo Soini (True Finns) and Prime Minister Matti Vanhanen (Centre Party).

Surely half of the MPs hold seats on the board of directors in a series of companies, energy, banks or communication. Whose rights do they defend? The people they represent and elected them or the companies for which they work? The communication companies need higher charges and lower salaries, but the workers elect these people to the parliament. If this is not cheating, what is it?

There is another thing, ethics say that you are not using your position to promote yourself in a new place where it comes to elections that’s why in most of the democratic countries there is an acting government during the elections period. Mr. Vanhanen, as a prime minister, is constantly on TV so he doesn’t need any TV advertisement, the same counts with the president, but what about the rest of the candidates who have to pay to advertise themselves. But this is just ethics.

Talking about ethics, something else that makes me a bit angry. All these candidates are using state money; call it taxpayer’s money for their campaigns, including my money, since like all the residents of this country I pay my taxes. But of course, they can have their big party with my money and I have no word to say since I cannot vote!!! Once more another obligation without any rights.
On Xinjiang time

By F. A. Hutchinson

10 November 2005 The Daily Dosage

Kashgar, Xinjiang Province, China…

Gosh, there’s just mountains of stuff, food, things to eat, wear (from pantyhose to stocking caps, to three-piece suits), use in your house (TVs and rice cookers, stoves), things for every comfort (uplift bras, running shoes, biking boots, jewelry, sophisticated posters framed for your wall)! Gosh, I thought I was coming to some exotic outpost where you could buy a camel (plenty in the hills). Unfortunately, modernity has even taken over here! You can buy Camel cigarettes!

I’ve just walked around Kashgar to discover there’s everything here to buy you can get anywhere in the U.S. (or Europe), except one… I need a new bulb for my Maglite ‘torch,’ and they don’t have any! Of course, I could buy another flashlight, and probably will. No use having something whose parts you can get in Asia. Other than that there are ‘mountains of’ almonds, oranges, pomegranates, dates, apples, sweet potatoes. But, probably not turkey for Thanksgiving[1]! On the other hand, there’s roasted duck, and ice cream, candy, kites, ‘hacky sacks,’ the children play with (now a rubber-stranded looking sacks,’ the children play with) watermelon. All the children yell, ‘hello to me!’

I met a 19-year old woman working in a stationery store. She spoke English to me! I’m going to get her to the ‘Eng-lish Corner.’ Her name is ‘Ry-hangul.’ Different name right? Uyghur names are definitely different than any I’ve come across before. I bought a glue stick and a pen there, both for a total of 6 Yuan or .80 cents.

Today I offered Shou Shu (the Chinese man who runs the Internet Café in the Xinbagh Hotel) a deal… Take everything (all the furniture) out of his apartment, clean it and I’d pay him 600 Yuan / $80 U.S. per month (he’d wanted only 500)- Note: this for a 70-meter, five-room apartment. What would that cost in the U.S. He said, ‘Why?’ People can’t believe it when you want to be fair! If he does all this, and I get hot water, I’m duty bound to rent the place. But, it’s better than a hotel!

The Seman Hotel… Ugh! No hot water for bathing. Karaoke all night long keeping me up! Incompetent women on the personal safety and food quality.

There’s so many good things here too! The adventure of discovery for me! I just got bored in the U.S. With me familiarity breeds contempt, and I couldn’t stand seeing, hearing, experiencing the same things every day in the same way. Now, to some people, this is Nirvana, but not to me. I’m too curious about what’s on the other side of the hill, the mountains. What does that taste like? I need new aromas, to see the light in different countries, hear the birds of different places, watch them fly in a different sky! Basically learn about the world we live in, not just that familiar patch of ground.

But, the earth, the soil, the plants, rocks are pretty much the same everywhere, maybe slightly different, but basically the same. The brown, desolate mountains of Xinjiang, could be transplanted to Big Bend, Texas (U.S.A.), and no one would recognize any difference. Vice versa. Maybe the wild life would be different, but I’m sure one species could survive in either place. I know the camels of Xinjiang could survive in the Big Bend National Park. The wild cats of the mountains there in BBNP, in the mountains here in Xinjiang Province.

Gosh, what a hard lesson Asia is… So, different than the West, at least how they think. And, in many other ways, it’s exactly like—the material level!

We are coming together! Everything, everybody, we are coming together! Time, as subject, the concept of ‘time’ (I assume they mean ‘clock time’)… In the next issue of Ovi Ezine (out of Helsinki) is about ‘time’.

Thus, about ‘time’…

I’m amazed! I thought I would die if I ever came to Asia! Now, there’s more consciousness than here. Just like they’re behind in terms of mental and physical. China is just as physically developed as the U.S., but they’re behind in terms of mental development. Material wealth, however, should bring that in time… The realization, that it’s not all that great, that there are other things, like preserving the Panda bears, rather than cutting down the forests they live in, that’s more important.

When we preserve a species, we are preserving ourselves! Man is basically consuming the earth, and himself with it! If he ever wakes up to this fact, there may be hope that he will stop in time. Otherwise, we are simply doomed as a species.

There’s an underground mall with stall after stall of clothing of every kind (silk long under- wear), shoes, and everything else! I’m amazed! I thought I was getting away from it all! I wonder if there’s any place on earth where you can’t? Maybe the ‘Artics,’ and maybe Greenland?

There’s so many good things here too! The adventure of discovery for me! I just got bored in the U.S. With me familiarity breeds contempt, and I couldn’t stand seeing, hearing, experiencing the same things every day in the same way. Now, to some people, this is Nirvana, but not to me. I’m too curious about what’s on the other side of the hill, the mountains. What does that taste like? I need new aromas, to see the light in different countries, hear the birds of different places, watch them fly in a different sky! Basically learn about the world we live in, not just that familiar patch of ground.

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An interesting situation here in Xinjiang Province, China… There is the official Beijing Time all of China is set to, but out here the locals (most Uyghur and Kazak) go by what they call ‘Xinjiang Time,’ two hours early. And actually this makes more simple sense, as it’s closer to the actuality of the sunlight.

China, from east to west, is very much like the U.S., some 4,000+ kilometers from the Pacific Ocean to the western border of Xinjiang (Krygyzstan).

In the U.S., which has a similar distance from the Atlantic to Pacific Oceans, has four ‘time zones,’ the time decreasing by roughly every 1,000 kilometers going west (as the sun travels—actually as the earth rotates)! There’s Eastern Standard Time, Central Standard Time, Mountain Standard Time, Colorado (where I’m from), and Pacific Standard time, four hours difference from the east coast to the west coast (we call them). If it’s 10P.M. (2200 hours) at night in New York City, it’s 9 P.M. (2100 hours) in Chicago, and 8P.M. (2000 hours) in Denver, and 7P.M. (1900 hours) in Los Angeles. This better approximates having sunlight when needed: when children wait for buses in the morning, to when dad returns home at night.

The U.S. also adjusts to the seasons, and in the summer when
the angle of the earth to sun is less, we ‘fall back one hour, and Spring forward the same.’ Of course, some people don’t like this idea. I tell them… Put your watch on whatever time you like, do!

Albert was right… It’s ‘rela-tive!’ Clock time was in-vented by man to synchronize (coordinate activity), making it more ‘efficient.’ I think the Swiss or English can be blamed for this, and most likely the mil-i-tary had something to do with it! If you’re going to ‘attack,’ you want everyone at the right place at the right time!

Here in China, the entire coun-try is on Beijing time. That would be O.K., or better if Bei-jing was located in the center of the country, but it’s not. It’s lo-cated in the far northeastern part of the country. Thus, making for an interesting situation in Xinjiang Province some 4,000 kilometers west of Beijing. The sunlight versus clock time…

Here in Kashgar, in November, it doesn’t get light on Beijing time until 0900 (9.A.M.), and it stays light until 2000 hours (8P. M.). Somehow this doesn’t feel right to the locals, who have created what is popularly called ‘lcoal’ or ‘Xinjiang’ time. This some two hours earlier than Bei-jing time. This more approxi-mates nature (as most of them are farmers).

But, in the cities this creates an interesting situation when try-ing to meet someone… Thus, we always ask, or state which ‘time’ we’re referring to. If we say 3 P.M. (1500 hours) we al-ways state ‘Xinjiang,’ or ‘Bei-jing.’ And if unsaid, we always ask, ‘Is this Beijing or Xinjiang time?’ Of course, all official and government offices (banks) are on Beijing time. So, you’re constantly having to figure out when to depart to get to the bank when it’s open.

I set my watch on local or ‘Xin-jiang Time.’ Thus, I add two hours when figuring when to catch the train to Urumqi. This would be a perfect situa-tion to have the Omega wrist watch I owned in the Sixties. It had two ‘hour’ hands. I could set one to Beijing Time, and one to ‘Xinjiang Time,’ and then I’d always be ‘on time!’ Well, maybe… I have an idea to pro-duce watches with two ‘hour’ hands in Xinjiang. We’ll call it the ‘Xinjiang Watch!’

One final note on ‘time’… I’m a person that’s rarely late to a meeting, and always early catching public transportation. How can this be…? Well, for one thing I grew up with the discipline of ‘live’ television, and the military. Two situations where you’re simply not late, or big trouble.

I’ll never forget my boss (Doc. Hamilton) at KVOA/4 (Tacson, Arizona), my first job in televi-sion back in 1958. When I started directing the ‘new strip,’ he told me this, and I’ve never forgotten it. He said, ‘The News goes on at 5:00:00! That’s not 5:00:20, or 4:59:10, it’s 5:00:00!’

Understand? Thus recently when I taught over 400 acting classes at John Rob-ert Powers (U.S.), I was never late once in four years! How can this be? My students would drag in, mostly late, and always with an excuse that usually had to do with the ‘traffic,’ parents, or boy/girl friends. I use to pose this question… ‘How can I al-ways be on time riding a bicy-cle, when you’re late driving an automobile?’ More excuses.

It’s simple, and I can teach you how to always (or mostly, sometimes I’m a little late) be on time. First of all, set your watch ten to fifteen minutes ahead of the ‘official’ time. Of course, you know this, but af-ter a while you forget and go by your wrist watch (fooling yourself). Additionally, when figuring how long it will take to travel some where, or to ac-complish a task… Always dou-ble the time you first estimate. You’ll be surprised how often you show up on time (now), or are a little early. It’s easy! As ‘time,’ really… It’s relative!

Albert also said this, ‘That im-agination is more important than knowledge!’

F.A.Hutchison (who’s got to go, or be late meeting someone?)
On Xinjiang time
www.cyclingpe.org
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The US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice had to face a small surprise when the new German chancellor Angela Merkel referred to the CIA’s suspicious flights over Europe in a well covered interview. Somehow Mrs. Rice was ex-pecting a warmer welcome from the new conservative chancellor who had passed the message that the new German administration would be far more American friendly.

Perhaps Mrs. Rice got the message that there is a new sense of unity in Europe, at least regarding the main stem of the European community including France, Germany, Belgium, Spain and Holland. Mrs. Merkel had emphasized in many ways during her cam-paign that the German-American relation-ship was going to change after she became chan-cellor and it has.

However, it seems that Mur-phy’s Law works constantly against the American adminis-tration and every time they do something wrong, especially something that will anger their European allies, just about every-body has to find out.

Nobody admits that these flights are happening, but every-body seems to know and even the Guantanamo-Bay-clone camps have come out. Mrs. Merkel merely warned Mrs. Rice that if that’s true it would be against the European laws and the Eu-ropean Charter of human rights. This warning was enough to make Mrs. Rice miss the good old days, when she was just a National Security Advisor and a hawk, ignoring delicate diplo-macy and having the always smiling Colin Powell to deal with the difficulties.

All the media agencies have analyzed these flights or the camps mean and how much these acts will cost the American administration in the future. We are not going to add anything if we talk about it here, what we can emphasize is that, except Tony Blair, even the closer allies of the USA are keeping their distance from acts like that, and not only are they keeping their distance but they remind and warn that this has to come to an end. The case of Tony Blair, the reaction from inside his very own party is enough to warn him and his American pal.

Last year the American admin-istration started losing allies in a speed rhythm, first was Spain followed slowly by Italy. Silvio Berlusconi had to be more critical towards the American policy under the threat of los-ing the government. Next came Hungary, France was lost any-where despite the conservative government and the hope was Germany’s new chancellor, who had emphasized the need of good relations with the Unit-ed States.

Old allies in Europe, or the ‘New European’ as Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld had called them, depend more and more upon financial sup-port from the European Com-munity, which is something that gradually changes their stance towards the USA. The idea that some of these ‘New Euro-peans’ are actively involved in these Guantanamo Bay-clone camps will only bring more embarrassment to them and their American ally.
**An e-dictatorship**

By Thanos Kalamidas

Growing up in a country suffering from a ruthless dictatorship left me with a lot of memories, not many good ones. Dictatorships have the habit of thinking that everybody is ready to do something against them and that’s one of the reasons they have to control everything. By everything, I mean even the people’s thoughts.

Post that was something that scared them; actually terrified them. They were afraid of messages passing through the post, they were checking everything. They were keeping copies of everything and since they couldn’t forbid posting a letter or receiving a letter they were putting black stripes over suspicious sentences.

My grandmother lived in the USA during that period, so as a good grandson I used to often write a letter to her with my latest news that included my improvement in the first years at school and news about my new friends, things like that. Once on the telephone, my grandmother asked for an explanation about something she had written on the telephone, my grandfather which was nobody. By the way, like all kinds of boogie man was, there was a radio program every evening around seven for young children, it was called “Under the Spider’s Web” and the stories had bad communists coming to Greece with only one mission, to kidnap young children and take them back either to Bulgaria or to Russia. These kids were going through all kinds of hell, hunger, thirst, torture, but in the end with faith in God and the nation they were returning to the home country winners.

Now imagine how I felt when I read the other day in the newspapers that due to the war against terrorism all the government mentions of the EU were allowed not only to check our mails but to keep them for six months!!! Bad memories? Did it happen something one night when I was deep asleep? Did the tanks roll out on to the streets again and I didn’t realize?

To make it worse, the EU decided that because the cost is so big, they’ll ask for the help of the private sector with the exception of the mail addresses! Wow! Talking about protection of my private life, talking about protection from the bulk mail. Why the governments made so many laws to protect us from the bulk mail if it was to violate itself? Should I start thinking what I write again and warn my little daughter that there are certain words she can not use when she’s asking for a present from her favorite aunt?

The time for change has arrived in the Euro zone. The President of the European Central Bank (ECB), Mr Jean-Claude Trichet, has finally decided that risks to inflation are increasing and that a pre-emptive rate rise would ease some of the building pressure. This nominal one quarter of one percent increase will have a very negligible effect on economic activity but its more important effect is psychological.

It signals the ECB’s intent to maintain price stability by keeping inflation expectations under control. The recent oil price rise and increasing demand for credit were threatening to filter into the major economies of Europe in the form of second round inflationary effects. This would fuel higher wage demands by industrial unions, such as the forthcoming IG Metall negotiations in Germany.

The ECB has raised rates for the first time in around five years as Europe enters a new interest rate cycle. Mr Trichet has been quick to deny that this increase will be the start of a series of rate increases, a policy approach which has been favored by the Federal Reserve in America. Instead, he is convinced that the ECB will react when necessary to any risks to increasing inflationary effect. It is widely expected that another quarter or half point move will happen in the first quarter of 2006.

Well, that was the news of interest for the month. In the City, we have been enjoying the Festive Fun mainly in the form of Chris tmas parties. It is an amusing time of the year as Managing Directors mingle with the post room and secretaries. We had our party in the first week of December and it was pointed out that he was talking to the wrong person. I have to admit I did have a chuckle and wasn’t surprised to see him skulking to the exit.

One very fond memory of a Chris tmas Past was a journey home after some post-work drinks. We were on a sparsely packed train rolling out of Waterloo towards the homely lights of Surrey. My friend and I were swaying down the carriage full of the merriment our local boozer had to offer, when we passed a young lady who had obviously started her journey from Waterloo sitting comfortably in the upturned seats offered by British Rail.

However, as we rocked down the line, the effect of the Martini Cocktails she had probably consumed through the evening had taken their toll and she had not only drifted off to sleep, but drifted off her seat. Now do you remember when you do that on your sofa? You slide down, but most of your clothes, through the wonder of friction, stay where they are. In the most delicate way I can, let me just say we knew exactly what was in her stockings that Chris tmas. My friend was an absolute gent and covered her modesty with a napkin from “Pret a Manger”, which I think has a touch of irony about it. Enjoy the holidays and have a Happy New Year.

**ECB & office parties**

By Tony Butcher

Tony Butcher lives, works and breathes in London, England. Following the completion of an Economics Degree, he found his dream job as a STIR Trader in the City of London, the heart of the world’s financial system. He studies the world stock and bond markets on a daily basis, while monitoring world economic and political events which affect his markets.
Parisian fires continue

In last month’s Ovi magazine, like others, we had an article about the French riots and the nights of burning cars in Paris. Even though it seems that the young people have calmed down in France, at least at the moment, there are new fires burning around Paris.

It is a pity that while Pinter gave a dramatic Nobel Prize speech that talked about truth, art and politics trying to wake up the intellectuals of this world and make them the edge of the spear against any kind of oppression, the intellectuals in France were responsible for the new fires starting in Paris.

The battlefield this time was the pages of the newspapers and the magazines. From one side there are titles like “the barbarians are in front of the gates” with French Minister of Interior Nicola Sarkozy as the representative of the worst racist nightmare and from the other side a group of writers who follow George Bush’s idea that this is a conflict of civilizations and it all starts from “Euro-Arabs” in a ‘pogrom against European way of life and democracy.’

Surprisingly, these don’t come from old conservative analysts from the extreme right media but from philosophers like Andre Gliksman, a true representative of the May ’68 generation in France; who goes much further using the word minister Sarkozy used to describe the youngsters ‘scum’, adding that hate was their only motive for starting the riots.

They changed art and they became the beginning for something bigger and better. To read articles from Andre Gliksman supporting the invasion of Iraq and from Alain Finkelkraut becoming the Sarkozy of the intellectuals is at least shocking.

They go so far as to suggest to the state to take the French citizenship from the rebellion youth and have lessons at school explaining how much good the colonies policy did in Africa, something that has happened before only during the time of the Nazi-friendly regime in France and these are the short of opinions the National Front represents in France.

It’s like the new-republicans in the USA that surround George Bush’s administration, as a wave of new Guiltists try to inject French politics with many similarities to their American cousins.

The truth is that all these arguments, which are not new in the French reality, deepen the differences between the social classes in France. If they add racial polarization nothing good will come out of it. By standing by, watching and waiting, it is not exactly the best reaction.

These people are not an exception, the number of intellectuals supporting things like that is big and when you think that most of them were there in May ’68, when the whole of Europe changed, is scary. Nearly forty years ago, these people with their street fights in Paris demanding better education, work for the young and freedom didn’t just change their small university world, they changed the whole of Europe.

Thinking about time I always come to the conclusion that time is something totally personal. A few years ago I had a very bad accident and I’m sure that after one point time stopped.

I could watch the other car coming towards me in real slow motion and then I could see the front of my car slowly smashing into pieces and the whole front of my own car, including the steering wheel and all the instruments coming slowly closer and gradually hitting me in the chest. I could sort of see drops of blood coming out from my direction and I could watch the other driver’s eyes in total horror.

Again, another evening was when my daughter was ill with a really high fever. We suddenly arrived at the hospital and the doctor asked me how long she’d been unconscious and without thinking I answered, centuries. Later, the same night, the doctor explained to me that whatever I thought it could not have been for more than seconds, maximum a minute.

Then there are some other moments. My first party, my first kiss that was so brief and the day I won something very important to me lasted for hours. Thinking about time I always come to the conclusion that time is something totally personal.

Oddly enough, the reason we consider time as something totally measured is the language. All the verbs represent time. Go, I will go, I went, I have to go to the cinema tomorrow or ‘I go to the cinema yesterday’.

You watch a film, which is supposed to have ‘real time’, the hero moves around for 24-hours while the film lasts only two hours and you have the feeling that you lived the hero’s twenty-four hours. Sometimes we wish the day had thirty-six hours so we can do all the things we were planning to do.

To write this article took me four hours thinking and thirteen minutes to write it, even though I feel that I have been in front the keyboard writing for ages. Just imagine how much better use of time we would have if we could control time.
Oops, he’s done it again!

I had decided to stop bothering with Iran and its clown president, but history has taught us that when you stop bothering or ignore a threat it becomes bigger and bigger till one day you find it difficult to control. If more people had read what Hitler wrote before the war perhaps more people would have been aware of what was coming; unfortunately history has taught us that Hitler’s case was not the only one and that there are equal or even worse monsters all around the world, even today. It just happens that they are so far away from our modern and democratic western world.

The stories of Amin Dada of Uganda and his cannibal habits are still there for many of the African nations and the mystery of what’s going on between the warlords in Liberia is something we still have to find out. When you have clerics or holy men, or whatever else you want to call them, and their servant threatening genocide of a nation that’s a crime and the international community is guilty for not answering.

Mr. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the so-called president of Iran, said last week that he had doubts if the holocaust against the Jews really happened during WWII, and if Germany and Austria were feeling so guilty they could always let a couple of areas in their territories to host the Jews and leave Israel for the Palestinians. How odd that Mr. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad agrees with the modern representative of Hitler in Europe, the leader of the French national front and neo-Nazi, Le Pen.

Do all these things ring a bell? Adolf Hitler had warned the world 12 years before he started putting into action his final solution that there were only two ways to deal with the Jews, either send them back to their homeland, then Palestine, or just kill them. Obviously he chose the latter.

Mr. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad keeps both possibilities open. A few months before he warned Israel that when he is finished with them, they won’t exist and now he’s sending them to Germany or Austria. I can understand the shock of the German and the Austrian chancellors, but I cannot understand the non reaction from the UN.

What’s next to come, the demand for a living space? Aren’t the Iranians already involved behind the Shiites and their raving Islamic revolution in Iraq? Aren’t they going to be responsible for another civil war in that poor country?

Mr. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad is nothing more than a puppet in the hands of the blood thirsty mullahs of the Islamic revolution, the very same mullahs that supported the Afghan fanatics and the Pakistanis. The scariest part about these people is that they have or they are ready to create a nuclear plan. You see, that’s the scary difference with Iraq, Saddam kept threatening and it needed a whole world conspiracy and endless lies to demolish a country. In Iran’s case they have the proof and they are still thinking how to negotiate.

Finally, something I hear lately was that Iran has the highest percent of educated people, no unemployment and all the citizens adore the government. Indeed. In Germany 1938, there was no unemployment either and all the citizens loved the state and education was really high. The only thing was that the ones who disagreed with these statements were placed in concentration camps, in exile or dead. And we talk about millions. What’s the best witness other than the Iranians in exile in Europe!
Spare change

By Asa Butcher

If your currency is the euro, take a closer look at the coinage. It may surprise you to see such a variety of different countries represented on the reverse of the coins. In my own collection, I have a natural majority of Finnish coins, but there’s also a German 2€, Spanish 1€, French 10 cent, an Italian 5 cent and an Australian cent, although I’m not sure how that got there.

The circulation of the euro has reached its third year, it is used in 12 European Union member states and Estonia will be adopting the currency in 2006. It appears as though the euro is here to stay, even if people believed that about the Lira, Deutsche Mark and Drachma. There is a hope in England that the British Pound will not succumb to the ‘dark forces’ of the Euro and become another member of the Eurozone.

However, a report in 2004 revealed that Tony Blair has set a target of 2007 to take Britain into the euro, but I doubt that the general public will be seeing the Queen’s head on the five pence coin amusing the inner child within us all. Estonia will be the next to enjoy this childish observation when they bid farewell to the Estonian Kroon in the coming months. Estonians chose Lembit Lõhmus’ design for all eight coins, which simply portrays the outline of the country. It joins the heraldic lion of Finland, the German eagle, the Colosseum in Rome, the Irish harp and many more, but what it will highlight is the price difference with its neighbour Finland.

Hopefully, Estonia adopting the euro will bring greater price transparency between the two countries and eventually benefit consumers on both sides of the Sea of Finland. Unfortunately, I believe there is a greater chance of finding a €1000 banknote in the street than Finland lowering the cost of goods or services. If you don’t agree, then let’s flip a coin…heads I win, tails you lose.

The euro has aided the development and result of the conduct. ‘Integrity’ is the concept of being truthful, adhering to ethics, refusal to lie, steal or deceive. ‘Integrity’ is the conduct, in terms as demanded by honesty, while having holistic approach to both the requirement and result of the conduct. Is there any difference?

‘To maintain Honesty & Integrity’

Once again we are at the threshold of a new year and ready to say goodbye to the year gone past. The month of January, named after the double faced Roman king Janus, who could look into the past and future, symbolises the resolutions that we make every year.

There are different kinds of resolutions, to learn something new, to spend more time with family, to be successful in our work or to enjoy life more. There are many limitations which, when factored in, would decide whether we would be able to carry out our resolutions or not. So is there a simple resolution? A resolution which is easy to keep and yet so powerful that it transcends our personal life and makes this world a better place to live. I can think of one such resolution, the resolution to ‘be a better person’ and is regarded as an integral component of European political integration, but the greatest benefit has been the unfortunate shape that Sweden and Finland resemble on the euro coin amusing the inner child within us all.

Estonia and the Eurozone.

The result of honesty is not always fruitful in materialistic terms, the reason why it is not always acted upon. It needs the courage of one’s conviction, the conviction which comes only when a person is convinced by conscience of the propriety of the act, then only there will be conduct of integrity. It requires belief in one’s values, it requires being fearless of the consequences, it may require to sacrifice the comfort of short term worldly pleasures for the sake of the larger principles of life. It might be difficult to maintain our integrity but one deed of integrity is way much satisfying than partying many evenings. Dishonesty may be quite enticing but it will never appeal to our conscience.

Now since we know what ‘Honesty & Integrity’ is, I feel it would be easier for all of us to have one New Year Resolution - ‘to be a better person’.

Visit Satya Prakash’s blog: www.greensatya.blogspot.com
In November, a ferry passenger company that operates between Helsinki and Tallinn announced that it will stop dumping sewage into the Gulf of Finland. The catalyst for Tallink’s decision was not due to a twinge of conscience at polluting the environment, it was not because they were in violation of international regulations, it was because somebody found out and there was a public outcry.

There’s nothing like doing a good deed and this is nothing like it. Tallink have promised to dispose of their waste into the sewage system of Helsinki in the future, but forgive me for not fully believing them. Despite the act being legal, Tallink’s competitors discontinued the practice many years ago, so they obviously saw something wrong with dumping sewage into international waters.

If Tallink were doing no wrong, then why not defend their actions? Tallink’s immediate retreat was a sign of the outrage shown by the public and the encouragement of boycotting the company. It appears as though the money that Tallink saved dumping their waste into the sewage system of Helsinki is worth more than the long-term effect of this procedure.

The idea that an inconsequential ferry company can treat our environment in such a cavalier manner should scare us all. Let’s not, the planet’s oceans are not an industrial dustbin because can Tallink, or anybody, confidently state the long-term effect of this procedure? The recent news that killer whales have become the most contaminated mammals in the Arctic is one more sign that our seas are sadly poisoned.

The Norwegian Polar Institute tested blubber samples and found chemicals, such as pesticides, flame retardants and PCBs. The Institute was particularly concerned about the flame retardants because some are still legal - legal, just like dumping the sewage in the sea. The World Wildlife Fund says the Arctic has become a chemical sink and they want EU ministers to agree on stronger legislation.

Naturally, the WWF suspects that any new laws will be influenced by the chemical industry and will protect neither the environment nor human health. The public may be helpless to a degree, but every so often somebody uncovers abuse and we have the power of outrage and boycott – Tallink will never have my name on a reservation list.

All the demonstrations back in ’80s, all the serious talking that ended up signing international agreements for alternative energy resources and all the pressure and anger against the USA to sign the very same agreements has led to what? Tony Blair announced last month that we should reconsider the use of nuclear power because it is clean and cheap.

I’m not going to analyze once more why we should not use nuclear power as an energy resource or how many other ways there are to create energy, literally clean and cheaper. The only thing I can think at the moment, and I know that it sounds like a conspiracy theory, is that there are other reasons for Mr. Blair to remember again the good old days of the ’70s.

Going back to the ’70s is fine, so long as it stops at the mini skirts and flowery shirts but bringing back nuclear power doesn’t sound very good at all. There are victims of nuclear waste all around the world and it has been emphasized many times that it takes three to four millennia for the damage to disappear, so why do we start again?

There is only one answer. Powerful industries, which include constructors and chemical companies, have huge financial interests. Of course, there was the laughable argument that there will be more jobs, but this is where the answer comes naturally, no thank you.

Britain, as an established nuclear power with nuclear weapons, doesn’t care or is it above the laws and the rules she helped establish? And then comes the next natural question: Are they going to increase their nuclear armory with more sophisticated nuclear weapons as their western allies?

It definitely sounds like a conspiracy theory but then it was a conspiracy theory that led to a war in Iraq, with the cost of thousands of lives and a civil war that is still on going.
Time to read

By Asa Butcher

Fleming, future, family, Foucault, Finnish, funny, flamboyant, French, fictional, factual, fatherhood, far-reaching, fawning, faith, frivolous, fantastic are some of the words that encompass my reading list over the past year. Twenty books were completed and The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes still has a bookmark between the pages, but what has happened on this literary journey?

I travelled to the distant future with H.G. Wells and undertook a subterranean journey with Jules Verne. I saw David Copperfield grow up, followed seven generations of Buendías and witnessed Finland’s independence. Asimov explained the Robot Laws and Gavin Rodgers reassured me about becoming a father. Katy made me emotional, Dorian Gray made me gay and Bond made me worship him even more.

Kazantzakis’ characters were fantastic, Ludlum was Ludlum and The Lonely Dead was a disappointing sequel. Douglas Coupland and Ben Elton did what they do best and Dan Brown proved he is no Umberto Eco, while Holmes is currently proving his brilliance as the famous consulting detective that takes cocaine.

I am currently residing at 221B Baker Street, London, which has brought me full circle from British Secret Service’s HQ, also in London. During the year, I have been to New York, Colombia, Iceland, Greece, Finland, Paris, Milan, the Arctic Circle, England in many different decades, two asteroids, a delivery room and many more within these twenty-one books.

I have enjoyed the pensmanship of seventeen different authors and one authoress from a host of nationalities - Finnish to Italian, Greek to Colombian, French to Russian-born American Jews. Whether it has been literature, pulp fiction, factual or fictional, my literary year has been one that has inspired and shaped my written work.

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Below each of these books was enjoyed in different ways, as you can see from my iKritic reviews. Have a look at the list below and see which ones you haven’t read because I recommend all of them. The one question that now remains is: What am I going to read in 2006?

You’re Pregnant Too, Mate! by Gavin Rodgers (2002)
Past Mortem by Ben Elton (2004)
The Gemini Contenders by Robert Ludlum (1976)
Goldfinger by Ian Fleming (1959)
Christ Recrucified by Nikos Kazantzakis (1948)
The Scarlet I by Gabriel Garcia Marquez (1967)
Deception Point by Dan Brown (2001)
The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde (1890)
Journey to the Centre of the Earth by Jules Verne (1864)
One Hundred Years of Solitude by Gabriel Garcia Marquez (1967)
What Katy Did by Susan Coolidge (1872)
The Time Machine by H.G. Wells (1895)
The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (1891)

By Jan Sand

Old Boxes

My old Christmases are packed away
In the dusty corrugated boxes of my memory.
Their glossy paints of red and green are chipped and cracked.
A bent and twisted tinsel star that once shone
From the high promontory of a bushy fir
Now peeks from one broken corner.
Glass balls in there, some cracked, but many still
Perfect mirror spheres nest together like unhatched eggs.
Long thin strands of glossy crumpled tin strew amongst these baubles,
Once hung in glittering cascades in the dark recesses of the tree.
The candy canes, the cookies with their bright icing
Are long ago consumed. But strings of colored tinsel disks
Weave amongst the other decorations.
Christmas is a children’s time.
Their world is still abundant with mystery and wonder,
And with delicious things to eat and surprises.
But, holding my ear close to these old boxes,
I can still hear
The clack of tiny hooves against the clouds.

By Asa Butcher

Time to read

By Jan Sand

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Time

By Jan Sand

Of the four dimensions within which we all consciously operate, time is the most difficult to deal with. It is so intangible that some people deny its existence altogether.

A dimension is, at base, something measurable. A line is one dimensional because, once a base point is established any other point on the line can be located with one measurement from that base point. In like manner it requires two measurements to locate a point on a plane, three measurements to locate a point in a solid.

When trying to locate something in our universe, we must measure three times from a base point plus one measurement to determine when it exists at that spatial measurement since our universe is irretrievably jiggly and there are times when it might not be there.

It is evident that we must realize these measurements with standard measuring modules. English measurement started with the length of the final joint of the thumb which is very handy and a reasonable approximation to an inch. The length of a centimeter is derived from a division of the Earth’s circumference and is far easier to work with than the inch but elusive if one has no handy measuring instrument. If humans ever become spacefarers and start habitation on other planets in earnest the origin of the centimeter may appear somewhat parochial although still useful.

As with space, time must be divided into small pieces to be usefully apprehended. We have a thumb joint to slice space and a heartbeat to divide time but the thumb is somewhat more reliable than the heartbeat. An eyeblink is also occasionally useful but none of these could vie with the astronomical effects of the spin of the planet and its annual progress around the Sun. Although time is as seamless as space these astro-nomic rhythms have donated to human perception of time a cyclic quality. But these cycles are purely local to planetary inhabitants and do not exist in the universe in general.

Modern technology requires temporal precision far beyond the gross regularities of astronomical effects and thus has reached down to atomic perturbations characteristic of light frequency to gain accuracy. Therefore the clocks which abound in modern life have become more and more precise in order to perform their functions. And by clocks I mean not only time notification devices but the bulk of gadgets, gizmos, and whatchamacallits that make modern life possible. They range from the automobile engine whose internal explosions must occur when the components are in optimum position to transfer energy to the wheels through manufacturing lines where moving parts must be in precise place to be properly processed to the home computer whose very heartbeat depends upon subsidiary information to move through it in timed logical chains.

What most people don’t realize is that their own internal machinery is equally precisely timed. So simple and basic a function as walking requires that some muscles contract precisely in time to the relaxation of their opposites and the considerably more intricate functions in the brain involved in thought are also timed so that sensation, evokes subsidiary responses calling upon not only automatic reactions but learned chains of informational feeds in order to accomplish even the most elementary task.

But, to return to the fundamental nature of space and time we perceive it, it contains, at its center, a great mystery. If time is to be conjoined to the three obvious spatial dimensions, it presents a static structure in which we are all embedded. No one seems to want to argue that the past is mutable. Yet almost everybody except, perhaps, Calvinists, seem to feel that humans are accorded the privilege of determining our own future amongst, perhaps, a large multiple of possibilities. This is a privilege we deny all other physical bodies in the universe. According to modern physics Newton’s universe of absolute determinism is no longer acceptable. Quantum computation is based on the fact that electrons can be in two places at the same time. Nevertheless, we each must make choices, even if we are insane, based on our past experiences which dictate an optimum outcome. If we discover choices of equal beneficial outcome (a condition which is exceedingly rare) then we access other non-logical prejudices to persuade ourselves as to the proper decision. This is a process we each must conform to or we will ultimately not survive. Evolution demands this. I do not claim that we each make the best decision. Merely that we make the decision that seems the best to us according to our capabilities.

Time is puzzling, not because of this seemingly inflexible process, but that we are aware of this process at all. Why do we sense ourselves moving in point fashion from the past to the future? Physics has indicated that we could, equally well, sense ourselves as moving from the future into the past. A brief consideration of this reveals how disgusting some of our natural processes might appear in that reversal but, after all, it would not offend us if this was all we knew.

It has been offered that quantum physics presents the possibility that, just as a succession of points can generate a line, and a succession of lines side by side can generate a plane and a stack of planes can generate a solid, so the fourth dimension of time is a stack of static three dimensional objects. Beyond that a stack of four dimensional objects (which comprise our universe) could generate a fifth dimension of multiple universes. Science-fiction has explored these multiple universes and what it might be like to explore them from H.G. Wells’ “Men Like Gods” to many stories in modern fiction and it has been suggested that freedom of choice could be explained by the possibility of slipping through other universes to gain mental independ-ence. But a closer look at this proposal indicates that, from a multidimensional point of view, the volume of movement is extended but the path is as rigid as ever.

Perhaps Groucho Marx characterized best the confusion time generates in our limited minds when he said, “Time flies like an arrow but fruit flies like a banana.”

Jan was born in Manhattan, New York, grew up to the age of 12 in Brooklyn, and resided until the age of 36 in Manhattan. He took a degree in industrial design at Pratt Institute and worked in New York until he was designated field man for a New York firm for an exhibition by the US Commerce Dept in Helsinki, where he met his wife. Since then, he has worked in Berlin, Paris, Tel Aviv and in the USA.
The Time Machine, 1895
By H. G. Wells

‘Upon that machine,’ said the Time Traveller, holding the lamp aloft, ‘I intend to explore time. Is that plain? I was never more serious in my life.’ None of us quite knew how to take it.

I suggest taking The Time Machine as the Granddaddy of all time travel adventures and as a novel that will not fail to dis-appoint even a century later. Herbert George Wells’ science fiction story has been made into two films, been the base for countless time travel stories ever since and entertained us until three in the morning.

In issue eight of Ovi Magazine, I reviewed Journey to the Cen-
tre of the Earth and ended by saying that ‘my next step should be patriotic and read the Brit-
ish M. Verne L. Wells.’ It wasn’t quite my next step, but I got there eventually and it seems fitting for the ‘Time’ isue. Wells couldn’t help being compared with Verne and he wrote in a preface to a collec-
tion of his work in 1933:

There is no literary resemblance whatever between the anticipa-
tory inventions of the Great Frenchman and these fantasies. His work dealt almost always with actual possibilities of in-
vention and discovery, and he made some remarkable fore-
casts. The interest he invoked was a practical one; he wrote and believed and told that this or that thing could be done, which was not at that time done. But these stories of mine collected here do not pretend to deal with possible things: they are exer-
cises of the imagination in a quite different field.

The Time Machine is certainly an exercise of the imagination and yet remains disturbingly contemporary in many parts. Wells’ vision of the future, albe-
it in the extremely distant year A.D. 802,701, echoes some of the events happening today. For example, the Time Trav-
eller describes the agriculture of the future to his assembled dinner guests and highlights the eventual outcome of se-
lective breeding, “The air was free from gnats, the earth from weeds or fungi; everywhere were fruits and sweet and de-
lightful flowers.”

The story has obvious politi-
cal connotations; they are so apparent that for somebody who knows only the basics of socialism The Time Machine brings them to mind immedi-
ately. The relationship between the working class Morlocks underground and the lecherous Eloi above are clearly class dis-
tinctions, plus Wells, a Social-
ist himself, makes good use of the ideals in the few humorous parts:

‘Then there is the future,’ said the Very Young Man. ‘Just think! One might invest all one’s money, leave it to accu-
mulate at interest, and hurry on ahead!’

‘To discover a society,’ said I, ‘erected on a strictly commu-
nistic basis.’

Moving away from politics and contemporary issues, the first surprise of The Time Machine was its length. It was very short and concise, which helped the story move at a great pace. The opening chapters were a little boring, with descriptions of scientific explanations, but the story held my interest once the Time Traveller had arrived in the future.

The novel is dissimilar to both movie versions and I personally believe that it is a far stronger story. It is written through the point of view of one of the Time Traveller’s friends who has joined some others for a dinner party, in which the possibility of time travel is announced. The majority of the narrative is through the form of a story be-
told by the returning Time Traveller and, like the dinner guests, you are captivated by his story.

Unlike the movies, the book describes everything in detail and allows you to see yourself with your own imagination. One of the best passages of the book comes as the Time Trav-
eler says: “Upon that machine,” said the Traveller and, like the dinner guests, you are captivated by his story.

And for me any philosophy that fails to use an accountant’s ethical, self and cause is quite simply failed philosophy. And a philosophy that denies that any of those things are real is therefore fit only to be ignored. As it happens, there are lots of failed philosophers about who may have somehow con-
ned the taxpayers into pay-
ing them a lot of money. They call themselves “postmodernists” and, as far as one can make any sense at all of what they say, their essential credo seems to be “nothing is real”.

When I come across such gar-
bage I tend to be overcome by the wish that I could hit the so-
called philosophers over the head with a baseball bat and then say to them: “Don’t worry. Nothing is real. I said it.”

In most normal usage, Right-
ism would be identified with conservativism and if anybody wants to know what history shows about the nature of con-
 servativism, I have just updated my account of the matter here: http://jonajay.netfirms.com/rightism.html

Explaining Postmodemism: Skepticism and Socialism from Rousseau to Foucault
By Stephen R. C. Hicks

I rarely read philosophy these days. I wrote an essay into the basic philosophical questions in my student days and shortly there-
after had published my conclu-
sions about the nature of mind, the nature of ethics, the nature of cause and the nature of self. I have never seen any reason to alter my views about any of the questions concerned in the many years since but I have at times elaborated a little more fully my views about moral philosophy.

And for me any philosophy that fails to use an accountant’s ethical, self and cause is quite simply failed philosophy. And a philosophy that denies that any of those things are real is therefore fit only to be ignored. As it happens, there are lots of failed philosophers about who may have somehow con-
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I was triggered off into this little tirade by a book I have just been having a look at. It is called Explaining postmod-
emism and is by Prof. Stephen R. C. Hicks, who undertakes the heroic task of trying to make some sense of postmodernism and trace its historical roots. By irrationality has always figured largely in human experience, it is no surprise that he finds the sources of postmodernism to be many and varied and to go back a long way. He traces postmodernism back to Kant but he could have gone back much further if he had wished to look at lesser-known writers.

His conclusions are in general also mine, though he is more polite than I would be. In my view postmodernism simply is an un-
justified juvenile rant about how uncooperative reality is with socialist thought. Socialism has of course long had a basis in intellectual function. I cannot see that a completed program of realistic philosophy would have stopped the absurd tantrums of the postmodernists. And the day that there cease to be ques-
tions in philosophy, it will no longer be philosophy.

Another review of the book claims that Hicks does not de-
scribe the thought of the phi-
losophers he covers in enough depth. My own view of that is that Hicks is a hero to have waded as deeply as he did into such dog’s vomit.

My own essay on postmodern-
ism is here: http://jonajay.
etfirms.com/pomo.html
It’s A Beautiful Day (1969)

It’s A Beautiful Day

I’m not sure why, but from the moment we started talking about an Ovi issue special about time I had a certain song in mind, ‘Child in Time’. It was written and first played by the rock group Deep Purple, but the catch is that it wasn’t the Deep Purple version I had in mind. It was a cover version by a band called It’s A Beautiful Day.

One day, the two groups met in an airport while changing planes during tours around the USA. After all the pleasantries and a lot of beer, they decided to exchange a song and it happened that the song ‘Child in Time’ was included on the self-titled first album It’s A Beautiful Day.

The year is 1969, Vietnam War, San Francisco and Berkeley University, strawberries and blood for the older ones who might remember and psychodelic. Jim Morrison, Janis Joplin and a magic violin from David LaFlamme, who combined classical music with jazz and rock far beyond the likes of ELO or Queen.

Sweet child in time you’ll see the line
The line that’s drawn between the good and the bad
See the blind man shooting at
the good and the bad

And wait for the ricochet
It’s A Beautiful Day is a pretty moody album and it starts with the classic ‘White Bird’, a song that became a jingle for many radio stations all around the world. Linda, David LaFlamme’s wife, plays the keyboards magically and the vocals by Pati Santos make you travel to magic dream worlds.

‘Hot Summer Day’ is a soft rock atmospheric ballad that seemed to have the lazy breath of a hot summer day, while ‘Wasted Union Blues’ becomes harder rock. This is followed by the fantastic ‘Girl with No Eyes’, a journey through music with a harpsichord and violin.

For the ones who know Deep Purple’s ‘Child in Time’ and the unbelievable intro with Blackmore’s guitar, just wait until you hear the violin intro in a Ravel’s Bolero style. The notes are repeated louder and louder until they are joined by a fantastic drum solo, followed by an electric piano.

It’s A Beautiful Day by It’s A Beautiful Day is a classic album that should not be missing from any self-respecting discography. It doesn’t matter if you are from the sixties, punk or the X-generation, the sound is there and you will definitely find it.

The Wolf Man (1941)

Directed by George Waggner
Screenplay by Curt Siodmak
Universal Pictures

“Even a man who is pure in heart and says his prayers by night, may become a wolf when the wolfbane blooms and the autumn moon is bright.”

Blooming wolfbane, a bright autumn moon, silver canes, gypsy incantations, sinister woods, a permanent ground mist and another Universal Pictures monster that appears to have an aversion to razors. The Wolf Man became the benchmark for all Hollywood werewolf movies that followed and it still has the power to entertain after sixty years.

In the context of 21st century filmmaking, the movie is quite poor, but when watching a classic such as this you should enjoy it as a foundation for the horror movies that followed. It cemented many of the myths and legends that surround Lycanthropy (werewolfism) and does have the occasional dramatic scene that holds your attention.

It wasn’t the first werewolf movie, but Curt Siodmack’s screenplay, a great performance by Lon Chaney Jr. and excellent make-up by Jack Pierce combined to leave audiences ‘howling’ in delight. In today’s horror movies, we are treated to the character’s transformation early on in the film, but The Wolf Man holds back until the 40th minute, which in a movie of 70-minutes is along time.

The gradual build-up of the story and the delay of the transformation are frustrating, although it does give the story some control and avoids the blood fest of a Wolf Man massacring the small population of the village. The film has a strong cast for a B-movie, featuring Claude Rains, Ralph Bellamy, Bela Lugosi and Maria Ouspenskaya, and there are some enjoyable interactions between them.

The story begins when Larry Talbot (Chaney Jr.) returns from America upon the death of his brother. He begins to pursue an engaged girl (Evelyn Ankers) and accompanies her and her friend to a gypsy camp one night. The friend is fatally attacked by a wolf and Larry kills it, but not before it bites him. It emerges that Larry killed a gypsy (Lugosi), but the gypsy’s mother (Ouspenskaya) tells Larry that the bite will cause him to become a werewolf at each full moon and his nightmare begins.

Curt Siodmack’s script created many of the myths that future werewolf films would utilise. In the ‘Monsters by Moonlight’ documentary, Siodmak explains that the script was influenced by his experiences in Nazi Germany. The Wolf Man is a metaphor for the Nazis: a good man who is transformed into a vicious killing animal who knows who his next victim will be when he sees the symbol of a pentagram (i.e., a star) on them.

Lon Chaney Jr.’s portrayal of Larry Talbot trying to deal with his new surroundings and then his fate are marvellous to watch. He joined the ranks of Lugosi and Boris Karloff, with his performance as the Wolf Man and went on to play the character four more times, plus he is the only person to have played all four of the classic movie monsters.

Universal were saved by the spectacular horror series and this was thanks, in part, to the studio’s genius make-up artist Jack Pierce. He was their legendary monster-maker and his work on The Wolf Man is impressive for its period. Six hours on and three hours off, according to the documentary, and Chaney Jr. hated every minute of the make-up process, but the results on screen were worth the animosity – except the wolf’s dreadful haircut.

Watching the film today, I was interested in the actual transformation and how it was achieved without the use of CGI and other technological developments.

Unthinkable today, the first and second transformation only shows his feet in six lacks dissolves, plus we see the top of his hairy roots. It is only on the third transformation that we see his face transform from werewolf to Larry in 17 dissolves and, despite its crudeness, it was smoothly performed.

The film suffers through some of the dialogue and the continuity is painful, such as why Bela Lugosi is an actual wolf, while Larry becomes a Wolf Man, or the gravedigger just gives in to the wolf attack, while a girl manages to fight him off for a minute. However, as I mentioned at the beginning, there are some exciting scenes, such as when he is trapped in the mantrap and the men and dogs are closing in, which hooked me.

My favourite character in the film is Mr. Twiddle (Forrester Harvey), who is the chief constable’s assistant, not only does he have the best surname, but also some of the funniest scenes in the film. Maria Ouspenskaya’s role as Maleva the gypsy is haunting, as she mourns her son’s death, counsels Larry and casts charms over the dead.

The Wolf Man is a masterpiece that horror and movie fans should watch to understand the foundations of Hollywood. The Wolf Man may never be the face of Gillette, but this is film that be described as short, sweet and hairy.

“The way you walk was thorny through no fault of your own, but as the rain enters the soil the river enters the sea, so tears run to a predestined end. Your suffering is over. Now you will find peace for eternity.”
A World Cup

By Asa Butcher

The draw for the FIFA World Cup Germany™ finals was made at the beginning of December and it is exciting to see that the competition will be a true World Cup. Each of the inhabited continents has representation, six new countries have reached the finals and England’s group looks reasonably easy.

Trinidad and Tobago, Angola, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Togo and Ukraine are all first time qualifiers, while the Czech Republic are making their second debut, each is hoping to make a mark on the competition, in the style of Greece at the European Championships in 2004. Unfortunately, the European champions failed to qualify with their defensive football, so 32 other countries will be battling it out from June 9th.

Aside from the usual participants, such as Argentina, Italy, Brazil and France, the host groups have an eclectic mix of minor footballing nations hoping to destroy the dreams of the major players. Group A features the hosts Germany, Costa Rica who reached the second round in 1990, Ecuador in their second ever finals and Poland who came third in 1974 and 1982.

England, the 1966 World Cup winners, are in Group B and are hoping to improve on the 1990, 1998 and 2002 results. They are hoping to destroy the dreams of the host Germany, Costa Rica, Ecuador and South Korea, who finished fourth in the last World Cup. Group H features Spain, Ukraine, Tunisia and Saudi Arabia, who will be hoping to avoid a meeting with Germany after losing 8-0 in South Korea 2002.

The 2006 is set to be an excellent tournament and will exhibit the skills of some of the best footballers on the planet, along with other players not from England. Football is one of the games from which we can all learn equality because in very few areas of life we see men treated equally. Roll on June 9th!

I suppose being in the middle of the season for most of the European teams the conversation about ‘correction’ transfers begins. The main ones happened in the summer but after four months the coaches know better what’s missing and they are out there looking for ways to cover their gaps.

As a principal, all the football teams want to lead their national league and win every single cup and it would be wrong if it was any other way. The football players depend a lot on the system the coach plays. So the coach is mainly responsible for these transfers. Then you have another kind of transfers, coaches.

You get that more often lately in the middle of the season and you get it mainly from the teams that started the season determined to get a title and they find they are in the middle of the table in the middle of the season. The coach is always the easy victim to blame.

What really happens with football coaches nowadays? The majority are former football players who have followed some coaching courses before the end of their career as players. With a lot of help from the fame they have already achieved as players they become coaches often in big teams.

There are a lot of examples. Johan Cruyff was one of the best football players in the history of football, probably one of the top ten but then he decided to become a coach of Barcelona something that didn’t end up very well. But then you got another Dutch player who’s coaching the very same Spanish team just now very, very successfully, Frank Rijkaard.

In business they say that a good employee doesn’t necessarily make a good employer, so why would a good player make a good coach? Is the name of an international player enough to guarantee a successful career as a coach? Obviously not. But the teams have to try and the players themselves have to try. But then what happens when the team has invested all the hopes on the good name of the player who became a coach?

What happens when you change this coach in the middle of the season? There is always the excuse that the owners of the team don’t want him to do any more damage to the team but is the new coach able to fix the team, excuse their hopes and lead the team next year or will nobody understand that the new coach will need time and this time doesn’t include the other half of the season.

Another thing is why it is necessary for former players to become coaches? The coach needs to combine knowledge of the game, sense of strategy and management because they have to totally control over twenty individuals. The former football star Lajos Detari was a real troublemaker for most of the teams he played and now he has become a coach. How?

Let’s hope that in the middle of the season not many team will try to change their coach and that the management of the team will realize that hiring a coach is like hiring a new GM for their company. His good reputation as an employee is not the only reason you trust a new manager.

Good employee/bad employer

By Thanos Kalamidas

To make it worse, when the Italian coach arrived in Athens he said that he knows what the name Panathinaikos means and he was determined to win at least one cup a year. Half way through the season the team is hardly ninth in the league.

Again it might not be his fault; he’s just the easy victim to blame. Even in big businesses you give it up to six months to any manager before starting judgment. Perhaps the international football associations must realize that it is time to make some changes in the way somebody becomes a coach. Perhaps it should be some kind of higher school for coaches and not just some camps and courses. That would work both ways because a first failure costs sometimes a whole career, which nobody knows where it would lead.

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The Italian authorities refuse to give more information about the rotten eggs.
What? Are we going to have egg flu now?
*****
Is anybody worried about bird flu while preparing the Christmas turkey or is just me?
*****
The Iranian president said that the European imperialism created Judaism to destroy the Arab world.
Yeah! 4,000 years before Mohamed!!! Europeans could predict that Mohamed and Bin Laden were coming!!!
*****
Slobodan Milosevic asked the international court for a break due to Christmas holidays.
Is he going to dress up as Santa Claus? Bringing presents to small Croatian kids?
*****
Aries: Good times heading your way!
Shit, that’s not my horoscope!!! Asa that’s yours.*****
Taurus: Your hard work will be appreciated if you can avoid letting your stubborn attitude take over.
Yeah! All my life I hear the same thing!
*****
Gemini: You may feel emotional this year about personal issues or a partnership you are currently involved in.
The whole year?
*****
Cancer: Don’t look at the negative when you have so much going for you. A change in your location or making new friends will give you a new lease on life. Are you sure you have any friends left?
*****
Leo: Someone you are close to will not interpret things the same way you do. Focus on a creative project.
Damn how many Ovis do I have to make to get some holidays?
*****
Virgo: Stay in the background. Not much will go your way if you are outspoken or reveal your true feelings.
No comment.
*****
Libra: Take a different approach to your friends. The chance to try new things will expand your outlook and your friendships.
Wow! That’s how they call it nowadays? Different approach?*****
Scorpio: Make some changes to your living arrangements.
Like what? Change house once a month?
*****
Sagittarius: Everyone’s eyes will be on you. Full of hate? I bet that’s either George Bush or Tony Blair.*****
Capricorn: It’s time you started believing in yourself again. Why? Who did you believe in before? Your neighbour’s God?*****
Aquarius: You may want to question your motives. If you are doing things because you are avoiding a dispute, face your situation head-on.
That was tough!!!
*****
Pisces: Focus on work, money and getting ahead.
Well at least we got a winner? Hillary?
*****
Happy New Year everybody!!!