



HARPER'S INDEX

Estimated percentage of all existing blogs that have not been updated in four months : 94

Chances that a Twitter user accesses the service only while at work : 2 in 3

Percentage of male British IT workers who say they consider their sex partners' needs before their own : 82

Rank of this percentage among the highest for all industries : 1

Percentage by which moderate Internet surfers are more productive in their jobs than non-surfers : 9

Report

END OF THE ROAD

After Detroit, the wreck of an American dream

By Ben Austen

(p. 26)

Staggering inefficiencies explain why GM, Ford and Chrysler have collectively lost a full third of the U.S. market since 1986, their combined sales dropping from 77 percent to 46 percent at the end of last year. Even before Chrysler and GM filed for bankruptcy, the so-called Big Three had shed nearly half a million hourly employees since 1985. Contributing editor Ben Austen explores the decline of the American auto industry through a close look at Georgetown, Kentucky, where Toyota's corporate culture has produced a new, leaner model of blue-collar auto jobs amid the industry's shrinking profit margins. Toyota is currently the world's leading automaker, and its Georgetown plant is the company's largest facility outside of Japan. Austen describes how cars are made in America by the one company that seems destined to set pay and work standards for the industry and manufacturing jobs in general.

Letter from Connecticut

LIKE I WAS JESUS

How to bring a nine-year-old to Christ

By Rachel Aviv

(p. 42)

The world's largest children's ministry, the Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF), is based in Warrenton, Missouri, and maintains chapters in 158 countries and in every American state. The Fellowship has never been forthcoming with the media, but since it won the right, in a controversial 2001 Supreme Court decision to hold after-school Bible clubs in public schools, the leadership has been particularly skittish. Aviv follows the Connecticut ministry on its summer mission, where its volunteers concentrate their efforts in poorer communities in which many residents seem grateful just to have other adults take their children off their hands. The children quickly learn the important bullet points—"Jesus died on the cross...because He loves me"; "I will meet Him in Heaven"—though it is unclear what effect these ideas will have on their lives now or in the future. Aviv talks to CEF members such as Joshua Guido, the director of the Connecticut ministry, who tells her, "Give me a child for five years, and I'll have him for the rest of his life," attributing the quote variously to Adolf Hitler and to Fidel Castro. According to the Fellowship, once children begin to understand the difference between right and wrong—somewhere between the ages of five and twelve—they are cognitively capable of salvation, and, crucially, at risk for eternal damnation.

Story
TOO MUCH HAPPINESS

By Alice Munro
(p. 53)

A rich and engaging historical narrative of the tumultuous life of the Russian mathematician and novelist Sofia Kovalevskya.

Review
KINDS OF KILLING

The flourishing evil of the Third Reich

By William H. Gass
(p. 75)

Contributing editor William H. Gass reviews the final volume of Richard Evans's Third Reich trilogy. *The Coming of the Third Reich; The Third Reich in Power, 1933-1939; The Third Reich at War* (Penguin). "Richard Evans's three volumes of disagreeable details, masterfully ordered and presented with ruthless clarity, are not centrally concerned with actual fighting, although a good account can be found there," Gass explains. "His indictment is principally based on the political and cultural climate that created a monster out of an apparently civilized nation-state."

Findings
(p. 84)

One in six Americans admits to having peed the pool. A Georgia Tech engineer created software that endows unmanned aerial drones with a sense of guilt. Scolded dogs look guiltier if they are actually innocent. Most people, were they to need a transplant, would not want to receive the heart of a murderer. A Spanish design student created a speech-recognition pillow into which the restive confide their worries, which are then printed out in the morning. In the Indian city of Thiruvananthapuram, a man discovered a color-changing frog, which some then venerated with prayers. "It is a bit unusual," said zoologist Oommen V. Oommen. "I will collect it for study." A vixen living on the Rhineland estate of Count Rudolf von Kesselstatt was found to have stolen more than one hundred shoes. A man in Munich beat another man with a swan, and in Dorset, England, three young men stomped a fawn to death. The Vatican said that fewer people were confessing their sins. A blue whale was heard singing near New York City.

ONLY ON HARPERS.ORG

Washington Editor Ken Silverstein continues to expose corruption in Washington, D.C., and cartoonist Mr. Fish skewers the culture with his Friday cartoons.

This release is also available at
harpers.org/PR/highlights

From READINGS:

[Torture]
THE BERNALITY OF EVIL

From Victim Impact Statements submitted to Judge Denny Chin of the Southern District Court of New York regarding the sentencing of Bernard Madoff. On June 29, Chin sentenced Madoff to 150 years in prison for operating a \$65 billion Ponzi scheme over more than two decades.

We took our sixteen-year-old daughter to New York three years ago to meet Bernie Madoff. He had the gall to shake her hand as we thanked him for taking such good care of our money—her college money—and all of our extended family's money. He robbed us not only of our money but of our faith in humanity.

—Randy Baird

I told my eighty-nine-year-old father he could not die because I didn't have enough money to bury him. This is what we are reduced to after Madoff lived so well off our savings.

—Kathleen Bignell

Grant Madoff one year off his sentence for every \$1 billion of hidden money he reveals. Failing that, please make sure that the facility in which he rots is extremely uncomfortable.

—Jesse L. Cohen

History shows us that there are monsters who think they are above the law. Laws of humanity and common decency don't apply to them because they have created their own world in which they are the Supreme Being. There are many examples: Adolf Hitler, Saddam Hussein, and Bernard Madoff. Extreme? I don't think so.

—Natalie Erger

Madoff lied to, and thus stole from, my parents ON A WEEKLY BASIS, with every weekly packet of confirmation slips he sent out. That means over two decades he stole from them 1,040 separate times. He deserves to stay in prison for at least that many years.

—Abby Frucht

Harper's Magazine writers and editors are available for interviews.