

Bank Swirled



When Partnerships Go Bad

Dick Thornburgh interview
— page 33

“10 Things You Need To Know About
Gerry Rice” by Gerry Rice — page 29

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Comments 4/1/03

/PARTNER

May 8, 2003

BRING YOUR DAUGHTER TO WORK DAY

World Bank Group

April 1, 2001 4/24/03

~~CHILD~~
~~PET~~
~~FAVORITE STRIPPER~~
~~SPOUSE~~

Light
Breakfast

9:00 Arrival/Registration

PopTarts and KoolAid will be served

Preston Auditorium

9:30 Welcoming Comments

Kathy Sierra, HRSVP

Preston Auditorium

10:00 Keynote Address: Mommy and Daddy Help the World

Jim Wolfensohn

Preston Auditorium

10:30 ~~Nap time~~

Cots and blankets will be provided

Preston Auditorium

11:00 ~~Morning snack~~ Coffee Break

Please notify your server if you are lactose-intolerant
or suffer from nut allergies

Preston Auditorium

11:15 Arts & Crafts

Note: rounded-ended scissors only [WBVS?]

Preston Auditorium

12:00 ~~Story time~~ The Regional Perspective

Mieko Nishimizu, SARVP

Preston Auditorium

12:30 Mommy and Daddy take you to lunch

2:00 ~~Puppet theater show~~

With Starring S. Zhang & J. Goldstein

MC-12 Gallery

2:30 ~~Nap time~~

Cots and blankets will be provided

MC-12 Gallery

3:15 ~~Afternoon snack~~ Coffee Break

Please notify your server if you are lactose-intolerant
or suffer from nut allergies

MC-12 Gallery

3:40 Closing Remarks: Sometimes Mommy and Daddy

Have to Work Really, Really Late

Pauline Ramprasad, Work-Life Balance Focal Point

Preston Auditorium

Yours, Mine and Hours:
Teaming with your
Spouse to Strike a
Balance

BANK SWIRLED

"If you are going to tell people the truth, be funny, or they'll kill you." — Billy Wilder
Vol. 19, No. 1 April 1, 2003

WBI-NASA PARTNERSHIP

When NASA launches its next Mars probe, its precious payload won't just deliver the instruments of science. It will also deliver the seeds of knowledge. Moments after landing on Mars, the probe automatically will deploy a new, experimental "Extreme Distance Learning Center," or EDLC.

EDLC is the product of WBI's new partnership with NASA. Sporting garish safety-orange walls and a solar-powered "Welcome, Knowledge Partners!" sign written in English, Hindi, Tamil and Speculative Martian, "WBI is ready to boldly partner where neither gender has partnered before," says WBIVP Frannie Leautier.

An ISG-managed DAMA satellite dish on the roof of the EDLC will provide a direct video link between the Red Planet and WBI's new Knowledge Château in Marseille (see page 16) with "absolutely no hops," according to ISGEC network guru Le Vu. "However, there will be a 6-minute time delay in conversations as long as Mars is not behind the Sun."

"The real challenge for WBI isn't the 6-minute delay," says Monika Weber-Fahr, GDLN chief. "We're used to that from our IP-based distance learning tests between the J-building and the Main Complex. Our biggest challenge is trying to develop the right EDLC business model and partnership incentives to motivate an unknown alien life form. And so far it looks like it's going to be even tougher than getting waivers for a Sri Lanka ICT program."

WBI convened a blue-ribbon panel of the World Bank's brightest economists, which recommended attracting the extraterrestrials into partnership by offering them a unique learning environment rich in oxygen and liquid water. However, as an extra incentive, the panel also recommended "the inclusion of a small tray of chunky peanut butter."

ISG's new "PassKey" motion sensors will trigger cameras and microphones when potential knowledge partners pierce the peanut butter perimeter. ISG spent \$19.3 million adapting the high-definition video technology they currently use to monitor the women's showers in the H-Fitness Center. "It's robust, reliable, and available over the Internet," says Vu.

Future ISG-managed NASA probes will replenish depleted peanut butter supplies and offer additional incentives recommended by the panel, such as 5-year contracts, Kellogg's PopTarts and Lender's Blueberry Bagels, which will be provided either by Sodexho or from capital funding from each VPU. "We wanted to get into this 'partnership' thing too, although we aren't sure what it is," said a Sodexho spokesperson. "Besides, we're overstocked on PopTarts right now."

The IMF, also eager to jump on the interplanetary partnership bandwagon, has already announced a structural adjustment program for Mars, to be effective at first contact. The program includes eliminating interplanetary trade barriers, privatizing key industries and establishing a fixed exchange rate with most Earth currencies. "From then on, it's just fine-tuning," says IMF Managing Director Horst Köhler. "We'll have that Martian economy corrected in a few days, just like we did in Argentina."

WORKPLACE VIOLENCE INVESTIGATED

D.C. Metropolitan Police, the FBI and Interpol are this morning investigating the beatings of fourteen alleged bureaucrats at the World Bank. The victims' names have not yet been released, pending the forensic examination of their workstations and notification of next-of-kin.

According to FBI sources, the investigation is focusing on a ring led by ECA Operations Adviser Dick Westin that has terrorized LEG staff, LOA managers, ACT analysts and INT investigators for several months under the slogan "Beat Bureaucracy." Suspicions arose last week, when three Board members demanded to see the PADs for four projects in Ukraine, Kyrgyz Republic and Moldova, and were told by Luca "the Enforcer" Barbone to "take a hike" and to "stop impeding scalability, results and implementation by demanding to know what the loans would actually pay for." Reached by satellite phone at his 6-bedroom, Bank-paid villa in Kyiv, Barbone said that the Board thinks "we have nothing better to do than appraise projects and document judgments and conform to their Safeguard Policies, OPs and BP."

Along with Barbone, Shigeo "the Rock" Katsu (alleged heir apparent of the ECA Crew), Paul "da Lawyer" Siegelbaum (star of the music video *Yo, Rules Don't Matter, Yo*) and thirteen heavy users of trust funds are targets of the FBI investigation.

While no arrests have been made, Bank President Jim Wolfensohn was led away in handcuffs from his Kennedy Center box last night. Sources also revealed that ACT Director Chuck McDonough is now in the witness protection program and working as a payroll assistant in Chennai. Another senior Bank source (thanks, Andrea!) indicated that McDonough provided evidence that Wolfensohn's "Simplification Fund" had in fact been a money-laundering operation for the "Beat Bureaucracy" gang, and its funds paid for box lunches, Post-It notepads, focus groups and on-line discussion databases that allowed the mob to identify their targets. Michael Baxter, LOE's manager, was unavailable for comment, as was Margaret Clark, GSD's food services contract officer. Reaction around the Bank was muted, but generally one of relief. "If I had to eat one more smoked salmon focaccia, I was going to take the Rule of 50," one TTL sighed.

**The only significant thing
about us
is our travel budget.**



Corporate Strategy Group
STRATEGY & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

FLAT PANEL MONITORS ON DECK FOR IFC

In view of the expected FY03 budget underrun, IFC Controller Allen Shapiro has decided to purchase flat panel monitors for all IFC staff this May. Adjusting his \$13,000 50-inch Pioneer PDP-5030HD Purevision plasma display (half the size of Frannie's) during an office interview, Shapiro said that he thought the move would provide a much-needed boost to IFC staff morale. Furthermore, "execution of this transaction represents a highly efficient method of disposing of a few million extra dollars."

When asked whether this could be perceived as yet another departure by IFC from Bank Group standards, IFC Human Resources VP Dorothy Berry replied curtly, "I've put that whole thing behind me. I don't even remember working there." Thrilled with the staff morale boost, Berry admonished detractors not to focus unnecessarily on the business benefit aspects of the purchase as justification. Commenting that this was quite a turnaround from last year's pink slip scare, Berry added that IFC will "soon look into purchasing BlackBerries in time for an April 2004 delivery, especially for the many HR managers and their spouses or registered domestic partners."

IFC's Chief Information Officer Guy De Poerck, warned by GSD that no further parking spaces in the F-building garage could be sacrificed for the storage of computer equipment, informed *Bank Swirled* today that the IFC would dispose of the old monitors in an environmentally-friendly manner. "We'll definitely donate them to a worthy cause, like the World Bank," said De Poerck at a noon-time press conference.

BIO-HAZARD DETECTION COMING

GSD Security announced today a new emergency protection system to help safeguard staff during a chemical or environmental emergency. The system, scheduled for deployment during April, entails installing individual custom air-monitoring devices in each work area throughout Bank Group headquarters.

The monitoring devices consist of a small, fully-ventilated, metal-slatted rectangular housing unit with internal bar, swing and removable floor pan. Each unit contains one biped avian toxin detection device. Staff will be provided with adequate seed-based fuel supplies, and are advised to input water to the apparatus from time to time to allow the device to carry out internal self-lubrication. Staff should place waste paper in the floor pan to collect the device's output, and keep their face and fingers at a safe distance from the device at all times. Appropriate waste paper excludes desk-to-desk circulars from the MDs or EVP, ISG's *News You Can Use*, Nick Stern's latest book and the *Sydney Morning Herald*, but may include any Caribbean CAS, circulars from the Staff Association, or the *Financial Times*.

Staff are responsible for monitoring their individual device by its observed rate of operational activity. As long as the device's operational rate is normal, no action is required. However, staff should note the nearest emergency exit if the operational rate increases, and proceed to that exit if the operational rate drops sharply and suddenly.

The new system will be rolled out to Country Offices throughout the remainder of the calendar year, depending upon local animal import controls.

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Bank Swirled was created under strict supervision of overpriced consultants from PriceWaterhouseCoopers. No actual World Bank Group managers were injured during document production.

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www.worldbank.org/yournet, 1818 Society, Bank Swirled Archives

E-mail us at bankswirled@aol.com

BANK SWIRLED

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**Printing what you've already received by
e-mail is just part of what we do for you.
Every day.**



**TURNING PRACTICE
INTO PROMISES™**



Best Seller List

THE LOVELY BONES. A new Ethics Officer opens the closet in his predecessor's office, and is shocked by what he finds.

NO ONE TO WATCH OVER ME. Careers nose-dive as Vice Presidents rotate responsibilities.

THE LAST DETECTIVE. Will the last one to bail from INT please turn out the lights?

LATE BLOOMER. The Botox treatments, hair transplants and facelift become very useful in jumping the management succession queue.

CROSSROADS OF TWILIGHT. Not everything to do with Trust Funds is straightforward, as people without good records find out from LeRoy.

FLASHBACK. No one in ACT remembers anything in Cochin between arrival and Day 3, but fortunately the SAP records and MIP claims don't lie.

PREY. In the Gobi Desert, a team of economists tries to undo an experiment involving a government-written PRSP that has gone disastrously wrong.

THE DANTE CLUB. A collection of short stories from the survivors of the Task Force on Implementation.

SONS OF FORTUNE. Twin brothers separated at birth both apply to the YP program without knowing they are Category 1 close relatives. Foreword by Nick Stern.

WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH MY LIFE? Rule of 50 QAG retirees finally find their calling.

USEFUL IDIOTS. A kiss-and-tell whereby Internal Communications staff explain the value they bring to the Bank.

GOOD TO GRATE. More implausible stories from HR about work/life balance.

PIGS AT THE TROUGH. IFC managers argue over their own performance rewards, unaware that their Global Products Group staff expect some too!

THE RIGHT MAN. Mr. Wolfensohn reminisces about why he decided to come to the World Bank.

OF PARADISE AND POWER. Staff in Shengman Zhang's office share tales of reflected authority as they await the Rule of 85 by writing memos about meetings they've chaired on why the matrix is working, why size counts, and how the World Bank is different from a dot-com.

DOUBLE DIPPING FOR DUMMIES. A step-by-step guide to fleecing Benefits, donors, and the U.S. Internal Revenue Service by retiring as a G4 consultant, falsely re-settling, avoiding tax on gross pension proceeds and getting a green card, all at the same time.

PDA PILOT DERAILED

Bank Swirled has learned that the ongoing pilot of the BlackBerry communication solution will not lead to Bank-wide implementation this summer as had been expected. "ISG loved the little gadgets, in spite of the hefty price tag, and was pushing them to all senior managers," an ITSB source told reporters while clutching his PDA and cursing anyone who e-mailed him encrypted messages. "But Julie Oyegun and Andrea Summers were opposed, and their brilliant strategy to insert unattainable provisions into the RFP made it impossible for the vendor to comply with the terms and conditions of the procurement."

Other sources close to CIO Mohamed Muhsin (thanks, Le!) indicate that the rollout has been delayed, but not blocked. "Yes, it's a setback, but we've tapped a Canadian trust fund and are working closely with Research in Motion on a new product and a new technology that meets the procurement requirements." The sources indicated that ISG will return to the ITSB for implementation approval as soon as RIM brings its improved "Berry of Color" model to market in early 2004.

In related news, a confidential source close to EXTSP Director Katherine Marshall (thanks, Archbishop of Canterbury The Right Reverend Rowan Williams!) says that Marshall is finalizing her report on the results of the Psalm Pilot pilot.

GSD SECURITY GUARDS
HAVE NICE BLACK
WORKSTATION
MONITORS.

SHOULDN'T YOU?



©Holtz

New Hope for Staff Living with External Partners

For the first time in three years, the number of new partnerships between Bank Group staff and external organizations has decreased, offering hope that the "Partnership Pandemic" may at last be receding.

Although its exact origins are unknown, the Partnership Pandemic is thought to have originated in 1995 as a rare mutation of "Total Quality Management." Senior management initially failed to recognize the risk, so none of the usual steps were taken to prevent the outbreak of the new idea. The result was a rapid spread of a virulent concept for which there was little or no herd immunity.

The first warning sign of contracting an external partner is a slight increase in expectations. This is soon followed by serious requests to "add value." Those infected eventually fall prey to a "painful and chronic demand for tangible results." By the time the problem is diagnosed, only palliative career care is possible.

New!
From the
International House of Knowledge

Partnership Prophylactics

Fits snugly over your Vice President!
Prevents the spread of oral partnerships!

Sonically tested!

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Lubricated!

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ARE YOU AT RISK OF CONTRACTING AN EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIP?

- Has your VP suddenly stopped shredding mail from external organizations?
- Does your VP mention the name of external organizations without the customary ridicule and derision?
- Have you spotted your VP having lunch with an attractive, young visitor from an external organization?
- Have you received mysterious phone calls asking you why you have not "delivered what's been promised"?

If you have noticed any of the above, seek help immediately. Your VP is probably out cruising for more external partners right now!

Most career-threatening epidemics have been traced to the careless partnering behavior of vice presidents. Naturally immune, vice presidents act as carriers, enabling an external partner to traverse the "Bank-Brain Barrier" and overwhelm the natural defenses of unsuspecting staff.

The Health Services Department reminds you to avoid all risky partnership behaviors, especially in areas where vice presidents are seeking to increase their visibility.

Need help? Call the
**Stop Partnerships Now
Foundation**

"People start partnerships.

People can stop them!"

Proudly unaffiliated with any VPU

Personal: WB VP seeking sexy, new EP for wild cross-fertilization. I'm hung on filling the void in your division. Let's kiss and tell! Call me! Reply to MSN K4-22.

*You're invited to a meeting when suddenly **TERROR** strikes!*

You're under attack for

- Unethical conduct!
- Trust Fund corruption!
- Sexual harassment!
- Pilfering food during shelter-in-place drills!
- G5 abuse!

*Don't be **trapped** with no means of escape!*

*Be **prepared** with our new*



Emergency Meeting Escape Hood

Another fine product from the International House of Knowledge



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organizations!
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Neutral!*

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1. At the first sign of accusation, remove the single-use EMEH from its faux-BlackBerry carry case, and place it over your head. Keep your mouth shut!
2. Pull the string to seal the EMEH and inflate the hood.
3. Hurl the smoke bomb pellet (included) onto the meeting table and run out the door.
4. Proceed immediately to the nearest HR Officer.
5. Calmly and quietly leave the Bank with full benefits and pension.

REMEMBER! *Three out of four terminations under Staff Rule 8.01 begin in meetings.*

The most important thing you can do is ESCAPE.

You owe it to your life partner – and your spouse!

Are YOU ready for YOUR next meeting?

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"It really, really works!"
- a former Budget Officer

"The importance of this device is so significant that under terms and conditions of my severance package, I am obligated not to say anything about it."
- a former Vice President

"It seems like I use two or three every time I visit Argentina."
- an IMF Sr. Technical Assistance Officer

This Week in World Bank History

For the week of April 1-7. Without Records, There Is No Evidence!®

April 1, 2003—A presentation by the World Bank Group Archives.

On April 1, 1946, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, known commonly as the "World Bank," opened for business.

After one month, the first of many reorganizations began. During the next five months, 120 new employees representing many nationalities were sacked.

After six months, the first President resigned (with full pension), and the Bank drifted in a state of dispirited confusion until Mr. Wolfensohn fortuitously arrived in 1995. According to his Managing Directors and Vice Presidents, Wolfensohn's combination of vision, wisdom, diplomacy, integrity and financial discipline is solely responsible for the effectiveness of the institution we know today.

The first edition of a staff newspaper was printed on April 1, 1947. It was unnamed, and suggestions for a name were solicited from staff. *Pension Notes* was chosen as the first name, quickly replaced by *My Pension Notes* after a second contest. This was replaced by *Pension World*, then *My Pension World*, which was changed to *Bank's World*, and is now the *Bank's World Today* which you see daily when you log onto your computer if you can't figure out how to change your home page to the HRKiosk's pension calculator.

Volume 1, Number 1 of the newspaper mentioned several momentous events. An 8-pound son was welcomed at the home of secretary Betty Ziff, but not so welcomed at the home of her manager, Robert Jones. New staff members included Nigel Pritchard, Nigel Pritchard Jr., Lady Duff-Pritchard, and Miss Nigela Pritchard. Ten senior managers piloted the new Leitz circular slide rule (including handsome felt-lined leather belt cases); the initial reaction was jealous sniping from those not involved in the pilot. "My HP Versalog may be linear but it does the same basic thing," fumed one economist. The Association of Staff protested the lack of pension rights for temporary stenographers. The Personnel Department banned the jitterbug at social occasions, and the Accounts Department introduced a streamlined travel request that required only five carbon copies.

The 1944 Bretton Woods Convention
"The Last Time I Saw Paris..."



Closing the Bank's First Loan
(for a new Mercedes) - 1947



The First Annual Meeting, 1948 - "Care to smell my carnation, Mr. Prime Minister?"



The Absurder by Boris Summor

Although the red alert did not trouble Muffy and me as much as Javad whining over drinks at Felix last week (yes, we like reality theatre, too, though Muffy never lets me guess the location of the waiter's piercings until we get home), I try never to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. During Peter's latest lock-down, I was stuck between the H-building, where I'd lobbied Xavier and Pierre in the men's sauna over a Catalan lunch, and the MC, where I was going to make a fashionably late entrance to the Sector Board's HR committee meeting. I explained to the GSD thug (new AK-47 in hand—Therese must have been to the Beijing spring collections) that, yes, I was with an ED (stretching the truth a tad), so we qualified for the VIP Disinfection Service to join our meeting "in progress." We left Xavier on 19th Street with the masses returning from the IMF cafeteria ('50s food at '50s prices), showered again (ah, the virtues of good tailoring and fine wool) and proceeded upstairs. We've all given up smoking—at least when we're not in Beijing—so the meetings are a bit tenser than they used to be. Well, I needn't have hurried since the IFC reps hadn't arrived. Which was just as well since the talk was about the tragedy. It seems that Suellen had brought Bea, her Yorkie, to work one day last week (at IFC, many senior staff bring their pets to work in lieu of AWS), and the two of them were heading for a mid-morning 'bio-break' in Washington Circle. The elevator doors opened, and there was Nina with her Maltese, Options, apparently with the same destination in mind. Well, the fur did fly! Thank God Luis had insisted on carpet tile and washable wall coverings. Spike heels can be nasty in enclosed spaces.

At the Sector Board, we finally did get on to business (and I use the term loosely) but only after I recounted the travails Muffy and I had suffered on our latest trip to Sri Lanka and the Maldives. (We had some pins to put in the map before I retire and am forced to pay to bring her along, since 190-day QAG retirees don't get spouse points.) Despite its pristine waters, our impression of Bentola dropped considerably with the arrival of the entire South Asia management team, who, unless their goal is to take the minds of the poor off hunger by displaying the adverse health effects of two trips through the buffet line, refused to join Lorne, Christine and me on the bus back to the Taj. (I never travel in any machine that has a part called the Jesus Nut, even if the Air Force

gave us a good deal on the chopper lease in gratitude for the infoDev grant.) We could have easily returned to Delhi—where Muffy and Mieko found some fabulous silk—via Rio for what the Bank was charged. At least the squadron commander accepted Dinners—must tell Florence. The one good thing about the noise on the beach (the chopper, not the management team) was that Charles and Camilla were also inconvenienced, as were Ray and Jody (no, Muffy reminded me, that was back in Colombo, and again in Cairo).

Must ask Eve about renting her flat next winter if she's not escorting another Bhutanese delegation researching public sector management in Cairns. En route back to HQ (or the Washington Country Office, as Kathy insists we call it), we witnessed an awful row at LAX. One of the other passengers, newly retired, was hefting a large piece of rare coral—though without Kristalina, I can't tell you how rare. I didn't recognize him, and he seemed the wrong nationality for a CTF-financed consultant, but he claimed it was part of his BTO for Marilou. Alas, he confided as we stood in line with his silk-clad wife, the mission was not a success. The majority of the indigenous population does not mix with the tourists, so he had had no interlocutors. When we finally reached Customs, the churlish and surly *Vaterlandsicherheitsministerium* agent was unimpressed and carted him off for "secondary inspection." Noticing her plastic gloves, I nervously made sure my Aetna card was handy, but we got through without incident. Thus I returned in time for a lovely dinner with Nick Stern at the British Embassy. Over sherry, Nick remarked that he was proud to come from a country that didn't have an agriculture ministry, after which he went on to talk about the evils of agriculture subsidies, and was the subject of many judgment calls and much name-calling. It got so vicious that I 'lost' my business cards in the loo. At least I know better than to get overrefreshed so early in the evening.

I do so enjoy points trips because they're an opportunity for 'quality time' if I turn off my satellite-phone-and-web-enabled BlackBerry. (The 'discreet' setting is distracting, particularly if you're in the middle of telling a story in a thematic group meeting, though as Steve Denning used to say, it depends on whether the story involves a highway engineer and a pavement tester.) Muffy favored my moving to a Global Products Group, having heard from Sergio at a WBVS Botox party that IFC's reputation for

"work-life balance" was not just another figment of Peter's imagination. Eventually that much spin about "bankers' hours" betrays a certain laxness that has long marked IFC's views on who's a good investment officer, who's into controls, and who deserves to get their children's U.S. university fees paid by becoming a Country Director. Not to mention writing off those insider investments in Argentina. And there is a limited need, even there, for engineers who know the difference between pavement thickness and thick pavement. But I digress. With Pauline's largesse with HR's budget, a little more flexibility with flat-screen displays and broadband for our home system would be in order if she really wanted to keep us all in Washington more weekends.

These days, of course, another option would be MNA. Speaking of confusion, I have finally mastered PassKey, ISG's new way of keeping our secrets safe. I was stunned to find it opens our new Range Rover (purchased with my Past Pension Credit hardship loan) and disables the standard Breath-o-lyzer lockout (must congratulate Mohamed). I selected an apt Greek phrase that I recalled as having been uttered by Lot when his wife turned into a pillar of salt when she looked back at Sodom. It came to mind because that's what Jean-Louis, ever a scholar, had said when we last had dinner at Steen's. We'd left the SUV home, since the latest goal among ESSD managers is to increase VPU fleet fuel efficiency to 9 mpg as part of the "What Would Ian Drive?" promotion for Environment Week. Muffy recounted Richard's talk at the interval during the WBVS trip to *The Vagina Monologues* about why it's important to count the Viagra. (Just six per month? No wonder divorce is up!) To enter this word, you have to use the Shift and Alt keys, of course, but that's a *morceau de gâteau* if you don't trash the "News You Can Use" pamphlets ISG delivers desk-to-desk to keep their programmers' relatives legally in the U.S.

Muffy fortunately doesn't have to count my pills yet: the only ones I take are those Bernard prescribes so I can handle mission responsibilities and my day job when I'm away from HQ. Or when I worry that some disgruntled ED's Assistant will rant about diversity applying to smokers. Or that my girl will stop answering my phone or getting my coffee. Or that someone will steal my Aeron chair. Or that HR will discover all my 360° feedback came from the same IP address...

ESSD Fête

In celebration of ESSD Week, join Ian Johnson and his management team for lunch! Sodexo executive chef Ortolon Mitterand has been working for weeks on the unique menu, which includes personal recipes from Kristalina Georgieva and the ENV management team's own kitchens, served with hand-carved ivory flatware courtesy of Lars Vidaeus!

Soup

Fox Shark's Fin Broth with California Redwood Pulp
Shell-roasted Sea Turtle Bisque with Monitor Lizard Quenelles

Appetizers and Salads

Ivory-billed Woodpecker Pâté
Tailed Frog's Legs with Ginseng Shavings
Bahia Worm Lizard Newburg
Devilled Boreal Owl Eggs
Stirfry of Yangtze Dolphin with Portabella Mushrooms
Brazilian Rainforest Bark Garnished with Nepalese Magnolia Flowers

Entrees (served with Peruvian Heritage potatoes)

Braised Andorran Horseshoe Bat Stuffed with Baby Dorian Hedgehog Purée
Rump of Baby Giant Panda
Surf 'n Turf: Javan Rhino Sirloin with Fillet of Chilean Narwhal
Rack of Mongolian Snow Leopard Ribs (for two, allow 25 minutes to prepare)
Soufflé of Azure Tit Eggs (non-vegan)

Dessert Tray

Philippine Ginger Lily Sorbet
Fromage de Great White Whale

And don't forget our McNamara Fund raffle! For just \$50 per ticket, you may win a 2003 Hummer, shown here on virgin Siberian tundra!



Photo courtesy J.P. Lacombe, CPMPM

Today on B-SPAN

5:10 a.m. *I, Shengman* (Episode 3,458). Work-Life Balance week is marred as an RVP crossing 19th Street is hit by a Metrobus while answering e-mail on his BlackBerry.

7 a.m. *Good Morning, Washington*. Xian Zhu with news, traffic and weather for the Washington Country Office via nightstand-top video® from Sydney.

8 a.m. *Charmed*. Country Directors share the secrets of their success. Today: how to avoid decentralization until your kid gets in to Harvard.

9:15 a.m. *Fear Factor*. TTLs compete for extra budget by explaining which safeguards could be invoked and which could be avoided. Basil Kavalsky facilitates.

10 a.m. *Live! With Jeffrey and Mamphele*. Topic: are risks managed or eliminated? Guests include Graham Joscelyne, Jo Ritzen and Manolo Conthe.

11 a.m. *Just Shoot Me!* Live coverage of CRM's bi-weekly meetings with the CAOs.

12 noon. *I, Shengman* (Episode 3,459). The MD brings the President a list of VPs reporting to him that are to be put into receivership. His colleagues ask if he has gone too far. Joanne Salop provides measurements.

1:30 p.m. *Joe Gazillionaire*. A JPA on his first mission is well-treated when clients mistake him for someone with decision-making authority.

2:15 p.m. *The Practice*. ACS staff at their daughters' after-school soccer game are confronted by their bosses' wives. A telecommuting level GC escapes to Target during the melee.

3 p.m. *Everyone Loves Roger*. The 247 VPs, Directors and other staff whose online "interviews" appeared in Today host a bash for ghostwriter Roger Morier.

3:30 p.m. *The Young and the Restless*. JPAs explain the rigorous interview process to apply for a job.

4 p.m. *Kathy!* Join Kathy as she interviews recently retired VPs about life after a named parking space.

5 p.m. *Wheel of Fortune*. Survivors of TQC "real-time" compliance checks share tips and compare injuries.

6 p.m. *Early Evening News*. Live from Almaty, Denis de Tray wraps up today's events and traffic.

9 p.m. *Six Feet Under*. Proposals for Board reform.

10 p.m. *Without a Trace*. Roving TTLs supervise GEF Medium-sized Projects.

11:30 p.m. *I, Shengman* (Episode 3,460). The MD takes questions from a live audience about missing babies and bath water following simplifications of procurement and financial management rules. Joanne Salop holds the roving mike. DTTI auditors cringe.

AROUND THE WORLD BANK

The Board of Directors announced today that the Office of the President will be offshored to India. Implementation will begin immediately, and is expected to be completed by the start of FY04. Keeping with Bank policy, EXC's staff of 18 will be declared redundant. Indian consulting conglomerate Satyam has been retained to provide all EXC functions, and its dedicated staff will be co-located with ACT operations in Chennai. World Bank President Jim Wolfensohn released a statement in which he indicated that his decision to accept a redundancy package would stand as "my presidency's greatest contribution to the cause of international development."

HRSVP Kathy Sierra and CIO Mohamed Muhsin today issued a joint apology for the chaos caused when ISG's Lotus Notes SPAM filter blocked all network traffic during the annual OPE exercise. The filter compares the text of a message with a dictionary of suspect words, assigning point values and rejecting the e-mail if a point limit is reached. Since the word "exceptional" is on the list, all OPE submissions were categorically rejected. Submissions by staff for 360-degree reviews of their managers were also blocked by matching other words on the suspect list. Reached while watching the India-Sri Lanka World Cup Cricket match on Frannie Leautier's plasma screen, Muhsin assured *Bank Swirled* the filter would remain off until the OPEs and 360-degree exercises were completed in ISG. In a related announcement, ISG announced that it is deleting e-mail accounts for the following staff: Benedictus Kwame Atitsogbui, Peter Bocock, Jennifer Cockburn, Tsuyoshi Fukui, Keith Grocock, Lucy Hancock, Blanca Miyashita, Tsuyoshi Morashita, Daniel Pincock, Joseph Louis Mark Shitundu, John Titsworth, Michael Woolcock and Satoshi Yoshitake.

The Staff Association today threw its full support behind the Administrative Tribunal case of Richard Skolnik. Skolnik, a U.S. national and former HD Sector Director for South Asia, was denied the final third of his separation grant by Benefits when a routine audit discovered that he was resettling to a Vie de France restaurant in Reston and not to Paris.

HSD today announced a corporate initiative to address the unexplained high incidence of hypertension and heart disease among senior Bank management. Effective immediately, all blood pressure monitoring machines on MC-13 will be recalibrated to register readings at 75 percent of the actual measurement.

Bank Swirled proudly announces the winners of the first-ever BS Spot Awards, a new program designed to increase incentives for productivity and efficiency in the workplace. After careful review of all Bank Group e-mail and Intranet postings over the last year, the winners are No Name Available and Anonymous, two staff members with a large number of diverse opinions relating to the Bank's work/life agenda, shelter-in-place drills, cafeteria menu items and the HR Vice Presidency, and an apparently unlimited amount of time to surf the Intranet.

HR Diversity Director Julie Oyegun resigned today amid widespread complaints that her department's logo omitted left-handed Inuit with auburn hair. Oyegun had valiantly defended the logo, stating that DEC econometricians and TROPA actuaries had both confirmed to her that bisecting a circle into more than nine areas for caricatures threatened branding and readability. Nonetheless, a dissenting coalition, angry at exclusion from the logo, gained momentum, culminating with a mass e-mail attack from Bank Group agnostic females with hyperactive pituitary glands and hemorrhoids. Oyegun could not be reached for comment.



NEW DENTAL SERVICE

Another quality innovation from HSD, where Work and Life are so well balanced, they cancel each other out!

Imagine the convenience of quality dentistry only steps away from your desk! That's right - HSD's new On-site Dental Service turns your car into a *dentist's office*! Relax in the comfort of your luxury sedan or SUV as one of our roaming level GG dentists painlessly scrapes away plaque, drills cavities, or performs delicate root canals. At last - good oral hygiene is as close as your in-house parking garage space!

Where is the service available and how do I access it?

All Bank-owned parking garages will participate in the plan. Just sit in your car during core business hours and turn on the hazard lights.

Is anesthesia available?

You should always have your Joint/Bank Fund Health Services Pain Management Kit with you when you receive this service. If you experience pain, open the kit, remove the Joint Bank/Fund Health Services Department Pain Alleviation Device, and bite down hard on it. If you do not have a Joint Bank/Fund Health Services Pain Alleviation Device, use a nail. Conversely, if you ever need a nail, you can use your Joint Bank/Fund Health Services Department Pain Alleviation Device.

How much does the service cost?

You pay only your MIP office visit copayment of \$10 (Option C), \$15 (Option A) or \$20 (Option B). P-cards accepted (sorry, no Diners Club). IMPORTANT NOTE: Starting in FY04, only care provided in Bank-owned parking garages will be covered. Procedures performed in dentist's offices, health clinics, hospitals or "out-of-network" parking spaces will not be covered.

Are there plans to expand the service?

Absolutely! In-vehicle health care services planned for FY04 include prostate exams (requires rear-view mirror), mammography (requires minivan with sliding door), wart removal (requires cigarette lighter), vasectomies (requires power windows), amputation (requires hatch-back), colon therapy (requires trailer hitch), infertility treatment (requires back seat and pre-authorization from the Ethics Office; JPAs receive priority scheduling), and artificial insemination (requires high-pressure, variable-speed windshield washers with "intermittent" setting).

The Joint Bank/Fund Health Services Department reminds you to stay healthy and change your oil every 3,000 miles.

Partnership Web Template Introduced

To support the growing number of external partnerships, ISG and EXT have created a web template that can instantly generate partnership press releases, web sites and custom partnership logos.

“This should further reduce the amount of effort required by Bank Group staff to create impressive yet fundamentally fruitless and potentially embarrassing external partnerships,” according to Joan Hubbard, WBI’s Senior Partnership Specialist.

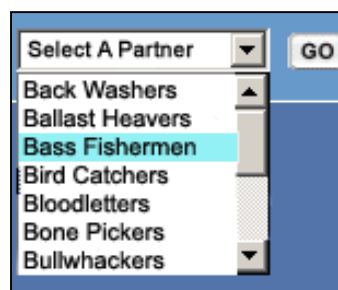
The template is located on the Vice President’s Portal. Partner-hungry senior managers need only select the proper category from the drop-down partner constituency list. The creation of the press release, web site and logo is then automatic. (See example below.)

SAMPLE PARTNERSHIP PRESS RELEASE

Embargoed until April 1, 2003:

World Bank Announces New “World Bank and Bass Fishermen – Partnership For Development.”

The new partnership between the World Bank and **bass fishermen** is recognition that “**bass** will play a key role in the global development strategies of the future,” said official Bank spokesperson Carolyn Anstey today.



As much as any group, **bass fishermen** have a stake in the development of emerging economies. The unique insight of **bass** can influence the way the World Bank Group addresses crucial issues such as:

- Gender equality in **bass**
- The environmental impact of **bass**
- Effects of **bass** on global warming
- AIDS and **bass**

“**Bass** must have a place at the table in discussing these important issues, and the World Bank will be the bridge that will make this happen,” said Anstey. “While the Bank Group can provide a global forum for **bass fishermen** and their views, it is ultimately up to the **bass** themselves, through their own leadership, to fulfill the promise that **bass** can bring to the cause of global development.”

For more information about the
World Bank/**Bass Fishermen**
Partnership for Development:
www.worldbank.org/bassfishermen



SPOUSE/PARTNER-TO-WORK DAY PLANNED

Mark your calendars for May 8, the first annual Bring Your Spouse/ Partner to Work Day, during this spring's first-ever Work/Life Balance Week. At a morning press conference in the Preston Auditorium, Work-Life Balance manager Pauline Ramprasad announced details of the festivities. An elaborate program, underwritten by Sodexho, Dell Computers and the American Service Center Mercedes dealership, is being finalized, and a special trust fund has been established with kickbacks from the Bank Group's corporate airline program. The thrust of the Week is working and learning together to resolve individual and unit work-life balance issues that benefit the institution in stronger commitment, higher staff productivity and better morale.

"We'll begin the day," Ramprasad stated, "with a videoconference with spouses and partners in each East Asia Country Office (who have agreed to stay until midnight to participate) to share tips on how to balance family responsibilities with the pressures of eliminating poverty."

The afternoon reception has been carefully planned. "We'll circulate lists and seating locations of the spouses/partners who've signed up so that staff can minimize the risk of jealous spats between their regular mission colleagues, their spouses, their partners, and their colleagues' spouses or partners." Party hats are a must. "We know that many spouses and partners will be delighted to take a day off from the Fund, their law firms or their neonatal surgery hospital rounds to join in."

In IFC, HR VP Dorothy Berry is hosting a pizza lunch in the F-cafeteria with a cash bar. Other events at the F-building include a special raffle of barely-used 21" Dell monitors, and admission for the whole family to IFC's spectacular July 4 rooftop fireworks party.

"Bring Your Spouse/Partner to Work Day gives us an opportunity for our spouses and partners to enjoy a day with us in the Bank Group's environment and hopefully better appreciate the work that we do in the service of our clients," said Ramprasad. Accordingly, the keynote speaker, HRSVP Kathy Sierra, will explain why important decisions involving last minute, tight deadline work are always made at 5 p.m., why staff must leave on Thursday for missions that start on Monday, why missions to different countries should always be combined to save money for our struggling clients, why Benefits never makes any spouse travel exceptions, and why the Bank Group's travel policy allows staff to call home while traveling, but only for 47 seconds per day.

"Friday's Grand Finale will be particularly exciting," Ramprasad concluded. "We'll hold a Q&A session with World Bank President Jim Wolfensohn starting at 9 p.m. Attendance is mandatory for ACS staff and their spouses/partners, as well as those scheduled for AWS and annual leave that day. We want to keep the Q&A session comfortable and informal. Men are encouraged to loosen their ties."

Security will be tight. All spouses/partners must obtain a special visitor's badge in person, and arrive no later than 6 a.m. to avoid congestion during core business hours. Those whose spouses/partners work with the South Asia or East Asia regions should bring a sleeping bag and dental floss. Please note that we will admit only one spouse or partner per staff member. Short-term consultants may not participate, with the exception of Bank retirees working in QAG. Sorry, no pets, even if you consider it your spouse.

SHELTER-IN-PLACE SNAFU UNCOVERED

A GSD spokesman confirmed today that delays in implementing the Bank Group's shelter-in-place exercises were due to an internal examination of procedures following the discovery of an ACT unit that had been left "in-place" from an earlier unannounced exercise in October 2002.

Though suffering from mild malnutrition and associated conditions as a result of poor hygiene, the five staffers, including the unit chief, were in relatively good condition upon discovery. "We figured it was part of the test. Plus, if we emerged, Chuck would have offshored us to Chennai. We just thought it was an endurance thing."

During the "drill," the staff sustained themselves on bottled water, the convenience of a single restroom in their work area, and a supply of foodstuffs in the unit refrigerator. "Luckily, we'd had a birthday party the day before. With some careful planning, we were able to make the cheddar cheese platter stretch the entire period. Our EA even made some tasty hors d'oeuvres while we were here."

GSD's spokesman refused to take questions after the announcement. However, confidential sources in GSD (thanks, Luis!) and EXC (thanks, Jane!) confirmed that Peter Gallant was on mission during the time of the first drill and was not copied on the note from Margarita Bellinger confirming the end of the test.

In a telephone interview, Pauline Ramprasad (working from home on her AWS day) said, "I think it's wonderful that Bank staff show such tenacity. But a shelter-in-place drill at home would certainly improve the work/life balance. Please participate in our next survey and monitor our discussion databases. Thank you."



ISG
Information
Solutions
Group

*Purveyors of
Fine Executive Jewelry
Since 1996*

From the Desk of Bob Watson, Chief Scientist

Imagine...

A mass of frozen rock crashes into Earth. A raging firestorm hurls boiling sea water and red-hot lava thousands of kilometers in all directions, creating a doomsday shroud which covers the entire planet. All life ends in misery and suffering. But it is those who live in emerging economies who are the most adversely affected.

The World Bank and Asteroids

When a giant asteroid strikes Earth, the impact is both physical and economic. According to a report published today by the World Bank Institute, the number of economically devastating asteroids traveling through space is twice as great as previously believed. And with this possibility of mass extinction, the development community must plan accordingly.

“Improper incentives at the end of the world could exacerbate social, political, and economic conditions in emerging economies,” says Dr. Fernando Ejecta, WBI’s astro-economist. “The need to develop a regulatory framework for post-apocalyptic intervention is pressing.” The impact of a sizeable asteroid would influence commodity prices and exchange rates on a planetary scale and reduce economic growth in the approximately 60 days post-impact during which life on Earth ends. “This is not a North-South issue. It’s an Up-Down issue,” says Ejecta.



An Economic Approach

“While it’s probably too late for the World Bank to reform the regulatory inefficiencies that created the surplus asteroids,” says Ejecta, “we can now limit the economic effect of them striking the Earth to ending all life as we know it.” WBI Distance Learning experts want to implement a global framework of high tariffs on all incoming asteroids over 0.45 kilometers in diameter. “This will create an economic disincentive that will ensure extinction events favor areas with higher absorptive capacity for cataclysms, such as the Office of the ISGVP.”

WBI anticipates stiff opposition from the IMF, which favors trade liberalization and the elimination of all tariffs that could impede the free flow of asteroids. “Those who are concerned with total planetary destruction may favor tariffs,” said IMF Managing Director Horst Köhler, “but we know better. We have 50 years of success backing us up, and we fly first class.” Ejecta rejects such notions, asserting that “the IMF, as usual, thinks too narrowly. They can’t even agree on regional reforms, and their cafeteria is highly overrated.”

A Lesson From the Past

In the late Jurassic Period, this same debate raged between plant-eating sauropods – who favored high asteroid tariffs – and meat-eating theropods – who favored trade liberalization. Ultimately, the theropods prevailed, thriving on their fellow sauropods for eons, until one dark day the skies parted and the “trade bubble” burst. In a classic example of the perils of favoring short-term economic gain over the long-term view, Earth did not recover for over 100 million years.

“We must learn from the past,” says Ejecta. “If the dinosaurs had not blindly followed the dogma of free trade, imagine what they might have accomplished by now?” World Bank President Jim Wolfensohn agrees. “This initiative is mission-critical and the Bank’s top priority.”

Asteroid Week is scheduled for May 2-7 in the MC Atrium and will be co-sponsored by WBI and NASA.

Answer Line

The purpose of this column is twofold: a) it propagates Bank Group policy as if it were friendly advice from Dear Abby, and 2) it provides a forum for disgruntled staff members to share their warped paranoia with the rest of us. Please include your name and UPI number so that we can enter a permanent record of your insolent ignorance in your personnel file and notify your manager(s) of your attitude. All Answer Line columns should be filed under Catch-22 of your Staff Manual (available on Lotus Notes) and committed to memory. You will be tested later, and believe us when we tell you that we've raised the bar.

Question: During the shelter-in-place drills last month, the public address announcements were muffled and unintelligible in parts of the MC. I couldn't understand anything that was being said. Will this be addressed?

Answer: Grolph mumph vrensilph schrilph traglshtrith. *Peter Gallant, Manager, GSD Security.*

Question: I noticed the Staff Association newsletter now runs Answer Line, providing management a chance to spin and spew forth its propaganda. By running this column, doesn't the Staff Association allow itself to be co-opted?

Answer: Jim and the MDs assure me that your concerns are unwarranted. *John Alvey, Chair, Staff Association.*

Question: What happens if a staff member happens to be outdoors when a real shelter-in-place policy goes into effect? I am at Starbucks most of the day.

Answer: In the event of a real shelter-in-place emergency, displaced staff at level GH or above should go to that secret entrance we told you about during the principals-only meeting on March 7 in the Preston Auditorium. Sorry, but otherwise we can't help. *Peter Gallant, Manager, GSD Security.*



GSD Announces the Winner of the New Household Goods Shipment Contract

Now Playing at the World Bank Gigaplex

Adaptation. A newly-appointed, schizophrenic sector manager worries about whether to manage his budget or his staff, decides to do neither, but goes to lots of Sector Board meetings.

Daredevil. A rogue TTL figures out how to use CTFs to pay for his graduate students, second cousins and G-5 nanny.

Bowling for Chennai. Five times the productivity at one-fifth the price.

Catch Me If You Can. Having escaped a full-scale investigation, the nearly-cornered VP pursues the disloyal among his staff and continues to fund just about anything, using clever accounting ruses.

'Til Human Voices Wake Us (documentary). The Staff Association Delegate Assembly's epic struggle for diplomatic line privileges at Dulles.

The Hours. Docudrama about the web-based TRS and why doing your weekly timesheet once a month on the web is more efficient and more accurate than doing it daily using Notes.

Trust-Fund Proof Fence. Separated from their off-budget funding, three PSI managers trek to the capitals of Europe to plead for more.

Gangs of Bangalore. How the origins of ISG led to its violent and lawless nature today.

Tears of the Son. A rejected YP candidate struggles to apply again, but is foiled when the Assessment Center games change and the technical interviewers remember he was unable to name the past Vice Presidents of HDN and their dates of appointment.

Jim, the Bureaucrat Slayer. Will 24 seemingly benign rivals who can't agree on anything prove to be a match for our wily superhero?

Far From Heaven. A new sector manager finds out why the big office and the person to get coffee and answer the phone are just about all one gets from moving sideways at level GH.

Nine Queens (documentary). A wild weekend at GLOBE's Rehoboth Beach house. Troy looks for love, or something like it, at the Blue Moon happy hour while Kyle falls asleep on the tanning bed.

The Cellist. Special IMAX Midnight Screening! The brilliant, moving director's cut of James D. Wolfensohn's tenure at the World Bank.

BRANDING THE BANK

As a public service to staff, *Bank Swirled* reporters spent a day with EXT imagemakers to try to understand how the Bank Group shapes its message through branding. The topic was a forthcoming visit to Washington by the Australian Minister of Foreign Affairs for high-level talks concerning a proposed partnership between AusAID and the World Bank on two water projects in East Timor. By 9:15 a.m., EXT staff had created the first version of the logo (right), and scheduled a mid-morning meeting with senior decision-makers for discussion and feedback.



The meeting was a disaster. Most participants felt the Bank logo dominated the AusAID logo, and the entire idea lacked emotional impact. Working feverishly through lunch, by 1:45 p.m. EXT designers created a new version (left), which replaced the AusAID logo with the most recognizable symbol of Australia — the kangaroo — striking a pose that suggests it is both “engaged” and “ready to partner.” This version satisfied both the WBI and ENV participants.



However, this interim product did not even survive the internal review. By 2:45 p.m., EXT had returned the official AusAID seal to the brand, balancing the symbols to convey the complex interplay of development. Following a focus group review by 250 randomly-selected staff, EXT designers changed the kangaroo’s orientation and expression to invoke feelings of concern for the environment (right). At 4 p.m., senior management reconvened for a final review of the latest version.



This session was quick and decisive. Based on inputs from all parties, the final product was agreed upon, and then cleared by two Managing Directors and the General Counsel. The logo, which was widely triumphed as a “best practice” example of process, content and branding, is reprinted below:



AusAID to Captain Kangaroo: “If you waste even one drop of water, I’ll cut off your testicles and feed them to a dingo.”

OPCS wants to relieve the pressure that’s been building up within you. So we erected the “Beating Off Bureaucracy” web site to enlarge your role. And it has grown so big already that the load is getting hard to handle. We hear it’s the only thing on the agenda at Corporate Day!

So why not give in to the urge to submit? If you do, we promise to keep the intercourse going throughout the entire fiscal year. And we promise we’ll be very responsive. We’ll even sanitize everything afterward (for your protection).

So, please start “Beating Off Bureaucracy” right away. You won’t believe the relief a web site can bring! And if you’re still not satisfied, visit the Staff Survey Follow Up site for more of the same.

Remember: the answer to all your World Bank Group frustrations is in your hands!



www.opcs.worldbank.org/relief

IFC SECURITY UPDATE

IFC Facilities Manager Geoff Willing today announced installation of additional ID card scanners in the F-building to further safeguard all Corporation staff and visitors. To better track staff location in the event of an emergency, existing entry and exit devices will be augmented with additional scanners at every F-building elevator, stairway, restroom stall, cafeteria station, water fountain and window shade pull.

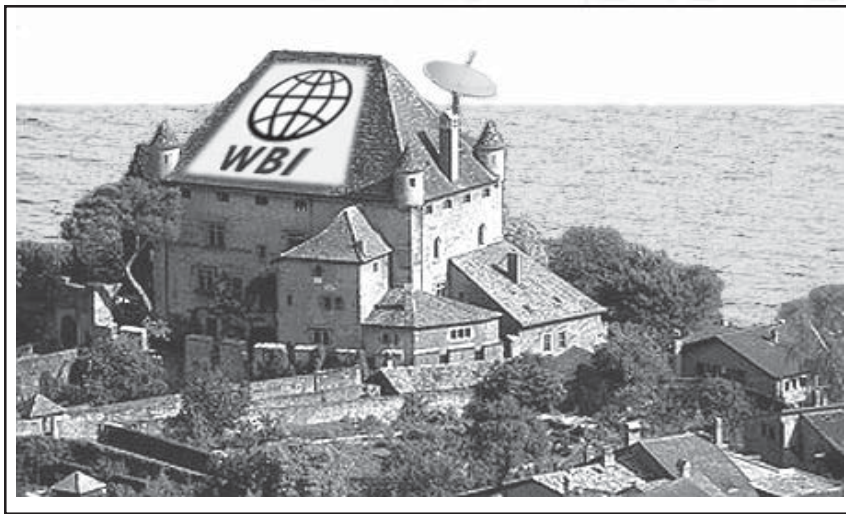
“We’ll do most of the work on weekends in order to minimize the inconvenience,” Willing told staff via broadcast e-mail, desk-to-desk bulletin, loudspeaker announcement, broadcast voice-mail message and posters. “You should expect next-generation palm print and retinal scanning in the near future, and we are hiring additional security so that each staff will have his own GPS-tracked personal guard.”

Asked why a higher level of security exists in the F-building compared to other Bank Group buildings, Willing looked down from his throne constructed of duct tape, plastic sheeting, blankets, gas masks, nonperishable food items, chemical toilets and water bottles, sniffed, and said, “If my mates over in GSD Security are asleep at the switch, it’s their funeral. You haven’t seen any protesters marauding through our halls, have you?” When reached for comment, GSD Security Chief Peter Gallant turned a bright crimson, put his fist through the wall and immediately left on mission to The Exchange on G Street NW.

LE KNOWLEDGE CHÂTEAU

The only poverty-reduction strategy better than distance learning is distance learning with a cool Mediterranean breeze, according to a recent client survey sponsored by the World Bank Institute. *Bank Swirled* has subsequently learned that WBI managers acted decisively on these results, and will inaugurate Le Knowledge Château in Marseille, France, later this year.

Reached on vacation at her villa near Aix, WBI Vice President Frannie Leautier could barely contain her excitement. "Our 15th century facility will be completely state-of-the-art and outfitted with a slave-tracking 10-meter S-band dish antenna with a gain of 45.0 operating at 2100 mHz with RHC/LHC polarization. We have a sweep range of 250 kHz, a slew range of 0 to 17 degrees, a receive dynamic range of 130 dB, a frequency resolution of 50 kHz and a zenith G/T of 21.5 dB/K!"



WBI was not the only group excited about the new facility. Jean-Claude Gaudin, Maire de Marseille, nearly burst with pride at the rôle his city will play in global development. "Marseille is *très* happy to partner with *la Banque Mondiale* in this *entreprise*. We have much to offer, including a Michelin 3-étoile restaurant, a Tunisian consulate and three 4-étoile hotels. Our 1,100-meter *piste d'aéroport* is suitable for most turboprops, and we have zero vols each jour from *les Etats-Unis*. Of course, we do have *la belle mer*, which you won't find in Barcelona!"

The rest of the WBI management team was unavailable for comment, though a polite Team Assistant on her AWS day informed *Bank Swirled* that most WBI staff were at the *hypermarché*, stocking up on baguettes and *lotion de bronzage*.

BEAT BUREAUCRACY

OPCS Vice President Jim Adams today announced the winner of the "Beat Bureaucracy" contest launched last December to solicit ideas that simplify operational policies and procedures and lighten the bureaucratic burden on staff. The winner is Ivan Vokovitch, a Moscow-based level GA driver, whose suggestion to "eliminate all HR staff — permanently" resonated with most senior managers. Vokovitch graciously accepted the \$30,000 prize, vowing to invest it in "some of those high-return Trust Funds everyone talks about when I drive them from the airport to the hotel."

The proposal was not without controversy. HR Vice President Kathy Sierra initiated a valiant fight to save her department from the chopping block, emphasizing HR's "pivotal role in the Bank's strategic agenda." Unfortunately, most of her message was lost because the recipient Vice Presidents were overwhelmed with completing thousands of OPEs at the time of Sierra's transmission. Desperate, Sierra argued that "permanent elimination" would drastically increase the Bank's accidental death insurance liability, and "no one in HR would be alive to process the claims." This follow-up message was also ignored.

Only Pension Administration and ACT Travel and Receivables appeared allied with Sierra. However, gauging the political wind, each quickly abandoned support. At a noon press conference, Pension claimed that "upon further review by Buck Associates and Alan Siff, we've concluded that HR is not mentioned in the Staff Retirement Plan document," while a Chennai-based ACTRT spokesperson noted "we already administer home leave."

The mood in HR was upbeat, even after confirmation of the Vice Presidency's demise from Xavier Coll. "We've been accused of not being strategic and being too transactional before," said HR spin doctor Gerry Rice as he methodically entered his LARS records since July 2000. "It may be a new set of faces when it happens, but HR will be back at the Corporate Day buffet in no time!"

STAFF ANNOUNCEMENT

HR Operations Director Ann Rennie today denied that the selection committee for the Bank's new Ethics Officer was hopelessly deadlocked, claiming that "the committee has merely reached a sensitive stage of its work and is culling a short list from a large group of highly-qualified candidates." *Bank Swirled* has obtained a copy of the secret list of individuals under consideration (thanks, Paula!):

- Martha Stewart, media owner, celebrity entertainment guru and noted private biotech investor
- The "other" Ken Lay (from Enron)
- Pete Rose, former professional baseball player
- Henry Blodgett, former Merrill Lynch analyst
- Hon. Trent Lott (R-Miss.), Chairman, Senate Rules Committee and in-demand keynote speaker
- Suzy Wetlaufer, former Editor, Harvard Business Review (highly recommended by Jack Welch, former Chairman and CEO, GE)
- Jack Welch, former Chairman and CEO, GE (highly recommended by Suzy Wetlaufer, former Editor, Harvard Business Review)
- Marc Rich, international investor, arms merchant and recipient of a Presidential pardon, Zug, Switzerland
- Leona Helmsley, innkeeper, New York

Rennie confirmed that the successful applicant would receive the standard Ethics Office seven-month term appointment. Pauline Ramprasad confirmed that the appointment term would be aligned with the Bank Group's work-life balance efforts, as the lack of home leave would be mitigated by the fact that most of the candidates are members of NetJets.