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YOUR WORLD IN PICTURES

AN AMERICAN **GIRL IN LEBANON SALTON SEA: IF HELL HAD WATER** THE BEAUTY IN **GEOMETRY EXPOSED** 

# STAGE **FRONT ROW PHOTOS**

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### 52 Democracy

Explore worldwide democracy: from communities to campaigns, protests to propaganda, and finally the struggle of new democracies

## **46** On Assignment

A trip back in time with a former "Time" magazine reporter

Sei D

## 74 Life in the Bateys

Haitians find new lives in the sugarcane towns of the Dominican Republic



**10 If Hell Had Water** Jeff Bandy Explores the Salton Sea

**12 From Grit to Gourmet** Kevin Kelley Makes Wine for a Living

**16 Ballouneh, Lebanon** Shannon Dagher in a War-Torn Country

**18 The Smallest Traceur** Ben Anderson and the Parkour Kids

> 106 Shoot Some Pool Sharyn Jones' Chlorinated Obsessior

Issue 18 features themes On Stage, Democracy, & Geometry.

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## CONTENTS

**100 Guess What?** Identify These Mystery Photos!

**102 Items We Carry** Naz Hamid's Personal Essentials

**104 Book Report** Cassandra Fogal's Review of "Gonzo"

**105 Your Next Toy Camera** Kristal Armendariz's Vivitar





### IF HELL HAD WATER Г Л Ц Ј

Jeff Bandy visits California's largest and most desolate lake. JPGMAG.COM/PEOPLE/SAMDIEGO

The biggest lake in California cascaded into existence when a poorly built levee broke along the Colorado River. The result: a flood of Biblical proportions that submerged every home in its path, and filled the Salton Sea, 227 feet below sea level.

The Salton Basin was a prehistoric seabed located in Southern California. During the mid 1800s the Salton Basin was home to several small farms, homesteads, and communities. When the levee broke in 1905 the river spilled nearly its entire

flow into the desert. The flood carved a channel for several miles across the desert floor and came to rest at one of the lowest points on the continent, with a 400-square-mile radius under more than 7 million acre-feet of water. Some of the flow continued even farther south, creating sulfur wetlands that stretch on for miles.

From the 1920s to the 1970s tourists enjoyed the saline lake, and it garnered a reputation as a popular recreational destination. As a result, towns and resorts sprang up and flourished along its nearly 115 miles of shoreline. In 1976 a tropical storm flooded the lake submerging much of the development, beachfront trailerparks, and businesses, and left in its wake a surreal landscape of half-buried buildings and telephone poles.

Today the Salton Sea is a stagnant remnant of its former self. Surrounded by salt-encrusted and half-buried structures, it's a reminder of failed business ventures and poor public planning. Its main tributary, the New River, which flows from northern Mexico, is fraught with raw sewage and industrial waste. The bacteria from this flow has curtailed the fish population, leaving rings of their little cadavers along its shores. Still, many bird and marine species thrive in these rare, saline wetlands. Even

## Experience the Salton Sea area & other wild sightings.

some humans remain, despite the area's many setbacks.

During my most memorable trip to the Salton Sea in July 2007, the temperature along the shores of the once popular resort town, Bombay Beach, reached 115 degrees Fahrenheit at 90 percent humidity. Being 227 feet below sea level, the air was hot and fouled with the stench of rotting fish lining the shores. The flies were so thick that every time I opened the car door, even for a second, a dozen would swarm in. The extreme heat and humidity made my cameras slippery and difficult to operate. The perspiration covering my face, hair, and hands made it difficult to grab and hold onto anything and look through a viewfinder without getting the camera wet. Stepping outside of the air-conditioned car for more than minutes was impossible. Strangely enough, I can't wait to go back. 📠





## **BALLOUNEH, LEBANON**

Shannon Dagher talks about her life in a war-torn country. JPGMAG.COM/PEOPLE/SDAGHER

When Shannon Dagher first visited Lebanon in 2005, just a few months after former prime minister Rafik Hariri was assassinated in Beirut, she wasn't scared. After all, this was her husband's homeland. But even before marrying a native, Dagher had had some knowledge of the country thanks to her studies in cultural anthropology. That openness, undoubtedly, helped her develop the incredibly deep fondness she has for this country, despite the endless war, lack of a postal system, and woefully unreliable electricity. She longs to live permanently in Lebanon, but political unrest and an unstable economy makes it impossible. She explains why living in Lebanon is worth the sacrifice.

### What city do you live in? Which neighborhood?

My husband's family and I live in Ballouneh in Mount Lebanon. The town is situated perfectly between the Bay of Jounieh (on the Mediterranean Sea) and Faraya (Lebanon's popular skiing village).

### How would you describe your neighborhood?

Ballouneh is undergoing a period of change. It used to be more of a sleepy community; people lived there, but worked elsewhere. It was a lot smaller, but now it's growing rapidly. People love the mild weather, scenic views, peace and quiet, and close proximity to Beirut—but it also offers distance from Beirut's violence. More Beirutis are moving up the mountain, especially since the 2006 Israeli War.

### How long have you lived there, and what brought you there?

I first came in June 2005, after my "jaouzeh" ("husband" in Arabic) and I were married. That was the first time I got to meet most of my new family. In the United States, we live in Glendora, Calif., a foothill community in Los Angeles County with a large Middle-Eastern community. We try to spend winters and summers in Ballouneh when politics allow—but often the militant dissident groups in Lebanon tend to start fighting as summer begins, attempting to ruin the tourist season for their enemy, the Lebanese government.

### What are the best and worst aspects of this place? After a long, hot, noisy day spent driving around Beirut, return-

so cloopsing. The air gots so





### 01> BACKYARD

Our family's backvard in Ballouneh Lebanon Technically, we live in the first underground apartment, but all the bedrooms open to this back natio

## Learn about neighborhoods of the world in our Where I'm At section.

Regardless of raging war and a struggling government, life goes on. Nightclubs stay open, restaurants are packed every night, schools and government offices function even as bombs drop. If the Lebanese waited until things were perfectly stable, no one would ever go outside. People use discretion, though. Parents keep their kids out of school if there is "bad" fighting nearby, and eat in on nights like that.

### Do you feel that you belong there?

Yes and no. I immediately feel at home when we land in Beirut and I arrive at our house. I love the sights, sounds, and smells. It truly is my favorite place in the world. But it is hard to adjust to the constant stares. As a Caucasian woman, I have never experienced being "the odd one out." I realized early on that for many, I was the first white person, or American, they had seen in real life. I am very aware of that, and put a lot of effort into being polite, politically correct, and friendly. I smile a lot, so as not to appear rude or snooty. It can be very taxing, but it's worth it. Once I talk to them, most people are surprised to realize (as I did) that I am just like them.

### What's a common misconception about where you live?

The Middle East in general is misunderstood and shrouded in mystery to many Americans. Even some of my own family and friends are quite blown away that I travel to, live in, and embrace such a place. They think it's dangerous, with terrorists on every corner, you know, just hanging out. Most of my friends or acaintances all asked the same question "Aren't you scared??!!



### Rockers to Swallow

This photo was taken at the 2006 Coachella Music Festival in Indio, Calif. I'm a big fan of the Yeah Yeah Seahs, so I wanted to capture something unique that was a reflection of the band and their music. I decided to experiment and try something new. I used an inexpensive panoramic camera and a spot meter to set the exposure with color reversel film that was cross preserved during the developing.

By Todd M. Duym jpgmag.com/photos/86954

## Firebreathers to Flappers: meet the performers in our On Stage gallery.

ON STAGE Sponsored by



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# OnAssignment

Carey Winfrey, now editor of "Smithsonian" magazine, started his four decades as a journalist as a reporter for "Time" magazine. Here he shares his incredible collection of portraits of some of the most influential celebrities of the '60s and '70s.

IN 1968 I JOINED "TIME" MAGAZINE as a reporter in New York City, writing up long "files"—journalistic memos—from which the writers would craft their stories. At first, I reported for the "Press" section of "Time," which meant covering journalists like Gloria Steinem, who was then writing for the nascent "New York" magazine, and Jann Wenner, who had founded this scrappy little rock 'n' roll tabloid called "Rolling Stone." Although I was getting paid just to record their words, I often brought along a 35mm camera—I used a Nikon F in those days—and if things went well enough and there was time enough, I'd ask if I could snap a few photographs. Almost everyone said yes.



### **Jolly Journalists**

When "Esquire" assigned novelists William Burroughs, Terry Southern, and Jean Genet (pictured on right) to cover the 1968 Democratic Convention in Chicago, I was assigned to cover them at work and, more often, at play. The merry group was soon joined by Allen



A lesson in cultural history from the editor of "Smithsonian."



## Communities, campaigns, propaganda, protests & new democracies.

**BERLIN WALL** 

Demokratie By Ahmad Kamal Ab Fatah

### ADDRESSING AMERICAN DIVERSITY

Barack Obama speaks at a rally in Casper, Wyo., on March 7. He addressed topics ranging from student loans and gasoline prices to the war in Iraq and helping working class Americans. It was incredible being so close to because the energy and endow

## Our members' shots of the campaign trail.

## OBAMA BLAZES ON

Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama has drawn throngs of supporters on the first leg of his campaign trail. JPG members were there to witness these events.



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### 2. BOSTON BARACK FANS

Crowds gather for a rally at the Boston World Trade Center in Massachusetts to support Obama. **By Christopher Sanchez** jpgmag.com/photos/801659



## GALLERY

# Geometry

Geometry doesn't always have to be about math. It can mean minimalism, repetition, color, plants, architecture, and people. It's all about shapes and their arrangement.

Inside-Outside

I was at the annual 4th of July Coney Island Balloon Glow in Cincinnati. I was taking pictures of other balloons and came across this rainbow-colored balloon called Skittles. I asked the owner, Jim Storch, if I could take a picture, and he gave me one minute. This shot was taken inside the balloon, just before it was filled with hot air.

By Dennis Camp jpgmag.com/photos/77

# The beauty of Geometry revealed.



### The Essentials

TO KICK OFF OUR NEW FEATURE "ITEMS WE CARRY," WE ASKED DESIGNER NAZ HAMID TO SHOW US HIS PORTABLE NECESSITIES.

Check out Naz's items below and find out how he made the concept into a designgeek meme. Then go to jpgmag.com to share what you don't leave home without! IPGMAG.COM/PEOPLE/ABSENTER



It started with a photo. I like information graphics and laying things out piece by piece, a tendency that comes from a lifetime of disassembling and reassembling things. The habit goes back to my alltime favorite toy and one I believe every child should play with: Legos.

get hitched and I wanted to post a virtual "studio closed" sign. So I used a photo of the items I most often traveled with as the basis of the online notice, and I noticed the items were color-coordinated. Friends from San Francisco, Daniel "Diamond" Dent and Gareth Spor, encouraged me to start a Flickr pool, and The Items We Carry was born. It's a wonderful look at the things we believe we can't live without. It defines a period of time, and the objects change as time passes. տ

**01** Field notes **NOTEBOOK** (fieldnotesbrand.com) 02 Samsung CELL PHONE 03 Wedding RING 04 Middle finger RING 05 Staedtler Triplus Fineliner fiber tip PEN in "Carbon Grey" **06** Ben Sherman leather **WALLET** I've been using for 7+ years 07 IBM 64mb USB MEMORY DRIVE **08** Stock iPod shuffle **EARPHONES 09** Crank Brothers (the Apple of bike component manufacturers) MULTI TOOL for bicycles 10 Suunto T1 WATCH and HEART RATE MONITOR 11 Classic BUSINESS CARDS from my design studio Weightshift and Muji BUSINESS CARD HOLDER. 12 The best iPod ever, the IPOD SHUFFLE

13 My handy old CANON SD110 Powershot Elph



## A Graphic Look at "Gonzo"

A VISUAL BIOGRAPHY OF AMERICA'S WILDEST JOURNALIST By Cassandra Fogal JPGMAG.COM/PEOPLE/CASSIEBOU

## Real recommendations from our community.

### **BOOK REPORT**









LOCATION: Bordeaux, France.

I LOVE TO SHOOT: Deserted areas.

MY DAY JOB: Photographer, webmaster editor of GetThePicture photo collect

I LISTEN TO: These days: Jimmie Rodgers, Magna Antologia del Flamenco, some Mexican boleros and "Theme Time Radio Hour" with Bob Dylan on XM radio.

AST THING I SHOT The h

An interview with a standout member, and more!

# JPG

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18

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