



NGM.COM FEBRUARY 2011

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

UNDER PARIS

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Win the War
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to Sunken Ships 84

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Monkeys 126



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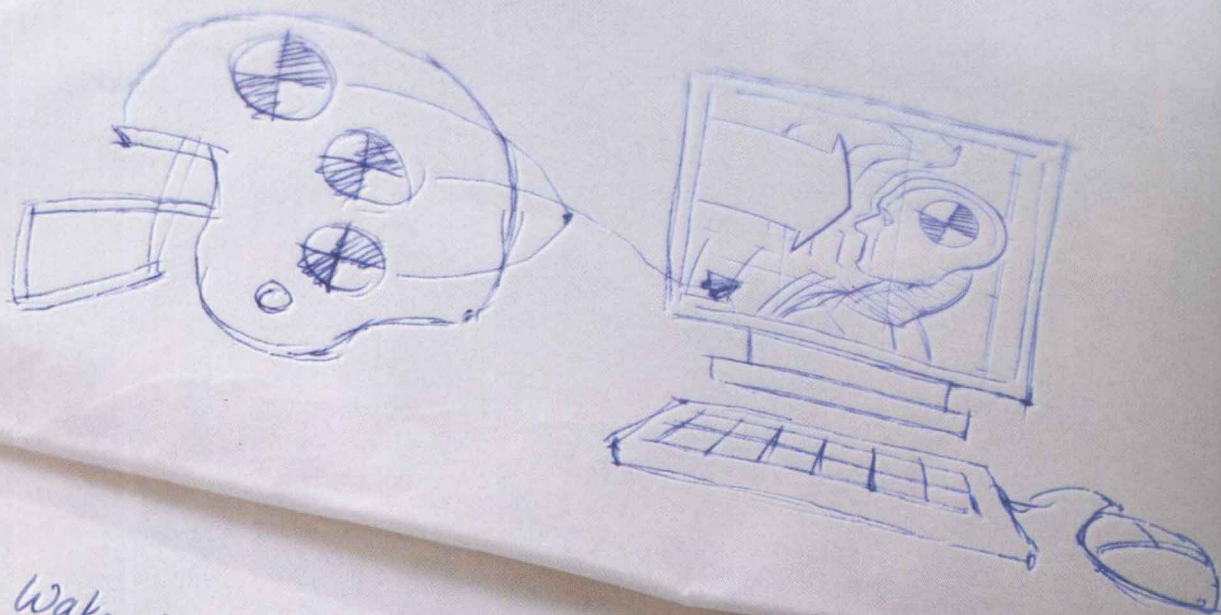
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Tana River Crested Mangabey (*Cercocebus galerritus*)

Size: Head and body length, 44 - 63 cm (17.3 - 24.8 inches); tail, 40 - 76 cm (15.7 - 29.9 inches)

Weight: 5.3 - 10.2 kg (11.7 - 22.5 lbs) **Habitat:** Gallery forest, Acacia woodland and dry forest along the lower part of Kenya's Tana River floodplain **Surviving number:** Estimated at 1,200



Photographed by Anup Shah

WILDLIFE AS CANON SEES IT

Trees, please. The Tana River crested mangabey needs trees, and it finds them in the sparse patches of gallery forest growing along the only river where it lives. The social monkey spends relatively little time up in the branches, but groups scour the forest floor for food that drops from or is sheltered by the trees. These mangabey groups consist of numerous females, their offspring and up to about six adult males. However, the trees on which their

precarious existence depends are falling fast due to timber extraction, agriculture, forest fires and changes to the flow of the river. As the forest disappears, can the mangabey be far behind?

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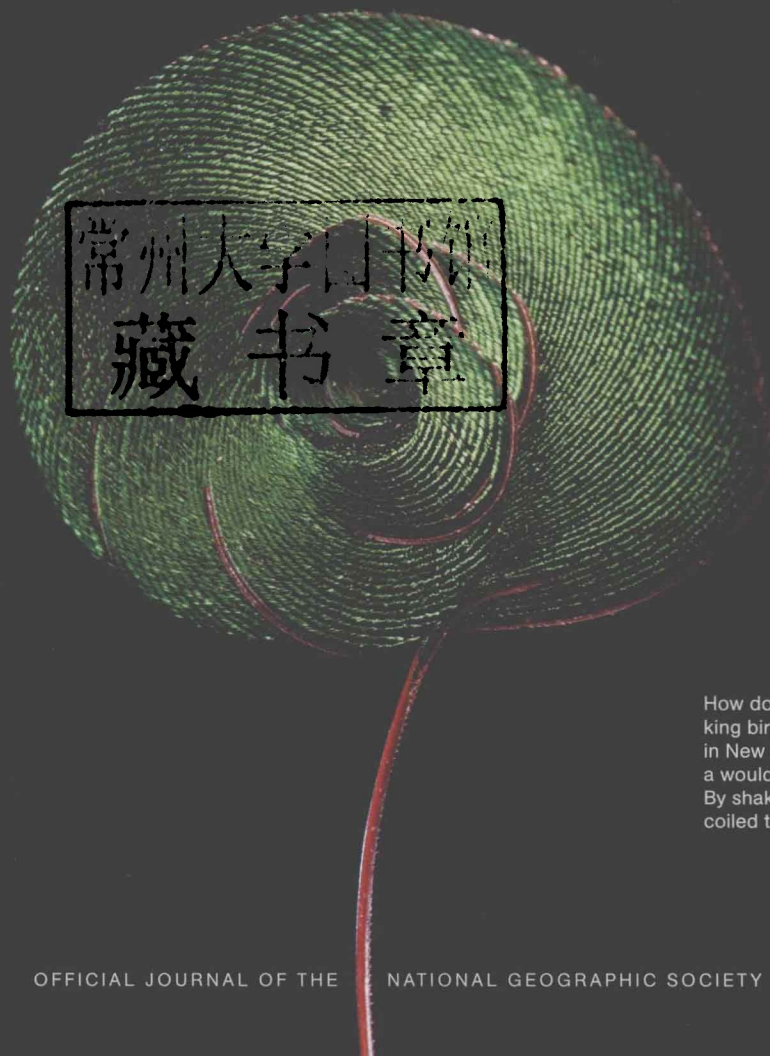


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NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

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By Carl Zimmer Photographs by Robert Clark Art by Xing Lida
- Opium Wars** 58 A key step toward Afghan peace is to wipe out poppies.
By Robert Draper Photographs by David Guttenfelder
- From Relics to Reefs** 84 Fish can't resist a sunken subway car, tank, or ship.
By Stephen Harrigan Photographs by David Doubilet
- Under Paris** 104 You'll find bones, stones, and legal—and illegal—tourism.
By Neil Shea Photographs by Stephen Alvarez
- Snub-Nosed Monkeys** 126 Their odd face may help them weather China's cold.
By Jennifer S. Holland Photographs by Cyril Ruoso



How does a male king bird of paradise in New Guinea impress a would-be mate? By shaking its curiously coiled tail feathers.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

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GEOGRAPHY

What's in a Surname?

America is a nation of Smiths, Johnsons, and Sullivans—but also of Garcias and Nguyens.

CONSERVATION

Dinner Don'ts

Africa's ant-eating pangolin is one of many animals victimized by the poorly policed, illicit bush-meat trade.

SCIENCE

Bye-Bye, Helium

The gas that pumps up party balloons and purges rocket engines comes mainly from beneath the Great Plains. And the supply is running out.

ARCHAEOLOGY

Gold Rush Relics

Three boots, a bottle of vanilla, and a phonograph are among the artifacts discovered in a steamboat at the bottom of a Yukon lake.

THE BIG IDEA

Your Brain on Football

Even small hits to the head can lead to brain deterioration. The NFL is seeking solutions. The military is too.

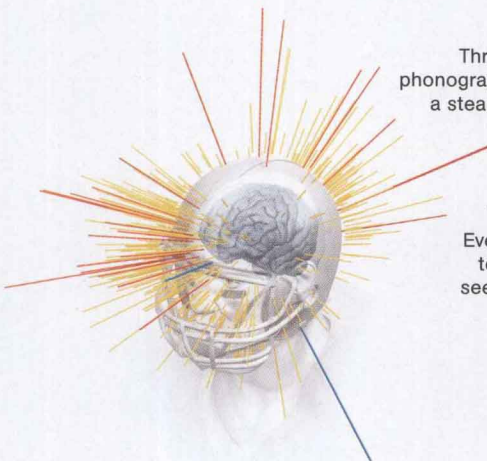
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Flashback

On the Cover

A rainy sidewalk suggests that the Eiffel Tower goes down as well as up. Impossible! (But what does lie beneath Paris is pretty fantastic.)

Photo by Fernand Ivaldi, Getty Images



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Sinking Ship

Cameras aboard the *General Hoyt S. Vandenberg* show its two-minute-plus voyage to the bottom of the sea, where it will become an artificial reef.



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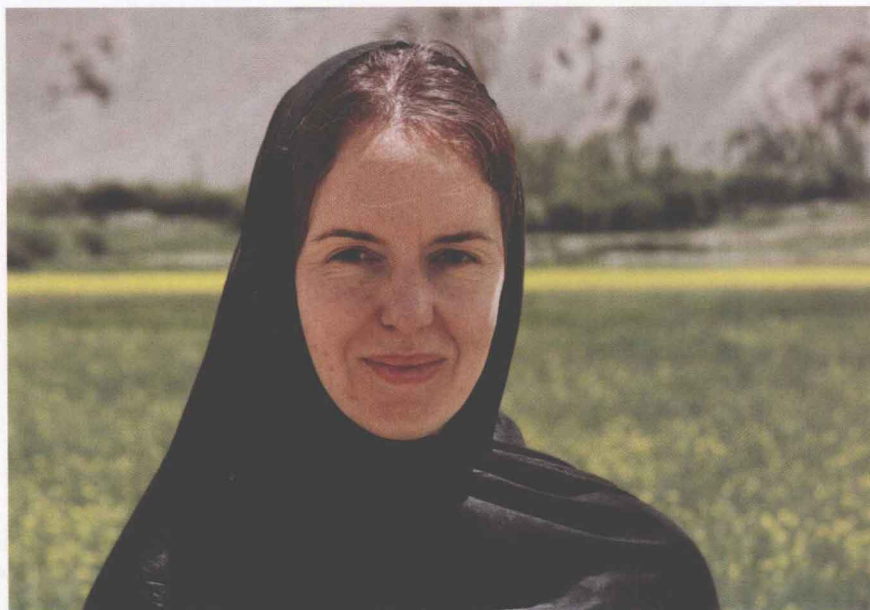
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Linda Norgrove was taken hostage by the Taliban in September and died during a rescue attempt.

Local intelligence is everything when it comes to traveling in difficult conditions and dangerous places. Fixers, inside sources, and guides are the unsung heroes of every coverage. They point you in the right direction. They watch your back, saying, "Careful, not that close." They tell you, "Go there," or perhaps, "Don't go there."

Covering this month's story on opium, writer Robert Draper and photographer David Guttenfelder depended on many people, including Linda Norgrove—the Scottish aid worker taken hostage by the Taliban in eastern Afghanistan and killed in a failed rescue attempt in October 2010. Norgrove, Draper reports, spent evenings advising them on which of her projects to visit around Jalalabad's outskirts—communities that had once relied on opium for subsistence—and which areas to avoid. "More than once," he says, "Linda reminded us that certain roads were unsafe to travel. Sometimes, we had to take them anyway. Sometimes, she did too."

Draper and Guttenfelder were seldom out of danger. Kidnapping and being killed were constant threats for them and their sources. In Kabul a former government official allowed himself to be interviewed, knowing that if he was found out, he and his family would be killed. "Covering this part of the world is a crucial undertaking," Draper says. "But I confess I spent the entire month with my heart in my throat."

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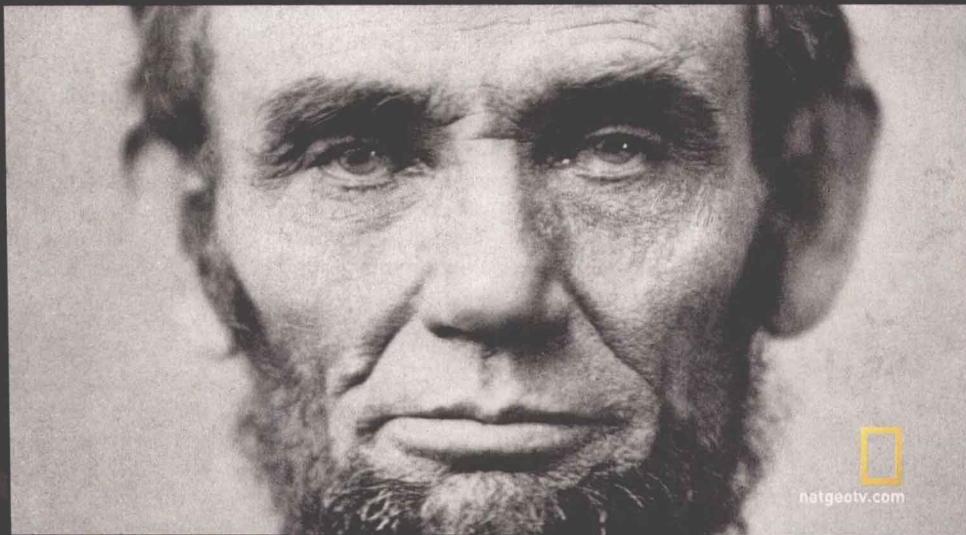
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THIS MONTH

Lincoln's Secret Killer?

Monday, February 21, 10 p.m. ET

THE TRAGIC DEATH of Abraham Lincoln is hardly a mystery. What isn't clear, however, is the state of the President's health at the time of his assassination. His gaunt frame and prematurely aged looks have led to speculation that he was gravely ill and possibly dying of cancer. In *Lincoln's Secret Killer?* diagnosis expert John Sotos sets out to prove it. Follow him as he tracks down relics from Lincoln's past—including bloodstained fabric that may harbor traces of DNA—and attempts to have them tested for the first time ever, by geneticists in Ohio and New Zealand. *Lincoln's Secret Killer?* airs February 21 at 10 p.m. ET on the National Geographic Channel.



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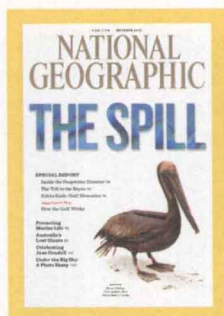
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October 2010

The Spill

Immediately upon learning about the oil spill in the Gulf, I was overwhelmed with remorse. As I stood in the kitchen, I saw the evidence of my personal addiction to oil in the everyday objects that surrounded me. I had to sit down and ask God's forgiveness for the blame that rests on my shoulders. When I read the Editor's Note that preceded the article about the spill, I was heartened to see Chris Johns state that "the fault can be said to lie in no small part within ourselves and our appetite for oil." In a time when the government and oil executives are busy pointing fingers at one another, I find it encouraging to know that individuals are taking responsibility for providing the demand that keeps this industry going. It is obvious that we are addicted to oil. What is not so obvious is what we should do now.

REBECCA DRURY
Rockville, Maryland

In "The Gulf of Oil" biogeochemist Mandy Joye says, "The *Deepwater Horizon* incident is a direct consequence of our global addiction to oil."

I disagree. I believe the real reason for the spill and resulting damage to the Gulf was BP's addiction to higher profits at the expense of proper safety measures. It appears that this was not the first time the company ignored safety to achieve higher profits. Had BP been willing to spend the money before the blowout to ensure safety instead of after the spill to clean up its mess, the deaths of 11 people would have been avoided.

GLENN RICE
West Jordan, Utah

Regarding the photo of the "severely oiled brown pelican" by Joel Sartore, I would like to thank the reporter for his or her mindfulness in adding the last sentence to this caption: "The bird lived." Instead of having the viewer ponder the outcome of this situation, the reporter confirmed a happy ending.

KAREN HENKEL
North Vancouver, British Columbia

Technically, Joel K. Bourne, Jr.'s article on the oil spill was as good as I have read anywhere. However, politically, it fell short. We're told that the waters of the Gulf of Mexico are "one of the most dangerous places to drill on the planet" and that "shrinking reserves, spiking oil prices, and spectacular offshore discoveries ignited a global rush into deep water." What he fails to tell readers is why the oil companies are drilling in such deep waters when we have oil and gas fields in much safer and shallower waters off the Florida and California coasts and areas such as the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

PAUL R. HOLLRAH
Locust Grove, Oklahoma

My wife and I have rented a condo on the Gulf at Perdido Key (in the Orange Beach, Alabama, area) for some 35 years. One of the games we play is to see who can spot the first dolphin. We get a good view from our 20th-floor balcony. Most of the time we see one to five dolphins a day. However, on the morning of April 21 (the day after the oil rig explosion) we saw not one but hundreds—435 by our count—in a big pod traveling west to east. Then to our surprise came another group, but this time it was 330 stingrays going in the same direction. Lastly we saw three giant Portuguese man-of-wars. It appeared that water life was making a mass exodus.

ROBERT W. MARSHALL
Crossville, Tennessee

Corrections, Clarifications

October 2010

OCEANS: ONE FISH TWO FISH: The sidebar incorrectly included sea mites in the group of crustacean discoveries. They are merely kin to crustaceans.

PAGE 24: Companies involved in the Easter Island laser-scan project included Autodesk, Inc., Leica Geosystems, and METCO Services.

PAGE 52: Corexit 9500 was not among the many oil dispersants used following the *Amoco Cadiz* spill in 1978.

PAGE 52: The correct spelling of the fisherman's surname is Montiel.

PAGE 83: The art for "first-order consumers" incorrectly shows phytoplankton instead of zooplankton.

PAGE 87: The statement that Japan purchases more than twice as much fish as it catches was in error. Japan consumes more than twice as much fish as it catches.

PAGE 122: Photo T, of Mike Wilson, should have been credited to Jill Griffiths.

Email ngsforum@ngm.com

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What's the fastest way to learn a language? **ACT LIKE A BABY.**

It's not the advice you'd expect. Learning a new language seems formidable, as we recall from years of combat with grammar and translations in school. Yet infants begin at birth. They communicate at eighteen months and speak the language fluently before they go to school. And they never battle translations or grammar explanations along the way. Born into a veritable language jamboree, children figure out language purely from the sounds, objects and interactions around them. Their senses fire up neural circuits that send the stimuli to different language areas in the brain. Meanings fuse to words. Words string into structures. And language erupts.

Three characteristics of the child's language-learning process are crucial for success:

First, and most importantly, a child's natural language-learning ability emerges only in a speech-soaked, immersion environment free of translations and explanations of grammar. Second, a child's language learning is dramatically accelerated by constant feedback from family and friends. Positive correction and persistent reinforcement nurture the child's language and language skills into full communicative expression. Third, children learn through play, whether it's the arm-waving balancing act that announces their first step or the spluttering preamble to their first words. All the conversational chatter skittering through young children's play with parents and playmates — "...what's this..." "...clap, clap your hands..." "...my ball..." — helps children develop language skills that connect them to the world.

Adults possess this same powerful language-learning ability that orchestrated our language success as children.

Sadly, our clashes with vocabulary drills and grammar explanations force us to conclude it's hopeless. We simply don't have "the language-learning gene." At Rosetta Stone, we know otherwise. You can recover your native language-learning ability as an

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LETTERS

The exploration for oil in the Gulf of Mexico is obviously a risk-benefit situation with a little gambling thrown in on the basis of the BP disaster. Certainly the rewards are not only financial but also political, as it reduces our dependence on foreign oil. With the extensive current investigation into the causes of the oil spill, we should be in a better position, if drilling continues, to reduce the possibility of a repeat of the disaster.

NELSON MARANS
Silver Spring, Maryland

Time for a Sea Change

It was jarring to find the last paragraph of that story offering the sunny outlook of "rebuilding of the ocean's dwindling wealth" and "in the not too distant future...a truly bountiful, resurrected ocean." How is this miraculous turnaround to be achieved? Apparently just by promoting marine reserves, measuring the true impacts of fishing and aquaculture, reducing the fishing fleet by half, enforcing take quotas, and eating lower on the food chain. Do you really think the world will welcome such measures? The opposition of the seafood industry is as nothing compared with the demands of seven billion hungry people, rich and poor. How could this analysis omit any mention of overpopulation and our appetite for fish, oil, and every other resource?

DARYL P. DOMNING
Silver Spring, Maryland

Under the Big Sky

A friend of mine recognized the skyline in William Albert Allard's 1974 photograph on the opening page. Being a longtime area resident, I suggested that we try to find the spot where the photo was taken. We did just that. There are a few new man-made structures visible, but this magnificent view looks much the same as it did 37 years ago. The only thing missing is the cowboy and his horse.

EMILY ALEXANDER
Alpine, Texas



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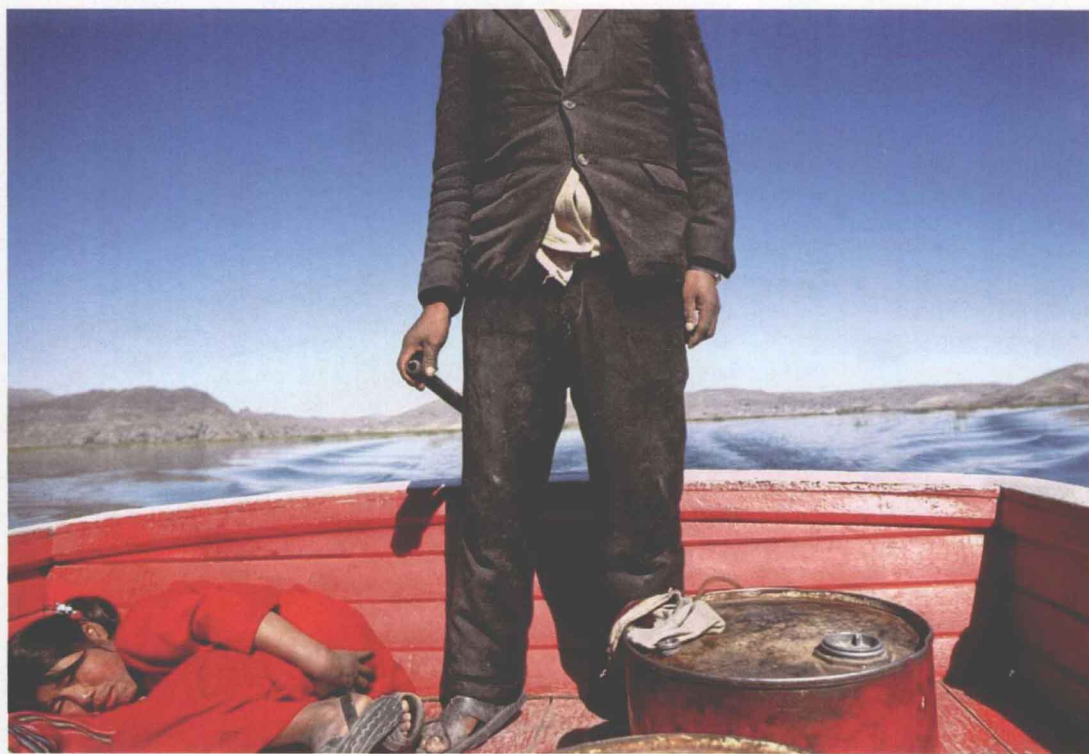


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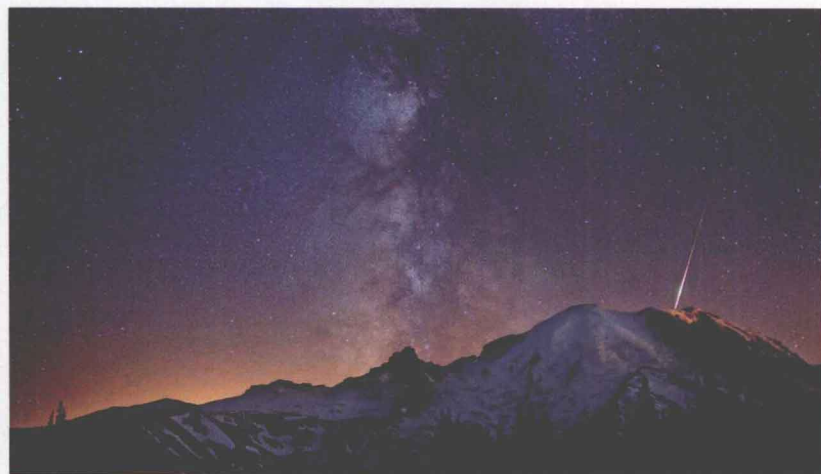
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EDITORS' CHOICE **David Sose** North Miami, Florida

In the stern of a boat on South America's Lake Titicaca, Sose, 70, saw a sleeping girl juxtaposed with a standing boatman. "Cropping out his head actually made it more mysterious," Sose says. "It was like a dream, and I was lucky to capture it."



READERS' CHOICE

Siddhartha Saha

Seattle, Washington

This past summer, the 30-year-old Saha photographed the Perseid meteor shower from a vantage point in Mount Rainier National Park. "Right after midnight," he says, "I saw this bright meteor directly over the peak. It seemed like it had struck the mountain."

Every month this page features two photographs: one chosen by our editors, one chosen by our readers via online voting. For more information, go to ngm.com/yourshot.