

 **ASK ANDREW SULLIVAN**  
We invite you to join in conversation with Andrew Sullivan as he answers your questions.

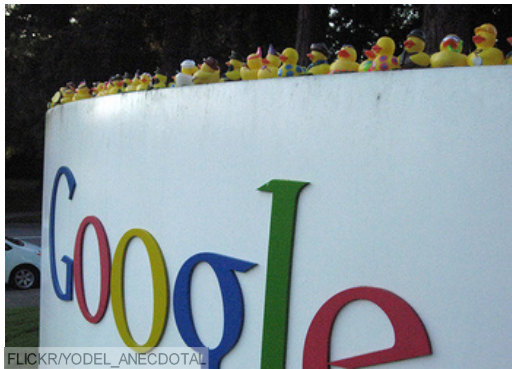
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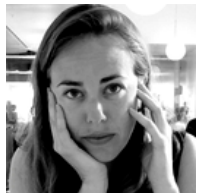
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**PETER OSNOS**  
Journalist turned book editor/publisher

## The Google Conundrum

Coming soon: Google, the Authors Guild, and the Association of American Publishers (in an unlikely fraternity) versus the very large number of petitioners who oppose their agreement that would profoundly affect the digital future of books. On October 7, District Court Judge Denny Chin in New York will hold a... [MORE](#)



**CHRISTINA DAVIDSON** *Writer, photographer, book editor* 09/24/09 1:39 PM

## I Have Good News to Share, For Once

The question I'm most frequently asked along the Recession Roadtrip goes something like: "Don't you get depressed listening to people's problems every single day?" My answer is generally no, that appreciating harsh realities of economic hardship creates perspective for my own petty concerns about mounting credit card debt and the vagueness of my future career. But

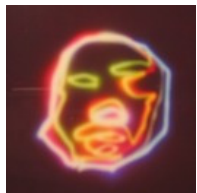
that's sometimes a lie, especially when it pertains to the Zimmermans, the 62-year-old couple I wrote about last week on their first night of homeless, spent with their wonderful new friends of SafeGround Sacramento. This is a piece that really stuck with me, and... [MORE](#)



**RICHARD FLORIDA** *Author and professor on creativity* 09/24/09 10:43 AM

## ComplexCity - How Cities are like the Human Brain

Jane Jacobs long ago showed us that cities are complex adaptive systems. Now new research by cognitive scientists at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute finds that not only are cities organized along the same complex principles as the human brain, but evolve in ways that mirror the brain's evolution. "Natural selection has passively guided the evolution of mammalian brains throughout time, just as politicians and entrepreneurs have indirectly shaped the organization of cities large and small," said Mark Changizi, a neurobiology expert and assistant professor in the Department of Cognitive Science at Rensselaer, who led the study. "It seems both of these invisible... [MORE](#)



**HUA HSU** *Writer on culture and music* 09/24/09 12:17 AM

## Thursday mixes

Mao puts together a fantastic Roc Raida tribute mix over at SpineSweet Kid Inquisitive soul mix, "Heavy Days 2" LAGOS DISCO INFERNO Severely underrated DJ Anonymous over at Matthew Africa's blog with a guest "mellow soul" podcast Some rare Roc Raida and a great Archie Whitewater edit over at Monk-One's blog... [MORE](#)

Therefore, if the accused is guilty, "relative deprivation" might have been the motive. And of course that's literally true as a doubly conditional statement. But does even scrupulous speculation serve justice?

EDWARD TENNER



**CHRISTINA DAVIDSON** *Writer, photographer, book editor* 09/23/09 7:13 PM

## More Recession Re-set: "I'm Tired of Slaving; I Want to Live"

"For me the recession and getting laid off has been transformative. It brings to a head what I really value," says Alex Gargarita, 45-year-old single father of two. Alex is one of thousands left jobless because of the tech industry contraction in Silicon Valley, but rather than viewing the career disruption as hardship or professional setback, he plans to use his downtime as an opportunity to reinvent his life and self.... [MORE](#)

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Last Update: Sep 24, 2009 1:32pm

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A Run On Guns [9.24.09 1:21 P.M.](#)

Megan McArdle

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Marc Ambinder

"Do The Job You Were Elected To Do" [9.24.09 1:40 P.M.](#)

Ta-Nehisi Coates

The Irrepressible Traficant  
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James Fallows

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Jeffrey Goldberg

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Clive Crook

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Sep 24 2009, 10:43AM

**ComplexCity - How Cities are like the Human Brain**

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"Natural selection has passively guided the evolution of mammalian brains throughout time, just as politicians and entrepreneurs have indirectly shaped the organization of cities large and small," said Mark Changizi, a neurobiology expert and assistant professor in the Department of Cognitive Science at Rensselaer, who led the study. "It seems both of these invisible hands have arrived at a similar conclusion: brains and cities, as they grow larger, have to be similarly densely interconnected to function optimally." ... "When scaling up in size and function, both cities and brains seem to follow similar empirical laws," Changizi said. "They have to efficiently maintain a fixed level of connectedness, independent of the physical size of the brain or city, in order to work properly."

*Science Daily* provides a [fuller summary](#) (via [Planetizen](#)). The full paper can be downloaded from [Changizi's website](#).

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**9.24.09 11:45 A.M.****Jeffrey Goldberg**"Weeds" Is the Jewiest Show on Television **9.24.09 1:21 P.M.****Clive Crook**Signing off for a week  
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