

The Big Issues

AT **FORTUNE** we always look to tackle the biggest stories of our time. I relish turning loose our superstar journalists on these topics because what they come back with never fails to amaze me. And in this, our Global 500 issue, I'm proud to say we have several notable examples.

First I'd like to point to assistant managing editor Leigh Gallagher's piece on suburbia, which is an excerpt from her new book, *The End of the Suburbs* (Portfolio/Penguin). The title speaks to a mega issue: the disrupted housing market, and how and where we want to live. Her conclusion is that while, yes, the housing market may be in recovery, traditional suburbs are losing their top spot as the image of the American dream. "Partly it's due to the housing boom and bust, which spread too many people too far away from each other in houses they couldn't afford," Leigh says. "But most of the reasons driving the shift are much longer term and have been grinding away for quite some time: oil prices that have risen steadily over the years, striking demographic changes that are seeing more older people than children in many suburbs, and millennials' not wanting to drive or to live in cul-de-sacs." The book is a great read, and I recommend it to you.

Leigh does so much for *Fortune* these days: She recently became a



Assistant managing editor Gallagher, who lives in Manhattan's West Village

co-chair of *Fortune's* Most Powerful Women's summit, and she appears regularly on MSNBC's *Morning Joe*, where she has a big fan in co-host Mika Brzezinski, who says, "I love Leigh! When she's on the set with us I know I can throw everything and anything her way."

Then there's senior editor-at-large Adam Lashinsky's take on another huge story, Apple. The question is simply this: Are Apple's best days behind it? Adam, author of the best-selling *Inside Apple*, is probably the world's foremost chronicler of this most-talked-about company. In this issue Adam lays out two scenarios for Apple, a positive and a negative, and then offers a single conclusion (which I'm not going to reveal here!).

Last and certainly not least is our cover story on yet another blockbuster topic: cyber spying. Contribut-

ing Washington editor Nina Easton has written an exclusive story on Kevin Mandia, the man who caught the Chinese snooping into scores of major U.S. companies and whose work was the basis of groundbreaking stories in the *New York Times*. Mandia not surprisingly is a most intriguing guy: a hyper-competitive, uncompromising, guitar-playing techno-whiz who bears more than a passing resemblance to Liam Neeson.

Like me, I bet you'll want to read every word of every piece.

ANDY SERWER
Managing Editor

Photograph by PATRICK JAMES MILLER