

# Eclectic

## NORTH AMERICA

### United States

Apple is being sued for taking a free ride on the intellectual property of Nokia. Nokia spokesman Mark Durrant said, "This case is about Apple's failure to make acceptable payments for our patents." The Finnish company claims that Apple is using certain wireless technology that Nokia innovated and therefore holds patents on. Though the incentive of this case may be to receive payments from Apple, other analysts have different opinions. Many are viewing this lawsuit as a negotiating tactic to protect Nokia from possible lawsuits from

Apple on intellectual property issues. The outcome may be resolved by a simple negotiation settlement.

### United States

Wal-Mart has a new competitor that is taking much of the global market share in the retail business. The French retailer Auchan is drastically increasing its market share in China, Russia, and Eastern Europe, with the opening of an average of two stores every month in China. Auchan is able to project a different image than Wal-Mart. Its prices are low, but unlike Wal-Mart in China, it does not con-

vey the image of unsafe or counterfeit products. In Russia, Wal-Mart and other big discount stores do not exist, whereas Auchan has approximately 34 outlets.



VS



## EUROPE

### Germany

Neither the German taxpayers nor the EU are happy with the forced sale of Opel to Magna, by the government. The purchasing firm is actually a consortium of the Austro-Canadian auto

parts firm Magna and Russia's largest retail bank Sberbank. Sberbank intends to make Opel's technologies available to GAZ, Russia's second-largest automaker. Naturally, GM, the parent-company of Opel, is not happy about the deal. German taxpayers are most worried about how this will impact them down the line as auto manufacturing plays such a significant role in the German economy.

regulations. Students now have to prove their academic credentials and show that they can support themselves financially before they are issued a visa. Backlogs of applicants and outright visa application refusals have soared in recent months. Besides that, many extra hours are being spent in airports as students wait to be admitted into the country. The policies have many cash-strapped schools worried about their foreign clientele.



### Britain

Concerned students just looking for work and with terrorist activity, England has tightened its visa issuance

## ASIA

### China

China is grabbing more of the export-market share as consumers become more price conscious because of the recession. China's exports this year have already passed Germany's in order to become the world's biggest exporter. While world trade is diminishing because of the recession, China's exports are increasing. It is able to do this because the manufacturers are lowering prices. China has now passed Canada as the largest supplier of imports to the United States increasing from 15 percent to

19 percent of all U.S. imports while Canada dropped from 17 percent to 14.5.

### Japan

Honda has managed the financial crisis very well while its Japanese competitors have lost millions of dollars. The article states, "This year, Honda is predicting earnings of some \$600 million. Toyota expects to lose \$5 billion and Nissan nearly \$2 billion." Earnings are not high, but better than the other auto companies. This difference is due to their focus on small,

compact cars that Americans are seeking rather than large SUV's. They are focusing on motorcycles as well. Honda is the world's number one motorcycle manufacturer and bikes are likely to make up half of its operating profit this year. Honda's culture of prudence, high sales volume on four lines, and unhierarchical company culture structure have helped it to remain profitable despite the worldwide recession, which has been incredibly potent on automakers.

## LATIN AMERICA

### Honduras

Are you still living inside the bubble? Not the so-called 'Provo bubble', but one that is much more crucial to your behavior, decisions, and even the in



ternational stage. We're talking about the culture bubble, and it Latin America it has a great influence on social norms, politics, and, of course, business. The current socio-political situation in Honduras hinges on culture. A Spanish-legacy of feudal structure and ownership still lingers in Latin America. Perhaps some of this inheritance motivated currently ousted President Manuel Zelaya in his attempts last June to gain the ability for re-election. Negotiations are currently underway and should be announced soon thanks to the fact that Honduras just won a qualifying match

for the world cup. Another cultural norm: politicians are more willing to compromise when there is national euphoria. The crisis in Honduras goes beyond culture for the U.S. In September they withdrew some \$30 million of aid. Zelaya's supporters hoped the U.S. would also freeze assets and bank accounts of the current interim government's supporters. In short; investments in Honduras are not a great idea right now because the situation is as unstable as Honduras' historically hurricane beleaguered infrastructure.

## AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

### South Africa

The tripling of trade in Chardonnay and Chenin Blanc wines have been the direct result of v management in China, said the Asian Marketing Manager for Wines of South Africa. In just the past year the Chinese government has stopped slapping its own labels on the imported wines from South Africa and selling it as the marked brands. The effect has been shocking. South Africa's exports of wine to China increased 46 percent in just seven months, reports Richard Lapper of Financial Times. Consequently South Africa has underlined

the importance of trade ties between the two countries.

### Qatar

Qatar Holding LLC, Qatar's largest investment authority, pulled all its assets out of Barclays, a UK based bank. Qatar Holding was previously the largest share holder in the bank with £1.4 billion now in its pocket after pulling out. The pull-out has caused speculation into an investment in UK supermarket group J Sainsbury. Qatar Holding could have pulled out as a result of losing 60% of its original investment in the bank. Barclays had

solicited the investment as an effort to buttress capital to avoid government bail-out money. Now J Sainsbury has sustained a 20% rise in stock prices as a result of the market speculation of the Qatar Holding's impending investment.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to the club!

NuSkin - 1:00pm December 4th

RSVP to [dustinflanary@comcast.net](mailto:dustinflanary@comcast.net)

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Monthly Newsletter  
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