

# THE MARTIN FAMILY

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## SWITZERLAND

May 22, 2011 [Day 1 Post-Apocalypse?]

Dear Reader,

I hope that you are well and happy. We continue to enjoy beautiful Spring almost Summer weather. We're also amused by the situation regarding DSK (Dominique Strauss-Kahn), the former Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund.

"Amused, Dan?" Nazy interjected. "You're *amused*?"

"Well.."

"The man is accused of a violent sexual assault. And you're 'amused'?"

"I'm appalled.."

"That's better."

".. and befuddled, bewildered and bemused by the reaction in France. 60% of the population thinks DSK was 'set up' in a conspiracy."

"That's absurd."

"These people also believe that Americans never landed on the Moon, that Bin Laden is still alive (living in a Marriott in Peoria) and that no airplane crashed into the Pentagon."

"What.."

"They have an annual convention at Area 51 in New Mexico."

"Dan.."

"These people are partially right. The DSK mess would never have happened in France."

"The perp walk?" Nazy asked, referring to the handcuffed (but not convicted) DSK that was paraded on TV.

"Not that In France, no foreign-born maid would dare to press charges against a member of 'The Elite'. It's as likely as the Dalai Lama joining a kick-fighting club..."

"The Dalai Lama?"

"... or Queen Elizabeth surfboarding in a bikini. But, Nazy," I continued. "It doesn't matter. I'm reliably informed that the world is ending on May 21, 2011."

"Reliably informed?" Nazy asked.

“It was on the internet - and you know the correlation between ‘accuracy’ and ‘internet’.”

“Dan: this edition of The Weekly Letter is dated May 22.”

“Now you’ve ruined it Nazy. My readers will know that the world did not end.”

Apocalyptic analysts searching for reasons that the planet (indeed, the entire universe) continues to exist, need only consider my experience with the Apple TV:

The Martin Family residence is also home to the 4th incarnation of the Apple TV - an internet device that links a high-definition, flat screen TV with the music and photo collections on an Apple Laptop. Each of the four devices did exactly what we wanted. All, however, worked for a short time before freezing. Nazy is convinced that:

“You broke it, Dan.”

I explained that it was working when we went to bed and stopped working while we slept. “Therefore,” I explained. “I could not have broken it.” Nazy was not fazed by my analysis.

“You were too rough with it Dan.”

“Excuse me?”

“You pushed the connecting wires too hard.”

“Nazy..”

“The wires that **you** bought are too powerful.”

*“Too powerful? Unlikely. Too expensive? Probably!”* I thought.

“And,” Nazy continued. “Since **you** can’t make it work, **I** will get a refund from Apple.”

“Have you considered another possibility?” I asked.

Nazy glared...

“Perhaps the Apple TV has a design defect,” I interjected into the gloom.

My comment was met with a withering glare of unmitigated condescension. “Try to unplug the Apple TV without breaking it more, Dan. I will take it back.”

Request: Technically sophisticated readers who are aware of problems associated with cables connecting a Samsung flat screen TV to the aforementioned Apple device are encouraged to send information to: [dandotmartin@gmail.com](mailto:dandotmartin@gmail.com). Readers who know that such cables cannot cause problems (even if ‘roughly’ installed) are asked to affirm that by email to: [nazmartin@hotmail.com](mailto:nazmartin@hotmail.com).



Nazy buying flowers at the market

The indoors atmosphere was frosty, but the weather outside was beautiful, so we strolled to the farmer's market on Friday and on Saturday, Rob and Susie, called.

"Would you like to join us for a walk to Sodom and Gomorrah?" Rob asked.

"Are you sure we should bring our wives?" I asked.

"Maybe I pronounced it wrong," Rob replied. "It is," he said carefully, "Seleger Moor. It's a Swiss rhododendron park."

The park is famous, large and (especially at this time of the year) beautiful. The azalea and rhododendron are spectacular. Even more exciting, we arrived at the peak of frog mating season.

"You were right, Rob," I said looking over the pond. "Sodom and Gomorrah."

"The bullfrogs are loud and obnoxious," Susie noted.

"The female frogs look bored." Nazy added.

"A bog is not a romantic setting, and the large audience," I said, looking at the assembled hikers, "may have a negative impact on enthusiasm."

"We should just leave them alone," Rob concluded.

This week we also went to see SkyDance - courtesy of Lina, an Iranian viola player in the Zurich Symphony. Nazy and I really liked the show - especially the 100 **Celtic** tap dancers. Nazy was less enamored by one of the highlight acts: rapper Busta Rhymes.

"Have you ever heard anything like that?" Nazy asked.

"When I had a balloon tied so that it bumped against the spokes on my bike," I replied.

"I don't think he's being polite," Nazy continued after listening carefully.

"Really?" I replied.

Take care and Cheers,



Wall of  
Rhododendron