



In the course of writing her essay about a personal bout of kleptomania, “London on Zero Pounds a Day,” **EMILY BOBROW** had to ask herself a tough question: “Why did I do that?” Writing from experience was a departure from her usual analyses of hard facts as an editor at *economist.com*. And it’s gotten her mother worried what an admission of her misspent youth will do to her Google results. Bobrow, who lives in Brooklyn, has also written for *The New York Observer*, *Time Out*, *The Village Voice*, and *The New York Sun*.



CHRISTOPH NIEMANN, who illustrated the “The Ideological Animal,” is a self-described political buff who just co-published *100 Percent Evil*, a book of pen-and-ink drawings that skewer our sometimes absurd use of this loaded word. “It’s all in the eye of the beholder. Politicians call themselves ‘all good’ and others ‘all bad.’ It never advances discussion.” Niemann, a German native who lives in Brooklyn with his wife and two kids, often illustrates government-themed stories for *The New York Times Magazine* and *The New Yorker*.



JOHN HODGMAN, author of “Apologia to My Second Child,” likens his kids to alien creatures who have their own logic and culture. “When I watch them playing together, I often feel like a scientist visiting another planet,” he says. Hodgman’s current household is not as emotionally intense as the home of his youth, which this only child considers good for everybody. Hodgman, who moonlights for *The Daily Show*, is the author of *The Areas of My Expertise* and contributes to *The New York Times Magazine*.



JAY DIXIT started as a *PT* intern way back in 1996, when the magazine shared a modem with two other publications. He then freelanced for *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Rolling Stone*, and *Wired*, before rejoining *PT* in June as Senior Editor. Dixit was glad to tackle the relationship between personality and politics for “The Ideological Animal.” “There’s so much great social science research about political orientation. But it doesn’t get written about because people are afraid of appearing biased.”



GERARD DUBOIS, whose soft and dreamy paintings accompany “Apologia to My Second Child,” tries to give his work a timeless feel, so that readers of all ages can project their memories and feelings onto the image. As a father of two, DuBois, who lives in Montreal, relates easily to the essay’s theme. “I don’t remember being so anxious about having my second baby, though. Maybe I should have been!” His work has appeared in *Time*, *Rolling Stone*, and *Forbes*, and in a collection of Edgar Allan Poe stories for kids.



“I’m probably closer to the talkative American than to the silent Finn,” says **MARIA CARLING**, lifestyle editor of *Svenska Dagbladet*, Sweden’s second biggest daily paper. Carling wrote about her Nordic neighbors while in the U.S. as a visiting journalism fellow at *PT*. The assignment sharpened her appreciation of their common aesthetic: love of nature, spare design, and leisure over money. A series she wrote added a new term to the Swedish lexicon: “curling parents,” who, like helicopter parents, “sweep the ice” in front of their kids.