

We have our eye on **Anne Kajir**

by Elaine O'Connor



Are your kitchen cabinets contraband? Is your hardwood “hot”? Papua New Guinea environmental lawyer Anne Kajir’s island nation is home to the world’s third-largest tropical rainforest. But illegal logging has put its trees under siege, with the timber often ending up in North American homes. The 35-year-old has been fighting these abuses since 1998, when she won a Supreme Court case that ordered logging multinationals to pay a hefty fine to indigenous land owners because of fraudulent permits.

Nevertheless, government corruption continues to allow foreign conglomerates to exploit the country’s natural resources – and residents – at will. Only 55 percent of Papua New Guinea’s 30 million hectares of forest remains. “The government has not made a real commitment to stop illegal logging,” Kajir says.

Today, as the head of the country’s Environmental Law Centre, the mom of three is helping traditional societies take a stand for their trees. It’s not easy work: Kajir has been threatened, kidnapped and robbed. But she remains rooted to the cause. “Illegal logging,” she says, “makes indigenous people become destitute on their own land.” We’ll definitely be asking where our new flooring is coming from the next time we’re doing renos.

Crush of the month

by Siri Agrell



Ben Affleck From the struggling character actor to the Academy Award-winning screenwriter, and from the paparazzi-plagued “Bennifer” to the low-key husband and dad, Ben Affleck’s career and public persona have seen the highs of *Good Will Hunting* and the lows of *Gigli*. But Affleck has proven his staying power is based on more than who he’s dating. This month, the politically active heartthrob plays a congressman in *State of Play*. Will life imitate art? Stay tuned.



HAVE YOU HEARD?

by Anna-Kaisa Walker

A jewellery shop marketed at women? Nice concept, in theory, but Delamina.com’s questionable advertising campaign – one memorable spot shows a woman passed out in bed, seemingly after a drunken one-night stand, with the caption, “Because it’s a less risky way to celebrate your promotion” – is giving us serious second thoughts.

From the headlines

The Globe and Mail
“France denies annulment in virginity case” by Siri Agrell

A French high court refused to annul a Muslim couple’s marriage on the grounds that the bride lied about being a virgin. (It turned out she wasn’t, and the groom called her on it after the reception.) A lower court had previously okayed the dissolution of the marriage, sparking outrage in the proudly secular European nation – one government official labelled the decision a “fatwa against the emancipation of women.” Annulments are rare in France and usually only granted if a spouse misrepresents his or her identity or an “essential quality of a person.” The lower court deemed virginity an essential quality, but the higher court begged to differ, saying that its absence has no bearing on the union. Annulment or not, we doubt this marriage can be saved.

It’s time to...

by Tralee Pearce

START

wearing rubber boots again.

After the punishing winter we’ve endured, we’re just about ready to throw a parade for spring’s endless showers. For one thing, we’re dying to try out our new rubber boots. The humble staple now comes in every shade of the rainbow, and, thankfully, there’s no need to pay designer prices for high-end British wellies. Look for cheap and cheerful designs popping up at stores such as Old Navy and Zellers, but don’t forget Canadian Tire for a classic black or camo-green pair. And no, they shouldn’t match your umbrella.

STOP

asking him if you look fat.

Why is it that we’re hard-wired to solicit brutal honesty from our mates? If his answer has a whiff of the affirmative, we’re heartbroken and he’s in the dog house. If he doth protest too much, we’re sure he’s covering up. Consider this: An Australian study found that women who viewed their looks unfavourably actually preferred their partners to confirm their poor self-image. But these same women rated their relationships as less happy than those whose partners said they looked great. Another reason not to ask in the first place.