



June 4

finance center, with its own privacy laws, that would help free the flow of foreign investment on the continent. However utopian, Thurman is compelling on the point that a radical about-face on human rights is a prerequisite for China to grow into its role as

a 21st-century superpower—a point that has been made in the Olympics-related protests. “Tibet’s problem is China’s problem and Asia’s problem,” he writes, “and therefore our global, individual problem—yours and mine.” —ANYA KAMENETZ

Brainstorm WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM ON AFRICA

Cape Town, South Africa

04 Every year, the World Economic Forum holds a powwow focused on Africa, and every year, it's in Cape Town. Beautiful as the city may be, you have to wonder whether that's the only place in Africa to which the hundreds of attendees—CEOs, ministers and heads of government, academics, assorted members of entourages—will go. This year's theme, “Capitalizing on Opportunity,” suggests **the opportunity is for Africans**. In reality, it's marketers and investors from outside the continent who seem most eager to capitalize on the potential of a region where economic growth has exceeded 5% for four years running. In a sign of that enthusiasm, two of the meeting's cochairs are E. Neville Isdell, CEO of Coca-Cola, and Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem, chairman of Dubai World, the ambitious holding company with the regrettably colonialist slogan “The sun never sets on Dubai World.” —JEFF CHU

Green WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

05 It's a little ironic that far-off New Zealand is this year's host of the UN's rotating symposium on environmental issues. The 2008 theme is “Kick the CO₂ Habit! Toward a Low-Carbon Economy,” but the long airplane **flight to Kiwi-land** is probably as carbon unneutral as it gets. Save the airfare and the emissions: We suggest you jump-start your celebration of World Environment Day by staying home instead. The day will be marked in more than 100 countries with local rallies, tree plantings, art exhibits, lectures, cleanup campaigns, and concerts. —KATE ROCKWOOD

Buy WAL-MART ANNUAL SHAREHOLDERS MEETING

Fayetteville, Arkansas

06 Call it what you will: a pep rally, an old-fashioned Arkansas revival, a Peoples Temple brimming with Kool-Aid and *continued on page 38*

APPLAUD: Congratulations, Graduates! It's diploma season again, which means not only that a new batch of students will soon be facing the reality of the workplace but also that universities will be handing out honorary degrees. A look at several honorees—and how they earned their doctorates. —Kate Rockwood



Michael R. Bloomberg
New York City mayor and Bloomberg founder
DOCTOR OF LAWS
University of Pennsylvania
Non-Honorary Degrees: BA in electrical engineering from Johns Hopkins, MBA from Harvard
Qualifications: He built a huge media business, then brought his pragmatism to City Hall. But maybe he should be a Doctor of Interior Design: He also introduced a now-much-copied open-floor office plan similar to the one used at Bloomberg.



David Neeleman
JetBlue founder
DOCTOR OF BUSINESS
University of Utah
Non-Honorary Degrees: None. Dropped out of Utah after three years
Qualifications: Born in Brazil, Neeleman returned there as a 19-year-old for a Mormon mission and won 200 converts in the slums of Rio. Last year, he used his persuasive powers to assuage JetBlue fliers after more than 1,000 flights were canceled in five days in February—but still lost his CEO job.



Neil deGrasse Tyson
Astronomer
DOCTOR OF SCIENCE
University of Pennsylvania
Non-Honorary Degrees: BA in physics from Harvard, PhD in astrophysics from Columbia
Qualifications: Named Sexiest Astrophysicist Alive by *People* in 2000. Tyson, the director of New York's Hayden Planetarium, led the push to downgrade Pluto's planetary status, forcing millions of people to edit the mnemonic “My very elegant mother just sat upon nine porcupines.”



Mark Dean
Holder of three of the nine original IBM PC patents
DOCTOR OF SCIENCE
Wheaton College
Non-Honorary Degrees: BS from Tennessee, MS from Florida Atlantic, PhD from Stanford, all in electrical engineering
Qualifications: All the black kids shared one room in his segregated school, so he learned fourth-grade math in first grade. After desegregation, he was bored. He once said, “I couldn't read worth a darn, but all I cared about was math anyway.”



Sheila E. Widnall
Astrophysicist
DOCTOR OF SCIENCE
Oxford, Northwestern, and Claremont Graduate Univ.
Non-Honorary Degrees: BS, MS, and ScD from MIT in aeronautics/astronautics
Qualifications: Lots. The first woman to head a branch of the U.S. military (the Air Force), she already has 12 honorary degrees. She tells *FAST COMPANY*: “I'm particularly proud that my mother was a juvenile probation officer and my father a rodeo cowboy—both good role models.”

Photographs: Ariadne Van Zandbergen/Lonely Planet Images (Cape Town); Jessica Rinaldi/Landov (Bloomberg); Henry Ray Abrams/AP Images (Neeleman); Jared Pava (Tyson); courtesy of IBM (Dean); Steve Bronstein/Getty Images (coffee cup); Lew Robertson/Getty Images (coffee pot)