

# talking back

## LETTERS FROM READERS

something done in Europe but not in America—not for a long, long time, anyway. American men have a lot to learn from him.

**Carol Ruth Axelrod  
McLean, VA**

### STAYIN' ALIVE

I was delighted to see Dodic Kazanjian's piece "Power Flowers," on contemporary artists addressing the still-life genre, in your June issue. These were fresh treatments of a "still lively" tradition, and I enjoyed reading the artists' comments on their works. It also brought to mind some other modern still-life masters, including, of course, Wayne Thiebaud and—my personal but often overlooked favorite—the late Gregory Gillespie. Thanks for the article; it's a keeper.

**Carolyn R. Guss  
Ardmore, PA**

### THE BRAVE AND THE BEAUTIFUL

It's definitely surreal when the Iraq War's "It girl" can weep about the publicity she's gotten for the tabloid picture of her wearing a bathing suit at fifteen, but then go on to describe the anguish of a son watching his "father's brains spilling on the floor during a

torture session" ["Live from Baghdad," by Rebecca Johnson, photographed by Alexandra Boulat, June]. While I respect Lara Logan's drive to be the best correspondent out there, I have such contempt for Operation Iraqi Freedom that it galls me to read references about Logan's looks, hair, manicures, clothes, tipping habits, and glowing skin. I don't think this miserable conflict needs an "It girl"—what it desperately needs is an exit strategy.

**Rosalind Nester Ellis  
Baltimore, MD**

Congratulations to Rebecca Johnson on "Live from Baghdad." I am a fan of Lara Logan. Her fearless attitude and intelligence make her a role model for all generations. This type of article is why I read VOGUE. I adore fashion, but I also need to be aware of what's going on in this convulsive world of ours.

**Cristina Villoch  
Miami, FL**

### CLOTHES HORSE

I was appalled to see Nicole Kidman's equestrian look on your list of top summer fashion statements ["The Hot List," Talking Fashion, June]. Without discussing the mystery of how her clothes on a movie set could reflect

her personal style, her look is one big faux pas that would make any true equestrienne's skin crawl. Your photo [RIGHT] shows Kidman in English riding attire on a horse wearing full Western tack! In addition, the article's description of her "in full dressage" grossly misuses the equestrian term; dressage is an equestrian discipline, not a style of dress. Equestrians create their own personal style using functional clothing and equipment. Your number fourteen makes a mockery of all the really fashionable people in the sport.

**Catherine Miller  
Savannah, GA**



### LIP SERVICE

I met Poppy King in Australia maybe a decade ago, and a paparazzi photograph taken of the two of us adorned my pinup board for years. At our meeting there was no rock-star boyfriend or Texan drawl, but behind her "Jerry Hall-esque" fiery pout lay a confident, ambitious, and genuine young woman ["Paint It Red," Nostalgia, June]. Her transformation from "Aussie misfit" to "international lipstick queen," along with her attitude and self-confidence, served as encouragement to me as I pursued my own creative aspirations. Poppy shows women everywhere that anything is attainable—so reach for the lippy, girls, and reach for the stars!

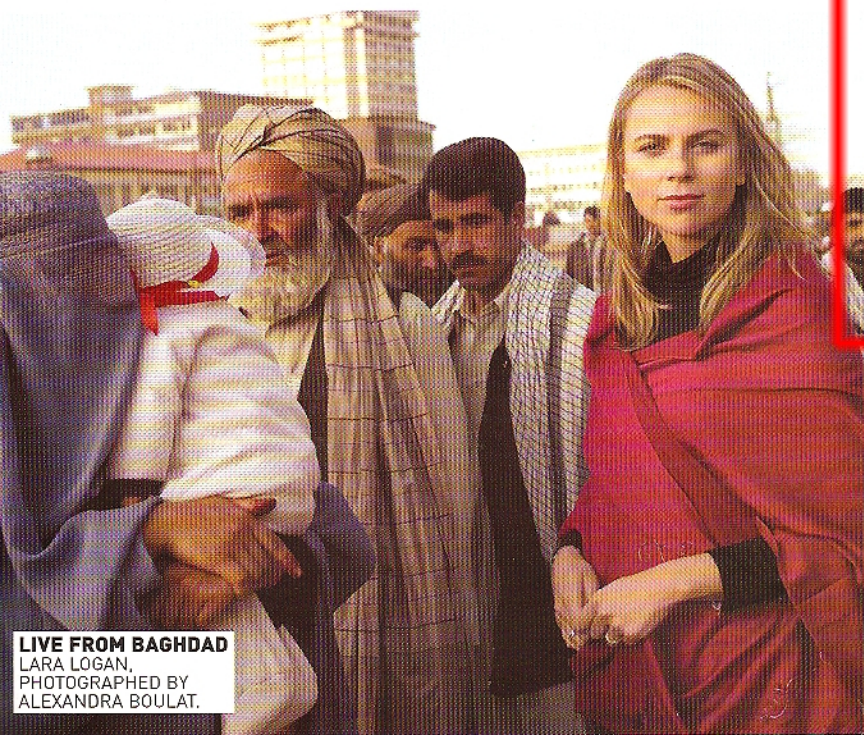
**Amelia Hill  
Adelaide, Australia**

### HERE'S LOOKING AT YOU

I look forward to Virginia Smith's Last Look pick every month. It's one page that carries a lot of momentum.

**Peter Carde  
via E-mail**

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**LIVE FROM BAGHDAD**  
LARA LOGAN,  
PHOTOGRAPHED BY  
ALEXANDRA BOULAT.