



CHINA'S CHALLENGING TV TOWER PAGE 46



'Polka dots were her thing—beguiling, surreal, mysterious. The dots, she says in her accented English, are "my medicine."'

ROBIN GIVHAN PAGE 8



MILLENNIAL ANGST PAGE 40



KEEP YOUR EYE ON THIS ATHLETE PAGE 26

2 LETTERS & CONTRIBUTORS

4 PERISCOPE

The Olympic antidote to gloom.
By Tina Brown

NEWSBEAST

7 NATIONAL NOTEBOOK

Money honeys: female fundraisers are crashing the ultimate boys' club. By Michelle Cottle

8 PERSON OF INTEREST

A belated comeback for Yayoi Kusama, the polka-dot queen. By Robin Givhan

9 WORLD ON A PAGE

An Etonian scorned, an Iraqi freed.
By Tunku Varadarajan

10 HEALTH

By Kent Sepkowitz

BUSINESS

By Clive Irving

MEDIA

By Lizzie Crocker

12 POLITICS

Is \$2,000 enough to buy your vote?
By Paul Begala

15 COMPASS

America's mood disorder. By Niall Ferguson

17 REPORTER AT LARGE

What you should know before boarding a cruise ship. By Eve Conant and Barbie Latza Nadeau

FEATURES

20 "It Takes a Lot to Rattle Me"

She lost her dad, got benched, and had surgery. How Hope Solo survived and put U.S. women's soccer in position for gold. By Andrew Romano

26 10 Olympians to Watch

Don't blink. The fastest, greatest superhumans come to the Games beginning in London on July 27. By Michael Solomon

34 What Should Mitt Do About Sarah?

Romney hasn't invited Palin to the GOP convention, and the Tea Party is livid.

By Peter J. Boyer

40 Generation Screwed

The boomers have never had it so good. As a result, today's youth have never had it so bad. By Joel Kotkin

46 Koolhaas Builds the Next Wonder

An angular and unstable edifice takes over Beijing's skyline. By Christopher Dickey

OMNIVORE

53 **FILM** Did Batman turn elitist?

55 **WANT** Perfectly pop office.

56 **BOOKS** An affair to remember.

58 **ART** MoMA looks back at our toy story.

60 MY FAVORITE MISTAKE

Vince Gilligan on how his show *Breaking Bad* almost didn't happen.

ON THE COVER

PHOTOGRAPH BY JEFF RIEDEL FOR NEWSWEEK