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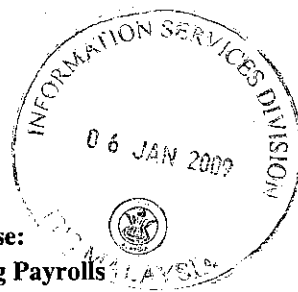
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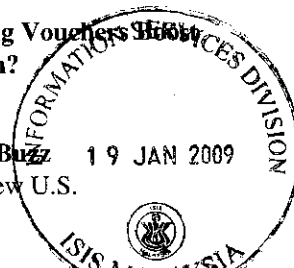
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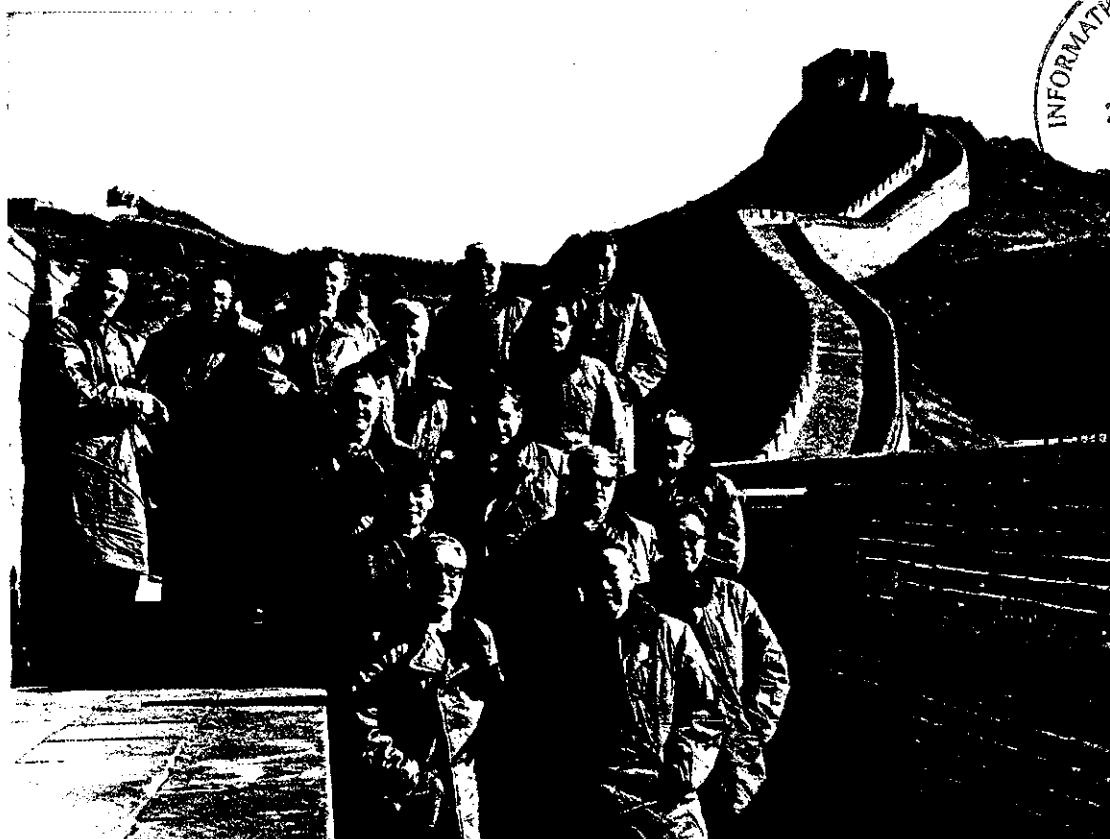
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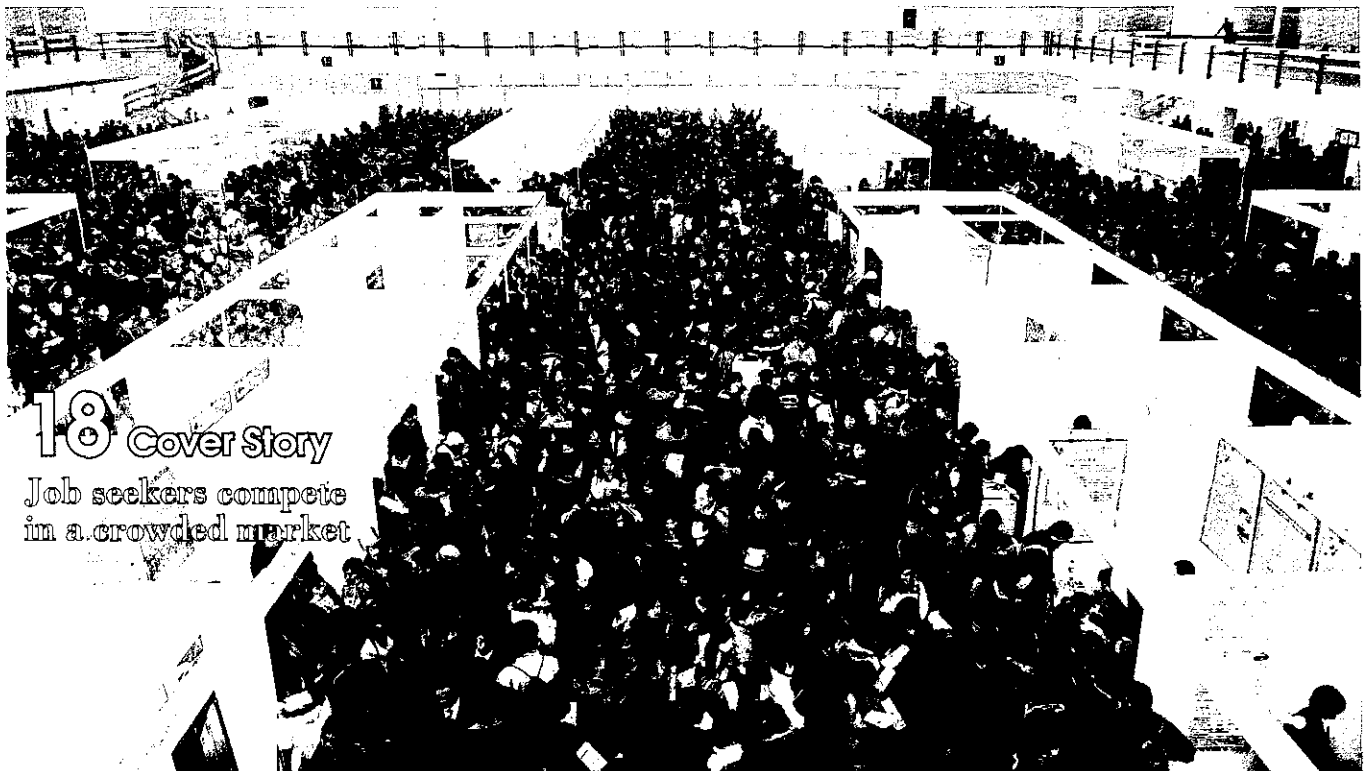
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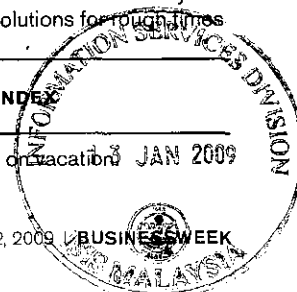
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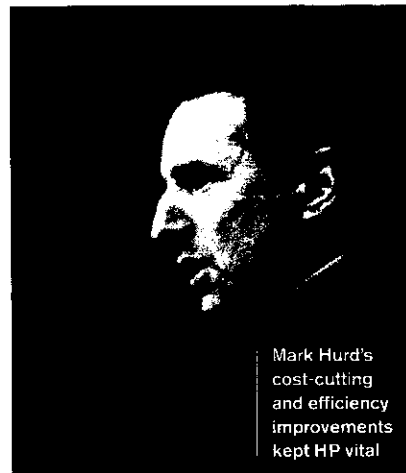
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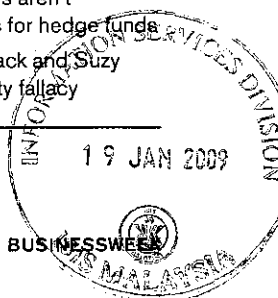
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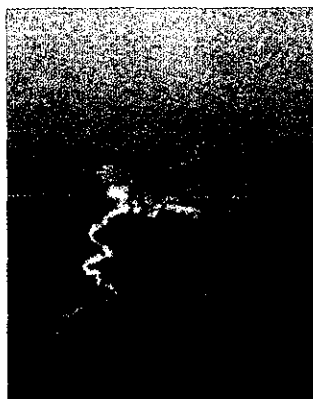


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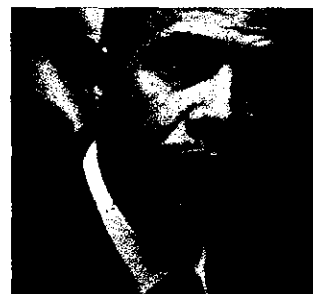
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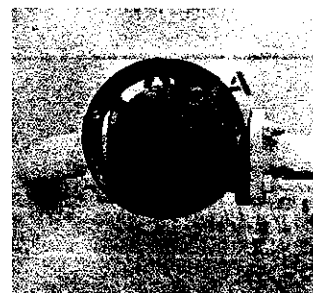
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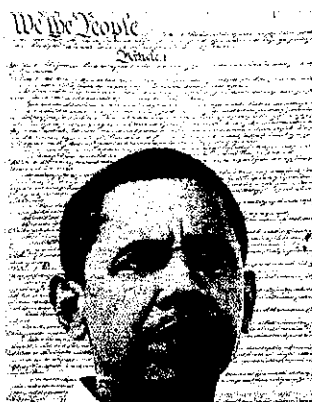


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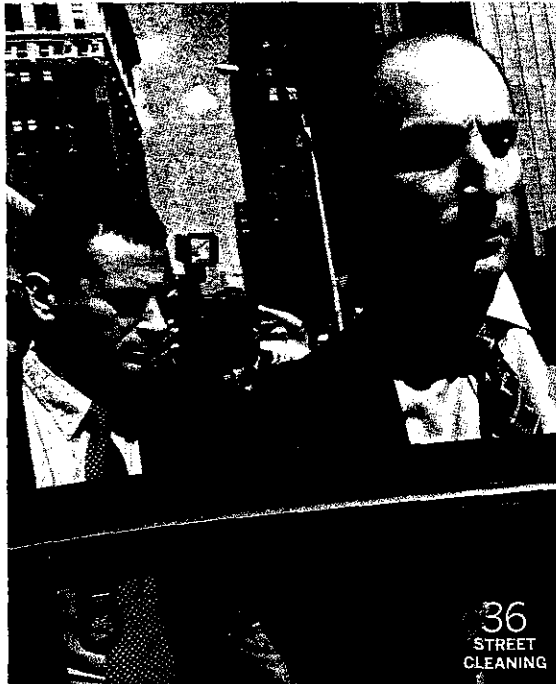
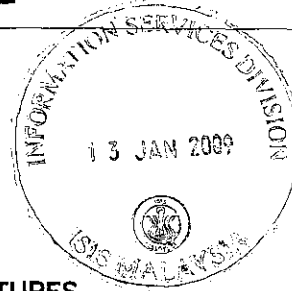


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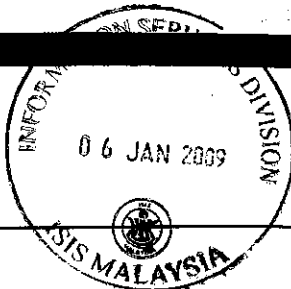
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Nine hundred years ago the residents of Easter Island committed ecocide. Now an unlikely trio—a middle-aged native woman, a tech evangelist from software powerhouse Autodesk, and the "Norwegian Howard Hughes"—are banding together to stop history from repeating itself.

BY JEFFREY M. O'BRIEN

COVER PHOTOGRAPH: CHRIS; CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: DANIEL ACER; BLOOMBERG; DAVID YELLEN; REDUX; BENJAMIN LOWE; JIMMYE; JAMES; JAMES; JAMES

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AN EYE ON 2009

A LISTLESS global economy, withering export markets, depressed commodity prices and languid stock markets, what lies ahead for Malaysia's corporate and business sector? Against such a sluggish backdrop, are there any bright spots – people, companies or sectors – that are likely to shine and prove an inspiration to others in 2009?

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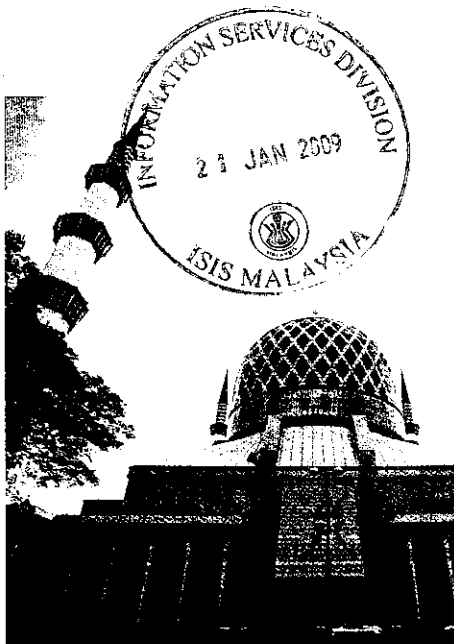
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AFTER a tumultuous 2008, which saw fortunes rising and plunging, the New Year brings with it much hope for change. Or does it? Conventional forecast for the global economy remains clouded, if not dour, and stock markets are bearing the brunt of it. With the Chinese Year of the Ox stomping in soon, will it bring the much-missed Bull to the local market? Or will investors have to wait 'till the cows come home' to witness any change? *Malaysian Business* goes alternative and turns to the Chinese art of *feng shui* for some pointers on elements and their effect on sectors, stocks and the economy.



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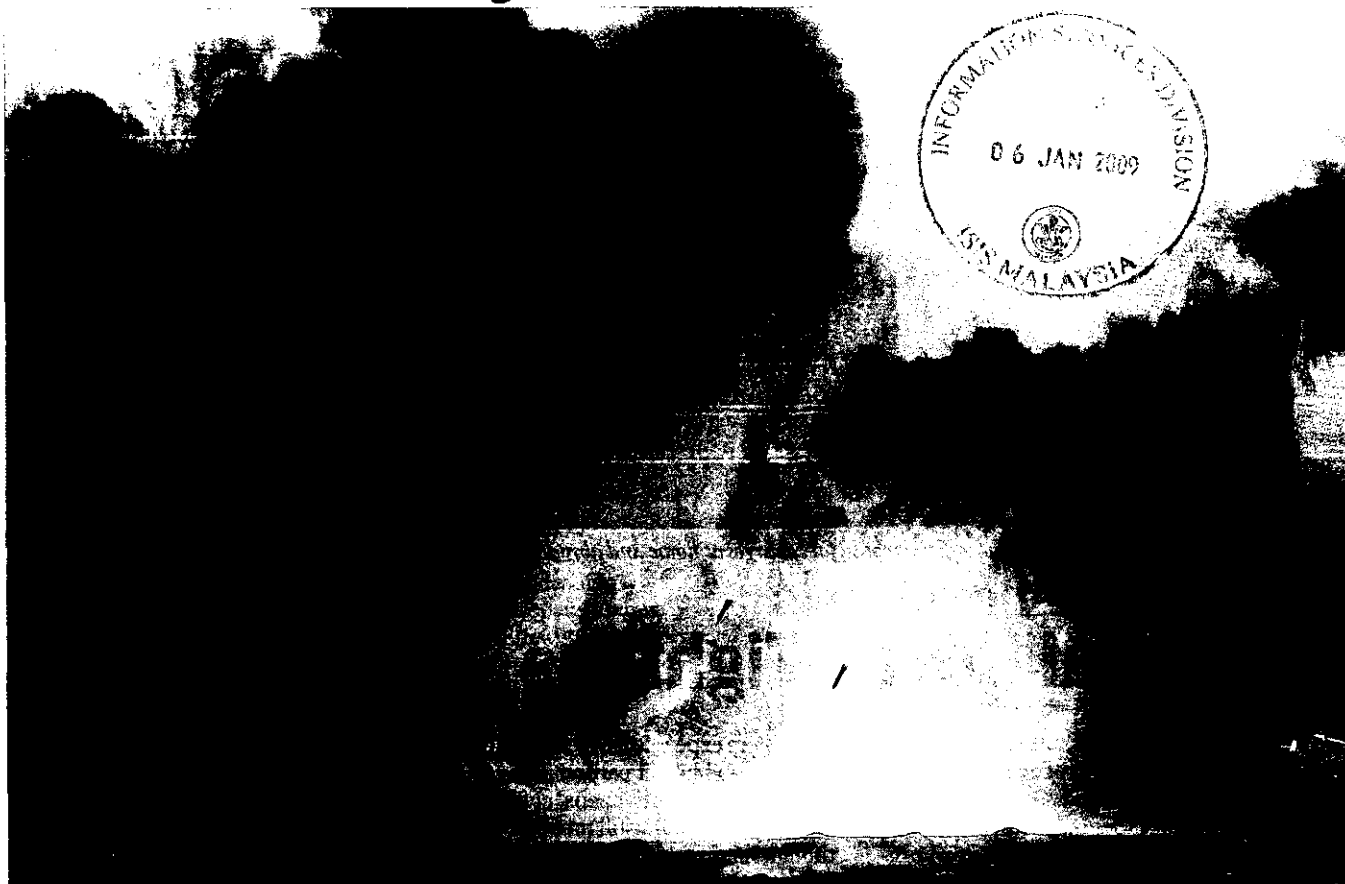
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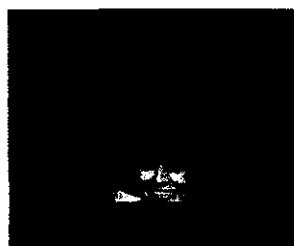
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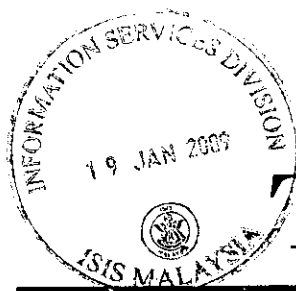
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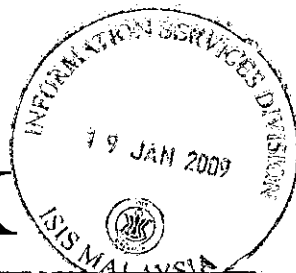
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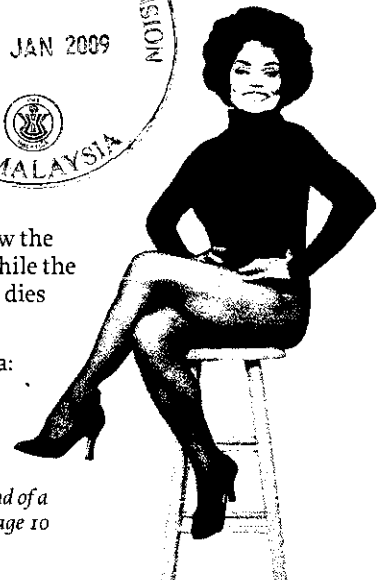
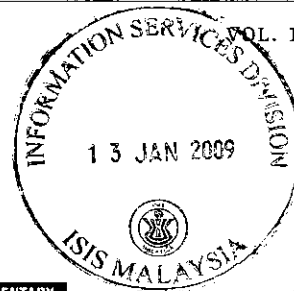
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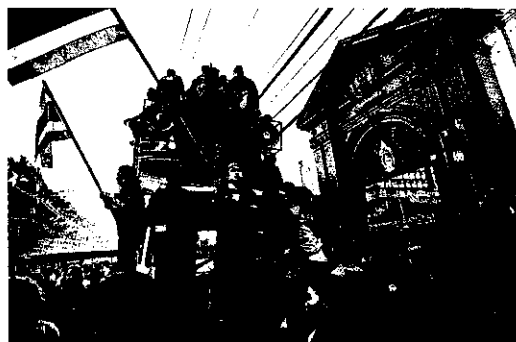
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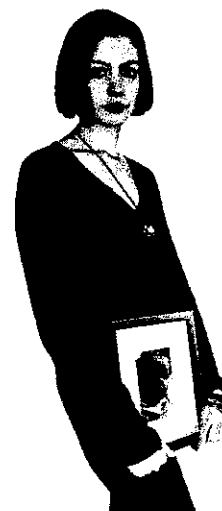
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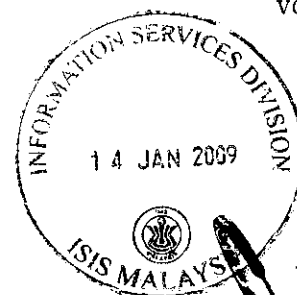
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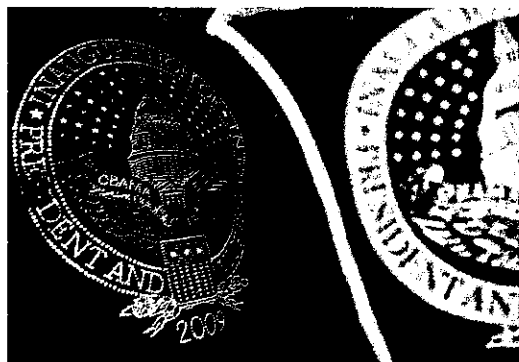
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