

BOSTON



Newsletter from Boston/Cambridge

17 December 2008

CHANGE – YES, WE DID

Hey again,

my stay in Boston is running towards its end with gigantic steps. Here comes the one before final newsletter, which I'd like to begin with a brief retrospect into the US presidential elections.

"Change". Barack Obama accepts a delicate inheritance after eight years of president Bush's politics. Obama promised a lot (reduce the unemployment rate, stop the war in Iraq, re-vitalise the economy, comprehensive health care plans for "everyone" etc.) and proclaimed vociferously that he is the man to make this change reality.

The pre-election phase was long, intense, rough and not always fair and constructive. Obama won because he led the better campaign, because he could engage more people with his charismatic and subjectively factual-emotional speeches, because he gained a lot of votes from minorities, because the economic crisis (remember that McCain still claimed the fundamentals of US economy were "strong" right before after the financial market started to collapse), and in the end because made a smarter vice-president choice than his opponent. I couldn't believe which incredibly emotional reactions his election sparked within the country and how much the responses of the world were full of relief, hope and support.

But after all, Obama already being praised as the heroic saviour of the US and its foreign politics, we should not forget that the elections are not the final goal of the new president's work, but just its start. And we know that promising a substantial change in these key areas is not easy to enforce, as the Puerto Rican governor had to experience, who has been using the "change" slogan and trying to suit the action to it since 2006. This is even more critical in the current world-political and economic developments (Mumbai terror attacks, oil price drop, economic difficulties etc.). And apart from that, it will especially be a particular challenge in a heterogeneous country like the US:

"A good compromise, a good piece of legislation, is like a good sentence; or a good piece of music. Everybody can recognize it. They say, 'Huh. It works. It makes sense.'"

(Barack Obama)

God bless him.

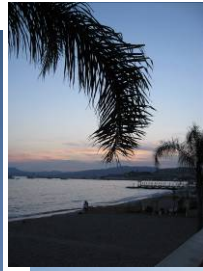


What can I say – home sweet home (left: September; right: December).



A good photographer this guy – a questionably decent motive himself though ;-)

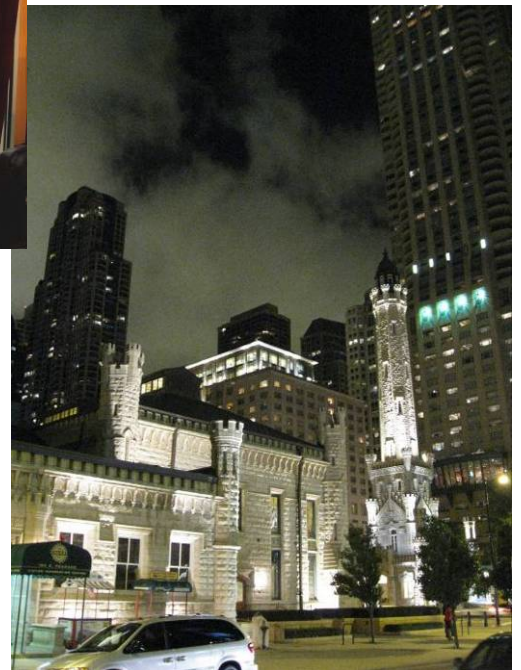
Thanks man, I had a LOT of fun with you!!



Kick-off meeting in Cannes – good wine, good food, good mood.

P.S.: observe the small helicopter on my yacht.

http://www.berndresch.com/pictures/0809_cannes/index.htm



Austrian Science Talk 2008 in Gotham City.

http://www.berndresch.com/pictures/0810_chicago/index.htm



Washington – an amazing city! And amazingly dead (in terms of going out and social life).
http://www.berndresch.com/pictures/0811_washington/index.htm



NY, exciting as usual.
http://www.berndresch.com/pictures/0811_new_york/index.htm



...and some more images from Boston.

Thanks to the people who visited... it was a hilarious time and a great pleasure!!!

cu many of you soon! Some of you sooner, some later... some a lot later,
Bernd.