

RDR WRITEUP,  
 "READER'S DIGEST," JUNE 2009

"Crafted from the recycled tarps of Brazilian cargo trucks," these new (but old) hats keep ultraviolet rays at bay and are virtually indestructible (\$29.99, [realdealbrazil.com](http://realdealbrazil.com)). The company's motto? "Don't take care of this hat—it will take care of you."




The Digest

**hello goodbye**

**Loot.** This HBO documentary follows a treasure hunter as he tries to trace two caches of World War II loot stashed by departing U.S. soldiers. Here's the problem: Darrel, who hid jewels in the attic of an Austrian farmhouse, is now blind. Andy, who hid samurai swords in the Philippines, is a pack rat whose trailer is so stuffed that he can't find the map he drew. The film, more tragic than comic, premieres May 20 and runs through June.

**Modern Girl Scouts.** The group will de-emphasize badges and stuffy instructional language and focus on financial and computer literacy, the environment, and engineering. The "rebranding," says the *Washington Post*, is an attempt to reverse membership declines (8 percent in ten years).

**Criminals who prey on senior citizens.** The Associated Press reports that cane-fighting classes ("Cane-Fu") are catching on across the United States. Students learn how to use a specially designed hardwood cane to trip, poke, beat, yoke, and otherwise inconvenience an aggressor.

**Sun hats for sissies.** "Crafted from the recycled tarps of Brazilian cargo trucks," these new (but old) hats keep ultraviolet rays at bay and are virtually indestructible (\$29.99, [realdealbrazil.com](http://realdealbrazil.com)). The company's motto? "Don't take care of this hat—it will take care of you."

**Company secrets.** A recent study found that 59 percent of laid-off workers take something of value with them when they leave—whether it's a box of pens or a company's blueprint for world domination. Among those who stay employed, *BusinessWeek* reports, insider fraud eats up 7 percent of revenues on average.

**WORD OF THE MONTH**  
**Valedictocracy** = A somewhat disparaging term coined by columnist David Brooks to describe President Barack Obama's America, "a nation run by onetime high school valedictorians and Ivy Leaguers," as *Wired*'s Jonathon Keats explains it, and "staffed with wonkish 'Obamatrons.'"

20 [readersdigest.com](http://readersdigest.com) 4/09

HELLO GOODBYE: COURTESY CANE MASTERS