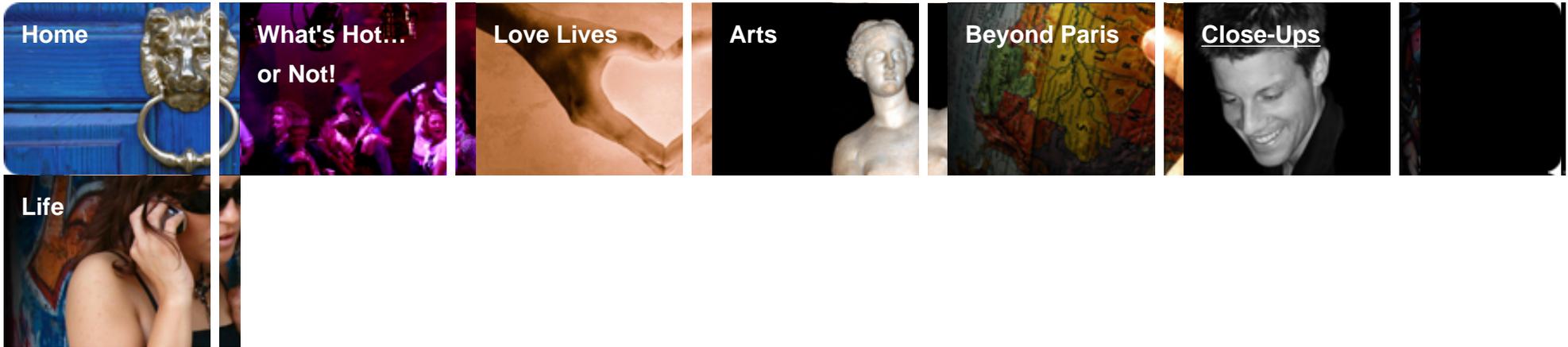




Prissy Mag

*Your unique look into every day Parisian life
...brought to you by Anglophones who live it.*



Friday, 13 April 2007

[Home](#) ▪ [Close-Ups](#) ▪ [Any Soldier: Still on Active Duty](#)

Issue Number 2

Any Soldier: Still on Active Duty

Written by Priscilla Lalisce

- Expat Examined
- Profile of an Artist
- Les Francais
- Living Heroes

Member Login

Advertisements

Username

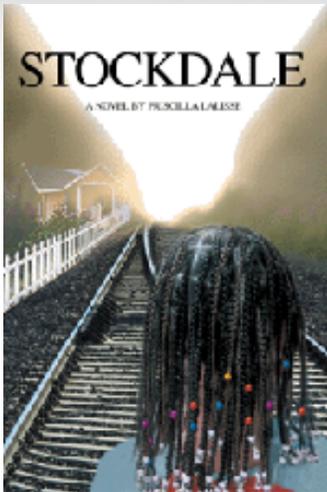
Password

Remember me

[Lost Password?](#)

No account yet? [Register](#)

Advertisements



I had just come back from a trip to the U.S. back in 2004 when I first learned about Any Soldier. I had noticed many servicemen walking around in desert-color fatigues, headed for Iraq or Afghanistan. When I found myself face to face with soldiers at the airport, I wanted to go up and ask how I could support them, and let them know that Americans everywhere cared about them...

but I didn't know where to begin. Finally, after arriving back in France, I decided to go online. This is what I found: [Any Soldier](#) and three years later, I still can't stop singing its praises.

Marty Horn and his wife Sue started Any Soldier with their son, Sgt. Brian Horn who was an Army Infantry Soldier with the 173rd Airborne Brigade then. They're now heading up an organization that supports hundreds of thousands of military personnel. Any Soldier has become one of the leading efforts in making sure the men and women who've been deployed for the war are cared for, via letters and packages from "home." In other words, it's our link to them, and their link to us, no matter where we are in the world.

How does it work? Any Soldier provides a Where to Send page, which features emails from different military personnel regarding the type of support they're looking for, be it a simple letter or package. Right now, there are over 3,000 names on this list. You address your snail mail to the writer using his name, but also adding the words "Any Soldier" on the second line, and that person shares the mail with his fellow servicemen. If there's someone in your addressee's group who isn't getting a lot of mail from home, he'll be the first person the letter goes to. The What to Send and How to Send pages are equally helpful, and the site, built and maintained by Marty Horn himself (a retired military man) is amazingly complete. You won't have any problems getting the information you need. There is one potential problem however, as Horn warns: You might become addicted to the site.

Prissy Mag recently caught up with Horn to find out the latest on Any Soldier. Here's what he had to say:

PM: How is Any Soldier doing now? Are people still sending as many packages?

MH: Any Soldier has matured and grown, and is continuing to do so. As you know, there is no middleman in this effort so we really have no idea how many packages have been sent, but we know it must be in the millions. Of the over 700,000 troops we have helped, it is rare that they didn't get way more support than they ever dreamed. Interesting page for you here: <http://anysoldier.com/Stuff/Press/index.cfm?popup=Yes> (which was built by your inspiration by the way).

PM: How does your son feel about having been such a significant factor in starting this? Is he still involved with Any Soldier?

MH: He is proud and stunned, just we all are. Brian is now a full-time college student and works part time for me in the "Support Team" handling the contacts.

PM: How has all of this affected your family in general?

MH: It has become our way of life. This has been my full time job for over three years, and just recently Brian and my wife have joined as employees. The workload is huge and constant, and we love it.

PM: If you could change anything about it, what would you?

MH: Improving the site and the efficiency of the effort is a constant objective. We are always adding features to the web site, soon to add a Forums and Live Chat application. We have a long list of unique features with our organization and while we are proud of them, we constantly strive to improve them.

PM: How long will Any Soldier run? And after the wars are over, any ideas?

MH: Any Soldier Inc. is permanent. Our growth is expected to last for many generations. "After the wars are over" is not a reality in this world I am sorry to say. We have in place the ability to expand our effort to all deployed troops, even

those in non-war zones. We are also setting in place the ability to add our allies to this.

PM: Would you like to add anything else?

MH: This has been an amazing ride. The most rewarding and heartbreaking work you can imagine. Dealing with really really good people and really really bad situations is quite the mix. Watching good appear in the middle of the darkness of war and it making a real impact is nothing but rewarding. One of the surprises in this is the exposure that the news media is way off the truth. We have literally thousands of reports from real people in the war zones and we don't edit what they say. Compare what they say to that of the media and there are two different stories.

If you wish to support our troops, visit Any Soldier online at www.anysoldier.com.



“

Be first to comment on this article

”

Only registered users can write comments.
Please login or register.

[<](#)
Prev

[\[Back \]](#)

© 2007 Prissy Mag, LLC., Paris, France All rights reserved. No part of this electronic publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, recording or otherwise, without the written permission of the authors. · [Legal](#) · [Contact](#)