

Book it: Best bets for board reading

From a roundup of new books, leadership insights on acting with boldness, making the right investments, finding happiness, being an effective speaker, and supporting women on the board.

Bold commitment and personal magic

*From **Enough: True Measures of Money, Business, and Life** by John C. Bogle. Copyright 2009 by the author. Published by John Wiley & Sons Inc. (www.wiley.com/business).*

IN MY DAY, I've met many successful men and women, too many of whom express their pride in having done it all themselves. But I don't believe that any one of us can take sole credit for our success. Most of us have been blessed by the nurture and love of our families, the support of our friends and colleagues, the dedication of our teachers, and the inspiration and guidance of our mentors, to say nothing of the providence that brought us the opportunity to realize our goals. "We did it ourselves." Really? When I hear that, I'm bold enough to ask, "Now just how did you arrange to be born in the United States of America?"

And so I come to my final affirmation of commitment: commitment to our nation

— "America the Beautiful," in the words of the hymn. Please neither derogate our heritage as Americans nor take it for granted. And, for that matter, never think that we have arrived at perfection, as this splendid verse of the hymn — my favorite — warns: "America! America! God mend thine every

flaw. Confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law." The moment we boldly commit ourselves to doing all we can, every day, to measure up to the elementary principles of good citizenship, magic follows for our nation, too.

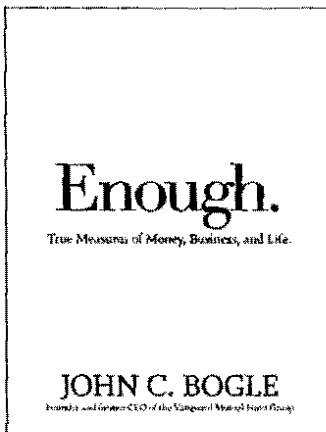
So, it's up to each of us to summon our unique genius, our own power, and our personal magic. Just as it has done so unfailingly for me, providence will respond for you. It really will! So in everything you do, be bold. Each of us must decide for ourselves how much to focus on things, and indeed what things to focus on. But I know that each one of us can profit by some moments of quiet introspection about whether our lives are driven far too much by the accumulation of things, and not nearly enough by the exercise of bold commitment to our family, to our work, to a worthy cause, to our society, and to our world.

John C. Bogle is founder of the Vanguard Mutual Fund Group and president of its Bogle Financial Markets Research Center. He created Vanguard in 1974 and served as its chairman and CEO until 1996 and senior chairman until 2000. This is his seventh book.

A bad grade prompts a change in direction

*From **How to Castrate a Bull** by Dave Hitz with Pat Walsh. Copyright 2009 by Dave Hitz. Published by Jossey-Bass, a Wiley imprint (www.josseybass.com).*

ARISTOTLE SAID that the secret to happiness is to find what you do well and do it. Getting a C- on a required physics course finally convinced me that I was in the wrong place. I changed my major to computer science. Thank goodness for that bad grade. Had I been a tiny bit better at physics, I might be a second-rate physics teacher at a second-



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