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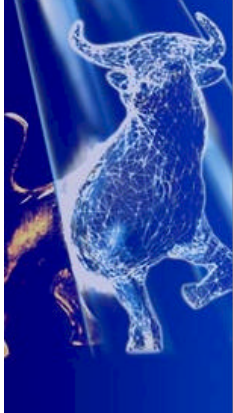
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Spotlight

October 26, 2000



U.S. Private Client Research

Steven Narker and David A. Wilson have been named to key posts in the Global Securities Research & Economics department.



World Series Lore

MLIM's Ron Rosenberg will never forget Game 2 of the World Series, because he has a piece of Mike Piazza's broken bat to remind him.



Running For His Daughters

ML Bank Suisse's Michael Salisbury is running in the New York City Marathon to bring attention to the fatal disease that took three of his girls.



More Than 15,000 Equities

MLX MarketEdge is our new cross-border electronic trade-execution service for retail dealers and banks in Europe and the U.K.

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Featured Site



And The Beat Goes On!

The United Way Tri-State Campaign continues to celebrate good times. Day two of the campaign brought in a total of \$337,170 as opposed to day two last year, which yielded \$133,132. Want to know which [business groups](#) lead the way? For more information on the Merrill Lynch United Way 2000 Campaign to date, [visit the web site](#).

Brand Matters



The Globe and Mail...

Our bull is well-read! Check the "Be Bullish" ad [media schedule](#) to find out where our bull is appearing next...

Notable

[APR - Investment Banking organizational changes](#)

[CICG - Joe Belfatto to head new Marketing Group](#)

[Japan -Senior management changes](#)

[U.S. - Health and dental benefits enrollment until 3 November](#)

[U.S. - Corporate Services Site Management wins two awards](#)

[MLIM Americas - Separate Account news via FundFire.com](#)

[MLEMEA - Candace Browning discusses Europe-1](#)

[U.S. - Help for first-time homebuyers in Los Angeles area](#)



Seeking the Answers for Their Three Little Girls

If medical researchers ever identify it, the genetic disease that took the lives of Michael and Gabriella Salsbury's three daughters before their first birthdays could very well be named after the family.

It would be an aching distinction, admits **Michael Salsbury**, a senior specialist banker for Merrill Lynch Bank Suisse in Geneva. But it would also honor the memories of Stephanie, Jennifer and Gracie-Sophia and what they have meant to researchers seeking the cause of the leukodystrophy that took their lives.

"Our daughters are the only three cases of this in the world that is known to medical science, it's that rare and unique," said Salsbury, who plans to run the New York City Marathon on 5 November to raise funds and awareness of the disease and promote the fledgling [United Leukodystrophy Foundation](#). "The doctors know it's a leukodystrophy, but they still don't know the specific biochemical defect."



The Salsburys: (l-r back) Michael, Gabriella (l-r front) Nicholas, Lauren

Leukodystrophies are genetic progressive disorders that affect the brain, spinal cord and peripheral nerves. The form of the disease affecting the Salsbury girls took them quickly.

Stephanie, born in September 1994 while Salsbury was an FC in ML's Santa Barbara, California, office, began suffering seizures at 3 months. She had to be put on life support, which in the end provided the time doctors needed to diagnose a mysterious leukodystrophy.

The Santa Barbara office rallied around the family and allowed Salsbury to spend more time at the hospital with his wife and daughter. And his fellow FC's gladly cared for Nicholas, the Salsburys' first-born who was 3 years old at the time. He is a healthy 10-year-old now, the big brother to 2-year-old Lauren who is also free from the disease.

Stephanie passed away at 8 months. Nine months later, Gabriella gave birth to Jennifer. Like Stephanie, she soon developed symptoms of leukodystrophy and passed away, just 5 months old.

"This was a very emotionally difficult time for us and many in the Santa Barbara office," Salsbury said. "And yet the support was always there and still is today."

The same can be said for the Geneva International office and the Private Banking Department of MLBS, where Salsbury is now leading the European team. Colleagues there celebrated in 1998 when the couple had Lauren without complications. And they mourned this past August when Gracie-Sophia, who was thought to be healthy when the family traveled to Santa Barbara to have her baptized, suddenly became ill. The Salsburys, devout Roman Catholics, scrapped the big baptismal celebration they had planned with close friends and ML colleagues, and held a more intimate ceremony. Gracie-Sophia, held lovingly in her mother's arms, died soon after in Santa Barbara. She was 4 months old.

Rather than pulling their marriage apart, the Salsburys said the deaths of their three daughters have only intensified their love and commitment to each other. Their religious faith and the presence of Nicholas and Lauren have all combined to strengthen the couple's 12-year marriage.

"Nicholas and Lauren have been more of a healing, more of an emollient, than anything else you could think of," Salsbury said. "For Gabriella and me, they are our lifeline."

Salsbury said he and his wife, who are carriers of the gene, continued to have children because, as with Nicholas, they knew they could bear healthy kids. Prenatal exams for the disease aren't an option because such tests are contingent on knowing what the biochemical defect is.

"We could not bear to see another child of ours die, but the will to have more kids overrode that," he said. "And we wouldn't have Lauren today if we had decided to give up. It's amazing how resilient human beings are."

Kathleen Wiltshire, CEO of ML Bank Suisse, said she admires Gabriella and Michael's strength and their ability to forge ahead with their lives.

"Gabriella is a perfectly remarkable woman," she said, adding that she's heartened to see Salsbury channeling his grief by telling his story and helping the not-for-profit ULF.

"Mike used to keep it all pushed deep down within himself," Wiltshire said. "But this decision to run the marathon, I think, clearly is an indication that he has found something, something actionable, that helps him handle the grief. And from our standpoint, we've told him, 'Good for you, we'll help you any way we can.'"

Salsbury said it was only after Gracie-Sophia's death that he found the will to become active in publicly supporting research on the disease.

"It's time," he said. "Both Gabriella and myself are finally ready to go forward and do whatever we can. We know medical science is working hard to find answers, and we are committed as well. I'm sure our little girls would expect nothing less from us."

FC **John Abrams** manages ULF's finances in Oak Brook, Illinois, and also volunteers his time escorting leading doctors and researchers around town when they fly in for ULF functions. Based in Sycamore, Illinois, it's run by Ron and Paula Brazeal, who lost two sons to the disease.

"It's a small organization that's taken on this big cause battling an unknown disease," Abrams said. "They're on a shoestring budget and what we're trying to do is put together \$4 million and then use the interest off the principal to fund ULF research and programs."

Salsbury is hoping his marathon run will spur an interest in the foundation and its funding goal. The 42-year-old is not a novice to running marathons. This will be his ninth — he ran New York in 1997 and the famed Boston Marathon in 1982.

"I keep telling everyone that when I was younger, I ran in marathons to race, then the goal became to finish, and now the goal is to just survive them," he said with a laugh.

The incentive to run in this 26-miler, though, will help Salsbury push himself through New York City's five boroughs to the finish line.

"It's an unknown disease and the ULF is basically an unknown foundation," he said. "But I'm sure going to do my part to change that."