



I'm Too Busy for Pets

Orange County Register Reporter Margot Roosevelt Prefers to Be the One Asking the Questions



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Margot Roosevelt is an economy reporter for the *Orange County Register*. She has also written for *The Washington Post*, *Time*, and the *Los Angeles Times*. Before joining a Zócalo/UCLA panel discussion on water scarcity in California—[Can We Engineer Our Way Out of the Drought?](#)—she talked in the Zócalo green room about reporting on the Falklands War, thinking in both French and Spanish, and oversized furniture.

Q: Cats or dogs?

A: Neither. Too busy for animals.

Q: You started your journalism career covering politics. What's the most difficult thing about political reporting?

A: Assessing the chances of the candidates.

Q: You've covered multiple Olympics. Which was your favorite?

A: Lillehammer [the 1994 Winter Olympics, in Norway]. It was very intimate.

Q: What's the most interesting piece of furniture you own?

A: I own a very long sofa. It's probably 8 feet long. It belonged to my great uncle. He passed it down to my aunt and uncle, and they passed it down to me.

Q: You're fluent in French and Spanish. Do you ever think in multiple languages?

A: Sometimes, when I'm thinking in Spanish, it comes out in French, and vice versa.

Q: Can you remember the last time you got stuck out in the rain?

A: I don't remember ever being stuck.

Q: Do you like being interviewed, or do you always want to be the one asking the questions?

A: I prefer to be the one asking the questions.

Q: What's the coolest dinosaur?

A: Tyrannosaurus rex. I used to go see him in New York's Natural History Museum when I was growing up.

Q: What's one of the stories you're most proud of covering?

A: When I was covering the Falklands War, in Argentina, I was the first to figure out that the various American companies were getting around a trade embargo by triangulating their exports and imports through other companies—other exporters and importers. I always like to beat the competition.

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