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CITY PEOPLE

The feuds, the faces and the farcical
Dominic Walsh @walshdominic

Business big shot

NAME ANDRÉ
SOUGARRET
LARROQUETE
AGE 53
POSITION CHIEF
OPERATING
OFFICER, FRESNILLO



Fresnillo, the Mexican gold and silver producer, has tapped into Chilean mining expertise for a new executive to oversee its operations. The FTSE 100 mining group, which is the world's largest silver producer, said it had hired André Sougarret Larroquete as its new chief operating officer. He served previously as executive vice-president at the National Mining Company, the organisation responsible for the growth of the Chilean mining industry. The

appointment of Mr Sougarret Larroquete, who is tasked with ensuring the "safe and efficient running" of Fresnillo's six mines in Mexico, comes after the company was twice forced to downgrade its production guidance last year.

The 53-year-old studied mining engineering at the university of Chile and has an MBA in company administration from Loyola College. His previous roles in the industry include stints at Codelco, the Chilean state-owned copper miner, and managing Antofagasta's Centinela mine in the country. Octavio Alvidrez, Fresnillo chief executive, said Mr Sougarret Larroquete had an "outstanding track record". He replaces Roberto Díaz, an industry veteran who has retired after serving as chief operating officer since 2013.



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APPLE BOARD IS PRESSED TO PARE BACK ITS LIBERAL AGENDA

It is widely accepted that Silicon Valley would benefit from greater diversity, with the preponderance of white and Asian male engineers creating blind spots at the likes of Uber. Apple is facing a diversity pressure of a different kind. The National Center for Public Policy Research, a small investor, has tabled a proposal for Apple's AGM in March demanding fewer voices on its board. "There is ample evidence that the company – and Silicon Valley generally – operate [an] ideological hegemony that eschews conservative people, thoughts and values," the right-wing think tank says. Al Gore, a long-time independent director, would beg to differ.

SILVER SERVICE

In the nearly two decades since he founded WSH, the catering group behind Benugo, Baxter Storey and Searcys, Alastair Storey has never been averse to turning to private equity to fund his ambitions,

teaming up with the likes of MML Capital Partners and Intermediate Capital Group. Talks over the sale of a significant stake to Clayton, Dubilier & Rice, the US buyout firm, in a deal valuing the company at \$1 billion, are on a different scale. And to think he might never have worked in catering: in his youth the Scot was

planning to go to art school before a summer job as a waiter opened his eyes to the world of hospitality.

EASY DOES IT
Sir Stelios Haji-loannou's legal team earn their crust protecting his Easygroup against

"brand thieves". Yesterday the company claimed victory in a legal battle with the French supermarket behemoth Carrefour over its use of the name "Easy" on a dozen local grocery shops in Belgium. Even worse, the fascia had an orange hue. The Easyjet founder thanked the retailer for agreeing to rebadge the stores as Carrefour Express without going to court, even though it could "easily afford the legal fees".

