



Newsletter

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Black Economic Empowerment in America



Economic empowerment is rooted in education, opportunity and self-help. Education must include financial literacy, development of marketable skills, and knowledge about basic rights. Also essential are freedom from violence and intimidation, laws ensuring equal-opportunity employment, access to credit and finance, jobs paying adequate wages, and representation in decision-making positions. The following photos chronicle some of the historical and contemporary struggles and success stories of economic empowerment for black Americans in the United States .



COMPLETE PHOTO GALLERY WITH STORIES AND DESCRIPTIONS
http://www.america.gov/multimedia/photogallery.html#/30145/black_econ/

Presidential Proclamation -- National African American History Month

In the centuries since African Americans first arrived on our shores, they have known the bitterness of slavery and oppression, the hope of progress, and the triumph of the American Dream. African American history is an essential thread of the American narrative that traces our Nation's enduring struggle to perfect itself. Each February, we recognize African American History Month as a moment to reflect upon how far we have come as a Nation, and what challenges remain. This year's theme, "The History of Black Economic Empowerment," calls upon us to honor the African Americans who overcame injustice and inequality to achieve financial independence and the security of self empowerment that comes with it.

Nearly 100 years after the Civil War, African Americans still faced daunting challenges and indignities. Widespread racial prejudice inhibited their opportunities, and institutional discrimination such as black codes and Jim Crow laws denied them full citizenship rights. Despite these seemingly impossible barriers, pioneering African Americans blazed trails for themselves and their children. They became skilled workers and professionals. They purchased land, and a new generation of black entrepreneurs founded banks, educational institutions, newspapers, hospitals, and businesses of all kinds.

This month, we recognize the courage and tenacity of so many hard-working Americans whose legacies are woven into the fabric of our Nation. We are heirs to their extraordinary progress. Racial prejudice is no longer the steepest barrier to opportunity for most African Americans, yet substantial obstacles remain in the remnants of past discrimination. Structural inequalities -- from disparities in education and health care to the vicious cycle of poverty -- still pose enormous hurdles for black communities across America.

Overcoming today's challenges will require the same dedication and sense of urgency that enabled past generations of African Americans to rise above the injustices of their time. That is why my Administration is laying a new foundation for long-term economic growth that helps more than just a privileged few. We are working hard to give small businesses much-needed credit, to slash tax breaks for companies that ship jobs overseas, and to give those same breaks to companies that create jobs here at home. We are also reinvesting in our schools and making college more affordable, because a world class education is our country's best roadmap to prosperity.

These initiatives will expand opportunities for African Americans, and for all Americans, but parents and community leaders must also be partners in this effort. We must push our children to reach for the full measure of their potential, just as the innovators who succeeded in previous generations pushed their children to achieve something greater. In the volumes of black history, much remains unwritten. Let us add our own chapter, full of progress and ambition, so that our children's children will know that we, too, did our part to erase an unjust past and build a brighter future.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim February 2010 as National African American History Month. I call upon public officials, educators, librarians, and all the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of February, in the year of our Lord two thousand ten, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-fourth.

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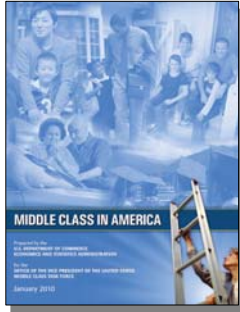
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GOVERNMENT



MIDDLE CLASS IN AMERICA. U.S. Department of Commerce. January 25, 2010.

The Commerce Department's Economics and Statistics Administration issued a report for Vice President Biden's Middle Class Task Force. The report, which identifies what it means to be middle class in America today, uses a host of measures to show that it is more difficult today to both attain and maintain a middle-class lifestyle than it was two decades ago.

http://www.commerce.gov/s/groups/public/@doc/@os/@opa/documents/content/prod01_008833.pdf [PDF format, 43 pages].

VOLUNTEERING IN THE UNITED STATES, 2009. Bureau of Labor Statistics. January 26, 2010.

Both the number of volunteers and the volunteer rate rose over the year ended in September 2009, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. About 63.4 million people, or 26.8 percent of the population, volunteered through or for an organization at least once between September 2008 and September 2009. In 2008, the volunteer rate was 26.4 percent.

<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/volun.nr0.htm> [HTML format, various paging].

BLACK (AFRICAN-AMERICAN) HISTORY MONTH: FEBRUARY 2010. Facts for Features, U.S. Census Bureau. December 2, 2009.

http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/pdf/cb10ff-01_blackhistory.pdf [PDF format, 6 pages].

CONGRESSIONAL DOCUMENTS

AN ANALYSIS OF THE ROADMAP FOR AMERICA'S FUTURE ACT OF 2010, AS SPECIFIED BY CONGRESSMAN RYAN'S STAFF. Congressional Budget Office. January 27, 2010.

The legislation, which Congressman Ryan introduced today, would make comprehensive changes to the Social Security program; to federal involvement in health care, including Medicare, Medicaid, and the tax treatment of health insurance; to other federal spending; and to other features of the tax system. CBO's analysis is based on the proposal as modified by specifications provided by Congressman Ryan's staff. [PDF format, 50 pages].

<http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/108xx/doc10851/01-27-Ryan-Roadmap-Letter.pdf>

THE NAACP: A CENTURY IN THE FIGHT FOR FREEDOM. Library of Congress. February 3, 2010.

In commemoration of African American History Month, the Library of Congress launched a new online exhibition about the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), an organization which has donated its records to the Library, where they are the most-consulted collection. The exhibit presents a retrospective of the major personalities, events, and achievements that shaped the NAACP's history during its first 100 years.

<http://myloc.gov/exhibitions/naacp/Pages/default.aspx> [HTML format, various paging].



**METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING.
Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress.
William J. Mallett. February 3, 2010.**

Federal law requires state and local governments to designate a metropolitan planning organization (MPO) in each urbanized area with a population of 50,000 or more to help plan surface transportation infrastructure and services. Despite some strengthening of their authority over the years, MPOs have generally remained subordinate to state departments of transportation (DOTs) in the planning and selecting (“programming”) of projects using federal surface transportation funds. Moreover, it can be argued that at the metropolitan level MPOs are subordinate to local governments that own and operate many elements of the transportation system, and also control land use planning and zoning.
<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R41068.pdf> [PDF format, 22 pages].

SOCIAL NETWORKING AND CONSTITUENT COMMUNICATIONS: MEMBER USE OF TWITTER DURING A TWO-MONTH PERIOD IN THE 111TH CONGRESS. Matthew Eric Glassman, Jacob R. Straus, Colleen J. Shogan. Congressional Research Service, February 3, 2010

Beginning with the widespread use of e-mail by Congress in the mid-1990’s, the development of new electronic technologies has altered the traditional patterns of communication between Members of Congress and constituents. Many Members now use e-mail, official websites, blogs, YouTube channels, and Facebook pages to communicate with their constituents—technologies that were either non-existent or not widely available 15 years ago. These technologies have arguably served to enhance the ability of Members of Congress to fulfill their representational duties by providing greater opportunities for communication between the Member and individual constituents, supporting the fundamental democratic role of spreading information about public policy and government operations. In addition, electronic technology has reduced the marginal cost of constituent communications; unlike postal letters, Members can reach large numbers of constituents for a relatively small fixed cost. Despite these advantages, electronic communications have raised some concerns. Existing law and chamber regulations on the use of communication media such as the franking privilege have proven difficult to adapt to the new electronic technologies.

This report examines Member use of one specific new electronic communication medium: Twitter. After providing an overview and background of Twitter, the report analyzes patterns of Member use of Twitter during August and September 2009.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R41066.pdf>

AFRICAN AMERICAN MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS: 1870-2009. Jennifer E. Manning, Colleen J. Shogan. Congressional Research Service, February 2, 2010

The number of African American Members has steadily increased since the first African Americans entered Congress in 1870. There were fewer than 10 Members until the 91st Congress (1969-1971). In the 98th Congress (1983-1985), the number surpassed 20 for the first time and then jumped to 40 in the 103rd Congress (1993-1995). Since the 106th Congress (1999-2001), the number has remained between 39 and 43 serving at any one time.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL30378.pdf>

FEDERAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS AND SAME-SEX PARTNERSHIPS. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Wendy R. Ginsberg. January 21, 2010.

The federal government provides a variety of benefits to its 8 million employees and annuitants. Among these benefits are health insurance; enhanced dental and vision benefits; survivor benefits; retirement and disability benefits; family, medical, and emergency leave; and reimbursement of relocation costs. Pursuant to Title 5 U.S.C. Chapters 89, 89A, 89B and other statutes, millions of federal employees may extend these benefits to their spouses and children. An estimated 34,000 federal employees are in same-sex relationships, including state-recognized marriages, civil unions, or domestic partnerships.

http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/R41030_20100121.pdf [PDF format, 25 pages].

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH. Library of Congress. May 27, 2009.

<http://www.loc.gov/law/help/commemorative-observations/african-american.php>
[HTML format with links]

AFRICAN AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES: PAMPHLETS FROM THE DANIEL A. P. MURRAY COLLECTION 1818-1907. American Memory, Library of Congress. 2010

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/aap/aaphome.html> [HTML format with links].

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT ON THE "EDUCATE TO INNOVATE" CAMPAIGN AND SCIENCE TEACHING AND MENTORING AWARDS. The White House. January 6, 2010.

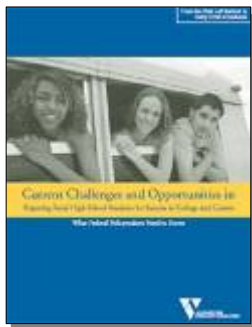
The President talks about Educate to Innovate campaign.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/remarks-president-educate-innovate-campaign-and-science-teaching-and-mentoring-awar>

[HTML format, various paging].

THINK TANK PUBLICATIONS

ALLIANCE FOR EXCELLENT EDUCATION



CURRENT CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN PREPARING RURAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS IN COLLEGE AND CAREERS. Alliance for Excellent Education, February 5, 2010.

The new report intends to give federal policymakers a detailed understanding of the challenges facing rural high schools as well as the inherent assets that rural schools bring to the national education reform debate. Current federal education policies and research tend to favor urban and suburban high schools with the largest student populations and pay too little attention to the unique needs and circumstances of rural high schools. With more than 3.4 million American students currently attending rural high schools, these troubling outcomes are more than a "local" problem; they are a national crisis.

<http://www.all4ed.org/files/RuralHSReportChallengesOpps.pdf>

THE ONLINE LEARNING IMPERATIVE: A SOLUTION TO THREE LOOMING CRISES IN EDUCATION. Alliance for Excellent Education, February 2010

On February 16, the Alliance released a brief that details how the integral use of online technology in today's secondary school classrooms can strengthen the teacher workforce, allow states to do more despite flat education budgets, and improve student outcomes. According to the brief, state and local public officials are faced with stark realities that will force major changes in traditional education processes, especially for middle and high schools.
<http://www.all4ed.org/files/OnlineLearning.pdf>

COMMON STANDARDS: THE TIME IS NOW. Alliance for Excellent Education. Bob Rothman. December 2009.

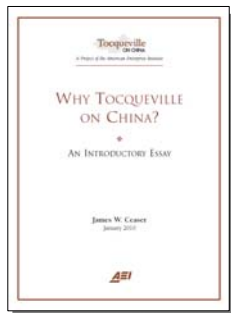
After years of debate, the nation is now taking a bold step toward ensuring that all students graduate ready for college and careers. Under the leadership of the Council of Chief State School Officers and the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices, a panel has drafted a set of Common Core State Standards for college and career readiness. These standards will raise expectations for all students and will be the same no matter where students happen to live. The brief outlines the need for common standards that are rigorous, clear, and focused and suggests ways that common standards will help lay the foundation for a stronger education system that will prepare all students for college and careers.
<http://www.all4ed.org/files/TheTimeIsNow.pdf> [PDF format, 6 pages].

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED PERSONS

CONNECTING AND GIVING: A REPORT ON HOW MID-LIFE AND OLDER AMERICANS SPEND THEIR TIME, MAKE CONNECTIONS AND BUILD COMMUNITIES. American Association of Retired Persons. Alicia Williams et al. January 2010.

American Association of Retired Persons has tracked the community service and civic involvement trends in this area periodically, measuring the extent and nature of volunteering among Baby Boomers, AARP members, and others. However, much has changed since the last study was conducted in 1997: 9/11, two recessions, the aging of the Baby Boom Generation, and a workplace characterized by longer hours and telecommuting. The report examines how these trends and others have impacted the extent and nature of the community involvement and civic participation of mid-life and older Americans. [PDF format, 74 pages].
http://assets.aarp.org/rgcenter/general/connecting_giving.pdf

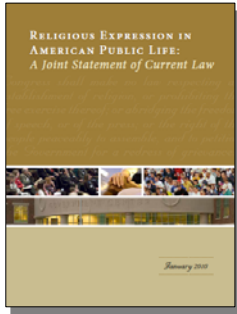
AMERICAN ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE



WHY TOCQUEVILLE ON CHINA? An Introductory Essay by James W. Ceaser. AEI Papers & Studies, Monday, January 25, 2010

What in the writings of Alexis de Tocqueville could conceivably be thought to offer any guidance for the study of contemporary China? Tocqueville was born early in the nineteenth century (1805) at a time when China lay in near total isolation from Europe. Matters changed during Tocqueville's lifetime with the so-called Opium War (1839-41), in which China suffered a humiliating defeat at the hands of Great Britain. This reversal helped set in motion a series of events that led to the destabilization of the Manchu (or Qing) dynasty, which eventually fell in 1911. Tocqueville commented in his personal notes on a few of the early occurrences in this sequence, but he never undertook an extensive analysis of developments in the Far East.
<http://www.aei.org/docLib/Why-Tocqueville.pdf>

ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE



RELIGIOUS EXPRESSION IN AMERICAN PUBLIC LIFE: A JOINT STATEMENT OF CURRENT LAW. Anti-Defamation League and Center for Religion and Public Affairs, Wake Forest University School of Divinity. January 2010.

The role of religion in American life continues to be a subject of national discussion and debate. The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) has joined with a diverse group of organizations in a statement about the current state of the law regarding religious expression in the United States. The document attempts to clearly set an accurate understanding of the current state of the law. It does not focus on what the law should be, but rather what the law is today.

http://www.adl.org/religious_freedom/WFU-Divinity-Joint-Statement.pdf

ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE AND HISTORY

2010 BLACK HISTORY THEME: THE HISTORY OF BLACK ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT. Association for the Study of African American Life and History, 2010.

<http://www.asalh.org/> [HTML format with links].

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES



RAISING THE BAR: EMPLOYERS' VIEWS ON COLLEGE LEARNING IN THE WAKE OF THE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN. Association of American Colleges and Universities. January 20, 2010.

"It is very clear from our survey of employers that higher education needs to increase not only the numbers of students who graduate, but the levels of learning they obtain in college," said Association of American Colleges & Universities President Carol Geary Schneider. Undersecretary of Education Martha Kanter noted that, "Increasing students' access to college and the numbers of students who graduate with a degree or credential are crucial goals for American society. But it is equally important that we give new attention to the quality and level of students' learning in college." [PDF format, 10 pages].

http://www.aacu.org/leap/documents/2009_EmployerSurvey.pdf

BIOGRAPHY CHANNEL

CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY. The Biography Channel. January 2010.

<http://www.biography.com/blackhistory/index.jsp> [Multimedia format].

BROOKINGS INSTITUTION

PUNCHING BELOW ITS WEIGHT: THE U.S. GOVERNMENT APPROACH TO EDUCATION IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD. Brookings Institution. Rebecca Winthrop. February 16, 2010.

Global education plays an important role in contributing to U.S. foreign policy objectives. Unfortunately, according to the report, its many good education activities and programs are not leveraged for maximum impact on the ground, especially in situations of armed conflict and state fragility.

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2010/02_education_development_winthrop/02_education_development_winthrop.pdf

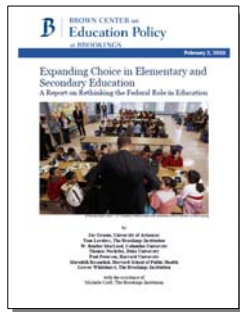




EDUCATION'S HARDEST TEST: SCALING UP AID IN FRAGILE AND CONFLICT-AFFECTED STATES. Center for Universal Education at Brookings. Rebecca Winthrop et al. February 9, 2010.

Children living in countries affected by conflict, fragility, or emergencies are less likely to enroll, continually participate, and complete their basic schooling than their peers living in more stable countries. In these contexts, there may be few operational schools and inadequate government funding for education, and teachers and education officials may have limited capacity and few training opportunities. Thus far, however, donors have failed to provide sufficient resources and support to the education of children and youth in these fragile and conflict-affected states. The report outlines seven challenges that need to be addressed and recommendations for a way forward for donors and the international community. [PDF format, 12 pages].

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2010/02_education_aid_winthrop/02_education_aid_winthrop.pdf



EXPANDING CHOICE IN ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION: A REPORT ON RETHINKING THE FEDERAL ROLE IN EDUCATION. Brookings Institution. Jay Greene et al. February 2, 2010.

Education choice exercises a powerful pull on parents of school children: Twenty-four percent report that they moved to their current neighborhood so their children could attend their current school; 15 percent of public school students attend parent-selected rather than district-assigned schools; the charter school and homeschooling sectors have grown from nothing to 2.6 percent and 3 percent of total enrollment respectively; private schools capture 11 percent of enrollment; and virtual schooling is poised for explosive growth. Consistent with these behavioral manifestations of the desire of parents to choose their children's schools, schools of choice consistently generate more positive evaluations from parents than assigned schools [PDF format, 32 pages].

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2010/0202_school_choice/0202_school_choice.pdf

CATO INSTITUTE

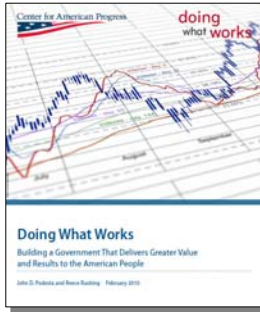


BEHIND THE CURTAIN: ASSESSING THE CASE FOR NATIONAL CURRICULUM STANDARDS. By Neal McCluskey. Cato Institute, Policy Analysis no. 661 February 17, 2010

The argument for national curriculum standards sounds simple: set high standards, make all schools meet them, and watch American students achieve at high levels. It is straightforward and compelling, and it is driving a sea change in American education policy. Unfortunately, setting high standards and getting American students to hit them is extremely difficult. Politically powerful interest groups must be overcome. Crippling conflicts between different religious, ethnic, and ideological factions must be avoided. And a culture that is generally averse to an intense focus on academics must be transformed. These challenges help to explain why the research on national standards is both very limited and inconclusive.

<http://www.cato.org/pubs/pas/pa661.pdf>

CENTER FOR AMERICAN PROGRESS



DOING WHAT WORKS: BUILDING A GOVERNMENT THAT DELIVERS GREATER VALUE AND RESULTS TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. By John Podesta, Reece Rushing. Center for American Progress, February 2010.

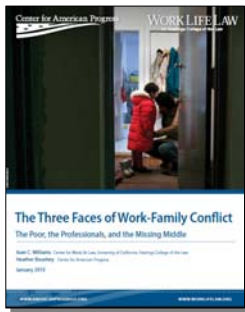
Opinion research shows the public does not believe government is capable of executing its responsibilities efficiently and effectively. As a result, a government makeover would deliver more than policy results; it also promises to restore public confidence in government's basic competence.

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/02/doing_what_works.html

RINGING THE BELL FOR K-12 TEACHER TENURE REFORM. Center for American Progress. Patrick McGuinn. February 9, 2010.

The report provides an overview of state teacher tenure reform in the United States and highlights recommendations for policymakers going forward. [PDF format, 38 pages].

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/02/pdf/teacher_tenure.pdf



THE THREE FACES OF WORK-FAMILY CONFLICT. Center for American Progress. Joan C. Williams and Heather Boushey. January 25, 2010.

Work-family conflict is much higher in the United States than elsewhere in the developed world, according to the report. One reason is that Americans work longer hours than workers in most other developed countries, including Japan, where there is a word, *karoshi*, for "death by overwork." The typical American middle-income family put in an average of 11 more hours a week in 2006 than it did in 1979. [PDF format, 96 pages].

<http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/01/pdf/threefaces.pdf>

CENTER FOR IMMIGRATION STUDIES

IMMIGRATION, POLITICAL REALIGNMENT, AND THE DEMISE OF REPUBLICAN POLITICAL PROSPECTS. By James G. Gimpel. Center for Immigration Studies. Background, February 2010

This Background examines the political implications of large-scale immigration. Between 1980 and 2008, 25.2 million people were granted permanent residency (green cards) by the United States. A comparison of voting patterns in presidential elections across counties over the last three decades shows that large-scale immigration has caused a steady drop in presidential Republican vote shares throughout the country. Once politically marginal counties are now safely Democratic due to the propensity of immigrants, especially Latinos, to identify and vote Democratic. The partisan impact of immigration is relatively uniform throughout the country, even though local Republican parties have taken different positions on illegal immigration. Although high immigration may work against Democratic policy goals, such as raising wages for the poor and protecting the environment, it does improve Democratic electoral prospects. In contrast, immigration may help Republican business interests hold down wages, but it also undermines the party's political fortunes. Future levels of immigration are likely to be a key determinant of Republicans' political prospects moving forward.

<http://www.cis.org/articles/2010/republican-demise.pdf>

CENTER FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION

CHASING THE COLLEGE ACCEPTANCE LETTER: IS IT HARDER TO GET INTO COLLEGE? Center for Public Education. January 2010.

It is no more difficult for most students to get into college today than it was a decade ago. The shrinking acceptance rates cited in so many news reports likely come from a higher number of applications per student. However, the average applicant today has about the same chance of getting into a competitive college as an average applicant a decade ago.

http://www.centerforpubliceducation.org/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspx?c=lvIXIi0JwE&b=5715185&content_id={182A5200-3C08-48B9-A491-ACB39EE372F4}¬oc=1 [HTML format, various paging].

CENTER FOR RETIREMENT RESEARCH AT BOSTON COLLEGE

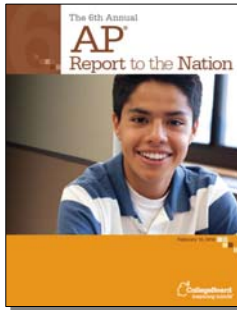


IS PENSION INEQUALITY GROWING? Center for Retirement Research at Boston College. Nadia Karamcheva and Geoffrey Sanzenbacher. January 2010.

Employer-sponsored pensions are an important source of retirement income and often make the difference between having a comfortable retirement and just scraping by. Over the past two decades, pension sponsorship and participation have remained relatively constant. At any given point in time, roughly half of private sector workers age 25-64 are covered by pension plans. This constancy, however, masks a growing inequality in pension participation by income that has become more pronounced with the shift from traditional defined benefit plans to defined contribution plans. The brief documents and explores trends in pension participation by income.

http://crr.bc.edu/images/stories/Briefs/ib_10-1.pdf [PDF format, 6 pages].

COLLEGE BOARD



6th ANNUAL AP REPORT TO THE NATION. College Board, February 10, 2010.

The report uses a combination of state, national and AP Program data to provide each U.S. state with the context it can use to celebrate its successes, understand its unique challenges, and set meaningful, data-driven goals to prepare more students for success in college.

http://www.collegeboard.com/html/aprtn/pdf/ap_report_to_the_nation.pdf
State Reports [HTML with links]:

http://www.collegeboard.com/html/aprtn/state_reports.html

EDUCATION COMMISSION OF THE STATES

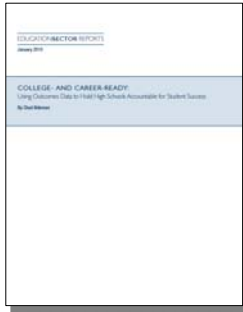


THE PROGRESS OF EDUCATION REFORM - SERVICE LEARNING. JoAnn Henderson. Education Commission of the States, December 2009.

The term service-learning is used frequently these days, but confusion remains as to what it is and why it matters. More importantly, are there any measurable benefits? This issue of The Progress of Education Reform looks at four research studies that explore the impact of service-learning on student achievement and civic engagement.

<http://www.ecs.org/docs/PER2009-Dec8x11.pdf>

EDUCATION SECTOR



COLLEGE- AND CAREER-READY: USING OUTCOMES DATA TO HOLD HIGH SCHOOLS ACCOUNTABLE FOR STUDENT SUCCESS. Education Sector. Chad Aldeman. January 12, 2010.

According to the Florida Department of Education, Manatee High School was not a place parents should have wanted to send their children in 2006. The Bradenton-based school received a "D" rating on the state's A–F scale of academic performance. At the same time, Boca Raton Community High School was flying high, having just earned its second straight "A" rating and being named among the best high schools in the country by Newsweek magazine. But Manatee was actually quite successful in a number of important ways. It graduated a higher percentage of its students than Boca Raton and sent almost the same percentage of its graduates off to college. Once they arrived on college campuses, Manatee graduates earned higher grades and fewer of them failed remedial, not-for-credit math and English courses than their Boca Raton peers.

http://www.educationsector.org/usr_doc/College-Ready.pdf [PDF format, 15 pages].

FOUNDATION CENTER



EARTHQUAKE IN HAITI: LEADING U.S. FOUNDATIONS RESPOND TO THE CRISIS. Foundation Center. Lawrence T. McGill and Steven Lawrence. January 2010.

In the immediate aftermath of the January 12, 2010, earthquake in Haiti, the Foundation Center surveyed members of its Grantmaker Leadership Panel to gauge the reaction of top U.S. funders to the unfolding crisis. Findings suggest that a number of leading funders are considering a direct response to the crisis, with a primary focus on providing emergency assistance. [PDF format, 3 pages].

http://foundationcenter.org/gainknowledge/research/pdf/researchadvisory_haiti.pdf

GALLUP

CLINTON EDGES OUT PALIN AS MOST ADMIRER WOMAN. Gallup. Jeffrey M. Jones. December 30, 2009.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton continues her reign as the Most Admired Woman in the eyes of Americans, but barely edges out former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin this year, 16% to 15%. Talk show host Oprah Winfrey and first lady Michelle Obama finish third and fourth, with former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Queen Elizabeth II, former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, and poet Maya Angelou, all regulars on the list, joined by newcomers German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Elin Woods in the top 10. [HTML format, various paging].

<http://www.gallup.com/poll/124895/Clinton-Edges-Palin-Admired-Woman.aspx?CSTS=alert>

GALE CENGAGE LEARNING

EVENTS IN AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY, 2000+. [Gale Cengage Learning]. 2009.

http://www.gale.cengage.com/free_resources/bhm/timeline/index.htm 1600-1699

http://www.gale.cengage.com/free_resources/bhm/timeline/1700.htm 1700-1799

http://www.gale.cengage.com/free_resources/bhm/timeline/1800.htm 1800-1849

http://www.gale.cengage.com/free_resources/bhm/timeline/1850.htm 1850-1899
http://www.gale.cengage.com/free_resources/bhm/timeline/1900.htm 1900-1949
http://www.gale.cengage.com/free_resources/bhm/timeline/1950.htm 1950-1999
http://www.gale.cengage.com/free_resources/bhm/timeline/2000.htm 2000-
[HTML format, various paging].

GUTTMACHER INSTITUTE



A REAL-TIME LOOK AT THE IMPACT OF THE RECESSION ON PUBLICLY FUNDED FAMILY PLANNING CENTERS. Guttmacher Institute. December 2009.

Publicly funded family planning providers are struggling to meet a growing need for subsidized contraceptive care, which is being driven by more women wanting to postpone childbearing during tough economic times. This surge in demand is straining already-limited resources, and is exacerbated by rising unemployment that has resulted in more women losing employer-based insurance coverage, according to the report. [PDF format, 9 pages].

<http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/RecessionFPC.pdf>

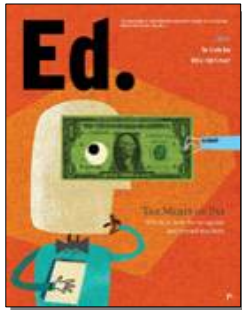
HARRIS INTERACTIVE

AMERICANS STILL CUTTING BACK ON THE SMALL THINGS TO SAVE MONEY; Almost two-thirds buying generics and almost half brown bagging it. Harris Poll, Feb 16, 2010.

The economy is turning around based on what one hears from economists and the White House. But are most Americans behaving as if they believe things are getting better? When it comes to small things people can do each day to save money, consumers are still acting cautiously. For example, almost two-thirds of U.S. adults (63%) say they have purchased more generic brands in the past six months to save money while an additional 12% say they have considered doing so. These are some of the results of The Harris Poll of 2,576 adults surveyed online between January 18 and 25, 2010 by Harris Interactive.

<http://news.harrisinteractive.com/profiles/investor/ResLibraryView.asp?BzID=1963&ResLibraryID=36184&Category=1777>

HARVARD GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION



ED.MAGAZINE, Winter 2010. Harvard Graduate School of Education

Features

Right on the Money?

It's a hot topic that never seems to fade: Should schools stop rewarding teachers for years of service and instead pay them based on how well they — and, in turn, their students — perform?

The Family Way

How a teenaged mother, determined to beat the odds, stayed in school and ended up a professor.

Wither High School?

Is one of the nation's oldest institutions, what former Dean Ted Sizer, M.A.T.'57, once called a "sturdy fixture of every American community," in need of serious reform?

http://www.gse.harvard.edu/news_events/ed/index.html

HERITAGE FOUNDATION



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: EVIDENCE ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ABSTINENCE EDUCATION: AN UPDATE. By Christine C. Kim and Robert Rector. Heritage Foundation, February 19, 2010.

Teen sexual activity is costly, not just for teens, but also for society. Teens who engage in sexual activity risk a host of negative outcomes including STD infection, emotional and psychological harm, and out-of-wedlock child-bearing. Genuine abstinence education is therefore crucial to the physical and psycho-emotional well-being of the nation's youth. In addition to teaching the benefits of abstaining from sexual activity until marriage, abstinence programs focus on developing character traits that prepare youths for future-oriented goals. When considering effective prevention program aimed at changing teen sexual behavior, lawmakers should consider all of the available empirical evidence and restore funding for abstinence education.

http://thf_media.s3.amazonaws.com/2010/pdf/bg2372.pdf

TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS. By Nelson Lund. Heritage Foundation, January 29, 2010.

Modern debates about the meaning of the Second Amendment have focused on whether it protects a right of individuals to keep and bear arms or, instead, a right of the states to maintain militia organizations like the National Guard. This question, however, was apparently never even discussed for a long time after the Bill of Rights was framed. The early discussions took the basic meaning of the amendment largely for granted and focused instead on whether it actually added anything significant to the original Constitution. The debate has shifted primarily because of subsequent developments in the Constitution and in constitutional law.

http://s3.amazonaws.com/thf_media/2010/pdf/wm_2786.pdf



MARRIAGE, PARENTAGE, AND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FAMILY. By Chuck Donovan. Heritage Foundation, January 27, 2010.

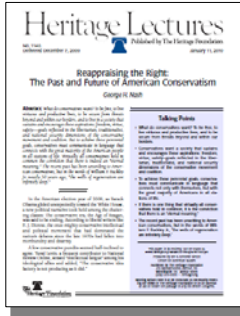
The family is a prime institution of civil society. In its origins, it is both natural and pre-political. Family is not the creature of the state but a network of relationships between a man and a woman, their offspring (if any), and the families from which they themselves come and that their union will create. In the modern era, temptations to experiment with the institutions of marriage and family have multiplied. With less emphasis on the long-term responsibilities of marriage, the consequences of redefining the institution for children and society are subordinated to the desires of adults. Rather than compound these weaknesses, policymakers and citizens should consider and adopt necessary reforms to strengthen families and rebuild civil society as the engine of the greatest human goods.

http://s3.amazonaws.com/thf_media/2010/pdf/wm_2783.pdf

HOW ONLINE LEARNING IS REVOLUTIONIZING K-12 EDUCATION AND BENEFITING STUDENTS. The Heritage Foundation. Dan Lips. January 12, 2010.

According to the report, virtual or online learning is revolutionizing American education. It has the potential to dramatically expand the educational opportunities of American students, largely overcoming the geographic and demographic restrictions. Virtual learning also has the potential to improve the quality of instruction, while increasing productivity and lowering costs, ultimately reducing the burden on taxpayers.

http://s3.amazonaws.com/thf_media/2010/pdf/bg_2356.pdf



REAPPRAISING THE RIGHT: THE PAST AND FUTURE OF AMERICAN CONSERVATISM. By George H. Nash. Heritage Lecture #1140. January 11, 2010.

What do conservatives want? To be free, to live virtuous and productive lives, to be secure from threats beyond and within our borders, and to live in a society that sustains and encourages these aspirations: freedom, virtue, safety--goals reflected in the libertarian, traditionalist, and national security dimensions of the conservative movement and coalition. But to achieve these perennial goals, conservatives must communicate in language that connects with the great majority of the American people in all

stations of life. Virtually all conservatives hold in common the conviction that there is indeed an "eternal meaning." The recent past has been unsettling to American conservatives, but in the words of William F. Buckley Jr. nearly 50 years ago, "the wells of regeneration are infinitely deep." http://s3.amazonaws.com/thf_media/2010/pdf/hl_1140.pdf

HOOVER INSTITUTION, STANFORD UNIVERSITY



POLICY REVIEW, February & March 2010. Hoover Institution

Featured articles:

The Limits of Bioethics

Where the profession ends and politics begins By Sally Satel

A Way Forward with the International Criminal Court

Cooperation, pursued carefully, over time By Tod Lindberg

Mothers in Combat Boots

Reassessing a military policy By Mary Eberstadt

<http://www.hoover.org/publications/policyreview/83084577.html>

HOOVER DIGEST, 2010 No. 1

Hoover's award-winning quarterly presents an overview of the research by Hoover scholars.

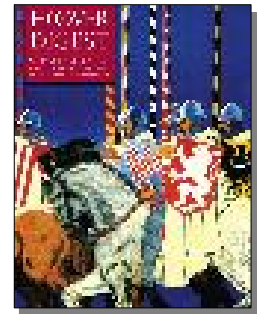
In this issue:

Agents of History by Maciej Siekierski, Richard Sousa

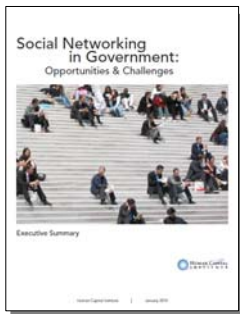
Myths of the Multiplier by Robert J. Barro, Charles Redlick

The Bill for This Baby by David Brady, Daniel P. Kessler

<http://www.hoover.org/publications/digest/80731507.html>



HUMAN CAPITAL INSTITUTE



SOCIAL NETWORKING IN GOVERNMENT: OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES. Human Capital Institute. January 2010.

Blogs, wikis, RSS feeds and social networking sites like Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn have provided creative ways to recruit, engage, connect and retain employees. They have also provided an opportunity to facilitate strategic knowledge sharing across organizations and government agencies. Most SN tools are Web-based and provide a variety of ways for users who share interests and/or activities to interact. Users can share best practices and build communities of practice. "Sixty-six (66) percent of government workplaces use some type of SN tool — and sixty-five (65) percent of those are using more than one tool," according to the report. [PDF format, 5 pages].

http://www.hci.org/files/field_content_file/SNGovt_SummaryFINAL.pdf

INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN'S POLICY RESEARCH (IWPR)



WOMEN AND MEN'S EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE GREAT RECESSION. Heidi Hartmann, Ashley English, Jeffrey Hayes. IWPR Publication C373 February 2010.

Since December 2007, the U.S. economy has been in the worst recession since the Great Depression of the 1930s. Because much of the slowdown has occurred in traditionally male fields such as manufacturing and construction while a few traditionally female fields such as health and education have shown job growth or minimal job loss, many reports have focused on the job losses among men in the labor force. At the same time the substantial job losses that have also occurred among women in such

sectors as retail, hospitality, and personal and business services are not discussed. The number of unemployed women is now 6.3 million (as of December 2009), an increase of 2.8 million unemployed women since the recession began, a number larger than men's increased unemployment in most previous recessions.

<http://www.iwpr.org/pdf/C373womeninrecession.pdf>



ACHIEVING EQUITY FOR WOMEN: POLICY ALTERNATIVES FOR THE NEW ADMINISTRATION. IWPR Symposium Report, December 2009.

This report summarizes the policy research symposium convened by the Institute for Women's Policy Research and the Wellesley Centers for Women, held in Washington, DC on April 2, 2009. The symposium highlighted four policy areas in which public policy can work to improve the status of women in the United States: women and economic recovery; retirement, social security and aging; quality early care and education; and women and health care reform. The symposium also featured a luncheon

keynote address from Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis, as well as an opening keynote from Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro of Connecticut, a closing keynote from Deputy Assistant to the President of the United States and Executive Director of the White House Council on Women and Girls Tina Tchen, and a reception keynote from Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney of New York.

<http://iwpr.org/pdf/Symposium09.pdf>

INTERNATIONAL COALITION FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

DEFINING RELIGION IN AMERICAN LAW. International Coalition for Religious Freedom. Bruce J. Casino. 2009.

The paper provides an insight into the issue of how "religion" is to be defined. According to the author, the issue is crucial to international human rights law since the protections afforded religious freedom by the various international and national treaties, conventions, declarations and constitutions apply only to religious beliefs and actions. The American legal system has long been concerned with this definitional issue and has developed more case law and legal commentary on the subject than any other nation. Thus the insights provided by American law may prove useful as governmental agencies or courts in other nations or international tribunals consider the issue. [HTML format, various paging].

http://www.religiousfreedom.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=431:casino-cesnur&catid=48:maryland-task-force&Itemid=447

MILITARY RELIGIOUS FREEDOM FOUNDATION

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND THE MILITARY. A SHORT HISTORY. Military Religious Freedom Foundation. January 2010.

The concept and practice of religious freedom in the United States Armed Forces date back to the earliest days of this nation. The United States Constitution outlines the basic concept of religious freedom as understood by Americans in the Bill of Rights. All branches of the United States military are afforded the same rights to religious freedom as are American civilians. However, members of the Armed Forces willingly surrender on a temporary basis certain free exercise rights when it impinges on military discipline and the successful completion of a military objective. This guarantee of religious freedom is codified for the Armed Forces in Title 10, United States Code (USC), sections 3073, 3547, 5142, and 8067. Free exercise of religious freedom for military personnel is further detailed in Department of Defense Directive (DODD) <http://www.militaryreligiousfreedom.org/about2.html> [HTML format, various paging].

NATIONAL CENTER FOR CHILDREN IN POVERTY



WHO ARE AMERICA'S POOR CHILDREN? THE OFFICIAL STORY. National Center for Children in Poverty. Vanessa R. Wright et al. January 2010.

More than 13 million American children live in families with incomes below the federal poverty level, which is \$22,050 a year for a family of four. The number of children living in poverty increased by 21 percent between 2000 and 2008. There are 2.5 million more children living in poverty today than in 2000. The fact sheet details some of the characteristics of American children who are considered poor by the official standard.

http://www.nccp.org/publications/pdf/text_912.pdf [PDF format, 8 pages].

NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DISABILITY (NCD)



WORKFORCE INFRASTRUCTURE IN SUPPORT OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES: MATCHING HUMAN RESOURCES TO SERVICE NEEDS. National Council on Disability January 20, 2010.

Numerous forecasts based on diverse trends all point to a shortage of qualified workers to meet the needs of people who are disabled. NCD calls for policymakers at all levels of government to proactively address these shortages and examine how labor market changes are driving both current and future supply needs.

http://www.ncd.gov/newsroom/publications/2010/NCD_Workforce508.pdf



THE STATE OF HOUSING IN AMERICA IN THE 21ST CENTURY: A DISABILITY PERSPECTIVE. National Council on Disability, January 19, 2010.

Affordable, accessible, and appropriate housing is a critical and integral part of making any community more livable for people with disabilities. This report looks at the state of housing for people with disabilities with the intent to provide recommendations that can improve housing opportunities. The research contained in this report provides a comprehensive overview of the state of housing in the 21st century and answers to seven important

questions about the current housing needs and options for people with disabilities living in the United States.

http://www.ncd.gov/newsroom/publications/2010/NCD_Housing_Report508.pdf

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TEACHERS OF ENGLISH

2010 NATIONAL AFRICAN AMERICAN READ-IN. National Council of Teachers of English. January 2010.

<http://www.ncte.org/action/aari/packetinfo> [HTML format with links].

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

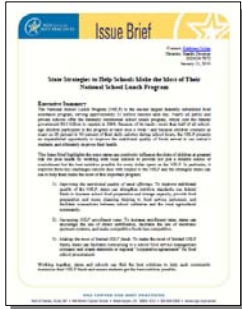


NEA JAZZ MASTERS [1982-2010]. NEA, January 2010. 126 pp.

Profiles NEA Jazz Masters from 1982 to 2010 with brief biographies and selected discographies for all 114 honorees. Includes a brief history of NEA's creation of the Jazz Masters program and an overview of the newly expanded program. Also included is an hourlong audio CD of NEA-produced Jazz Moments, radio shorts of interviews with NEA Jazz Masters.

<http://www.nea.gov/pub/JazzMasters2010.pdf>

NATIONAL GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION



STATE STRATEGIES TO HELP SCHOOLS MAKE THE MOST OF THEIR NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM. National Governors Association Center for Best Practices. Kathleen Nolan. January 11, 2010.

The brief outlines state strategies to help schools make the most of the second largest food program in the United States, which serves 31 million school children each day and more than half of children at least once a week. [PDF format, 14 pages].

<http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/1001SCHOOLLUNCH.PDF>

NEW AMERICA FOUNDATION



SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS OF PRESIDENT OBAMA'S EDUCATION BUDGET REQUEST: FISCAL YEAR 2011. New America Foundation. February 2, 2010.

President Barack Obama submitted his second budget request to Congress on February 1st, 2010. The detailed budget request includes proposed funding levels for federal programs and agencies in aggregate for the upcoming five to ten fiscal years, and specific fiscal year 2011 funding levels for individual programs subject to appropriations. [PDF format, 7 pages].

http://education.newamerica.net/sites/newamerica.net/files/policydocs/Summary_and_Analysis_2011_Obama_Budget_Request.pdf

FREEDOM FROM FEAR: USING THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT TO REBUILD AMERICA'S SOCIAL SAFETY NET. New America Foundation. Steven Attewell. January 11, 2010.

The Social Security system was intended not merely to provide public pensions for the elderly but to establish a framework for a comprehensive system of economic security. Steven Attewell writes: "We need to go back to the original drawing board – the Social Security Act of 1935 – to finish the job it began and create a truly universal and comprehensive social welfare state." [PDF format, 12 pages].

<http://growth.newamerica.net/sites/newamerica.net/files/policydocs/FreedomFromFear.pdf>

OXFAM

GENDER PERSPECTIVES ON THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRISIS. Oxfam International. Richard King and Caroline Sweetman. February 3, 2010.

The economic crisis continues to affect many women and men living in poverty. But how these effects are felt depends, to a large extent, on their relationships with the people and institutions with whom they interact. These relationships are profoundly different for women and men. [PDF format, 18 pages].

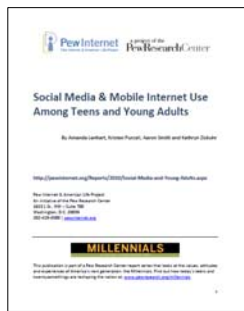
<http://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/gender-perspectives-global-economic-crisis-feb10.pdf>

RESOURCING GLOBAL EDUCATION. Oxfam International. Katie Malouf. January 19, 2010.

Remarkable progress has been made in the last ten years toward achieving the education-related Millennium Development Goals. However, these achievements could be derailed by the global economic crisis, newly falling aid levels, and educational challenges. The report examines the EFA-Fast Track Initiative (FTI), both its positive contributions and its current limitations. It argues for the reform of the FTI into a more ambitious, effective Global Fund for Education [PDF format, 44 pages].

<http://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/resourcing-global-education.pdf>

PEW



SOCIAL MEDIA & MOBILE INTERNET USE AMONG TEENS AND YOUNG ADULTS. By Amanda Lenhart, Kristen Purcell, Aaron Smith and Kathryn Zickuhr. Pew Research Center, February 2010

This report from the Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project is a part of a series of reports undertaken by the Pew Research Center that highlight the attitudes and behaviors of the Millennial generation, a cohort we define here as adults ages 18 to 29. This report brings together recent findings about internet and social media use among young adults by situating it within comparable data for adolescents and adults older than 30.

http://pewinternet.org/~media/Files/Reports/2010/PIP_Social_Media_and_Young_Adults_Report.pdf

RELIGION AMONG THE MILLENNIALS. Pew Research Center. February 17, 2010.

By some key measures, Americans ages 18 to 29 are considerably less religious than older Americans. Fewer young adults belong to any particular faith than older people do today. They also are less likely to be affiliated than their parents' and grandparents' generations were when

they were young. Fully one-in-four members of the Millennial generation, so called because they were born after 1980 and began to come of age around the year 2000, are unaffiliated with any particular faith. [PDF format, 29 pages].

<http://pewforum.org/newassets/images/reports/millennials/millennials-report.pdf>

MIDTERM ELECTION CHALLENGES FOR BOTH PARTIES; Obama's Ratings Are Flat, Wall Street's Are Abysmal. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, February 12, 2010.

Nine months ahead of the midterm elections, voters have conflicted attitudes about both political parties. Opinions of the Republican Party have improved significantly, and for the first time in years the GOP's favorable ratings nearly equal the Democratic Party's. Voting intentions for the fall elections also remain closely divided. However, the Democratic Party is still better regarded in many respects than is the GOP and far more people continue to blame the Republicans than the Democrats for the current state of the economy. And despite frustrations with his stewardship of the economy, bottom-line opinions of Barack Obama have not changed in the past few months.

<http://people-press.org/reports/pdf/589.pdf>

MIXED VIEWS OF HAMAS AND HEZBOLLAH IN LARGELY MUSLIM NATIONS: LITTLE ENTHUSIASM FOR MANY MUSLIM LEADERS. Pew Global Attitudes Project. February 4, 2010.

Across predominantly Muslim nations, there is little enthusiasm for the extremist Islamic organizations Hamas and Hezbollah, although there are pockets of support for both groups, especially in the Middle East. Four years after its victory in Palestinian parliamentary elections, Hamas receives relatively positive ratings in Jordan (56% favorable) and Egypt (52%). However, Palestinians are more likely to give the group a negative (52%) than a positive (44%) rating. And reservations about Hamas are particularly common in the portion of the Palestinian territories it controls -- just 37% in Gaza express a favorable opinion, compared with 47% in the West Bank. <http://pewglobal.org/reports/pdf/268.pdf>

ALMOST ALL MILLENNIALS ACCEPT INTERRACIAL DATING AND MARRIAGE. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. February 1, 2010.

Compared with older groups, particularly Americans ages 50 or older, younger Americans are significantly more likely to be accepting of interracial marriage and are more likely to have friends of a different race.

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1480/millennials-accept-interracial-dating-marriage-friends-different-race-generations> [HTML format, various paging].

THE COSTS OF DISINVESTMENT: WHY STATES CAN'T AFFORD TO CUT SMART EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS. Pew Center on the States. January 19, 2010.

States can save money and stimulate their economies, in the short and long run, by protecting funding for effective pre-kindergarten and home visiting programs, according to the report. The report provides evidence for why states cannot afford to cut early childhood programs whose demonstrated economic and societal benefits reduce taxpayer costs now and generate more revenue in the future. Rigorous science and hard data show that these investments are fundamental to achieving a globally competitive workforce and fiscal sustainability for states and the nation. [PDF 3 pages].

http://www.pewtrusts.org/uploadedFiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/Reports/Partnership_for_Americas_Economic_Success/Cost_of_Disinvestment_brief_final.pdf?n=1454

MANY AMERICANS MIX MULTIPLE FAITHS. Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life. December 2009.

The religious beliefs and practices of Americans do not fit neatly into conventional categories. A new poll by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life finds that large numbers of Americans engage in multiple religious practices, mixing elements of diverse traditions. Many say they attend worship services of more than one faith or denomination, even when they are not traveling or going to special events like weddings and funerals.

<http://pewforum.org/newassets/images/reports/multiplefaiths/multiplefaiths.pdf> [PDF format, 22 pages].

PROJECT FOR EXCELLENCE IN JOURNALISM



HOW NEWS HAPPENS: A STUDY OF THE NEWS ECOSYSTEMS OF ONE AMERICAN CITY. Project for Excellence in Journalism. January 2010.

The study, which examined all the outlets that produced local news in Baltimore, Maryland, for one week, surveyed their output and then did a closer examination of six major narratives during the week, finds that much of the “news” people receive contains no original reporting. Fully eight out of ten stories studied simply repeated or repackaged previously published information. And of the stories that did contain new information nearly all,

95%, came from traditional media, most of them newspapers. [PDF format, 45 pages].

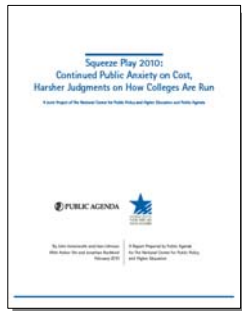
http://www.journalism.org/sites/journalism.org/files/Baltimore%20Study_Jan2010_0.pdf

BOTCHED TERROR ATTACK BIG NEWS ON BLOGS, TOO. Project for Excellence in Journalism. January 7, 2010.

In a rare occurrence, three central elements of today's news ecosystem. The mainstream media, blogs, and Twitter agreed on the biggest story of the week, in this case, the failed Christmas Day terror attempt. [HTML format, various paging].

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1457/blogs-twitter-agree-terror-attempt-big-news>

PUBLIC AGENDA



SQUEEZE PLAY 2010: Continued Public Anxiety On Cost, Harsher Judgments On How Colleges Are Run--A Joint Project of The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education and Public Agenda. John Immerwahr et al.

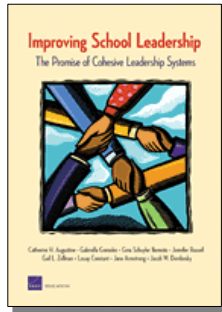
The findings suggests that many Americans are becoming more skeptical about whether colleges and universities are doing all that they can to control costs and keep tuition affordable. It may also indicate that Americans will be increasingly less receptive to the argument that higher education institutions need more money to continue to provide high quality

services.

<http://www.publicagenda.org/pages/squeeze-play-2010>

RAND

IMPROVING SCHOOL LEADERSHIP--The Promise of Cohesive Leadership Systems. Catherine H. Augustine et al. RAND 2010.



Improving the nation's public schools is one of the highest priorities of federal, state, and local government in America. Recent research has shown that the quality of the principal is, among school-based factors, second only to the quality of the teacher in contributing to what students learn in the classroom. New programs to develop school leaders who can exercise vigilance over instruction and support effective teaching practices are not likely to succeed, however, if they are inconsistent with other state and district policies affecting school leadership. The study found that it is possible to build more-cohesive leadership systems and that such efforts appear to be a promising approach to developing school leaders engaged in improving instruction. Although the study did not find evidence that the full underlying theory behind this initiative is sound, it did find a correlation between improved conditions for principals and their engagement in instructional practices.

<http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/MG885/index.html>

FAMILY FACTORS AND STUDENT OUTCOMES. RAND Corporation. Nailing Xia. January 27, 2010.

To examine the effects of family process variables and status variables on students' academic achievement and nonacademic outcomes, the author uses the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, a U.S. longitudinal dataset that follows a nationally representative sample of children from kindergarten through fifth grade and the Programme for International Student Assessment, a cross-country cross-sectional dataset that assesses academic achievement of 15-year-old students. The U.S. data indicate that even after controlling for demographics and school inputs, student achievement was associated with such process variables as parental expectations and beliefs, learning structure, resource availability, home environment, parenting and disciplinary practices, and parental involvement. [PDF format, 247 pages].

http://rand.org/pubs/rgs_dissertations/2010/RAND_RGSD256.pdf

SECURITY, AT WHAT COST?: QUANTIFYING PEOPLE'S TRADE-OFFS ACROSS LIBERTY, PRIVACY AND SECURITY. RAND Corporation. Neil Robinson et al. January 11, 2010.

The heightened security environment in the United Kingdom today is resplendent with examples of government policy that must strike a delicate balance between strengthening security without jeopardizing public liberties and personal privacy. The report outlines the results of a stated preference discrete choice modeling study that sought to objectively understand the real privacy, liberty and security trade-offs of individuals so that policy makers can be better informed about individuals true preferences in this domain.

http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical_reports/2010/RAND_TR664.pdf

[PDF format, 123 pages].

BUILDING COHESIVE LEADERSHIP SYSTEMS TO IMPROVE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP. RAND Corporation. Catherine H. Augustine et al. January 7, 2010.

The report documents efforts to build cohesive systems of state and district policies to improve school leadership. [PDF format, 3 pages].

http://www.rand.org/pubs/research_briefs/2010/RAND_RB9493.pdf



HELPING POLICYMAKERS FIND A WAY: SPOTLIGHT ON 2009. RAND Corporation. December 24, 2009.

Finding a way through today's uncertain policy environment requires strong evidence-based research and analysis. The report illustrates new avenues for policymakers who face difficult and complex choices today and in the future. [PDF format, 16 pages].

http://www.rand.org/pubs/corporate_pubs/2009/RAND_CP531-2009.pdf

MODERNIZING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT: PAYING FOR PERFORMANCE. Silvia Montoya and John D. Graham. Occasional Paper, Pardee RAND Graduate School, RAND Corporation. December 2007.

This report examines the pay for performance plan in the federal government. The data are based on a literature review, demonstration projects, and current legislation.

The authors conclude that Congress should not prohibit or scale back pay for performance plans until current programs have been fully evaluated. Additionally, the next administration should establish a pay system that rewards outstanding performance and penalizes poor performance; encourage dialogue with employees and unions; and extend and evaluate pilot tests of new human resource systems. [pdf format, 56 pages]

http://www.rand.org/pubs/occasional_papers/2007/RAND_OP213.pdf

RASMUSSEN REPORTS

43% SAY LOCAL GOVERNMENT BETTER THAN FEDS, STATES. Rasmussen Reports, Tuesday, February 16, 2010.

Forty-three percent (43%) of U.S. voters rate the performance of their local government as tops compared to its counterparts on the state and federal level.

A new Rasmussen Reports national telephone survey finds that just 14% think the federal government does a better job. Nineteen percent (19%) say state government is better than the other two.

http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/politics/general_politics/february_2010/43_say_local_government_better_than_feds_states

SMITHSONIAN EDUCATION

BLACK HISTORY MONTH. Smithsonian Education. January 2010.

http://www.smithsonianeducation.org/heritage_month/bhm/index.html

<http://heritagetours.si.edu/bhm.html>

African American History Virtual Tour [HTML format, various paging].

SOUTHERN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION

CONSUMER HETEROGENEITY: DOES IT AFFECT POLICY RESPONSES TO THE OBESITY EPIDEMIC? Southern Agricultural Economics Association. Conrad P. Lyford et al. February 2010.

The fight against obesity in the U.S. has become a priority area for policy makers due to the additional health risks and health care costs. In developing policy to lower obesity rates, it is important to accurately characterize the impact that exercise, smoking and demographic characteristics have on BMI in order to draft effective policy, says the report.

<http://ageconsearch.umn.edu/bitstream/56467/2/SAEA%20final%202010%20heterogeneity%20bmi%20consumers-1.pdf> [PDF format, 21 pages].

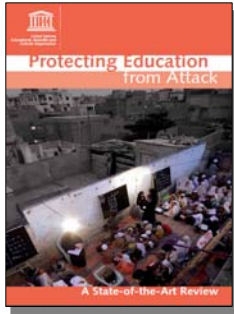
STANFORD GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

NON-PROFITS ARE SEEN AS WARM AND FOR-PROFITS AS COMPETENT: FIRM STEREOTYPES MATTER. Stanford Graduate School of Business. Jennifer Aaker et al. February 2010.

According to the report, consumers use warmth and competence, two fundamental dimensions that govern social judgments of people, to form perceptions of firms. Three experiments showed that consumers perceive non-profits as being warmer than for-profits, but as less competent. Further, consumers are less willing to buy a product made by a non-profit than a for-profit because of their perceptions that the firm lacks competence. Consequently, when perceived competence of a non-profit is boosted through subtle cues that connote credibility, discrepancies in willingness to buy disappear.

<https://gsbapps.stanford.edu/researchpapers/library/RP2047.pdf> [PDF format, 53 pages].

UNITED NATIONS

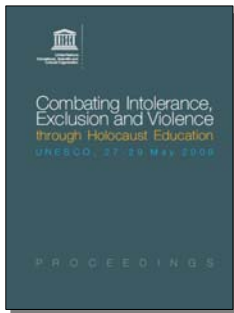


EDUCATION UNDER ATTACK 2010. U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. February 10, 2010.

The number of politically and ideologically motivated attacks on teachers, students and school buildings is rising, says the report. These attacks are perpetrated by non-state armed groups and state actors alike. [PDF format, 243 pages].

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0018/001867/186732e.pdf>
Protecting Education from Attack [PDF format, 309 pages].

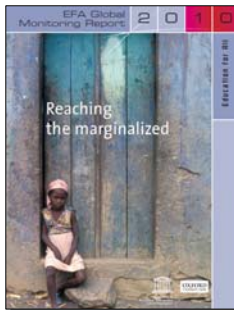
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0018/001868/186809e.pdf>



COMBATING INTOLERANCE, EXCLUSION AND VIOLENCE THROUGH HOLOCAUST EDUCATION. U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Web posted January 27, 2010.

The publication reflects UNESCO's continuing commitment to promoting Holocaust awareness and combating all forms of Holocaust denial. It is based on the proceedings of a workshop of the same name held in May 2009. The three-day workshop, held at UNESCO Headquarters, Paris brought together experts in the field of education and, in particular Holocaust education, from several continents to focus on two areas; work being carried out by educators in Europe and North American around issues relating to the Holocaust and how best to implement Holocaust education in sub-Saharan Africa. [PDF format, 149 pages].

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0018/001866/186689M.pdf>



REACHING THE MARGINALIZED. U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and Oxford University Press. January 19, 2010.

Education systems in many of the world's poorest countries are now experiencing the aftershock of the global economic downturn. The report argues that the crisis could create a lost generation of children whose life chances will have been irreparably damaged by a failure to protect their right to education. It also examines who these children are and why they are being left behind, and shows that the cost of providing Education for All

is much higher than previously estimated. The report looks at concrete solutions for making sure that no children are excluded from the schooling. [PDF format, 525 pages].

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0018/001866/186606E.pdf>

ON TARGET: A GUIDE FOR MONITORING AND EVALUATING COMMUNITY-BASED PROJECTS. U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. December 16, 2009.

The guide hopes to help project staff to see that when thorough planning, monitoring and evaluation is undertaken and the communities are fully involved in this process, the quality and appropriateness of the end product is enhanced.

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0018/001862/186231e.pdf> [PDF format, 85 pages].

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

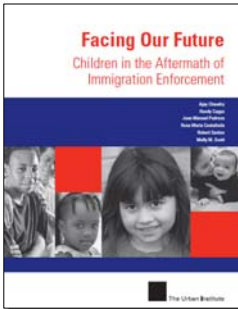


THE THINK TANKS AND CIVIL SOCIETIES PROGRAM 2009: THE GLOBAL "GO-TO THINK TANKS." University of Pennsylvania. James G. McGann. January 31, 2010.

The rankings are based on a global survey of hundreds of scholars and experts, according to the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program at the University of Pennsylvania. The index evaluates a total of 6305 think tanks worldwide. Close to 400 organizations were nominated and ranked by a global panel of 300 experts.

http://www.sas.upenn.edu/irp/documents/2009GlobalGoToReportThinkTankIndex_1.31.2010.02.01_000.pdf [PDF format, 72 pages].

URBAN INSTITUTE



FACING OUR FUTURE: CHILDREN IN THE AFTERMATH OF IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT. Ajay Chaudry et al. Urban Institute, February 2010

This report examines the consequences of parental arrest, detention, and deportation on 190 children in 85 families in six locations, providing in-depth details on parent-child separations, economic hardships, and children's well-being. The contentious immigration debates around the country mostly revolve around illegal immigration. Less visible have been the 5.5 million children with unauthorized parents, almost three-quarters of whom are U.S.-born citizens. Over several years, Immigration and Customs

Enforcement (ICE) intensified enforcement activities through large-scale worksite arrests, home arrests, and arrests by local law enforcement. The report provides recommendations for stakeholders to mitigate the harmful effects of immigration enforcement on children.

http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/412020_FacingOurFuture_final.pdf

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

FAITH AND THE GLOBAL AGENDA: VALUES FOR THE POST-CRISIS ECONOMY. World Economic Forum. January 18, 2010.

Over two-thirds of people believe the current economic crisis is also a crisis of ethics and values. But only 50% think universal values exist. These are among the findings of the report on issues related to the role of faith in global affairs. The report contains a unique new public

opinion poll on values conducted through Facebook. The poll reached over 130,000 respondents in France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Israel, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey and the United States.

<http://www.weforum.org/pdf/faith/valuesreport.pdf> [PDF format, 77 pages].

YALE GLOBAL

CONFUCIUS VS. AVATAR: AND THE WINNER IS... YaleGlobal. Mary Kay Magistad. January 25, 2010.

When the movie Avatar was mysteriously pulled from the cinemas in China, bloggers and pundits alike suspected censorship. But why would a science fiction movie about 10 foot tall blue hominids cause such a stir? For one, the themes of land expropriation and forced evictions featured in the movie resonated with the experiences of many Chinese, according to Beijing-based journalist Mary Kay Magistad. And that Avatar, after grossing \$76 million in China, was followed by a movie about Confucius, with a subtext of "respect for hierarchy", made the shift in messages seem a little too coincidental. In the end, the film was brought back by popular demand.

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/confucius-vs-avatar> [HTML format, various paging].

BEYOND MINARETS: EUROPE'S GROWING PROBLEM WITH ISLAM: CAN ONE BE BOTH EUROPEAN AND MUSLIM?. YaleGlobal. Shada Islam. January 14, 2010.

Switzerland's ban on building minarets is emblematic of a larger issue in Europe, according to the report. It highlights not only the increasing divide between Muslims and non-Muslims in the continent, but also the need for Europe to embrace multi-culturalism. Many believe that Muslims are flooding in, taking jobs, and would like to turn Europe into a land ruled by Islamic law. Yet, Muslims only represent three percent of population. On the other hand, Muslims seem to have done little to assimilate, or at least find common ground with their fellow citizens, often making demands at odds with a liberal society such as wanting gender segregation in public spaces, according to the author. [HTML format, various paging].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/beyond-minarets-europes-growing-problem>

ARTICLES FROM U.S. JOURNALS

IN INDIA, A STUDENT-RECRUITING INDUSTRY UPS THE ANTE FOR U.S. COLLEGES Fischer, Karin. *Chronicle of Higher Education*, Vol. 56, No. 18, January 15, 2009, pp. A1, A20-22

India has already been the leading country of origin for international students in the U.S. for eight consecutive years, with over 100,000 students here last year. The potential for growth in those numbers is mind-boggling: 220 million children are enrolled in primary and secondary schools in India, but the country's 400 universities can accommodate fewer than 10 million students. Yet American colleges and universities face obstacles in recruiting those students. Australia and Singapore are closer, and some Indian parents perceive the U.S. as being too liberal. Some U.S. states prohibit schools from contracting with third-party recruiters, and U.S. State Department policy bars any college-advising programs it sponsors abroad from forming partnerships with commercial recruiting agents, one of the largest of which in India typically charges 10-20 percent of first-year tuition. Institutions in other countries have long routinely paid for the services of agents, says Fischer, the Chronicle's international education writer. "Although many American colleges remain uneasy about the ethics of paying recruiters a commission to attract students, they are dealing with agents whether they like it or not. Most Indian students studying in the United States turn to independent counselors for help in

admissions," she says. The future remains unclear, however; some see the agent-based model as broken, but one of the largest recruiters, IDP Education, signed up its first dozen U.S. clients last month.

<http://chronicle.com/article/In-India-a-Student-Recruiting/63467/>

WAGE LEARNERS. Patton, Zach. *Governing*, August 2009

Several big-city U.S. school systems serving underprivileged urban neighborhoods are experimenting with paying students to get good grades. The author notes that preliminary anecdotal evidence is that school attendance is up, pupils' academic performance has improved and there are less disciplinary problems; furthermore, the students are not spending the money on frivolous purchases. Some detractors of the program are doubtful that extrinsic rewards can influence students' long-term eagerness to learn, and object to the moral aspects of paying some students and not others; the author notes that there have some instances of retribution against students receiving payments. The schools and other supporters of the program counter that well-off families routinely provide rewards for their children, and the payments-for-good-grades program is merely providing a similar opportunity for children from low-income families. Saying that "desperate times call for desperate measures", they hope that the extrinsic rewards program will keep kids in the classroom, where they might discover the intrinsic reward of learning for its own sake. Available online at

<http://www.governing.com/node/2910/>

WHAT MAKES A GREAT TEACHER? Ripley, Amanda. *Atlantic Monthly*, January-February 2010

Ripley writes that educational systems in the U.S. "have never identified excellent teachers in any reliable, objective way ... Instead, we tend to ascribe their gifts to some mystical quality that we can recognize and revere -- but not replicate." However, one organization in America has been systematically pursuing this goal for more than a decade -- tracking hundreds of thousands of kids, and analyzing why some teachers can move kids three grade levels ahead in one year and others can't. Teach for America, a nonprofit that recruits college graduates to spend two years teaching in low-income schools, began outside the educational establishment and has largely remained there. Almost half a million American children are being taught by its 7,300 teachers this year, and the organization tracks test-score data, linked to each teacher, for 85 percent to 90 percent of those kids, most of whom are poor and African-American or Latino. Teach for America has found that "superstar" teachers set big goals for their students, recruit students and their families into the teaching process and ensure that everything they do contributes to student learning; however, the most important trait of all is that superstar teachers are incredibly persistent in attaining goals. Knowledge matters, but not in every case, Teach for America has found; graduating from an elite school or having a master's degree in education does not make much difference on classroom effectiveness. Now that the Obama administration is offering USD 4 billion to identify and cultivate effective teachers, the states must take radical steps in the education field, where efforts to measure teacher performance based on student test scores have long been fought. Currently available online at <http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/201001/good-teaching>

EVERYONE EATS -- BUT THAT DOESN'T MAKE YOU A RESTAURANT CRITIC. Sietsema, Robert. *Columbia Journalism Review*, January/February 2010

Restaurant criticism, like other areas of journalism, is changing with Internet-based, "every man a critic ethos." The author, himself a restaurant critic, traces the history of restaurant critics since the 1950s, the development of ethical standards by eminent New York Times critic

Craig Claiborne faithfully adhered to by his successors, and the erosion of standards by food bloggers. Claiborne made the restaurant review a public service that may be endangered, Sietsema writes. http://www.cjr.org/feature/everyone_eats.php?page=all

STANDARDS FOR A NEW CENTURY. Theroux, Karen. *Carnegie Reporter*, vol. 5, no. 3, Fall 2009, pp. 28-34, 36

Summary: Theroux, a writer with the Carnegie Corporation's public-affairs department, writes that the Obama administration is focused on education reform, particularly on the upgrading of standards; there is support from the leadership on Capitol Hill, plus the realization that there are proven strategies that work in the classroom. The United States is preparing to switch from mostly local control of education to nationally aligned Common Core State Standards -- evidence-based, internationally benchmarked guidelines that are expected to transform teaching and learning across the country, allowing students uniform access to higher education and greater opportunity. Assessments and standards are inseparable, and innovation in testing and accountability is critical to transforming the education system. Available online at http://www.carnegie.org/reporter/pdf/19/Reporter_Fall_2009.pdf

THE BETTER HALF: HELPING WOMEN HELP THE WORLD. Coleman, Isobel. *Foreign Affairs*, January/February 2010

Summary: Coleman, Senior Fellow at the Council of Foreign Relations, writes that efforts to help women gain more economic and political power is more than a worthy moral crusade -- it is probably the most effective means to promote development and stability around the world. During a tour of Africa in August 2009, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton underscored women's rights as a crucial foreign-policy issue by spending a great deal of time meeting with a variety of women's groups. In a review of Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn's new book, *HALF THE SKY*, Coleman remarks that it is now well-known among the international-development community that aid provided to women generates much greater benefits, because women are more likely to use it to improve their families' circumstances. Coleman acknowledges the difficulty of eliminating the deeply rooted social traditions that underlie the discrimination, marginalization and abuse of women and girls, and notes that in some instances, the problems may get worse: the globalization of trade and communication has created new channels for sex trafficking and incited contagious forms of violence against women. Coleman notes that the fundamental challenge to improving the status of women is cultural -- Many people in the West too often ignore the problems confronting women in other parts of the world by dismissing, or even condoning, the oppressive practices there as those of a different culture ... Culture, in fact, is contested in every country, and societal norms are far from immutable." <http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/65728/isobel-coleman/the-better-half>

ARE NEXT-GENERATION JOURNALISTS THE FUTURE FOR A PROFESSION IN TRANSITION? Connell, Christopher. *Carnegie Reporter*, vol. 5, no. 3, Fall 2009, pp. 2-10

Summary: The author, an independent journalist, focuses on News21, a multi-million-dollar experiment by Carnegie Corporation of New York and the James S. and John L. Knight Foundation, to determine if a new crop of journalists can awaken interest in news where older and more experienced journalists have failed. Connell believes that to do this, they first need to study important issues, such as liberty and security, the role of religion in American life, the country's dramatically changing demographics, and then produce stories with all the multimedia tools that the digital age has to offer. Connell notes that this effort is taking place in a news environment in which entertainment dominates, and during recession that has seen

the demise of several major newspapers and layoffs of reporters and editors. Available online at http://www.carnegie.org/reporter/pdf/19/19_01_News21.pdf

LESTER YOUNG TURNS 100. Katz, Jamie. *Smithsonian*, August 25, 2009

Summary: Jazz legend Lester Young — nicknamed “Prez” — was among the most revered saxophone players of the Swing Era (1930s-1950s), yet the 100th anniversary of his birth has gone virtually unnoticed. Jamie Katz, writing for Smithsonian magazine’s online edition, hails Young as “a pivotal figure” whose “lyrical, flowing style changed the terms of jazz improvisation and deeply influenced such musicians as Charlie Parker, John Coltrane, Frank Sinatra and Antonio Carlos Jobim.” Young — whose landmark recordings with Count Basie, Billie Holiday, Benny Goodman and Nat King Cole have come to define mid-century jazz — was an innovator who “electrified the jazz world with his dexterity and imagination,” says Katz. Raised in New Orleans, Young was born into a musical family and became familiar with a variety of music genres at an early age. Young brought a hip, freewheeling sensibility to his saxophone playing, and tilted his saxophone at a rakishly high angle during onstage performances, prompting Rolling Stone magazine to declare him “quite likely the hippest dude that ever lived.” Yet for all his talent and ingenuity, Young “was sliding into a long decline by his early 30s,” according to Katz. Young’s traumatic experience in the U.S. Army during World War II may have been a factor, and although he still performed with flashes of brilliance, he was hospitalized with a nervous breakdown in 1955. He died on March 15, 1959, a few months shy of his 50th birthday. Now, a half-century later, Young remains a powerful influence on the jazz scene, with many contemporary saxophonists — including Wayne Shorter, Lee Konitz, Joe Lovano and Mark Turner — professing deep admiration for him. Katz recalled that the late pianist John Lewis, who played in Young’s band, said he regarded Young as “a living, walking poet” whose wounds in life had never healed. One hundred years after Young’s birth, says Katz, it is time for this “artist of the highest rank” to be featured on a postage stamp, honored with a statue, or otherwise given his due: “Happy birthday, Prez.”

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/Lester-Young-Turns-100.html>

BEYOND BOOKS AND BULLETS. Fowler, George J. *American Libraries* vol. 40, no. 12, December 2009, pp. 44-47

Summary: The author, a librarian at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, recounts his experience in learning new leadership skills during a deployment in Iraq with the Arkansas Army National Guard in 2007-2008. He writes that, while librarianship and leading 31 soldiers through a year-long deployment may seem to have nothing in common, he “considers them both service professions,” even if the means they use to serve the public differ greatly. He writes the responsibilities of librarianship and military service, along with most professions, can be summarized in the seven Army Values taught to all soldiers: Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage (LDRSHIP). Fowler notes that “these values have guided me since my return ... now that I’m home and back at work, I consider any challenges that come my way with an entirely different perspective.”

<http://www.americanlibrariesmagazine.org/features/12012009/beyond-books-and-bullets>

A NEW PAGE: CAN KINDLE REALLY IMPROVE ON THE BOOK? Baker, Nicholson. *New Yorker*, August 3, 2009

Summary: More than 350,000 titles are available for reading on an Amazon Kindle, and despite a \$359 price tag, the wireless reading device was the top-selling item on Amazon this Christmas. Author Nicholson Baker tried out a Kindle and reports in this August 2009 article

that he isn't especially impressed. He doesn't like the gray screen with gray typeface; the fact that many books, ranging from potboilers ("The Bourne Identity") to literature (Nabokov), are unavailable; the absence of page numbers; the poor resolution of photos and graphs; the impossibility of reading Kindle books on any other device except the iPod Touch and iPhone; and the fact that Kindle users are "tied ... to Amazon forever." Although it makes claims of earth-friendliness, since no trees are cut down, a Kindle requires electricity to operate, is difficult to recycle, and "will probably take a last boat ride to a Nigerian landfill in five years." But Baker isn't against the concept of electronic books in general. He finds it odd that more people aren't buying the Sony Reader, which has sharper resolution. He advises readers to "buy an iPod Touch ... or buy an iPhone, and load the free 'Kindle for iPod' application onto it" or other applications such as Stanza. This serves a night-reading need: when you wake up at 3 a.m. you can read without disturbing your bedmate then tuck the iPod Touch back under your pillow and sleep. Baker started reading a novel on his iPod but switched to a Kindle to give it a fair try for this article: "It was like going from a Mini Cooper to a white 1982 Impala with blown shocks." http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2009/08/03/090803fa_fact_baker

SOUL OF A WRITER. Geffner, David. *Humanities*, vol. 30, no. 6, November/December 2009, pp. 20-24

Summary: Jim Thompson, author of numerous hard-boiled crime novels, including *A Hell of a Woman*, *Savage Night* and *The Killer Inside Me* — joined the ranks of such classic pulp-fiction writers as James M. Cain and Dashiell Hammett long before filmmaker Quentin Tarantino made the genre fashionable. Says Geffner, accounts of the novelist's colorful personal history recall his early years as a "hobo, bellhop, roughneck, boozier, factory worker, [and] Marine," but rarely mention that he was once, briefly, a registered Communist. This omission is all the more striking because Thompson — whose experiences during the Great Depression shaped his perspective — has maintained a high profile, thanks to a steady stream of film adaptations of his works (*The Kill-Off*; *After Dark*, *My Sweet*; *The Grifters*; *The Getaway*). In the late 1930s, Thompson was director of the Oklahoma Federal Writers' Project (a New Deal program to put American writers to work), and this detail also has been largely ignored, probably because the program was "a hotbed of radical politics," says Geffner. Still, "Thompson's leftist past may well have set the course for everything that followed in his later career," and an understanding of this is essential in any assessment of Thompson as a writer, Geffner argues. But if Thompson developed populist sympathies as a result of his hardscrabble youth, he never romanticized the down-and-out characters who populate his novels. Thompson's experimental structures and avant-garde sensibility almost certainly can be traced to his tenure at the Federal Writers Project, which exposed him to other writers who were pushing literary boundaries. In the end, though, his voice was all his own. Geffner concludes that Thompson "was rooted in the proletariat's lot, the blood, sweat, and dirt of people he felt to be the salt of the earth — although his books showed them to be more like vipers in a pit."

<http://www.neh.gov/news/humanities/2009-11/Soul.html>

UNCOVERING MONTPELIER'S HIDDEN PAST. Shea, Christopher. *Preservation*, September-October 2008

Summary: After undergoing one of the most ambitious restoration projects of modern times, Montpelier, President James Madison's neoclassical Virginia home, stands as it once appeared when he lived there with his wife Dolley from 1797-1836. Before the restoration, the Madison core of Montpelier had been buried within a 55-bedroom addition made by the DuPont family, who purchased Montpelier in 1900. Marion DuPont Scott lived at Montpelier most of her life, and her heirs transferred their interests in the mansion to the National Trust for Historic Preservation after her death in 1983. Tourists visited the mansion in dwindling numbers until

2003, when the Montpelier Foundation began a \$24 million restoration effort funded by the estate of Paul Mellon. The restoration removed the DuPont additions to reveal the original 26-room house the Madisons lived in. The house contained many original windows and doors, that helped experts construct the house as it looked circa 1812. Researchers discovered outlines of original chair rails and stairs, and fragments of carvings on chimney pieces. Curators are tracing Madison's furnishings. One wing of the visitors' center is given over to the William DuPont Gallery, which describes the family's involvement. The restored Montpelier made its debut in September 2008.

<http://www.preservationnation.org/magazine/2008/september-october/montpelier.html>

CAN MODERN DANCE BE PRESERVED? Lubow, Arthur. *New York Times Magazine*, November 8, 2009, pp. 38-43

Summary: The work of a choreographer like Merce Cunningham is notoriously hard to document and recreate. When the dancers depart, will the dances disappear? This question has become especially important since Cunningham, who was a goodwill ambassador for the U.S. Department of State through his dance tours to several countries in the 1970s, died in July 2009. Like his famous contemporaries Martha Graham, George Balanchine, and Agnes De Mille, their legacies were often left to foundations or unscrupulous individuals who controlled both their archival records and the copyrights on the artistic creations with the authority to license rights and distribute royalties. In Cunningham's case, his artistry was closely identified with his partner, composer John Cage, so there needed to be protection on the works of two creative artists. However, until a new copyright law took effect in 1978, choreography and musical performance were not explicitly protected so videotaping dance, the most permanent visual record of an actual performance, was not a common thing. Pirated or unauthorized dance presentations often abounded with little legal enforcement. To counter this, artists like Cunningham established trusts to protect their lifetime work. Currently available online at

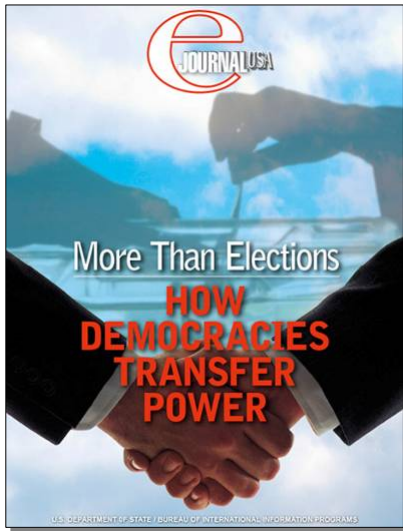
<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/11/08/magazine/08cunningham-t.html>

JOURNALISM'S FUTURE. *Chronicle of Higher Education*, Vol. 56, No. 12, November 15, 2009

Summary: Chronicle's Review section features several articles on the future of journalism. In "Academe and the Decline of News Media," 18 experts discuss what some lament as the decline of news media and others see as a Renaissance for journalism, although the new opportunities bring with them new responsibilities for the university. In "University-Based Reporting Could Keep Journalism Alive," Michael Schudson and Leonard Downie Jr. argue that, with printing and distribution moved from major barriers to trivial expenses, today's young journalism students are in a position to create something new, vital and as yet impossible to foresee because the pace of change is so rapid. According to Nicholas Lemann ("Journalism Schools Can Push Coverage Beyond Breaking News"), university journalism schools are thriving even as mainstream media are in crisis because many young people see the turmoil as an opportunity to get in on something new, rather than as a threat. Journalism professor Ben Yagoda ("I've Read the News Today, Oh Boy") says neither he "nor anyone else has a clue about how the years ahead will play out" in terms of the fall of print, or the rise of the Web, or the viability of any particular economic model. Yagoda predicts the survival, however, of watchdog journalism, "what-the-people-want stuff" from ranging from opinion pieces to sports and "excellent narrative about human beings." Other articles into "We Need 'Philosophy of Journalism'" and "Let's Strengthen the Supply Side of Serious Journalism."

<http://chronicle.com/section/The-Chronicle-Review/41/>

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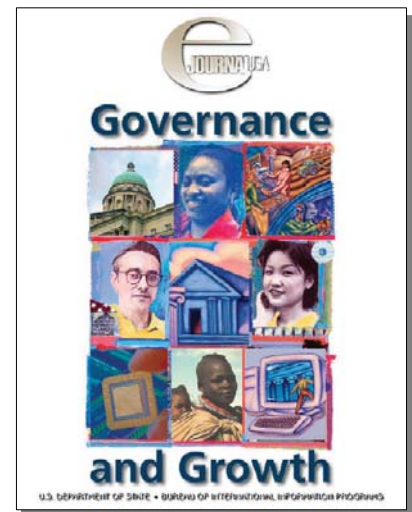


MORE THAN ELECTIONS: HOW DEMOCRACIES TRANSFER POWER. U.S. Department of State. January 2010..

Democracy requires more than holding elections. Healthy democracies are defined by the expectations of citizens and the common rules, understandings, and trust they build. This eJournal USA explores the contours of civil society and political legitimacy within which peaceful transitions of power can occur. <http://www.america.gov/media/pdf/ejs/0110.pdf#popup>

GOVERNANCE AND GROWTH. U.S. Department of State. December 2009.

The eJournal explores the reality behind President Obama's statement to Ghana's parliament earlier this year: "Development depends on good governance." The link between stable, honest government and economic prosperity is being recognized increasingly around the globe by governments, private sector leaders, and entrepreneurs. National leaders and local leaders explain their views of good governance. Experts in the fields of business and development assistance explain how good governance has become critical to building prosperity. <http://www.america.gov/media/pdf/ejs/1209.pdf#popup>



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<http://www.america.gov/amlife.html>