



Newsletter

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May 2010



Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month

May is Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month in the U.S. Some 15.5 million residents claim Asian heritage, such as this child attending a dragon boat festival in Colorado.



Tai Chi and Wu Dang
WuShu Kung Fu Master
Aiping Cheng performs
a demonstration with a
broad sword. The
demonstrations were to
celebrate Asian Pacific
American Heritage
Month at the
community college.
(AP Photo)

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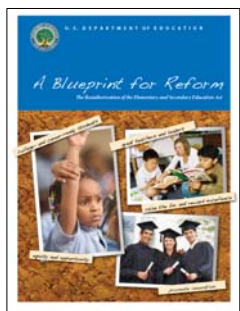
GOVERNMENT



LANGUAGE USE IN THE UNITED STATES: 2007. U.S. Census Bureau. April 2010.

The number of people 5 and older who spoke a language other than English at home has more than doubled in the last three decades and at a pace four times greater than the nation's population growth, according to a new U.S. Census Bureau report analyzing data from the 2007 American Community Survey and over a time period from 1980 – 2007. In that time frame, the percentage of speakers of non-English languages grew by 140 percent while the nation's overall population grew by 34 percent. [PDF format, 16 pages].

<http://www.census.gov/prod/2010pubs/acs-12.pdf>



A BLUEPRINT FOR REFORM: THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT. U.S. Department of Education. March 13, 2010.

On Saturday, March 13, the Obama administration released its blueprint for revising the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), which would ask states to adopt college- and career-ready standards and reward schools for producing dramatic gains in student achievement. The blueprint provides incentives for states to adopt academic standards that prepare students to succeed in college and the workplace and create accountability systems that measure student growth toward meeting the goal that all children graduate and succeed in college. [PDF format, 45 pages].

<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/blueprint/blueprint.pdf>

YOUTH'S NEEDS AND SERVICES. Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. Andrea J. Sedlak and Karla S. McPherson. April 2010.

The study shows findings from the Survey of Youth in Residential Placement (SYRP) on how facilities have addressed youth's needs, what services youth receive, and where these services could be improved. SYRP is the first comprehensive national survey to gather information about youth in custody by surveying the detained offenders. Findings show that youth have substantive needs in the four areas examined, mental health, substance abuse, health care, and education. [PDF format, 12 pages].

<http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/227728.pdf>

DIGEST OF UNITED STATES PRACTICE IN INTERNATIONAL LAW 2008. U.S. Department of State. March 31, 2010.

As Legal Adviser Harold Hongju Koh notes in the introduction, the volume "provides a historical record of developments occurring during the period when my predecessor, John B. Bellinger, III, served as Legal Adviser." For the first time, the Digest is available both in print and on the State Department's website. [PDF format, 1164 pages].

<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/138513.pdf>; OR
<http://www.state.gov/s/l/2008/index.htm>

2009 COUNTRY REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES. U.S. Department of State. March 11, 2010.

"The idea of human rights begins with a fundamental commitment to the dignity that is the birthright of every man, woman and child. Progress in advancing human rights begins with the facts. And for the last 34 years, the United States has produced the Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, providing the most comprehensive record available of the

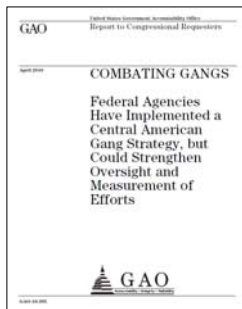
condition of human rights around the world," says the Secretary of State introducing the report. [HTML format, various paging].

<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2009/index.htm>

2009 YEAR IN REVIEW: SMART POWER IN ACTION. U.S. Department of State. March 1, 2010.

In a continuously changing global environment, failing and post-conflict states pose one of the greatest national and international security challenges of our time. Struggling states have become breeding grounds for terrorist activity, violent crime, trafficking, and humanitarian catastrophes, which all possess the significant potential to spread and destabilize entire regions of the globe.

In the past, the global community, the U.S. government included, addressed these reconstruction and stability issues in an ad hoc fashion. In recognition of this inefficiency, the U.S. government identified the urgent need for a set of formalized, collaborative, and institutionalized foreign policy tools which could adequately address the diverse stabilization needs of the global community by culling together the government's wide-range of expertise. <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/137690.pdf>



COMBATING GANGS: FEDERAL AGENCIES HAVE IMPLEMENTED A CENTRAL AMERICAN GANG STRATEGY, BUT COULD STRENGTHEN OVERSIGHT AND MEASUREMENT OF EFFORTS. U.S. Government Accountability Office. April 2010.

Thousands of gang members in the United States belong to gangs such as MS-13 and 18th Street that are also active in Central American countries. The report addresses (1) the extent to which the federal government has developed a strategy to combat these gangs, and (2) how federal agencies have implemented the strategy and other programs to combat these gangs, coordinated their actions, and assessed their results.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d10395.pdf> [PDF format, 74 pages].

POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION: COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY ENDOWMENTS HAVE SHOWN LONG-TERM GROWTH, WHILE SIZE, RESTRICTION, AND DISTRIBUTIONS VARY. U.S. Government Accountability Office. February 23, 2010.

The nation's 4-year not-for-profit colleges and universities collectively held more than \$400 billion in endowments in 2008. Some institutions' large endowments coupled with the high and growing cost of college have led to questions about institutions' use of endowments. The mandated report describes (1) the size and change in value of endowments over the last 20 years, (2) the extent and manner to which endowment funds are restricted for financial aid and other purposes, and (3) institutions' distribution of endowment assets.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d10393.pdf> [PDF format, 80 pages].



IMPACTS OF A VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM FOR MIDDLE SCHOOLS. National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance. April 2010.

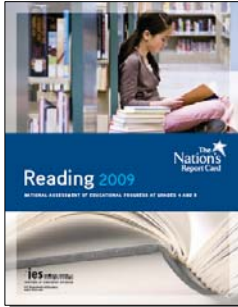
A new evaluation of a violence prevention program for middle schools finds that after one school year, there were no statistically significant impacts on how often students reported that they were victimized by their peers, or committed violence against their peers. In addition, there were no statistically significant impacts of the program on a number of other outcomes such as how often students' reported positive behavior toward their peers or on their perceptions of school safety. [PDF format, 159 pages].

<http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/pubs/20104007/pdf/20104007.pdf>

TRENDS IN THE USE OF SCHOOL CHOICE: 1993 TO 2007. National Center for Education Statistics. Sarah Grady et al. April 8, 2010.

The report uses data from the National Household Surveys Program (NHES) to present trends that focus on the use of and users of public schools (assigned and chosen), private schools (church- and non church-related), charter schools, and homeschoolers between 1993 and 2007.

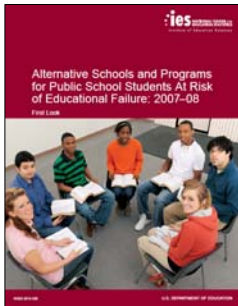
<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2010/2010004.pdf> [PDF format, 77 pages].



THE NATION'S REPORT CARD: READING 2009. National Center for Education Statistics. March 24, 2010.

The report presents results of the 2009 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) in reading at grades 4 and 8. Results for students in the nation, the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Department of Defense schools are reported as average scores and as percentages of students performing at or above three achievement levels: Basic, Proficient, and Advanced. Scores are also reported at selected percentiles, showing changes in the performance of lower-, middle-, and higher-performing students. Results for student demographic groups defined by various background characteristics are included, as well as sample assessment questions with examples of student responses. [PDF format, 72 pages].

<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/pdf/main2009/2010458.pdf>



ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS AND PROGRAMS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS AT RISK OF EDUCATIONAL FAILURE: 2007-08. National Center for Education Statistics. Priscilla Rouse Carver et al. March 23, 2010.

The report presents data from a recent district Fast Response Survey System (FRSS) survey about alternative schools and programs available to students during the 2007-08 school year. Alternative schools and programs are specifically designed to address the educational needs of students at risk of school failure in a setting apart from that of the regular public school. They can be administered by the district or an entity other than the district. The study includes information on the availability and number of alternative schools and programs, the number of students enrolled in alternative schools and program, and district policy on returning students to a regular school.

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2010/2010026.pdf> [PDF format, 73 pages].

CONGRESSIONAL DOCUMENTS (HEARINGS, REPORTS, ETC.)



MILITARY PERSONNEL AND FREEDOM OF RELIGIOUS EXPRESSION: SELECTED LEGAL ISSUES. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. R. Chuck Mason and Cynthia Brougher. April 8, 2010.

The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution provides the freedom to individuals to exercise their religious beliefs without governmental interference, and simultaneously prohibits government actions that benefit followers of one faith over another. At times, when government actions would otherwise burden individuals' religious exercise, the government makes efforts to accommodate the religious practice. However, accommodation of religion to prevent violations of the Free Exercise Clause must be carefully considered in order to prevent violation of the Establishment Clause.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R41171.pdf> [PDF format, 20 pages].

U.S. INITIATIVES TO PROMOTE GLOBAL INTERNET FREEDOM: ISSUES, POLICY, AND TECHNOLOGY. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Patricia Moloney Figliola et al. April 5, 2010.

Modern means of communications, led by the Internet, provide a relatively inexpensive, open, easy-entry means of sharing ideas, information, pictures, and text around the world. In a political and human rights context, in closed societies when the more established, formal news media is denied access to or does not report on specified news events, the Internet has become an alternative source of media, and sometimes a means to organize politically. [PDF format, 26 pages].

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R41120.pdf>

ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL: APPOINTMENT PROCESS AND CURRENT LEGISLATION. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Ida A. Brudnick. February 16, 2010.

The Architect of the Capitol (AOC) is responsible for “the maintenance, operation, development, and preservation of 16.5 million square feet of buildings and more than 450 acres of land throughout” the United States Capitol Complex. During recent Congresses, multiple bills have been introduced that would alter the AOC appointment process and require the appointment to be made by the leadership of Congress rather than the President. One of these bills, H.R. 2843, the Architect of the Capitol Appointment Act of 2010, passed the House on February 3, 2010.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R41074.pdf> [PDF format, 16 pages].

DETAILED CHRONOLOGY: NATIONAL WOMAN’S PARTY HISTORY. American Memory, Library of Congress. 2010.

The National Woman’s Party, representing the militant wing of the suffrage movement, utilized open public demonstrations to gain popular attention for the right of women to vote in the United States. Their picketing, pageants, parades, and demonstrations—as well as their subsequent arrests, imprisonment, and hunger strikes—were successful in spurring public discussion and winning publicity for the suffrage cause. [PDF format, 35 pages].

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/suffrage/nwp/detchron.pdf>

WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH: WRITING WOMEN BACK INTO HISTORY. Library of Congress. March 2010.

The Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum join in paying tribute to the generations of women whose commitment to nature and the planet have proved invaluable to society.

<http://womenshistorymonth.gov> / [HTML format with links].

ACORN POLITICAL MACHINE TRIES TO REINVENT ITSELF. U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. April 1, 2010.

House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Ranking Member Darrell Issa (R-CA) releases a report examining the rebranding of 13 ACORN affiliated organizations following reports that ACORN had disbanded. The report includes evidence of a recent business transaction between ACORN and the organization rebranded as Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE) which details how membership lists, computer equipment, employees and other assets will be transferred from ACORN to the new organization. [PDF format, 8 pages].

<http://republicans.oversight.house.gov/images/stories/Reports/20100401ACORNreport.pdf>

THE WHITE HOUSE

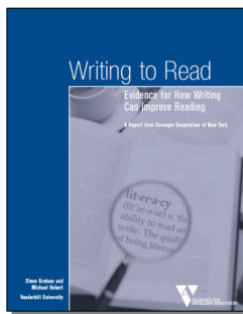
PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION – NATIONAL EQUAL PAY DAY. The White House. April 20, 2010.

“Throughout our Nation's history, extraordinary women have broken barriers to achieve their dreams and blazed trails so their daughters would not face similar obstacles. Despite decades of progress, pay inequity still hinders women and their families across our country. National Equal Pay Day symbolizes the day when an average American woman's earnings finally match what an average American man earned in the past year. Today, we renew our commitment to end wage discrimination and celebrate the strength and vibrancy women add to our economy.” – President Obama. [HTML format, various paging].

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/presidential-proclamation-national-equal-pay-day>

THINK TANK PUBLICATIONS

ALLIANCE FOR EXCELLENT EDUCATION



WRITING TO READ: EVIDENCE FOR HOW WRITING CAN IMPROVE READING. Alliance for Excellent Education. Report, April 14, 2010

Although some progress has been made in improving the literacy achievement of students in American high schools during the last twenty years, the majority of students still do not read or write well enough to meet grade-level demands. Poor literacy skills play a role in why many of these students do not complete high school. Among those who do graduate, many will not be ready for college or a career where reading and writing are required. These young people will find themselves at a serious disadvantage in successfully pursuing some form of higher education, securing a job that pays a living wage, or participating in social and civic activities. One often-overlooked tool for improving students' reading, as well as their learning from text, is writing. This report identifies instructional practices in writing shown to improve students' reading abilities and recommends ways that teachers can improve students' reading skills through teaching writing.

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

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS

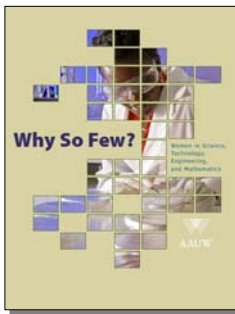


NO REFUGE: THE ANNUAL REPORT ON THE ECONOMIC STATUS OF THE PROFESSION 2009-10. American Association of University Professors. April 2010.

Rough financial seas had been buffeting many colleges and universities for years before the recession that began in late 2007. Then in mid-September 2008, an economic crisis crashed into the campuses, challenging the ability to provide the accessible, high-quality education necessary to achieve long-term national goals. As the economy weakened at the end of 2008 and into 2009, college and university presidents, business officers, admissions deans, financial aid directors, faculty, staff, students, and parents wondered whether higher education would find a refuge from the worst of the storm, as it had in prior recessions.

<http://www.aaup.org/NR/rdonlyres/AFB34202-2D42-48B6-9C3B-52EC3D86F605/0/zreport.pdf> [PDF format, 29 pages].

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN



WHY SO FEW? AAUW, 2010.

In an era when women are increasingly prominent in medicine, law and business, why are there so few women scientists and engineers? A new research report by AAUW presents compelling evidence that can help to explain this puzzle. Why So Few? Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics presents in-depth yet accessible profiles of eight key research findings that point to environmental and social barriers – including stereotypes, gender bias and the climate of science and engineering departments in colleges and universities – that continue to block women's participation and progress in science, technology, engineering, and math. The report also includes up to date statistics on girls' and women's achievement and participation in these areas and offers new ideas for what each of us can do to more fully open scientific and engineering fields to girls and women.

<http://www.aauw.org/learn/research/upload/whysofew.pdf>

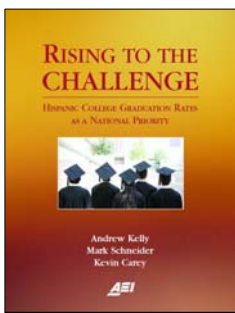
AMERICAN ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE



THE ATTRITION TRADITION IN AMERICAN HIGHER EDUCATION: CONNECTING PAST AND PRESENT. American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy. John R. Thelin. April 20, 2010.

In July 2009, President Barack Obama set out a bold higher education agenda for his administration and promised that the U.S. would once again lead the world in college degree attainment. Given the nation's current level of college completion, it is reasonable to wonder whether such ambitions are feasible. While there is a sense that the country needs to recreate the "Golden Age" of American higher education, where high completion rates were the norm, few have bothered to ask whether this era was actually as golden as the conventional wisdom would suggest, says the author. [PDF format, 28 pages].

<http://www.aei.org/docLib/AttritionTraditionThelin.pdf>



RISING TO THE CHALLENGE: HISPANIC COLLEGE GRADUATION RATES AS A NATIONAL PRIORITY. American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research. Andrew Kirby et al. March 17, 2010.

The report reveals that far too many four-year colleges and universities graduate less than half of their Hispanic students.

<http://www.aei.org/docLib/Rising-to-the-Challenge.pdf> [PDF format, 48 pages].

BAKER INSTITUTE

EDUCATION, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND BORDER ECONOMIC GROWTH. James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy. Thomas M. Fullerton Jr. et al. March 24, 2010.

The study shows how economic recovery programs may improve, or fail to improve, regional education systems. [PDF format, 22 pages].

<http://www.bakerinstitute.org/publications/LAI-pub-BorderEconFullerton-032410.pdf>

BROOKINGS INSTITUTION

THE 2009 BROWN CENTER REPORT ON AMERICAN EDUCATION: HOW WELL ARE AMERICAN STUDENTS LEARNING? Brookings Institution. Web posted March 17, 2010.

This year's Brown Center Report contains studies taking a long view. Part I examines national test data going back to 1971 from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). The study in Part II compares the 1989 test scores of more than 1,000 schools to the same schools' scores in 2009. Part III compares the test scores of conversion charter schools from 1986, when they operated as traditional public schools, to those from 2008, when they operated as charter schools. The studies tackle perennial questions that, as often happens in education, manifest themselves as controversial topics on the contemporary scene: how to interpret trends in test scores, the distribution of achievement, school turnarounds, and charter schools. [PDF format, 36 pages].

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2010/0317_education_loveless/0317_education_loveless.pdf

AMERICA'S TEACHER CORPS. Brookings Institution. Steven Glazerman et al. March 15, 2010.

The authors propose the creation through federal legislation of America's Teacher Corps (ATC). Highly effective K-12 public school teachers, as documented through district or state evaluation systems that comply with federal standards, would qualify for membership in the ATC. Members of the ATC would receive visible recognition for teaching excellence and, conditional on service in high-poverty Title I schools, a salary supplement and portable credential. The ATC would encourage states and districts to establish effective teacher evaluation systems and to use those systems to guide the recruitment, retention, placement, professional development, and compensation of teachers. [PDF format, 16 pages].

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2010/0315_teacher_corps/0315_teacher_corps.pdf

NATIONAL DISASTERS TEACH UNORTHODOX LESSONS ON GOVERNANCE. Brookings Institution. Daniel Kaufmann. March 2, 2010.

The author discusses the governance of Greece and Chile and its effect on coping with the natural disasters.

http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2010/0302_governance_disaster_kaufmann.aspx [HTML format, various paging].

CATO INSTITUTE



THEY SPEND WHAT? THE REAL COST OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS. The Cato Institute. Adam Schaeffer. March 10, 2010.

Although public schools are usually the biggest item in state and local budgets, spending figures provided by public school officials and reported in the media often leave out major costs of education and thus understate what is actually spent. The author discusses the real spending according to his analysis.

<http://www.cato.org/pubs/pas/pa662.pdf> [PDF format, 32 pages].

CARTER CENTER, EMORY UNIVERSITY, THE

ACCESS TO INFORMATION LAWS: PIECES OF THE PUZZLE AN ANALYSIS OF THE INTERNATIONAL NORMS. The Carter Center, Emory University. Laura Neuman. 2010.

According to the author, each access to information law will be unique, depending upon the context in which it will function. For example, in countries in which there is a long tradition of authoritarianism and secrecy, more explicit legal provisions related to roles and responsibilities of the civil servants and procedures for providing information may be necessary. Likewise, in places where there is a less developed system of archiving and record keeping there may be greater focus on these areas within the law and/or regulations. To design, implement and enforce an information regime that will lead to a strengthened democracy is akin to completing a puzzle: for the picture to emerge all of the pieces must be identified, utilized, and placed together within the puzzle's distinct framework. [PDF format, 11 pages].

http://www.cartercenter.org/resources/pdfs/peace/americas/ati_pieces_of_puzzle.pdf

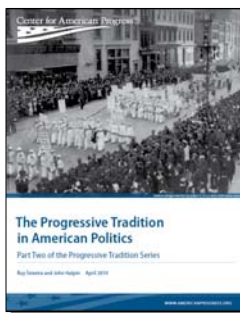
CENTER FOR AMERICAN PROGRESS



IMPROVING THE LIVES OF LGBT OLDER ADULTS. Center for American Progress. Michael Adams and Jeff Krehely. Web posted April 28, 2010.

The report discusses solutions for addressing the unique barriers and inequalities faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender elders.

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/04/pdf/lgbt_elders.pdf
[PDF format, 90 pages].

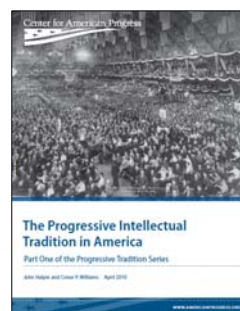


THE PROGRESSIVE INTELLECTUAL TRADITION IN AMERICA: PART ONE OF THE PROGRESSIVE TRADITION SERIES. Center for American Progress. By John Halpin, Conor P. Williams, April 14, 2010.

Progressivism has always been part of a broader global movement to build a more humane, just, and economically stable international community based on full opportunity and self-determination for all citizens. Progressives on both sides of the Atlantic learned from one another in their attempts to build more responsive and democratic governments. But as a distinctly American response to the nation's

economic conditions and its political tradition, progressivism steered a middle way between the radical ideas of socialism prevalent in some parts of Europe and the unbending hands-off approach of conservatives ascendant in the United States.

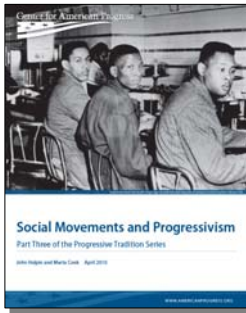
http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/04/pdf/progressiveintellectualism_execsumm.pdf



THE PROGRESSIVE TRADITION IN AMERICAN POLITICS: PART TWO OF THE PROGRESSIVE TRADITION SERIES. Center for American Progress. Ruy Teixeira and John Halpin. April 14, 2010.

The part two of the Progressive Tradition Series examines the politics of national progressivism from the agrarian populists to the Great Society. [PDF format, 31 pages].

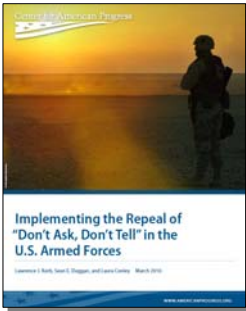
http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/04/pdf/progressive_traditions.pdf



SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND PROGRESSIVISM: PART THREE OF THE PROGRESSIVE TRADITION SERIES. Center for American Progress. John Halpin and Marta Cook. April 14, 2010.

The part three of the Progressive Tradition Series examines the influence of social movements for equality and economic justice on the development of progressivism.

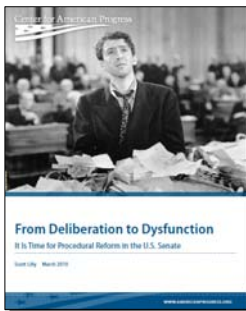
http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/04/pdf/progressive_social_movements.pdf [PDF format, 27 pages].



IMPLEMENTING THE REPEAL OF "DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL" IN THE U.S. ARMED FORCES. Center for American Progress. Lawrence J. Korb et al. March 23, 2010.

The report outlines why implementing the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" can be accomplished quickly and would require few changes in military regulations and practices. The authors find that most existing regulations are already neutral with respect to sexual orientation and therefore don't need to be modified. Others will require minor changes through legislation or additional executive guidance.

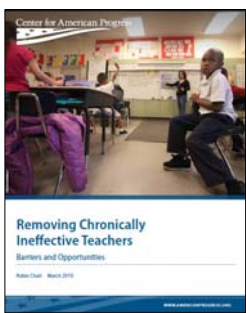
http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/03/pdf/dadt_repeal.pdf



FROM DELIBERATION TO DYSFUNCTION: IT IS TIME FOR PROCEDURAL REFORM IN THE U.S. SENATE. Center for American Progress. Scott Lilly. March 12, 2010.

The report urges the Senate to adopt modest procedural changes to curb some of the filibuster's worst abuses and make the Senate more responsible. The U.S. Senate has a proud tradition of ensuring that important decisions are carefully weighed before they become law. This has served the nation well at times. But under current practices the latitude granted to individual senators to obstruct does not always contribute to more measured consideration of national policy.

<http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/03/pdf/filibuster.pdf>



REMOVING CHRONICALLY INEFFECTIVE TEACHERS: BARRIERS AND OPPORTUNITIES. Center for American Progress. Robin Chait. March 10, 2010.

In schools across the country, there are teachers who should not be teaching. But schools almost never dismiss persistently poor-performing teachers due in large part to legal and policy barriers at the local and state level, according to Chait. [PDF format, 32 pages].

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/03/pdf/teacher_dismissal.pdf

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

FAMILY STRUCTURE AND CHILDHOOD OBESITY, EARLY LONGITUDINAL STUDY – KINDERGARTEN COHORT. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. May 2010.

Little is known about the effect of family structure on childhood obesity among US children. The study examines the effect of number of parents and number of siblings on children's body mass index and risk of obesity. [PDF format, 8 pages].

http://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2010/May/pdf/09_0156.pdf

CENTER FOR ECONOMIC AND POLICY RESEARCH

RECONCILIATION AND REPRESENTATION: THE SHARE OF THE POPULATION BY THE DEMOCRATIC MAJORITY. Center for Economic and Policy Research. Sarika Gupta. March 2010.

With the debate over health care dragging on, it is becoming increasingly likely that the Senate will pass a bill through the reconciliation process, requiring just a simple majority rather than the super-majority needed to break a filibuster. The paper shows that if this path is taken, senators who represent the vast majority of the nation's population will have supported the bill. The assessment holds even if several of the senators who have indicated serious reservations end up voting against it. [PDF format, 2 pages].

<http://www.cepr.net/documents/publications/reconciliation-2010-03.pdf>

CENTER FOR URBAN RESEARCH

BE COUNTED, AMERICA! HOW ARE WE DOING? Center for Urban Research. April 8, 2010.

An analysis of 2010 Census participation rates so far has found wide variation from one city to the next in the degree to which race and ethnicity predict response rates. Nationally, areas with high Hispanic populations have had below-average response rates so far. But in Miami, Newark and New York, three cities with substantial Latino populations, "greater Hispanic populations tended to increase participation rates" at the census-tract, or neighborhood, level, the analysis concludes. [HTML format, various paging].

<http://www.urbanresearch.org/resources/census2010participationWeek2>

CENTURY FOUNDATION

WHAT EDUCATORS CAN LEARN FROM ER. Gordon MacInnes, The Century Foundation, 1/29/2010

Educators could learn a thing or two from the craft of medicine, even medicine practiced on television. Doctors on the popular television series ER, for example, are not surprised to learn that mortality rates are higher at County General Hospital than at Pleasant Valley Community Hospital. Doctors at County see a lot more drug abusers, gunshot victims, obese diabetics, alcoholics, and the homeless, not to mention heart attacks, strokes, and concussions. Pleasant Valley might see more lawn mower and hockey injuries, to go along with heart and cancer problems. Its patients arrive in better overall health, have regular check-ups, and better insurance coverage. These factors make a difference—a huge difference—in outcomes between the two hospitals.

http://www.tcf.org/publications/education/Gordon_Brief.pdf

CHILD WELFARE INFORMATION GATEWAY



POSTADOPTION CONTACT AGREEMENTS BETWEEN BIRTH AND ADOPTIVE FAMILIES: SUMMARY OF STATE LAW. Child Welfare Information Gateway. Web posted February 11, 2009.

Post adoption contact agreements, sometimes referred to as cooperative adoption or open adoption agreements, are arrangements that allow some kind of contact between a child's adoptive family and members of the child's birth family after the child's adoption has been finalized. Contact or communication with birth relatives can be a resource to adoptive parents for information about their child's medical, social, and cultural history. In general, State law does not prohibit post adoption contact or communication. Approximately 22 States currently have statutes that allow written and enforceable contact agreements. [PDF format, 42 pages].

http://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/laws_policies/statutes/cooperativeall.pdf

COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF GRADUATE EDUCATION



THE PATH FORWARD: THE FUTURE OF GRADUATE EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES. Commission on the Future of Graduate Education, April 2010.

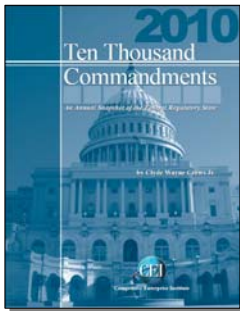
The Commission on the Future of Graduate Education, a joint initiative of CGS and Educational Testing Service (ETS), has released a landmark report on the central role of graduate education in sustaining U.S. competitiveness and innovation in the global economy. The report explores both the strengths and vulnerabilities in the U.S. graduate education system, offering recommendations for universities, employers and policymakers to enhance graduate education. <http://www.fgereport.org/>

COMMITTEE TO PROTECT JOURNALISTS

ATTACKS ON THE PRESS 2009. Committee to Protect Journalists. February 16, 2010.

The Committee to Protect Journalists releases its annual report, with a global launch in Tokyo, New York, Brussels, Bogota, Cairo, and Nairobi. <http://www.cpj.org/attacks/>

COMPETITIVE ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE



TEN THOUSAND COMMANDMENTS: AN ANNUAL SNAPSHOT OF THE FEDERAL REGULATORY STATE. Competitive Enterprise Institute. Clyde Wayne Crews Jr. April 15, 2010.

Federal regulations cost a \$1.187 trillion last year in compliance burdens on Americans, according to the report. "Trillion-dollar deficits and regulatory costs in the trillions are both unsettling new developments for America," said report author, Clyde Wayne Crews, CEI Vice President for Policy. The report urges Congress to step up and take responsibility as lawmakers to review and roll back economically harmful regulations.

<http://cei.org/issue-analysis/2010/04/15/ten-thousand-commandments-2010>

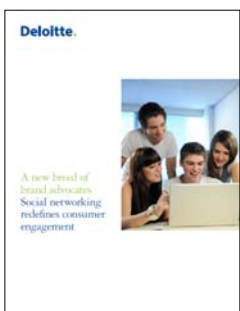
COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS (CFR)

ARIZONA'S ALARM BELL FOR IMMIGRATION REFORM. Council on Foreign Relations. Edward Alden. April 26, 2010.

Arizona's new immigration law is unwise, unworkable, and probably unconstitutional. And who's to blame? Actually, the rest of the country, writes CFR's Edward Alden.

http://www.cfr.org/publication/21982/arizonas_alarm_bell_for_immigration_reform.html?breadcrumb=%2Fpublication%2Fby_type%2Fregion_issue_brief

DELOITTE



A NEW BREED OF BRAND ADVOCATES: SOCIAL NETWORKING REDEFINES CONSUMER ENGAGEMENT. Deloitte. February 2010.

Consumer product companies are witnessing a profound transformation in how they reach and engage consumers. A number of technology and social trends are changing the way consumer product companies connect with consumers and more importantly how consumers interact with each other in influencing buying decisions. [PDF format, 12 pages].

http://www.deloitte.com/assets/Dcom-UnitedStates/Local%20Assets/Documents/Consumer%20Business/US_CP_BrandAdvocatesStudy_020910.pdf

DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH



PROJECTION OF POPULATIONS BY LEVEL OF EDUCATION ATTAINMENT, AGE AND SEX FOR 120 COUNTRIES FOR 2005-2050. Demographic Research. K. C. Samir et al. March 16, 2010.

Using demographic multi-state, cohort-component methods, the study produces projections for 120 countries (covering 93% of the world population in 2005) by five-year age groups, sex, and four levels of educational attainment for the years 2005-2050. [PDF format, 92 pages].

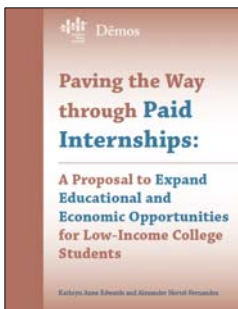
<http://www.demographic-research.org/volumes/vol22/15/22-15.pdf>

ECONOMIC POLICY INSTITUTE



NOT-SO-EQUAL PROTECTION: REFORMING THE REGULATIONS OF STUDENT INTERNSHIPS. Economic Policy Institute. Kathryn Anne Edwards and Alexander Hertel-Fernandez. April 5, 2010.

Internships, the vast majority of which are unpaid, have become a staple of the college experience. Internships are often beneficial for both the student and the employer. Students can gain valuable insights into the nature of a certain occupation or industry, specific skill development, exposure to a network of contacts in a field of interest, and experience in the professional world. In turn, employers can engage in low-cost workforce training and vetting for future employment. The authors discuss the regulations pertaining to the internships. http://epi.3cdn.net/4dd46de9ad08f55635_6dm6bx8tq.pdf



PAVING THE WAY THROUGH PAID INTERNSHIPS: A PROPOSAL TO EXPAND EDUCATIONAL AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOW-INCOME COLLEGE STUDENTS. Economic Policy Institute. Kathryn Anne Edwards and Alexander Hertel-Fernandez. March 23, 2010.

As Spring 2010 college graduates prepare to search for jobs, many from low-income families will start at a competitive disadvantage because they have had to work rather than take crucial, but often unpaid, professional internships that provide key skills for entering the workforce. A new legislative proposal seeks to remedy this inequity by providing funding for low-income students to take high-quality public service internships.

http://epi.3cdn.net/b1d404768baee139e7_ram6i2vc3.pdf [PDF format, 20 pages].

EDUCATION COMMISSION OF THE STATES



END-OF-COURSE EXAMS, by Jennifer Dounay Zinth. *The Progress of Education Reform*, ECS, April 2010.

In recent years, criticism of high school graduates' lack of readiness for college and work has led a number of states to raise high school graduation requirements — particularly in terms of the number and rigor of courses students must pass. This issue addresses end-of-course assessments at the high school level.

<http://www.ecs.org/clearinghouse/85/33/8533.pdf>

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL FINANCE. Mike Griffith. Education Commission of the States, *StateNote*, April 2010.

Public interest has put significant focus on how the United States education system compares with those around the world. This ECS StateNote uses data collected and

published by the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to show how America's school funding system compares with other developed countries' systems from around the world.
<http://www.ecs.org/clearinghouse/85/20/8520.pdf>

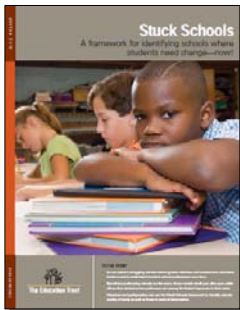
EDUCATION SECTOR

RESTRUCTURING 'RESTRUCTURING': IMPROVING INTERVENTIONS FOR LOW-PERFORMING SCHOOLS AND DISTRICTS. Education Sector. Robert Manwaring. April 6, 2010.

The Obama administration has made "turnaround" a major priority, vowing to fundamentally restructure and reshape the nation's lowest-performing schools. The report examines what happens after states identify schools as low-performing; it documents how few states and districts use the tools provided to them by NCLB and what policy changes must be made in order to address the administration's challenge.

http://www.educationsector.org/usr_doc/Restructuring.pdf

EDUCATION TRUST, THE



STUCK SCHOOLS: A FRAMEWORK FOR IDENTIFYING SCHOOLS WHERE STUDENTS NEED CHANGE – NOW! The Education Trust. Web posted March 1, 2010.

The report shows that schools often lumped together as "low performing" are not all alike. Examining data from reading and mathematics assessments for elementary and middle schools in ten states, the study's authors found that some low-performing schools remain stuck year after year, and others that started low performing are among the fastest improvers in their states.

<http://www.edtrust.org/sites/edtrust.org/files/publications/files/StuckSchools.pdf>

FIRST FOCUS AND MIGRATION CHILD WELFARE

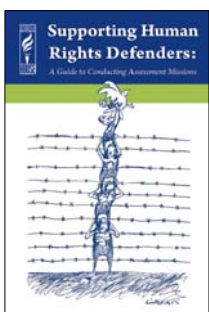


THE IMPACT OF IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT ON CHILD WELFARE. First Focus and Migration Child Welfare. Wendy Cervantes and Yali Lincroft. Web posted April 7, 2010.

The report examines the impact immigration enforcement has on the thousands of children of undocumented immigrants, 73% of whom are U.S. citizens. This includes risks to child safety and well-being, such as separation of children from parents. The report also highlights the growing challenges for state child welfare agencies that encounter separated children.

<http://www.firstfocus.net/Download/Enforcement4.7.pdf>

FREEDOM HOUSE



SUPPORTING HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS: A GUIDE TO CONDUCTING ASSESSMENT MISSIONS. Freedom House, March 26, 2010.

This is a handbook for those embarking on an assessment of how to best assist human rights defenders either in a particular country or a region within a country. It is intended to guide a team in executing an assessment of how to create effective programs (e.g. capacity building training, financial assistance, advocacy support, etc) to assist human rights defenders (HRDs). Such a sensitive and critical program demands a tailoring to the needs and desires of the human rights defenders themselves and to the

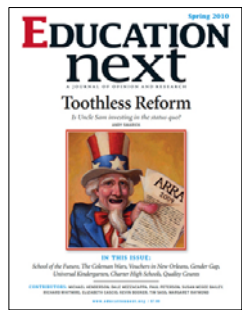
nuances of the country. Thus, an informed assessment before the creation of such a program is critical. http://www.freedomhouse.org/uploads/special_report/87.pdf

WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA 2010. Freedom House, March 3, 2010

In order to provide a detailed look at the conditions faced by women in the Middle East and understand the complex environment surrounding efforts to improve their status, Freedom House conducted a comprehensive study of women's rights in the region. The first edition of this project was published in 2005. The present edition offers an updated examination of the issue, with a special focus on changes that have occurred over the last five years. Although the study indicates that a substantial deficit in women's rights persists in every country in the MENA region, the findings also include notable progress, particularly in terms of economic opportunities, educational attainment, and political participation.

<http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=383&report=86>

HOOVER INSTITUTION, STANFORD UNIVERSITY



EDUCATION NEXT --The Journal - Spring 2010 / Vol. 10, No. 2. Hoover Institution

Featuring:

- Toothless Reform? If the feds get tough, Race to the Top might work. By Andy Smarick
- A Courageous Look at the American High School; The legacy of James Coleman. By Paul E.
- Peterson High School 2.0; Can Philadelphia's School of the Future live up to its name? By Dale Mezzacappa

<http://educationnext.org/journal/>

INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN'S POLICY RESEARCH (IWPR)

ARE WOMEN NOW HALF THE LABOR FORCE? THE TRUTH ABOUT WOMEN AND EQUAL PARTICIPATION IN THE LABOR FORCE. Ashley English, Heidi Hartmann, and Jeff Hayes IWPR #C374 April 2010

For more than a year the news media have been tracking the moment when women might become half the labor force. In spring 2009, it was said it might happen in the next few months, by summer it was said maybe it would happen in the fall. By one measure, women's share of employment reached a high of 49.96 percent in October 2009; still 113,000 fewer women than men were counted on payrolls that month, and as of March 2010 the gap has grown to about 360,000 workers. Although still a statistically significant difference, a gap that small is nevertheless close to equality, especially when total payroll employment in the United States is measured at nearly 130,000,000.

Is something new happening? Are women half the labor force? 'Yes,' 'No,' and 'Not Really.'

<http://www.iwpr.org/pdf/C374.pdf>

INTERNATIONAL FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION EXCHANGE

40 IFEX Members Reject Defamation of Religions Resolutions. International Freedom of Expression Exchange. March 30, 2010.

In a joint submission to the U.N. Human Rights Council, 40 IFeX members protest resolutions on defamation of religion and the proposed elaboration of complementary standards to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD). Many governments and non-governmental organizations, including the IFEX members who signed the statement, campaigned against the resolution on the

basis that it violates international human rights law on freedom of expression and other rights. <http://www.wan-press.org/pfreedom/articles.php?id=5483>

INTERNATIONAL PRESS INSTITUTE

WORLD PRESS FREEDOM REVIEW 2010. International Press Institute. February 2010.

The annual IPI World Press Freedom Review examines the state of the media around the world, documenting press freedom violations and major media developments. Divided into specific regions, each report provides a comprehensive overview of the year's events and may be contrasted with the events of previous years. [HTML format with links].

<http://www.freemedia.at/publications/world-press-freedom-review/>

MARTIN PROSPERITY INSTITUTE



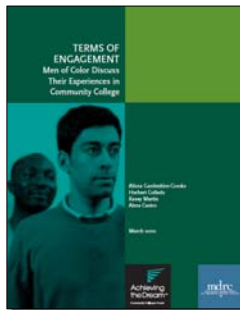
CITIES, SKILLS AND WAGES. Martin Prosperity Institute. Richard Florida et al. April 2010.

The research examines the effects of skills in cities on regional wages. In place of the extant literature's focus on human capital or knowledge-based or creative occupations, it focuses its analysis on actual skills. The research also uses cluster analysis to identify three broad skill types, analytical, social intelligence and physical skills from 87 occupational skills. Then regression analysis is conducted to quantify how each skill contributes to regional prosperity and how they are related to regional

size, using data from 1999 and 2008. [PDF format, 30 pages].

<http://research.martinprosperity.org/papers/Florida%20Mellander%20Stolarick%20Ross%20%282010%29%20Cities%20Skills%20and%20Wages.pdf>

MDRC

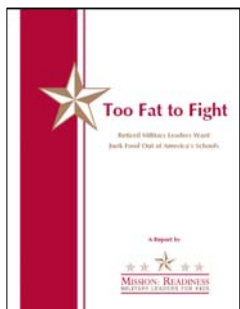


TERMS OF ENGAGEMENT: MEN OF COLOR DISCUSS THEIR EXPERIENCES IN COMMUNITY COLLEGE. MDRC. Alissa Gardenhire-Crooks et al. March 2010.

Community colleges provide access to higher education for millions of Americans who might not otherwise be able to pursue it. However, despite the pivotal role these institutions play in promoting social equity, they continue to struggle with low student persistence and completion rates, particularly among male students of color. It is this dilemma that spurred Lumina Foundation to launch the Achieving the Dream initiative

in 2003 as a bold national effort to improve student outcomes and reduce achievement gaps at community colleges. <http://www.mdrc.org/publications/547/full.pdf>

MISSION: READINESS MILITARY LEADERS FOR KIDS



TOO FAT TO FIGHT: RETIRED MILITARY LEADERS WANT JUNK FOOD OUT OF AMERICA'S SCHOOLS. Mission: Readiness Military Leaders for Kids. April 2010.

More than 9 million young adults – 27 percent of all Americans age 17 to 24 – are too overweight to join the military, according to the report. Declaring that escalating rates of child obesity pose a serious threat to national security, retired military leaders joined Sen. Richard Lugar (R-IN) and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack in support of new child nutrition legislation to help reduce the obesity epidemic and expand the pool of healthy young adults available for military service. [PDF format, 16 pages].

http://cdn.missionreadiness.org/MR_Too_Fat_to_Fight-1.pdf

NATIONAL BUREAU OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH

INCREASING TIME TO BACCALAUREATE DEGREE IN THE UNITED STATES. National Bureau of Economic Research. John Bound et al. April 2010.

Time to completion of the baccalaureate degree has increased markedly in the United States over the last three decades, even as the wage premium for college graduates has continued to rise. The report shows that the increase in time to degree is localized among those who begin their postsecondary education at public colleges outside the most selective universities. In addition, there is evidence that the increases in time to degree were more marked amongst low income students. [PDF format, 62 pages].

http://www.nber.org/papers/w15892.pdf?new_window=1

NURTURING THE ACCUMULATION OF INNOVATIONS: LESSONS FROM THE INTERNET. National Bureau of Economic Research. Shane Greenstein. April 2010.

The innovations that became the foundation for the Internet originate from two eras that illustrate two distinct models for accumulating innovations over the long haul. The pre-commercial era illustrates the operation of several useful non-market institutional arrangements. The commercial era highlights the extraordinary power of market-oriented and widely distributed investment and adoption, which illustrates the power of market experimentation to foster innovative activity. [PDF format, 26 pages].

http://www.nber.org/papers/w15905.pdf?new_window=1

CONSTRAINED JOB MATCHING: DOES TEACHER JOB SEARCH HARM DISADVANTAGED URBAN SCHOOLS? National Bureau of Economic Research. Eric A. Hanushek and Steven G. Rivkin. March 2010.

Search theory suggests that early career job changes on balance lead to better matches that benefit both workers and firms, but this may not hold in teacher labor markets characterized by salary rigidities, barriers to entry, and substantial differences in working conditions that are difficult for institutions to alter. Of particular concern to education policy makers is the possibility that teacher turnover adversely affects the quality of instruction in schools serving predominantly disadvantaged children. The empirical analysis reveals that teachers who remain in their school tend to outperform those who leave.

<http://www.nber.org/papers/w15816.pdf> [PDF format, 50 pages].



OPEN-ACCESS COLLEGES RESPONSIBLE FOR GREATEST GAINS IN GRADUATION RATES. National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education. William R. Doyle. Web posted March 2, 2010.

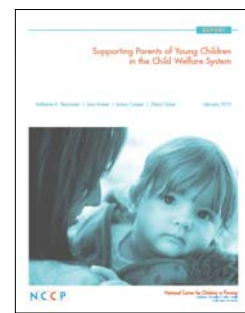
The largest gains in graduation rates over the past decade have been accomplished at open-access or nearly open-access colleges and universities. In addition, states could see even bigger increases if they directed their policies and supports toward improving graduation rates at these nonselective institutions. [PDF format, 5 pages].

http://www.highereducation.org/pa_0210/open_access.pdf

NATIONAL CENTER FOR CHILDREN IN POVERTY

SUPPORTING PARENTS OF YOUNG CHILDREN IN THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM. National Center for Children in Poverty. Katherine A. Beckmann et al. February 2010.

Consistent, responsive, and nurturing early relationships foster emotional well-being in young children, as well as create the foundation for the behavioral, social, and cognitive development essential for school readiness. Developmental research tells us that parents are one of the most important influences on children with high



quality parenting essential for healthy child development. Thus, preventing behavior problems in young children requires family-oriented, evidence-informed strategies that address the needs of both parents and their children. [PDF format, 24 pages].

http://www.nccp.org/publications/pdf/text_924.pdf

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF LA RAZA



AMERICA'S TOMORROW: A PROFILE OF LATINO YOUTH. National Council of La Raza. March 2010.

The brief examines the status of Latino youth in the United States. Latino youth, who compose nearly 20% of all youth in the country, experience high levels of poverty, high dropout rates, low graduation rates, high unemployment rates, and low rates of health insurance. Given that Latinos will compose about 30% of the U.S. population by 2050, the ability of Latino youth to overcome these pressing challenges today will directly impact the economic and social success of the nation in the future. [HTML format with a link].

<http://www.nclr.org/content/publications/detail/62014/>

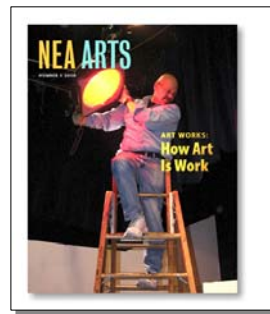
NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION



THE NEA 2010 ALMANAC OF HIGHER EDUCATION. National Education Association. April 2010.

The Almanac analyzes the impact of the economic downturn on our colleges and universities. Economists may believe that the Great Recession is over, but the employment outlook remains bleak despite some moderation brought about by federal stimulus funds. Despite the gloomy economic outlook, Suzanne B. Clery and Barry L. Christopher report some salary increases for full-time faculty on 9/10-month contracts. But wage gaps continue to increase by rank, gender, control, and discipline. The data has yet to show the impact of furlough policies adopted in many states.

<http://www.nea.org/home/38294.htm#> [HTML format with links].



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

NEA ARTS MAGAZINE, 2010 Number 1

Art Works—How Art is Work?

http://www.nea.gov/about/NEARTS/2010_v1/index.html

NATIONAL GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION

MAXIMIZING THE POTENTIAL OF OLDER ADULTS: BENEFITS TO STATE ECONOMIES AND INDIVIDUAL WELL-BEING. National Governors Association. Linda Hoffman. April 1, 2010.

The brief details ways states can engage older adults, who have the potential to greatly affect state economies, through both paid employment and volunteerism. The brief lays out strategies states can use to work against potential challenges and maximize the potential of older adults.

<http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/1004OLDERADULTS.PDF> [PDF format, 19 pages].

SHAPING A HEALTHIER GENERATION: HEALTHY KIDS, HEALTHY AMERICA STATES PROFILES IN PROGRESS. National Governors Association Center for Best Practices. March 2010.

Childhood obesity has reached epidemic proportions in the United States, and today, nearly 23 million, or one in three, American children are overweight or obese. Through the Healthy Kids, Healthy America program, the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices supported 15 states as they worked to develop policies to prevent childhood obesity. The recognizable progress of each of these states is detailed in the report.
<http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/1003HEALTHYKIDSPROFILES.PDF>

NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM

THE HISTORY OF WOMEN AND EDUCATION. National Women's History Museum. 2010.

Until recently, women have largely been excluded from the educational system. While Harvard opened in 1636, the first college to admit women did not do so for another 200 years. Women did not begin attending college in equal numbers to men until as recently as 1980. Education is something that women today often take for granted and they do not think about all of the hard work it took to attain the right to education. In the past, women with little education often believed that they were not capable of things like participating in politics, having a career or even owning property. Women who were lucky enough to have received a quality education were more likely to be pioneers in civic activism and make history. By understanding the history of women's education one is able to better appreciate how far we have come and the extraordinary women who got us here.
<http://www.nwhm.org/exhibits/education/Introduction.html>

NEW AMERICA FOUNDATION

A NEXT SOCIAL CONTRACT FOR THE PRIMARY YEARS OF EDUCATION. New America Foundation. Lisa Guernsey and Sara Mead. March 31, 2010.

The report calls for a bold transformation of the country's public education system to prioritize early learning. It envisions a new system that serves children starting at age 3, erases the artificial divide between "preschool" and "K-12" programs and extends high-quality teaching up through the early grades of elementary school. [PDF format, 20 pages].
<http://earlyed.newamerica.net/sites/newamerica.net/files/policydocs/The%20Next%20Social%20Contract%20for%20Education.pdf>

OECD

1-TO-1 IN EDUCATION: CURRENT PRACTICE, INTERNATIONAL COMPARATIVE RESEARCH EVIDENCE AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Oscar Valiente. March 4, 2010.

Over the last decade, more and more public and private stakeholders, in developed and developing countries, have been supporting 1:1 initiatives in education. These 1:1 initiatives represent a qualitative move forward from previous educational experiences with ICT, inasmuch as every child is equipped with ubiquitous access to a personal device, usually laptops, net books or handhelds. The paper tries to systematize the most salient evidence about 1:1 initiatives in education drawing on official websites, program evaluations and academic meta-reviews. [PDF format, 19 pages].:
[http://www.oalis.oecd.org/olis/2010doc.nsf/LinkTo/NT00000D76/\\$FILE/JT03279481.PDF](http://www.oalis.oecd.org/olis/2010doc.nsf/LinkTo/NT00000D76/$FILE/JT03279481.PDF)

PEW

U.S. BIRTH RATE DECLINE LINKED TO RECESSION. Pew Research Center. Paul Taylor et al. April 6, 2010.

Birth rates in the United States began to decline in 2008 after rising to their highest level in two decades, and the decrease appears to be linked to the recession, according to the analysis of state fertility and economic data. The analysis is based on data from the 25 states for which final 2008 birth numbers are available.

<http://pewsocialtrends.org/assets/pdf/753-birth-rates-recession.pdf>

THE RETURN OF THE MULTI-GENERATIONAL FAMILY HOUSEHOLD. Pew Research Center. Paul Taylor et al. March 18, 2010.

The multi-generational American family household is staging a comeback, driven in part by the job losses and home foreclosures of recent years but more so by demographic changes that have been gathering steam for decades. [PDF format, 26 pages].

<http://pewsocialtrends.org/assets/pdf/752-multi-generational-families.pdf>



GOVERNMENT ONLINE. Pew Internet & American Life Project. Aaron Smith. April 27, 2010.

Government agencies have begun to open up their data to the public, and a surprisingly large number of citizens are showing interest. Some 40% of adult internet users have gone online for raw data about government spending and activities. This includes anyone who has done at least one of the following: look online to see how federal stimulus money is being spent (23% of internet users have done this); read or download the text of legislation (22%); visit a site such as data.gov that provides access to government data (16%); or look online to see who is contributing to the campaigns of their elected officials (14%). [PDF format, 44 pages].

http://pewinternet.org/~media/Files/Reports/2010/PIP_Government_Online_2010.pdf

TEENS AND MOBILE PHONES. Pew Internet & American Life Project. Amanda Lenhart et al. April 20, 2010.

Daily text messaging among American teens has shot up in the past 18 months, from 38% of teens texting friends daily in February of 2008 to 54% of teens texting daily in September 2009. And it's not just frequency – teens are sending enormous quantities of text messages a day. Text messaging has become the primary way that teens reach their friends, surpassing face-to-face contact, email, instant messaging and voice calling as the go-to daily communication tool for this age group. However, voice calling is still the preferred mode for reaching parents for most teens. [PDF format, 94 pages].

<http://pewinternet.org/~media/Files/Reports/2010/PIP-Teens-and-Mobile-FINAL.pdf>

<http://www.pewinternet.org/Reports/2010/Teens-and-Mobile-Phones.aspx>

THE IMPACT OF THE INTERNET ON INSTITUTIONS IN THE FUTURE. Pew Internet & American Life. Janna Quitney Anderson and Lee Rainie. March 31, 2010.

While their overall assessment anticipates that humans' use of the internet will prompt institutional change, many elaborated with written explanations that expressed significant concerns over organization's resistance to change. They cited fears that bureaucracies of all stripes, especially government agencies, can resist outside encouragement to evolve. Some wrote that the level of change will affect different kinds of institutions at different times. The consensus among them was that businesses will transform themselves much more quickly than public and non-profit agencies. [PDF format, 22 pages].

http://www.pewinternet.org/~media/Files/Reports/2010/PIP_Future%20of%20internet%202010%20-%20institutions%20-%20final.pdf

CHRONIC DISEASE AND THE INTERNET. Pew Internet & American Life Project. Susannah Fox and Kristen Purcell. March 24, 2010.

People living with chronic disease are disproportionately offline, according to the report. Those who are online have a trump card: they gather and share information and they learn from their peers. [PDF format, 35 pages].

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

UNDERSTANDING THE PARTICIPATORY NEWS CONSUMER: HOW INTERNET AND CELL PHONE USERS HAVE TURNED NEWS INTO A SOCIAL EXPERIENCE. Pew Internet & American Life Project. Kristen Purcell et al. March 1, 2010.

The majority of Americans (92%) use multiple platforms to get their daily news, according to the survey. The internet is now the third most-popular news platform, behind local and national television news and ahead of national print newspapers, local print newspapers and radio. Getting news online fits into a broad pattern of news consumption by Americans; six in ten (59%) get news from a combination of online and offline sources on a typical day.

<http://www.pewinternet.org/~media/Files/Reports/2010/Understanding%20the%20Participatory%20News%20Consumer.pdf> [PDF format, 51 pages].



DISTRUST, DISCONTENT, ANGER AND PARTISAN RANCOR. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. Andrew Kohut et al. April 18, 2010.

By almost every conceivable measure Americans are less positive and more critical of government these days. The survey finds a storm of conditions associated with distrust of government – a dismal economy, an unhappy public, bitter partisan-based backlash, and epic discontent with Congress and elected officials.

<http://people-press.org/reports/pdf/606.pdf> [PDF format, 142 pages].

GLOOMY AMERICANS BASH CONGRESS, ARE DIVIDED ON OBAMA. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. Andrew Kohut et al. March 18, 2010.

As the day of reckoning for health care reform approaches, Americans have little to cheer about. Nearly everyone (92%) gives the national economy a negative rating. Closer to home, 85% say that jobs are hard to find in their community. A majority (54%) now says that someone in their household has been without a job or looking for work in the past year, compared with 39% in February 2009. And the proportion saying they got a pay raise or a better job in the past year fell from 41% in January 2008 to 24% currently

<http://people-press.org/reports/pdf/598.pdf> [PDF format, 51 pages].



RELIGION IN THE NEWS: 2009. Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life and Project for Excellence in Journalism. March 25, 2010.

Pope Benedict and the Obama administration generated the most religion-related coverage in the press. [HTML format, various paging].

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1539/religion-news-media-coverage-2009>



THE STATE OF THE NEWS MEDIA: AN ANNUAL REPORT ON AMERICAN JOURNALISM. Pew Project for Excellence in Journalism. March 15, 2010.

The report takes stock of the revolution occurring in how Americans get information and provide a resource for citizens, journalists and researchers to make their own assessments.

<http://www.stateofthemediamedia.org/2010/> [HTML format with links].



A MATTER OF DEGREES: PREPARING TEACHERS FOR THE PRE-K CLASSROOM. Pew Center on the States. Marisa Bueno et al. March 9, 2010.

To maximize the benefits of pre-kindergarten investments, states need to create policies that define and support teacher quality, according to the report. The report reviews research on training for pre-k teachers and concludes that educators with at least a bachelor's degree coupled with specialized training in early childhood are best able to foster development of the cognitive, social and emotional skills children need to be ready for kindergarten. [PDF format, 24 pages].

http://www.pewtrusts.org/uploadedFiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/Reports/Pre-k_education/PkN_Education_Reform_Series_FINAL.pdf



PRISON COUNT 2010: STATE POPULATION DECLINES FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 38 YEARS. Pew Center on the States. March 2010.

For the first time in nearly 40 years, the number of state prisoners in the United States has declined, according to the survey. As of January 2010, there were 1,403,091 persons under the jurisdiction of state prison authorities, 5,739 fewer than on December 31, 2008. This marks the first year-to-year drop in the nation's state prison population since 1972. While the study showed an overall decline, it revealed great variation among jurisdictions. The prison population declined in 27 states, while increasing in 23 states and in the federal system. [PDF format, 10 pages].

http://www.pewtrusts.org/uploadedFiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/Reports/sentencing_and_corrections/Prison_Count_2010.pdf

PUBLIC AGENDA



CAN I GET A LITTLE ADVICE HERE?: HOW AN OVERSTRETCHED HIGH SCHOOL GUIDANCE SYSTEM IS UNDERMINING STUDENTS' COLLEGE ASPIRATIONS. Public Agenda. Jean Johnson et al. March 2010.

Most young adults who go on to college believe that the advice they got from their high school guidance counselors was poor or fair at best, according to the survey. Asked about their experiences with their counselors in high school, nearly half (48%) says that they felt like "just another face in the crowd." [PDF format, 45 pages].

<http://www.publicagenda.org/files/pdf/can-i-get-a-little-advice-here.pdf>

RAND

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND? RAND Corporation. April 26, 2010.

Studies suggest that the No Child Left Behind Act's goal of 100 percent of U.S. students proficient in reading and mathematics by 2014 will not be met. Broad implementation guidelines have resulted in a different accountability system in every state, says the report.

http://www.rand.org/pubs/research_briefs/2010/RAND_RB9517.pdf

A HOUSE DIVIDED: POLARIZATION AND ITS EFFECT ON RAND. RAND Corporation. James A. Thomson. April 4, 2010.

The American political climate has become increasingly polarized since the 1970s. Analysis by Keith Poole and Howard Rosenthal shows that voting patterns within Congress have become increasingly divided along party lines, with fewer and fewer moderates. A major

cause of polarization appears to be the geographic sorting of voters. Whatever its causes, the effects of increased polarization on political discourse and policymaking are clear: There is less room for deliberation between the two parties, and public policy decision making is increasingly driven more by ideology than by objective analysis.

http://www.rand.org/pubs/occasional_papers/2010/RAND_OP291.pdf

LIQUIDITY CONSTRAINTS, HOUSEHOLD WEALTH, AND SELF-EMPLOYMENT. RAND Corporation. Julie Zissimopoulos et al. Web posted 2010.

Evidence of liquidity constraints affecting entrepreneurship includes increasing rates of business formation with increases in household wealth and no relationship between the likelihood of business formation and wealth at high wealth levels. The paper finds that wealth matters more for the formation of businesses requiring high starting capital. Employing the availability of a lump-sum distribution option (LSO) of an employer-provided pension plan as a new proxy for liquidity, the results show that workers with an LSO are more likely than workers with a pension and without an LSO to transition into self-employment. This provides further evidence of the existence and importance of liquidity constraints. http://www.rand.org/pubs/working_papers/2010/RAND_WR725.pdf

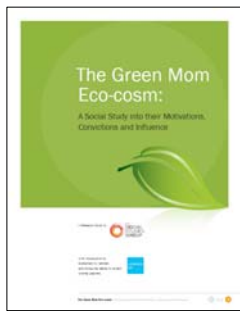
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE

WOMEN BREAKING MUSICAL BARRIERS. Smithsonian Institute. March 2010.

Recordings by women fill the archives of Smithsonian Folkways, but we shouldn't take them for granted. Gender discrimination and gender segregation have posed considerable barriers to women's musical talent. Still, many women musicians around the world challenge traditionally held beliefs about gender and women's social status simply by playing a certain instrument or singing a certain song. [HTML format, various paging].

http://www.folkways.si.edu/explore_folkways/women.aspx

SOCIAL STUDIES GROUP, THE



THE GREEN MOM ECO-COSM: A SOCIAL STUDY INTO THEIR MOTIVATIONS, CONVICTIONS AND INFLUENCE. The Social Studies Group. March 2010.

The study focuses on the women who are really influencing "green mom" consumer behavior online. As with many other issues, women exploring more sustainable consumer practices each begin an engagement with "green" for their own unique reasons. The research finds that these women have a definite hunger for products and solutions to help their families live more sustainably, and they are enthusiastically pursuing "green products" that fit the lifestyles they want to achieve.

http://learnedon.com/wp-content/uploads/FINALLOW_SocStudies_EcoMoms_FINAL_1.212.pdf

UNITED NATIONS



WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY 2010: MESSAGE FROM UNESCO DIRECTOR-GENERAL. U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Irina Bokova. April 2010.

"This World Press Freedom Day, whose theme is Freedom of Information, offers us an occasion to remember the importance of our right to know. Freedom of Information is the principle that organisations and governments have a duty to share or provide ready access to information they hold, to anyone who wants it, based on the public's right to be informed." – Irina Bokova [HTML format, various paging].

http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=29294&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AS A TOOL FOR EMPOWERMENT: GOOD INSTITUTIONS, THE PUBLIC SPHERE AND MEDIA LITERACY. U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and University of Gothenburg. Ulla Carlsson. April 2010.

The paper focuses on the importance of access to information and the ability to share information for empowerment, in the current context characterized by the emergence of a new media and communication society that has transformed the social functions of media and communication. It addresses the links between freedom of information and other rights, and highlights the centrality of good institutions, education and an independent and pluralistic media within a human rights-based approach to the topic.

<http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/files/30155/12723791613ullacarlssonpaperlBrisbane100423.pdf/ullacarlssonpaperlBrisbane100423.pdf> [PDF format, 11 pages].



UNESCO GUIDEBOOK ON TEXTBOOK RESEARCH AND TEXTBOOK REVISION. U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Falk Pingel. March 2010.

The updated version includes information on the rapid growth of the electronic educational media market, the diversification and regionalization of textbook production and the introduction of standards and quality criteria. It places textbook revision within the wider framework of transitional justice and reconciliation measures such as trials, truth commissions, and remembrance ceremonies.

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0011/001171/117188E.pdf>

ENHANCING LEARNING OF CHILDREN FROM DIVERSE LANGUAGE BACKGROUNDS: MOTHER TONGUE-BASED BILINGUAL OR MULTILINGUAL EDUCATION IN THE EARLY YEARS. U.N. Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Jessica Ball. 2010.

The literature review discusses mother tongue-based bilingual or multilingual education for children starting in early childhood. The report informs policy-makers of existing research and practices in mother-tongue instruction in early childhood and early primary school years and raises awareness of the value of maintaining the world's languages and cultures by promoting and resourcing mother tongue-based education for young children.

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0018/001869/186961e.pdf> [PDF format, 91 pages].

UNITED STATES INSTITUTE OF PEACE (USIP)

PREVENTING MEDIA INCITEMENT TO VIOLENCE IN IRAQ. U.S. Institute of Peace. Theo Dolan. April 7, 2010.

Iraqi media stakeholders have identified media incitement to violence as a crucial issue, especially during election periods. As a result, the Institute convened a conference on September 25-26, 2009 to explore the complex issue and to identify specific action points for mitigating inflammatory coverage in Iraq. The brief documents the findings of the conference. [PDF format, 5 pages].

<http://www.usip.org/files/resources/PB%2016%20Preventing%20Media%20Incitement.pdf>

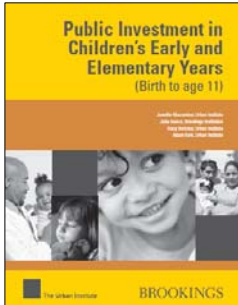
URBAN INSTITUTE

HOW QUICKLY DO OLDER ADULTS SPEND THEIR WEALTH? Urban Institute. Rudolph G. Penner and Karen E. Smith. April 19, 2010.

Although the shift from defined benefit pension plans to defined contribution plans raises concerns that some retirees may outlive their assets, most spend their wealth cautiously.

High income retirees continue to accumulate wealth until age 85. Net worth for middle-income retirees begins declining after age 70, but only very slowly. Low-income retirees never accumulate much wealth and spend their limited assets quickly, however, leaving most dependent on Social Security.

http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/412077_older_adults_weath.pdf



PUBLIC INVESTMENT IN CHILDREN'S EARLY AND ELEMENTARY YEARS. Urban Institute and Brookings Institution. Jennifer Macomber et al. Web posted April 6, 2010.

How government spends money, and who benefits, reveals our priorities. How, then, do children fare in the competition for public resources? The report looks at public investments across age groups, from birth through the elementary years. Key findings show that spending more than doubles per capita between the infant and toddler years and the elementary years. The increase is driven by growing state and local spending; the federal contribution is relatively stable across age groups.

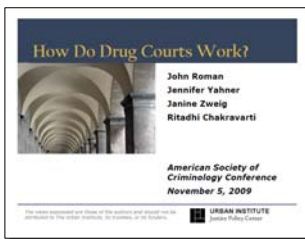
http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/412061_public_investment_children.pdf



MEASURING RACIAL-ETHNIC DIVERSITY IN THE BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON REGION'S NONPROFIT SECTOR. Urban Institute. Carol J. DeVita and Katie L. Roeger. March 30, 2010.

The nonprofit sector in the Baltimore–Washington region is undergoing a profound, albeit quiet, revolution driven by demographic change. The people and communities that nonprofits serve increasingly reflect a multiracial and multi-ethnic world, and a new generation of leaders will soon emerge as baby boomer executives retire. This report examines whether the Baltimore–Washington region's nonprofit sector reflects the new demographic realities. The report, based on a representative sample of 501(c)(3) organizations, documents the extent to which the region's nonprofit boards, staff, and executive leadership are racially and ethnically diverse.

http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/412053_measuring_diversity.pdf



HOW DRUG COURTS WORK? Urban Institute. John Roman et al. Web posted March 5, 2010.

The analysis considers the theoretical mechanisms through which drug court practices are meant to impact outcomes and how such pathways can be operationalized. A path model is proposed that delineates how drug-court practices affect modifications in behaviors and attitudes, and how these changes affect outcomes.

Proposed mediators include changes in: perceived risk and reward (deterrence), perceived legitimacy, and motivation to alter one's behavior. The analysis suggests the pathways that are most crucial to desistance and the most effective drug-court components that impact these pathways. http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/412042_how_do_drug.pdf

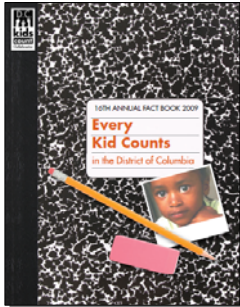


HOW DID OLDER WORKERS FARE IN 2009? Urban Institute. Richard W. Johnson and Corina Mommaerts. March 3, 2010.

The 2009 economic downturn that pushed up unemployment rates did not spare older workers. Unemployment rates reached record highs in 2009 for men and women age 55 and older. Older African Americans, Hispanics, and adults with limited education were especially likely to find themselves unemployed. Older adults who lost their jobs spent more time out of work than their younger counterparts. There were some

encouraging developments, however. Employment rates for adults age 62 and older did not fall because many older workers stayed in the labor force, and earnings for full-time workers age 65 and older grew substantially. [PDF format, 33 pages].

http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/412039_older_workers.pdf

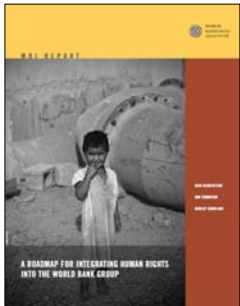


EVERY KID COUNTS IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA. Urban Institute. Jennifer Comey et al. Web posted March 1, 2010.

The 16th annual Fact Book is a comprehensive data source for indicators of child well-being in the District of Columbia. It tracks the progression of child well-being over time, as well as differences in child well-being across wards and races/ethnicities. It is organized to reflect the six citywide goals for children and youth in DC: children are ready for school; children and youth succeed in school; children and youth are healthy and practice healthy behaviors; children and youth engage in meaningful activities; children and youth live in healthy, stable, and supportive families; and all youth make a successful transition to adulthood. [PDF format, 64 pages].

http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/412038_DC_Kids_Booklet.pdf

WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE



A ROADMAP FOR INTEGRATING HUMAN RIGHTS INTO THE WORLD BANK GROUP. World Resources Institute. Kirk Herbertson et al. April 2010.

The report argues that human rights are an integral part of effective and sustainable development, and should be explicitly considered in all World Bank Group (WBG) investment decisions. We examine the WBG's integration of human rights standards into its operations, highlighting accomplishments, shortcomings, and barriers, and suggest ways forward. [PDF format, 59 pages].

http://pdf.wri.org/roadmap_for_integrating_human_rights.pdf

YALE GLOBAL

NATIONS SAY "I DO" TO MARRIAGE EQUALITY. YaleGlobal. Joseph Chamie and Barry Mirkin. April 14, 2010.

In history, the concept of marriage emerged in diverse cultures to recognize relationships, protect family bloodlines, organize economic affairs and provide caring for children. This institution did not touch homosexuals, estimated to comprise 5 to 10 percent of the population, most of whom remained mum about their preferences. With new forms of global technology in media, communicable diseases, fertility treatment and activism emerging in the 20th century, homosexuals quickly connected not only to meet and commiserate but plan strategy and rally for changes in laws and social understanding. By 2001, the Netherlands authorized marriage for gay partnerships and other jurisdictions rapidly followed suit. [HTML format, various paging].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/nations-marriage-equality>

ARTICLES FROM U.S. JOURNALS

AMERICAN DREAM IN DECLINE? Good, Chris. Atlantic Monthly, posted online March 15, 2010

Summary: Most Americans think attaining the "American Dream" -- opportunity, home ownership, financial success -- is getting harder, according to a poll conducted in February by Xavier University. A more disturbing finding of the poll is that 58 percent of the more than 1200 respondents felt that America itself is in decline. African Americans and

Hispanics are the most hopeful in attaining the "American Dream," the study found. This article is available online at:

<http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2010/03/american-dream-in-decline/37472/>

WRECKING HISTORY. Hammer, Joshua. *Smithsonian*, vol. 40, no. 12, March 2010, pp. 24-33

Summary: Kashgar is a 1000-year-old city in western China, an important stop on the ancient Silk Road, and home to a large population of ethnic Uighurs. Last year, the Chinese government embarked on a redevelopment program to level most of the old city, consisting of centuries-old houses and mosques. The official reason given for leveling the old quarter is to remove buildings vulnerable to earthquakes; however, most of the buildings that collapsed in recent quakes were newly-constructed concrete structures, not traditional architecture. Many say that the Beijing regime values modernity more than indigenous culture; the Muslim regions of Xinjiang Province have been a source of insecurity for the government. The regime notably omitted Kashgar from a list of places submitted to UNESCO for consideration as World Heritage sites. If nothing is done, say some preservationists, at the rate it is being torn down, the Old City will be gone by next year.
<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history-archaeology/Demolishing-Kashgars-History.html>

THE RIPPLE EFFECT: WIDENING THE LIBRARY'S CIRCLE OF INFLUENCE. Storey, Tom. *Next Space* no. 14, January 2010, pp. 4-10

Summary: Libraries, out of necessity, have had to extend their reach beyond traditional boundaries in order to better reach users in new and compelling ways. Connecting with users is essential to the mission of libraries but building civic, commercial and governmental support is key to their survival. The ripple effect, as it were, needs to come full circle, touching everyone who is involved in the success of libraries and helping to show the links between support and service. To achieve this, there are four essential components of such advocacy: Passion, Planning, Partnerships, and Promotion.
<http://www.oclc.org/nextspace/014/1.htm>

THE LUXURY IMPORTS ARE HERE. Winn, Luke. *Sports Illustrated* vol. 112, no. 9, March 1, 2010, pp. 58-61

Summary: Foreign players are becoming as valuable to college teams as the top U.S. recruits. Thanks to a recent NCAA rule change, more overseas talent will soon be on the way. The sport which is especially benefitting from this is basketball, the first major sport created in the U.S., and one of the two most popular American sports (the other is baseball) that draws foreign athletes to American teams. International recruiting is not a recent phenomenon but a new NCAA resolution approved in January 2010 will, if it goes into effect next August, will allow players who have played in the pros but not signed an agreement to be eligible immediately. In return, this will require recruiters with international connections as the globalization of basketball has expanded the talent pool and schools are now finding players in less-exposed places like Iran, Argentina and Belarus.
<http://sportsillustrated.cnn.com/vault/article/magazine/MAG1166491/1/index.htm>

AMERICA.GOV-U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE PUBLICATIONS



US HISTORY LEARNER ENGLISH, April 2010

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<http://www.america.gov/publications/books-content/us-history-learner-english.html>

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society and culture are available at*

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