



Article Alert

AMERICAN LIFE

- **Governance vs. Globalization**
Political writer Matt Bai argues that modern American [presidencies are determined by time period](#) more than personality. (*New York Times*)
- **An internship in the field**
More interested in rural than urban career prospects, some recent college graduates and young professionals looking to get their hands dirty are turning to [internships on farms across the country](#) to gain first-hand experience in raising crops. (*New York Times Magazine*)
- **Reconsidering education reform**
The Race to the Top education reform initiative aims to tackle issues in U.S. public schools. But is any reform strategy capable of increasing [student motivation](#)? (*Newsweek*)
- **Americans and their gadgets**
The digital world has expanded far beyond the desktop, and consumers can now choose from [an array of devices](#) capable of satisfying their need for “anytime, anywhere” access to news, information, friends and entertainment. (*Pew Research Center*)

GLOBAL CHALLENGES

- **The foundation of civilization is eroding**
The thin layer of topsoil upon which life depends is under growing stress from [desertification and overgrazing](#) worldwide. (*Earth Policy Institute*)
- **Another attempt at saving the whales**
Statistics show that [right whales are being struck by container ships at a rate faster than the species can reproduce](#). Scientists

SPECIAL FEATURE:

US MID-TERM ELECTIONS

- **On Election Day, U.S. Voters Find More than Candidates on Ballot**
When [American voters](#) head to the polls November 2, many are not just selecting their future leaders. (*America.gov*)
- **Midterm Elections Determine Control of U.S. Congress**
On November 2, Americans will cast their ballots to determine who will represent them in the [112th Congress](#), scheduled to convene in January 2011. (*America.gov*)
- **Great uncertainty still lies before us**
For months, the narrative has been imprinted on our brains: Weighed down by an economy that still feels mired in recession and a president whose popularity is sagging as a result, [Democrats face electoral](#) Armageddon in November. (*The Hill*)
- **Electores de EE.UU. pueden votar por anticipado en elecciones de mitad de término.**
A medida que se acercan las [elecciones de mitad de término](#) en Estados Unidos, los electores estadounidenses tienen más opciones que nunca para decidir cómo y cuándo ejercer su derecho al voto (*America.gov*)

ECONOMY

- **The upcoming world energy mess and you**
Three energy experts who've [warned the government about the coming global oil shortfall](#) want you to know about it, so you can prepare. (*Energy Bulletin*)
- **The end of the 'McMansion' era**
American homebuyers have seen the end of the real estate boom and are now coping with the recession. Their reaction can be seen in the

from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration are working to curb the decline in numbers. (*The Atlantic*)

- **Issues with aging**
Germany's rapidly aging population has increased the demand for foreign workers. Growing economies in Brazil, India and China may soon begin to recruit young workers as well. [Is there enough labor to go around?](#) (*Der Spiegel*)
- **Mass extinction: a global reset button?**
Previous mass extinctions in Earth's geologic history have dramatically changed species diversity. Some scientists speculate that [human activity is fueling another mass extinction](#) – with unknowable consequences for the ecosystem. (*LiveScience*)

[changing trends in home construction, where bigger is no longer better.](#) (*Time*)

- **The North American unconventional energy boom**
Across the U.S. and Canada, huge sums are being spent to develop what one reporter calls [environmentally risky energy sources](#). He asks: are we moving further from a clean-energy future? (*Yale Environment 360*)
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