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AMERICAN RESOURCE CENTER NEWSLETTER

U.S. EMBASSY HELSINKI

WOMEN AND BLUES



Esa Kuloniemi at the ARC

On Tuesday, February 7th musician and reporter **Esa "Bluesministeri" Kuloniemi** held a lecture at the American Resource Center that was part of the U.S. Embassy's Black History Month program. Esa Kuloniemi's lecture, "Women and Blues – female artists of the past", explained the historical role of the black female blues artists in a very

masculine environment. The stories from the past were in the main role, but Mr. Kuloniemi also played many samples from the artists in question. The lecture got a very excited reception and it's telling to acknowledge that the Q&A session had to be stopped due to the auditorium getting closed.

ON THE HORIZON

Think Corner

The Think Corner welcomes everyone to stop by, ask questions, to listen, watch and experience for themselves what the research and teaching at the University of Helsinki is all about. The programme is built around scientific themes that change every couple of weeks. The programme comprises news flashes, meetings with researchers, exhibitions and various demos and competitions.

ARC will be hosting several events at the Think Corner on April. See the programme from the link below for more details.

<http://blogs.helsinki.fi/wdc-2012/>

Welcome!

Nancy Commins Public Lecture at the ARC

Creating Culturally and Linguistically Inclusive Schools: Perspectives from the U.S.

On March 27th, 2012 at the National Library Auditorium at 14. More information will be on ARC's Facebook page soon.

[facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/)

AmericanResourceCenter



PEEK INTO THE ARC'S MAGAZINE SHELF



Vanity Fair is a magazine of pop culture, fashion, and current affairs published by Condé Nast. The present Vanity Fair has been published since 1983.

Vanity Fair became a bellwether of the Jazz Age under the editorial direction of Frank Crowninshield in 1914. It folded in 1936, but was resurrected in 1983, hardly missing a beat. Helmed by Tina Brown until 1992, and currently edited by Graydon Carter, Vanity Fair publishes a steady stream of hard-hitting stories, colorful narratives, and eye-popping exposés that routinely become part of the national discussion.

Source: Wikipedia, VanityFair.com

WEB PICKS

Disclaimer: The views expressed on these websites are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect U.S. Government policies. These links are being provided as a convenience and for informational purposes only; they do not constitute an endorsement or approval by the ARC or the U.S. Embassy in Helsinki, nor can we bear any responsibility for the accuracy, legality, functionality or content of the external site or for that of subsequent links.

American Life

The 2012 Brown Center Report on American Education by Tom Loveless. The Brookings Institution, February 16, 2012. The 2012 Brown Center Report on American Education distills the results of studies to examine the state of education in the United States. In particular, the report focuses on education policy, student learning measures, trends on achievement test scores and education reform outcomes.

http://www.brookings.edu/reports/2012/0216_brown_education_loveless.aspx

The Last Line of Defense by Raymond Bonner. The Atlantic, March 2012, pp. An unlikely crusader, Diana Holt wages a heroic, long-odds battle against the death penalty.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2012/03/the-last-line-of-defense/8875/>

Making It in America by Adam Davidson. The Atlantic, January/February 2012, pp.

In the past decade, the flow of goods emerging from U.S. factories has risen by about a third. Factory employment has fallen by roughly the same fraction. The story of Standard Motor Products, a 92-year-old, family-run manufacturer based in Queens, sheds light on both phenomena. It's a story of hustle, ingenuity, competitive success, and promise for America's economy. It also illuminates why the jobs crisis will be so difficult to solve.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2012/01/making-it-in-america/8844/>

Obama, Explained by James Fallows. The Atlantic, March 2012, pp.

As Barack Obama contends for a second term in office, two conflicting narratives of his presidency have emerged. Is he a skillful political player and policy visionary—a chess master who always sees several moves ahead of his opponents (and of the punditocracy)? Or is he politically clumsy and out of his depth—a pawn overwhelmed by events, at the mercy of a second-rate staff and of the Republicans? Here, a longtime analyst of the presidency takes the measure of our 44th president, with a view to history.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2012/03/obama-explained/8874/>

What's Black and White and Retweeted All Over? Teaching news literacy in the digital age by Renée Loth. Joan Shorenstein Center on the Press, Politics and Public Policy, Discussion Paper Series, Harvard University, February 2012.

http://www.hks.harvard.edu/presspol/publications/papers/discussion_papers/d71_loth.html

Youth and Digital Media: From credibility to information quality by Urs Gasser, Sandra Cortesi, Momin Malik, & Ashley Lee. The Berkman Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University, February 2012.

<http://blogs.law.harvard.edu/youthandmediaalpha/infoquality/>

Economy and Politics

Amazon's Hit Man by Brad Stone. Bloomberg BusinessWeek, January 25, 2012.

Larry Kirshbaum was the ultimate book industry insider—until Amazon called.

<http://www.businessweek.com/magazine/amazons-hit-man-01252012.html>

Power for Sale Cheap by Daniel Fisher and Jon Bruner. Forbes, February 8, 2012.

For decades political influence has been the most undervalued asset in America. The market is now clearing, and Sheldon Adelson's patronage of Newt Gingrich is just the tip of the iceberg.

<http://www.forbes.com/forbes/2012/0227/feature-politics-influence-adelson-gingrich-power-sale-cheap.html>

Global Challenges

Europe's Deep Freeze: Why Climate Change Is Not (Entirely) to Blame by Bryan Walsh. Time Magazine, February 14, 2012.

Back at the beginning of January, I wrote that this season was already shaping up to be season that winter forgot in the U.S. About a month later, that prediction is coming true. The average temperature in the continental U.S. in January was 5.5°F above the 20th century norm, and snow was almost nonexistent — the National Weather Service reported that 157 out of 166 American cities had below-average amounts of the white stuff. The groundhog Punxsutawney Phil may have predicted six more weeks of winter when he popped up from his hole on Feb. 2, but for most of the U.S. winter never really began — and the unusually mild days seemed like a coming attraction for global warming.

<http://www.time.com/time/health/article/0,8599,2106773,00.html#ixzz1ngerOqXN>

Navy SEALs: Obama's Secret Army by Daniel Klaidman. Newsweek, Feb 20, 2012.

At a time when many Americans think their government is inept, the 'Special Operators' get the job done. Just ask the President,

who is doubling down on the Navy SEALs.

<http://www.thedailybeast.com/newsweek/2012/02/19/navy-seals-obama-s-secret-army.html>

NGOs: The New Missionaries by Mark G. Brennan. National Interest, February 27, 2012.

Earlier this week, after pleadings from the U.S. State Department, Egypt postponed a trial of forty-three workers from foreign-funded democracy-promotion groups. The defendants included sixteen Americans whom Egyptian authorities have accused of meddling in domestic political affairs. While diplomats may have defused the situation for now, the flap has raised the profile of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), institutions first formally defined by the UN that have expanded rapidly in the postwar era. But Americans have long supported nongovernmental groups that set out to save the world. And one such case—missionaries in Cuba—also backfired when fervent advocates of the American way upset the indigenous culture and authorities.

<http://nationalinterest.org/commentary/ngos-missionaries-lessons-the-past-6579>

The Obama Doctrine by David Rohde. Foreign Policy, March / April 2012.

How the president's drone war is backfiring.

When Barack Obama took the oath of office three years ago, no one associated the phrase “targeted killing” with his optimistic young presidency. In his inaugural address, the 47-year-old former constitutional law professor uttered the word “terror” only once. Instead, he promised to use technology to “harness the sun and the winds and the soil to fuel our cars and run our factories.”

http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2012/02/27/the_obama_doctrine

Think Again: Cyberwar by Thomas Rid. Foreign Policy, March / April 2012.

Don't fear the digital bogeyman. Virtual conflict is still more hype than reality.

<http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2012/02/27/cyberwar>

International Relations

Surveillance Drone, Maiden Flight by Francis Fukuyama. American Interest, February 12, 2012.

I've promised to write about the surveillance drone that I've been building over the past couple of months. I have always wanted to have my own drone that could send back a live video feed. This is partly inspired by products like the AeroVironment RQ-11 Raven, which is currently in use by the US military, and which you can view in action here. The Raven is basically just a glorified RC airplane, with a sophisticated landing system that allows it to be recovered by a soldier without great pilot skills (which is one reason they cost around \$35,000 each).

<http://blogs.the-american-interest.com/fukuyama/2012/02/12/surveillance-drone-maiden-flight/>

What Happens After Israel Attacks Iran: Public Debate Can Prevent a Strategic Disaster by Ehud Eiran. Foreign Affairs, February 23, 2012.

Since its birth in 1948, Israel has launched numerous preemptive military strikes against its foes. In 1981 and 2007, it destroyed the nuclear reactors of Iraq and Syria, operations that did not lead to war. But now, Israelis are discussing the possibility of another preemptive attack -- against Iran -- that might result in a wider conflict.

<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/137300/ehud-eiran/what-happens-after-israel-attacks-iran>

Why Won't Obama Speak Frankly About Iran? by Jeffrey Herf. The New Republic, February 28, 2012.

The world is nearing the point where it is going to have to make some difficult decisions about how to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon—among them, a decision about whether to use military force. Given Iran's deep hostility to the United States and Israel, as well as its history of sponsoring terrorism, the importance of denying Iran a nuclear weapon cannot be overstated.

<http://www.tnr.com/article/politics/101178/president-obama-iran>

Elections 2012 Special

Could the GOP Have a Brokered Convention? by Karl Rove. Wall Street Journal, February 23, 2012.

All the feverish talk ignores the delegate math and the election calendar. The volatile Republican presidential contest has provoked feverish talk in the media and the blogosphere about a brokered or contested convention in late August, when 2,286 Republican delegates gather in Tampa, Fla. Here's how those scenarios would unfold.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970203960804577239234050721086.html>

Speaking of Money, I Have a Lot of It by Dan Schnur. New York Times, February 27, 2012.

Why is someone who is so good at making money so bad at talking about it?

Mitt Romney is not the first presidential candidate who's had trouble communicating with working-class voters: John Kerry famously enjoyed wind-surfing, and George Bush blamed a poor showing in a straw poll on the fact that many of his supporters were “at their daughter's coming out party.”

<http://campaignstops.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/02/27/speaking-of-money-i-have-a-lot-of-it/?ref=politics>

Why the Republican Party Needs Debates by Andrew Romano. Newsweek, Feb 20, 2012.

The GOP's royalty hates the party's many debates. They're wrong. Why the party desperately needs them. It has become trendy, in recent weeks, to dis this year's Republican presidential debates—especially if you're a Republican. Karl Rove, for one, has carped that they've “nearly crippled campaigns.” John McCain has gone further: “We've got to stop the debates!” he barked last month. Even Chris Wallace, the Fox News anchor, has piled on, despite having moderated four of the things himself. “It is ridiculous how many debates there have been,” Wallace opined, adding that at this point people tune in only “to see if there's going to be a wreck.”

<http://www.thedailybeast.com/newsweek/2012/02/19/why-the-republican-party-needs-debates.html>

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY - MARCH 8



International Women's Day (IWD), originally is called International Working Women's Day, is marked on March 8 every year. In different regions

the focus of the celebrations ranges from general celebration of respect, appreciation and love towards women to a celebration for women's economic, political and social achievements. Started as a Socialist political event, the holiday blended in the culture of many countries, primarily Eastern Europe, Russia, and the former Soviet bloc. In many regions, the day lost its political flavour, and became simply an occasion for men to express their love for women in a way somewhat similar to a mixture of Mother's Day and St Valentine's Day.

Annually on 8 March, thousands of events are held throughout the world to inspire women and celebrate achievements. A global web of rich and diverse local activity connects women from all around the world ranging from political rallies, business conferences, and government activities and networking events through to local women's craft markets, theatrical performances, fashion parades and more. Many global corporations have also started to more actively support IWD by running their own internal events and

through supporting external ones. For example, on 8 March search engine and media giant Google some years even changes its logo on its global search pages. Year on year IWD is certainly increasing in status. The United States even designates the whole month of March as 'Women's History Month'.

So make a difference, think globally and act locally!! Make everyday International Women's Day. Do your bit to ensure that the future for girls is bright, equal, safe and rewarding.

Source: Wikipedia, InternationalWomensDay.com



The UN theme for International Women's Day 2012 is Empower Women - End Hunger and Poverty. In many

countries, International Women's Day is an occasion to honor and praise women for their accomplishments. In 2012, **Oxfam America** is inviting people to celebrate inspiring women in their lives by sending a free International Women's Day e-Card or honoring a woman whose efforts make a difference in the fight against hunger and poverty with Oxfam's International Women's Day award.

AMERICA IN LIVING COLOR SEMINAR



In the 3rd America in Living Color seminar the American Fulbright grantees present their research and scholarly work. Topics include humanities, arts, economics, education, social sciences, medical sciences, biology, and more.

The America in Living Color seminar provides a unique opportunity to gain understanding of various academic fields through the presentations of American Fulbright grantees who are currently doing research and studying in Finland.

Welcome to Tampere and America in Living Color Seminar!

Seminar program: <http://goo.gl/1p1hF>

The seminar is organized by the University of Tampere North American Studies Program and the Fulbright Center.

March 8-9, 2012
University of Tampere
 Building Pinni B, Auditorium B1097

Free entrance - Welcome!

The American Resource Center

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 9-20, Sat 9-16; Reference service: Mon-Fri 9-17

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