

July/August 2011

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**Women** and the  
**Environment**

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As always, we welcome your comments and suggestions. Please send your feedback to Ms. Linda K. Parker, Information Resource Officer, Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy, The American Center, 24 Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi 110001.

*Note: Internet sites included in this publication, other than those of the U.S. government, should not be construed as an endorsement of the views contained therein.*

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# Women and the Environment

Women have long been dedicated and progressive history makers and also in conservation, but their actions are many times slow to receive attention.

Every day, all over the world, women make countless choices that affect the environment. In their hands lie many decisions about the use of community resources—water for the household, land for agriculture, wood for heating and cooking, plants and animals for food and sale. In many instances it is women who, often in unassuming fashion, effect major changes in the way their communities use forests, fisheries and water. Like their counterparts elsewhere, it is women in many cases who are in closest contact with the land. Women are the world's farmers to a large extent, producing almost 60% of all food grown and consumed locally. They plant crops, gather firewood, tend animals, and bring in water. They carry out all the tasks that allow families to survive from day to day. There is indeed a lot of truth in the old adage, "a woman's work is never done". As the environment degrades, these basic necessities become difficult to collect. The time a woman spends on gathering fuel, fodder and water, as well as attending to household work, agricultural work and animal care, reduces her efficiency and inputs.

American conservation movement has often been defined by prominent male voices—yet the powerful women who fought to protect America's wild places are slowly becoming recognized. Because they worked in a movement dominated by men, these women had to be tough, intelligent and, perhaps most of all, courageous, to make an impact and preserve the places they cared deeply about.

Today in India women are playing pivotal role in conservation of natural resources and environment. More than 70% of the Indian population is rural based. It is common knowledge throughout the world that the growth of technology and the processes of commercialization, industrialization and globalization affect men and women differently. The world realizes, clearly today that real development cannot take roots if it by-passes women, who not only represent half of the humanity, but represent the very kernel around which social change takes shape.

In this way their work not only deflects criticism but also becomes more deeply embedded in the values and behaviors of the

community. One of the best known and most inspiring examples of women taking collective action in conservation comes from India, where some 30 years ago women from the Chamoli district faced the loss of their forest to loggers. They knew this would mean the loss of their forage and fuel and would increase their vulnerability to catastrophic flooding. So when the first loggers arrived, the women went into the forest, joined hands, and encircled the trees. They told the loggers that anyone who wanted to cut down a tree would first have to cut off a woman's head. The result? The loggers withdrew, and the forest was saved.

Changing practices at the community level does not fully address the complex challenges of protecting the biosphere, to be sure, but is one essential starting point. To repeat a well known quote from the anthropologist Margaret Mead: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world: indeed, it's the only thing that ever has!"

In the last century, women have changed the landscape through their activism. In their honor, we'd like to celebrate the lives of a few of these pioneering women conservationists, as well as some amazing modern-day conservationists.

For additional information, a webliography is also presented here for your use. The inclusion of Internet sites other than those of the U.S. government should not be construed as an endorsement of the views contained therein. The websites are current as of publication date and are subject to change at any time.

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<http://climatecommunities.us>

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*<http://www.sierraclub.org>*

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*<http://www.epa.gov>*

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UN Women: United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

*<http://www.unwomen.org>*

United Nations Environment Programme

*<http://www.unep.org>*

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<http://www.wmo.int>

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## 1. THE BIG PICTURE

By Gillian McCann. *Alternatives Journal*, v. 31, no. 2, Spring 2005, pp. 17 -18.

McCann offers a brief sketch of Starhawk, a female environmentalist arrested time and again for the environmental and political causes that she believed in. Starhawk mostly concentrated on urban areas where it is often more difficult for people to connect meaningfully to their environment. Promoting gender studies, feminism, and addressing significant environmental issues fall within her priority spotlight.

## 2. BIOGRAPHY AS ENVIRONMENTAL "HERSTORY"

By Stephen Kneeshaw. *OAH Magazine of History*, v. 20, no. 1, January 2006, pp. 20-24.

Kneeshaw, in this article, focuses his spotlight on three women environmentalists—Rosalie Edge, Marjory Stoneman Douglas, and Rachel Carson—women who took chances and made a difference. They opted to fight against powerful opposition and dared to speak when others stayed silent. Edge was the first American woman to play a prominent role in the environmental movement. She had multifaceted interests and travelled widely to defend the American landscape. Douglas, in contrast, was focused in her environmental crusade to protect, preserve, and defend the Everglades, a unique wetlands region. Carson, on the other hand, sought to protect and preserve the earth's oceans and water supplies. Together, these women brought about an environmental revolution which was indeed a difficult achievement for women during those days.

## 3. CAVE WOMAN

By Monte Burke. *Forbes*, v. 175, no. 7; Apr 11, 2005, pp. 64-66.

Burke discusses Hazel Barton's exploration of Jack Bradley cave in Kentucky. Caves, once considered to be devoid of life, are the last unexplored environments left on the Earth. Bradley, like many other caves around the world, is relatively untouched. Barton believes that such caves may hold the secret to finding powerful new antibiotics. Barton, a biology professor at Northern Kentucky University, along with her band of five undergraduate students, drill core samples and swab the walls in an attempt to collect their biological ore.

Barton's love of microbes and caves is based on her conviction that caves many contain our last defense against a dire health threat, antibiotic-resistant superbugs.

#### **4. CLIMATE'S SALVATION? WHY AND HOW AMERICAN EVANGELICALS ARE ENGAGING WITH CLIMATE CHANGE**

*By Katherine K. Wilkinson. Environment, v. 52, no. 2, March/April 2010, pp. 47-57.*

Scientists have presented the public with complex climate models and projections on rising temperatures to gain awareness of global warming. Growing numbers of supporters of climate change action offer up a much simpler argument. According to them, the Earth is God's creation, and it is the duty of humankind to protect and preserve it. While American evangelical Christians are often perceived to be quite conservative, on this issue, the political lines are not so clearly drawn. "Climate Change: An Evangelical Call to Action" is a four-year old campaign that now has more than 260 followers. One plank of this document is that "Christian moral convictions demand our response to the climate change problem." Wilkinson argues that the climate change issue may end the traditional alliance between evangelical leaders and the Republican Party, at the same time it conveys understanding of the issue and a commitment to action to a new demographic group in the population.

#### **5. THE DEEP OPTIMIST**

*By Ellen Desjardins. Alternatives Journal, v. 36, no. 3, 2010, pp. 24 -25.*

This conversation discusses renowned Indian scientist and environmentalist Vandana Shiva's efforts towards exposing the strengthening grip of corporate control on global food system and the complicity of Western governments in allowing it to happen. Recipient of the 1993 Right Livelihood Award for placing women and ecology at the heart of modern development discourse, Shiva has devoted her career to social and environmental justice. She is the founder of Navdanya which is a network of seed keepers and organic producers spread across 16 states in India. According to her, it is people who can bring about real change in making their choice for the food system since the governments are either unable to act or they are aggressively promoting the corporate takeover of food.

## 6. ECOGENDER: LOCATING GENDER IN ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIAL SCIENCE

By Damayanti Banerjee and Michael Mayerfeld Bell. *Society & Natural Resources*, v. 20, no. 1, January 2007, pp. 3-19.

Ecofeminism contends that domination of women and the domination of the environment are interconnected. Still, ecofeminism has attracted little emphasis in environmental social science. Banerjee and Bell argue that much of the reason for environmental social science's frosty reception to issues of gender and feminism is that ecofeminism has sometimes suffered from a tendency to present itself as an ideological construct rather than a social scientific perspective. Even feminists within social science have long distanced themselves from ecofeminism. As a result, mainstream environmental social scientists have paid ecofeminism little heed.

## 7. THE ECOLOGICAL LANDSCAPES OF JANE JACOBS AND RACHEL CARSON

By David Kinkela. *American Quarterly*, v. 61, no. 4, December 2009, pp. 905-929.

This literary criticism of Jane Jacobs's 1961 classic *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* and Rachel Carson's landmark 1962 book *Silent Spring* displays how these literary themes transcend the spatial and disciplinary boundaries of city and nature. While Jacobs's book was part of a larger ideological movement that embraced ecology as an alternative model for human development, Carson's critique of modern chemicals expanded the meaning of nature and helped transform ecology into the rally cry of the environmental movement. The ecological landscapes of Jacobs and Carson emphasized the intricate social and biological webs that gave life to nature and cities. Both figures embraced ecology as a way not merely to critique modern science, but to encourage alternative approaches to the rigid spatial and temporal configurations.

## 8. THE ENVIRONMENTAL FIRST LADY

By Kathleen A Bergeron. *Public Roads*, v. 71, no. 5, March/April 2008, pp. 16-23.

This article explores the planting legacy of Claudia Alta Taylor "Lady Bird" Johnson, wife of President Lyndon B. Johnson. It pays homage to her efforts to beautify America's highways by encouraging wildflower planting and junkyard screening. Amazingly, as per National Park Service's running tab of the

number of daffodil bulbs alone that were planted at Lady Bird's direction, reached a record 2 million in 4 years. Hers is an inspirational enterprise that will continue to inspire the people of America and the world.

## **9. ENVIRONMENTAL HEROINE**

*By Lynn Ross. Planning, v. 72, no. 3, March 2006, pp.24-24.*

This article profiles one of the leading American environmental activists, Ruth Lansford, who stood up and made a difference through her initiatives to preserve, protect, and restore the last major coastal wetland in Los Angeles County. Lansford has spent more than 30 years advocating for wetlands protection and sustainability through better development practices. In recognition of her remarkable efforts and service in protecting Ballona Wetlands, she received the 2006 Distinguished Leadership Award for a Citizen Planner. She also received the 2005 Award of Excellence for Leadership and Service as a Citizen Planner. Lansford was also involved in the creation of the California Coastal Zone Conservation Act of 1972, which established the California Coastal Commission. The California chapter of the American Planning Association has rightly described her as an environmental heroine.

## **10. EXPANDING THE PALETTE**

*By John Grossmann. National Parks, v. 84, no. 3, Summer 2010, pp. 33-39.*

The U.S. National Parks are becoming more diverse in staff and in visitors, with the help of outreach programs aimed at urban-dwelling minority groups who often have limited exposure to national parks for economic and other reasons. African-Americans, particularly, have avoided rural parks because of memories of discrimination and lynching of the pre-Civil Rights era. But this is changing as more diversity is reflected in America's park system, exemplified by several individuals profiled in this article who are park rangers or enthusiastic visitors. This list incorporates mostly women including Saoran Reouth, Shandra Roberts, and Mariajose Alcantara.

## 11. GREEN SEXISM

By Chris Clarke. *Earth Island Journal*, v. 21, no. 3, June 2006, pp. 43-44.

In this article, Clarke illustrates how women have played significant role in the environmental movement. The author intends to protest sexism in the environmental community. The article shows that in the post 1960 era, several capable, dynamic activists and scientists who happened to be female have changed the spectrum of environmental activism. The late Judi Bari, for instance, changed the face of what was a rather male-dominated Earth First! Some of the women environment activists have been highly influential, respectful, and also powerful. They have often provided the main source of power for the environmental movement.

## 12. MOTHER EARTH'S SISTERS

By Heidi Schlumpf. *U.S. Catholic*, v. 70, no. 8, August 2005, pp. 34-37.

The new generation of women's religious order has begun to see environmental activism as part of their charism. In the light of new cosmology and theological reflection and creation spirituality, many of these sisters have traded their habits for overalls and gotten their hands dirty in an effort to save earth. These religious women have taken an effort to preserve God's creation for future generations. According to Sister Chris Loughlin, the director of the Dominicans' Earth Learning Center in Crystal Spring, Massachusetts, "there's a new understanding that all of life plays a vital role in the system, and we have to begin to have a new relationship with that community of life."

## 13. RACHEL CARSON'S ECOLOGICAL CRITIQUE

By John Bellamy Foster and Brett Clark. *Monthly Review*, v. 59, no. 9, February 2008, pp. 1-17.

Directed against the chemical industry and its production of deadly pesticides, Rachel Carson's most famous book *Silent Spring*, published in 1962, is often seen as marking the birth of the modern environmental movement. This review of her iconic book shows how Carson combined the best scientific information then available with the skills of a great writer. The result was an extraordinary effect in raising public concern over this issue. Of course the chemical industry and their allies claimed that Carson exaggerated the dangers of pesticides in her arguments, her research has generally stood the test of time.

## **14. THE RISE AND RISE OF ECOFEMINISM AS A DEVELOPMENT FABLE: A RESPONSE TO MELISSA LEACH'S 'EARTH MOTHERS AND OTHER ECOFEMINIST FABLES: HOW A STRATEGIC NOTION ROSE AND FELL'**

*By Niamh Moore. Development & Change, v. 39, no. 3, May 2008, pp. 461-475.*

As the title suggests, this article provides a response to a Melissa Leach's 2007 paper that focuses in the area of gender in the field of environment and developmental studies. Leach's paper discusses figure of woman 'as natural environmental carer.' She seems to be especially concerned with the role of ecofeminism in popularizing this figure and the notion that women have a special relationship with the environment. This article does not intend to be a repetition of the passionate stories of Leach and others about the understanding of feminism. Rather, it is an attempt to take into account what has been at stake in rather painful exchange between the various ecofeminists and those working at the interface of gender and development.

## **15. WILD WOMEN**

*By Bernadette LaManna. New York State Conservationist, v. 64, no. 3, December 2009, pp. 16-21.*

In a personal narrative, LaManna shares her exciting experience of taking classes in archery, canoeing, GPS (Global Positioning System) and surviving at a wonderful facility on Lake George, New York in 2009. This was second time when she was attending the Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) program, which is sponsored by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). The BOW program teaches women some of the skills necessary for safe and rewarding outdoor pursuits. The workshop participants learn important safety lessons necessary for wilderness survival.

## **16. WOMEN AND THE SACRED EARTH: HINDU AND CHRISTIAN ECOFEMINIST PERSPECTIVES**

*By O. P. Dwivedi and Lucy Reid. Worldviews: Environment Culture Religion, v. 11, no. 3, 2007, pp. 305-323.*

This article explores how Christianity and Hinduism connect to the issues of ecological concerns. Authors reveal that both the religions stand close in their philosophies towards nature and environment. Both Hinduism teaching about Mother Earth and newly crafted eco-feminist theories in Christianity consider the earth as sacred. The

authors illustrate the Chipko movement and the ecological activities of so called Green Nuns in advocacy of their assertion. The Chipko movement was organized and implemented by the local women of Gopeshwar in Chamoli district of Uttaranchal province in India. The villagers formed a human chain and encircled earmarked trees to keep them from being felled for commercial use. Similarly, in North America, members of Christian women's religious orders have focused on issues such as ecology, earth literacy, organic gardening, and systemic justice. The message that ripples out from the Chipko women of India and the Green Nuns of North America is that Mother Earth does not differentiate between Christians and Hindus, rich and poor, strong and weak and as we care for the earth we actually care for the home we belong.

## **17. WOMEN'S EARTH ALLIANCE: WHEN WOMEN THRIVE, COMMUNITIES THRIVE**

*By Melinda Kramer and Jason Mark. Earth Island Journal, v. 24, no. 2, Summer 2009, pp. 20-20.*

Kramer and Mark discuss women's involvement in protecting and conserving environment by creating Women's Earth Alliance (WEA). Authors believe that environmental issues are women's issues as they are most affected by the environmental pollution. By virtue of their unique position in the society, women are more suited to conceive solutions to the environmental threats. Despite all these, women are frequently excluded from decision-making, which adds further to environmental injustices. WEA seeks to empower women in seeking solutions to the environmental issues.

## **18. WOMEN'S GLOBAL GREEN ACTION NETWORK**

*By Melinda Kramer. Earth Island Journal, v. 21, no. 3, June 2006, pp. 16-17.*

The 2006 Grassroots Women Environmental Leaders Strategy Meeting of the Women's Global Green Action Network (WGGAN) pooled the expertise of some 30 female environmental leaders in designing a global initiative toward environmental sustainability and women's leadership. Each of these women environment enterprisers brought a story of extraordinary trials, remarkable perseverance, and hope. During their three-day meeting, the group crafted out some shared values and principles, identified communication and networking needs, established regional hubs, and committed to a set of actions.

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# BUSINESS & ECONOMICS

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## 19. THE BETTER HALF: HELPING WOMEN HELP THE WORLD

By Isobel Coleman. *Foreign Affairs*, v. 89, no. 1, January/February 2010, pp. 126 -130.

Coleman, Senior Fellow at the Council of Foreign Relations, writes that efforts to help women gain more economic and political power is more than a worthy moral crusade—it is probably the most effective means to promote development and stability around the world. During a tour of Africa in August 2009, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton underscored women's rights as a crucial foreign-policy issue by spending a great deal of time meeting with a variety of women's groups. In a review of Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn's book, *Half the Sky*, Coleman remarks that it is now well-known among the international-development community that aid provided to women generates much greater benefits, because women are more likely to use it to improve their families' circumstances. Coleman acknowledges the difficulty of eliminating the deeply rooted social traditions that underlie the discrimination, marginalization and abuse of women and girls. She further notes that in some instances, the problems may get worse—the globalization of trade and communication has created new channels for sex trafficking and incited contagious forms of violence against women. Coleman feels that the fundamental challenge to improving the status of women is cultural.

## 20. CAN YOU LEARN TO BE AN ENTREPRENEUR?

By David Whitford. *Fortune*, v. 161, no. 4, March 22, 2010, pp. 63 -66.

Can you learn to be an entrepreneur? Yes, says Gregg Fairbrothers, a former academic who is now the founding director of Dartmouth Entrepreneurial Network. Entrepreneurs, according to him, possess an identifiable set of traits such as willingness to take risks, but entrepreneurs are defined more by how they do things than what they do. Entrepreneurship, he says is more about learning through experience. One thing this article makes clear is that courses in entrepreneurship have become very popular across the United States—two-thirds of U.S. colleges and universities now are teaching entrepreneurship courses.

## 21. THE END OF GROWTH

By Richard Heinberg. *MuseLetter*, no. 222, November 2010

Heinberg notes that access to abundant and cheap fossil fuels over the last couple of centuries sparked a boom unprecedented in human history of growth in economic activity and human numbers, such that we have now become accustomed to thinking that continuous growth is a normal state of affairs. Heinberg contends that the economic crisis that began in 2007-2008 is not simply another cyclical recession, but represents a permanent break with past decades—the world is now colliding with fundamental barriers to ongoing economic expansion, namely, the depletion of resources such as fossil fuels and minerals, the proliferation of environmental impacts related to their exploitation and use, and the inability of financial systems geared to never-ending growth to adjust to resource scarcity and to service the mountain of debt in the context of a shrinking economy. Even fast-growing economies such as China may continue to grow for a while longer, but will inevitably reach a ceiling dictated by shrinking natural resources. Heinberg maintains that humanity has to develop a desirable 'new normal' that fits with constraints imposed by depleting resources, otherwise "we will create by default a much less desirable 'new normal' whose emergence we are already beginning to see."

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## INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL RELATIONS & SECURITY

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### 22. CHINA'S PERSPECTIVE ON A NUCLEAR-FREE WORLD

By Hui Zhang. *Washington Quarterly*, v. 33, no. 2, April 2010, pp. 139-155.

The author, a physicist and specialist in nuclear arms control and Chinese nuclear policy issues, points out that China has long supported complete nuclear disarmament, calling for a summit to discuss the prohibition and destruction of nuclear weapons on the day of its first nuclear test in 1964. China claims that it developed nuclear weapons to guard itself against nuclear coercion and blackmail and it has always maintained a no-first-use policy. China's nuclear modernization has been designed to improve quality rather than quantity, to maintain a reliable second-strike retaliatory capability. Chinese leaders have expressed their support for a nuclear-weapons-free world, but some Chinese experts question the U.S. and Russian commitments. "For Beijing, the first and most important bold step toward nuclear disarmament would be a global agreement on

no-first-use of nuclear weapons." This would strengthen the nonproliferation regime and promote further reductions of nuclear weapons.

### **23. FOR THEIR EARS ONLY**

*By Tim Starks. CQ Weekly, v. 68, no. 29, July 19, 2010, pp. 1718-1718.*

In the late 1940s, early in the Cold War, Congress enacted the Smith-Mundt Act, designed to keep the State Department from the domestic use of propaganda aimed at foreign audiences. In July, two House members introduced legislation to dismantle Smith-Mundt, saying that it makes no sense in an era of the Internet and satellite communications, and may be interfering with efforts to combat terrorism. The Pentagon, which has embraced some of the law's precepts, have complained that Smith-Mundt prevents them from disseminating false information to deceive insurgents for fear that the bogus reports might end up getting republished as truth in the U.S. The State Department prohibited a public radio station in Minneapolis from rebroadcasting Voice of America Somali-language broadcasts to the area's large Somali émigré community, even though there was nothing to prevent the station from airing broadcasts from terrorist groups in Somalia. The author notes that Smith-Mundt has not kept up with technology, and is complicating diplomacy in the age of global terrorism.

### **24. THE LONG ROAD TO ZERO**

*By Charles Ferguson. Foreign Affairs, v. 89, no. 1, January/February 2010, pp. 86-94.*

The author notes that there is a clear bipartisan consensus in the Washington on the subject of nuclear security. At the same time, however, he poses an important question—in a world where the strongest conventional military power cannot envision giving up its nuclear weapons before all other nations have abandoned theirs, how will humanity ever rid itself of nuclear weapons? Ferguson, president of the Federation of American Scientists, writes of the importance of finding a way to obviate the prestige factor associated with possessing nuclear arms. He says that is what stands in the way of making progress towards President Obama's dream of nuclear weapons-free world.

## 25. THE NEW RULES OF WAR

*By John Arquilla. Foreign Policy, no. 178, March/April 2010*

Arquilla believes that America's armed forces have failed to adapt sufficiently to changed conditions, finding out the hard way that their enemies often remain a step ahead. The U.S. military floundered for years in Iraq, and then proved itself unable to grasp the point that old-school surges of ground troops do not offer enduring solutions to new-style conflicts with networked adversaries. In the U.S. case, senior officials remain convinced that their strategy of "shock and awe" and the Powell doctrine of "overwhelming force" have only been enhanced by the addition of greater numbers of smart weapons, remotely controlled aircraft, and near-instant global communications. The author disagrees, a decade and a half after Arquilla and his colleague David Ronfeldt coined the term "netwar" to describe the world's emerging form of network-based conflict, the U.S. is still playing catch-up. The evidence of the previous decade shows clearly that massive applications of force have done little more than kill the innocent and enrage their survivors. Networked organizations like al-Qaeda have proven how easy it is to dodge such heavy punches and persist to land sharp counterblows.

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## DEMOCRACY & HUMAN RIGHTS

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### 26. FIVE MYTHS ABOUT NEW ORLEANS AND HURRICANE KATRINA

*By Harry Shearer. Vanity Fair online, posted August 26, 2010*

<http://www.vanityfair.com/culture/features/2010/08/hurricane-katrina-anniversary-201008>

The author notes that, on the fifth anniversary of hurricane Katrina, the American news media maintained misconceptions about the disaster. Media outlets had done a good job of showing the suffering on live television but have failed to focus on why New Orleans suffered so badly in the aftermath of the storm. Shearer notes that what happened to New Orleans in August 2005 was not a natural disaster. When Katrina hit that city, it was mostly likely a Category 1 or 2 storm. The catastrophic disaster that followed was mostly manmade, a result of mistakes, misjudgments, and misfeasance by federal government agencies that should have done a better job regarding the protection system for the city. The primary government failure in Katrina was the failed hurricane protection system, designed and constructed under previous administrations.

## 27. THE HIRED GUNS

By Joshua Kurlantzick. *Newsweek*, July 26, 2010.

<http://www.newsweek.com/2010/07/26/the-hired-guns.html>

Kurlantzick, a fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, writes that, according to the U.S. Department of Justice, the number of lobbyists for foreign countries in Washington, D.C. has grown from about 1,800 in 2005 to 1,900 in 2009. Human-rights activists say that the amount of money spent on lobbying has grown at a significant rate. For example, Angola, one of the most corrupt nations in the world, spent more than \$3 million on lobbying in the first half of 2009. According to the author, the rise in foreign lobbying may have compromised the policymaking of U.S. government officials and may have reduced Washington's pressure on authoritarian regimes. Human-rights activists or government opponents in authoritarian countries are unable to make their case in Washington, or to match the funds spent by their rulers. The result, says Kurlantzick, is that "while thugs get heard in U.S. halls of power, the voices of their opponents remain silent."

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# COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION

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## 28. INSIDE THE KNOCKOFF FACTORY

By Nicholas Schmidle. *New York Times Magazine*, August 22, 2010, pp. 38-45.

Copyright infringement and industrial espionage have increased significantly within the last decade, and China has become one of the major offenders. In southern China, making fake tennis shoes and other counterfeits has become big business. Chinese authorities are slow to enforce the law, and it is becoming more difficult to tell which shoes and other such illegal products are real. During 2009, U.S. Customs and Border Protection seized more than \$260 million worth of counterfeit goods such as DVDs, brake pads, computer parts and baby formula, for many years, counterfeit footwear has topped the seizure list with electronics as a close second. Schmidle notes that there is disagreement in China on what constitutes counterfeiting—what the West considers counterfeiting, many in China regard as a form of industrial training, a way to develop skills that can eventually be used to develop legitimate businesses.

## 29. THE INSIDERS' INSIDER

By Mark Leibovich. *New York Times Magazine*, April 25, 2010, pp. 32-39, 44-46, 48.

The web site and newspaper Politico has been in existence only three years, the brain-child of former *Washington Post* editors John F. Harris and Jim VandeHei, with the goal of becoming as central to political addicts as ESPN is to sports junkies. Situated in a building that overlooks the U.S. Capitol, it has now become one of the first sources Washington power brokers read in the morning. The publication, in return, wants to 'win' every news cycle by being the first with a morsel of information, whether or not the information nugget is relevant, or even correct, in the long run. Its most prominent, and influential, reporter is the obsessively private Mike Allen whose e-mail tipsheet, *Playbook*, has now become the principal early-morning document for an elite set of political and news-media 'thrivers and strivers.'

## 30. WHAT I LEARNED FROM YOUTUBE

By Brian Rosenberg. *Chronicle of Higher Education*, April 23, 2010, pp. A40-A40.

A middle-aged college president makes a video and is surprised by its popularity. Puzzled by the results, Brian Rosenberg, president of Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota, is nevertheless delighted by the 39,000 hits his video has had on YouTube in about a month. There have been several hundred email messages from alumni, parents, current and prospective students, as well as other college presidents. Messages have been received from as far away as Pakistan, Japan, Spain, Singapore, and China in response to Rosenberg's humorous and self-parodying video. Rosenberg says, "We never imagined the video primarily as a fund-raising tool; rather, our goal was to entertain and engage people and capture something of the spirit of the college." Responses to the college's annual-fund solicitations have been positive. Brian Rosenberg points to three lessons learned that are of more importance than what he learned about his own limited gift of deadpan comedy, he concedes. First, things that happen on campuses assume a life and meaning of their own very rapidly—more so than a decade ago. Second, the new social media is not exclusively the province of the technically savvy or the young. Third, says Rosenberg, never underestimate the power of humor and positive messaging, particularly during times of economic and social stress.

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# GLOBAL ISSUES

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## 31. CALL OF THE WILD

By Mike Thomas. *National Parks*, v. 84, no. 2, Spring 2010, pp. 49-54.

George Melendez Wright was one of the first Latinos to be employed by the U.S. Park Service, and whose vision for national parks was ahead of his time. This profile recounts his efforts in the 1920s and 30s to promote park management that actually supports flora and fauna, rather than tourists. His untimely death halted his progress for several decades. His studies on park wildlife are still relevant and influential. He believed that our greatest national heritage is nature itself, with all its complexity and its abundance of life.

## 32. THE CATASTROPHIST

By Elizabeth Kolbert. *New Yorker*, v. 85, no. 19, June 29, 2009, pp. 39-45.

This article profiles and explores the activist side of James Hansen, the director of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies and a prescient climate change scientist. The climatologist predicted global warming thirty years ago with one of the first climate models. Now, based on his new models and scientific data, he calculates that carbon dioxide emissions have already reached dangerous levels, making immediate action imperative, to prevent large-scale disruption to human society. He refers to this problem as an emergency. It has led him to march on Washington and court arrest at coal plants to make his point, and push for stepped up action from governments.

## 33. STREET FARMER

By Elizabeth Royte. *New York Times Magazine*, July 5, 2009, pp. 22-25.

Will Allen is an urban farming expert and founder of the Growing Power farm, a collection of greenhouses crammed onto 2 acres in a working-class neighborhood of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. His operation produces a regular supply of locally-grown food for 10,000 customers in the Milwaukee area, employs scores of people, many living in a nearby low-income housing project, and regularly conducts training classes in intensive farming techniques. Among other things, Growing Power makes use of worm composting, which produces the soil fertility needed to produce so much food in a small space. The low-income neighborhood outside the walls of

Growing Power is a "food desert", with a handful of high-priced convenience stores and fast-food eateries. Allen's Growing Power has been a pioneer in bringing the good-food movement to low-income inner-city neighborhoods, long shunned by most food retailers. Allen says "we need 50 million more people growing food," as oil supplies diminish, awareness of the environmental footprint of the industrial food system grows, and cities replace farmland, growing more food in less space will become more important than ever.

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## U.S. SOCIETY, VALUES & POLITICS

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### 34. THE ALTERNATIVE

*By Michelle R. Davis. The Washington Post, April 11, 2010, pp. 22-29.*

At a time when the economy is still tight, community colleges have become the choice of the younger students in the United States. With the job losses incrementing and family saving swindling down, more students who would have previously gone directly from high school to a four-year institution are looking towards and enrolling at their local community college. Once known for the night courses they offered to usually older students who were holding down daytime jobs and had other responsibilities, community colleges now maintain daytime programs and specialized courses of study once only available in more expensive degree programs. According to a report from the American Association of Community Colleges, in the United States, about 46 percent of students on community college campuses are younger than 21, a significant increase when seen against 42.5 percent in 2003.

### 35. AMERICAN DREAM IN DECLINE?

*By Chris Good. Atlantic Monthly online, posted March 15, 2010.*

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

Most Americans think attaining the "American Dream"—opportunity, home ownership, financial success—is getting harder, according to a poll conducted by Xavier University. A more disturbing finding of the poll is that 58% 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.

## 36. THE END OF MEN

By *Hanna Rosin*. *Atlantic Monthly*, v. 306, no. 1, July/August 2010, pp. 56-72.

New data showing that more women graduated from university than men in the U.S. only underscores a trend that has developed over several decades. During 2010, women became the majority of the workforce in the U.S. Despite inequitable pay, American women, during the recession, have retained jobs as men have lost them, giving women greater economic clout in the home. Many more women are becoming leaders in business and elsewhere, leading many to wonder if modern, postindustrial society is simply better suited to women. The unprecedented role reversal underway is also reflected internationally, even in traditionally patriarchal societies such as Korea.

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## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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## 37. BIRDS OF A FEATHER

By *Don Stap*. *National Wildlife*, v. 48, no. 2, February/March 2010.

<http://www.nwf.org/News-and-Magazines/National-Wildlife/Birds/Archives/2010/Birds-of-a-Feather.aspx>

Wetlands with abundant prey, such as Florida's Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, attract hundreds of species of shorebirds during their annual southern migrations. This article seeks to gain an insight into the behaviors of shorebirds, for example, their feeding together in diverse flocks on "shelves" of food in the same area, flight, and other behaviors. It investigates into how the shorebirds of several species gather together without competing for the same resources. Biologist Margaret Rubega compares this to a grocery store and says, "You might leave with brussels sprouts and spinach, and somebody else is going to go out the door with avocados and limes." They form feeding flocks and forage in varied ways, relying on the group for protection from predators.

Printed and published by Michael Pelletier for the Public Affairs Section,  
U.S. Embassy, American Center, New Delhi.  
Printed at Rakesh Press, New Delhi.

8/11-7150