



Ambassador McCormick Greatly Saddened – 16 June, 2008.

Ambassador McCormick expressed his sadness on learning of the death of former Ambassador Anne Martindell who passed away at Princeton, New Jersey aged 93.

"Anne was a long time friend of New Zealand. Her enthusiasm for sustaining the warm relationship between our two countries was evident when I met her at the Partnership Forum in Auckland last year. All Ambassadors to New Zealand have been aware of her considerable legacy".

The family of former Ambassador Martindell have released [her obituary](#).

Ambassador Martindell with Prime Minister Clark at the Partnership Forum in Auckland, September 2007.

First Lady Laura Bush Visits New Zealand Troops in Afghanistan - 8 June – [Speech to Troops](#)

United States First Lady Laura Bush visited New Zealand troops working in Afghanistan as part of the New Zealand Provincial Reconstruction Team (NZPRT). Her visit, on Sunday, was part of her third unannounced visit to Afghanistan, and occurred ahead of the International Conference in Support of Afghanistan, to be held in Paris on June 12.

Mrs Bush was greeted by the New Zealand troops with a traditional challenge and haka before meeting with members of the NZPRT, including the NZPRT Commander, Colonel Darryl Tracy. Following the greeting, Mrs Bush remarked that the NZPRT has been very effective in Afghanistan.

"And I can also say on behalf of President Bush and me and the people of the United States, thank you so much for standing with us here in Afghanistan. Everything this PRT from New Zealand has done has been very effective, and we thank you very, very much," she said ... **(more)**



A Kiwi soldier of the NZPRT force in Afghanistan performs the ceremonial challenge to welcome Laura Bush. NZDF photo.

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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Rethinking the National Interest by Condoleezza Rice in *Foreign Affairs*, July/August.

The Secretary of State reflects on the lessons of the past eight years (since September 11, 2001) and the realism which has guided policy in this time - recognizing that it is vital to U.S. national security that states be willing and able to meet the full range of their responsibilities, beyond their borders and within them.

 [Listen to this essay on CFR.org](#) **ARTICLE 420**

A Moral Core for U.S. Foreign Policy by Derek Cholet and Tod Lindberg in *Policy Review*, Dec./January. 21p.

American values of democracy, liberalism, human rights, and rule of law are examined as they have historically been applied to U.S. foreign policy. The authors also explore what American foreign policy would look like if it were stripped of its "values" component. The article concludes with principles for U.S. foreign policy in the future, such as, promoting and defending democracy, standing against the conquest of territory by force, strengthening alliances and institutions; addressing global hardship, and enforcing the "responsibility to protect".

ARTICLE 421

America's Place in the Asian Century by Kishore Mahbubani in *Current History*, May. 6p.

In case you did not know it, the West's domination of history is over. Mahbubani says that the next U.S. President will need to discard old mental maps of the world and handle the rise of an area which includes three of the four largest economies in the world.

ARTICLE 422

U.S. Policy Toward Asia Address by U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice at the *Heritage Foundation*, 18 June.

The rise of Asia is a profound geopolitical trend that is reshaping our world today. But I believe that the United States, contrary to much of the commentary, is actually in a stronger position in Asia than at any other time. For over 60 years, the U.S. presence in Asia – diplomatic, economic, and military – has had a calming effect on relations between the region's major powers, relations that have been marked historically by tension, mistrust, and conflict. Since the end of the Cold War, as the wealth, the power, and the aspirations of Asian states have grown, there have been concerns that Asia's rise could strain its often frail security relationships and that, perhaps, Asia's future could look something like Europe's past.

ARTICLE 423

Soft Power in Asia: Results of a 2008 Multinational Survey of Public Opinion *Chicago Cncl. on Global Affairs*, (June). 18p.

As China prepares to host the 2008 Olympics and displays the results of its great economic progress to the world, this new study by The Chicago Council on Global Affairs and the East Asia Institute of South Korea (*EAI*) finds that in the estimation of most Americans; and many Asians, China still has a way to go to claim the world's full recognition as a multifaceted power. In terms of soft power in Asia the study found that in its ability to wield influence by indirect, nonmilitary means, whether by persuasion or attraction, China ranks well below the United States in the estimation of most of the Asians surveyed.

ARTICLE 424

North Korea Nuclear Declaration Step in the Right Direction on *America.gov*, 26 June.

The United States will lift key trade sanctions and remove North Korea from its list of state sponsors of terrorism following that nation's decision to provide information about past nuclear activities, says President Bush. "This can be a moment of opportunity for North Korea," Bush says.

ARTICLE 425

- [North Korea: Presidential Action on State Sponsor of Terrorism \(SST\) and the Trading with the Enemy Act \(TWEA\)](#). Fact sheet, *U.S. Dept of State*, 26 June.
- [op-ed article by U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice](#) *Wall Street Journal*

The Reality: A Goal of a World Without Nuclear Weapons Is Essential by Sidney Drell & James Goodby in *The Washington Quarterly*, Summer. 11p.

Deterrence is becoming less effective and increasingly hazardous. A series of practical steps can be initiated leading to a world without nuclear weapons. As the world proceeds down that path the authors posit that political conditions will manifest themselves that will improve its prospects. [ARTICLE 426](#)

Why Terrorism Does Not Work by Max Abrahams in *International Security*, Fall, 2006. 37p.

The author, with the political science department at the University of California at Los Angeles, believes that a major shift in terrorism studies and approaches to fighting terrorism are needed. He also maintains that there is scant empirical research as to whether terrorism is a winning coercive strategy. [ARTICLE 427](#)

The Evolution of Terrorism As A Global Test of Wills: A Personal Assessment and Perspective by Stephen Sloan, *Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism*, May. 29p.

The political leadership at all levels must convey to the public that terrorism is a protracted and often non-territorial form of violent conflict. Sloan suggests that the necessary policies to resolve terrorism must be developed with the will to combat terrorism by both the public and governments. There needs to be recognition that there are real limits in regards to what the United States can do either unilaterally or multilaterally in countering the terrorists, who justify terrorism through their misinterpretation of the basic precepts of a great religion. [ARTICLE 428](#)

Israeli Weapons of Mass Destruction by Anthony Cordesman. *CSIS*, 2 June. 32p.

Israel's nuclear capabilities and the efforts to develop weapons of mass destruction are some of its most secret and controversial developments. Although there have been many unclassified reports on such developments, only a few have been credible and these have consisted largely of reports on its missile forces or nuclear activities that took place several decades ago. Many estimates of Israel's nuclear weapons trace back to rough estimates made a decade ago. [ARTICLE 429](#)

The Strategic Importance of Central Asia: An American View by Stephen Blank in *Parameters*, Spring. 16p.

Central Asia's importance in international affairs is continuing to grow, says the author, professor at the U.S. Army War College. U.S. interests in the region derive from the region's proximity to Russia and China, he notes, but the primary strategic U.S. goal is to see the development of independent, democratic and stable states. To achieve those objectives, the U.S. will encourage greater regional security; greater transparency, respect for human rights, and movement toward democratic policy; and the development of Central Asia's economic potential, he says. But he cautions that competition among international powers will shape the future order of the world and impact the development of Central Asian nations. [ARTICLE 430](#)

Turkey Turns Cold to European Defense: Implications for Western Security by Erdal Tatli. *The Washington Institute for Near East Policy*, 2 June. 3p.

In June 2007, Turkey decided to turn its back on the *European Security and Defense Policy (ESDP)* after a long series of negotiations with the European Union. Although the Cyprus issue has always complicated Turkey's involvement in *ESDP*, Turkey has been an important actor in Western security architecture for decades, and its withdrawal from the force has profound implications for the U.S., Europe and Western security institutions, including *NATO*. [ARTICLE 431](#)

The New Israel and the Old by Walter Russell Mead in *Foreign Affairs*, July/August. 19p.

In the United States, a pro-Israel foreign policy does not represent the triumph of a small lobby over the public will. It represents the power of public opinion to shape foreign policy in the face of concerns by foreign policy professionals. To understand Washington's support for the Jewish state, one has to understand the depth, breadth, and venerability of gentile American Zionism. [ARTICLE 432](#)

The Coming Euroinvasion by Moises Naim in *Foreign Policy*, May/June. 10p.

European corporations are likely to follow European shoppers to the U.S. to snap up bargains, says Naim. Those corporations are drawn by cheaper labor, energy, transportation and land. European businesses can also take advantage of being close to clusters of U.S. high-tech companies and part of the largest market in the world. This “Euroinvasion” is likely to produce political backlash on both sides of the Atlantic. [ARTICLE 433](#)

Foreign Aid: Effectively Advancing Security Interests by Carol Adelman in *Harvard Int. Review*, Fall. 6p.

The Director of the Center for Global Prosperity at the Hudson Institute discusses the use of foreign aid as a tool in American foreign policy. She maintains that to be successful, aid programs must recognize and adapt to the rapidly changing world and engage with local populations. The three pillars of American foreign aid (arranged in order of success) are: disaster relief and humanitarian assistance, security assistance, and development aid. She believes that *USAID (Agency for International Development)* should operate like a private foundation and grant funding only to groups partnering with local populations. [ARTICLE 434](#)

America’s Liberal Illiberalism: The Ideological Origins of Overreaction in U.S. Foreign Policy by Michael Desch in *International Security*, Winter 2007. 36p.

The author, director of the Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs at the Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University, writes that the U.S. has come under fire from critics at home and abroad for its tough tactics in the war against terrorism, and for the invasion of Iraq. Criticism has centered on the doctrine of preventive war, on enhanced surveillance measures to track down terrorists at home, and tough measures used in questioning certain suspects. [ARTICLE 435](#)

Iran and the United States: The Nuclear Issue by Anthony Cordesman in *Middle East Policy*, Spring. 10p.

Any form of dialogue can help prevent misunderstandings and tension, the author says, but a dialogue alone can’t bridge basic fundamental strategic and ideological differences such as those that seem to plague the U.S. and Iran, especially on the nuclear issue. Cordesman examines the latest National Intelligence Estimate on Iran and says it will probably be four to seven years before Tehran might become a full-fledged nuclear power, leaving time yet to negotiate. He says the two countries may eventually be able to make some incremental progress in breaching their differences but the key question is whether Tehran and Washington can proceed from dialogue to negotiations. The author suggests that the problem is not one of communication, but serious strategic differences. [ARTICLE 436](#)

The Rebellion Within: An Al-Qaida Mastermind Questions Terrorism by Lawrence Wright in the *New Yorker*, 2 June. 8p.

The author profiles Sayyid Imam al-Sharif, known as “Dr. Fadl,” a one-time friend and mentor to Ayman al-Zawahiri and co-founder of Al-Jihad, an Egyptian terror cell that would become a key component of al-Qaida. Al-Sharif, formerly a key player in shaping religious justification for terrorist tactics, issued a 2007 manifesto repudiating al-Qaida’s corruption of the concepts of jihad and takfir, their practice of targeting innocents, and their use of suicide attacks. It sparked new debate among extremists at a time when al-Qaida is facing diminishing popularity in former strongholds. Zawahiri’s strong response to Dr. Fadl’s criticism is telling, argues the author, as is the growing number of former extremists turning away from violent tactics; he notes that, while al-Qaida may remain a security threat, its ideological appeal is diminishing. [ARTICLE 437](#)

AFRICA@RISK *World Economic Forum*, June. 20p.

The report was prepared for the *World Economic Forum on Africa*, Cape Town, South Africa, on June 4-6, 2008. The latest insights into trends, potential impacts and mitigation relevant to four key risks facing Africa are identified and explored: food and freshwater security, geopolitical instability, economic shocks and climate change. [ARTICLE 438](#)

No Sign Until the Burst of Fire: Understanding the Pakistan-Afghanistan Frontier by Thomas Life-Johnson & Chris Mason in *International Security*, Spring. 37p.

The authors assert that the Pakistan-Afghanistan border area has become the most dangerous frontier on earth and the most challenging for U.S. national security interests. The portion of the border region that is home to extremist groups such as the Taliban and al-Qaida coincides almost exactly with the area overwhelmingly dominated by the Pashtun tribes. They maintain that the fact that most of Pakistan's and Afghanistan's violent religious extremism, and with it much of the counterterrorism challenge to the U.S., are contained within a single ethno-linguistic group, has not been fully grasped by U.S. policymakers. [**ARTICLE 439**](#)

The Next President and the Middle East by Daniel Levy in *American Prospect*, April. 4p.

Levy notes that at the Israeli-Palestinian Annapolis peace process, launched last November, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice managed to lead a change in policy within the administration and to renew efforts toward a permanent-status peace deal after a seven-year hiatus. Just before the Annapolis gathering, sixty-six former U.S. senior officials and experts, spearheaded by Brent Scowcroft, Zbigniew Brzezinski, and Lee Hamilton, sent a letter to the president and Secretary of State welcoming the new effort and counseling that an "inclusive" process that would involve, even indirectly, and incite political players such as Syria and Hamas, would be much more likely to succeed than one that excluded them. However, the next administration will inherit a situation that will require more than some presidential goodwill, as that President's Middle East concerns will include Iraq, Iran, al-Qaeda, Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Pakistan, Afghanistan, relations with China, anti-American sentiments, and global human security. [**ARTICLE 440**](#)

Following the Clues: The Role of Forensics in Preventing Nuclear Terrorism by Sidney Niemeyer & David Smith in *Arms Control Today*, July/August. 2p.

Smith, the State Department's scientific advisor on international nuclear forensics, and Niemeyer, physicist at the Department of Homeland Security's *National Technical Nuclear Forensics Center*, say now is the time to enhance the utility of using forensics to prevent nuclear terrorism. They point to several U.S.-led efforts to use nuclear forensics to help ensure responsible nuclear stewardship, and remind us that nuclear forensics can be used as a deterrent against smuggling or to identify a perpetrator in the event of nuclear or radiological attack. Given that there are over 50 trafficking incidents annually, the authors say governments should make greater investments in their nuclear forensic capabilities. [**ARTICLE 441**](#)

Why We Should Study the Cuban Missile Crisis Special report by Michael Dobbs. *USIP*, June.

For decades, the Cuban missile crisis has been studied and analyzed as a case study in presidential power and crisis management. Dobbs says it is better understood as an example of the limits of presidential power and the haphazard returns of crisis management. It remains the best-documented study of presidential decision making at a time of supreme national danger, offering policymakers and students of history unique insights into the interplay between the debates in the Oval Office and fast-moving events in the rest of the world, and it illustrates the sometimes pivotal role of personality in politics. He maintains that had someone else been president in October 1962, the outcome could have been very different. [**ARTICLE 442**](#)

Selected International and Regional Human Rights Treaties *Amnesty International*, 30 May. 22p.

States which have ratified or acceded to a convention are party to the treaty and are bound to observe its provisions. Those States which have signed but not yet ratified have expressed their intention to become a party at some future date; meanwhile they are obliged to refrain from acts which would defeat the object and purpose of the treaty. [**ARTICLE 443**](#)

Some International Relations online resources which may be of interest:

[**U.S. Dept of the Treasury designates four individuals associated with Lashkar-e-Tayyiba**](#) 27 May.

[**The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, & Malaria: Progress Report. Issues for Congress**](#) *CRS*, 27 May. 22p.

[The Recent Record on North Korea](#) - *AEI*, 30 April. Transcript

[American War and Military Operations Casualties: Lists and Statistics](#) *CRS* 14 May.

[China in Africa: Implications for U.S. Policy](#) Hearing before the *Subcommittee on Africa, U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations*, 4 June.

[Statements by U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretaries of State Thomas J. Christensen and James Swan](#)

[Olympic Pressure on China](#) Backgrounder by Preeti Bhattacharji and Carin Zissis. *CFR*, 17 June.

[Egyptian Islamic Jihad](#) Backgrounder by Holly Fletcher. *CFR*, 30 May. (about the organization Egyptian Islamic Jihad, also known as Al Jihad, etc)

[The Rebellion Within: An Al Qaeda Mastermind Questions Terrorism](#) by Lawrence Wright. *The New Yorker*, 2 June (about Dr Fadl, former leader of Egypt-based terrorist group Al Jihad)

[Profile: Hassan Nasrallah](#) Backgrounder by Eben Kaplan. *CFR*, 30 May. (Hassan Nasrallah has been leader of Hezbollah since 1992)

[Conference on Global Perspectives of the Proliferation Landscape: An Assessment of Tools and Policy Problems](#) Remarks by U.S. Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Patricia A. McNerney, at the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California, June 10, 2008

[Science, Technology, and Foreign Policy: Background and Issues for Congress](#) *CRS*, 22 May.

[Negotiating with Hostile States](#) Backgrounder by Robert McMahon. *CFR*, 2 June.

[Mexico-U.S. Relations: Issues for Congress](#) *CRS*, 23 May.

[The Anatomy of China's Export Growth](#) *World Bank*, May. 29p.

[International Conference in Support of Afghanistan](#) Briefing, *U.S. Asst. Sec. of State Richard Boucher*, 10 June.

[Total U.S. Security & Reconstruction Assist. to Afghanistan](#) *U.S. Dept of State*, 10 June. FY2001-08.

[Counterinsurgency in Afghanistan](#) by Seth G. Jones. *RAND*, 2008. 177p. [Summary](#) News release "[Taliban's Sanctuary Bases in Pakistan Must Be Eliminated](#)", 9 June.

[Energy in Danger: Iran, Oil, and the West](#) by Simon Henderson. *Washington Inst. for Near East Policy*, June.

[America and the Emerging Iraqi Reality: New Goals, No Illusions](#) by Ellen Laipson. *The Century Foundation*, June. 28p. [News release](#)

[An Argument for Documenting Casualties: Violence Against Iraqi Civilians 2006](#) *RAND National Defense Research Institute*, 2008.

[The Changing Nature of State Sponsorship of Terrorism](#) by Daniel L. Byman. *Brookings Institution*, May.

[Coercive Interrogation Techniques: Do They Work, Are They Reliable, and What Did the FBI Know About Them?](#) Hearing before the *U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary*, 10 June.

Africa:

[China, Africa, and Oil](#) Backgrounder by Stephanie Hanson. *CFR*, 6 June.

[Bringing Peace to the Niger Delta](#) by Kelly Campbell. *U.S. Institute of Peace*, May.

[Recent Events in Zimbabwe](#) Remarks by James McGee, U.S. Ambassador to Zimbabwe, by DVC, 6 June.

Middle East:

[U.S. Sec. of State Condoleezza Rice at American-Israel Public Affairs Committee policy conference](#), 3 June.

[More Than Just Enrichment: Iran's Strategic Aspirations and the Future of the Middle East](#) Hearing before a *subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs*, 5 June. [Transcripts](#) and scroll down.

[The Future of U.S.-Iraqi Relations: The Perspective of the Iraqi Parliament](#) Hearing before a *subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs*, 4 June. [Transcripts](#) and scroll down.

[U.S. Security Agreements and Iraq](#) Backgrounder by Greg Bruno. *CFR*, 5 June.

[Iraq's Interior Ministry: Frustrating Reform](#) by Robert M. Perito. *U.S. Institute of Peace (USIP)*, May.

[Half Empty or Half Full: Assessing the Prospects for Peace in Lebanon](#) by Alastair Harris. *USIP*, May.

[China-Gulf Economic Relations](#) Backgrounder by Lee Hudson Teslik. *CFR*, 4 June.

International Development:

[Millennium Challenge Corporation: Independent Reviews and Consistent Processes Will Strengthen Projections of Program Impact](#) GAO, June. 46p.

[Meeting the Challenges of the Global Food Crisis](#) U.S. Dep. Sec. of State John D. Negroponte, 13 June.

[High Agricultural Commodity Prices: What Are the Issues?](#) *CRS*, 6 May.

[Oversight of U.S. Trade Preference Programs](#) Hearing before *U.S. Senate Committee on Finance*, 12 June.

[Tackling Corruption, Transforming Lives](#) Asia-Pacific Human Development Report on Corruption. UNDP Regional Center in Colombo, June 2008. [Links to related information](#)

[15th Replenishment of the International Development Association \(IDA\) and the 11th Replenishment of the African Development Fund \(AfDF\)](#) Hearing, the *U.S. House Comm. on Financial Services*, 18 June.

[International Disaster Assistance: Policy Options](#) Hearing, *U.S. Senate Comm. Foreign Relations*, 17 June.

[The Dilemma of Humanitarian Intervention](#) Backgrounder by Jayshree Bajoria. *CFR*, 12 June. The author notes by way of preface that "States, especially former colonies, have long seen intervention of any kind as a threat to their sovereignty. Humanitarian intervention is no different."

[To Walk the Earth in Safety](#) 7th annual report by the U.S. Dept of State on U.S. demining programs, June. [Full text](#)

[U.S. Contributes Additional \\$110.3 Million to the U.N. High Comm. for Refugees](#) *U.S. Dept of State*, 30 May.

Democracy, Human Rights and Governance:

[Advancing Freedom and Democracy Reports](#) *U.S. Dept of State*, May. (country reports)

[Trafficking in Persons Report 2008](#) *U.S. Dept of State*, June. [Remarks by U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice](#) at the release of the report. A [briefing](#) by the State Department's Mark P. Lagon

GOVERNMENT / ELECTIONS 2008

How Big Government Got its Groove Back by William Galston in *American Prospect*, June. 4p.

To maintain purchasing power, American households have resorted to record levels of borrowing, driving the savings rate into negative territory for the first time on record and raising personal consumption to an unsustainable 70% of GDP. This situation has been a long time in the making, and has come about through a number of factors as the burdens of retirement savings, health care, child care and education have been transferred from employers to individuals. Galston argues that the public safety net needs to be radically changed, and would entail an expanded role for the federal government. [ARTICLE 444](#)

[Daily Presidential Tracking Poll](#) [Electoral Map Predictions - June 18th 2008](#)

[Web Tools Help to Reshape '08 Campaign Trail](#) - Thirty-nine percent of online Americans have used the Internet to dig deeper to access unfiltered campaign materials, which include video of candidate debates, speeches and announcements, as well as position papers and speech transcripts. Not surprisingly, 33 percent of younger voters have gotten political news and information from social networking sites, like Facebook and MySpace...

[RealClearPolitics Electoral College Map](#) [CNN's Electoral Map: Who's Ahead](#)

[AEI Political Report, June 2008](#)

[Voters See Big Differences Between Obama and McCain, Expect Close Election](#) - Just 14% of voters believe there's not much difference between Barack Obama and John McCain in terms of how they'll actually perform as President. The latest Rasmussen Reports telephone survey found that 77% disagreed and see a significant difference. These views are held fairly evenly across partisan and ideological lines.

[Obama's Speech on Fatherhood](#) – "...But if we are honest with ourselves, we'll admit that what too many fathers also are is missing – missing from too many lives and too many homes. They have abandoned their responsibilities, acting like boys instead of men. And the foundations of our families are weaker because of it..."

[McCain, Obama offer different visions on taxes](#) - Obama, the Democrat, seemingly has a traditional liberal outlook of taxing the rich more while having the government help people of more modest means through tax breaks. McCain, the Republican, advocates a classic conservative vision of cutting taxes — many geared toward businesses — to promote competition within a free-market system. Neither plan is cheap.

[Most Americans See a Black Nominee as Important for Country](#) - A solid majority of Americans say it as at least somewhat important to the country that an African American has won the presidential nomination of a major political party. But there are wide political and racial divisions over the significance of Obama's history-making achievement.

[Assessing a More Prominent 'Religious Left'](#) - Liberal and progressive religious voices have become increasingly prominent in the 2008 presidential campaign. To complement a recent Forum-sponsored panel discussion on the "religious left," Associate Director Mark O'Keefe asked Senior Fellow John Green to define the various groups that make up the religious left movement and talk about implications for the "religious right."

[The McCain Doctrines – May 18](#) - Whatever their disagreements on policy, United States senators are reluctant to impugn one another's motives or integrity.

[HOW OBAMA DID IT: Big states, small states, caucuses and campaign strategy](#) - Barack Obama will become the Democratic Party's presidential standard bearer in 2008 precisely because small states - particularly small caucus states - add up.

[Congressional Combat, Continued](#) – "Nothing has changed our forecast in the six months since, and if anything, we now see November 2008 as probably the best year Democrats have had."

5 lessons for picking a running mate - Based on interviews with those who have been involved in the process before, here are five lessons for picking a vice president.

McCain and Obama Trade Jobs Over Economic Strategies - Presumptive presidential candidates Sens. Barack Obama and John McCain offered contrasting approaches to mend a sluggish economy this week, with Obama emphasizing an active government role in providing assistance and McCain calling for lower taxes and spending cuts.

Gallup Daily: Obama 48%, McCain 42% - Obama continues to hold a lead over John McCain in Gallup Poll Daily tracking -- 48% to 42% in June 8-10 polling of registered voters nationwide.

Most Say Race Will Not Be a Factor in Their Presidential Vote - A large majority of blacks, 78%, and an even larger majority of whites, 88%, say the fact that Barack Obama is black makes no difference in terms of their likelihood of voting for him for president.

McCain Interview with Peter Cook of Bloomberg - "Let's talk about the role the economy is going to play in this campaign. As we sit here today, given the problems, the challenges Americans are facing with the economy, do you think the economy has become more a decisive issue to voters than, say, national security will be?"

Many Debates in Variety of Venues Would Enliven Race - "The inchoate public demand for change, and for action in Washington, does not mesh with any larger consensus about what action should be taken to effect change.... We need to break out of the normal campaign mode, to have nuanced, textured and honest discussions of these huge problems and issues."

Economic Advisors to the Candidates - Most analysts are saying they expect John McCain's economic policies anyway would be a continuation of President Bush; Obama's economic policies would be a reprise of the Clinton years. So Doug, to you first, is that an analysis that makes sense?

Obama Transcript of NPR's "All Things Considered" - ...It's been said many times that the candidate who will actually win in November is the one who can convey to voters that they really feel their pain, that they understand their frustrations, and their economic failures. How do you convey that message that you understand what people are going through?

Will States Topple Electoral College? - Voters this fall will still use the Electoral College to determine the next occupant of the White House, but a movement is bubbling at the state level to bypass the process and instead ensure future presidents are the candidates who get the most votes nationwide — an outcome not always guaranteed under the current system.

SENATE SENSIBILITIES - The Update - The '08 battles for the U.S. Senate - Lots of exciting changes have occurred in the nation's Senate races since we last reviewed them in December 2007. Yet overall, the outlook hasn't changed much.

THE ELECTORAL BAROMETER VS. THE POLLS - A question that keeps arising in connection with this year's presidential race is why, given the extremely favorable political environment for Democrats, Barack Obama has not been able to establish a clear lead over John McCain in national polls.

Coverage Turns To Issues - In the first official week of the general election, the differences between Barack Obama and John McCain on issues ranging from the economy to Iraq constituted the media's main campaign narrative...Still, a fair amount of attention was also paid to some controversies and gaffes.

Author: Independents Will Pick Next President - Independents will determine who wins the White House in November, according to an author who has analyzed the influence of those voters.

TRADE / ECONOMY

The Economic Slowdown's Impact on Middle-aged and Older Americans by Jeffrey Love. *American Association of Retired Persons*, May. 34p.

The study findings show that 81% of respondents say the economy is in fairly bad or very bad condition and 75 percent feel the economy is getting worse. Over one-fourth of respondents said they are having trouble paying their mortgage or rent and one-third have stopped putting money into their retirement accounts. More than one-fourth of all workers 45+ have postponed plans to retire. As the economy slows and prices rise, most middle-aged and older respondents report that they are having difficulty paying for food, gas, utilities, and medicine, and are responding to the situation by cutting luxuries and postponing major purchases and travel.

[ARTICLE 445](#)

Evaluating the Potential for a Recession in 2008 by Marc Labonte. *CRS*, 13 May. 24p.

The U.S. economy has faced some bad news lately. The housing boom has come to an abrupt halt with housing sales and house building falling at double digit rates. Financial institutions have written off large losses because of falling asset values, particularly for mortgage-backed securities. A look at the data available suggests that economic growth has slowed considerably, but it is too soon to tell if the economy has entered a recession. The report examines whether the U.S. economy is experiencing a recession, as well as the causes behind recessions and how to avoid them.

[ARTICLE 446](#)

The End of Liberal Globalization by Michael F. Oppenheimer. *World Policy Journal*, Winter. 27p.

Even though many aspects of globalization -- the rapid advance and diffusion of technology, the proliferation of private transnational actors, and the centrality of economic growth -- are well established and probably irreversible, the "liberal form" of globalization that has shaped the world over the past 60 years is in steep decline. The article discusses the decline of the liberal form of globalization in the United States, which will imperil the economic and political benefits of growth, poverty alleviation, and relative peace among great powers. It also examines the major reasons for that decline, and principle factors challenging liberal globalization.

[ARTICLE 447](#)

Microfinance Meets the Market by Robert Cull et al. *Policy Research Working Paper, World Bank*, 27 May. 40p.

Microfinance institutions have provided reliable banking services to poor customers. Their second aim is to do so in a commercially-viable way. The paper analyzes the tensions and opportunities of microfinance as it embraces the market, drawing on a data set that includes 346 of the world's leading microfinance institutions and covers nearly 18 million active borrowers.

[ARTICLE 448](#)

Some Trade/Economics online resources which may be of interest:

Economy and Markets Address by *U.S. Secretary of the Treasury* Henry M. Paulson Jr, 19 June.

The Economic Outlook Address by Jeffrey M. Lacker, President, *Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond*, 16 June.

Bank Economists See Slow Economic Growth Through 2008 *American Banking Association*, 17 June.

Economic forecast sheet

Outstanding Issues in the Analysis of Inflation Speech, Ben S. Bernanke, Chair, *U.S. Federal Reserve*, 9 June.

Empirical Questions in Modeling Inflation and Understanding the Implications for Policy Remarks by Eric S. Rosengren, President and CEO, *Federal Reserve Bank of Boston*, 10 June.

Economic Stimulus Payments Hearing, *Subcomm.on Oversight, U.S. House Comm.on Ways and Means*, 19 June.

Inflation: Causes, Costs, and Current Status *CRS*, 6 May.

Risk Management and its Implications for Systemic Risk Hearing, *Subcomm. of U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs*, 19 June.

Finance:

Reducing Systemic Risk in a Dynamic Financial System Speech by Timothy F. Geithner, President and CEO, *Federal Reserve Bank of New York*, 9 June.

Protecting Consumers in the Credit Marketplace Speech, Randall S. Kroszner, *U.S. Federal Reserve*, 11 June.

Budget and Taxation:

A Preliminary Analysis of the 2008 Presidential Candidates' Tax Plans *Tax Policy Center*, 11 June. 37p.

Crisis in the Future: Long Run Deficits and Debt Hearing before the *U.S. Senate Committee on Finance*, 17 June.

Long-Term Fiscal Outlook: Long-Term Federal Fiscal Challenge Driven Primarily by Health Care Statement, Gene Dodaro, Acting Comptroller Gen. of the U.S., to *U.S. Senate Comm.on Finance*, 17 June.

C, K, or S: Exploring the Alphabet Soup of Small Business Choices in Advance of Tax Reform Hearing before the *U.S. Senate Committee on Finance*, 5 June.

The State of the Banking Industry: Part 2 Hearing, *U.S. Senate Comm. Banking, Housing and Urb.Affairs*, 5 June.

Financial Stability and Central Banks Jeffrey Lacker, President, *Fed. Re. Bank of Richmond*, London, 5 June.

The Potential Impact of Climate Change on Insurance Regulation Draft report by *National Association of Insurance Commissioners*, 28 May. 19p. **News Release** 2 June.

Foreign Investment:

Sovereign Wealth Funds: Foreign Policy Consequences in an Era of New Money Hearing before the *U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations*, June 11, 2008

Economic and U.S. Income Tax Issues Raised by Sovereign Wealth Fund Investment in the United States Report by the staff of the *Joint Committee on Taxation, U.S. Congress*, 17 June. 131p.

International Economic Issues:

Global Economic Gloom: China and India Notable Exceptions *Pew Global Att. Project*, 12 June. **full report** 150p.

Russia's Economic Performance and Policies and Their Implications for the U.S. *CRS*, 30 May.

The 15th Replenishment of the International Development Association (IDA) and the 11th Replenishment of the African Development Fund (AFDF) Hearing, *U.S. .H. Comm.on Financial Serv.*, 18 June.

Trade:

Oversight of U.S. Trade Preference Programs Hearing, *U.S. Senate Committee on Finance*, 12 June.

The Effect of Trade with Low-Income Countries on U.S. Industry Working paper by Raphael Auer & Andreas M. Fischer. *Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas*, June.

While Doha Sleeps: Securing Economic Growth Through Trade Facilitation by Daniel Ikenson. *Cato Institute Center for Trade Policy Studies*, 17 June. 24p. **Summary**

World Trade Organization and Globalization Help Facilitate Growth in Agricultural Trade *USDA Economic Research Service, Amber Waves*, June.

Trade, the Economy, and Small Business by Raymond J. Keating. *Small Business and Entrepreneurship Cncl.* 12p.

Prepared statement by U.S. Under Secretary of the Treasury David H. McCormick in advance of the G-8 Finance Ministers Meeting (Osaka, June 13-14, 2008): statement, 10 June.

Remarks by U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Henry M. Paulson, Jr, on the Fourth Meeting of the U.S.-China Strategic Economic Dialogue at the *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*, 10 June.

Reducing Systemic Risk in a Dynamic Financial System Speech by Timothy F. Geithner, President and CEO, *Federal Reserve Bank of New York*, 9 June.

Outstanding Issues in the Analysis of Information Speech, Ben S. Bernanke, Chair, *U.S. Federal Reserve*, 9 June.

Empirical Questions in Modeling Inflation and Understanding the Implications for Policy Remarks by Eric S. Rosengren, President and CEO, *Federal Reserve Bank of Boston*, 10 June.

Storms on the Horizon Speech by Richard W. Fisher, President and CEO, *Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas*, 28 May.

Money Markets and Financial Stability Speech, Donald L. Kohn, VC, *U.S. Federal Reserve*, May 29, 2008

The Exon-Florio National Security Test for Foreign Investment *CRS*, 8 April.

Microfinance Meets the Market *World Bank*, May. 40p.

Remarks by U.S. Under Secretary of the Treasury Robert K. Steel before the *President's Advisory Council On Financial Literacy*, 28 May.

Open Investment. Remarks by U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Henry M. Paulson Jr before the U.S.-UAE Business Council in Abu Dhabi, 2 June.

Looking Past Today: Staying Competitive in a Changing Global Economy Address by *U.S. Under Secretary of the Treasury David H. McCormick*, 3 June.

Agriculture and Food:

Global Food Security Briefing room, *USDA Economic Research Service*.

Global Food Crisis *Brookings Institution*

International Food Security: Insufficient Efforts by Host Governments and Donors Threaten Progress to Halve Hunger in Sub-Saharan Africa by 2015 *GAO*, May.

African Agriculture Backgrounder by Stephanie Hanson. *Council on Foreign Relations*, 28 May.

Factors in Food Commodity Price Increases Resources comp. *USDA Economic Research Service*, May.

Rising Food Prices, Poverty, and the Doha Round by Sandra Polaski. *Carnegie Endow. Internat. Peace*, May. 15p.

Record \$108.5 billion U.S. agricultural exports forecast for 2008 *USDA* news release, 30 May.

International Conference on Sorghum for Biofuel Houston, 19-22 August.

Promoting Food Security Worldwide: A U.S. Commitment Fact sheet, *U.S. Dept of State*, 30 May.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT / RESOURCES

Energy Challenges for the Next President by Lamar Alexander, et al. *Brookings*, 12 May. 79p.

Energy issues are among the most important strategic challenges facing America and the world. The authors discuss the big energy questions facing the next president, from ethanol subsidies to trade policy, then examine some grand challenges that the next president should take on over the next five years so that the United States will be firmly on a path toward clean energy independence.

[ARTICLE 449](#)

An Oceans Manifesto: The Present Global Crisis by Alan B. Sielen. *Fletcher Forum of World Affairs*, Winter. 23p.

The many ways that the oceans can refresh and enrich the human spirit are as legendary as their awesome terrors. That said, human activities can pose extensive damage to oceans and coasts. The author explores ways for the international community to avoid the ecological destruction facing the world's oceans without diverting attention or draining scarce resources from other pressing national and international concerns.

[ARTICLE 450](#)

Bioviolence: A Growing Threat by Barry Kellman in *The Futurist*, May/June. 6p.

The nuclear threat has been a nightmare scenario for more than a half century, but an even more frightening possibility is the deliberate spread of fatal diseases such as Ebola, smallpox, or Anthrax. At present, there has been no single international authority tracking or preventing the use of bioweapons and this "nobody-in-charge" situation could prove disastrous to humanity. In this article, several strategies for preventing bioviolence are examined.

[ARTICLE 451](#)

Where Has All the Water Gone? by Maude Barlow in *American Prospect*, June.

Barlow says the world is facing a freshwater crisis, due to pollution, climate change and population growth. The lack of access to clean water affects two fifths of the world's population, and is responsible for a growing incidence of waterborne diseases. Exacerbating the water crisis is growing pressure to privatize public water utility systems. Barlow argues that the growing scarcity of fresh water is as serious a threat as global warming but is underreported in the mainstream media and ignored by most political leaders.

[ARTICLE 452](#)

The Ethics of Climate Change: Pay Now or Pay More Later? By John Broome in *Scientific American*, 19 May.

Weighing our own prosperity against the chances that climate change will diminish the well-being of our grandchildren calls on economists to make hard ethical judgments.

[ARTICLE 453](#)

Trading Nature by Dilys Roe. *World Wildlife Fund*, May. 100p.

The report finds that well-managed, legal and sustainable trade can have a significant impact on all eight of the Millennium Development Goals, the globally agreed roadmap which targets development assistance and poverty reduction. The wildlife products covered in the report include medicines, food, clothing, ornaments, furnishings, pets, ornamental plants, zoological and botanical display, research, manufacturing and construction materials. However, many of the benefits are threatened when illegal trade is allowed to flourish.

[ARTICLE 454](#)

OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2008-2017 *Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development and Food and Agriculture Organization*, U.N. May. 73p.

With exceptional increases in prices for many agricultural commodities, the report faced a considerable challenge in preparing the projections and assessing the "durability" of the various influences shaping these prices. The report comes at a timely moment and provides important information, with a view to enlightening the discussion on food-price increases, their causes and their likely consequences for agricultural markets as well as for the policy formulation process.

[ARTICLE 455](#)

The Green Gap by Kate Sheppard in the *American Prospect*, May. 4p.

The city of Richmond, California, is wracked by poverty and violence, and is home to oil refineries and industrial sites with a long history of pollution and chemical spills. In an effort to reverse the city's toxic legacy, the municipal government is sponsoring Richmond BUILD, a program in which inner-city youths enroll for job training in energy efficiency, solar power and "green" construction. The program highlights a fundamental change that is taking place in the environmental movement in the U.S. [ARTICLE 456](#)

The Inconvenient Truths by Matt Power et al. in *Wired*, June. 9p.

If one accepts the premise that climate change is the most urgent problem facing the planet, then one needs to accept the skewering of some sacred cows of the environmental movement. In a series of short articles *Wired* Magazine writers serve up arguments debunking some long-held beliefs about the green lifestyle. Pastoral living in the country? Generates far more greenhouse gases than the urban lifestyle, the authors say. Organic farming? The amount of greenhouse gases generated and the amount of land consumed by organic farming exceeds the amounts produced by agri-business. Alex Steffen, editor of Worldchanging.com, argues that focusing all of our environmental concerns on GHG emissions, to the expense of all other issues, "court[s] catastrophe." [ARTICLE 457](#)

Some environmental online resources which may be of interest:

Climate Change:

[The Effects of Climate Change on Agriculture, Land Resources, Water Resources, and Biodiversity](#) Report by the *U.S. Climate Change Science Program*, May. [News Release](#)

[Shrinking the Carbon Footprint of Metropolitan America](#) *Brookings*, 29 May. [Carbon profiles of 100 metropolitan areas in the U.S.](#)

[Preparing for a Sea Change: A Strategy to Cope with the Impacts of Global Warming on the State's Coastal and Marine Systems](#) *Florida Coastal & Ocean Coalition*, May. [News Release](#)

[Annual Report, U.S. Wind Power Installation, Cost and Perform. Trends: 2006](#) *U.S. Dept of Energy*, May. 24p.

[Energy Market Manipulation and Federal Enforcement Regimes](#) Hearing, *U.S. Senate Comm. on Commerce, Science and Transportation*, 3 June.

[Crude Awakening: Behind the Surge in Oil Prices](#) *Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, Economic Letter*, May.

[Biomass Document Database](#) - by *U.S. Dept of Energy*.

Energy and Environment:

[World Trade Organization and Globalization Help Facilitate Growth in Agricultural Trade](#) *USDA Economic Research Service, Amber Waves*, June 2008

[Who Will China Feed?](#) *USDA, Economic Research Service, Amber Waves*, June 2008 (China as a net food exporter)

[The Truth About America's Energy: Big Oil Stockpiles Supplies and Pockets Profits](#) A special report by the majority staff of the *U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources*, June. 10p.

[Open Element Don't Kill the Green Goose: The Importance of Stimulating and Rewarding Clean Energy Breakthroughs](#) by Chris Israel. *Institute for Policy Innovation*, May. 2p.

[The Clean Technology Fund](#) Testimony by *U.S. Under Secretary of the Treasury David H. McCormick to a*

subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Financial Services, 5 June.

Adv. Research Projects Ag.- Energy (ARPA-E): Background, Status, and Sel. Issues Congress. *CRS*, 20 May.

Job Opportunities from the Green Economy: A State-by-State Picture of Occupations That Gain from Green Investments *Political Economy Research Institute, University of Massachusetts*, Amherst, May. 15p.

Climate Change: Expert Opinion on the Econ. of Policy Options to Address Climate Change *GAO*, May. 81p.

The Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring Act: H.R. 4174 Hearing, *subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Science and Technology*, 5 June.

Effects of Climate Change on Marine and Coastal Systems in Washington Hearing, *subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Com. on Commerce, Science and Trans.* 27 May (marine and coastal ecosystems of Washington State).

Food

When Miss Lewis Cooked on *PaperPalate.net* 4 June.

The author profiles Edna Lewis, who grew up in rural Virginia and moved to New York in the 1940s, was one of the pioneers in reintroducing Americans to fresh, seasonal foods. In the 1950s and 1960s, as a chef in New York, she brought the best of Southern cuisine to the public, at a time when America was increasingly eating frozen and canned foods. Lewis, who published several cookbooks on Southern cooking, inspired a new generation of chefs such as Alice Waters, who were creating new cuisines based on locally available fresh produce.

ARTICLE 458

Water

WaterQualityWatch – continuous real-time water quality of surface water in the U.S. *U.S. Geological Survey*.

Water Supply Challenges for the 21st Century Hearing, *U.S. House Committee on Science and Technology*, 14 May.

Too Few Fish: A Regional Assessment of the World's Fisheries Oceania, May. 30p. **News Release**

Transportation:

Keeping America Moving: Hearing to Review National Strategies for Efficient Freight Movement Hearing before a subcomm. of the U.S. Senate Comm. on Commerce, Science and Transportation, 10 June.

Maintaining our Nation's Highway and Transit Infrastructure Hearing before a subcomm. of the U.S. House Comm. on Transportation and Infrastructure, 5 June.

Primer on Transportation and Climate Change Association of State Transportation and Highway Officials, April. **News release and summary** 20 May.

Hybrid Technologies for Medium- to Heavy-Duty Commercial Trucks Hearing before a *subcomm. of the U.S. House Comm. on Science and Technology*, 10 June.

Infrastructure:

Issues and Options in Infrastructure Development *CBO*, May 2008. **Full text** 51p.

Financing Infrastructure Investments Hearing, *U.S. House Comm. on Transportation and Infrastructure*, 10 June.

Financing America's Infrastructure: Putting Global Capital to Work *NAF*, 9 June. 15p. **Summary**

AMERICAN SOCIETY

Finding Families for African American Children: The Role of Race & Law in Adoption by B. Evans Donaldson *Adoption Institute*. May. 58p.

Many children adopted in this country come from social, economic, racial and cultural backgrounds that differ from those of their new parents. Trans-racial adoptions, those occurring when a child's race/ethnicity is different from that of parents, can provide much-needed homes for boys and girls who may not otherwise have them. It is important to address the potential challenges in this growing practice in order to best serve everyone involved, especially the children. [ARTICLE 459](#)

Spotlight on Statistics: Sports and Exercise *Bureau of Labor Statistics*, May. 14p.

About 16 percent of people, aged 15 years and older, participated in sports and exercise activities on an average day in the United States. In comparison, the number of people who watched television on an average day is roughly five times larger. People living in the Pacific, New England, and Mountain regions of the country are more likely to participate in sports or exercise activities than those in other regions. Further, people with higher levels of education were more likely to participate in sports and exercise. [ARTICLE 460](#)

Little League, Huge Effect by Scott Ganz & Kevin Hassett in *The American*, May/June. 4p.

The authors, both with the *American Enterprise Institute (AEI)*, writing in a publication of the *AEI*, believe that youth sports strengthen the economic, academic and social prospects of Americans. [ARTICLE 461](#)

Hooked From the First Cigarette by Joseph DiFranza in *Scientific American*, May. 6p.

New research has overturned the traditional assumption that cigarette addiction takes years to develop. Studies of adolescent smokers show that symptoms of addiction, such as withdrawal, craving for cigarettes and failed attempts at quitting, can appear within the first weeks of smoking. To account for these findings, the author and his colleagues developed a new theory that the brain quickly develops adaptations that counter the effects of nicotine. The adaptations lead to withdrawal symptoms when the effects of nicotine wear off. The results highlight the importance of boosting funding for antismoking campaigns, particularly those aimed at youngsters. [ARTICLE 462](#)

The ID Divide: Addressing the Challenges of Identification and Authentication in American Society

Center for American Progress, June. 48p. [News release](#)

Closing the Justice Gap: Providing Civil Legal Assistance to Low-Income Americans Hearing before the *U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary*, 22 May.

Violence by Teenage Girls: Trends and Context U.S. Dept of Justice, *Off. Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prev.* May.

DOE Expands Global Science Portal *Government Computer News*, 12 June. Refers to [Worldwide Science Alliance](#)

Youth Transitioning from Foster Care: Background, Federal Programs, and Issues for Congress *CRS*, 21 May.

Differential Response to Reports of Child Abuse and Neglect Issue brief, *Child Welfare Info. Gateway*, 10 June.

Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect Fact sheet, *Child Welfare Information Gateway*, June.

Rising Costs. Low Quality in Health Care: The Necessity for Reform Hearing, *U.S.SenateComm.on Finance*, 3 June.

Increasing Transparency in the Pricing of Health Care Services and Pharmaceuticals *CBO*, 5 June.

Evidence on the Costs and Benefits of Health Information Technology *CBO*, May. 45p.

Measuring Immigrant Assimilation in the U.S. by Jacob L. Vigdor. *Manhattan Institute for Policy Research*, May.

Immigration Legislation and Issues in the 110th Congress *CRS*, 9 May.

EDUCATION

Educational and Cultural Exchanges to Restore America's Image by Carol Bellamy & Adam Weinberg in *Washington Quarterly*.

The authors call for a coordinated attempt to shape perceptions and views of the United States in the rest of the world. They believe that creating a new, successful public strategy for public diplomacy which would enhance the U.S. reputation will require a thorough understanding of the role of cultural and educational exchanges, and a rethinking of some fundamental assumptions that have driven efforts over the last two presidential administrations.

[ARTICLE 463](#)

Where the Girls Are: The Facts About Gender Equity in Education by Christianne Corbett et al. *American Association of University Women*, May. 124p.

The authors examine a comprehensive look at girls' educational achievement during the past 35 years, paying special attention to the relationship between girls' and boys' progress. Analyses of results from national standardized tests and other measures of educational achievement provide an overall picture of trends in gender equity from elementary school to college and beyond. These analyses support three overarching facts about gender equity in schools today. Girls' successes don't come at boys' expense. On average, girls' and boys' educational performance has improved. The authors note that the real crisis is that of the African American, Hispanic, and low-income children.

[ARTICLE 464](#)

Best Practices for Achieving High, Rapid Reading Gains by Marie Carbo in *The Education Digest*, March. 4p.

Carbo presents strategies for school principals seeking to increase levels of reading achievement among their students. Educational strategies including focusing on reading strengths rather than weaknesses, reducing stress associated with reading, and making use of modeling methods are explored. The article also provides a list of Internet resources concerning reading instruction.

[ARTICLE 465](#)

In the Basement of the Ivory Tower by Anonymous in the *Atlantic Monthly*, June. 6p.

An English professor, who wishes to remain anonymous, explains the travails he suffers teaching adults at a small private college and at a community college. Most of his students have families, and more than one job. And most of them, this professor says, are utterly unprepared for college-level work. He writes "Sending everyone under the sun to college is a noble initiative ... America, ever-idealistic, seems wary of the vocational-education track." He notes that the higher education system has a vested interest in having large attendance -- evening and adult education is a substantial profit center for many colleges. He admits that he too "subscribes to the American ideal" of universal higher education - however, "unfortunately, it is with me and my red pen that that ideal crashes and burns." He questions the morality of admitting so many students to classes they cannot possibly pass.

[ARTICLE 466](#)

Social Exclusion and the Gender Gap in Education by Maureen Lewis & Marlaine Lockheed in *World Bank Policy Research Working Paper* March. 40p.

Despite a sharp increase in the share of girls who enroll in, attend, and complete various levels of schooling, an educational gender gap remains in some countries. The authors discuss the importance of female education for economic and social development. A review of evidence regarding gender and ethnic differences in schooling and the theoretical perspectives of various social science disciplines that seek to explain such differences are also provided.

[ARTICLE 467](#)

Happy Trails by Diane Bramble & Lois Sandusky in *Connect Magazine*, May/June. 4p.

How do teachers make nature an integral part of a child's life? At "Friends' School," an elementary school in Boulder, Colorado, the teachers guide students in its 2nd grade class to fall in love with nature by increasing their knowledge about the outdoors and respect for the environment. The authors discuss the importance of taking children outside as part of their educational development.

[ARTICLE 468](#)

Minds on Fire by John Seely Brown & Richard P. Adler in *Educause Review*, January/February. 11p.

It is unlikely that sufficient resources will be available to build enough new campuses to meet the growing global demand for higher education - at least not the sort of campuses traditionally built for colleges and universities. With the growth and evolution of the internet, it is highly unlikely that the current methods of teaching and learning will adequately prepare students for the lives they will lead in the 21st century. The authors address the problem of growing global demand for higher education and the internet's impact. [ARTICLE 469](#)

Intelligence, Knowledge, and the Hand/Brain Divide by Mike Rose in *Phi Delta Kappan*, May.

The academic/vocational divide that persists in U.S. schools today is not simply a matter of curriculum, Mr. Rose points out. It is an expression of beliefs about intelligence and the social order that continue to limit the options of large numbers of young people. [ARTICLE 470](#)

The Public and the Public Schools: The Coproduction of Education by David Matthews in *Phi Delta Kappan*, May.

The public is losing its sense of ownership of its schools, which threatens democracy itself, Mr. Mathews asserts. And as long as citizens are treated as mere consumers of education the problem will not be solved. [ARTICLE 471](#)

Albert Shanker and the Future of Teacher Unions by Richard D. Kahlenberg in *Phi Delta Kappan*, June.

The author of the recent biography of Albert Shanker discusses the union leader's life, work, and implications for the future of American education. *Tough Liberal* traces Shanker's life chronologically from birth to death, but three major contributions stand out. His role as an education reformer, and his role as a tough liberal is celebrated. Known as the Founding Father of Modern Teacher Unionism, the late Tom Mooney aptly called Shanker the "George Washington of the teaching profession." [ARTICLE 472](#)

BUSINESS

Getting Ahead or Losing Ground: Economic Mobility in America by Julia B. Isaacs, et al. *Economic Mobility Project Report*, February 2008, 120p.

Americans have long believed that those who work hard can achieve success and that each generation will be better off than the last. This belief has made Americans more tolerant of growing inequality than the citizens of other advanced nations. But how much opportunity to get ahead actually exists in America? The article summarizes research on this question, providing new evidence on both the extent of intergenerational mobility in the United States and the factors that influence it. [ARTICLE 473](#)

The Faces of Google by Chuck Salter in *Fast Company*, June.

Google is different, even on a list of distinctive companies. Here, more than a dozen describe what life is like at a place where no goal is too audacious, agility means more than power, and even cafeteria food represents an opportunity to change the world. [ARTICLE 474](#)

What Makes a City Fast? by Jeffrey Chu on *Fast Company.com* 16 May.

Behind the covers with *Fast Company* senior editor Jeff Chu talks about the process of creating Fast Cities 2008. Here we learn what makes a city fast -- and what fast means anyway. [PODCAST](#)

Do Your Meetings Measure Up to Your CEO's Expectations? on *EffectiveMeetings.com*

If the CEO of your company decided to sit in on a few of your meetings, would she/he be impressed or distressed? Remember, meetings are a huge investment of time, and the number-one expense that most companies have is their people. When good use is made of their time there's a terrific return on investment. When the opposite is true, it can be a disaster – they're unpleasant to be in, they're ineffective, they're a waste of time, and they create a huge productivity hole. [ARTICLE 475](#)

The Myth of Multitasking by Christine Rosen. *The New Atlantis*, Spring.

MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

New Media as the Message by Alexis Simendinger in *National Journal*, 19 April. 5p.

Simendinger examines presidential campaign strategies utilizing new media approaches including the Internet, social networking and other new technologies for organizing potential voters. The 2008 twist on political messaging seizes the power of two communications technologies at once. First, the ability of television to engage a broad audience using emoticons, music, and moving images and, second, the capacity of text messaging to establish social links that can help transform citizen engagement into political support, one person at a time. [ARTICLE 476](#)

The Internet and Consumer Choice: Online Americans Use Different Search and Purchase Strategies for Different Goods by John B. Horrigan. *Pew Internet & American Life Project*. 23 May. 42p.

The internet plays an important role in how people conduct research for purchases, but it is just one among a variety of sources, and usually not the key factor in final purchasing decisions. This study tracks the decision-making processes for buying music, purchasing a cell phone, and buying or renting a home. Only 7% of music buyers, 10% of cell phone buyers, and 11% of those who bought or rented a home in the prior year say that online information had a major impact on their decision. [ARTICLE 477](#)

Getting Bit by Michael Schudson & Danielle Haas in *CJR*,

Sound bites get snack-sized. Anyone who buys the beltway complaint that television news reporting shrivels both politics and public discourse has two new reasons to worry: sound bites are getting shorter and video reels are getting longer. Are sound bites, though shorter, more numerous? Nope. Denser, with policy content? Afraid not. Shrinking in proportion to the length of news stories? On the contrary, say the authors. [ARTICLE 478](#)

The Devil in the Details by Lester Feder in *CJR*, May/June.

Polls reinforce reporters' stereotypes about evangelicals. [ARTICLE 479](#)

Murky Boundaries by Kevin Rector in *AJR*, June/July.

What are the guidelines for the personal blogs of journalists who work for mainstream news organizations? [ARTICLE 480](#)

Bridging the Abyss by Charles Layton in *AJR*, June/July.

Why a lot of newspapers aren't going to survive. Will they die out? Will they always be around but in a sad, vestigial form? Or, as the print paper shrivels, will its online counterpart finally pull in enough cash to keep the journalistic enterprise alive? And how long might that take? [ARTICLE 481](#)

Some online resources which may be of interest:

[National Conference for Media Reform 2008](#) Minneapolis, June.

[The FCC's Broadcast Media Ownership Rules](#) CRS, 17 March.

[Television and the Television Industry in the U.S.](#) - fast facts and stats - *Census Bureau*, 29 May.

[The Future of Universal Service: To Who, by Whom, for What, and How Much?](#) Hearing, subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce, 24 June.

[The Internet in Transition: A Platform to Keep the Internet Open, Innovative and Free](#) Center for Democracy and Technology, 2008. (context: the 2008 U.S. presidential election)

[Spreadsheets to the Max](#) by Joab Jackson, *Government Computer News*, 23 June.

[How Facebook Works](#) *Technology Review*, July-August.

[Agencies Get Pushy with Web 2.0](#) *Federal Computer Week*, 9 June.

THE ARTS & CULTURE

Chicago Jazz Festival on *CityofChicago.org*

The Chicago Jazz Festival, which has been known for encouraging innovative and pioneering jazz performances, hosts a free jazz concert. At its thirty-year anniversary the Chicago Jazz festival is as young and vital as ever, and is showcasing some of America's best jazz musicians. The big crowds in attendance provide a lot of energy and excitement: "You try even harder than usual to be at the top of your game for the crowd," says Chicago saxophonist Eric Schneider. This year, the jazz festival will take place at the lakefront Millennium Park in downtown Chicago. [ARTICLE 482](#)

Preserving the Art of Piano Playing on *Jazz.com* 12 January.

Bringing an intimate, salon-style setting to the Chicago music community and re-energizing the connection between artist and audience is at the core of what Thomas Zoells hopes to accomplish through the PianoForte Foundation. His mantra: PianoForte is an experience that should not be missed. [ARTICLE 483](#)

Let's Declare a Truce on the Culture War by Peter Wallison in *The American*, 16 June.

Wallison says when we look at the culture war between the secularists and the believers it is difficult to pronounce judgment in favor of either. Clearly, neither has a theory that explains what scientists have demonstrated today about the universe and the nature of reality. Nor can either hope to prove he is correct. In short, he says, declare a truce in the culture war and get on with something productive. Neither faith nor science can answer the most important questions. So why are believers and atheists still bickering? [ARTICLE 484](#)

Major Grant Makers to Arts and Culture

Performing Arts Encyclopedia - from the Library of Congress

Picturing America - "America's History Through Our Nation's Art" - *National Endowment for the Humanities*.

Artists in the Workforce 1990-2005 Research report, *National Endowment for the Arts*, May 2008. 150p. The "first nationwide look at artists' demographic and employment patterns in the 21st century", [Press Release](#) and [8-page executive summary](#) 12 June.

Revitalizing Arts Education Through Community-Wide Coordination *RAND*, 2008. 109p.

SCIENCE / SPACE

What is a Species? by Carl Zimmer in *Scientific America*, June.

Biologists struggle with that fundamental but scientifically pivotal question. [ARTICLE 485](#)

Hooked from the First Cigarette by Joseph DiFranza in *Journal of Family Practice*, December 2007.

Cigarette addiction can rise astonishingly fast. [ARTICLE 486](#)

China's Space Program: Options for U.S.-China Cooperation *CRS*, 21 May.

Reconsidering the Rules for Space Security by Nancy Gallagher and John D. Steinbruner. *American Academy of Arts and Sciences*, June 2008. 98p. [News Release](#) 17 June.

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