

ARTICLE ALERT

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

民主与全球问题 *Democracy and Global Issues*pp. 3-5

1. The Supreme Court's Wrong Turn
2. Does Mass Incarceration Make US Safer?
3. The Uncle Sam Solution: Can The Government Help The Press?
4. Covering The World
5. A Changing Climate: The Road Ahead For The United States
6. Tomorrow's Amazonia

经济贸易 *Economics and Trade*pp.5- 7

7. Arrested Development
8. China's Growing External Dependence
9. U.S. Electricity Supply Vulnerabilities
10. What Will We Eat As The Oil Runs Out?
11. Food Prices, Cheap No More
12. Global Warming Losers

国际安全 *International Security*pp. 8-10

13. The National Security Election
14. The New History Of World War I And What It Means For International Relations Theory
15. New Nuclear Realities
16. Washington's Eastern Sunset
17. Understanding Chinese And U.S. Crisis Behavior
18. The 2008 Presidential Primaries And Arms Control

美国社会及价值观 *U.S. Society and Values*pp. 10-12

19. A Sense Of Elsewhere
20. Understanding And Appreciating Fantasy Literature
21. The Stubborn Scientist
22. Orwell In '08
23. When Celebrities Attack

民主与全球问题 Democracy and Global Issues

1. THE SUPREME COURT'S WRONG TURN -- AND HOW TO CORRECT IT

Kennedy, Edward

American Prospect, vol. 18, no. 12, December 2007, pp. 14-18

Kennedy, the senior Democratic senator from Massachusetts, argues that Chief Justice John Roberts and Associate Justice Samuel Alito, posing as moderates during their confirmation hearings, have shifted positions once they were seated on the U.S. Supreme Court. Now they are moving the Court to the right. The two judges, who advocated judicial “modesty,” have been very aggressive in overturning doctrines and statutes, such as curtailing abortion rights. Whether or not it was possible to prevent confirmation of the president's Supreme Court nominees by a Republican-controlled Senate, the confirmation hearings should, at the very least, have informed the American public about the nominees' views on the pressing legal issues of our time. It is no exaggeration to say that the next Supreme Court appointee, which might be nominated by a Democratic president and sent to a Democratic-controlled Senate for confirmation, will have a decisive role in shaping the law on such vital issues as abortion, affirmative action, campaign finance, federalism, and countless other matters. For this reason, both the Democrats and the Republicans need to transcend party politics to work together for reform.

2. DOES MASS INCARCERATION MAKE US SAFER?

Western, Bruce

Nieman Watchdog, posted November 19, 2007

Our attempt to increase public safety by relying on imprisonment may be backfiring, according to Harvard sociologist Bruce Western. There are now 2.2 million Americans in prison or jail, and incarceration rates are highest among young black men. Many are imprisoned for nonviolent offenses. The growing reliance on incarceration by lawmakers and criminal justice agencies reflected changes in philosophy and politics through the 1980s and 1990s when policy makers abandoned the philosophy of rehabilitation, Western writes. “While our prisons and jails expanded to preserve public safety, they now risk undermining the civic consensus on which public safety is ultimately based,” says Western. Incarceration weakens families, splits poor back communities from mainstream American life, and produces “a combustible mix of racial and class politics.”

3. THE UNCLE SAM SOLUTION: CAN THE GOVERNMENT HELP THE PRESS? SHOULD IT?

Nordenson, Bree

Columbia Journalism Review, vol. 46, no. 3, September/October 2007, pp. 37-41

The future of American newspapers has become a topic of increasing concern as circulation wanes and editorial cutbacks affect the quality of journalism. Top editors, experts and a media investor discuss the viability of government support of good news outlets with lagging profits. University of Illinois professor Robert McChesney notes that America's founders protected the press in the Constitution and subsidized three

newspapers in each state, because without that, “there would be places with no newspapers.” Serious newsgathering is seldom done in Internet-based media, and newspapers continue to cut investigative reporting resources. This is despite the fact that editorial costs make up only nine to twelve percent of the average newspaper’s budget. But there is substantial opposition among journalists to government subsidies, editor Geneva Overholser says, adding that it should be carefully considered rather than rejected outright. European examples are given, the British Broadcasting Corporation among them, which show how government support has bolstered a free press and preserved it from undue corporate influence. Government support of American public broadcasting is also discussed. Prejudices against government should be discarded when survival of journalism is at stake, writes the author, who quotes McChesney: “The nation was built on the idea that we have to put into place policies that guarantee journalism no matter what.”

4. COVERING THE WORLD

Ricchiardi, Sherry

American Journalism Review, vol. 29, no. 6, December 2007/January 2008, pp. 32-39

The foreign correspondent assigned to a country for a prolonged period with expertise in the local language, culture, history and customs is now a vanishing breed, Ricchiardi writes. But as many U.S. news organizations have backed away from foreign news coverage, the Associated Press (AP) has made worldwide expansion part of its master plan for future growth. Although newspapers around the United States are focusing on local news, buying AP products if and when they see the need, AP is pinning its hopes on new markets opening beyond North America’s borders. AP has recently doubled its reporting power in China, opened an office in Pyongyang, North Korea and will soon open a bureau in Saudi Arabia. “The AP family tree branches out to 243 bureaus in 97 countries, serving news outlets with a potential to reach 1 billion people each day,” Ricchiardi writes. AP is investing millions of dollars to upgrade communications among the bureaus worldwide, with an emphasis on high-speed data links and faster portable satellite phones. More work is also being done to develop a more online-oriented international news product with emphasis on “convergence journalism” – a multiplatform approach to presenting information.

5. A CHANGING CLIMATE: THE ROAD AHEAD FOR THE UNITED STATES

Stern, Todd; Antholis, William

Washington Quarterly, vol. 31, no. 1, Winter 2007, pp. 175-188

“What a difference a decade makes.” When negotiators agreed to the Kyoto Protocol in December 1997, the U.S. Senate was already on record opposing the treaty and the American public and media were largely uninterested. Now, global warming has become a central focus of the international community, not only as an environmental issue but also as an economic and security concern. But direct and serious engagement by the next president of the U.S. will be required to make real progress in improving the situation. In order to build a consensus among Americans and credibility abroad, the new president must show clearly that U.S. policies are grounded in science and that they are workable.

The authors write that there is no time to waste on fruitless discussions and negotiations. American diplomatic efforts in this campaign should be anchored in a core group of key countries, since eight countries are responsible for more than 70% of global emissions. The U.S. must also develop a partnership with China on this issue, since it will be impossible to contain global warming without China's concerted engagement. In this way, the U.S. can lead in the development of international agreements which include binding emissions targets with solid commitments from the more advanced developing countries, such as Argentina, Brazil, China, and India. The U.S. and other developed countries must help the lesser developed countries to build their capacity to address emissions.

6. TOMORROW'S AMAZONIA

Stone, Roger

American Prospect, vol. 18, no. 9, September 2007, pp. A2-A5

The author, president of the Sustainable Development Institute, writes that human incursion into the Amazon is proceeding at a high rate. Large swaths of formerly uncultivated lands are becoming soy plantations and cattle ranches to feed a booming export market; resource extraction, such as logging and oil, gas and mineral exploration are growing. The alarmingly high rates of deforestation are greatly contributing to climate change, greenhouse gas emissions and species extinctions; some fifteen percent of the Amazon's forest cover is already gone. The one positive aspect of this gloomy situation is that most governments now acknowledge the growing reality of climate change, and there is more pressure to protect remaining forests. Some fifty percent of Brazil's Amazon forests are now under some form of legal protection, and the push is now on to encourage sustainable economic activity and to formalize ways to certify that export products were sustainably produced. Stone notes that there is no doubt that there will be some form of compensation to developing countries to keep carbon sequestered by not cutting down forests; all that remains is to work out the details. This article is the introductory piece to a series devoted to the Amazon in this issue of American Prospect.

经济贸易 Economics and Trade

7. ARRESTED DEVELOPMENT

Heineman, Benjamin; Heimann, Fritz

National Interest, no. 92, November/December 2007, pp. 80-87

Heineman, Senior Fellow at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, and Heimann, cofounder of Transparency International, write that in recent years, there has been growing recognition that corruption has had an insidious impact on developing nations. To counter this, the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions was enacted in 1997 to commit its members to enact and to enforce national laws making foreign bribery by their corporations a crime. At the time, this was considered a major breakthrough, with the participation of 34 leading industrial countries on a wide range of initiatives. Although most of these countries have been unable to stop

corruption within their own borders, most now have sophisticated criminal justice systems to prosecute domestic crime, including bribery. However, efforts to stop foreign bribery have had uneven success, even though the convention is drafted and monitored by the OECD Working Group on Bribery.

8. CHINA'S GROWING EXTERNAL DEPENDENCE

Cui, Li

Finance & Development, vol. 44, no. 3, September 2007, pp. 42-45

The Chinese economy is evolving away from being a giant assembly shop that imports components, assembles them and ships out low-tech finished goods, such as textiles and toys. Cui, a senior economist at the IMF's Asia and Pacific Department, writes that China's evolution into an exporter of more sophisticated products, such as capital goods and components, has run parallel to the growth of a more complex domestic economy that is able to provide more content for its exports. This means that the Chinese economy is less insulated from external economic shocks than in past years when a decline in exports would be accompanied by a commensurate decline of imports. To keep its economy stable, Cui says China needs to rebalance growth away from potentially volatile exports toward a more sustainable path driven by domestic demand. Furthermore, as China's labor costs rise, lower-income countries in Southeast Asia may take China's place as the international assembly shop.

9. U.S. ELECTRICITY SUPPLY VULNERABILITIES

Tverberg, Gail

Oil Drum, posted December 6, 2007

The author, a professional actuary, writes that, due to a variety of simultaneous trends, the likelihood of widespread power outages in the U.S. within the next five to ten years is "uncomfortably high". Practically all of the baseload generation capacity that has been built in the last two decades is natural gas-fired; however, domestic U.S. natural-gas production is essentially flat, despite greatly increased drilling activity. Canadian gas production is soon expected to decline, and it is unlikely that sufficient amounts of imported liquefied natural gas can be obtained. The U.S. currently imports over 80 percent of its nuclear fuel. In 2006, a quarter of our total nuclear fuel needs were from dismantled Soviet nuclear weapons; our agreement for importing this material will end in 2013, and it is unlikely that it will be renewed. Due to the deregulation of the electric utility industry, the private sector has been less willing to build redundant systems to ensure reliable supplies. The electric grid is aging and in need of more maintenance, in the face of nonstop growth in demand for electric power.

10. WHAT WILL WE EAT AS THE OIL RUNS OUT?

Heinberg, Richard

MuseLetter, no. 188, December 2007

The author, an author and prominent educator on ecological issues, notes that our present-day mechanized, fossil-fuel-powered agricultural system is a culmination of two

centuries of agricultural advances; however, a growing chorus of energy analysts are warning that global production of oil and natural gas is approaching its peak and could soon decline. This has profound implications for the way food is produced and distributed, says Heinberg, noting that the world human population has increased six-fold during this period. A growing world food crisis is brewing, being driven by environmental degradation and extreme weather events, as well as increased production of biofuels. Heinberg believes that the only long-term solution is to return to an agricultural system that is localized, less reliant on fossil fuels, and consisting of intensive, small-scale cultivation relying on crop rotation and composting; he points to the example of Cuba, which was able to avoid massive food shortages after oil shipments stopped after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1990. Heinberg cautions that this will necessitate the fundamental transformation of modern society, and will take decades.

11. FOOD PRICES, CHEAP NO MORE

Economist, vol. 385, no. 8558, December 8, 2007, pp. 81-83

During the last couple of years, food prices have risen dramatically, and are at their highest levels in years. In the past, high food prices have usually been the result of poor harvests, but they are now occurring during a time of great abundance: the total cereals crop for 2007 is about 1.66 billion tons, the largest on record, and 89 million tons more than the 2006 harvest. At the same time, world grain reserve stocks as a percentage of production are at all-time lows. Several factors are contributing to this rise. First, demand for meat is growing in China and India, resulting in much greater consumption of grain to feed animals. Secondly, production of biofuels is consuming an ever-greater percentage of corn and other crops, that would otherwise go to feed people. Third, rising oil prices are increasing the cost of growing, processing and transporting grain. This has had an effect on other non-grain crops, as farmers devote more acreage to growing corn or soybeans for biofuels. The increase in food prices will hit developing countries the hardest; while farmers will benefit, the majority of the world's poor are net food buyers.

12. GLOBAL WARMING LOSERS

Cline, William

International Economy, vol. 21, no. 4, Fall 2007, pp. 62-65

The author, senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics and the Center for Global Development, and the author of *GLOBAL WARMING AND AGRICULTURE: IMPACT ESTIMATES BY COUNTRY*, writes that his studies show that global warming will have a more adverse effect on agriculture than has previously been assumed. While some northern regions will become more agriculturally productive due to rising temperatures, they will be more than cancelled out by losses in agricultural productivity in temperate and equatorial areas. Regions that could experience a 25 percent or greater loss in productivity in the coming decades includes much of the developing world — Central and South America, Africa, the Middle East, South Asia and the entire Indian subcontinent. Cline notes that these findings indicate that international efforts to curb global warming are essential, and that the next step is to deflect the rapidly rising emissions of developing countries. He singles out India, whose dire agricultural

prospects should spur it to participate in international efforts to reduce emissions, and exert peer pressure on China to do so as well.

国际安全 International Security

13. The National Security Election

Campbell, Curt; Chollet, Derek

Washington Quarterly, vol. 31, no. 1, Winter 2007, pp. 191-199

The authors assert that “given the current state of world affairs, it is a wonder that anyone would want to be the next president of the United States.” He or she will have to face concerns about nuclear programs in Iran and North Korea, changing relations with Russia and China, conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq, instability in Pakistan, allegations of torture by Americans, privacy concerns, and the deteriorating image of the U.S. abroad. Nonetheless, the number of qualified candidates for the job is inspiring and a bit surprising, they note; “perhaps more than any presidential contest since 1980 or even as far back as 1968, 2008 will be a national security election.” The major contenders have already tried to outline distinct visions of national security issues; questions about national security and foreign policy have received a lot of attention in the debates. There is a strong bipartisan consensus on the need to maintain a strong military, a suspicion of ideological causes, and a greater appreciation for the role of international institutions. “Judging by the richness of the debate so far, it seems clear that the various contenders have a deep appreciation about the importance of national security issues. Just as importantly, this is a debate that the American people want to have.”

14. THE NEW HISTORY OF WORLD WAR I AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS THEORY

Lieber, Keir

International Security, Vol. 32, No. 2, Fall 2007 pp. 155-191

World War I, the "Great War," is thought by many to have marked the end of traditional Western civilization and the beginning of modernism. It has often been described by historians as a tragic mistake, arising from misapprehensions and poor communication. The author, professor of political science at the University of Notre Dame, asserts that the German leadership of the time didn't stumble into the war, but planned it rationally, knew it would last a long time, and assumed they would ultimately conquer Europe. A new trove of historical evidence, he writes, shows that Germans of the time were preoccupied with the goal of ruling Europe, and had decided a war was inevitable. In addition, they fully understood the nature of modern trench warfare, and knew that such a war would destroy European civilization for decades. In spite of doubts, Lieber notes, the German leadership went ahead and attacked Russia and France, covering up their responsibility with some political maneuvering while hoping England would remain neutral. Previous scholarship concluding Europe blindly blundered into World War I has influenced much international relations theory since, the author notes. A new interpretation of the war emphasizing the aggressive logic of the German general staff may lead to rethinking future causes of conflict.

15. NEW NUCLEAR REALITIES

Brown, Harold

Washington Quarterly, vol. 31, no. 1, Winter 2007, pp. 7-22

The author, a CSIS counselor and trustee and former secretary of defense, argues that efforts to rid the world of nuclear weapons may be counterproductive; U.S. policy should be directed at the international security issues that underlie nuclear proliferation. Various countries or groups have different motivations for obtaining nuclear weapons -- security, prestige, or the desire to inflict severe damage on enemies. It is more likely the perceived threat of U.S. conventional military capability, rather than the U.S. nuclear arsenal, that drives the desire for nuclear weapons. For decades, the Soviets and Americans suppressed proliferation; but while governments can largely be deterred by the threat of annihilation, transnational terrorists cannot. The current situation makes the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons a higher priority than ever. Brown writes that this includes preventing the acquisition of nuclear weapons by currently non-nuclear states, reducing existing nuclear capabilities, and safeguarding existing stockpiles from transfer or leakage -- "the strongest possible measures to inhibit acquisition of nuclear weapons by nonstate actors are surely justified."

16. WASHINGTON'S EASTERN SUNSET: THE DECLINE OF U.S. POWER IN NORTHEAST ASIA

Shaplen, Jason; Laney, James

Foreign Affairs, Vol. 86, No. 6, November-December 2007

Shaplen, a former policy adviser at the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization, and Laney, former U.S. ambassador to South Korea, see danger emerging in Northeast Asia. "Three powerful, nationalist states [China, Japan, and South Korea] with a history of hostility between them are simultaneously awakening from a period of quiescence and jockeying for power," they write. The United States needs to change its policies in this transition -- it should help build a security regime among six Northeast Asian countries, create a bilateral security arrangement with China, and participate in multilateral Asian forums as vigorously as China does. The U.S. should also negotiate free-trade agreements throughout East Asia, Southeast Asia, even India. "If it does not move quickly, it will find its stature in Northeast Asia greatly diminished at precisely the time when the region takes its place at the center of the world stage," the authors write.

17. UNDERSTANDING CHINESE AND U.S. CRISIS BEHAVIOR

Xinbo, Wu

Washington Quarterly, vol. 31, no. 1, Winter 2007, pp. 61-76

The author, a professor and deputy director of the Center for American Studies at Fudan University in Shanghai, examines how China and the U.S. reacted to two recent "accidental crises" between the two sides -- the 1999 U.S. bombing of the Chinese embassy in Belgrade and the 2001 mid-air collision of a U.S. reconnaissance aircraft with a Chinese fighter plane -- to suggest ways to deal with future crises. Much of the

difficulty involved in both situations was the result of cultural differences. The Chinese place great emphasis on symbolic gestures and focus on assigning responsibility and maintaining national sovereignty and dignity, while the Americans are more direct and utilitarian. In future crises, the two sides should work to establish channels of communication as quickly as possible (through the foreign ministries rather than the military). Emphasis should be on quiet diplomacy rather than “overt vociferation,” and both sides must remember that it is in their best interests to “work to return to a normal and stable relationship as quickly as possible.”

18. THE 2008 PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARIES AND ARMS CONTROL

Hosford, Zachary M.

Arms Control Today, vol. 37, no. 10, December 2007, pp. 31-34

The U.S. presidential campaign has given voice to a range of views on arms control and nonproliferation topics, ranging from ballistic missile defense to the status of the U.S. nuclear arsenal. The author points out that many of the candidates’ positions reflect posturing for the primaries, and the rhetoric may be different once nominees have been endorsed at the Democratic and Republican conventions. Hosford also points out that world events may cause candidates to alter their positions in the final run-up. Still, there is general agreement among the candidates about certain issues, such as that Iran should not be equipped with nuclear weapons. Various candidates see different ways to prevent the advent of nuclear terrorism, but Republican Governor Mitt Romney advocates creating new international laws to make nuclear trafficking a crime against humanity. He and Democratic Senator Hillary Clinton have said they will create a senior position to fight the spread of nuclear terrorism. Former Democratic Senator John Edwards says he will create a new “Global Nuclear Compact” to strengthen the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and close any gaps that might allow rogue states to divert nuclear materials or misuse nuclear facilities. Democratic Senator Barack Obama supports an NPT provision to automatically trigger strong international sanctions against potential treaty violators. But Republican Senator John McCain disagrees with the proposition that nuclear technology can be shared responsibly without the potential threat of proliferation. He is equally tough on missile defense, saying he dismisses Russia’s objections. Republican candidate Rudy Giuliani also vows to press ahead on the program while Republican Senator Ron Paul sees it as unnecessary.

美国社会及价值观 U.S. Society and Values

19. A SENSE OF ELSEWHERE

Gregorian, Vartan

American Libraries, vol. 38, no. 10, November 2007, pp. 46-48

The author, president of Carnegie Corporation of New York, salutes the power of libraries as “launching pads for the imagination”, the institution that is most representative of an open society. Libraries contain a nation’s heritage and the tools for learning and understanding -- a place where immigrants learn English and bridge the distances between their “old” country and their new adopted land. In 2001, more than

twenty organizations created by industrialist Andrew Carnegie celebrated the 100th anniversary of his philanthropic work. Perhaps his most lasting contribution was his endowment of libraries, an act that created over 1600 libraries in the U.S. and about 1000 in Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Hawaii and Fiji. Today, American libraries have embraced technology and have inspired libraries around the world to follow suit. American libraries were the first to allow circulation of books and periodicals, and to promote the openness of library collections; it was these practices that were successful overseas. In many countries, the most accessible libraries are the Information Resource Centers (IRCs) maintained by the U.S. Department of State.

20. UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATING FANTASY LITERATURE

Kurtz, Patti

Choice, vol. 45, no. 4, December 2007, pp. 571-572, 574-580

The genre of fantasy literature is difficult to define. Traditionally, the majority of fantasy works have been literature, but since the 1950s, a growing segment of the fantasy genre has taken the form of video games, music, and painting. It is difficult to define the precise 'beginning' of fantasy literature, as such stories have existed in spoken forms before the advent of printed literature. Homer's ODYSSEY satisfies the definition of fantasy, however the genre's more distinct beginnings were in the fairy tales of Europe. As a distinct type, fantasy literature became visible in the Victorian era, with the works of writers such as William Morris, Lord Dunsany, George MacDonald and Lewis Carroll, author of ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND, followed by L. Frank Baum's WIZARD OF OZ. Some assert that J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis were seminal to the mass popularization of the fantasy genre, with works such as THE HOBBIT, THE LORD OF THE RINGS and THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA. The global phenomenon of J.K. Rowling's HARRY POTTER series is a testament to the popularity of fantasy literature and to the type of creative and talented writers it now attracts.

21. THE STUBBORN SCIENTIST

Schwarz, Frederic

American Legacy, Spring 2007, pp. 11-12

Percy Julian was the only black student at the time, when he entered DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana, in 1916, to study chemistry; the school had seen only a handful in its history. When a white student shook his hand on the first day, Julian said later, "my whole life was changed." But upon graduation as valedictorian, he was unable to find a postgraduate fellowship. No top school would touch him. Julian didn't give up -- he taught for two years at a black college and finally was granted a fellowship at Harvard, and later earned a Ph.D. from the University of Vienna. Julian eventually worked for the Glidden Company in Chicago, where he became one of America's best chemists. He was a pioneer in the chemical synthesis of medicinal drugs from plants, including testosterone, progesterone and cortisone. He was the first African-American chemist inducted into the National Academy of Sciences. When he bought a house in Oak Park, Illinois, it was subjected to an arson attack and a dynamite bombing. Today, Oak Park, where he started his own company, boasts a Percy Julian Middle School. "With a boundless supply of

stubbornness and persistence, he was able throughout his career to rise above racism and show that he was better than the people holding him back,” says Schwarz.

22. ORWELL IN '08

Rieff, David, et al.

Columbia Journalism Review, vol. 46, no. 4, November-December 2007, pp. 26-39

George Orwell's classic 1946 essay, "Politics and the English Language," attacked murky writing, such as dying metaphors, pretentious diction, meaningless words, and proposed that clear writing can lead to clear thinking and a better world. Principally, he went after fuzzy academics, though he included a sample of communist propaganda among his targets. After that, Orwell began work on his great book, 1984, which introduced the reader to the concept of Newspeak, the fictional but terrifying system of language designed to hobble and crush independent thought. In four essays excerpted from a new book WHAT ORWELL DIDN'T KNOW: PROPAGANDA AND THE NEW FACE OF AMERICAN POLITICS, David Rieff ("Orwell Abuse") considers Orwell as a model; Aryeh Neier ("Rights and Wrongs") discusses the misuse of three familiar words "freedom," "liberty," and "rights"; Nicholas Lemann ("The Limits of Language") worries less about bad language than about bad information; and Geoffrey Cowan ("Surge, Meet Escalation") provides a case study in which reporters take a stand on language that affects the discourse on the war in Iraq. Finally, Brent Cunningham, CJR's managing editor, proposes ("The Rhetoric Beat") that journalists, who are in major position to define language, help clarify public thinking in a world that seems to need it.

23. WHEN CELEBRITIES ATTACK!

Drezner, Daniel

National Interest, no. 92, November/December 2007, pp. 22-28

The phenomenon of celebrities appearing before Congressional committees to advocate for causes such as human rights or the environment is not a new one. Drezner, an associate professor at the Fletcher School at Tufts University, notes that celebrity culture has fundamentally changed; star entertainers are now taking an active interest in world politics, and are able to raise issues to the top of the global agenda. In the current media environment, there is an almost symbiotic relationship between celebrities and their causes. Earlier celebrities, such as Shirley Temple and Jane Fonda, were political activists. Temple, became U.S. ambassador to Ghana and Czechoslovakia. The magazine Vanity Fair let U2 singer Bono guest-edit a special issue on Africa, due to his numerous visits to that continent, including a well publicized one with former Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill. Princess Diana was in the forefront of the campaign to ban the use of land mines; her death became a rallying point that led to Great Britain's ratification of the 1997 Ottawa Convention. However, not all celebrities are successful; some are quite misguided or have been stung by criticism, as the Dixie Chicks found out when they blasted President George W. Bush on stage at a 2004 London concert.