



February 2008 News

Information Resource Center (IRC)

Public Affairs Section - U.S. Embassy
87, Ata Al-Ayoubi Street, Abou Rumaneh, Damascus

Tel.: 011-3391-4118/3391-4195

E-mail: ircdamas@state.gov/ircdamas@gmail.com

<http://damascus.usembassy.gov/irc.html>

Announcing the launching of "America.gov" web site (formerly USINFO)

America.gov is now live on the Web!



Covering U.S. policy, society, and values, *America.gov* promises to "tell America's story" with "no gov speak and no party line."

The new Web site will integrate Internet 2.0 features that invite interaction with Web users and will include videos, polls, quizzes, and graphics along with traditional word-based stories.

Upcoming webchats

Web chats are online, text-based discussions that allow audiences outside the United States to interact with American citizens on a wide range of topics. U.S. government and private sector subject experts, academics, journalists, and everyday citizens are brought on as guests to do web chats on USINFO.

To participate, you only need a computer with Internet access and a browser. There is no special software to be downloaded.

For more information, please see the link below:

<http://usinfo.state.gov/usinfo/Products/Webchats/faq.html>

Date: Tuesday, 5 February 2008

Time: 3:30 p.m. EST (2030 GMT)

Guest: **Rajesh K. Chandy**



Super Tuesday and the 2008 U.S. Presidential Election

<http://www.america.gov/multimedia/askamerica.html>

America.gov is partnering with the Washington Foreign Press Center to bring you live coverage of Super Tuesday events February 5, 2008. The upcoming speakers and the schedule of events:

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|------------------------------|--|
| 3:30-4:00 pm (2030-2100 GMT) | Jonathan Margolis, Deputy Coordinator, Bureau of International Information Programs and Jim Dickmeyer, Director of the Foreign Press Centers - "Welcome and Introduction to America.gov" |
| 4:00-5:00 pm (2100-2200 GMT) | Thomas Mann, Brookings Institution - "Super Tuesday: The End of the Presidential Nominating Process or a Waystation on the Route to the National Party Conventions?" |
| 5:30-6:30 pm (2230-2330 GMT) | John Mercurio, <i>The Hotline</i> - "The 2008 Campaign: Covering the Coverage" |
| 7:00-8:00 pm (0000-0100 GMT) | John Zogby, Zogby International - "Elections 2008 - The Battle for the Middle Ground" |
| 8:00-9:00 pm (0100-0200 GMT) | John Fortier, American Enterprise Institute - "Winning the delegate count on Super Tuesday: An assessment of the candidates' prospects." |

Date: Tuesday, 5 February 2008
Time: 12:00 p.m. EST (1700 GMT)
Guest: **Scott Berkun**

The Next New Thing: How to Innovate, Right Now

http://www.america.gov/multimedia/askamerica.html#berkun_05_feb_2008

According to author Scott Berkun, "The biggest secret of innovation is that anyone can do it." How to be successful at innovation and innovative thinking is the subject of an Ask America webchat with Burkun, a best-selling author and writer on the topic of innovation. In this discussion, Burkun will address your questions about what it takes to succeed as an innovator and how thinking "outside the box" is changing the world around us.

Guest Biography: Scott Berkun is the author of the bestseller *The Myths of Innovation* (O'Reilly Media, Inc., 2007). He writes about creative thinking and innovation at <http://www.scottberkun.com>.

Date: Tuesday, 7 February 2008
Time: 9:00 p.m. EST (1400 GMT)
Guest: **Ronald J. Riley**

Innovation: What Makes a Great Inventor?

http://www.america.gov/multimedia/askamerica.html#riley_07_feb_2008

Innovation is the art of creating something new, and every day in the United States and around the world, scientists, students and everyday people are working to bring to life an idea that is theirs alone. Join inventor Ronald Riley for a discussion of what it takes to be a great inventor and innovator.

Guest Biography: Ronald J. Riley is a prolific inventor and president of Riley Consulting Inc., Riley & Associates Inc. (licenses his intellectual property) and Riley Enterprises Inc. As an inventor, he specializes in industrial controls and product development, but also has patents in process in such diverse consumer areas as footwear, telecommunications, exercise equipment and biotechnology. Riley founded the Professional Inventors Alliance (PIA) in 1993 to help inventors who faced difficulties with infringement of their patents share information and network with other inventors facing similar problems.



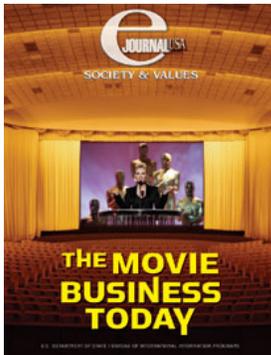
IIP Electronic Journals



The Next New Thing

<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itsv/0108/ijse/ijse0108.htm>

Innovation is the art of creating something new, and everyday in the U.S. and around the world, scientists, students, and everyday people are working to bring to life an idea that is theirs alone. This edition of eJournal USA tells the story of innovators and their creations.



The Movie Business Today

<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itsv/0607/ijse/ijse0607.htm>

This issue of *eJournal USA* analyzes the increasing internationalization of the film industry, both in terms of audiences and filmmaking talent; the rise of a more personal style of independent filmmaking in recent years; the market for foreign-produced films in the United States; and the effects of the Internet and the digital revolution on how movies get made and distributed. Shorter pieces focus on film festivals like Sundance that seed young talent and some film studios' efforts to go green in making movies.

IRC Office has this journal available in hard copy. Please feel free to stop by and ask for it.

IIP Publications



Writers on American

<http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/writers>

This book originated as an intriguing suggestion by Mark Jacobs, a U.S. foreign service officer with our State Department staff who also happens to be a working novelist. If we were to ask a contemporary group of American poets, novelists, critics, and historians what it means to be an American writer, Jacobs proposed, the results could illuminate in an interesting way certain America values -- freedom, diversity, democracy -- that may not be well understood in all parts of the world.



Women of Influence

<http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/womeninfln/>

This publication offers a glimpse at how women in one country — the United States — have helped shape their society. These notable women — from the Native-American Sacagawea, who guided white settlers through a vast wilderness, to Sojourner Truth, who fought for the end of slavery and equal rights for all; to Rosalyn Yalow, winner of the Nobel Prize in Medicine for her research into a new technique for measuring substances in the blood — believed that they had a contribution to make and did not shrink from the obstacles in their way.



The Civil Rights Movement and the Legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr.

<http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/civilrts/>

A history of the contemporary civil rights movement in the United States, including a chronology of key events, brief biographical information on two centuries of African-American leaders, and excerpts from King's speeches and writings.



Rights of the People: Individual Freedom and the Bill of Rights

<http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/rightsof/>

"Rights of the People" is a history of American law and justice, written by Constitutional historian Melvin Urofsky. By focusing on the Bill of Rights to the U.S. Constitution, and the legal interpretations, many of them written by America's finest jurists, that refined and expanded the Bill of Rights, Urofsky presents a history of the United States from the standpoint of individual liberty.

Photo Gallery

Telling America's story with photos.

Offering a visual tour of the stories and issues shaping our world, this gallery is one of the many invaluable services "America.gov" site offers for its audience.

The gallery can be browsed by the following subjects: Foreign Policy, U.S. Politics, American Life, Democracy, Science and Health.

Please visit the below galleries or go to the photo gallery direct link to see more photo collections.

Photo Gallery:

<http://www.america.gov/multimedia/photogallery.html#7a78bf28-e356-4d21-a311-0c218ec8f6f8>

<p>Foreign Policy:</p> <p><u>Ozomatli Brings Message of Peace</u></p> 	<p>U.S. Politics:</p> <p><u>Who Serves in the U.S. Congress?</u></p> 	<p>American Life:</p> <p><u>American Food Traditions Photo Gallery</u></p> 	<p>Democracy:</p> <p><u>Observing Free and Fair Elections</u></p> 	<p>Science and Health</p> <p><u>Climate Change and Clean Energy</u></p> 
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Websites of interest

World Development Indicator:

<http://devdata.worldbank.org/data-query>

World Development Indicators (WDI) is the World Bank's annual compilation of data about development. The WDI includes more than 800 indicators in 83 tables organized in 6 sections: World View, People, Environment, Economy, States and Markets, and Global Links. Data are shown for 152 economies with populations of more than 1 million and 14 country groups, plus selected indicators for 56 other smaller economies. Limited access to statistical database. Full access available via subscription only.

Popline:

<http://db.jhuccp.org/popinform/basic.html>

Popline is the world's largest bibliographic database on population, family planning, and related health. Citations also cover sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS, reproductive health, law, and policy issues. The database includes abstracts of journal articles, monographs, technical reports, and unpublished works. Updated twice per month

MIT Open Courseware:

<http://ocw.mit.edu>

MIT OCW is a large-scale, web-based electronic publishing initiative whose goals are to: Provide free, searchable access to MIT's course materials for educators, students, and self-learners around the world, and extend the reach and impact of MIT OCW and the "opencourseware" concept.



American Holidays

Sunday, February 17

Presidents' Day

Washington's Birthday Holiday Honors "Father of our Country"

Americans long have honored George Washington, commander of the United States armies in the War of Independence, first President of the United States and "first in the hearts of his countrymen." Washington enjoyed nearly universal respect, not



least for spurning all offers of political power at the moment of his military triumph (1781), choosing instead to return to his Mount Vernon, Virginia farm. When leading Americans in 1787 drafted the new Constitution, they were willing to afford the executive branch greater powers because they anticipated that Washington, who could be counted on not to abuse his office, would serve as the chief executive, and would establish important precedents for his successors. Still the most popular figure in America at the end of his second four-year term, Washington again decided to relinquish power, establishing an informal eight-year limit later formalized by the 22nd Amendment to the Constitution (1951).

It has been said that the American people themselves forced Congress to establish the Washington's Birthday holiday, which today is fixed by law on the third Monday of February. 19th century Americans commonly celebrated a holiday on February 22, the day of Washington's birth under the Gregorian calendar adopted by Britain and its colonies in 1752. Apparently motivated by chronic employee absenteeism on that date, Congress in 1879 declared Washington's Birthday a legal public holiday.

In 1971, Congress fixed Washington's Birthday and a number of other holidays on Mondays, to create long holiday weekends. Because a number of states (but not the federal government) also celebrated the February 12 birthday of Abraham Lincoln, the 16th President, many Americans have come to believe-incorrectly-that the third Monday of February is a consolidated "Presidents' Day," and many merchants now offer Presidents' Day sales.

The federal holiday, however, remains Washington's Birthday. It is but one way in which Americans celebrate the life of the man often called the "father of his country." The 555 foot (169 meter) high Washington Monument, dedicated in 1885, dominates the skyline of the nation's capital, Washington D.C. Washington's 60-foot (18 meter)

high likeness was carved in stone (completed 1941) on South Dakota's Mount Rushmore, along with those of Presidents Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt. In 1976, Congress posthumously promoted Washington to the rank of six-star General of the Armies, assuring that he would continue to outrank all other members of the military, now and in the future.