



# U.S. Society and Values

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June 2009

## International Musicians Come Together Online and Onstage The Web-built YouTube Symphony Orchestra plays Carnegie Hall

By Michael Gallant, Special Correspondent  
14 May 2009



San Bruno, California — Darius Klisys never dreamed of performing at Carnegie Hall. Though an accomplished musician, with nine albums to his name, he lives in Lithuania, with an ocean separating him from New York City. Not only that, he makes his music on the birbynė, a traditional but relatively obscure Lithuanian reed-pipe that never has been a standard instrument for a symphony orchestra.

Featuring musicians from around the world, the YouTube Symphony Orchestra practices for a concert at New York's Carnegie Hall.

Despite these roadblocks, Klisys beat the odds, joining 96 musicians from 30 countries and territories to perform on that hallowed stage as the YouTube Symphony Orchestra (YTSO) — a project just as unlikely and groundbreaking as Darius' own presence there.

Musicians were chosen via online auditions to play at Carnegie Hall, known for its superior acoustics.

The YTSO is the latest manifestation of a concept that has been challenging entrepreneurial minds for more than a decade: using the Internet as a conduit for long-distance musical collaboration.



*MORE: <http://www.america.gov/st/peopleplace-english/2009/May/20090514173205maduobbA0.9665186.html?CP.rss=true>*

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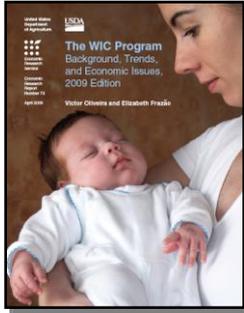
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## GOVERNMENT

### **HISTORICAL EFFECTIVE FEDERAL TAX RATES: 1979 to 2006. Congressional Budget Office. April 2009.**

This is an update to previous estimates of effective federal tax rates, which now incorporate data for the 2006 calendar year. Those data, the most current available, reflect tax returns filed in 2007 and became available for analysis in 2008. The effective tax rates in 2006 differed only slightly from those in 2005.

[http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/100xx/doc10068/effective\\_tax\\_rates\\_2006.pdf](http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/100xx/doc10068/effective_tax_rates_2006.pdf)  
[PDF format, 5 pages].



### **THE WIC PROGRAM: BACKGROUND, TRENDS, AND ECONOMIC ISSUES, 2009 EDITION. Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Victor Oliveira and Elizabeth Frazao. April 2009.**

The mission of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) is to safeguard the health of low-income women, infants, and children through age 4 who are at nutritional risk. WIC provides nutritious foods to supplement diets, nutrition education, and referrals to health care and other social services. The report describes the WIC program, how it works, its history, program trends, and the characteristics of the population it serves. It also examines current issues facing WIC, focusing mainly on those with important economic implications.

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR73/ERR73.pdf> [PDF format, 90 pages].

### **ADVANCED DISTRIBUTED LEARNING. U.S. Department of Defense. April 2009.**

The Defense Department releases its updated Web-based e-learning standard, used by government, commercial and international agencies, allowing organizations to easily exchange online learning, training and educational content. This e-learning standard ensures the learning experience and performance data tracking is consistent in the distribution of training courses via the Internet, and allows for online collaboration between users.

<http://www.adlnet.gov/Pages/Default.aspx> [HTML format, various paging].

### **NATION'S REPORT CARD. U.S. Department of Education. April 29, 2009.**

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan issues the following statement on the 2008 Nation's Report Card: National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Trends in Academic Progress: "We're pleased to see some recent progress among all age groups in reading and among younger age groups in math. We're also pleased to see achievement gaps shrinking in reading, but we still have a lot more work to do. Our focus on raising standards, increasing academic rigor and improving teacher quality are all steps in the right direction."

<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/> [HTML format with links].

### **PROTECTING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES. Office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education. March 27, 2009.**

The document revises and clarifies the requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (Section 504) in the area of public elementary and secondary education. The primary purpose of these revisions is to incorporate information about the Americans

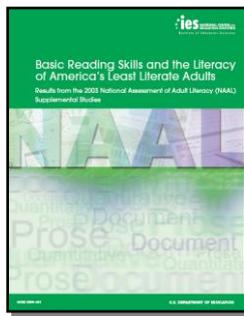
with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008 (Amendments Act), effective January 1, 2009, which amended the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and included a conforming amendment to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 that affects the meaning of disability in Section 504. The Amendments Act broadens the interpretation of disability. <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/504faq.html> [HTML format, various paging].



**CHARACTERISTICS OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN THE UNITED STATES: RESULTS FROM THE 2007-2008 PRIVATE SCHOOL UNIVERSE SURVEY. U.S. Department of Education. Stephen P. Broughman et al. March 2009.**

The report presents data on private schools in the United States for grades kindergarten through twelve by selected characteristics such as school size, school level, religious orientation, geographic region, urban city type, and program emphasis

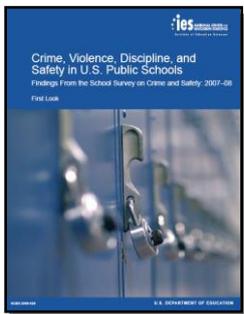
<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2009/2009313.pdf> [PDF format, 54 pages].



**BASIC READING SKILLS AND THE LITERACY OF AMERICA'S LEAST LITERATE ADULTS. National Center for Education Statistics. May 6, 2009.**

The study shows the English literacy skills of the America's least literate adults.

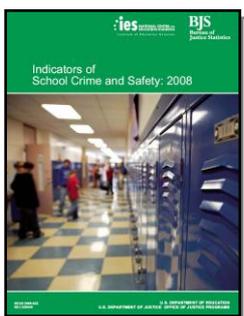
<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2009/2009481.pdf> [PDF format, 83 pages].



**CRIME, VIOLENCE, DISCIPLINE, AND SAFETY IN U.S. PUBLIC SCHOOLS. National Center for Education Statistics. Samantha Neiman and Jill F. Devoe. Web posted May 5, 2009.**

The report uses data from the 2007-08 School Survey on Crime and Safety (SSOCS) to examine a range of issues dealing with school crime and safety, such as the frequency of school crime and violence, disciplinary actions, and school practices related to the prevention and reduction of crime.

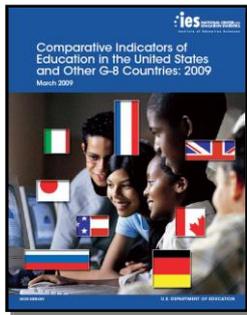
<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2009/2009326.pdf> [PDF format, 81 pages].



**INDICATORS OF SCHOOL CRIME AND SAFETY: 2008. National Center for Education Statistics and Bureau of Justice Statistics. Rachel Dinkes et al. April 2009.**

The report examines crime occurring in school as well as on the way to and from school. It provides the most current detailed statistical information to inform the Nation on the nature of crime in schools. The report presents data on crime at school from the perspectives of students, teachers, principals, and the general population.

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2009/2009022.pdf> [PDF format, 169 pages].



**COMPARATIVE INDICATORS OF EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER G-8 COUNTRIES. National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education. David C. Miller et al. March 25, 2009.**

The report describes how the education system in the United States compares with education systems in the other G-8 countries--Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Russian Federation, and the United Kingdom. It draws on the most current information about education from four primary sources: the Indicators of National Education Systems (INES) at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and

Development (OECD), the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS), the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA), and the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2009/2009039.pdf> Full Report. [PDF format, 119 pages].

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2009039>

[HTML format with links to individual chapters].

**NEW INDICATORS OF HIGH SCHOOL CAREER/TECHNICAL EDUCATION COURSETAKING: CLASS OF 2005. National Center for Education Statistics. Lisa Hudson and Jennifer Laird. April 29, 2009.**

The report examine the career/technical education (CTE) coursetaking of public high school graduates using new indicators of participation. These indicators examine the extent to which students participate in CTE and in specific occupational areas (such as agriculture and business) broadly (many students earning credits) versus deeply (many credits earned by participating students). The occupational areas with the deepest levels of participation were manufacturing, repair, and transportation; agriculture and natural resources; health sciences; and construction and architecture.

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2009/2009038.pdf> [PDF format, 20 pages].

**2007-2008 NATIONAL POSTSECONDARY STUDENT AID STUDY (NPSAS:08): STUDENT FINANCIAL AID ESTIMATES FOR 2007-2008. National Center for Education Statistics. Christina Chang Wei et al. April 14, 2009.**

The report is comprehensive, nationally representative survey of student financing of postsecondary education in the United States. About 114,000 undergraduate students and 14,000 graduate and first professional students were randomly selected from more than 1,600 postsecondary institutions. The report describes the percentages of students receiving various types of financial aid and average amounts received, by type of institution attended, attendance pattern, dependency status, and income level.

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2009/2009166.pdf> [PDF format, 54 pages].

**ENGLISH LITERACY OF FOREIGN-BORN ADULTS IN THE UNITED STATES: 2003. National Center for Education Statistics. Siri Warkentien et al. Web posted March 17, 2009.**

The brief draws on data from the 2003 National Assessment of Adult Literacy (NAAL) to explore the English literacy of foreign-born adults living in households in the United States. It presents the English literacy scores of foreign-born adults age 16 and older by race/ethnicity, age of arrival in the United States, years spent in the United States, highest level of educational attainment, and language spoken before starting school. Scores are

reported on three literacy scales: prose, document, and quantitative. Findings indicate that English literacy scores of foreign-born adults varied across a variety of background characteristics.

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2009/2009034.pdf> [PDF format, 4 pages].

### **MINI-DIGEST OF EDUCATION STATISTICS 2008. National Center for Education Statistics. March 2009.**

The publication is a pocket-sized compilation of statistical information covering the broad field of American education from kindergarten through graduate school. The statistical highlights are excerpts from the Digest of Education of Statistics, 2008.

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2009/2009021.pdf> [PDF format, 77 pages].

### **“TIME TO WORK OR TIME TO PLAY: THE EFFECT OF STUDENT EMPLOYMENT ON HOMEWORK, HOUSEWORK, SCREEN TIME, AND SLEEP” U.S. Department of Labor. Charlene Marie Kalenkoski and Sabrina Wulff Pabilonia. March 2009.**

Recent research suggests that working while in high school reduces the amount of time students spend doing homework. However, an additional hour of work leads to a reduction in homework by much less than one hour, suggesting a reduction in other activities. The paper uses data from the 2003-2007 American Time Use Surveys (ATUS) to investigate the effects of market work on the time students spend on homework, sleeping, household work, and screen time. Results show that an increase in paid work reduces time spent in all of these activities by 84 percent, with the largest effect found for screen time.

<http://www.bls.gov/osmr/pdf/ec090010.pdf> [PDF format, 29 pages].

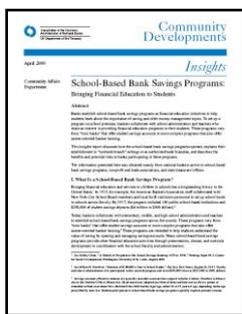


### **EXPOSURE TO SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION MESSAGES AND SUBSTANCE USE AMONG ADOLESCENTS: 2002 TO 2007. National Survey on Drug Use and Health. April 2, 2009.**

The report, based on a series of national surveys, finds that a smaller percentage of adolescents, age 12-17, were exposed to substance use prevention messages in 2007, 77.9 percent, than in 2002, 83.2 percent. Similarly, a smaller percentage of adolescents are participating in out of school substance use prevention programs, from 12.7 percent in 2002 to 11.3 percent in 2007. However, the report shows a significant rise during this same period in the level of adolescents who engaged in substance

abuse-related conversations with at least one parent, from 58.1 percent in 2002 to 59.6 percent in 2007. The report shows that these conversations are associated with lower rates of current substance use by an adolescent.

<http://oas.samhsa.gov/2k9/prevention/prevention.pdf> [PDF format, 4 pages].



### **SCHOOL-BASED BANK SAVINGS PROGRAMS: BRINGING FINANCIAL EDUCATION TO STUDENTS. Comptroller of the Currency Administrator of National Banks. April 2009.**

The report discusses how banks can set up school-based bank savings programs to help students learn about the importance of saving and managing their personal finances. Comptroller of the Currency John C. Dugan stated, "As a parent, one area of financial literacy that is

especially important to me is that our children learn how to make the right financial choices before they leave home. These school-based bank programs are productive collaborations between banks and schools that share a mutual interest in providing financial education to students eager to learn.”

<http://www.occ.treas.gov/cdd/Insights-Schoolbasedbank.pdf> [PDF format, 10 pages].

**PLACES WHERE WOMEN MADE HISTORY. National Park Service. 2009.**

The itinerary focuses on 75 historic places in New York and Massachusetts associated with the varied aspects women's history. It shows the accomplishments of many American women who made outstanding contributions to education, government, medicine, the arts, commerce, women's suffrage and the early civil rights movement.

<http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/travel/pwwmh/> [HTML format, various paging].

**EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT. [U.S. Census Bureau]. April 27, 2009.**

The U.S. Census Bureau announces that workers with a bachelor's degree earned about \$26,000 more on average than workers with a high school diploma. The tables also show that in 2008, 29 percent of adults 25 and older had a bachelor's degree, and 87 percent had completed high school. That compares with 24 percent of adults who had a bachelor's degree, and 83 percent who had completed high school in 1998.

Full Text:

<http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/educ-attn.html>

[HTML format with links].

<http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/education/cps2008.html>

Detailed Tables [HTML format with links].

**RESIDENTIAL MOVE RATE IN U.S. IS LOWEST SINCE CENSUS BUREAU TRACKING IN 1948. U.S. Bureau of Census. Tom Edwards. April 22, 2009.**

The national mover rate declined from 13.2 percent in 2007 to 11.9 percent in 2008, the lowest rate since the bureau began tracking these data in 1948. “Even though the number of people who changed residence in 2008 dropped by 3.5 million from the previous year, millions of Americans continue to move,” said Tom Mesenbourg, acting director of the U.S. Census Bureau.

[http://www.census.gov/Press-](http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/mobility_of_the_population/013609.html)

[Release/www/releases/archives/mobility\\_of\\_the\\_population/013609.html](http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/mobility_of_the_population/013609.html)

[HTML format, various paging].

**ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH: MAY 2009. U.S. Census Bureau. Web posted March 3, 2009.**

In 1978, a joint congressional resolution established Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week. The first 10 days of May were chosen to coincide with two important milestones in Asian/Pacific American history: the arrival in the United States of the first Japanese immigrants (May 7, 1843) and contributions of Chinese workers to the building of the transcontinental railroad, completed on May 10, 1869. In 1992, Congress expanded the observance to a monthlong celebration. Per a 1997 Office of Management and Budget directive, the Asian or Pacific Islander racial category was separated into two categories: one being Asian and the other Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.

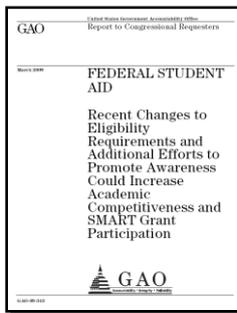
<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/cb09ff-06.pdf>

[PDF format, 10 pages].

**ASSESSMENT IN ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION: A PRIMER.**  
**Erin D. Caffrey, Analyst in Education Policy. U.S. Government Accountability Office,**  
**April 9, 2009**

In recent years, federal education legislation has placed an increased emphasis on assessment in schools. Perhaps most notably, Title I-A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as reauthorized by the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), requires states to test all students annually in grades 3 through 8 and once in high school in the areas of reading, mathematics, and science. These assessments are used as key indicators in an accountability system that determines whether schools are making progress with respect to student achievement. This report provides a framework for understanding various types of assessments that are administered in elementary and secondary schools. It broadly discusses various purposes of educational assessment and describe comprehensive assessment systems. Common assessment measures currently used in education are described, including state assessments, NAEP, and state exit exams. The report also provides a description and analysis of technical considerations in assessments, including validity, reliability, and fairness, and provide a discussion of how to use these technical considerations to draw appropriate conclusions based on assessment results. Additionally, innovation in assessment is discussed, including the development and use of alternate assessments and performance assessments. Finally, this report provides a brief analysis of the use of assessments

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R40514.pdf>



**FEDERAL STUDENT AID. U.S. Government Accountability Office.**  
**March 25, 2009.**

The Academic Competitiveness (AC) and National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent (SMART) Grants were established by the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005. The grants provide merit-based financial aid to certain low-income college students eligible for Federal Pell Grants and are administered by the Department of Education (Education). In the first year of implementation, participation was lower than expected.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09343.pdf> [PDF format,. 45 pages].

**GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION: TRENDS IN TRAINING AND STUDENT DEBT. U.S. Government Accountability Office. May 4, 2009.**

The federal government invests significantly in medical education through various programs to help ensure that the anticipated supply of new physicians meets the nation's health care needs.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09438r.pdf> [PDF format, 51 pages].

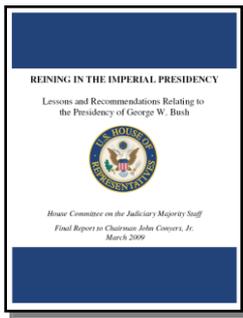
## CONGRESSIONAL DOCUMENTS (HEARINGS, REPORTS, ETC.)

### **DISCONNECTED YOUTH: A LOOK AT 16- TO 25-YEAR OLDS WHO ARE NOT WORKING OR IN SCHOOL. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress.**

**Adrienne L. Fernandes and Thomas Gabe. April 22, 2009.**

Policymakers and youth advocates have begun to focus greater attention on young people who are not working or in school. Generally characterized as “disconnected,” these youth may also lack strong social networks that provide assistance in the form of employment connections and other supports such as housing and financial assistance. Without attachment to work or school, disconnected youth may be vulnerable to experiencing negative outcomes as they transition to adulthood.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R40535.pdf> [PDF format, 82 pages].



### **REINING IN THE IMPERIAL PRESIDENCY: LESSONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO THE PRESIDENCY OF GEORGE W. BUSH. House Committee on the Judiciary Majority Staff, U.S. House of Representatives. Web posted April 2, 2009.**

The Committee releases the final version of the Democratic Committee staff report on systematic abuses of presidential power during the Bush administration. The report contains 50 separate recommendations designed to correct the imbalanced separation of power that characterized the George W. Bush presidency. Chief among recommendations include continued congressional investigations like

those the Judiciary Committee has pursued concerning Karl Rove’s interactions with the Justice Department, a blue ribbon commission similar to the panel proposed in Chairman Conyers’ H.R. 104, and independent criminal probes to be conducted by federal prosecutors.

<http://judiciary.house.gov/hearings/printers/111th/IPres090316.pdf>

[PDF format, 541 pages].

### **ECONOMIC CRISIS IS HAVING CATASTROPHIC EFFECTS ON THE ARTS AND MUSIC, WITNESSES TELL HOUSE PANEL. Committee on Education & Labor, U.S. House of Representatives. March 26, 2009.**

Communities across the country are suffering as arts and music organizations struggle with declining budgets, job losses and other effects of the economic crisis, witnesses told the House Education and Labor Committee. “Arts and music organizations are facing tough realities, which has a multiplier effect on workers and communities who rely on these sectors to create jobs and generate local revenue,” said U.S. Rep. George Miller (D-CA), chairman of the committee. “These are industries that can help breathe new life into communities, towns and cities, spur economic growth and help us build a stronger America.”

<http://edlabor.house.gov/newsroom/2009/03/economic-crisis-is-having-cata.shtml>

[HTML format with links to testimony videos].

## THE WHITE HOUSE



### **FINANCING THE DREAM: SECURING COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS. Middle Class Task Force, The Vice President of the United States. April 17, 2009.**

The staff report focuses on the challenges of paying for college in America today, exploring policy steps that have already been taken and new steps that should be considered in order to make college more affordable to all families who aspire to provide a college education for their children. It hones in on affordability, specifically addressing the problem of a high school graduate who is fully capable of getting into and completing a college program, but for the financial constraints that

she and her family face.

[http://www.whitehouse.gov/assets/documents/staff\\_report\\_college\\_affordability1.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/assets/documents/staff_report_college_affordability1.pdf)

[PDF format, 17 pages].

### **RELEASE OF THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT'S TAX RETURNS. The White House. April 15, 2009.**

As demonstration of the President's commitment to openness and transparency, the White House issued the following releases making the President and Vice President's tax returns public.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/09/04/15/Release-of-the-President-and-Vice-Presidents-Tax>Returns/>

[HTML format with links to PDF files].

## THINK TANK PUBLICATIONS

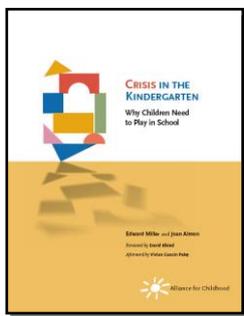
### AARP PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE

**19 MILLION WORKING-AGE AMERICANS HAVE A DISABILITY THAT LIMITS OR PREVENTS WORK. MOST ARE POOR OR LOW INCOME. AARP Public Policy Institute. Ellen O'Brien and Carlos Figueiredo. Web posted April 16, 2009.**

More than 19 million working age Americans, 10.9 percent of people ages 21 to 64, have a work disability, according to data from the U.S. Census Bureau. People with disabilities are often at a distinct disadvantage in the labor market. A key challenge facing policymakers is how to design public programs, and encourage private employers, to effectively support people with disabilities in their efforts to secure and retain employment and achieve economic self-sufficiency. Programs need to be improved both to provide more timely and adequate assistance to people who cannot work and to provide needed supports to people with disabilities who can work.

[http://assets.aarp.org/rgcenter/econ/fs153\\_ssdi.pdf](http://assets.aarp.org/rgcenter/econ/fs153_ssdi.pdf) [PDF format, 6 pages].

### ALLIANCE FOR CHILDHOOD



**CRISIS IN THE KINDERGARTEN: WHY CHILDREN NEED TO PLAY IN SCHOOL. Alliance for Childhood. Edward Miller and Joan Almon. March 2009.**

The research shows that many kindergartens spend 2 to 3 hours per day instructing and testing children in literacy and math, with only 30 minutes per day or less for play. In some kindergartens there is no playtime at all. The same didactic, test-driven approach is entering preschools. But these methods, which are not well grounded in research, are not yielding long-term gains. Meanwhile, behavioral problems and preschool expulsion, especially for boys, are soaring, according to the report.

[http://www.allianceforchildhood.org/sites/allianceforchildhood.org/files/file/kindergarten\\_report.pdf](http://www.allianceforchildhood.org/sites/allianceforchildhood.org/files/file/kindergarten_report.pdf)

### ALLIANCE FOR EXCELLENT EDUCATION

**SHORT SIGHTED: HOW AMERICA'S LACK OF ATTENTION TO INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION STUDIES IMPEDES IMPROVEMENT. Alliance for Excellent Education. March 2009.**

To future generations, Americans' current educational myopia is likely to appear, at best, a negligent failure to anticipate and meet the needs of the nation and its citizens, says the report. To provide students with a world-class education, the United States, must adopt a more global outlook. The tools and opportunities already exist; indeed, the United States has even subsidized their creation. Now the nation needs to adopt the results of internationally benchmarked assessments.

<http://www.all4ed.org/files/shortsighted.pdf> [PDF format, 21 pages].

**EVERY STUDENT COUNTS: THE ROLE OF FEDERAL POLICY IN IMPROVING GRADUATE RATE ACCOUNTABILITY. Alliance for Excellent Education. Eric Richmond. March 2009.**

The brief describes how federal policy has progressed from early attempts to simply calculate an agreed-upon high school graduation rate to present-day efforts aimed at using commonly defined rates as part of a refined accountability system to drive school improvement. The brief also includes a national and state-by-state analysis of the impact of the graduation rate regulations issued by the U.S. Department of Education.

[http://www.all4ed.org/files/ESC\\_FedPolicyGRA.pdf](http://www.all4ed.org/files/ESC_FedPolicyGRA.pdf) [PDF format, 14 pages].

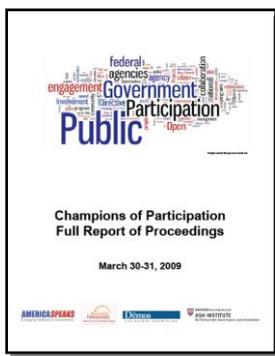
## ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED AMERICANS

**CONGRESS BECOMING MORE PRO-SENIOR, ADVOCATES SAY. Alliance for Retired Americans. David Blank. May 4, 2009.**

The report details the voting record of every U.S. Senator and Representative on key issues affecting current and future retirees. “The 2008 voting record showed a continuation of a pro-senior trend in America, one which began with the 2006 midterm elections and culminated with the historic elections of 2008,” said Alliance President Barbara J. Easterling. “There were more perfect scores on the voting record this year, and fewer zeroes,” continued Easterling.

<http://www.retiredamericans.org/ht/action/GetDocumentAction/i/12744>  
[PDF format, 2 pages].

## AMERICA SPEAKS



**CHAMPIONS OF PARTICIPATION: FULL REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS. America Speaks, March 30-31, 2009**

Managers and staff from 23 different federal agencies and offices recommended that the President’s Open Government Directive create a new government wide structure that will transform how the government involves the American people in key decision making.

[http://www.americaspeaks.org/\\_data/n\\_0001/resources/live/Champions%20Report%20of%20Proceedings%20final.pdf](http://www.americaspeaks.org/_data/n_0001/resources/live/Champions%20Report%20of%20Proceedings%20final.pdf)

## AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

**PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA'S FIRST 100 DAYS: A PROGRESS REPORT ON AAUW PRIORITY ISSUES. AAUW, April 2009**

The AAUW report is an assessment of the Obama administration's actions with respect to advancing equity for women and girls; it delves into critical issues including pay equity, job security, reproductive rights, education, and work-life balance, offers a close look at the administration's progress and identifies areas where more work can be done.

To see the document, visit

[http://www.aauw.org/advocacy/issue\\_advocacy/upload/obamaFirst100.pdf](http://www.aauw.org/advocacy/issue_advocacy/upload/obamaFirst100.pdf)

## AMERICAN ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE



### **STIMULATING EXCELLENCE: UNLEASHING THE POWER OF INNOVATION IN EDUCATION.** By Frederick M. Hess. AEI Center for American Progress. Tuesday, May 5, 2009

By removing barriers to innovation and reform and providing greater support for entrepreneurship, we can spur the critical and necessary new solutions to many of public education's greatest challenges. The recommendations included in this report are not a wish list of items to support entrepreneurs; rather, they represent a nonpartisan agenda for federal, state and local leaders to address the rules, procedures and practices that hinder innovation in education.

<http://www.aei.org/docLib/education-entrepreneurs%20report-embargoed%20copy%20-2.pdf>



### **THE EUROPE SYNDROME AND THE CHALLENGE TO AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALISM.** American Enterprise Institute. Charles Murray. March 16, 2009.

The author sees President Obama and his leading intellectuals as the American equivalent of Europe's social democrats. The report discusses pros and cons of the European way and argues that "America's elite must once again fall in love again with what

makes America different."

<http://american.com/archive/2009/march-2009/the-europe-syndrome-and-the-challenge-to-american-exceptionalism>

[HTML format, various paging].

## AMERICANS FOR THE ARTS



### **2009-2011 AMERICANS FOR THE ARTS STRATEGIC PLAN.** Americans for the Arts, April 2009

For the past two years, Americans for the Arts has been involved in a strategic planning process that enabled them to gather input from more than 6,000 stakeholders through surveys, focus groups, and dialogue. In addition, they worked with AMS Planning & Research to conduct a scan of the arts environment. As the organization prepared to release the results of this work, the current economic crisis shook the nation and the world. The marriage of the organization's planning outcomes and fiscal realities resulted in a call for a renewed focus on core audiences and the

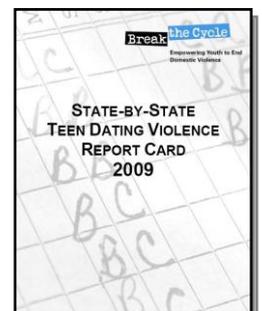
vital programs that serve them.

This plan and the following resource and support documents are available online at [http://www.americansforthearts.org/pdf/about\\_us/finalplandocument.pdf](http://www.americansforthearts.org/pdf/about_us/finalplandocument.pdf)

## BREAK THE CYCLE

### **STATE-BY-STATE TEEN DATING VIOLENCE REPORT CARD 2009.** Break the Cycle. April 2009.

The report grades each state's laws on their ability to protect victims of teen dating violence seeking protection orders against their abusers. It offers



education prevention and intervention programs for teens, advocates for laws and policies to better protect the rights and promote the health of teens nationwide. Victims of teen dating abuse face overwhelming obstacles to getting help because, as minors, it is often difficult for them to move from their home, change their school or gain access to basic securities like money, shelter and transportation. Exacerbating the barriers is the fact that few states recognize teens as victims of domestic abuse and therefore do not allow them to take out restraining orders.

<http://www.breakthecycle.org/pdf/2009-state-report-cards/state-report-card-full-report-2009.pdf> [PDF format, 114 pages].

## BRENNAN CENTER GOT JUSTICE

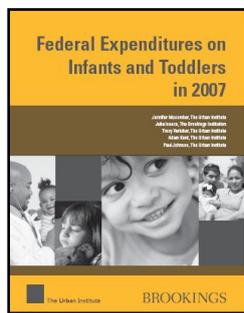


### **TRANSPARENCY IN THE FIRST 100 DAYS: A REPORT CARD. Brennan Center for Justice, New York University School of Law. April 27, 2009.**

The report card evaluates President Obama's record of transparency in national security matters during his first 100 days in office. Elizabeth Goitein of the Brennan Center says "President Obama's record of transparency is overall a tremendous improvement over President Bush's record." Goitein adds, "In the areas of open government and access to presidential records, he has put excellent policies in place; what's needed now is faithful implementation, particularly when it comes to national security issues." "But in cases where people seek accountability for government misconduct... the administration doesn't show the same instinct for openness," says Goitein.

[http://brennan.3cdn.net/c740a54425f6620404\\_8am6ib3yb.pdf](http://brennan.3cdn.net/c740a54425f6620404_8am6ib3yb.pdf) [PDF format, 32 pages].

## BROOKINGS INSTITUTION



### **FEDERAL EXPENDITURES ON INFANTS AND TODDLERS IN 2007. Julia B. Isaacs et al. The Brookings Institution, April 2009**

Research suggests that investing in young children can help build a strong future workforce, improve children's educational success and health, and potentially reduce some of the social ills that drain the nation's resources and will. To have an informed conversation about future investments, it is important to start from an understanding of the baseline: What investments does this nation currently make in young children? Which programs and purposes are currently supported by federal investments, and which are not? This report provides such a baseline understanding and informs a national conversation about how best to invest the country's resources by examining federal expenditures on infants and toddlers, defined as children under age 3.

[http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2009/04\\_infants\\_toddlers\\_isaacs/04\\_infants\\_toddlers\\_isaacs.pdf](http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2009/04_infants_toddlers_isaacs/04_infants_toddlers_isaacs.pdf)

**DRUGS AND DEMOCRACY: TOWARD A PARADIGM SHIFT. Brookings Institution. Kevin Casas-Zamora. April 22, 2009.**

Kevin Casas-Zamora believes the report of the Latin American Commission on Drugs and Democracy is a significant addition to an urgent conversation in the hemisphere. He argues that, with a new U.S. administration a frank discussion on drugs, both domestic and international, can at last begin.

[http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2009/0422\\_drugs\\_and\\_democracy\\_casaszamora.aspx](http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2009/0422_drugs_and_democracy_casaszamora.aspx)  
[HTML format, various paging].



**GETTING CURRENT: RECENT DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS IN METROPOLITAN AMERICA. William H. Frey, Alan Berube et al. The Brookings Institution, March 2009**

The new administration taking shape in Washington inherits not only an economic crisis, but also a mammoth apparatus of agencies and programs, many of which were developed a generation or more ago. In view of that, a president and Congress striving to "build a smarter government" should develop new policies or retool old programs with the latest population trends in mind, especially those shaping and re-

shaping metropolitan areas-the nation's engines of economic growth and opportunity

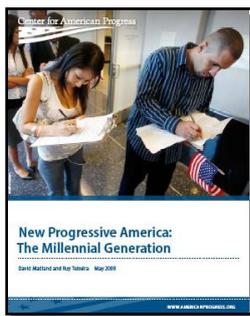
[http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2009/03\\_metro\\_demographic\\_trends/03\\_metro\\_demographic\\_trends.pdf](http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2009/03_metro_demographic_trends/03_metro_demographic_trends.pdf)

**SAME-SEX MARRIAGE AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY: A RECONCILIATION. A Governance Studies Event, March 13, 2009. Brooklyn Institution Governing Ideas Number 17**

In a recent New York Times op-ed, Brookings scholar Jonathan Rauch and co-author David Blankenhorn argue that linking federal civil unions to guarantees of religious freedom is a way to head off a long-term, scorched-earth debate over gay marriage and religious liberty. On March 13, Rauch and Blankenhorn discussed their proposal at a forum moderated by Brookings Senior Fellow William Galston. Robin Wilson, editor of Same-Sex Marriage and Religious Liberty: Emerging Conflicts, discussed the church-state conflicts that same-sex unions may engender. Nathan Diament and Lara Schwarz offered thoughts from religious and gay rights perspectives.

[http://www.brookings.edu/events/2009/0313\\_marriage.aspx](http://www.brookings.edu/events/2009/0313_marriage.aspx)

## CENTER FOR AMERICAN PROGRESS



**NEW PROGRESSIVE AMERICA: THE MILLENNIAL GENERATION. By David Madland, Ruy Teixeira. Center for American Progress, May 13, 2009**

The 2008 election saw strong shifts toward progressives among almost all growing demographic groups in the United States. Conversely, conservatives typically retained strength only among stagnant or declining groups. The result is a demographic landscape sharply tilted toward progressives, a tilt that is only likely to increase in years to come.

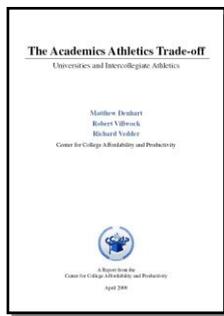
[http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/05/millennial\\_generation.html](http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/05/millennial_generation.html)

## CENTER FOR COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY AND PRODUCTIVITY

### **TRENDS IN THE HIGHER EDUCATION LABOR FORCE: IDENTIFYING CHANGES IN WORKER COMPOSITION AND PRODUCTIVITY. Daniel Bennett. Center for College Affordability and Productivity, April 2009**

Higher education is a labor-intensive industry whose primary service, instruction, is delivered by a lecturer, accompanied by administrative support and various other services. Growing student enrollment necessitates some additional staffing; however, one would think that the recent and ongoing technological boom would have lessened the labor burden at colleges, but a close examination of the data suggests otherwise. In fact, the data reveals that colleges have generally increased their staff relative to enrollment and the number of degrees awarded, especially in the back office. One problem, critics claim, is that an onerous regulatory environment has been established that requires a myriad of regulations and reporting requirements, which are often unnecessary and redundant in nature. In order to comply with the government's requirements, colleges need to employ a staff that is responsible for providing the multiple state and federal agencies with compliance reports and data.

[http://www.centerforcollegeaffordability.org/uploads/Labor\\_Force.pdf](http://www.centerforcollegeaffordability.org/uploads/Labor_Force.pdf)



### **THE ACADEMICS ATHLETICS TRADE-OFF: UNIVERSITIES AND INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS. Matthew Denhart, Robert Villwock, Richard Vedder. Center for College Affordability and Productivity, April 2009**

Intercollegiate athletics is almost uniquely American. Each year, millions of fans attend games and matches between student athletes who provide fans with entertainment while helping bind together communities. Proponents of college athletics point to other benefits such as enhancing a school's visibility on a national level and providing opportunities for athletes to develop leadership, teamwork and other traits that add to human capital upon

graduation. Despite some benefits, intercollegiate athletics has many critics as well. Some critics argue that coaches and sports administrators denigrate academics and overemphasize the importance of sports. Others claim that athletes in the big-revenue sports of men's basketball and football are exploited by the university. Others feel that intercollegiate athletics create a culture on college campuses that downplays the importance of gaining knowledge. The debates about intercollegiate athletics have been growing for over a century and seem to be exacerbated by an inability to fully quantify its costs and benefits.

<http://www.centerforcollegeaffordability.org/uploads/athletics.pdf>

## CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL MEDIA ASSISTANCE



### **SOFT CENSORSHIP: HOW GOVERNMENTS AROUND THE GLOBE USE MONEY TO MANIPULATE THE MEDIA. Center for International Media Assistance. Don Podesta. January 2009.**

The report examines the use of money by governments to influence news coverage. The author, Don Podesta, a veteran journalist with more than 30 years' experience, explains that as formerly authoritarian regimes have moved toward more democratic societies, this insidious form of censorship has emerged on a global scale.

[http://cima.ned.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/01/cima-soft\\_censorship-report.pdf](http://cima.ned.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/01/cima-soft_censorship-report.pdf)

## COMMITTEE TO PROTECT JOURNALISTS

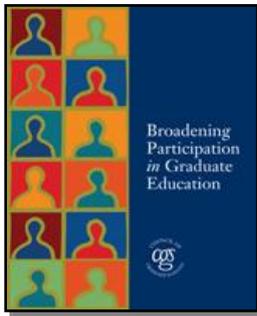
### **10 WORST COUNTRIES TO BE A BLOGGER. Committee to Protect Journalists. April 30, 2009.**

With a military government that severely restricts Internet access and imprisons people for years for posting critical material, Burma is the worst place in the world to be a blogger, according to the report. It also identifies a number of countries in the Middle East and Asia where Internet penetration has blossomed and government repression has grown in response. “Bloggers are at the vanguard of the information revolution and their numbers are expanding rapidly,” said CPJ Executive Director Joel Simon. “But governments are quickly learning how to turn technology against bloggers by censoring and filtering the Internet, restricting online access and mining personal data.”

<http://cpj.org/reports/2009/04/10-worst-countries-to-be-a-blogger.php>

[HTML format, various paging].

## COUNCIL OF GRADUATE SCHOOLS



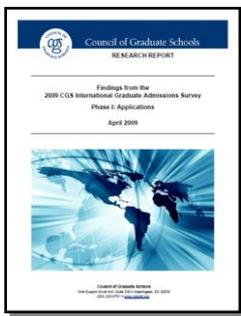
### **BROADENING PARTICIPATION IN GRADUATE EDUCATION. Council of Graduate Schools, April 2009.**

The U.S. system of higher education is arguably the best in the world, but there is a leak in the pipeline. Even as our nation is becoming increasingly diverse, some groups remain highly underrepresented in graduate schools, particularly in science and engineering.

This report highlights programs that have had success in enhancing diversity and inclusiveness in graduate education, and offers policy recommendations aimed at identifying and cultivating talent wherever it exists, with particular emphasis on developing domestic talent from

traditionally underrepresented groups. Executive Summary:

[http://www.cgsnet.org/portals/0/pdf/GR\\_Broadening\\_excerpt.pdf](http://www.cgsnet.org/portals/0/pdf/GR_Broadening_excerpt.pdf)



### **FINDINGS FROM THE 2009 CGS INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE ADMISSIONS SURVEY. Council of Graduate Schools. April 2009.**

The new survey finds that applications from prospective international students to U.S. graduate schools increased 4% from 2008 to 2009. However, it is the 3rd consecutive year that the growth rate declined. Additionally, there were dramatic differences in trends by sending country and type of institution.

[http://www.cgsnet.org/portals/0/pdf/R\\_IntlApps09\\_I.pdf](http://www.cgsnet.org/portals/0/pdf/R_IntlApps09_I.pdf)

[PDF format, 11 pages].

## EDUCATION TRUST

### **EDUCATION WATCH: TRACKING ACHIEVEMENT, ATTAINMENT, AND OPPORTUNITY IN AMERICA'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS. The Education Trust. Stephanie Germeraad. March 31, 2009.**

To measure how effectively states are using the infusion of federal support, the public will need accurate, reliable data. The report assembles some of the most critical indicators of

student achievement, attainment, and opportunity, providing a state-by-state snapshot of public education in America. The data reveals which states are farthest along the course, which are gaining on those leaders, and which are barely out of the starting blocks.

<http://www2.edtrust.org/EdTrust/Press+Room/EdWatch2009.htm>

[HTML format, various paging].

## FOUNDATION CENTER

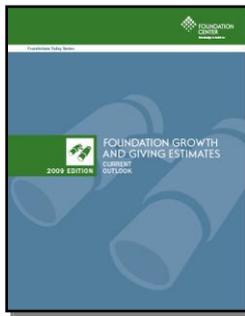


### **KEY FACTS ON CORPORATE FOUNDATIONS (2009 Edition) Foundations Center, May 2009**

Charitable giving by the nation's nearly 2,500 corporate foundations remained virtually unchanged in 2008, according to Key Facts on Corporate Foundations, a new Foundation Center report. Giving totaled an estimated \$4.4 billion last year. Corporate foundation giving will most certainly decline in 2009, with the banking and finance industries accounting for about one-quarter of corporate foundation support in recent years and corporate earnings down across the board. Slightly more than half of corporate foundations responding to the Center's

survey said they expect to reduce their giving this year.

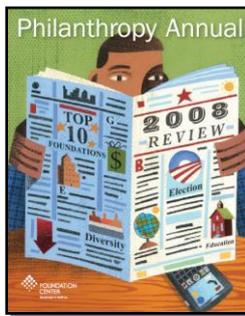
[http://foundationcenter.org/gainknowledge/research/pdf/keyfacts\\_corp\\_2009.pdf](http://foundationcenter.org/gainknowledge/research/pdf/keyfacts_corp_2009.pdf)



### **FOUNDATION GROWTH AND GIVING ESTIMATES, CURRENT OUTLOOK (2009 Edition) Foundation Center, March 2009**

In the midst of a deepening economic crisis, the more than 75,000 U.S. grantmaking foundations increased their giving 2.8 percent in 2008 to an estimated \$45.6 billion, according to Foundation Growth and Giving Estimates: Current Outlook (2009 Edition). While giving increased modestly, it did not grow as much as had been expected due to the extreme nature of the economic downturn. Over 67 percent of foundations surveyed said they expect to reduce their 2009 giving.

<http://foundationcenter.org/gainknowledge/research/pdf/fgge09.pdf>



### **PHILANTHROPY ANNUAL: 2008 REVIEW. Foundation Center. Web posted March 26, 2009.**

The annual includes interviews with leaders in the field, commentary by respected thinkers, and key statistics on foundation giving.

<http://foundationcenter.org/philanthropyannual/philanthropyannual2008.pdf>  
[PDF format, 116 pages]

## FREE PRESS

### **TESTIMONY OF BEN SCOTT, POLICY DIRECTOR, FREE PRESS: A HEARING ON “A NEW AGE FOR NEWSPAPERS: DIVERSITY OF VOICES, COMPETITION AND THE INTERNET” Free Press. April 21, 2009.**

Free Press Policy Director Ben Scott calls for a national journalism strategy to address the problems in the newspaper industry and promote a vibrant news marketplace at a hearing before the House Subcommittee on Courts and Competition Policy.

<http://judiciary.house.gov/hearings/pdf/Scott090421.pdf>

## FREEDOM HOUSE



### **FREEDOM OF THE PRESS 2009. Freedom House, May 2009**

Freedom of the Press 2009 identifies the greatest threats to independent media in 195 countries and territories. Released in advance of World Press Freedom Day May 3, the report shows a seventh straight year of decline in global media freedom, with twice as many losses than gains. There are particularly worrisome trends in East Asia, the former Soviet Union and the Middle East and North Africa. Given an economic climate that is certain to

further strain media sustainability and diversity in rich and poor countries alike, pressures on media freedom are increasingly threatening the considerable gains of the past quarter century. Below are several critical tools to highlight data from the annual survey of global press freedom, and to help explain the newest findings in their historical context.

<http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=470>

## FRIENDS OF WALDEN



Friends of Walden

### **WALDEN: THE BALLAD OF THOREAU EARTH DAY EVENT. Friends of Walden. April 2009.**

Walden: The Ballad of Thoreau is a two act, four character play that reflects a conversation between Thoreau and Emerson set during the final two days Thoreau spent in his cabin before leaving Walden Pond. Over 7,100 colleges and schools have already performed the play. On Earth Day, April 22, 2009, the play will be broadcast nationwide on public TV, public radio, movie theaters and through Earth Day TV. Earth Day Network and the producers of the play have

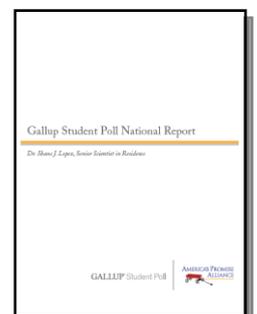
created lesson plans that make Walden an educational tool.

<http://www.waldenplay.com/walden-donate.php> [HTML format, various paging].

## GALLUP

### **GALLUP STUDENT POLL NATIONAL REPORT. Gallup & America's Promise Alliance. Shane J. Lopez. May 5, 2009.**

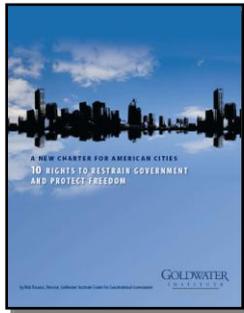
A poll by Gallup and America's Promise Alliance shows that more than one-third of students surveyed in grades 5 – 12 are struggling or suffering, and half are not hopeful, as quantified by Gallup researchers. The Gallup Student Poll



measures the hope, engagement and well-being of students in grades 5–12 through a survey administered anonymously in America’s schools. The national results will be used by America’s Promise Alliance, the American Association of School Administrators and others in designing appropriate responses that support youth.

[http://www.gallupstudentpoll.com/gtmp/object\\_utils.display\\_object?id=922358&dummy=0](http://www.gallupstudentpoll.com/gtmp/object_utils.display_object?id=922358&dummy=0)  
[PDF format, 6 pages].

## GOLDWATER INSTITUTE



### **A NEW CHARTER FOR AMERICAN CITIES: 10 RIGHTS TO RESTRAIN GOVERNMENT AND PROTECT FREEDOM.**

**Goldwater Institute. March 11, 2009.**

There are almost 90,000 local governments in America, with an average of one new local government born each day. Few are models of limited government restrained by a system of checks and balances. Often they are unaccountable, and special interest-driven, according to the study. Facing a maze of regulations and powerful local bureaucracies, ordinary citizens often can’t fight City Hall. The study recommends enacting a “Local Liberty Charter” consisting of 10 judicially enforceable rights to rein-in out-of-control local governments.

<http://www.goldwaterinstitute.org/Common/Img/031109%20Local%20Liberty%20Charter.pdf>

## GUTTMACHER INSTITUTE



### **THE IMPACT OF LAWS REQUIRING PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT FOR ABORTION: A LITERATURE REVIEW.**

**Guttmacher Institute. Amanda Dennis et al. March 2009.**

Laws requiring parental involvement in minors’ abortions, promoted by their proponents as a way of encouraging parent-child communication and lowering the teen abortion rate, appear to do little to reduce teen abortion or pregnancy rates, according to the report. The new analysis suggests that while having little impact on the abortion rate, these laws force many teens to navigate complicated judicial bypass systems to obtain waivers or to seek abortions in a state without parental involvement requirements. These barriers delay access to the procedure, reducing safety and resulting in later, more costly abortions.

<http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/ParentalInvolvementLaws.pdf>  
[PDF format, 44 pages].

## HARVARD BUSINESS SCHOOL

### **DO FRIENDS INFLUENCE PURCHASES IN A SOCIAL NETWORK? Harvard Business School. Raghuram Iyengar et al. April 2009.**

Social networks, such as Facebook and Myspace have witnessed a rapid growth in their membership. Some of these businesses have tried an advertising-based model with very limited success. This potential viral or social effect can have significant impact on the success of these companies as well as provide a unique new marketing opportunity for traditional companies, say the authors. The 40% of the users who are moderately connected, show

reasonable non-purchase activity on the site and have a strong and positive effect due to friends' purchases. However, 12% of the users who are highly active show 14% drop in the influence purchases.

<http://www.hbs.edu/research/pdf/09-123.pdf>  
[PDF format, 36 pages].

## HERITAGE FOUNDATION

### **DOES UNIVERSAL PRESCHOOL IMPROVE LEARNING? LESSONS FROM GEORGIA AND OKLAHOMA. Lindsey Burke. Heritage Foundation Backgrounder #2272. May 14, 2009**

While proponents of universal preschool readily cite the findings of the Perry Preschool Project, the Chicago Child-Parent Centers Program, and the Abecedarian Preschool Project, it is unlikely that any large-scale implementation of universal pre-school could mimic the conditions under which these programs took place, and would thus fail to produce the results predicted by proponents. Instead, in evaluating federal universal preschool proposals, policymakers should consider whether states that offer universal preschool have experienced real improvement in academic achievement. Georgia and Oklahoma--the two states that have offered the most extensive universal preschool programs--provide informative case studies.

<http://www.heritage.org/Research/Education/bg2272.cfm>

### **FEDERAL HATE CRIMES STATUTE: AN UNCONSTITUTIONAL EXERCISE OF LEGISLATIVE POWER. Brian Walsh. Heritage Foundation WebMemo #2416. April 29, 2009**

Every decent person abhors violent crimes that are motivated by prejudice or bias. Thus, the case for congressional legislation that would expand federal authority that already prohibits some "hate crimes" may seem compelling. But the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009 (H.R. 1913, HCPA) is based on serious analytical and constitutional flaws and would actually be counterproductive to prosecuting violent crime.

<http://www.heritage.org/Research/LegalIssues/wm2416.cfm>



### **THE END OF CONSERVATISM? Lee Edwards, Ph.D. Heritage Lecture #1120, April 27, 2009**

The modern conservative movement began as a Remnant with Albert Jay Nock and Frank Chodorov; grew into an intellectual movement with Friedrich Hayek, Richard Weaver, and Russell Kirk; blossomed into a political movement with William F. Buckley Jr. and Barry Goldwater; burst into full bloom as a governing movement with Ronald Reagan and The Heritage Foundation and other organizations; succumbed to hubris with Newt Gingrich and Tom DeLay; imploded under George W. Bush and the neoconservatives; and is now wondering whether it is headed for the ash heap of history.

<http://www.heritage.org/Research/Thought/hl1120.cfm>

**A FREE AND JUST SOCIETY. The Honorable Kevin Andrews. Heritage Lecture #1118, April 23, 2009**

if we cannot preserve and support the institutions of community in which relationships are developed and nurtured, then we are not merely placing at risk the welfare of many people, particularly the young and the elderly; we are weakening the very foundations of democracy itself. As many have observed, of all political systems, democracy most depends upon the competence and character of its citizens. A liberal democracy presupposes civic virtue to a higher degree than any other form of government.

<http://www.heritage.org/Research/Welfare/hl1118.cfm>



**HOW MEMBERS OF THE 111TH CONGRESS PRACTICE PRIVATE SCHOOL CHOICE. Lindsey Burke. Heritage Foundation Backgrounder #2257. April 20, 2009**

Policies that give parents the ability to exercise private-school choice continue to proliferate across the country. In 2009, 14 states and Washington, D.C., are offering school voucher or education tax-credit programs that help parents send their children to private schools. During the 2007 and 2008 legislative sessions, 44 states introduced school-choice legislation. In 2008, private-school-choice policies were enacted

or expanded in Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Pennsylvania, and Utah--made possible by increasing bipartisan support for school choice. On Capitol Hill, however, progress in expanding parental choice in education remains slow. Recent Congresses have not implemented policies to expand private-school choice. In 2009, the 111th Congress has already approved legislative action that threatens to phase out the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program (OSP), a federal initiative that currently helps 1,700 disadvantaged children attend private schools in the nation's capital.

[http://www.heritage.org/Research/Education/upload/bg\\_2257.pdf](http://www.heritage.org/Research/Education/upload/bg_2257.pdf)

**THE U.S. IS RIGHT TO BOYCOTT THE U.N. DURBAN II CONFERENCE ON RACISM. Brett D. Schaefer and Steven Groves. Heritage Foundation WebMemo #2399 April 19, 2009**

On February 27, the Obama Administration indicated it would most likely not participate in the upcoming Durban Review Conference on racism due to the extremely biased content of the draft "outcome document." In an effort to prevent further boycotts of the conference and entice the U.S. to participate, countries supporting the more objectionable parts of the Durban II draft outcome document agreed to accept a shorter draft that eliminated many—but not all—of the provisions identified by the U.S. as problematic. The U.N. and human rights groups responded by demanding that the U.S. return to Durban II.

On April 18, the U.S. officially announced that it would not attend Durban II. A State Department spokesman explained that the outcome document remained unacceptable due to its reaffirmation of the flawed 2001 Durban Declaration and other troubling provisions. The U.S. was right to ignore outside pressure and refuse to grant Durban II the legitimacy that U.S. participation would provide.

<http://www.heritage.org/Research/InternationalOrganizations/wm2399.cfm>

**THE DIRTY DOZEN: 12 NEW POLICIES THAT UNDERMINE CIVIL SOCIETY. Jennifer A. Marshall and Katherine Bradley. Heritage Foundation WebMemo #2389. April 8, 2009**

Within the first quarter of 2009, the Obama Administration and the 111th Congress have advanced a number of policies that will undermine family and religious freedom in America. Together they show a serious disregard for parental rights, human dignity, freedom of conscience, and civil society in American life.

In these difficult economic times, policymakers should recognize and empower the vast resources of family, religious institutions, and civil society. Instead, Congress and the Administration have systematically promoted policies that debilitate the protective and problem-solving capacity of these fundamental institutions.

<http://www.heritage.org/Research/Family/wm2389.cfm>

**HOOVER INSTITUTION, STANFORD UNIVERSITY**

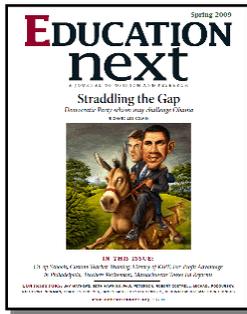
***HOOVER POLICY REVIEW* No.154. April/May 2009 Hoover Institution, Stanford University**



This bimonthly publication provides new and serious thinking on matters of public policy. **FEATURED ARTICLES:**

- Is Pornography the New Tobacco? Another curious reversal in moralizing By Mary Eberstadt
- Niebuhr and Obama; What does the president's taste for the theologian foretell? By Liam Julian
- The Power of Statelessness; The withering appeal of governing By Jakub Grygiel

<http://www.hoover.org/publications/policyreview/>



***EDUCATION NEXT*, Spring 2009 (vol. 9, no. 2) Hoover Institution, Stanford University**

This quarterly journal presents the facts as best they can be determined on issues related to K-12 education reform in the United States.

**FEATURED ARTICLES:**

- Straddling the Democratic Divide by Richard Colvin
- Accountability Overboard by Charles Chieppo, James Gass
- Teacher Training, Tailor-Made by Katherine Newman

<http://www.hoover.org/publications/ednext/>

**INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF LABOR**



**INTERPRETING DEGREE EFFECTS IN THE RETURNS TO EDUCATION. Alfonso Flores-Lagunes, Audrey Light. Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA), May 2009**

Researchers often identify degree effects by including degree attainment (D) and years of schooling (S) in a wage model, yet the source of independent variation in these measures is not well understood. We argue that S is negatively correlated with ability among degree-holders because the most able graduate the fastest, while a positive correlation exists among dropouts because the most able benefit from increased schooling.

Using data from the NLSY79, we find support for this explanation, and we reject the notion that the independent variation in S and D reflects reporting error.

<http://ftp.iza.org/dp4169.pdf>



**FAMILY TIES AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION. Alberto Alesina, Paola Giuliano. Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA), April 2009**

We establish an inverse relationship between family ties, generalized trust and political participation. The more individuals rely on the family as a provider of services, insurance, transfer of resources, the lower is civic engagement and political participation. The latter, together with trust, are part of what is known as social capital, therefore in this paper we contribute to the investigation of the origin and evolution of social capital over time.

We establish these results using within country evidence and looking at the behavior of immigrants from various countries in 32 different destination places.

<http://ftp.iza.org/dp4150.pdf>

## INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN'S POLICY RESEARCH (IWPR)



**THE GENDER WAGE GAP BY OCCUPATION. Fact Sheet. IWPR, April 2009**

During the last two decades women's participation in the workforce has steadily increased, with women accounting for almost half of all workers. Yet while women have almost reached parity with men in terms of their share of the workforce, they are not near parity in their earnings. In 2008 median weekly earnings for women working full-time are \$638, 79.9 percent of median weekly earnings for men working full-time, at \$798.1

<http://www.iwpr.org/pdf/C350a.pdf>

**THE GENDER WAGE GAP: 2008. Fact Sheet. IWPR. Updated: April 2009**

<http://www.iwpr.org/pdf/C350.pdf>



**FLEXIBLE WORKING POLICIES: A COMPARATIVE REVIEW. Ariane Hegewisch. IWPR, April 2009**

In December 2008, the Equality and Human Rights Commission commissioned the Institute for Women's Policy Research to examine the impact of the UK 'Right to Request, and Duty to Consider, Flexible Working' on gender equality and the access to quality flexible working for both men and women. It was asked specifically to compare this with the impact of flexible working statutes in other countries. Of particular interest are the experiences of countries such as Belgium, France,

Germany and the Netherlands where flexible working rights are open to all employees and are not, as in the UK, targeted at employees with childcare or care-giving responsibilities.

The review further assesses employers' experience with flexible working laws and reviews policies and best practice initiatives aimed at encouraging the transformation of work.

<http://www.iwpr.org/pdf/Flexibleworking.pdf>

## MDRC

### **THE DOUBLE BIND OF REDEVELOPMENT: CAMDEN DURING RECEIVERSHIP. MDRC Working Paper. David Greenberg et al. Web posted April 29, 2009.**

Camden, New Jersey, is one of the nation's poorest cities. In the early years of receivership, the city proposed billion-dollar redevelopment efforts in several neighborhoods, hoping to encourage mixed-income development and a more sustainable fiscal future. While some ambitious plans were met with protest and litigation, community organizations continued to build and rehabilitate affordable housing, the city's educational and medical facilities were able to expand, and some smaller neighborhood-wide redevelopment plans did, in fact, move forward.

<http://www.mdrc.org/publications/517/full.pdf>

### **GETTING BACK ON TRACK: EFFECTS OF A COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROGRAM FOR PROBATIONARY STUDENTS. MDRC. April 2009.**

According to the report, community college completion rates are dismally low, in part because many students are underprepared for college-level work. In fact, tens of thousands of students in California are on probation, owing to poor grades or inadequate academic progress, or both, and face a high risk of not graduating. The original program, "Opening Doors," and the other version called "Enhanced Opening Doors" are compared for their effectiveness in bringing back the students.

<http://www.mdrc.org/publications/514/full.pdf> [PDF format, 202 pages].



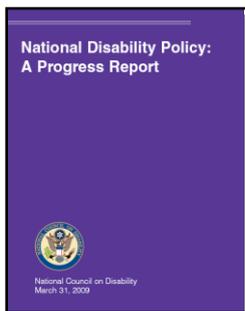
## MERCER SURVEY

### **QUALITY OF LIVING GLOBAL CITY RANKINGS 2009. Mercer Survey. April 29, 2009.**

Vienna scores highest for overall quality of living, Baghdad the lowest. This year's rankings also identify cities with the best infrastructure Singapore ranks top for city infrastructure; Dublin ranks 58th of 215 cities.

<http://www.mercer.com/summary.htm?idContent=1345570>

## NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DISABILITY (NCD)



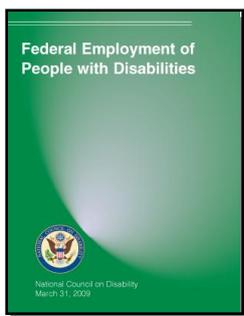
### **NATIONAL DISABILITY POLICY: A PROGRESS REPORT. National Council on Disability, March 31, 2009**

In addition to the more than 50 million Americans with disabilities, the United States faces a rapidly approaching demographic shift to an older population, with an attendant increase in the incidence of disability.

Given this impending increase, as well as the significant impact of the current economic crisis on people with disabilities, who even in the best of times experience significant socioeconomic disparities, now is the time to develop a bold, coherent, comprehensive approach to disability

policy within the Federal Government.

<http://www.ncd.gov/newsroom/publications/2009/pdf/ProgressReport.pdf>



## **FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES. National Council on Disability, March 31, 2009**

The purpose of this paper is to examine the status of employment of people with disabilities in the Federal Government and to make recommendations for improving federal hiring and advancement of employees with disabilities. The paper summarizes the legal authorities and policy guidance, the responsibilities of various federal agencies charged with ensuring equal opportunity in federal employment, barriers to hiring and advancement, provisions for reasonable accommodations,

and agency initiatives.

[http://www.ncd.gov/newsroom/publications/2009/pdf/Federal\\_Employment\\_of\\_People\\_with\\_Disabilities.pdf](http://www.ncd.gov/newsroom/publications/2009/pdf/Federal_Employment_of_People_with_Disabilities.pdf)

## **NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR DEMOCRACY**

### **DANGEROUS TRUTH: SAFEGUARDING JOURNALISM AND MEDIA WORKERS. Center for International Media Assistance, National Endowment for Democracy. April 8, 2009.**

In honor of World Press Freedom Day 2009, on April 29th, the Center for International Media Assistance at the National Endowment for Democracy will host a panel discussion on journalism. Speakers from the Committee to Protect Journalists and the International News Safety Institute will address how attacks and threats against journalists are a brutal and highly effective weapon against press freedom and democracy and represent the most dangerous form of censorship.

[http://www.newssafety.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=12711:dangerous-thruth-safeguarding-journalism-and-media-workers&catid=538:events&Itemid=100510](http://www.newssafety.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=12711:dangerous-thruth-safeguarding-journalism-and-media-workers&catid=538:events&Itemid=100510)

## **NATIONAL GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION**

### **SUMMARY OF STATE-OF-THE-STATE ADDRESSES OF THE GOVERNORS. National Governors Association Center for Best Practices]. Thad Nodine and Cynthia Jimes. Web posted April 24, 2009.**

The brief summarizes the initiatives and legislation the nation's governors emphasized during their annual addresses. The report demonstrates where the chief executives of the states believe their leadership is most needed and uses specific examples to articulate how they intend to accomplish their goals. According to this year's summary, "The tenor of the governors' state-of-the-state addresses in 2009 was tempered by a sharp downturn in state economic conditions, challenging budget decisions and financial difficulties facing state residents."

<http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/GOVSPEAK0904.PDF> [PDF format, 39 pages].



### **ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE AT SCALE: STATE SUPPORT FOR HIGH-PERFORMING CHARTER SCHOOL. National Governors Association for Best Practices. April 15, 2009.**

Citing specific state examples, the report compares characteristics of high-quality charter schools and offers steps that state policymakers can take to foster an environment ripe for high-quality charter school expansions.

<http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/0904CHARTERSCHOOLEXPANSION.PDF> [PDF format, 12 pages].



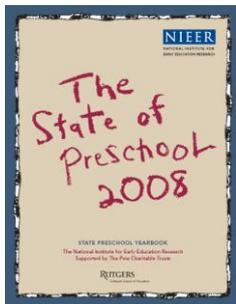
**STATE EDUCATION ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT MISSION GROWTH. Center for Best Practices, National Governors Association. March 16, 2009.**

States are employing a host of new education strategies and initiatives to handle the significant growth in the mission of many military bases across the country, according to the issue brief. It highlights a number of strategies states can take to respond effectively to the educational challenges of a growing defense community, including establish collaborative approaches that coordinate education responses and

represent diverse stakeholders; adjust educational programs to allow for flexibility; focus on teacher recruitment, retraining and retention strategies; and establish educational programs that support military dependent students and prepare future workforce.

<http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/0903MISSIONGROWTHEDUCATION.PDF>

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR EARLY EDUCATION RESEARCH**



**THE STATE OF PRESCHOOL 2008. National Institute for Early Education Research. April 2009.**

The report profiles state-funded prekindergarten programs in the United States. Tracking trends is essential, since changes in states' policies on preschool education will influence how successfully America's next generation will compete in the knowledge economy.

<http://nieer.org/yearbook/pdf/yearbook.pdf> [PDF format, 254 pages].

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON MONEY IN STATE POLITICS**

**INDUSTRIES STORM STATES OVER CLIMATE CHANGE. National Institute on Money in State Politics. Tyler Evilsizer. March 18, 2009.**

As the climate change debate heats up in the states, those with a keen interest in the issue have turned up the pressure to make sure their voices are heard in the lawmaking process. Between 2003 and 2007, energy-related companies contributed \$151 million to state-level politics; chambers of commerce, manufacturers and pro-business organizations gave an additional \$31.4 million. In sharp contrast, environmental organizations and alternative energy companies contributed only \$26 million.

[http://www.followthemoney.org/press/Reports/INDUSTRIES\\_STORM\\_STATES\\_OVER\\_CLIMATE\\_CHANGE.pdf?PHPSESSID=2750c9f760cea6d5c88c50026cb55c2b](http://www.followthemoney.org/press/Reports/INDUSTRIES_STORM_STATES_OVER_CLIMATE_CHANGE.pdf?PHPSESSID=2750c9f760cea6d5c88c50026cb55c2b)

**NORMAN LEE CENTER**

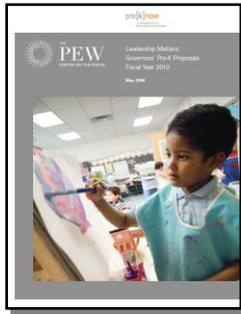
**THE GEOGRAPHY OF BUZZ: ART, CULTURE AND THE SOCIAL MILIEU IN LOS ANGELES AND NEW YORK. Norman Lear Center. Elizabeth Currid and Sarah Williams. Web posted April 7, 2009.**

Social scientists have long sought to understand the cultural production system. The authors use a unique data set, Getty Images, and geo-coded over 6,000 events and 300,000 photographic images taken in Los Angeles and New York City. They combined GIS and spatial statistics to analyze these macro geographical patterns and concluded: 1) Social

milieus have nonrandom spatial clustering 2) These clustering tendencies may reinforce themselves 3) Event enclaves demonstrate homogeneous spatial patterns across all cultural industries 4) The recursive nature of place-branding may partially explain resulting cultural hubs and 5) The media also clusters.

<http://www.learcenter.org/pdf/CurridWilliamsGeogBuzz.pdf>

## PEW



### **LEADERSHIP MATTERS: GOVERNORS' PRE-K PROPOSALS FISCAL YEAR 2010. Pew Center on the States. May 5, 2009**

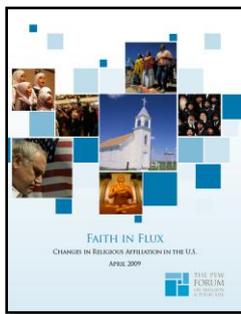
Even as they confront the fiscal crisis and whittle spending to core priorities, the majority of the nation's governors are increasing or protecting their state's investments in pre-kindergarten programs in the coming fiscal year. Five times as many governors are proposing to protect or increase pre-k, as are those who are calling for cuts to early education. Three governors are even introducing new initiatives in states that currently offer no publicly funded pre-k, according to a national analysis.

[http://www.pewtrusts.org/uploadedFiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/Reports/Pre-k\\_education/Leadership\\_Matters\\_Final.pdf](http://www.pewtrusts.org/uploadedFiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/Reports/Pre-k_education/Leadership_Matters_Final.pdf) [PDF format, 28 pages].

### **OBAMA, CATHOLICS AND THE NOTRE DAME COMMENCEMENT. Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life. April 30, 2009.**

Most Catholics who have heard about the issue support the University of Notre Dame's decision to invite President Barack Obama to speak and receive an honorary degree at its May 17 commencement, even though he supports abortion rights and embryonic stem cell research. But a new poll also finds a deep division on this issue between the most-observant Catholics and those who are less observant, as defined by frequency of worship service attendance.

<http://pewforum.org/docs/?DocID=413> [HTML format, various paging].



### **FAITH IN FLUX: CHANGES IN RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION IN THE U.S. Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life. April 27, 2009.**

The study finds that Americans change their religious affiliation early and often, and the reasons they give for changing or leaving religion altogether differ widely depending on the origin and destination of the convert. The poll results offer a fuller picture of the "churn" within religion in America, where about half of adults have changed religious affiliation at least once in their life.

<http://pewforum.org/newassets/images/reports/flux/fullreport.pdf>

### **FAITH IN GLOBAL WARMING: RELIGIOUS GROUPS' VIEWS ON EARTH WARMING EVIDENCE. Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life. April 16, 2009.**

The survey examines views on global warming among major religious traditions in the U.S. The unaffiliated, 58%, are the most likely among the religious groups studied to say there is solid evidence the earth is warming because of human activity. White evangelical Protestants are the most likely to say there is no solid evidence the earth is warming, 31%, and the least likely to believe that humans have contributed to heating up the planet (34%).

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1194/global-warming-belief-by-religion>

**HISPANICS AND THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM: LOW CONFIDENCE, HIGH EXPOSURE. Pew Hispanic Center. Mark Hugo Lopez and Gretchen Livingston. April 7, 2009.**

At a time when Latinos are interacting more than ever with police, courts and prisons, their confidence in the U.S. criminal justice system is closer to the low levels expressed by blacks than to the high levels expressed by whites, according to the surveys. Six-in-ten (61%) Hispanics say they have a great deal or a fair amount of confidence that the police in their local communities will do a good job enforcing the law, compared with 78% of whites and 55% of blacks. Just under half (46%) of Hispanics say they have confidence that police officers will not use excessive force on suspects, compared with 73% of whites and 38% of blacks.

<http://pewhispanic.org/files/reports/106.pdf> [PDF format, 23 pages].

**STATE OF THE NEWS MEDIA. Pew Project for excellence in Journalism. March 2009.**

The study provides both aggregated and original research on the eight major sectors of media-newspapers, online, network; cable, local and network TV; magazines; radio and ethnic. It also includes special reports on the Year in the News, lessons from the 2008 election, an analysis of citizen media sites and more.

<http://www.stateofthenewsmedia.org/2009/index.htm> [HTML format with PDF links].

**MANY WOULD SHRUG IF THEIR LOCAL NEWSPAPER CLOSED. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. Andrew Kohut and Michael Remez. March 12, 2009.**

As many newspapers struggle to stay economically viable, fewer than half of Americans (43%) say that losing their local newspaper would hurt civic life in their community “a lot.” Even fewer (33%) say they would personally miss reading the local newspaper a lot if it were no longer available. Not unexpectedly, those who get local news regularly from newspapers are much more likely than those who read less often to see the potential shutdown of a local paper as a significant loss.

<http://people-press.org/reports/pdf/497.pdf> [PDF format, 12 pages].

## PLOS ONE

**PERPETUAL OTHER-RACE TRAINING REDUCES IMPLICIT RACIAL BIAS. PLoS One. 2009.**

The report contends that implicit racial bias denotes socio-cognitive attitudes towards other-race groups that are exempt from conscious awareness. In parallel, other-race faces are more difficult to differentiate relative to own-race faces, the “Other-Race Effect.” To examine the relationship between these two biases, The authors trained Caucasian subjects to better individuate other-race faces and measured implicit racial bias for those faces both before and after training. The results establish a causal link between the Other-Race Effect and implicit racial bias. The report also demonstrates that training that ameliorates the perceptual Other-Race Effect also reduces socio-cognitive implicit racial bias.

<http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0004215>

[HTML format, various paging].

## POPULATION REFERENCE BUREAU

### **EDUCATION, MEDICAL TREATMENT, AND SOCIAL NETWORKS CAN PROMOTE ‘BRAIN HEALTH’ AMONG U.S. ELDERLY. Population Reference Bureau. Mary Mederios Kent. Web posted April 2009.**

With continued population aging and increasing numbers of elderly, the loss of cognitive function among some older Americans foreshadows a potentially enormous social and economic burden on individuals, families, communities, and the nation. Three researchers presents their findings on how education, income, better treatment of stroke and heart disease, and other factors affect the severe decline in cognitive ability among nearly 10 percent of U.S. elderly.

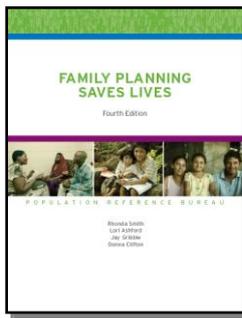
<http://www.prb.org/Articles/2009/cognitiveimpairment.aspx>  
[HTML format, various paging].



### **20TH –CENTURY U.S. GENERATIONS. Population Reference Bureau. Elwood Carlson. March 2009.**

The myriad decisions people make throughout lives, affect not only individual lives, but public policy and business practices as well. Governments formulate laws and policies about child and health care and Social Security based on the life choices they expect people to make. Private businesses make plans based on the life choices they expect from people as employees and customers. Generational differences in demographic experiences provide some clues about the sources of the generational divide seen in some political, social, and consumption choices.

<http://www.prb.org/pdf09/64.1generations.pdf> [PDF format, 20 pages].



### **FAMILY PLANNING SAVES LIVES. Population Reference Bureau. Rhonda Smith et al. March 2009.**

Family planning is a lifesaver for millions of women and children in developing countries according to the report. It provides valuable information to policymakers, program planners, and journalists on the health benefits of family planning.

<http://www.prb.org/pdf09/familyplanningsaveslives.pdf>  
[PDF format, 25 pages].

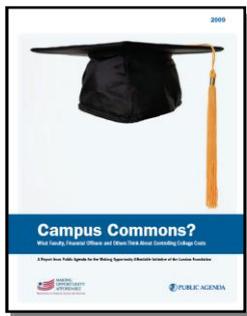
## PROJECT ON GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT

### **INSPECTORS GENERAL: ACCOUNTABILITY IS A BALANCING ACT. Project on Government Oversight. March 20, 2009.**

The report considers the factors affecting Inspector Generals’ independence, and determines some of the best practices, policies, and changes in the law necessary to bring the system into optimal balance between the two essential values of independence and accountability. It focuses on holding IGs accountable both for their conduct and the quality of their work.

<http://www.pogoarchives.org/m/go/ig/accountability/ig-accountability-20090320.pdf>  
[PDF format, 53 pages].

## PUBLIC AGENDA



### **CAMPUS COMMONS? WHAT FACULTY, FINANCIAL OFFICERS AND OTHERS THINK ABOUT CONTROLLING COLLEGE COSTS. Public Agenda. John Immerwahr et al. April 28, 2009.**

With state budgets under pressure from the economic downturn and widespread public anxiety about whether college is accessible to all qualified students, the report points to the need for policymakers, public higher education leadership, and faculty to join together to look for ways to keep public higher education costs under control.

[http://www.publicagenda.org/files/pdf/campus\\_commons.pdf](http://www.publicagenda.org/files/pdf/campus_commons.pdf) [PDF format, 32 pages].

## PUBLIC EMPLOYEES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

### **STATES STRENGTHEN WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION LAWS. Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility. April 16, 2009.**

Many states are adopting new laws to protect their civil servants who report waste, fraud and abuse, according to the legal analysis. While the level of whistleblower protection varies widely across the country, several states are enacting safeguards that surpass those afforded to federal employees.

[http://www.peer.org/news/news\\_id.php?row\\_id=1181](http://www.peer.org/news/news_id.php?row_id=1181)

## PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE

### **PRIVATIZING THE PUBLIC TRUST: A CRITICAL LOOK AT CONNECTED NATION. Public Knowledge. March 23, 2009.**

Connected Nation conducts mapping and broadband demand surveys around the country through subsidiary organizations. The report argues that Connected Nation's policy restricts the collection and use of information gathered from the telecom companies and other incumbents that make up its board. "Quite simply, Connected Nation's strategy is to accept public funds for collecting information from its sponsors which is then kept largely private, hidden behind strict non-disclosure agreements (NDA). This privatized data gathered with public money is a violation of the public trust," says the author.

<http://www.publicknowledge.org/pdf/connected-nation-report-20090323.pdf>  
[PDF format, 49 pages].

## RAND

### **FINANCIAL RESOURCES, LIVING ARRANGEMENTS, AND PRIVATE TRANSFERS. RAND Corporation. Quifei Ma. May 6, 2009.**

The paper analyzes the care giving behavior of adult children toward elderly parents and their living arrangements. Using data collected as part of the U.S. Health and Retirement Study, the author investigates the role of children's characteristics, primarily wealth and wages, in determining co-residency. The author also analyzes new intergenerational transfer data that have recently become available in the Chinese Social Survey of Family Dynamics, and assesses whether or not these data are useful to measure family support.

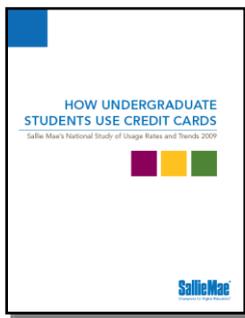
[http://www.rand.org/pubs/rgs\\_dissertations/2009/RAND\\_RGSD241.pdf](http://www.rand.org/pubs/rgs_dissertations/2009/RAND_RGSD241.pdf)

**CHARTER SCHOOLS IN EIGHT STATES: EFFECTS ON ACHIEVEMENT, ATTAINMENT, INTEGRATION, AND COMPETITION. RAND Corporation. Ron Zimmer et al. March 2009.**

The most promising results for charter schools relate to the long-term outcomes of high-school graduation and college entry. In the two locations with available data on these critical attainment outcomes, Chicago and Florida, charter high schools appear to have substantial positive impacts, increasing the probability of graduating by 7 to 15 percentage points and increasing the probability of enrolling in college by 8 to 10 percentage points. Across locations, charter schools do not appear to produce effects that substantially help or harm student achievement in nearby traditional public schools, according to the report.

[http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2009/RAND\\_MG869.pdf](http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2009/RAND_MG869.pdf)

## SALLY MAE



**HOW UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS USE CREDIT CARDS. Sallie Mae. Web posted April 21, 2009.**

In this time of credit crunch and economic downturn, college students are relying on credit cards more than ever before. Nearly every indicator measured in spring 2008 showed an increase in credit card usage since the last study was conducted in fall 2004. Many college students seem to use credit cards to live beyond their means, not just for convenience, and more than three-quarters incurred finance charges by carrying a monthly balance.

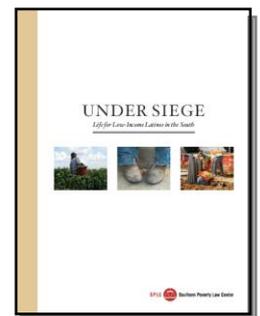
<http://www.salliemae.com/NR/rdonlyres/0BD600F1-9377-46EA-AB1F-6061FC763246/10744/SLMCreditCardUsageStudy41309FINAL2.pdf>

## SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER

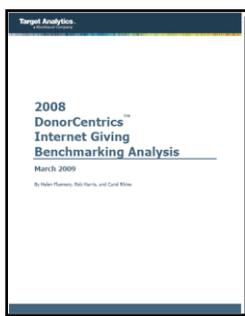
**UNDER SIEGE: LIFE FOR LOW-INCOME LATINOS IN THE SOUTH. Southern Poverty Law Center. April 21, 2009.**

Low-income Latino immigrants in the South are routinely the targets of wage theft, racial profiling and other abuses driven by an anti-immigrant climate that harms all Latinos regardless of their immigration status, according to the report. It documents the experiences of Latino immigrants who face increasing hostility as they fill low-wage jobs in Southern states that had few Latino residents until recent years.

<http://www.splcenter.org/legal/undersiege/UnderSiege.pdf> [PDF format, 64 pages].



## TARGET ANALYTICS



**2008 DONORCENTRICS INTERNET GIVING BENCHMARKING ANALYSIS. Target Analytics. Helen Flannery et al. March 2009.**

The key findings from the Analysis indicate that over the past few years, online giving has become an increasingly significant source of new donor acquisition, and integrating online and offline fundraising channels is key to long term success.

<http://www.blackbaud.com/files/resources/downloads/cam/TargetInternetGivingSummary2008.pdf>

## THOMAS B. FORDHAM INSTITUTE

### **GROWING PAINS IN THE ADVANCED PLACEMENT PROGRAM: DO TOUGH TRADE-OFFS LIE AHEAD? Thomas B. Fordham Institute. Ann Duffett and Steve Farkas. April 29, 2009.**

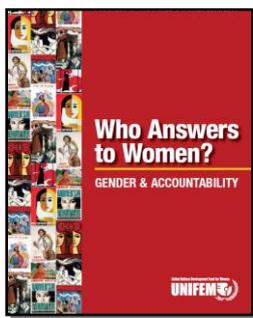
In 2002-2003, 1 million students participated in AP by taking at least one exam. Five years later, nearly 1.6 million did. But is growth all good? Might there be a downside? Are ill prepared students eroding the quality of the program? Perhaps harming the best and brightest? Although the study shows that AP program remains very popular with its teachers, there are signs that the move toward “open door” access to AP is starting to cause concern. [http://www.edexcellence.net/advanced\\_placement\\_report/Report.pdf](http://www.edexcellence.net/advanced_placement_report/Report.pdf) [PDF format, 21 pages].

## UNITED NATIONS

### **WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY 2009: MEDIA, DIALOGUE AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING. U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. April 2009.**

The potential of media in fostering dialogue, mutual understanding and reconciliation will be the topic of UNESCO World Press Freedom Day 2009 to be celebrated on 2-3 May 2009. As the only UN agency with a mandate to defend freedom of expression and press freedom, UNESCO has placed mutual understanding, and dialogue through media at the core of its mission.

[http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=27867&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=27867&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html) [HTML format with links].



### **WHO ANSWERS TO WOMEN? GENDER & ACCOUNTABILITY. Progress of the World's Women 2008/2009, United Nations. 2009.**

The report focuses on five key areas where the need to strengthen accountability to women is urgent: politics and governance, access to public services, economic opportunities, justice, and the distribution of international assistance for development and security.

[http://www.unifem.org/progress/2008/media/POWW08\\_Report\\_Full\\_Text.pdf](http://www.unifem.org/progress/2008/media/POWW08_Report_Full_Text.pdf) [PDF format, 163 pages].

### **FINAL REPORT ON THE IMPACT OF THE ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION DURING THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF LANGUAGES. (2008). United Nations. Web posted April 11, 2009.**

The report is submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 61/266, entitled “Multilingualism”. In paragraph 25 of the resolution, the Assembly proclaimed 2008 the International Year of Languages and invited UNESCO “to serve as the lead agency for the Year”. In subparagraph 25 (b) of the resolution, the Assembly requested the Director-General of UNESCO to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session on the impact of the activities carried out during the Year.

[http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/63/752](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/63/752) [PDF format, 20 pages].

## URBAN INSTITUTE



### **STATUS VERSUS GROWTH: THE DISTRIBUTIONAL EFFECTS OF SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY.** Urban Institute. Helen F. Ladd and Douglas L. Lauen. March 2009.

Using a ten-year student-level panel dataset from North Carolina, the authors examine how school-specific pressure related to two school accountability approaches, status and growth, affects student achievement at different points in the prior-year achievement distribution. The report finds little or no evidence that schools in North Carolina ignore students far below proficiency under either approach.

Further, the status, but not the growth, approach reduces the reading achievement of higher performing students, with the losses in aggregate exceeding gains at the bottom. The distributional effects of accountability pressure depend on the type of accountability pressure and on the tested subject.

[http://www.caldercenter.org/PDF/1001260\\_status\\_vs\\_growth.pdf](http://www.caldercenter.org/PDF/1001260_status_vs_growth.pdf)

[PDF format, 53 pages].

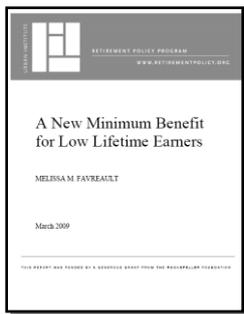
### **IMPROVING EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT POLICIES AND PRACTICES.** Urban Institute. Gina Adams. March 19, 2009.

To improve child care options for working families, federal policymaking must widen its focus to include children from birth to age 5, Gina Adams, an Urban Institute senior fellow, told the House Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education.

Federal attention must also be paid to identifying mechanisms to strengthen service quality

[http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/901241\\_ginaadamstestimony03192009.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/901241_ginaadamstestimony03192009.pdf)

[PDF format, 9 pages].



### **A NEW MINIMUM BENEFIT FOR LOW LIFETIME EARNERS.** Urban Institute. March 2009.

Despite working hard and playing by the rules over long periods, many workers end up poor in retirement. The report proposes an enhanced minimum benefit for Social Security that targets long-career workers with low lifetime earnings along with a modest credit that compensates workers for up to three years out of the labor market due to care giving, unemployment, or poor health.

[http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411853\\_anewminimumbenefit.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411853_anewminimumbenefit.pdf)

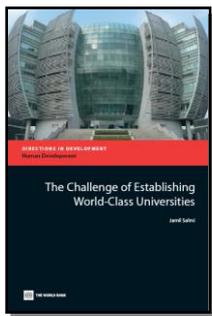
## WOODROW WILSON INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR SCHOLARS

### **THE WILSON QUARTERLY, Spring 2009 Issue**

<http://www.wilsoncenter.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=wq.current>



## WORLD BANK



### **THE CHALLENGES OF ESTABLISHING WORLD-CLASS UNIVERSITIES. World Bank. Jamil Salmi. March 20, 2009.**

The highest-ranked universities are the ones that make significant contributions to the advancement of knowledge. There is no universal recipe or magic formula for “making” a world class university, says the report. National contexts and institutional models vary widely. Therefore, each country must choose, from among the various possible pathways, a strategy that plays to its strengths and resources. International experience provides a few lessons regarding the key features of such universities, high concentrations of talent, abundance of resources, and flexible governance

arrangements, and successful approaches to move in that direction, from upgrading or merging existing institutions to creating new institutions altogether.

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EDUCATION/Resources/278200-1099079877269/547664-1099079956815/547670-1237305262556/WCU.pdf>

[PDF format, 136 pages].

## ARTICLES FROM U.S. JOURNALS

### **COULD FOOD SHORTAGES BRING DOWN CIVILIZATION? Brown, Lester. *Scientific American*, May 2009**

Summary: The author, president of the Earth Policy Institute, writes that the biggest threat to global stability is the potential for food crises in poor countries to cause government collapse. Food scarcity and the resulting higher food prices are pushing poor countries into chaos. Such “failed states” can export disease, terrorism, illicit drugs, weapons and refugees. Water shortages, soil erosion and rising temperatures from global warming are placing severe limits on food production. Without massive and rapid intervention to address these three environmental factors, the author argues, a series of government collapses could threaten the world order. Currently available online at

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=civilization-food-shortages&page=5>

### **THE WORLD’S FIRST TEMPLE? Curry, Andrew. *Smithsonian* vol. 39, no. 8, November 2008, pp. 54-60**

Summary: On a hilltop in southeastern Turkey, near the border with Syria, a team of German archaeologists are excavating a place estimated to date to 9,000 B.C. that they think may be humanity’s first site of worship. Their findings may re-write the conventional wisdom about the evolution of human society. Gobekli Tepe is a man-made earthen mound, in which archaeologists have discovered a series of massive carved and embellished stones. They were arranged by their builders in a ritualistic way, and then buried. The size and mass of the construction could have only been achieved by a well-organized workforce, yet its age means that it was built before the domestication of animals and the emergence of agriculture.

Anthropology has long held that farming and the organization of labor it demanded led to the building of temples and development of complex social structures. The Gobekli Tepe dig is leading many to suggest that it may have been the other way around -- that the effort required to build the monoliths was the basis for the development of agriculture and complex societies. Currently available online at

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history-archaeology/gobekli-tepe.html>

**WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT MODERNIZATION. Inglehart, Ronald; Welzel, Christian. *Foreign Affairs*, vol. 88, no. 2, March-April 2009**

Summary: The authors write that, although democracies are in retreat in some developing countries, evidence shows that over time democracy emerges from modernization. Inglehart and Welzel, coauthors of MODERNIZATION, CULTURAL CHANGE, AND DEMOCRACY, say industrialization brings about rapid economic growth and other changes that transform behavior. High levels of development make people more tolerant and trusting, promoting self-expression and participation in making decisions, including political decisions. “This means that the economic resurgence of China and Russia has a positive aspect: underlying changes are occurring that make the emergence of increasingly liberal and democratic political systems likely in the coming years,” they note. Modernization does not go on indefinitely; each phase of modernization effects some changes to people’s world views. It does not weaken religious and ethnic traditions or lead to westernization. Nor does it lead to democracy automatically; democracy emerges as highly educated people increasingly think for themselves and change their behavior. At some point democracy becomes hard to avoid “because repressing mass demands for more open societies becomes increasingly costly and detrimental to economic effectiveness.” Currently available online at <http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/64821/ronald-inglehart-and-christian-welzel/how-development-leads-to-democracy?page=show>

**ROLL THE DICE: HOW ONE JOURNALIST GAMBLED ON THE FUTURE OF NEWS. Sennot, Charles M. *Columbia Journalism Review* March-April 2009**

Summary: Sennot, a former Boston Globe correspondent, writes of his transition from being a traditional print journalist to co-founding GlobalPost.com, an online “collaborative” foreign news agency that has attracted major journalists who write on a freelance basis for a modest stipends and shares in the company. Despite the trepidation of entering a new realm, and a shortfall in funding, GlobalPost.com was launched and is among a group that includes ProPublica and Politico moving the news delivery model forward. It also offers an entrepreneurial landing spot for journalists exiting traditional print careers. “It is an exciting time, a historic shift in how the world will be informed,” Sennot writes. He is currently GlobalPost.com’s executive editor. Currently available online at [http://www.cjr.org/cover\\_story/roll\\_the\\_dice.php?page=all](http://www.cjr.org/cover_story/roll_the_dice.php?page=all)

**POE MAN’S IMMORTALITY. Lawrence, Edward. *Humanities*, vol. 29, no. 5, September/October 2008, pp. 41-43**

Summary: Nineteenth-century U.S. author Edgar Allan Poe continues to be a major figure in modern popular media -- cartoons, comic books, graphic novels and other venue -- more so than any other major author, notes Lawrence. He ascribes this to a number of factors, foremost is that Poe is “immediately recognizable ... a legendary figure, sort of like the nineteenth-century James Dean.” He was one of the first writers to support himself solely through writing, requiring him to appear in the public eye. He was an astute marketer, and a master of publicity stunts; after publishing an essay on “secret writing”, he promoted cryptography by offering to solve coded messages sent to him by readers. Poe was a pioneer of dark romanticism, of characters with conflicting emotions, which lends itself handily to the comic format. His work also spoke to something that many did not address at the time -- that the “regimented, mechanical and impersonal ethos of the industrial age stifled what it meant to be human.” Available online at <http://www.neh.gov/news/humanities/2008-09/immortality.html>

**IS TECHNOLOGY TEARING APART FAMILY LIFE? Wollman, Dana. *Laptop*, March 2009, pp. 92-97**

Summary: The author notes that text messaging, social networking and online video are changing the dynamics between parents and children; technology today is the new “rock-and-roll”, with the older generation trying to make sense of it, if not openly embrace, it. Some believe that social networking will improve family interaction, while others argue that the new technology threatens to rip apart not just family unity but the fabric of society itself, as more individuals communicate only through their high-tech devices, decreasing the amount of time they actually interact on a personal level. Eye contact, emotional resonance and body language are lost if humans rely primarily on texting, instant-messaging or FaceBook as means of communication. Family togetherness, like evening meals or weekend activities, gets short-changed once again as children use their gadgets as a substitute for family participation. Currently available online at

<http://www.laptopmag.com/mobile-life/is-technology-tearing-apart-family-life.aspx>

**SCHOLARS MULL THE ‘PARADOX’ OF IMMIGRANTS. Zehr, Mary Ann. *Education Week*, Vol. 28, No. 25, March 18, 2009, pp. 1, 12**

Summary: Since it was first documented in the early 1980s, the troubling and apparently paradoxical pattern of immigrants to the U.S.A. has been one of the greatest and longest-running scandals in the social sciences. First-generation immigrants to the United States do better than expected and better than their immigrant counterparts typically do in other countries. But whereas in almost all other countries (New Zealand and Australia are the other exceptions) the academic success of immigrants improves measurably from the first to the third generation, in the U.S.A. the academic success of immigrants declines. Moreover, the tendency to stay out of trouble and the physical health of immigrants to the United States also tends to decline significantly, just as if becoming an American were a developmental risk. The immigrant paradox holds among many different ethnic groups, but that the causes of the decline from one generation to the next remain obscure except for the obvious increase in such risky behavior as alcohol and drug abuse and teenage sex. For example, one researcher examined the educational success of 45,000 first-generation immigrant and native-born New York City students, comparing them within their racial and ethnic groups. “It’s a story of foreign-born advantage. The foreign-born test higher and graduate from high school at higher rates than the native-born,” said researcher Dylan Conger. Chinese and Korean immigrants offer one variation on the paradox: a bifurcation between high and low achievers emerges over time.

[http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2009/03/18/25immigrant\\_ep.h28.html?tkn=SMVFjI0rCSR5NtV0Y YlQYaYV96Gtf18yZ2ZN](http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2009/03/18/25immigrant_ep.h28.html?tkn=SMVFjI0rCSR5NtV0Y YlQYaYV96Gtf18yZ2ZN)

**ESCAPE FROM THE ZOMBIE FOOD COURT. Bageant, Joe. *AlterNet*, posted April 6, 2009**

Summary: In this article, condensed from recent presentations, author and social commentator Joe Bageant notes that what he writes about is “Americans, and why we think and behave the way we do.” Says Bageant, the outside world does not exist for most of us – “it is a real place with many fast developing disasters, economic and ecological collapse being just two. The more aware among us grasp that there is much at stake. Yet, even the most informed and educated Americans have cultural conditioning working against them round the clock.” Notes Bageant, “given the financialization of all aspects of our culture and lives, even our so-called leisure time, it is not an exaggeration to say that true democracy is dead and a corporate financial state has now arrived.” Television and the media “have

colonized our inner lives like a virus”; though a comparatively recent phenomenon, “this commoditization of our human consciousness is probably the most astounding, most chilling accomplishment of American capitalist culture.” It has succeeded in spreading around the world because it “requires no effort, no critical thinking ... just passive consumption.” How does one escape such a system? According to Bageant, “humble and thoughtful service to the world.” He sees idealism making a comeback since its decline in the 1960s, especially among a new breed of young people, who understand it “completely ... they seem to already know what it took me a lifetime to learn.” Available online under the above title at <http://www.joebageant.com/joe/2009/04/escape-from-the-zombie-food-court.html>

**HELLHOLE. Gawande, Atul. *New Yorker* March 30, 2009, pp. 36-45**

Many people who experience profound isolation over months and years start to lose their minds, become violent or catatonic, and have difficulty readjusting to society after being freed. U.S. Navy aviators imprisoned in Vietnam “reported that they found social isolation to be as torturous and agonizing as any physical abuse they suffered,” says the author. Gawande observes that “whether in Walpole [State Prison in Massachusetts] or Beirut or Hanoi, all human beings experience isolation as torture.” U.S. prisons holds tens of thousands of people in long-term solitary confinement in supermaxes – facilities designed to isolate prisoners from social contact. Proponents argue that solitary confinement provides discipline when prisoners refuse to follow rules, and it separates violent aggressors from other prisoners. (However, it is sometimes used to punish petty offenses like refusing to get out of the shower quickly enough.) Some 60 supermaxes have been built since 1983, holding at least 25,000 inmates in isolation, but there has been no drop in prison violence. “Evidence from a number of studies has shown that supermax conditions—in which prisoners have virtually no social interactions and are given no programmatic support—make it highly likely that they will commit more crimes when they are released,” says Gawande. A bipartisan task force in 2006 recommended ending long-term isolation in favor of the violence prevention approach used in Europe -- giving prisoners more opportunities for work, education and mental health treatment. But U.S. public opinion does not support this change, and so “the recommendations went nowhere.” [http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2009/03/30/090330fa\\_fact\\_gawande](http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2009/03/30/090330fa_fact_gawande)

**CHEATING GOES GLOBAL AS ESSAY MILLS MULTIPLY. Bartlett, Thomas. *Chronicle of Higher Education*, Vol. 55, No. 28, March 20, 2009, pp. A1, A22-A25**

Summary: In a piece of investigative journalism unusual for the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, Bartlett traces the various Internet manifestations of an “essay mill,” first to a house in Virginia and then to an office in Ukraine and a building in the Philippines, along the way talking to essay writers in Africa and Asia, and to students who buy their work and turn it in at U.S. universities. And these aren’t just essays for freshman English courses; students are buying papers for graduate courses and even a dissertation in a subject like aerospace engineering at a top university. The essay mill Bartlett investigates is sophisticated, international and profitable, charging up to \$42.99 per page for work by someone with a doctoral degree. Most of the customers with whom Bartlett talked knew what they were doing was wrong, but some insisted they were only buying models, and one insisted he was merely, like a savvy company, “outsourcing” work he doesn’t have time for. Writers, many from developing countries, consider the pay good and the work interesting, and did not seem particularly disturbed by the questionable ethics involved. Some institutions, like Boston University, have made an effort to shut down essay mills, and some states have rarely-enforced laws against them. Experts on plagiarism recommend professors structure assignments better and talk to students about ethics and the purpose of college. <http://chronicle.com/free/v55/i28/28a00102.htm>

**SONGS FOR THE WAY WE LIVE NOW. Berliner, Terry. *American Theatre*, vol. 26, no. 3, March 2009, pp. 25-35, 66-67**

Summary: The author, a director and musical-theater specialist, profiles five pairs of songwriters, working in different parts of the U.S. and in different stages of their careers, who promise to breathe new life into the American musical, and are experimenting with pushing the boundaries of form and subject matter. Currently available online at <http://www.tcg.org/publications/at/mar09/songs.cfm>

**BINGHAM'S LIST. Eisner, Peter. *Smithsonian*, Vol. 39, No. 12, March 2009, pp. 50-57**

Summary: A dusty closet in an old Connecticut farmhouse has revealed another story about a courageous individual who risked his career to help Jews flee the Nazis during World War II. Hiram Bingham IV, a U.S. Foreign Service officer, defied his own superiors within the State Department who wanted to block the admission of Jewish refugees to the United States. From his position in the consulate in Marseilles under the Vichy government until his transfer to Buenos Aires in 1941, Bingham issued visas to over 2500 Jews and others on Nazi death lists. Prior to the discovery of documents revealing his wartime activities, Bingham's children had no idea of the extent of what he had done -- their father had never told them. They redeemed his reputation at the State Department in 2002 when the American Foreign Service Association designated him a "courageous diplomat." Bingham has also been honored by the Yad Vashem Memorial in Jerusalem. Available online under a different title at <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history-archaeology/Binghams-List.html>

**TO CATCH A THIEF. Twomey, Steve. *Smithsonian*, April 2008, pp. 88-99**

Summary: In 2006, a Civil War buff searching on eBay discovered documents for sale that turned out to be stolen from the National Archives. The thief was a rare book dealer who had interned at the Archives. He confessed and sought clemency, but the judge sentenced him to 15 months in jail, saying that original documents have "an absolute uniqueness" and people "must be deterred from even thinking about" stealing them. Unfortunately, there is a big market for stolen historical materials; books can be damaged when pages and maps are torn out, and moreover, the thefts create gaps in our knowledge about the past. "A recent string of high-value crimes has led not only to greater vigilance but also to greater frankness about the threat," says author Steve Twomey. The thinking is that publicity may make it more difficult to sell stolen items, and warnings about the penalties (fines and jail) may discourage potential thieves. But rare books, maps and documents are hard to protect, and often the thieves are employees or other trusted individuals. "Perfect security for a special collection or an archive will never exist, and their contents will never lose allure," says Twomey. <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history-archaeology/to-catch-a-thief.html>

**THE END OF SOLITUDE. Deresiewicz, William. *Chronicle of Higher Education* vol. 55, no. 21, January 30, 2009**

Summary: The author notes that where "the camera has created a culture of celebrity, the computer is creating a culture of connectivity." As the two technologies merge, they are feeding a common urge to become recognized and visible. Deresiewicz writes that it is becoming increasingly difficult to be alone; in fact, the proliferation of social-networking web sites such as Facebook and Twitter are ways that modern humans stave off loneliness. He notes that solitude was not always stigmatized; in earlier times, the ability to be alone was recognized as a necessary part of the religious experience, or to be able to appreciate nature.

The modern age has cast solitude in a harsher light, and the spread of suburbia, which has put more distance between people, coincided with the spread of telephone and television, technologies that enabled connectedness. Deresiewicz worries that we are losing the ability for introspection — “no real excellence, personal or social, artistic, philosophical, scientific or moral, can arise without solitude.”

<http://chronicle.com/free/v55/i21/21b00601.htm>

## AMERICA.GOV-U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE PUBLICATIONS

### POETRY SLAMS BUILD CONFIDENCE, PROMOTE FREE SPEECH: YOUNG POETS USE OWN WRITING TO SHAPE PUBLIC OPINION. By Carolee Walker, Staff Writer. DOS, 13 May 2009



Washington — It isn't just writing poetry or performing that is life-changing for one young slam poet. “It is the visceral feeling you get when you hear someone on stage tell their story,” says Josh Bennett, a three-time slam poetry champion.

Youth Speaks Green Team poets, from left, Kesed, Josh Bennett, George Watsky, and Katri Foster

“The voices we don't hear in other spaces in society are the voices that are ever-present in this art form,” Bennett said.

And there is room for these voices in a democracy, said first lady Michelle Obama at a May 12 White House poetry jam. “Democracy ... has room for lots of voices,” Mrs. Obama said. (See “White House Hosts Evening of Poetry and Music.”)

[http://www.america.gov/st/peopleplace-](http://www.america.gov/st/peopleplace-english/2009/May/20090513163051bcreklaW0.9801905.html?CP.rss=true)

[english/2009/May/20090513163051bcreklaW0.9801905.html?CP.rss=true](http://www.america.gov/st/peopleplace-english/2009/May/20090513163051bcreklaW0.9801905.html?CP.rss=true)

### WHITE HOUSE HOSTS EVENING OF POETRY AND MUSIC: ARTS IMPORTANT IN LIFE OF AMERICANS, SAYS PRESIDENT OBAMA. By Carolee Walker, Staff Writer. DOS, 13 May 2009



Washington — Amid an ornate grand piano, satin ottomans, soft lights and flickering candles, a diverse group of professional and emerging artists used music and words to move a crowd of artists, celebrities, political and cultural leaders and the first family in the East Room of the White House during an evening poetry jam May 12.

First lady Michelle Obama welcomes musical and spoken word performers to the White House for an evening poetry jam.

“We're here tonight ... to highlight the importance of the arts in our life and in our nation,” said President Obama. “We're here to celebrate the power of words and music to help us appreciate beauty, but also to understand pain; to inspire us to action, and to spur us on when we start to lose hope; to lift us up out of our daily existence — even if it's just for a few moments — and return us with hearts that are a little bit bigger and fuller than they were before.”

[http://www.america.gov/st/peopleplace-](http://www.america.gov/st/peopleplace-english/2009/May/20090513155804bcreklaW0.4387628.html)

[english/2009/May/20090513155804bcreklaW0.4387628.html](http://www.america.gov/st/peopleplace-english/2009/May/20090513155804bcreklaW0.4387628.html)

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