



U.S. Society and Values

Arts • Culture • Education • Democracy • Social Issues

October 2008

The Cartoons of Herblock: Poking Fun at U.S. Presidents



Herbert L. Block (1909-2001), known by the pen name Herblock, was a Washington-based political cartoonist who lampooned American presidents for nearly seven decades. His syndicated cartoons appeared in newspapers across the United States, and 40 of them can be seen in an exhibition (*Herblock's Presidents: "Puncturing Pomposity"*) at the Smithsonian Institution's National Portrait Gallery through November 30, 2008.

America.gov offers a tour of some famous Herblock cartoons of the 20th century.



<http://www.america.gov/multimedia/photogallery.html#/30145/herblock/>

Office of the Press Secretary
September 17, 2008

Constitution Day and Citizenship Day, Constitution Week, 2008

A Proclamation by the President of the United States of America

Americans are united by the ideals of equal justice, limited government, and the rule of law. On Constitution Day and Citizenship Day and during Constitution Week, we remember the vision and determination of the Framers to build a free society, and we celebrate the historical document they created to achieve that goal.

More than two centuries ago, our Founding Fathers gathered in Philadelphia and produced a charter that would promote justice and preserve the liberty of all our citizens. The Founders established three separate branches of Government with a system of checks and balances among them. Ours is the oldest written constitution in the world, and the American experiment remains the world's best hope for freedom.

The Constitution forged the American creed of liberty and equality and has lifted the lives of countless individuals. Whether they are citizens by birth or by oath, Americans share a great tradition of enjoying liberty protected by a constitutional government of their choosing.

On Constitution Day and Citizenship Day, and during Constitution Week, Americans come together and recognize the blessings bestowed upon our great Nation. On this occasion we celebrate the courage of the Constitution's drafters and recommit ourselves to making the United States a more perfect union.

In recognition of the signing of the Constitution and of Americans who strive to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of citizenship, the Congress, by joint resolution of February 29, 1952 (36 U.S.C. 106, as amended), designated September 17 as "Constitution Day and Citizenship Day," and by joint resolution of August 2, 1956 (36 U.S.C. 108, as amended), requested that the President proclaim the week beginning September 17 and ending September 23 of each year as "Constitution Week."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim September 17, 2008, as Constitution Day and Citizenship Day, and September 17 through September 23, 2008, as Constitution Week. I encourage Federal, State, and local officials, as well as leaders of civic, social, and educational organizations, to conduct ceremonies and programs that celebrate our Constitution and reaffirm our rights and responsibilities as citizens of this great Nation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this seventeenth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.

GEORGE W. BUSH

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AMERICAN POPULAR MUSIC. Larry Starr & Christopher Waterman. Copyright © 2003, 2007 by Oxford University Press, Inc. U.S. Department of State, August 2008..... 51

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MARKETS AND DEMOCRACY. An Electronic Journal of the U.S. Department of State, Volume 13, Number 6. June 2008 52

GOVERNMENT

STATE DEPARTMENT RELEASES INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM REPORT. SEPTEMBER 19, 2008.

Secretary Rice (Sept. 19): "Today, I have transmitted to Congress the 10th Annual Report on International Religious Freedom. ...Religious freedom is at the core of our nation, now as always. We are a country founded on the belief that all men and women are created equal, that as equals we enjoy certain universal and inalienable rights, and that among these are the right to live without oppression, to worship as we wish, and to think and speak and assemble without retribution."

<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2008/index.htm>

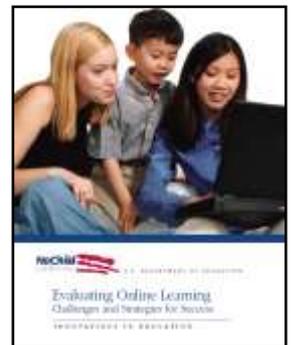
REMARKS ON RELEASE OF THE DEPARTMENT'S ANNUAL REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM BY SECRETARY CONDOLEEZZA RICE

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2008/09/110022.htm>

EVALUATING ONLINE LEARNING: CHALLENGES AND STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS. U.S. Department of Education. July 2008. 08AD892

The guide was developed as a resource for evaluators, whether external, third-party researchers, or program administrators and other staff who are considering conducting their own internal evaluation of online programs. The research was undertaken by experienced professionals, focusing on some of the likely challenges faced by online program evaluators.

<http://www.ed.gov/admins/lead/academic/evalonline/evalonline.pdf> [PDF format, 80 pages].



GEOLOGICAL PREDICTORS AND DEVELOPMENT OUTCOMES OF PERSISTENT CHILDHOOD OVERWEIGHT. Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Sara Gable et al. June 13, 2008. 08AD853



Child obesity poses short- and long-term health risks and may have negative social and economic consequences in adulthood. The study uses data on 8,000 children followed from kindergarten through third grade as part of the Early Childhood Longitudinal

Study-Kindergarten Class to examine predictors of persistent childhood overweight and associated academic and socio emotional outcomes. Results show that socioeconomic status, gender, race, and behavioral and environmental factors influence risk of persistent overweight. The odds of children being overweight increased 3 percent for each

additional hour of television that they watched per week and 9 percent for each family meal per week that they did not experience.

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/ccr42/ccr42.pdf> [PDF format, 42 pages].

PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF POTENTIAL SCHOOL-BASED VIOLENCE: INFORMATION STUDENTS LEARN MAY PREVENT A TARGETED ATTACK. U.S. Secret Service and U.S. Department of Education. May 2008. 08AD817



One of the most significant findings from the Safe School Initiative (SSI) is that prior to most school attacks, other children knew what was going to happen. In collaboration with the Department of Education and McLean Hospital, a Harvard Medical School affiliate, National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC) interviewed friends, classmates, siblings and others in whom school shooters confided their ideas and plans prior to their incidents. Other interviews included students who came forward with information regarding a planned school based attack, and are believed to have prevented an attack from happening. The goal of the study was to provide information to school administrators and educators regarding possible barriers that may prevent children who have information about a potential incident from reporting that information to a responsible adult.

http://www.secretservice.gov/ntac/bystander_study.pdf [PDF format, 15 pages].

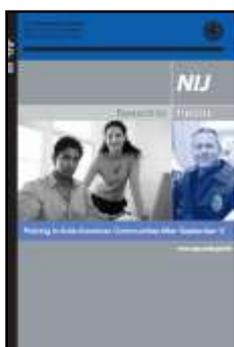
STATE GOVERNMENTS' USE OF HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT FUNDS. United States Election Assistance Commission. Web posted July 22, 2008. 08AD972

The U.S. Election Assistance Commission has delivered a report to Congress on state government spending of Help America Vote Act (HAVA) funds, which amounts to nearly three billion dollars. States have spent 67 percent of it and the 64 percent of the spent went toward acquiring and administering voting system technology.

http://www.eac.gov/election/HAVA%20Funds/docs/2007-report-on-hava-spending-by-states/attachment_download/file



POLICING IN ARAB-AMERICAN COMMUNITIES AFTER SEPTEMBER 11. National Institute of Justice, U.S. Department of Justice. Michael B. Mukasey et al. July 2008. 08AD913



Many Arab-Americans were troubled by increased government scrutiny of their communities following the terrorist attacks. Some Arab-American communities said they were more afraid of law enforcement agencies, especially federal law enforcement agencies, than they were of acts of hate or violence, despite an increase in hate crimes. They specifically cited fears about immigration enforcement, surveillance and racial profiling.

<http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/221706.pdf> [PDF format, 16 pages].

PARENTS IN PRISON AND THEIR MINOR CHILDREN. Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. Lauren E. Glaze and Laura M. Maruschak. Web posted August 27, 2008. 08AD1028



The study compares estimates of the number of incarcerated parents and their children under the age of 18, by gender, age, race, and Hispanic origin in state and federal prisons in 1991, 1997, 1999, 2004, and 2007. It presents the total number of children who were minors at some time during their parent's incarceration. The report provides family background of inmate parents including household makeup, public assistance received by household, drug and alcohol use, and incarceration of family members. It includes information on the children's daily care, financial support, current caregivers, and frequency and type of contact with incarcerated parents.

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/pptmc.pdf> [PDF format, 25 pages].

CONGRESSIONAL DOCUMENTS (HEARINGS, REPORTS, ETC.)

JOURNALISTS' PRIVILEGE: OVERVIEW OF THE LAW AND LEGISLATION IN THE 109TH AND 110TH CONGRESSES. Congressional Research Service, RL34193, Library of Congress. Henry Cohen and Kathleen Ann Ruane. Web posted August 20, 2008. 08AD988



The Supreme Court holds that the First Amendment did not provide even a qualified privilege for journalists to refuse "to appear and testify before state or federal grand juries." However, 49 states have adopted a journalists' privilege in various types of proceedings. Journalists have no privilege in federal proceedings. On July 6, 2005, a federal district court in Washington, DC, found Judith Miller of the New York Times in contempt of court for refusing to cooperate in a grand jury investigation relating to the leak of the identity of an undercover CIA agent. The court ordered Ms. Miller to serve time in jail. Ms. Miller spent 85 days in jail. She secured her release only after her informant

gave her permission to reveal his identity. Congress has considered creating a journalists' privilege for federal proceedings, and bills to adopt a journalists' privilege have been introduced in the 109th and 110th Congresses, in both the House and the Senate.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/secrecy/RL34193.pdf> [PDF format, 15 pages].

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND AMERICAN DIPLOMACY: BACKGROUND AND ISSUES FOR CONGRESS. Congressional Research Service, RL34503, Library of Congress. Deborah D. Stine. Web posted June 9, 2008. 08AD822

Science and engineering activities have always been international. Scientists, engineers, and health professionals frequently communicate and cooperate with one another without regard to national boundaries. The report discusses international science and technology (S&T) diplomacy, instances when American leadership in S&T is used as a diplomatic tool. It enhances another country's development and improves understanding by other nations of U.S. values and ways of doing business. The five developmental challenges where S&T

could play a role include child health and child survival, safe water, agricultural research to reduce hunger and poverty, micro-economic reform, and mitigation of natural disasters.
<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL34503.pdf> [PDF format, 13 pages].

REMOVING ALIENS FROM THE UNITED STATES: JUDICIAL REVIEW OF REMOVAL ORDERS. Congressional Research Service, RL34444, Library of Congress. Yule Kim. Web posted May 9, 2008. 08AD751

Aliens may be removed from the United States for a variety of reasons, such as entering into the country unlawfully, overstaying a visa, or committing a crime. However, aliens usually have access to a removal hearing or adjudication that determines whether an alien is subject to removal. Although judicial review by a federal court of appeals of a removal order is generally available, Congress has denied the federal courts jurisdiction to review many types of removals. Congress specifically preserved the jurisdiction of the courts of appeals to review constitutional claims and questions of law for all removals, even those arising from an area where judicial review is generally barred. The report shifts through the jurisdictional thicket created by the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) by focusing on the procedural mechanisms used to initiate judicial review.

http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RL34444_20080414.pdf [PDF format, 19 pages].

THINK TANKS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

AARP POLICY & RESEARCH

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CREATING LIVABLE COMMUNITIES. AARP Policy & Research. Mia R. Oberlink. Web posted May 11, 2008. 08AD776

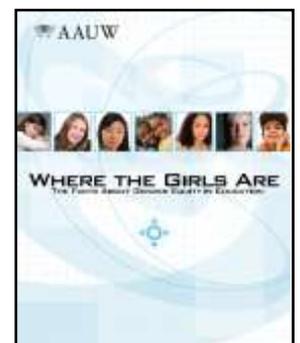
The most common barriers to creating livable communities are examined, offering examples of how communities around the country have realized increased housing and transportation choices for older adults and other community members. Many advocates for seniors and researchers estimate that many of the solutions for successful aging will arise through multi-faceted local planning and decision-making. Many communities are making great strides and developing innovative strategies to promote livability for people of all ages.

http://assets.aarp.org/rgcenter/il/2008_02_communities.pdf [PDF format, 37 pages].

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

WHERE THE GIRLS ARE: THE FACTS ABOUT GENDER EQUITY IN EDUCATION. American Association of University Women. Christianne Corbett et al. May 2008. 08AD800

The authors examine a comprehensive look at girls' educational achievement during the past 35 years, paying special attention to the relationship between girls' and boys' progress. Analyses of results from national standardized tests and other measures of educational achievement provide an overall picture of trends in gender equity from elementary school to college and beyond. These analyses support three overarching facts about gender equity in schools today.



Girls' successes don't come at boys' expense. On average, girls' and boys' educational performance has improved. The authors note that the real crisis is that of the African American, Hispanic, and low-income children.

<http://www.aauw.org/research/upload/whereGirlsAre.pdf> [PDF format, 124 pages].

ALLIANCE FOR EXCELLENT EDUCATION

THE HIGH COST OF HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUTS. Alliance for Excellent Education. June 2008. 08AD855

If the high school dropouts from the Class of 2008 had instead earned diplomas along with their classmates, the nation's economy could have benefited from an additional \$320 billion in wages, taxes, and productivity over these students' lifetimes, according to the calculations by the Alliance for Excellent Education. The average annual income for a high school dropout in 2005, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, was almost \$10,000 less than for a high school graduate. Raising the numbers of students who graduate, therefore, increases overall earnings potential, which, in turn, benefits each state and the nation with increased purchasing power and higher tax receipts.

<http://www.all4ed.org/files/HighCost.pdf> [PDF format, 6 pages].

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION (ACLU)

ENACTING A REASONABLE FEDERAL SHIELD LAW: A REPLY TO PROFESSORS CLYMER AND ELIASON. James Thomas Tucker, Stephen Wermiel. ACLU, 7/1/2008

These days, it can be difficult to read a newspaper without seeing a story of another journalist subpoenaed to identify a confidential source. From Lance Williams and Mark Fainaru-Wada to Judith Miller and Jim Taricani, many reporters are becoming known more for the court proceedings against them than they are for the stories they write. Pulitzer Prize-winning New York Times reporter James Risen, who broke the story on the Bush Administration's illegal warrantless wiretapping program, is the latest casualty.² Instead of reporting the news, journalists have become the news.

http://www.aclu.org/images/asset_upload_file113_35870.pdf

AMERICAN ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE

ASSESSING THE CASE FOR MAYORAL CONTROL OF URBAN SCHOOL. By Frederick M. Hess. EDUCATION OUTLOOK. AEI Online, No. 4, August 2008

Education reformers have long questioned whether school boards have become an anachronism. Pointing to promising efforts in Boston and New York City, some have argued for handing over control of school districts to mayors. A review of the research suggests that advocates overstate the evidence and underestimate the pitfalls, but, on balance, mayoral control is sensible for troubled, urban school systems. More important, however, there



are clear design principles that must be adopted if this reform is to work as intended.
http://www.aei.org/publications/pubID.28511/pub_detail.asp

ESTIMATING TRENDS IN U.S. INCOME INEQUALITY USING THE CURRENT POPULATION: THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTROLLING FOR CENSORING. By **Richard Burkhauser, Shuaizhang Feng, Stephen P. Jenkins, Jeff Larrimore.** **AEI WORKING PAPERS. National Bureau of Economic Research (Cambridge, Mass.)**
Publication Date: August 1, 2008

Using internal and public use March Current Population Survey (CPS) data, we analyze trends in U.S. income inequality (1975-2004). We find that the upward trend in income inequality prior to 1993 significantly slowed thereafter once we control for top coding in the public use data and censoring in the internal data. Because both series do not capture trends at the very top of the income distribution, we use a multiple imputation approach in which values for censored observations are imputed using draws from a Generalized Beta distribution of the Second Kind (GB2) fitted to internal data. Doing so, we find income inequality trends similar to those derived from unadjusted internal data. Our trend results are generally robust to the choice of inequality index, whether Gini coefficient or other commonly-used indices. When we compare our best estimates of the income shares held by the richest tenth with those reported by Piketty and Saez (2003), our trends fairly closely match their trends, except for the top 1 percent of the distribution. Thus, we argue that if United States income inequality has been substantially increasing since 1993, such increases are confined to this very high income group.

http://www.aei.org/publications/pubID.28552/pub_detail.asp

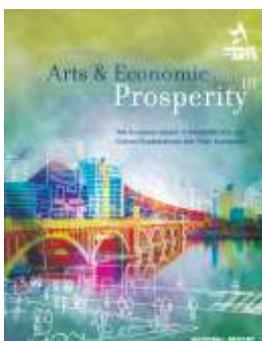
TEACHER LABOR AGREEMENTS: FORMULAS FOR FLEXIBILITY OR FAILURE? By **Frederick M. Hess, Coby Loup.** **EDUCATION OUTLOOK. AEI Online. No. 3, June 2008**

Some four decades after the advent of collective bargaining in public education, the labor agreements it has produced--and their operational equivalents in non-collective-bargaining states--now touch virtually all aspects of school district operations, from how teachers are paid and assigned to how they can be evaluated, how or whether they can be disciplined or fired, when and where they complete professional development, and how much time off they are allowed for union activities.

http://www.aei.org/publications/pubID.28212/pub_detail.asp



AMERICANS FOR THE ARTS



ARTS AND ECONOMIC PROSPERITY III: THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF NONPROFIT ARTS AND CULTURE ORGANIZATIONS AND THEIR AUDIENCES: NATIONAL REPORT. **Robert L. Lynch.** **Americans for the Arts.** **Web posted May 22, 2007. 07AD709**

This is the third study of the nonprofit arts and culture industry and its impact on the economy. This study covered 156 regions (116 cities and

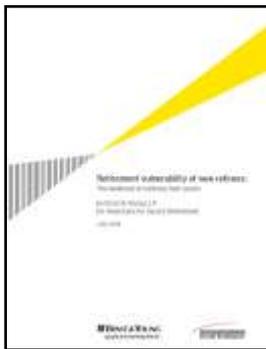
counties, 35 multi-county regions and five states) that included 6,080 nonprofit arts and culture organizations.

The study shows that the nonprofit arts and culture industry generates \$166.2 billion in economic activity—a 24 percent increase since 2002. The industry supports 5.7 million full-time jobs; generates \$30 billion in revenue to local, state, and federal governments; and pumps revenue into restaurants, hotels, retail stores, and other local businesses. “Nationally, as well as locally, the arts mean business!”

http://www.artsusa.org/pdf/information_resources/research_information/services/economic_impact/aepiii/national_report.pdf [pdf format, 314 pages]

AMERICANS FOR SECURE RETIREMENT

RETIREMENT VULNERABILITY OF NEW RETIREES: THE LIKELIHOOD OF OUTLIVING THEIR ASSETS. Ernst & Young, LLP. & Americans for Secure Retirement. July 2008. 08AD955

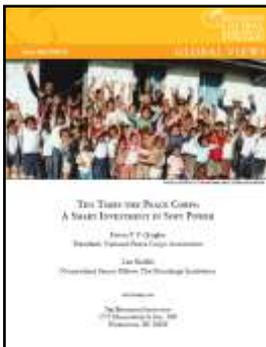


Almost three out of five new middle-class retirees will outlive their financial assets if they attempt to maintain their pre-retirement standard of living, according to the study. It also finds that middle-income Americans entering retirement now will have to reduce their standard of living by an average of 24 percent to minimize the likelihood of outliving their financial assets. Those Americans seven years out from retirement are even less prepared and the study estimates that they will have to reduce their standard of living by even more, an average of 37 percent.

http://www.paycheckforlife.org/uploads/2008_E_Y_RRA.pdf

BROOKINGS INSTITUTION

TEN TIMES THE PEACE CORPS: A SMART INVESTMENT IN SOFT POWER. Kevin F. F. Quigley, President, National Peace Corps Association; Lex Rieffel, Nonresident Senior Fellow, The Brookings Institution. Policy Brief 2008-02, September 2008



A critical challenge for the next president of the United States will be to convince the rest of the world that we are more interested in being a reliable partner than a military superpower. Our future security and prosperity will depend on the success of this effort.

Reversing the negative attitudes toward the United States that prevail in many parts of the world will require a mix of hard power and soft power instruments. The Peace Corps has been one of the most effective forms of American soft power since it was created by John F. Kennedy almost 50 years ago. With 8,000 volunteers in the field,

however, it is half the size it reached at its peak in 1966, and most Americans are unaware that it still exists.

Scaling up the Peace Corps to ten times its present size could be one of the smartest initiatives

advanced by the next president if it is premised on a new vision, a different funding model, and an enhanced organizational form.

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2008/09_peace_corps_rieffel/09_peace_corps_rieffel.pdf

POLITICS, AND PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY REFORM. Kent Buse, Research Fellow, Poverty and Public Policy Group, Overseas Development Institute; Amanda Glassman, Nonresident Fellow, Global Economy and Development. Published in the *International Encyclopedia of Public Health*, First Edition (2008), vol. 5



This article reviews the major theoretical treatments of politics in the health sector in developing countries and provide examples of common issues that have emerged in the study of the politics of public health policy reform. The article does not purport to cover all of the many ways that politics affects public health policies and, in particular, omits the social medicine literature that centers on the role that politics and political regimes play as a determinant of health status. Although there is clearly overlap, the focus is rather on the analysis of politics of public health policy making and implementation in developing countries and how these analyses have been used to improve the

feasibility and durability of pro-public health policies. The article presents an overview of the theoretical approaches to understanding the political dimensions of public health policy making, before setting out a number of common features of health sector politics. This discussion provides the backdrop to a discussion of approaches to managing the politics of sector reform.

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/articles/2008/09_public_health_glassman/09_public_health_glassman.pdf

THE NEXT ADMINISTRATION AND THE FUTURE OF THE JUDICIARY. A Governance Studies Event Transcript. Judicial Issues Forum, No. 19

The next U.S. president may well have to reconfigure both the Supreme Court and the U.S. courts of appeals. On September 4, the Brookings Judicial Issues Forum hosted a discussion of how John McCain or Barack Obama might approach this opportunity differently and how they might address the challenges associated with appointing judges and shaping courts.

Brookings Fellow and Research Director in Public Law Benjamin Wittes moderated a panel of experts that includes Visiting Fellow Russell Wheeler, Doug Kendall of the Constitutional Accountability Center and Ed Whelan of the Ethics and Public Policy Center.

The Judicial Issues Forum is a series of public discussions at Brookings on jurisprudence and the role of the courts. The Forum regularly hosts events that address the major legal and juridical debates and events of the day and weigh their potentially far-reaching implications.

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/events/2008/0904_judiciary/20080904_judiciary.pdf

A REPORT ON THE 2008 PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATIONS ADS: ADS MORE NEGATIVE THAN PREVIOUS YEARS. Brookings Institution. September 4, 2008. 08AD1030

Few aspects of campaigns attract as much discussion as television advertisements. Political spots generally represent the largest single expenditure by candidates and often generate considerable news coverage. According to the report, many observers are not happy with the quality of information presented in ads or the tone of political discourse. Critics worry that the emergence of 30-second commercials undermines substantive discourse and leads to campaigns that are overly negative. Both raise potential problems for democratic elections. http://www.brookings.edu/papers/2008/0630_campaignads_west.aspx

IMPROVING TECHNOLOGY UTILIZATION IN ELECTRONIC GOVERNMENT AROUND THE WORLD, 2008. Brookings Institution. Darrell M. West. August 17, 2008. 08AD977



Electronic government offers the promise of utilizing technology to improve public sector performance as well as employing new advances for democracy itself. Unlike traditional bricks and mortar agencies, digital delivery systems are non-hierarchical, non-linear, interactive and available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The non-hierarchical character of Internet delivery permits people to look for information at their own convenience. The interactive aspects of e-government allow both citizens and bureaucrats to send as well as receive information. Digital government has the potential to transform governmental efficiency, transparency, citizen trust and political

participation in transitional democracies.

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2008/0817_egovernment_west/0817_egovernment_west.pdf [PDF format, 32 pages].

CAMPAIGN FINANCE INSTITUTE, THE

INSIDE FUNDRAISING FOR THE 2008 PARTY CONVENTIONS. The Campaign Finance Institute. Web posted June 8, 2008. 08AD814

A new analysis finds that both Democrats and Republicans are using local “host committees” in Denver and Minneapolis-St. Paul as vehicles for unlimited soft money contributions to their respective 2008 party conventions. Host committees are expected to pay for as much as 80% of the expenses for the conventions, which produce the biggest and longest political ads of the presidential campaign. The Federal Election Commission and Internal Revenue Service have permitted a vast expansion of host committee fundraising on the grounds that since these organizations are nonpartisan “charities” or “business leagues,” contributing to them does not present an issue of potential political corruption or appearance of corruption.

http://www.cfinst.org/books_reports/conventions/2008Conventions_Rpt1.pdf [PDF format, 22 pages].

CATO INSTITUTE

A FORK IN THE ROAD: OBAMA, MCCAIN, AND HEALTH CARE. CATO Institute. Michael D. Tanner. July 29, 2008. 08AD950

Senator Obama's approach to health care reform relies heavily on government mandates, regulations, and subsidies. He would mandate that employers provide health care coverage for their workers and parents purchase health insurance for their children. He would significantly increase regulation of the insurance industry, establishing a standard minimum benefits package, and requiring insurers to accept all applicants regardless of their health. In contrast, John McCain emphasizes consumer choice and greater competition in the health care industry. He would move away from our current employment-based insurance system by replacing the current tax exclusion for employer-provided insurance with a refundable tax credit for individuals. At the same time he would sharply deregulate the insurance industry to increase competition.

<http://cato.org/pubs/bp/bp104.pdf> [PDF format, 28 pages].

CARNEGIE ENDOWMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE

IS A LEAGUE OF DEMOCRACIES A GOOD IDEA? By Thomas Carothers. Carnegie Endowment Policy Brief No. 59. May 2008

Influential policy experts on both sides of the U.S. political aisle are proposing a “League of Democracies” as a way for the next administration to restore the credibility of U.S. foreign policy priorities and put democracy promotion efforts back on track. However, in a policy brief, *Is a League of Democracies a Good Idea?*, Thomas Carothers argues that the proposal rests on a false assumption that democracies share sufficient common interests to work effectively together on a wide range of global issues.

Although the proposed “League of Democracies” reflects a useful recognition of the need to rebuild credibility through greater multilateralism, such a league could aggravate rather than alleviate global sensitivities over U.S. democracy promotion and the U.S. global security agenda. Carothers outlines steps the next U.S. president should take to bolster democracy promotion and foreign policy in general.

http://www.carnegieendowment.org/files/pb59_carothers_league_final.pdf



CENTER FOR ECONOMIC AND POLICY RESEARCH

OIL DRILLING IN ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS: THE ROLE OF THE MEDIA. Center for Economic and Policy Research. Mark Weisbrot and Nichole Szembrot. September 2008. 08AD1048

The media has played a significant role in convincing Americans that offshore drilling for oil in the United States could significantly lower the price of gasoline, according to the analysis. Even though the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Information Agency has stated that the benefits from such drilling would be too small to have any significant effect on oil prices, the media has overwhelmingly conveyed the impression that it could. Media coverage of the

issue may have influenced public opinion, with a majority now favoring expanded drilling, as proposed by presidential candidate John McCain.

http://www.cepr.net/documents/publications/media_drilling_2008_09.pdf [PDF format, 4 pages].

CENTER FOR IMMIGRATION STUDIES

ALLOWING NON-CITIZENS TO VOTE IN THE UNITED STATES? WHY NOT. By Stanley Renshon. Center for Immigration Studies Paper No. 26., September 2008



In recent years, a concerted effort has been gathering force to allow new immigrants to the United States to vote without becoming citizens. It is being mounted by an alliance of liberal (or progressive, if you prefer) academics and law professors, local and state political leaders most often associated with the Democratic Party or other progressive parties like the Greens, and community and immigration activists. They are working in tandem to decouple the legal standing to vote from American citizenship.

As a result of these efforts, there are several municipalities in the United States that currently allow non-citizens to vote in local elections. Moreover, legislation to allow non-citizens to vote has been introduced in a number of states and localities including Washington, D.C., San Francisco, and New York City.

(...)

The list of possible virtues put forward by advocates for allowing non-citizens to vote is a long one. However, to date, there has been no real assessment of these claims and no analysis of the possible impact of implementing these proposals on the immigration process itself, or more generally on American national politics and political culture. That is the purpose of this analysis.

http://www.cis.org/articles/2008/renshon_08.pdf

HOMEWARD BOUND: RECENT IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT AND THE DECLINE IN THE ILLEGAL ALIEN POPULATION. By Steven A. Camarota, Karen Jensenius. Center for Immigration Studies, Backgrounders and Reports. July 2008

Monthly data collected by the Census Bureau through May 2008 shows a significant decline in the number of less-educated, young Hispanic immigrants in the country. The evidence indicates that the illegal immigrant population may have declined by over one million in the last year. There are strong indications immigration enforcement is responsible for at least part of the decline. The economy also is likely playing a role.

<http://www.cis.org/articles/2008/back808.pdf>



CENTURY FOUNDATION

YOUTH VOTE 2008. Kristen Oshyn and Tova Andrea Wang. Century Foundation. Web posted September 13, 2007. 08AD078

This brief explores the evolution of the youth vote and its potential impact on the 2008 election. It looks at how campaigns and other organizations are appealing to young voters, capitalizing on new tools, and reexamining old methods. Although young adults are still behind older voters when it comes to actual turnout, recent reports describe the younger generation as “increasing engaged in the electoral process. . .” Other studies reveal that “voting is habit forming,” and strategists have turned to the younger generation to secure new voters.

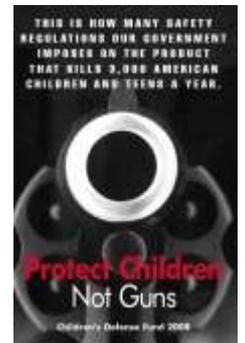
<http://www.tcf.org/publications/electionreform/youthvote.pdf> [pdf format, 14 pages]

CHILDREN’S DEFENSE FUND

PROTECT CHILDREN NOT GUNS. Children’s Defense Fund. Web posted June 9, 2008. 08AD818

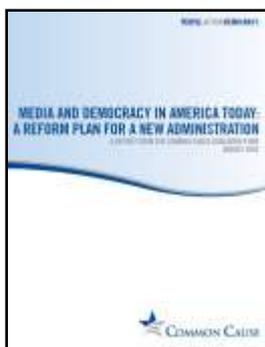
According to the most recent data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 3,006 children and teens were killed by firearms in 2005, the first increase since 1994 and the first rise in gun deaths since Congress allowed the Assault Weapons Ban to expire in 2004. The report recommends what individuals, communities and policymakers can do to reverse the increase in gun violence.

http://www.childrensdefense.org/site/DocServer/Gun_report_2008.pdf?docID=7581 [PDF format, 15 pages].



COMMON CAUSE EDUCATION FUND.

MEDIA AND DEMOCRACY IN AMERICA TODAY: A REFORM PLAN FOR A NEW ADMINISTRATION. Common Cause Education Fund. Web posted August 29, 2008. 08AD1027



The report lays out a plan of action for the next President and Congress to take to ensure the media performs its appropriate role in our democracy. Congress is currently considering a “Resolution of Disapproval” of the Federal Communication Commission’s new media ownership rules. The report calls for the passage of House Joint Resolution 79, which would overturn the FCC’s new rules and halt further media consolidation.

<http://www.commoncause.org/atf/cf/%7Bfb3c17e2-cdd1-4df6-92be-bd4429893665%7D/MEDIAPLAN082108.PDF>

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

CAPITALIZING ON VOLUNTEERS' SKILLS: VOLUNTEERING BY OCCUPATION IN AMERICA. Corporation for National and Community Service. Web posted September 9, 2008. 08AD1045



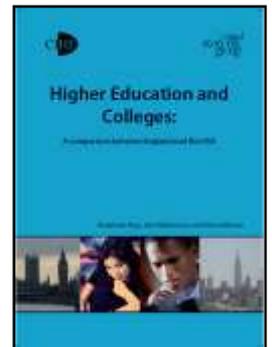
The study places strong emphasis on pro bono volunteering as a strategic and cost-effective way to tap into the skills of volunteers and reinvent the way they serve with nonprofits. It looks at the prevalence of volunteering among people in various occupations and shows how often they use their occupational skills when they volunteer. The study is designed to help broaden and deepen public and private sector partnerships, and allow nonprofits to take full advantage of the skills their volunteers have to offer.

http://www.nationalservice.gov/pdf/08_0908_rpd_volunteer_occupation.pdf

COUNCIL FOR INDUSTRY AND HIGHER EDUCATION

HIGHER EDUCATION AND COLLEGES: A COMPARISON BETWEEN ENGLAND AND THE USA. Council for Industry and Higher Education. Madeleine King et al. Web posted June 16, 2008. 08AD850

United Kingdom and United States colleges play distinctive roles in delivering higher level learning that reaches students from diverse backgrounds, focus on meeting local needs and is vocational in its emphasis. In the U.S., this distinctiveness is lauded and forms part of an integrated approach across many States. The success of U.S. Community Colleges is a system of funding by transferable credit which is responsive to local need and which facilitates roll-on roll-off participation. In the U.K., these inherent strengths are less appreciated. In England, this non-linear progression is still viewed as 'dropping out' rather than 'dropping in'.

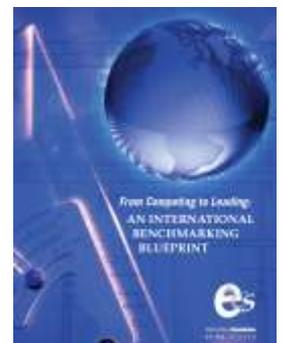


http://www.aacc.nche.edu/Content/ContentGroups/Headline_News/June_2008/cihe_report.pdf [PDF format, 28 pages].

EDUCATION COMMISSION OF THE STATES

FROM COMPETING TO LEADING: AN INTERNATIONAL BENCHMARKING BLUEPRINT. ECS 2008

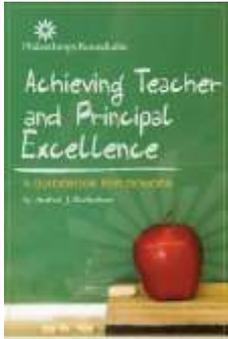
International Benchmarking is the alignment of standards, instruction, professional development and assessment to those of the highest-performing countries. This Blueprint presents the rationale why states should consider benchmarking to international standards as well as describing policy recommendations for policymakers and education leaders. This is the first action guide of its kind to enable states, districts and schools to craft new



policies and adjust existing policies proven to demonstrate world-class performance.
<http://www.ecs.org/html/meetingsEvents/NF2008/resources/ECS-InternationalBenchmarking.pdf>

EDUCATION SECTOR

ACHIEVING TEACHER AND PRINCIPAL EXCELLENCE: A GUIDEBOOK FOR DONORS. Author: Andrew J. Rotherham. Originally published by the Philanthropy Roundtable. Education Sector, September 4, 2008



Recent research has confirmed what many educators have long suspected: teachers matter more to student learning than anything else schools do. Indeed, studies have found that having a high-quality teacher throughout elementary school can offset—or even eliminate—the disadvantage of a low socioeconomic background. Philanthropists serious about improving education in America, particularly among our neediest children, cannot ignore the importance of improving human capital.

Yet within the field of education, teachers and principals are insufficiently recruited, inadequately trained, inequitably distributed, and unfairly compensated. In response, reform-minded philanthropists and entrepreneurs are devising bold new ways to tackle the human capital challenge, especially in our nation’s most disadvantaged schools.

This guidebook provides philanthropists a solid grounding in the nature of the human capital challenge; it distills the best advice from pioneering donors in the field, while exploring the current landscape, most effective interventions, and opportunities for donors seeking to achieve an excellent teacher and principal for every child.

<http://www.philanthropyroundtable.org/files/TeacherExcellence.pdf>

EDWEEK.ORG

PRESERVING THE MOTHER TONGUE

Many Native American communities in the United States have lost, or nearly lost, their indigenous languages. And little is happening in most public schools—or in Native American homes—to bring those languages back.

A recent U.S. Department of Education survey found, for instance, that 39 percent of 4th graders and 40 percent of 8th graders who consider themselves to be Native Americans receive no exposure to a language other than English at home, and 3 percent or less of such students have teachers who report frequently using a Native American or Alaska Native language to teach core subjects.

Still, some Native Americans are fighting to preserve the vitality of Native languages.

Edweek.org has pulled together a collection of articles exploring those efforts.

http://www.edweek.org/ew/collections/native_languages/index.html

ELECTRONIC PRIVACY INFORMATION CENTER AND PRIVACY INTERNATIONAL

FINDING FAMILIES FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN CHILDREN: THE ROLE OF RACE & LAW IN ADOPTION. Evans B. Donaldson Adoption Institute. May 2008. 08AD796



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

<http://www.adoptioninstitute.org/publications/MEPApaper20080527.pdf>
[PDF format, 58 pages].

FOUNDATION CENTER

EMBRACING DIVERSITY: FOUNDATION GIVING BENEFITING CALIFORNIA'S COMMUNITIES OF COLOR. Foundation Center. Lawrence T. McGill et al. July 2008. 08AD891

A new analysis of grant making by 50 of the state's largest independent foundations finds that at least 39 percent of California-focused grants benefited populations of color. According to the report, in 2005, these 50 California-based foundations awarded a minimum of 2,700 grants totaling nearly \$300 million to support health, education, social services, and other programs that serve ethnically or racially diverse populations.

http://www.foundationcenter.org/gainknowledge/research/pdf/ca_diversity_2008.pdf



FOUNDATION GROWTH AND GIVING ESTIMATES. Foundation Center. Steven Lawrence and Reina Mukai. May 2008. 08AD772

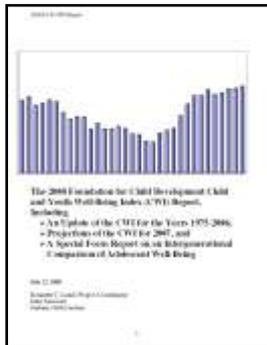
Foundation giving fared well in 2007, despite an increasingly uncertain economic climate in the latter half of the year. Giving by 72,000 grant making foundations has increased by an estimated 10 percent, from \$39 billion to a record \$42.9 billion. This latest gain followed a single-digit rise in foundation giving in 2006, the first double-digit increase recorded since 1999. The establishment of new foundations, while occurring at a slower rate than in the late 1990s and early 2000s, also helped to raise the levels of foundation assets and giving. Overall, more than half of respondents expect to increase their giving, with the biggest foundations being most likely to expect increased giving.

<http://foundationcenter.org/gainknowledge/research/pdf/fgge08.pdf>



FOUNDATION FOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT

CHILD WELL-BEING INDEX (CWI) 2008 REPORT. Foundation for Child Development. July 2008



The 2008 annual release of the Foundation for Child Development Child Well-Being Index (CWI) finds that after an upward trend for eight years, 1994 through 2002, progress in American children's quality of life has now moved into a stall/slow growth period. The economic recession and slow growth of 2001-2002 negatively impacted several indicators in the Family Economic Well-Being component of the CWI (such as the poverty rate). The macroeconomic problems of 2007 and 2008 (housing finance crisis, rising inflation - gasoline, energy cost, and food) are likely to have similar negative impacts on several indicators and domains of well-

being.

If this current period of economic duress is sufficiently deep and long, it will impact public finances such as publicly financed childcare, health, and education programs.

The FCD CWI is a composite measure that makes it possible to analyze national trends in overall child well-being over time. It is based on 28 indicators in seven key areas of well-being beginning in 1975.

http://www.fcd-us.org/usr_doc/2008AnnualRelease.pdf

HARVARD UNIVERSITY, JOHN F. KENNEDY SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT

NETWORKS AND POLITICAL ATTITUDES: STRUCTURE, INFLUENCE, AND CO-EVOLUTION. By David Lazer, Brian Rubineau, Carol Chetkovich, Nancy Katz and Michael Neblo. Working Paper Number:RWP08-044, Submitted: 09/11/2008



How do political views and social affiliations co-evolve? A long stream of research has focused on the relationship between political views and social affiliations, however, it is typically difficult to discern the causal relationship between views and affiliations. Here we use longitudinal attitudinal and whole network data collected at critical times (notably, at the inception of the system) to pinpoint and specify the determinants of attitudes and affiliations. We find significant conformity tendencies: individuals shift their political views toward the political views of their associates. This conformity is driven by social ties rather than task ties.

We also find that, while individuals tend to associate with similar others, political views are notably less a basis for associational choices than demographic and institutional factors.

[http://ksgnotes1.harvard.edu/Research/wpaper.nsf/rwp/RWP08-044/\\$File/rwp_08_044_lazer_katz.pdf](http://ksgnotes1.harvard.edu/Research/wpaper.nsf/rwp/RWP08-044/$File/rwp_08_044_lazer_katz.pdf)

SCHOOLING AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN A NEOCLASSICAL FRAMEWORK: THEORY AND EVIDENCE. By Filipe Campante and Davin Chor. Working Paper Number:RWP08-043, Submitted: 09/09/2008

We investigate how the link between individual schooling and political participation is affected by country characteristics. We introduce a focus on a set of variables -- namely factor endowments -- which influence the relative productivity of human capital in political versus production activities. Using micro data on individual behavior, we find that political participation is more responsive to schooling in land-abundant countries, and less responsive in human capital-abundant countries, even while controlling for country political institutions and cultural attitudes. We develop these ideas in a model where individuals face an allocation decision over the use of their human capital. A relative abundance of land (used primarily in the least skill-intensive sector) or a scarcity of aggregate human capital will increase both the level of political participation and its responsiveness to schooling, by lowering the opportunity cost of production income foregone. In an extension, we further consider the problem of how much schooling a utility-maximizing ruler would choose to provide. An abundance of land tends to increase political participation ex post, and hence will lead the ruler to discourage human capital accumulation, a prediction for which we find broad support in the cross-country data. Our model thus offers a framework which jointly explains patterns of political participation at the individual level and differences in public investment in education at the country level.

[http://ksgnotes1.harvard.edu/Research/wpaper.nsf/rwp/RWP08-043/\\$File/rwp_08_043_campante.pdf](http://ksgnotes1.harvard.edu/Research/wpaper.nsf/rwp/RWP08-043/$File/rwp_08_043_campante.pdf)

CULTURE, CONTEXT, AND THE TASTE FOR REDISTRIBUTION. By Erzo F.P. Luttmer and Monica Singhal. Working Paper Number:RWP08-038. 08/14/2008

Is culture an important determinant of preferences for redistribution? To separate the effect of culture from the effect of the economic and institutional environment (“context”), we relate immigrants’ preferences for redistribution to the average preference in their birth countries, controlling extensively for individual characteristics and country-of-residence fixed effects. We find a strong positive relationship. This cultural effect is larger for non-voters, those with shorter tenure in the country of residence, and those who move to countries with a large number of immigrants from their own birth countries. Immigrants from countries with a higher preference for redistribution are also more likely to vote for a more pro-redistribution political party. The effect of culture persists strongly into the second generation.

[http://ksgnotes1.harvard.edu/Research/wpaper.nsf/rwp/RWP08-038/\\$File/rwp_08_038_luttmer_singhal.pdf](http://ksgnotes1.harvard.edu/Research/wpaper.nsf/rwp/RWP08-038/$File/rwp_08_038_luttmer_singhal.pdf)

POWERFUL WOMEN: DOES EXPOSURE REDUCE BIAS? By Lori Beaman, Raghendra Chattopadhyay, Esther Duflo, Rohini Pande and Petia Topalova. Working Paper Number: RWP08-037. 07/11/2008

We exploit random assignment of gender quotas across Indian village councils to investigate whether having a female chief councillor affects public opinion towards female leaders. Villagers who have never been required to have a female leader prefer male leaders and perceive hypothetical female leaders as less effective than their male counterparts, when

stated performance is identical. Exposure to a female leader does not alter villagers' taste preference for male leaders. However, it weakens stereotypes about gender roles in the public and domestic spheres and eliminates the negative bias in how female leaders' effectiveness is perceived among male villagers. Female villagers exhibit less prior bias, but are also less likely to know about or participate in local politics; as a result, their attitudes are largely unaffected. Consistent with our experimental findings, villagers rate their women leaders as less effective when exposed to them for the first, but not second, time. These changes in attitude are electorally meaningful: after 10 years of the quota policy, women are more likely to stand for and win free seats in villages that have been continuously required to have a female chief councillor.

[http://ksgnotes1.harvard.edu/research/wpaper.NSF/rwp/RWP08-037/\\$File/rwp_08_037_pande.pdf](http://ksgnotes1.harvard.edu/research/wpaper.NSF/rwp/RWP08-037/$File/rwp_08_037_pande.pdf)

HARVARD BUSINESS SCHOOL

USING FINANCIAL INNOVATION TO SUPPORT SAVERS: FROM COERCION TO EXCITEMENT. Harvard Business School Working Papers, Harvard University. Peter Tufano and Daniel Schneider. Web posted July 3, 2008. 08AD917

The paper shows the wide range of solutions to the problem of low family savings. Families save for a wide variety of purposes, including education, retirement, and others like rainy days or emergencies. Given societal pressures to consume, and given the diversity among people, there is no single solution to the savings problem. A wide variety of programs that support savings by families, in particular by low- and moderate-income families are reviewed. These programs range from ones that literally compel families to save, to those that make it hard not to save, make it easier to save, provide financial incentives to induce savings, leverage social networks to support savers, and finally, to programs that excite people to saving.

<http://www.hbs.edu/research/pdf/08-075.pdf> [PDF format, 59 pages].

HERITAGE FOUNDATION

THE MYSPACE SUICIDE: A CASE STUDY IN OVERCRIMINALIZATION. By Andrew M. Grossman. Legal Memorandum #32. Heritage Foundation. September 17, 2008



It is a legal cliché that "Hard cases make bad law"-- that is, that courts are too often tempted by emotional facts and sympathetic parties to render decisions with-out thinking about the law they are making and its effect on future cases, and the public seem to believe that every bad act done is a legal wrong, punishable just as traditional crimes like murder and theft and rape are punished.

But too often they overlook the far greater differ-ences between traditional crimes and these new offenses. Pushing the criminal law beyond its historical bounds carries consequences that may not be

apparent when the public mood is hot and vengeful, and only later is the result apparent: bad law. This pattern is repeated nearly every time that Congress passes a narrow law to target some unlikely, newsworthy wrong or slight deviation from productive behavior. The case of housewife Lori Drew fits the pattern perfectly. Drew was indicted under a federal anti-computer hacking statute for impersonating a young man on MySpace to gain the trust of an emotionally troubled teen, Megan Meier, who killed herself after the cruel joke spun out of control.

http://www.heritage.org/Research/LegalIssues/upload/lm_32.pdf

REFORMING HEALTH CARE TO PROTECT PARENTS' RIGHTS. By Daniel P Moloney, Ph.D. Backgrounder #2181. Heritage Foundation. September 15, 2008



In pursuing health care reform, federal and state policymakers alike need to respect and protect parental rights and responsibilities. Currently, they are not doing so.

A 14-year-old grade-school girl in Kentucky arrives at the local health clinic seeking birth control. Who should decide whether she receives it? The doctor? The girl? Or her parents? The state legislature says that the girl is not even old enough to consent to sexual activity. Yet public officials, under authorization from Congress, have written rules that allow the girl to enroll in one of a number of federal programs, and this federal law would overrule state law and prohibit the clinic from

informing her parents.

http://www.heritage.org/Research/Family/upload/bg_2181.pdf

DOES SPENDING MORE ON EDUCATION IMPROVE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT? By Dan Lips, Shanea Watkins, Ph.D. and John Fleming. Backgrounder #2179. Heritage Foundation. September 8, 2008



Debates about how to improve public education in America often focus on whether government should spend more on education. Federal and state policy-makers proposing new education programs often base their arguments on the need to provide more resources to schools to improve opportunities for students.

Many Americans seem to share this view. Polling data show that many people believe that government allocates insufficient resources to schools. A poll conducted annually from 2004 through 2007 found that American adults list insufficient funding and resources as a top problem

facing public schools in their communities.

http://www.heritage.org/Research/Education/upload/bg_2179.pdf

THE DIFFERENCE ONE CHURCH CAN MAKE. By Ryan Messmore. Backgrounder #2167. Heritage Foundation. August 1, 2008

People are in need in towns across America. Who is responsible for meeting their needs? Who bears responsibility for acting for the public good in our communities?

While some look immediately to the government to provide solutions, local church congregations have enormous potential to meet people's needs and advance social welfare.
http://www.heritage.org/Research/Religion/upload/bg_2167.pdf

THE HIGHER-EDUCATION BILL: THE UNNOTICED BUDGET BUSTER. By Brian M. Riedl. Backgrounder #2164. Heritage Foundation, July 22, 2008



The College Opportunity and Affordability Act of 2008 (COAA, H.R. 4137) is the latest budget-busting bill from a Democratic Congress that has found few parts of government undeserving of massive new deficit spending. What makes this bill unique is the over-whelming House Republican complicity in making this bill—among the largest authorized discretionary spending hikes in American history—bipartisan, non-controversial, and generally unnoticed. Nor has the Senate, which takes up the bill next, expressed much concern over COAA's price tag and new programs.

http://www.heritage.org/Research/Education/upload/bg_2164.pdf

THE THREAT OF NON-CITIZEN VOTING. By Hans A. von Spakovsky. Legal Memorandum #28. Heritage Foundation. July 10, 2008



There is no reliable method to determine the number of non-citizens registered or actually voting because most laws to ensure that only citizens vote are ignored, are inadequate, or are systematically undermined by government officials. Those who ignore the implications of non-citizen registration and voting either are willfully blind to the problem or may actually favor this form of illegal voting.

Americans may disagree on many areas of immigration policy, but not on the basic principle that only citizens—and not non-citizens, whether legally present or not—should be able to vote in elections.

Unless and until immigrants become citizens, they must respect the laws that bar non-citizen voting. To keep non-citizens from diluting citizens' votes, immigration and election officials must cooperate far more effectively than they have to date, and state and federal officials must increase their efforts to enforce the laws against non-citizen voting that are already on the books.

http://www.heritage.org/Research/LegalIssues/upload/lm_28.pdf

SAFER KIDS, BETTER TEST SCORES: THE D.C. VOUCHER PROGRAM WORKS. By Shanea Watkins, Ph.D. WebMemo #1965. Heritage Foundation. June 20, 2008



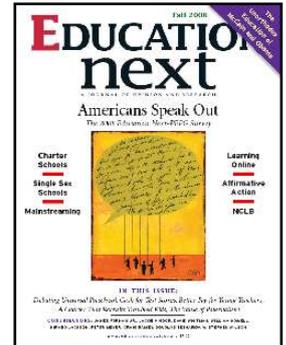
In January 2004, Congress passed the District of Columbia School Choice Incentive Act of 2003, the first federally funded school voucher program in the United States. Now known as the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program, this initiative provides scholarships of up to \$7,500 to more than 1,900 low-income students in the District. A recent U.S. Department of Education (DOE) evaluation of the program should provide policymakers with some encouragement, as the report

demonstrates that the Opportunity Scholarship Program is having a positive impact on students and families alike.

http://www.heritage.org/Research/Education/upload/wm_1965.pdf

HOOVER INSTITUTION, STANFORD UNIVERSITY

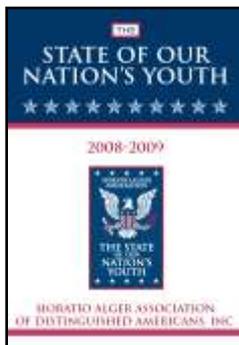
EDUCATION NEXT, 2008 No. 4



<http://www.hoover.org/publications/ednext/26250734.html#>

HORATIO ALGER ASSOCIATION

THE STATE OF OUR NATION'S YOUTH 2008-2009. Horatio Alger Association. Web posted August 24, 2008. 08AD1012



Teens are feeling the weight of the world now more than ever, according to a new report issued today. There has been a steep drop-off in the number of students feeling hopeful and optimistic about the future of the country, falling from 75% in 2003 to just 53% today. Despite these declining views of a fading nation, teens are nonetheless positive as they envision their own futures. With 88% describing themselves as confident and 66% saying they feel optimistic about their own futures, they are making strides towards achieving success as young adults.

<http://www.horatioalger.org/pdfs/0708SONY.pdf>
[PDF format, 80 pages].

IDENTITY THEFT: THE AFTERMATH 2007. Identity Theft Resource Center. Linda Foley and Sheila Gordon. Web posted June 14, 2008. 08AD836



The primary purpose of the study is to identify what the impact of identity theft is to the victim. The victims' lives have been interrupted, altered, torn apart and/or impacted for years to come. The study indicates a need for research on various topics including family identity theft, long-term emotional impacts of this crime on victims, child identity theft, and the criminal elements involved in identity theft. The questions asked ranged from the emotional impact this crime has had on victims' lives all the way through to their ability to recover their good name. It also includes the financial loss to the business community in goods and services.

http://www.idtheftcenter.org/artman2/uploads/1/Aftermath_2007_20080529v2_1.pdf
[PDF format, 37 pages].

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE

“TO PROTECT AND DEFEND”: CHALLENGES TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY FACING THE NEXT PRESIDENT. International Association of Chiefs of Police. Web posted August 28, 2008. 08AD1050

Because every 22.2 seconds, an American is a victim of a violent crime, the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) is calling on the next president of the United States to establish a National Commission on criminal justice and homeland security. The Commission would be charged with conducting a comprehensive review of the criminal justice system, and would be required to provide the nation with a strategic plan to guide public safety and homeland security efforts in the years ahead.

<http://www.theiacp.org/documents/protectdefend.pdf>



ENHANCING LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE TO VICTIMS: A 21ST CENTURY STRATEGY. INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE. Web posted July 20, 2008. 08AD928

The study introduces state, local, and tribal law enforcement leaders to the benefits, challenges, methods, and responsibilities for enhancing their response to victims of crime. It discusses the evolution of enhanced victim response, summarizes key principles, identifies the critical needs of victims, and illustrates the potential of community partnerships in the implementation of the strategy. The strategy has been successfully pilot tested by three police agencies: Charlotte-Mecklenburg, NC, Beaverton, OR, and Mundelein, IL.

<http://www.theiacp.org/documents/pdfs/Publications/EPRVStrategy.pdf> [PDF format, 48 pages].



MILKEN INSTITUTE

WRITER'S STRIKE OF 2007-2008: THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF DIGITAL DISTRIBUTION. Milken Institute. Kevin Klowden and Anusuya Chatterjee. Web posted June 8, 2008. 08AD820



The entertainment industry is still recovering from the effects of the work stoppage and digesting the implications of the new labor agreement. Revenue sharing from digital media was at the heart of the dispute and production was shut down on numerous films and many of television's most popular shows. The writers' strike has also had significant and lingering effects on television viewers, causing a decline in revenues for the broadcast networks. The report reviews the overall effects of the writers' strike on California's economy and the underlying causes of the dispute, examining in particular how the growing market for new media has changed the dynamics of the

entertainment industry.

http://www.milkeninstitute.org/pdf/writers_strike.pdf [PDF format, 38 pages].

NATIONAL BUREAU OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH

WELFARE PAYMENTS AND CRIME. National Bureau of Economic Research. C. Fritz Foley. June 2008. 08AD858

The study tests the hypothesis that the timing of welfare payments affects criminal activity. Analysis of major crime incidents in twelve U.S. cities reveals an increase in crime over the course of monthly welfare payment cycles. This increase reflects an increase in crimes that are likely to have a direct financial motivation like burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and robbery, as opposed to other kinds of crime like arson, assault, homicide, and rape. Temporal patterns in crime are observed in jurisdictions in which disbursements are focused at the beginning of monthly welfare payment cycles.

<http://www.nber.org/papers/w14074.pdf> [PDF format, 44 pages].

THE IMPACT OF EMPLOYMENT DURING SCHOOL ON COLLEGE STUDENT ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE. National Bureau of Economic Research. Jeffrey S. DeSimone. May 2008. 08AD773

Many high school and college students work part-time. Employment during school could improve grades if working fosters industriousness or time management skills, or instead reduce grades by constraining time and energy available for schoolwork. These results are consistent with what some college instructors regularly experience: students who blame their class tardiness and absence, failure to submit assignments and poor exam performance on their employment obligations. The study also suggests that the negative outcomes are not simply attributable to less academically motivated students working long hours. The lackluster students would not necessarily perform better academically if they were prevented from working. Instead, students who spend longer hours in paid labor because of preferences or budget constraints ultimately perform worse in school than they otherwise would.

<http://www.nber.org/papers/w14006.pdf> [PDF format, 40 pages].

THE GLOBALIZATION OF ADVANCED ART IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY. National Bureau of Economic Research. David Galenson. May 2008. 08AD757

The twentieth century was a time of rapid globalization for advanced art. Artists from a larger number of countries made important contributions than in earlier periods, and they did so in a larger number of places. Many important innovations also diffused more rapidly, and more widely, than in earlier times. The dominance for much of the century of conceptual forms of art, from Cubism and Dada to Pop and Conceptual Art, was largely responsible for the greater speed with which innovations spread. There is no longer a single dominant place in the art world, comparable to Paris for the first century of modern art.

<http://www.nber.org/papers/w14005.pdf> [PDF format, 75 pages].

NATIONAL COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS

YOU DON'T NEED A HOME TO VOTE! National Coalition for the Homeless. Web posted August 20, 2008. 08AD993

Equal access to the right to vote is a crucial part of maintaining a true democracy. Voting allows people to play a part in deciding the direction of their communities by voicing their opinion on issues that are important and relevant to their lives. Each election, low income and homeless individuals vote at a lower rate than people with higher incomes. For years, homeless citizens have had obstacles to registering. The manual provides ideas to help overcome the many obstacles and outlines multiple strategies to register, educate, and mobilize voters.

http://www.nationalhomeless.org/getinvolved/projects/vote/Manual_2009.pdf [PDF format, 45 pages].



NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DISABILITY (NCD)

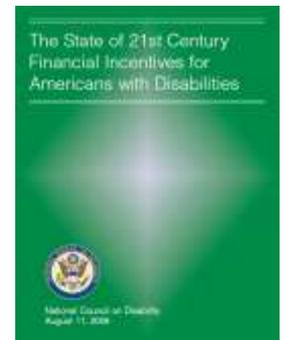
THE STATE OF 21ST CENTURY FINANCIAL INCENTIVES FOR AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES. National Council on Disability, August 11, 2008

More than 30 years after the creation of the federal mandate for a free, appropriate public education for children and youth with disabilities, each new generation of parents has higher expectations. Parents envision their son or daughter with a disability having a quality of life as an adult anchored by job satisfaction, independent living, and the benefits of full participation in the economic mainstream. This National Council on Disability (NCD) report, *The State of 21st Century Financial Incentives for Americans with Disabilities*, recognizes challenges to meeting such expectations. Without a redesign of public policy, the potential for Americans with disabilities to become full citizens with the same access to the economic mainstream as Americans without disabilities cannot and will not become a reality. The redesign must create policy that consistently supports individual objectives to advance self-sufficiency and economic independence. This NCD research is the third in a series (two earlier reports were on Social Security issues and employment matters building upon prior NCD work on livable communities). This report is part of an effort, under the umbrella of inclusive livable communities, to guide future policy and practice to advance choice, full community participation, and economic independence for people with disabilities.

<http://www.ncd.gov/newsroom/publications/2008/pdf/FinancialIncentives.pdf>

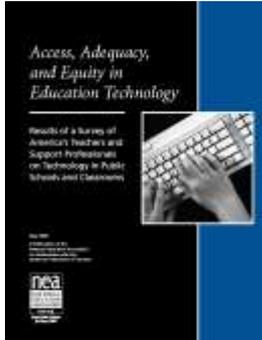
Appendices:

<http://www.ncd.gov/newsroom/publications/2008/pdf/FinancialIncentivesAppendices.pdf>



NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

ACCESS, ADEQUACY, AND EQUITY IN EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY. National Education Association. Web posted June 11, 2008. 08AD833



Over the past decade, the public education system has made great strides in infusing technology into the classroom. Evidence shows that technology improves efficiency among educators and increases motivation in students. The study examines the distribution of technology and emphasizes the need for education policymakers and administrators to remain committed to the implementation of technology in schools. The findings for various demographic groupings also highlight the disparities found in different community types, school levels, and career stages of educators on their technology and support. Recommendations are offered to help guide policymakers in

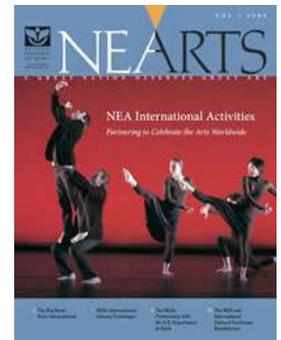
all levels of administration toward ensuring that educators and students have adequate opportunities to use technology effectively as an instructional tool.

<http://www.nea.org/research/images/08gainsandgapsedtech.pdf> [PDF format, 72 pages].

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

NEARTS, 2008 / Volume 3

NEA ARTS is the 16-page newsletter of the National Endowment for the Arts, published five times a year. Each issue includes recent information on the NEA's national initiatives, sponsored programs, awards and grants.



http://www.nea.gov/about/NEARTS/2008_v3/neaARTS_2008_v3.pdf

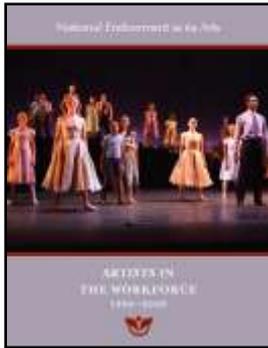
SHAKESPEARE IN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES. NEA, August 2008. 28 pp



This publication provides information on the Shakespeare in American Communities initiative, including a brief overview of the program, a list of all current theater companies participating in the program (as well as a map of the companies), all the cities served, and a few examples of successful productions.

<http://www.nea.gov/pub/SIAC4.pdf>

ARTIST IN THE WORKFORCE: 1990-2005. National Endowment for the Arts. June 2008. 08AD835



The report is the first nationwide look at artists' demographic and employment patterns in the 21st century. It analyzes working artist trends, gathering new statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau to provide a comprehensive overview of this workforce segment, its maturation over the past 30 years, along with detailed information on specific artist occupations. Numbering almost two million, artists are one of the largest classes of workers in the nation, representing 1.4 percent of the U.S. labor force. Artists earn an aggregate income of approximately \$70 billion annually. The study compares artists with the labor force in general, reporting on factors such as geographic distribution, racial, ethnic, and gender composition, employment status, age, and education level.

<http://www.arts.endow.gov/research/ArtistsInWorkforce.pdf> [PDF format, 150 pages].

NATIONAL GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION

PROMOTING FILM AND MEDIA TO ENHANCE STATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. Center for Best Practices, National Governors Association. July 15, 2008. 08AD954



As governors continue exploring innovative strategies to grow their economies, states are increasingly looking to film, television and related media arts productions as a means of attracting high-paying jobs and related high-tech businesses, according to the report. The state and local economic benefits brought by hosting a major motion picture production are numerous. Film, TV and media arts productions help create local jobs by using residents to staff the production, as well as boost local economies by purchasing goods and services from local vendors.

<http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/0807PROMOTINGFILMMEDIA.PDF> [PDF format, 30 pages].

STATE STRATEGIES TO REDUCE CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY. Center for Best Practices, National Governors Association. Susan Golonka and Linda Hoffman. Web posted June 23, 2008. 08AD876



Poverty has long-term social and economic costs for children and families, communities, and states. In 2006, more than 13 million children lived below the federal poverty level. Children who grow up poor are more likely to earn less as adults, complete fewer years of formal education, and face more health issues than children living in higher-income families. Poverty has large repercussions for states and the nation, with childhood poverty alone estimated to cost the U.S. economy approximately \$500 billion annually. The study examines the long-term social and economic costs of poverty for children and families, communities and states. It also explores several policy and

program options to reduce the negative consequences of poverty for children and increase opportunities for families to achieve economic success.

<http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/0806POVERTYBRIEF.PDF> [PDF format, 20 pages].

ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

EDUCATION AT A GLANCE 2008: OECD INDICATORS. Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development. Web posted September 9, 2008. 08AD1033

Across OECD countries, governments are seeking policies to make education more effective while searching for additional resources to meet the increasing demand for education. The study enables countries to see themselves in the light of other countries' performance. It provides a comparable and up-to-date array of indicators on the performance of education systems and represents the consensus of professional thinking on how to measure the current state of education internationally.

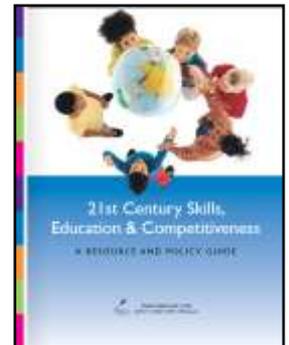
<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/23/46/41284038.pdf>
[PDF format, Whole Document, 525 pages].

PARTNERSHIP FOR 21ST CENTURY SKILLS

21ST CENTURY SKILLS, EDUCATION & COMPETITIVENESS; a Resource & Policy Guide. A Report. Partnership for 21st Century Skills, Sept. 10, 2008.

A fresh approach to United States education that closes national and international achievement gaps is critical to the future of the United States. Creating a 21st century education system that prepares students, workers and citizens to triumph in the global skills race is the central economic competitiveness issue currently facing the United States, according to a new report released by the Partnership for 21st Century Skills.

http://www.21stcenturyskills.org/documents/21st_century_skills_education_and_competitiveness_guide.pdf



PEW

UNFAVORABLE VIEWS OF JEWS AND MUSLIMS ON THE INCREASE IN EUROPE. PEW Global Attitudes Project, 09.17.08

Growing numbers of people in several major European countries say they have an unfavorable opinion of Jews, and opinions of Muslims also are more negative than they were several years ago. These findings are from a new Pew Global Attitudes Project report, based on data gathered from 24 countries from regions throughout the world, that examine worldwide religiosity and take a close look at Muslim publics' attitudes toward terrorism, Osama bin Laden, Hamas, Hezbollah and more.

<http://pewglobal.org/reports/pdf/262.pdf>



TEENS, VIDEO GAMES AND CIVICS. Pew Internet & American Life Project. September 16, 2008

Video games provide a diverse set of experiences and related activities and are part of the lives of almost all teens in America. To date, most video game research has focused on how games impact academic and social outcomes (particularly aggression). There has also been some exploration of the relationship between games and civic outcomes, but as of yet there has been no large-scale quantitative research. This survey provides the first nationally representative study of teen video game play and of teen video gaming and civic engagement. The survey looks at which teens are playing games, the games and equipment they are using, the social context of their play, and the role of parents and parental monitoring. Though arguments have been made about the civic potential of video gaming, this is the first large-scale study to examine the relationship between specific gaming experiences and teens' civic activities and commitments.

Video gaming is pervasive in the lives of American teens -- young teens and older teens, girls and boys, and teens from across the socioeconomic spectrum. Opportunities for gaming are everywhere, and teens play video games frequently. When asked, half of all teens reported playing a video game "yesterday." Those who play daily typically play for an hour or more. <http://pewresearch.org/pubs/953/teens-video-games-and-civics>

MORE AMERICANS QUESTION RELIGION'S ROLE IN POLITICS. Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life. August 21, 2008. 08AD1010

Some Americans are having a change of heart about mixing religion and politics. The survey finds a narrow majority of the public saying that churches and other houses of worship should keep out of political matters and not express their views on day-to-day social and political matters. For a decade, majorities of Americans had voiced support for religious institutions speaking out on such issues. As a result, conservatives' views on this issue are much more in line with the views of moderates and liberals than was previously the case.

<http://pewforum.org/newassets/images/reports/summer08/survey.pdf> [PDF format, 63 pages]

KEY NEWS AUDIENCES NOW BLEND ONLINE AND TRADITIONAL SOURCES. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. August 17, 2008. 08AD989

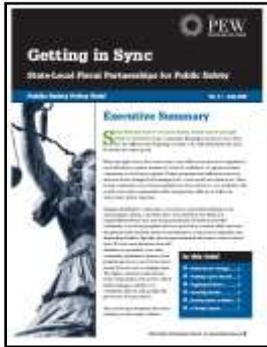


For more than a decade, the audiences for most traditional news sources have steadily declined, as the number of people getting news online has surged. However, today it is not a choice between traditional sources and the internet for the core elements of today's news audiences. A sizable minority of Americans, who are integrators, those who get the news from both traditional sources and the internet, are a more engaged, sophisticated and demographically sought-after audience segment than those who mostly rely on traditional news sources. They are older, on average, than those who consider the internet their main source of news. Overall, Integrators spend more time with the news on a typical day

than do those who rely more on either traditional or internet sources.

<http://people-press.org/reports/pdf/444.pdf> [PDF format, 129 pages].

GETTING IN SYNC: STATE-LOCAL FISCAL PARTNERSHIPS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY. PEW Center on the States. Mary Shilton et al. July 2008. 08AD968



Some offenders need to be put in prison while others can be managed safely on probation in the community. But judges and prosecutors often face the difficult task of figuring out what to do with defendants who don't fit cleanly into either group. When the right choice isn't clear, many court officers say they feel compelled to send offenders to prison because of a lack of confidence or capacity in their community corrections programs. Escalating state prison populations and costs are spurring fresh interest in partnerships that align state and local finances with policy goals.

http://www.pewtrusts.org/uploadedFiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/Reports/sentencing_and_corrections/fiscal_partnerships.pdf

THE INTERNET AND THE 2008 ELECTION. Pew Internet & American Life Project. Aaron Smith and Lee Rainie. June 15, 2008. 08AD837

A record-breaking 46% of Americans have used the internet, email or cell phone text messaging to get news about the campaign, share their views and mobilize others.

A significant number of voters are also using the internet to gain access to campaign events and primary documents. Online activism using social media has also grown substantially since the first time we probed this issue during the 2006 midterm elections. Yet despite the growth in the number of people who are politically engaged online, internet users express some ambivalence about the role of the internet in the campaign. On one hand, 28% of wired Americans say that the internet makes them feel more personally connected to the campaign, and 22% say that they would not be as involved in the campaign if not for the internet. At the same time, however, even larger numbers feel that the internet magnifies the most extreme viewpoints and is a source of misinformation for many voters.

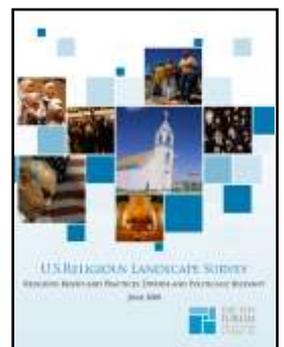
http://www.pewinternet.org/pdfs/PIP_2008_election.pdf [PDF format, 27 pages].



U.S. RELIGIOUS LANDSCAPE SURVEY 2008. Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life. June 2008. 08AD878

The survey finds that most Americans have a non-dogmatic approach to faith. A majority of those who are affiliated with a religion do not believe their religion is the only way to salvation. Almost the same number believes that there is more than one true way to interpret the teachings of their religion. This openness to a range of religious viewpoints is in line with the great diversity of religious affiliation, belief and practice that exists in the United States. It also shows that more than half of Americans rank the importance of religion very highly in their lives, attend religious services regularly, and pray daily.

<http://religions.pewforum.org/pdf/report2-religious-landscape-study-full.pdf> [PDF format, 276 pages].



POPULATION STUDIES CENTER

MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE SINCE WORLD WAR II: ANALYZING THE ROLE OF TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESS ON THE FORMATION OF HOUSEHOLDS.

Population Studies Center. Jeremy Greenwood and Nezh Guner. May 23, 2008.

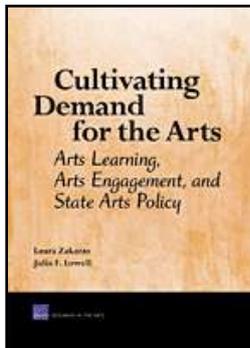
08AD798

Since World War II there has been a rise in the time that married households allocate to work, an increase in the rate of divorce, and a decline in the rate of marriage. The study argues that labor-saving technological progress in the household sector can explain these facts. This makes it more feasible for singles to maintain their own home, and for married women to work.

http://repository.upenn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1009&context=psc_working_papers [PDF format, 67 pages].

RAND

CULTIVATING DEMAND FOR THE ARTS: ARTS LEARNING, ARTS ENGAGEMENT, AND STATE ARTS POLICY. By: Laura Zakaras, Julia F. Lowell. RAND, September 2008

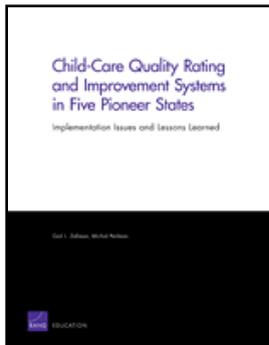


To shed light on the decline in demand for the nonprofit arts, the authors describe what it means to cultivate demand for the arts, examine how well U.S. institutions are serving this function, and discuss whether it is in the public interest to make such cultivation a higher priority than it has been in the past. The authors propose that a strong cultural sector is characterized by three conditions: adequate amounts of high-quality artworks (supply), ample opportunities for people to encounter those works (access), and sufficient numbers of individuals with an interest in experiencing those works (demand). They argue that arts policies have long focused on supporting supply and expanding access while

neglecting demand, which calls for cultivating the capacity of individuals to have engaging experiences with the arts. (...)The authors conclude that greater investment in comprehensive arts learning, particularly for the young, is the most effective strategy for building demand. Such an investment is not likely to be made, however, unless the arts community, including the National Endowment for the Arts, SAAs, and the leaders of arts organizations, join with arts educators to persuade the general education community — and the American public — that improved arts learning is necessary to expand and diversify public engagement in the arts.

http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2008/RAND_MG640.pdf

CHILD-CARE QUALITY RATING AND IMPROVEMENT SYSTEMS IN FIVE PIONEER STATES: IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES AND LESSONS LEARNED. By: Gail L. Zellman, Michal Perlman. RAND monograph. September 2008.



As demand for child care in the United States has grown, so have calls for improving its quality. One approach that has been gaining momentum involves developing and implementing quality rating and improvement systems (QRISs), multi-component assessments designed to make child-care quality transparent to child-care providers, parents, and policymakers. QRISs provide simple, independent public ratings of child-care quality along with feedback, technical assistance, and improvement incentives. QRIS supporters posit that these systems can inform parental choice and motivate and support quality improvements. This monograph discusses the development and implementation of QRISs in Oklahoma, Colorado, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Ohio, five states that were among the first to develop a QRIS. Zellman and Perlman examine decisions that each state made in developing its QRIS, the challenges each faced in implementing its system, and the lessons that were learned during the process. The authors conclude with a series of recommendations for developing, designing, implementing, evaluating, and refining QRISs based on study findings and lessons learned.

<http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/MG795/>

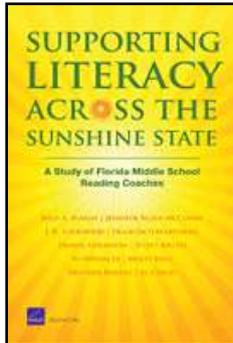
AFTER THE WAR: NATION-BUILDING FROM FDR TO GEORGE W. BUSH. By: James Dobbins, Michele A. Poole, Austin Long, Benjamin Runkle. RAND monograph. September 2008.



In recent decades, the United States' overwhelming military superiority has allowed it to “overawe” or overrun adversaries with comparative ease. However, consolidating victory and preventing a renewal of conflict has usually taken more time, energy, and resources than originally foreseen. Few recent efforts of this sort can be regarded as unqualified successes, and one or two must be accounted as clear failures. Prior RAND research examined the factors that contribute to this success or failure, including the natures of the society being reformed and of the conflict being terminated, as well as the quality and quantity of the military and civil assets of external actors. This volume addresses the manner in which U.S. policy toward postconflict reconstruction has been created and implemented and the effect that these processes have had on mission outcomes. Through the lens of presidential decisionmaking style and administrative structure, from the post-World War II era through the Cold War, post-Cold War era, and current war on terrorism, it is both possible and necessary to reassess how these elements can work in favor of, as well as against, the nation-building goals of the U.S. government and military and those of its coalition partners.

<http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/MG716/>

SUPPORTING LITERACY ACROSS THE SUNSHINE STATE: A STUDY OF FLORIDA MIDDLE SCHOOL READING COACHES. By: Julie A. Marsh, Jennifer Sloan McCombs, et.al. RAND monograph, September 2008



Despite recent progress in reading achievement among children in primary grades, many children are not moving beyond basic decoding skills to fluency and comprehension as they go on to higher grades. To address this problem, many policymakers suggest that reading coaches — master teachers who offer ongoing on-site instructional support for teachers — can improve teachers' practice and students' literacy skills. RAND researchers evaluated the middle school reading coach program in Florida to answer these questions: How is the program being implemented by the state, districts, schools, and individual coaches? What is the impact of coaching on teachers' practice and students'

achievement in reading and mathematics? What features of reading coach models and practices are associated with better outcomes?

<http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/MG762/>

U.S. COMPETITIVENESS IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. By: Titus Galama, James Hosek. RAND monograph, June 2008

Is the United States in danger of losing its competitive edge in science and technology (S&T)? This concern has been raised repeatedly since the end of the Cold War, most recently in a wave of reports in the mid-2000s suggesting that globalization and the growing strength of other nations in S&T, coupled with inadequate U.S. investments in research and education,



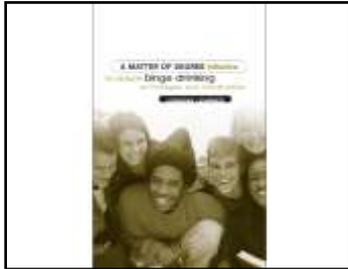
threaten the United States' position of leadership in S&T. Galama and Hosek examine these claims and contrast them with relevant data, including trends in research and development investment; information on the size, composition, and pay of the U.S. science and engineering workforce; and domestic and international education statistics. They find that the United States continues to lead the world in science and technology and has kept pace or grown faster than other nations on several measurements of S&T performance; that it generally benefits from the influx of foreign S&T students and workers; and that the United States will continue to benefit from the development of new technologies by other nations as long as it maintains the capability to acquire and

implement such technologies. However, U.S. leadership in science and technology must not be taken for granted, and Galama and Hosek conclude with recommendations to strengthen the U.S. S&T enterprise, including measures to facilitate the immigration of highly skilled labor and improve the U.S. education system.

<http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/MG674/>

ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION

A MATTER OF DEGREE INITIATIVE TO REDUCE BINGE DRINKING AT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Web posted May 17, 2008. 08AD774



Universities work with surrounding communities to gauge the effectiveness of an environmental approach to alcohol abuse prevention and reduce negative consequences of high-risk drinking. The initiative was conducted across 10 university-community sites to reduce campus alcohol abuse and related outcomes. The environmental model used in this study increased awareness on campuses and in communities that collaboration could bring about change in alcohol abuse on campus. The study recommends bringing higher-level leaders from the campus and community into the initiative, the recruitment and retention of project staff, and advocacy with media and applying communication techniques.

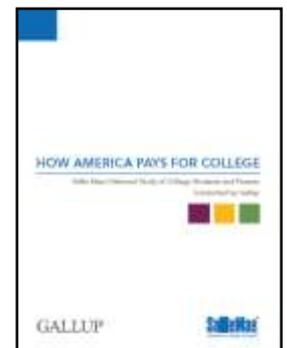
<http://www.rwjf.org/files/research/051308matterofdegree.pdf> [PDF format, 13 pages].

SALLIEMAE AND GALLUP

HOW AMERICA PAYS FOR COLLEGE. SallieMae and Gallup. Web posted August 20, 2008. 08AD1008

Working with Sallie Mae, Gallup has developed the mathematically representative picture of how the typical American family pays for college based upon in-depth statistical analysis of a nationwide survey of more than 1,400 parents and students. In addition, the study provides critical insight into the attitudes, choices, and concerns of American families in how they plan and pay for college.

<http://www.salliemae.com/content/dreams/pdf/AP-Report.pdf>



SAVE THE CHILDREN

STATE OF THE WORLD'S MOTHERS 2008: CLOSING THE SURVIVAL GAP FOR CHILDREN UNDER 5. Save the Children. Web posted June 2008. 08AD823



Worldwide, more than 200 million children under age 5 do not get the basic health care they need. This contributes to nearly 10 million children dying needlessly every year from highly preventable or treatable ailments such as diarrhea and pneumonia. While there has been significant progress in reducing the overall death toll among children under age 5 in recent decades, death rates among the poorest of the poor have not improved nearly so well, and in some countries they have gotten worse. These widening health care inequities unfairly condemn millions of the world's poorest children to early death or a lifetime of ill health. The report examines where the health care gaps between the poorest and best-off children are widest, and where they are smallest. It

examines how millions of children’s lives could be saved by ensuring all children get essential, low-cost health care.

<http://www.savethechildren.org/publications/mothers/2008/SOWM-2008-full-report.pdf>
[PDF format, 56 pages].

STEINHARDT INSTITUTE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY, NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

ASIAN AMERICANS AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS. Steinhardt Institute for Higher Education Policy, New York University. Web posted June 10, 2008. 08AD812

This groundbreaking report challenges long-held beliefs about Asian American and Pacific Islander students’ academic success. The report details why false assumptions can lead to misinformed policy and practice that can be harmful to Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) students. In exploring key prevailing fictions about the AAPI community, the report builds on the simple premise that educational policies and practices must be based on fact, not fiction. The report shows how the “model minority” stereotype is detrimental, explaining that in assuming universal academic strength, teachers and counselors often do not extend help to their AAPI students in the same way they do to other students.

<http://www.nyu.edu/projects/care/CAREReport2008.pdf>
[PDF format, 44 pages].



UNITED NATIONS

TACKLING CORRUPTION, TRANSFORMING LIVES: ACCELERATING HUMAN DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC. United Nations Development Programme. Web posted June 14, 2008. 08AD827



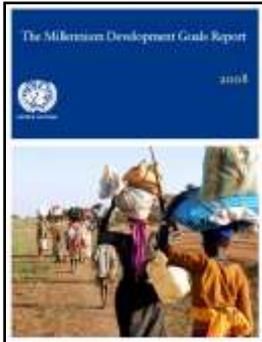
Corruption is increasingly being challenged as unacceptable across Asia and the Pacific. The report shows why eliminating corruption that plagues people’s daily lives must become a priority. The police, social services, and environment are areas countries should consider focusing on. The report shows that it is time to seize the moment, to combine pressure from above, in government and the private sector, with the voice of the people from below. Successes are emerging, along with growing international commitment.

http://www.undprcc.lk/ext/crhdr/crhd_report/RHDR_Full%20Report_Tackling_Corruption_Transforming_Lives.pdf

[PDF format, 246 pages].

UNITED NATIONS, DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS (ESA)

THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS REPORT 2008. ESA, September 2008



The MDGs encapsulate the development aspirations of the world as a whole. But they are not only development objectives; they encompass universally accepted human values and rights such as freedom from hunger, the right to basic education, the right to health and a responsibility to future generations. We have made important progress towards all eight goals, but we are not on track to fulfill our commitments. This report quantifies the achievements that have been registered and provides a measure of the tasks that remain.

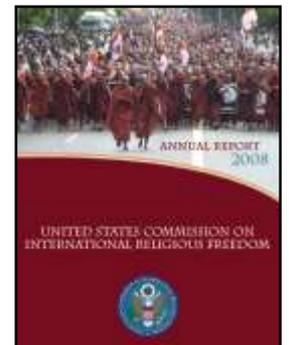
http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Static/Products/Progress2008/MDG_Report_2008_En.pdf

United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF)

ANNUAL REPORT 2008. United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF). May 2008

The report covers the period May 2007 through April 2008. In carrying out its mandate, the Commission reviews information on violations of religious freedom as presented in the Department of State's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices and its Annual Report on International Religious Freedom. The Commission also consults regularly with State Department and National Security Council officials, U.S. Ambassadors, and officials of foreign governments, as well as with representatives of religious communities and institutions, human rights groups, other non-governmental organizations, academics, and other policy experts. It visits foreign countries to examine religious freedom conditions firsthand. The Commission also holds public hearings, briefings and roundtables.

<http://www.uscirf.gov/images/AR2008/annual%20report%202008-final%20edition.pdf>



URBAN INSTITUTE

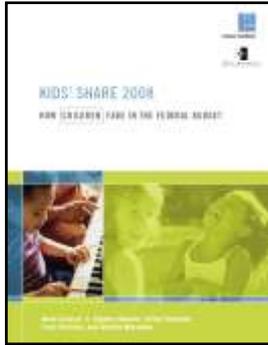
FOOD STAMPS, FEDERALISM, AND WORKING FAMILIES. By Kenneth Finegold Series/Perspectives on Low-Income Working Families. Urban Institute, September 16, 2008

Food stamp benefits can provide an important supplement to the income of working families (families with children under 18 and earnings), who now make up nearly 40 percent of program participants. States can take advantage of Food Stamp Program policy options that increase eligibility and benefits. Seven policy options are particularly important for working families: more liberal vehicle rules, expanded categorical eligibility, transitional benefits for families leaving cash assistance, outreach, longer certification periods, reduced



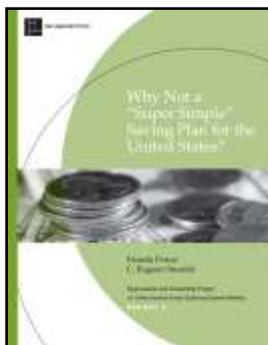
reporting requirements, and waivers of the required face-to-face interviews at recertification.
http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411752_food_stamps.pdf

KID'S SHARE 2008: HOW CHILDREN FARE IN THE FEDERAL BUDGET. Urban Institute. Adam Carasso et al. Web posted June 25, 2008. 08AD895



According to the study, children are a diminishing priority in the federal budget. If current spending and revenue policies continue, the children's share of domestic federal spending, which excludes defense, non-defense homeland security, and international affairs, will be 13.8 percent in 2018, down from 16.2 percent in 2007 and 20.2 percent in 1960. While domestic spending is projected to grow by \$771 billion, largely because of escalating health care costs, between now and 2018, children will reap only 7.1 percent, or \$55 billion, of this increase under current law. The report defines "children" as those under age 19 who are not in postsecondary education.

http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411699_kids_share_08_report.pdf
 [PDF format, 40 pages].



WHY NOT A "SUPER SIMPLE" SAVING PLAN FOR THE UNITED STATES? Urban Institute. Pamela Perun and C. Eugene Steuerle. Web posted June 8, 2008. 08AD819

The paper suggests that it is possible to create a "Super Simple" saving plan that would provide a basic, low-cost, easily administrable plan with the potential to increase significantly the retirement assets available to moderate- and middle-income individuals. The basic features of the Super Simple plan resemble the U.K. reform plan, but within a U.S. context. The Super Simple plan would create: solid

minimum levels of employer contributions for low- and moderate-income workers, include automatic contribution features for employees who do not formally opt out, remove many of the complex discrimination rules surrounding retirement plans, create a significant government match for savers to replace the largely symbolic match now in existence for only a few taxpayers, and streamline multiple 401(k)-type plans through a simple plan design attractive to employers and employees alike.

http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411676_simple_saving.pdf [PDF format, 26 pages].

WHARTON SCHOOL, UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

BRIDGING THE GLOBAL DIGITAL DIVIDE, ONE LAPTOP AT A TIME. Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania. June 11, 2008. 08AD840

The non-profit One Laptop per Child (OLPC) program unveiled the second version of its XO laptop, which is designed to bring affordable, modern technology to children in developing countries. The researchers of the study say that the focus on third world countries is promising, but they question whether these efforts will be effective. Non-profits see technology as a way to improve education. Meanwhile, technology companies see a good cause and billions of potential customers.

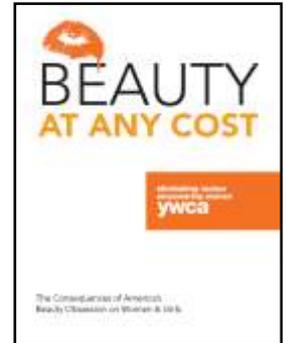
<http://knowledge.wharton.upenn.edu/articlepdf/1978.pdf?CFID=70003010&CFTOKEN=62356046&jsessionid=9a30110e3d615d17e142>

YWCA

BEAUTY AT ANY COST. [YWCA]. Web posted August 20, 2008. 08AD985

According to the report, engulfed by a popular culture saturated with images of idealized, air-brushed and unattainable female physical beauty, women and girls cannot escape feeling judged on the basis of their appearance. As a result, many women feel chronically insecure, overweight and inadequate, as these beauty images apply to an ever-shrinking pool of women. The pressure to achieve unrealistic physical beauty is an undercurrent in the lives of many women in the United States.

<http://www.ywca.org/atf/cf/%7B3B450FA5-108B-4D2E-B3D0-C31487243E6A%7D/Beauty%20at%20Any%20Cost.pdf>



ARTICLES FROM U.S. JOURNALS

COLLEGES SHOULD PLAN — AND TEACH — FOR AN OIL-SCARCE WORLD. Carlson, Scott. *Chronicle of Higher Education*, July 10, 2008 AA08275

Summary: The looming global energy crisis will affect all facets of modern life — including colleges, points out the author. As with most large institutions, modern colleges are very energy-intensive, are not always closely connected with the local community in which they are located, and draw students from a wide geographic area, resulting in long commutes. Most colleges plan to be around in the next several decades, so Carlson says that they need to fundamentally rethink all aspects of their operations — how buildings are heated and cooled, how food is delivered and prepared, what courses are offered. Coming generations may live in a world vastly different from the present day, so “colleges that offer an education that equips students to live in that world will remain relevant.”

<http://chronicle.com/free/2008/07/3746n.htm>

WHEN PRISON GUARDS GO SOFT. Abramsky, Sasha. *Mother Jones*, July/August 2008. AA08274

Summary: Mike Jimenez, head of the California Correctional Peace Officers Association, the nation’s largest prison guards’ union, says that five years ago, his group was riding high as one of the most powerful labor unions in California. The CCPOA had a tough-on-crime stance, supporting like-minded politicians and backing strong legislation, and derailing campaigns of political candidates that crossed them. However, the CCPOA is at a crossroads; it is recommending stances that it once would have derided as dangerously liberal, such as rolling back some mandatory minimum sentencing, restoring judges' discretion over sentencing, and giving corrections officers more input in setting parole dates. It also advocated spending more on sick and mentally ill inmates, as well as reentry programs for parolees. Jimenez, a stalwart Republican, acknowledges that much of his change of mind came about because of events in his family — his 19-year-old son was involved in drugs and ran afoul of the law. He says that the experience was “assembly-line justice ... Nobody's willing to forgive anymore. And we are willing to lock people up for unreasonable periods of time.” This article is part of a series, SLAMMED, on the U.S. prison system, and can be found online at

<http://www.motherjones.com/news/feature/2008/07/slammed-taming-of-the-screws.html>

END-OF-LIFE CARE: INTO THE SUNSET. *Economist*, July 31, 2008 AA08273

Summary: The hospice movement is dedicated to caring for, rather than trying to cure, the terminally ill. This idea of limiting care to physical and emotional pain relief for people with identifiably fatal diseases is widely accepted. But now questions are arising about the appropriate way to deal with elderly people who will never be well, but have no idea when they will die. A common gripe about American nursing homes is that their residents are still all too likely to be rushed off to hospital as they begin to die. Some reasons for this are legal, but all too often nursing home staff do not share “the live-and-let-die convictions of the hospice movement.” What is needed, the author says, is honest, extensive discussions on palliative care for the elderly — both among health care workers as well as with the general public. Currently available online at

http://www.economist.com/world/international/displaystory.cfm?story_id=11848584

THE INNOVATION IMPERATIVE. Bracco, Tara. *American Theatre*, July/August 2008, pp. 36-41 AA08256

Summary: American theater is looking for innovative methods to increase their attendance and solvency. In November of last year, the Theatre Communications Group (TCG) held a two-day event called "Cultivating Innovation: From the Board Room to the Box Office", focusing on new ideas to help non-profit theaters. The author cites the New York Metropolitan Opera, which is increasing opera's audience by transmitting production into several hundred movie theaters in North America and Europe, and is advertising on New York buses and doing telecasts on screens in Times Square and Lincoln Center. Another area ripe for reconsideration is the traditional expectation that 50 to 70 percent of theater's budget should be derived from ticket sales; this is changing, as endowments have grown in size, allowing some theaters to cut ticket prices to attract a younger audience and increase attendance. In the end, each theater company must find its own innovative way to financial stability.

<http://www.tcg.org/publications/at/julyaugust08/fallforum.cfm>

GEORGE CARLIN, AMERICAN RADICAL. Nichols, John. *Nation, The*, June 23, 2008 AA08223

Summary: Standup comic George Carlin stopped voting in 1972 when George McGovern was buried in an electoral landslide by Richard Nixon. Two years later, Nixon's presidency was buried by the Watergate scandal; Nixon resigned in disgrace to avoid impeachment. In this tribute to Carlin, who died at age 71 from heart failure, the author looks at the intelligence and idealism buried in Carlin's biting humor. American politicians do not fall out of the sky, Carlin reminds us. "They come from American parents and American families, American homes, American schools, American churches, American businesses and American universities, and they are elected by American citizens. It's what our system produces: garbage, garbage out." The comic made his career ranting not so much about politics as about the "ugly intersection of power and economics" where big wealthy interests dominate. "They've got you by the balls. They spend billions of dollars every year lobbying -- lobbying to get what they want. Well, we know what they want; they want more for themselves and less for everybody else," Carlin said. The comic's outrage, often verbalized in four-letter words, brought charges of using "obscene language" against him and the Pacifica broadcasting network from the Federal Communications Commission. In Nichols' estimate, Carlin was "an idealist -- and a patriot -- of a deeper sort than is encountered very often these days." <http://www.thenation.com/blogs/thebeat/331953>

HANDHELD HEADLINES. Emmett, Arielle. *American Journalism Review*, vol. 30, no. 4, August/September 2008 AA08262

Summary: News organizations are pinning their hopes of survival on producing content aimed at consumers using cell phones and other mobile devices, but so far the results of their efforts are inconclusive. Mobile news is currently only a tiny share of the market, and users tend to be young, sophisticated and interested only in information of immediate use to themselves and which is easily attainable with just a few clicks. As of now, the most successful publishers of mobile content are the most focused -- "channelized", in industry jargon -- to the needs of select audiences.

<http://www.ajr.org/Article.asp?id=4582>

THE CHANGING NEWSROOM. *Journalism.org*, July 21, 2008 AA08261

Summary: In all aspects, ranging from staffing to content, American newspapers are changing at a dizzying rate. In a survey of more than 250 local and national papers, the Project for Excellence in Journalism details developments such as the decline of independent foreign and national news coverage and the rise of mobile journalists deployed to send in video footage for the paper's Web site. The analysis of its survey results gives a comprehensive look at the state of U.S. newspapers today and a glimpse into their uncertain future <http://www.journalism.org/node/11961>

IN THE BASEMENT OF THE IVORY TOWER. Anon. *Atlantic Monthly*, vol. 301, no. 5, June 2008, pp. 68-73. AA08200

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

<http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/200806/college>

BAD RAP ON THE SCHOOLS. Mathews, Jay. *Wilson Quarterly* vol. 32, no. 2, Spring 2008, pp. 15-20 AA08165

Summary: Mathews, an education reporter and columnist at The Washington Post, disputes a recently aired documentary called Two Million Minutes that suggests American students don't study as long and as hard as their counterparts in India and China, and, as a result, the U.S. may be losing the economic race to these countries. Mathews acknowledges that U.S. businesses are having trouble hiring skilled people and must often go abroad to find more, and that American high schools have not shown much improvement in math and reading in the last 30 years. However, Mathews notes that the U.S. school system is greatly superior to those in China and India -- the real problem is the bottom 30 percent of U.S. schools in urban and rural communities full of low-income children. "Not only are we denying the children who attend them the equal education that is their right, but we are squandering almost a third of our intellectual capital," he writes.

http://www.wilsoncenter.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=wq.essay&essay_id=403291

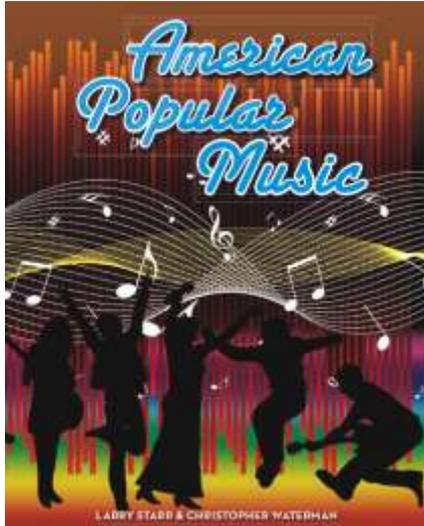
HOW TO GROW A GANG. Quirk, Matthew. *Atlantic Monthly* vol. 301, no. 4, May 2008, pp. 24-25 AA08149

Summary: By deporting record numbers of Latino criminals, the U.S. may make its gang problem worse, says Quirk, staff editor at The Atlantic Monthly. Using the Salvadoran gang MS-13 as an example, Quirk notes that Salvadoran police report that 90 percent of deported gang members return to the United States, and many use their free trip south to bring others

back with them upon their return. As a result, MS-13 members now control many of the “coyote” services that bring undocumented immigrants up from Central America. Those “free trips” are increasing, although not all of the travelers are gang members. During 2006 and 2007, the number of deportation proceedings jumped from 64,000 to 164,000. This year, it is expected to hit 200,000, an all-time high. Quirk recommends anti-gang intervention programs and lengthy American prison sentences as the more effective means for dealing with Latino gangs. <http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/200805/world-in-numbers>

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AMERICAN POPULAR MUSIC. Larry Starr & Christopher Waterman. Copyright © 2003, 2007 by Oxford University Press, Inc. U.S. Department of State, August 2008.

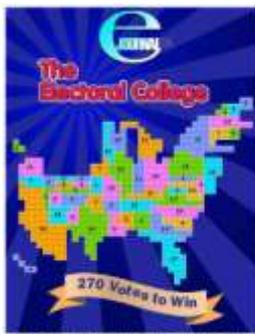


American popular music is a kaleidoscopic mélange of styles and dreams. Its vibrancy reflects the mating of cultural diversity to artistic and creative freedom. The stories in this book illustrate how Americans, borrowing from diverse musical traditions, have contributed to humanity's universal language.

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<http://www.america.gov/publications/books/american-popular-music.html>

THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE. An Electronic Journal of the U.S. Department of State, Volume 13, Number 9. September 2008

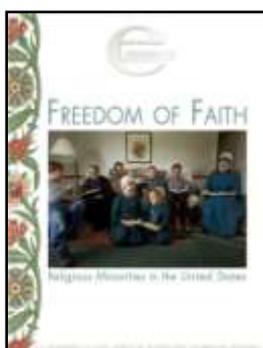


More than 100 million voters are likely to cast ballots in nationwide U.S. elections November 4. But only 538 men and women will elect the next president of the United States, and those elections will take place in 50 state capitals and in Washington, D.C., December 15. This indirect election system, called the Electoral College and devised in 1787 by the framers of the Constitution, puzzles Americans and non-Americans alike. It reflects the federal governing system of allocating powers not only to a national government and to the people but also to the states. We hope that this issue of eJournal USA will improve your understanding of the historical reasons for the Electoral College system

and how it functions.

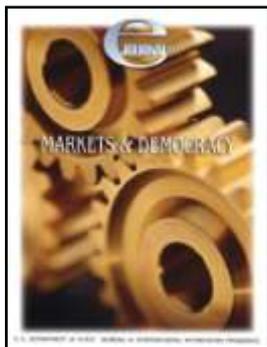
<http://www.america.gov/publications/ejournalusa/0908.html>

FREEDOM OF FAITH. An Electronic Journal of the U.S. Department of State, Volume 13, Number 8. August 2008



The principle of religious freedom is a cherished right in the United States, one that has historical roots older than the formation of the nation itself. In the 21st century, the United States pulses with a unique cultural chemistry brought on by a wave of immigration which has brought followers of more diverse faiths to many communities. This edition of eJournal USA examines how the nation adjusts to these demographic changes to remain true to the principles of freedom of faith.

http://www.america.gov/publications/ejournalusa.html#freedom_faith



MARKETS AND DEMOCRACY. An Electronic Journal of the U.S. Department of State, Volume 13, Number 6. June 2008

The connection between markets and democracy has never been a straight line. Since the 1700s economic thinkers have been debating this complex relationship. Is it possible to have free markets without democracy? Which develops first? Can the incentive of economic growth lead to greater democracy in countries that are not democratic? The 12 international experts we've assembled in this issue take up different aspects of the conundrum and offer their answers to these questions. Our goal, however, is not to resolve a centuries-old intellectual debate but to deepen our readers' understanding about the nuances of what is undeniably a matter of importance for everybody in the world today.

<http://www.america.gov/publications/ejournalusa/0608.html>

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