ARTICLE ALERT: FEBRUARY 2012

SPOTLIGHT: AMERICAN POPULAR CULTURE

Caitlin Flanagan. The Atlantic, December 2011, 8 pages.
Why does Oprah Winfrey, the host of television program "The Oprah Winfrey Show," understand women and the power of television better than anyone else? The author discusses Oprah’s childhood and the themes that have resonated with women audiences.

2. “Metadrama in Old Time Radio: 'Abbott...What Page are You on?'”
The author, a professor of English at Peninsula College in Port Angeles, Washington, explores U.S. radio programs between the 1920s and the 1950s, focusing on the role of radio in American culture and its impact on the establishment of a postmodern American society.

EDUCATION

The author, Director of the Center for International Higher Education at Boston College, discusses university rankings, focusing on who uses these rankings around the world, for what purposes, what problems the systems have, and the nature of the debate that currently swirls around each of them.

Frank DiMaria. The Education Digest, January 2012, 5 pages.
The author, a writer for Higher Education, discusses how his new textbook publishing model will eliminate barriers that prevent economically disadvantaged students from accessing information and continuing their education.

5. “Literacy Strategies: Variations on a Theme”
The author, an ESL instructor at Cleveland Institute of Music, explores how to maximize students’ English learning with a multisensory approach that emphasizes kinesthetic as well as visual and auditory
modalities, focusing on strategies to associate emotional "tones" and kinesthetic memory to TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) vocabulary words.

LIBRARY TRENDS

The author, one of the web archiving team leaders in the Office of Strategic Initiatives, Library of Congress, explores the challenges of a web archiving project of the Library of Congress which collects, preserves, and makes available significant digital content for current and future generations.

U.S. POLITICS

7. “Reimagining Government in the Digital Age”
The author, director of innovation for the city and county of San Francisco, discusses U.S. government engagement with technology and Web 2.0, focusing on transparency, participation, and collaboration.

8. “Romney and the Right”
The author, National Journal Group’s Editorial Director, analyzes why a Republican U.S. presidential candidate Mitt Romney could be a good candidate in the general election with his not-too-conservative position.

DEMOCRACY PROMOTION

The author, Vice President for Studies at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, examines President Obama’s democracy policy and U.S. democracy engagement around the world, focusing on finding valuable revitalization along with continued troubling shortcomings.

The authors examine how globalization undermines popular sovereignty as a viable conception of democracy, and offer an alternative way of conceiving democracy based on the principles of freedom and equality.
THE UNITED STATES AND ASIA

11. “Southeast Asia in 2012”
   The author, a senior associate in the Asia Program at the Carnegie Endowment, analyzes Southeast Asia’s tumultuous year ahead as it faces economic uncertainty; tension in Malaysia, Thailand, and the South China Sea; and positive developments in Myanmar.

12. "Asian Regional Policy Coordination"
   What is the purpose of Asian regional policy coordination going forward? Will Asian regional policy coordination substitute or complement global policy coordination? The author, a senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, examines the potential coverage and content of such policy coordination; what is meant by Asia in this context; and how Asia fits in with global policy coordination processes.

THE UNITED STATES AND WORLD AFFAIRS

   Is the United States in decline, as so many seem to believe these days? Or are Americans in danger of committing pre-emptive superpower suicide out of a misplaced fear of their own declining power? The author, a senior fellow in foreign policy at the Brookings Institution, discusses the potential decline of the United States due to its economic troubles and America’s power and influence in international politics.

   The author, the Robert and Renee Belfer Professor of International Affairs at Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government, discusses his views on the so-called American era of political power and influence in the world. He analyzes U.S. foreign policy since 1945; and changes in regional security brought by the emergence of nations such as China in the late 20th century and early 21st century.

15. "The Future of Diplomacy"
   Former Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, now a professor of the Practice of Diplomacy and International Politics at the Kennedy School of Government, discusses what the United States needs to do to maintain its global position and strength, especially at a time when the nation has the challenge of a changing global world order.
HUMAN RIGHTS

16. “Privacy and Security in the Digital Age: Contemporary Challenges and Future Directions”
The author, an associate professor at Jamsetji Tata Center for Disaster Management, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, India, examines major strands in contemporary privacy-security debate in the digital era, and how the proliferation of information and surveillance technologies has complicated individuals’ right to privacy.

The author reviews the development of universal women’s rights since 1970, and discusses how the international feminist movement has influenced the development of women’s legal rights.

ECONOMICS OUTLOOK

18. “Microfinance, the Market and Political Development in the Internet Age”
The author, a PhD candidate in the Department of Political Science, University of Connecticut, investigates the political ramifications of microfinance in developing countries and examines three emerging trends in microfinance: new technology; the rise of for-profit microfinance institutions; and the increase in individual, focusing on the impact of microfinance institutions on political development.

19. “Global Economic Outlook: China, the Euro Crisis, and the United States”
With the euro crisis continuing to fester, a global credit crunch, and generalized slowdown threatening emerging markets, where will growth come from? Will the fledgling recovery of the United States continue? The authors examine global economic outlook and discuss these questions.

20. "The Challenge of High and Rising Food Prices"
The author, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, discusses the shift of the effects of high food prices on hunger and food access to problems associated with commodity price volatility and market imperfections.

The author, Policy Director of the Economic Growth Program at the New America Foundation, discusses the decline of U.S. manufacturing and the key factors for decimated American industry and reduced incomes of American workers.
GLOBAL HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

22. “Our Data, Ourselves”
Kate Greene. Discover, December 2011, 5 pages.
The author, a Nashville-based journalist, discusses the popularity increase of self-tracking electronics in the United States, and how self-tracking can help to predict illnesses, improve treatment for disease, and help analyze behavior.

23. “Vaccine for All Seasons”
The author, a science writer, examines the progress of a human vaccine against the universal avian influenza after influenza researchers have tracked flu viruses and developed vaccines to prevent the disease.

24. “Water Wranglers”
Four experts on water policy discuss about water scarcity, climate change, and water as a commodity. They debate how to keep the taps flowing in the face of drought, population growth, and conflict over the world’s most precious resource.

JOURNALISM

Journalism has undergone a number of seismic changes since 1961. But great reporting has always been – and will always be – its foundation. In this article, seven most accomplished journalists and one great photographer discuss their experience as reporters during the changes in journalism technology, and talk about what they do, how they do it, and why.

Schaffer, Executive Director of J-Lab, and Rosentiel, Director of Project for Excellence in Journalism at Pew Research Center, discuss the future of the international news media, including the proliferation of media outlets, their changing business models, and the effects the new media landscape has on an informed public.

27. “Youth Media Goes Mobile”
Elisabeth Soep. National Civic Review, Fall 2011, 4 pages.
The author, a senior producer and research director of Youth Radio, discusses a movement in schools and community organizations across the United States to use digital media and technology to promote youth learning and social justice.