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Our Bimonthly Newsletter includes websites from the Electronic Documentation Service, a mechanism for identifying and delivering authoritative but often hard-to-locate and soon-out-of-print reports by a number of different government agencies and private think tanks. Some links may need to be copied and pasted.

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DEMOCRACY

CUBA'S PHONY TRANSITION: FIDEL RESIGNS, RAUL REIGNS. Heritage Foundation, WebMemo No. 1820. James M. Roberts, et. al. February 19, 2008.

http://www.heritage.org/Research/LatinAmerica/upload/wm_1820.pdf [pdf format, 3 pages]

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

Fidel Castro's resignation announcement comes as little surprise to those following events in Cuba. The transition has been underway since July 31, 2006, when Fidel announced a "temporary transfer" of power and yielded day-to-day control of the government to his brother, Raul Castro. That the transition was announced furtively, in the middle of the night, and online in a country where practically no one but the rulers have access to the Internet is a good indicator of a phony transition that lacks legitimacy.

HUGH CHAVEZ, THE FARC, AND THREATS OF WAR. Heritage Foundation, WebMemo #1834. Ray Walsler.

http://www.heritage.org/Research/LatinAmerica/upload/wm_1834.pdf [pdf format, 3 pages].

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

On March 1, Raúl Reyes, the nom de guerre of Luis Édgar Devia Silva, a senior leader of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), died in an engagement on the borderland between Colombia and Venezuela. A commander of the FARC's Southern Bloc, Reyes stood in line for a top leadership position in the narco-terrorist group. The engagement occurred on the Ecuador side of the border and appears to have involved possible violations of Ecuadorian sovereignty. The reaction of Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez to a bilateral incident and his order to militarize the Colombia–Venezuela frontier threaten to escalate the incident into a full-blown regional crisis.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: ISSUES FOR THE 110TH CONGRESS. Congressional Research Service, RL33828, Library of Congress. Mark P. Sullivan, et. al. Web posted February 29, 2008.

http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RL33828_20070831.pdf [pdf format, 41 pages]

Over the past two decades, the Latin America and Caribbean region has made enormous strides in terms of political and economic development. Twelve countries held successful elections for head of government in 2006. The region's economy has rebounded since 2004, most recently experiencing a growth rate over 5% in 2006. Despite this progress, several nations face considerable challenges that affect U.S. interests and policy in the region.

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

AFFORDABILITY AND SUBSIDIES IN PUBLIC URBAN TRANSPORT: WHAT DO WE MEAN, WHAT CAN BE DONE? Nicolás Estupiñán, Andrés Gómez-Lobo, Ramón Muñoz-Raskin, and Tomás Serebrisky. Policy Research Working Paper, World Bank. Web posted December 1, 2007.

<http://www->

[uds.worldbank.org/servlet/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2007/12/13/000158349_20071213102316/Rendered/PDF/wps4440.pdf](http://www-uds.worldbank.org/servlet/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2007/12/13/000158349_20071213102316/Rendered/PDF/wps4440.pdf) [pdf format, 53 pages]

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

In both developed and developing countries, urban transport subsidy policies have been implemented, but no quantitative assessment to determine if these subsidies are “pro-poor” has been done. This study reviewed arguments used to justify public transport subsidies and evaluated the impacts of these policies. The evidence indicates that the policies do not make the poorest better off and that supply-side subsidies are either neutral or regressive.

DEBT CANCELLATION FOR HAITI: NO REASON FOR FURTHER DELAYS. Mark Weisbrot and Luis Sandoval. Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR). Web posted December 12, 2007.

http://www.cepr.net/documents/publications/haiti_debt_relief_2007_12.pdf [pdf format, 14 pages]

Haiti is one of the poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere—76 percent of its population lives below the poverty line. Yet it was excluded, because of a technicality, from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank’s Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative. Haiti was included in HIPC in 2006; but because of the initial delay, Haiti continues to struggle to meet its foreign public debt cancellation requirement. This paper argues for cancellation of this \$1.54 billion debt so that Haiti can be in line with the other HIPC countries in the Western Hemisphere.

DISPUTE SETTLEMENT UNDER THE PROPOSED U.S.-PERU TRADE PROMOTION AGREEMENT: AN OVERVIEW. Congressional Research Service, RS22752, Library of Congress. Jeanne J. Grimmitt, et. al. Web posted February 10, 2008.

http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RS22752_20080104.pdf [pdf format, 6 pages]

The proposed U.S.-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement (TPA) follows current U.S. free trade agreement practice. Implementing legislation was signed into law December 14, 2007 (P.L. 110-138); the TPA has not yet entered into force. This report will be updated.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK: ECONOMIC GROWTH TO SLOW ON CREDIT MARKET UNCERTAINTY AND HOUSING CONTRACTION, PICK UP PACE IN SECOND HALF. Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association (SIFMA). December 10, 2007.

<http://www.sifma.org/research/pdf/economic-outlook1207.pdf> [pdf format, 6 pages]

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

Members of SIFMA expect the pace of the U.S. economy to slow in the first half of 2008 but pick up in the latter part of the year. Based on a survey of SIFMA members conducted during the week of November 27-December 3, the respondents also project the Gross Domestic Product to grow at 2.1 percent next year.

ECONOMIC SANCTIONS: AGENCIES FACE COMPETING PRIORITIES IN ENFORCING THE U.S. EMBARGO ON CUBA. U.S. General Accountability Office (GAO). Web posted December 18, 2007.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d0880.pdf> [pdf format, 96 pages]

In 2001, the Department of Treasury’s Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) and the Department of Commerce’s Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) loosened embargo restrictions on some trade with Cuba. In 2004, however, OFAC tightened rules on travel, cash transfers, and gift parcels to Cuba. BIS, on the other hand, processed twice as many export license applications to Cuba in 2006 than in 2001. GAO was asked to examine rule changes and their impact on U.S. exports, travel, cash transfers, and gift parcels from 2001 to 2005. This report outlines GAO’s findings and recommendations.

FOUNDATION GIVING TRENDS: PREVIEW. Foundation Center. December 2007.

http://foundationcenter.org/gainknowledge/research/pdf/fgt_preview_2008.pdf [pdf format, 2 pages]

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

This preview highlights key patterns of giving during 2006 by subject area, type of support, population group, geographic focus, and foundation type. The report illustrates that health issues passed education as the top priority of private and community foundations primarily due to large grants received from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. A full analysis of grants will be published in February 2008.

GLOBALIZATION AND INNOVATION IN EMERGING MARKETS. Institute for Study of Labor, Discussion Paper No. 3299. Yuriy Gorodnichenko, et. al., January 2008.

<http://ftp.iza.org/dp3299.pdf> [pdf format, 43 pages]

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

Globalization brings opportunities and pressures for domestic firms in emerging markets to innovate and improve their competitive position. Using recent data on firms in 27 transition economies, the authors test for the effects of globalization through the impact of increased competition and foreign investment.

IMPORTS FROM LATIN AMERICA MAY HELP U.S. MEET ENERGY GOALS. Oak Ridge National Laboratory, report on biofuel capabilities. March 4, 2008.

<http://www.osti.gov/bridge/servlets/purl/924080-y8ATDg/924080.PDF> [pdf format, 243 pages]

The primary purpose of this study was to create analytically useful 'supply curves' for selected countries – most, but not all, in Latin America - and feedstocks. Such supply curves permit more detailed analysis of feedstock variables when modeling future global biofuel markets.

INTEGRATION AND TRADE SECTOR BRIEFS: LATIN AMERICA ANNUAL TRADE ESTIMATES FOR 2007.

Rafael Cornejo, Mauricio Mesquita Moreira, and Matthew Shearer. Integration and Trade Sector, Inter-American Development Bank. December 2007.

<http://idbdocs.iadb.org/wsdocs/getdocument.aspx?docnum=1234269> [pdf format, 7 pages]

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

Latin American exports grew 11 percent in 2007. This is the fifth consecutive year of growth, although the pace slowed from the previous three years. Intra-regional trade increased to 17.3 percent from 16.2 percent in 2006. The region's strong export performance has been driven by two favorable factors: a robust U.S. economy and growth in demand from China.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE STATISTICS 2007. International Trade Statistics Section, World Trade Organization (WTO). Web posted November 12, 2007.

http://www.wto.org/english/res_e/statis_e/its2007_e/its2007_e.pdf [pdf format, 262 pages]

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

This edition provides a more user-friendly set of statistical tables including information on international trade in services. The publication has five chapters. Chapter I describes world trade trends; Chapter II focuses on trade in merchandise; and Chapter III covers trade in commercial services. Chapter IV explains the metadata (sources and definitions of the data); and Chapter V (Appendix) provides detailed time series tables.

SOCIAL PANORAMA OF LATIN AMERICA: PRELIMINARY VERSION. Social Development Division and the Statistics and Economic Projections Division, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), United Nations. Web posted November 20, 2007.

http://www.eclac.org/publicaciones/xml/9/30309/PSI2007_Sintesis_Lanzamiento.pdf [pdf format, 59 pages]

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

This report shows that the per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for Latin American countries has grown more over the past five years than at any other time since 1970s. Although this increase has contributed to a reduction in poverty and unemployment, a number of social and economic problems persist. The report also includes the latest

poverty estimates for the Latin American countries. Currently, 36.5 percent of the population are poor, and 13.4 percent are extremely poor.

THE CHARACTERISTICS OF OFFSHORABLE JOBS. Jared Bernstein, James Lin, and Lawrence Mishel. Economic Policy Institute. November 14, 2007.

http://www.epi.org/datazone/characteristics_of_offshorable_jobs.pdf [pdf format, 12 pages]

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

Offshoring is the practice of sending work from the U.S. to workers abroad. Computer programming in India or garments once produced domestically but now made abroad are examples of offshoring. This report presents data and findings in spreadsheet format. The findings show that 18 to 22 percent of today's jobs could be offshored.

THE DIGITAL ECONOMY FACT BOOK. Daniel B. Britton and Stephen McGonegal. Progress and Freedom Foundation. Web posted December 14, 2007.

http://www.pff.org/issues-pubs/books/factbook_2007.pdf [pdf format, 188 pages]

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

The ninth edition of the Fact Book provides an analysis of the digital economy covering such topics as the growth of the internet, the hardware and communication sectors, the digital media, electronic commerce, and threats to the digital economy. The authors present historical data as well as projections on broadband adoption, piracy, social networking, and identity theft. This edition also includes a timeline of key events during 2006 and 2007.

THE IMPACT OF UNAUTHORIZED IMMIGRANTS ON THE BUDGETS OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.

Melissa Merrell. State and Local Government Cost Estimates Unit, Congressional Budget Office (CBO), U.S. Congress. Web posted December 9, 2007.

<http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/87xx/doc8711/12-6-Immigration.pdf> [pdf format, 24 pages]

This paper presents facts and research on unauthorized immigration and focuses on the estimated costs incurred by state and local governments for services to these unauthorized immigrants. Some of the services investigated are education, health care, and law enforcement. This report also looks at the types of federal assistance provided to states for these services. Finally, it studies the estimated taxes paid by the unauthorized immigrants.

WORLD TRADE REPORT 2007: SIX DECADES OF MULTILATERAL TRADE COOPERATION: WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED? Economic Research and Statistics Division, World Trade Organization (WTO). Web posted December 4, 2007.

http://www.wto.org/english/res_e/booksp_e/anrep_e/world_trade_report07_e.pdf [pdf format, 436 pages]

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

This report reviews lessons learned over the past 60 years of international trade cooperation and identifies future challenges. The report draws from economics, political economy, political science, and international relations perspectives. It examines the multilateral trading system of GATT/WTO and the evolution of market access and the dispute settlement system.

WTO—COMPATIBILITY OF FOUR CATEGORIES OF U.S. CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY. Alina Syunkova. National Foreign Trade Council, Inc. Web posted December 5, 2007.

<http://www.nftc.org/default/trade/WTO/Climate%20Change%20Paper.pdf> [pdf format, 37 pages]

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

U.S. policies to address climate change can be compatible with the World Trade Organization (WTO) rules, but some may distort or conflict with specific WTO provisions resulting in higher costs and jeopardizing long-term success. This paper examines the current climate change proposals in Congress and evaluates their compatibility with WTO rules.

EDUCATION

COLLEGE COSTS AND PRICES: ISSUES FOR REAUTHORIZATION OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT.

Rebecca R. Skinner and Blake Alan Naughton. Congressional Research Service (CRS), Library of Congress. October 30, 2007.

http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RL34224_20071030.pdf [pdf format, 44 pages]

The cost of attending U.S. colleges and universities is a growing concern. Many Americans believe that college is now out of financial reach for most students. Federal policymakers are concerned about affordability, access for low-income students, and financial aid. This report presents the current status and the historical trends of college costs. The report concludes with an overview of the relevant issues related to the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

FIRST-TIME, FULL-TIME GRADUATE STUDENT ENROLLMENT IN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING INCREASES IN 2006, ESPECIALLY AMONG FOREIGN STUDENTS.

InfoBrief, Science Resources Statistics, NSF 08-302, National Science Foundation. Julia Oliver. Web posted January 28, 2008.

<http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/infbrief/nsf08302/nsf08302.pdf> [pdf format, 6 pages]

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

After two years of decline, US enrollment of foreign graduate students in science and engineering increased in 2006. This report examines the 16% jump over 2005 levels and looks at the effects of first-time, full-time enrollment.

FOREIGN STUDENTS IN THE UNITED STATES: POLICIES AND LEGISLATION.

Chad C. Haddal. Congressional Research Service (CRS), Library of Congress. Updated December 10, 2007.

http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RL31146_20071210.pdf [pdf format, 26 pages]

More than six years after 9/11, the security concerns over foreign student visas are being weighed against competitiveness concerns. Foreign students must "satisfy Department of State (DOS) consular officers abroad and immigration inspectors upon entry . . . that they are not ineligible for visas under the so-called 'grounds for inadmissibility' of the Immigration and Nationality Act . . ."; consequently, student visa debates have expanded to include both security issues and market-based discussions. These diverse sets of issues have raised concerns with universities and advocacy groups while bills before Congress have focused on attracting foreign students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields. This report provides an update on these issues.

GRADUATE ENROLLMENT AND DEGREES: 1996 TO 2006.

Kenneth E. Redd. Office of Research and Policy Analysis, Council of Graduate School. Web posted December 1, 2007.

http://www.cgsnet.org/portals/0/pdf/R_ED2006.pdf [pdf format, 66 pages]

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

This report provides information from a recent survey on graduate student enrollment, applications, and degrees conferred. The survey was sent to 764 colleges and universities and responses were received from 680 institutions. The report is divided into two chapters. Chapter 1 profiles graduate enrollment by institution type, gender, field of study, citizenship status, and race/ethnicity. It also includes the number of applications received and the acceptance rates by field of study. Chapter 2 reflects trends in graduate enrollment and degrees awarded.

HOW WELL ARE AMERICAN STUDENTS LEARNING? WITH SECTIONS ON THE NATION'S ACHIEVEMENT, THE MYSTERIES OF PRIVATE SCHOOL ENROLLMENT, AND THE IMPACT OF TIME ON LEARNING.

Tom Loveless. Brown Center on Education Policy, Brookings Institution. Web posted December 11, 2007.

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2007/1211_education_loveless/1211_education_loveless.pdf [pdf format, 32 pages]

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

This seventh edition of the Brown Center Report consists of three sections. The first section examines the latest test scores on math and reading achievement. The second section explores general themes or trends in education such as enrollment patterns in private and public schools. The third section studies international test data to determine

whether there is a relationship between national math scores and the amount of time students spend on math. For the first time, this report investigates some phenomena that “do not make sense”; e.g., why students performing at the “proficient” level on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) are routinely cited as “underperforming.”

OVER INVESTED AND OVER PRICED: AMERICAN HIGHER EDUCATION TODAY. Richard Vedder. Policy Paper, Center for College Affordability and Productivity. Web posted November 19, 2007.

http://www.collegeaffordability.net/CCAP_Report.pdf [pdf format, 13 pages]

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

This report offers a new perspective of the financial problems plaguing American colleges and universities. The data show that a large portion of spending on state universities goes to frills such as high-priced recreational facilities rather than to lowering tuition. The report outlines 12 reasons for the soaring college costs and offers reforms to make colleges more accountable to students and families.

OVERVIEW OF EDUCATION ISSUES AND PROGRAMS IN LATIN AMERICA. Clare Ribando Seelke.

Congressional Research Service (CRS), Library of Congress. December 19, 2007.

http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RS22778_20071219.pdf [pdf format, 6 pages]

“The United States has long supported education programs in Latin America, and has a vested interest in promoting educational progress in the region. In the last 20 years, most Latin American countries have taken significant steps to improve their education systems, but major challenges remain. Those challenges include unequal access to education, high dropout and repetition rates, poor teacher quality, and uneven assessments and accountability systems. Regional and bilateral education assistance programs administered by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) have sought to help countries address many of those challenges. At the same time, the State Department’s Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs (ECA) has supported educational exchange and scholarship programs for Latin American students and teachers. This report provides an overview of the current level of educational attainment in Latin America, U.S. education programs in the region, and related legislative proposals. It will not be updated.”

ENVIRONMENT

CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATIONAL SECURITY: AN AGENDA FOR ACTION. Joshua W. Busby. Council Special Report, Council on Foreign Relations (CFR). Web posted November 30, 2007.

<http://www.cfr.org/publication/14862> [pdf format, 40 pages]

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

Climate change poses a threat to the security and prosperity of the U.S. and other countries. These threats include the effects of storms, droughts, and floods as well as the possibility of humanitarian disasters, political violence, and undermining weak governments. This paper offers “feasible and affordable policy options” to reduce the predictable effects of climate change.

EMISSIONS OF GREENHOUSE GASES IN THE UNITED STATES 2006. Energy Information Administration, U.S. Department of Energy. Web posted November 29, 2007.

<ftp://ftp.eia.doe.gov/pub/oiaf/1605/cdrom/pdf/ggrpt/057306.pdf> [pdf format, 62 pages]

This report shows that total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions in 2006 were 1.5 percent less than 2005 primarily due to reductions in carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions. CO₂ emissions were 110.6 million metric tons less than 2005 levels due to favorable weather conditions and higher energy prices. Additionally, in 2006, CO₂ emissions from energy consumption and industrial processes declined by 1.8 percent.

REDUCING U.S. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS: HOW MUCH AT WHAT COST? Jon Creyts, Anton Derkach, Scott Nyquist, Ken Ostrowski, and Jack Stephenson. U.S. Greenhouse Gas Abatement Mapping Initiative, Executive Report, McKinsey & Company and the Conference Board. Web posted November 29, 2007.

http://www.mckinsey.com/client/service/ccsi/pdf/US_ghg_final_report.pdf [pdf format, 107 pages]

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

Scientists, policy makers, and business leaders agree that action needs to be taken to address rising greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. This report presents a research team's detailed, fact-based estimation of costs and options to reduce or prevent GHG emissions in the U.S. The team determined that the U.S. could reduce greenhouse emissions by "3.0 to 4.5 gigatons of CO₂e using tested approaches and high-potential emerging technologies." The authors believe that this effort would stimulate economic forces and create business opportunities thus reducing the overall cost.

REGIONAL IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE: FOUR CASE STUDIES IN THE UNITED STATES. Kristie L. Ebi, Gerald A. Meehl, Dominique Bachelet, Robert R. Twilley, and Donald F. Boesch. Pew Center on Global Climate Change. Web posted December 4, 2007.

<http://www.pewclimate.org/docUploads/Regional-Impacts-FullReport.pdf> [pdf format, 80 pages]

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

This report provides information about climate change and its impact on different regions of the U.S. The report is based on the following four studies: The Heat Is On: Climate Change and Heat Waves in the Midwest; The Importance of Climate Change for Future Wildfire Scenarios in the Western United States; Gulf Coast Wetland Sustainability in a Changing Climate; and Ramification of Climate Change for Chesapeake Bay Hypoxia. The study looks at the differences in climate, topography, land use, and infrastructure in these regions.

VISUALIZING FUTURE CLIMATE IN LATIN AMERICA: RESULTS FROM THE APPLICATION OF THE EARTH SIMULATOR. Working Paper, Latin America and Caribbean Region Sustainable Development Department (LCSSD), World Bank. Web posted December 5, 2007.

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTLAC/Resources/SDWP-FutureClimate-CompleteReportOct31AB6.pdf> [pdf format, 90 pages]

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

This report summarizes the Earth Simulator models of future climate change in Latin America. The paper shows that there is little doubt that Latin America will experience substantial climate impacts and will affect key ecosystems such as the coral biomes in the Caribbean. Additionally, climate change will likely increase human exposure to tropical diseases. In fact, "all species and human activities will be impacted."

GLOBAL ISSUES

COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN: WHAT DO WE KNOW AND WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT IT? Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice, U.S. Department of Justice. Web posted December 8, 2007.

<http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/215733.pdf> [pdf format, 20 pages]

This report discusses the current U.S. outreach programs aimed to prevent or intervene in the commercial sexual exploitation of children. The report provides an overview of federal laws including the law that requires internet service providers to report child pornography. It also includes U.S. participation in international programs through the World Congresses and the U.N. Lastly, the report describes what more can be done to protect children.

PROGRESS FOR CHILDREN: A WORLD FIT FOR CHILDREN: STATISTICAL REVIEW. UNICEF, United Nations. December 2007.

http://www.unicef.org/progressforchildren/2007n6/files/Progress_for_Children_-_No._6.pdf [pdf format, 72 pages]

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

This report considers how well the world is meeting its commitments to the world's children. The report analyzes progress made toward the Millennium Development Goals in four areas: promoting healthy lives; providing a quality education; combating HIV and AIDS; and protecting against abuse, exploitation, and violence.

HEALTH

AIDS EPIDEMIC UPDATE. Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, World Health Organization (WHO). Web posted November 20, 2007.

http://data.unaids.org/pub/EPISlides/2007/2007_epiupdate_en.pdf [pdf format, 60 pages]

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

This report, using enhanced and expanded methodology, provides a better understanding of the global HIV epidemic. The data show that as a result of HIV programs, the global HIV prevalence (the percentage of people living with HIV) has leveled off and new infections have fallen. However, in 2007, 33.2 million people have HIV; 2.5 million became infected; and 2.1 million died.

DEBATING HEALTH: ELECTION 2008: AMERICANS' VIEWS ON SOCIALIZED MEDICINE. Harvard School of Public Health/Harris Interactive. February 14, 2008.

http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/news/press-releases/files/Topline_Socialized_Med_Havard_Harris.pdf [pdf file, 3 pages]

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

Americans are split on whether a socialized medical system would be better or worse than the current system. Not surprisingly, the split is along party lines. Seventy percent of Republicans say that socialized medicine would be worse than our current system while the same percentage of Democrats say it would be better.

GLOBAL CANCER FACTS & FIGURES: ESTIMATED NUMBER OF NEW CANCER CASES BY WORLD AREA, 2007. American Cancer Society. Web posted December 17, 2007.

http://www.cancer.org/downloads/STT/Global_Cancer_Facts_and_Figures_2007_rev.pdf [pdf format, 52 pages]

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

Cancer is classified as "a group of diseases characterized by uncontrolled growth and spread of abnormal cells" that can result in death. Worldwide one in eight deaths is due to cancer—more than AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria combined. This report estimates that there will be 12 million new cancer cases in 2007. The report presents these estimations by geographic area and by cancer type.

LAW ENFORCEMENT / SECURITY / ILLEGAL DRUGS

2007 NATIONAL SURVEY OF LATINOS: AS ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION ISSUE HEATS UP, HISPANICS FEEL A CHILL. Pew Hispanic Center. December 13, 2007.

<http://pewhispanic.org/files/reports/84.pdf> [pdf format, 53 pages]

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

This survey focuses on Hispanics' views of the immigration debate, immigration enforcement, attitudes towards illegal immigrants, and perceptions of discrimination. This survey of 2,003 Hispanic adults was conducted by telephone from October 3 to November 9, 2007. The findings show that over 50 percent of those surveyed worry that a family member or a close friend might be deported; two-thirds say that the failure of Congress to pass an immigration reform bill has made life more difficult; and one-in-eight to one-in-four believe that the heightened attention to immigration issues has had a negative effect.

GENERAL OVERVIEW OF U.S. COPYRIGHT LAW. Congressional Research Service, RS22801, Library of Congress. Brian T. Yeh. February 5, 2008.

http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RS22801_20080205.pdf [pdf format, 6 pages]

This report provides a general overview of copyright law and briefly summarizes the major provisions of the U.S. Copyright Act.

JOURNALISTS IN IRAQ: A SURVEY OF REPORTERS ON THE FRONT LINES. Project for Excellence in Journalism. Web posted November 28, 2007.

<http://journalism.org/files/PEJ%20FINAL%20Survey%20of%20Journalists%20in%20IraqWITH%20SURVEY.pdf> [pdf format, 44 pages]

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

According to a new survey of journalists covering Iraq, the coverage of the American military and the insurgency has been “generally positive.” But, most of the journalists, who are veteran war correspondents, describe conditions in Iraq as perilous, “and this above everything else is influencing the reporting.” However, in spite of the danger, most of the journalists have a positive view of the military’s embedding program for reporters.

JUDGING GUANTANAMO: THE COURT, CONGRESS, AND THE WHITE HOUSE. Lionel Beehner and Eben Kaplan. Backgrounder, Council on Foreign Relations (CFR). Web posted December 5, 2007.

http://www.cfr.org/publication/11025/judging_guantanamo.html?breadcrumb=%2Fpublication%2Fby_type%2Fbackgro
[under](#) [html format, various pagings]

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

The status of the suspected terrorists being held in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba “continues to test the balance between the executive, judicial, and legislative branches of the U.S. government.” The Supreme Court ruled in 2006 that the Administration’s decision to try the detainees in military war tribunals was illegal. This paper provides background and analysis of this decision.

THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM: A RELIGIOUS WAR? Laurence A. Dobrot. Strategic Studies Institute, U.S. Army War College. November 29, 2007.

<http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pdf/files/PUB822.pdf> [pdf format, 25 pages]

Many question whether the U.S. strategy on the Global War on Terrorism is working and whether the U.S. understands an enemy motivated by radical revolutionary religious ideology. “The author reviews the pertinent cultural history and background of Islam and then posits three root causes of this conflict: the lack of wealth-sharing in Islamic countries, resentment of Western exploitation of Islamic countries, and a U.S. credibility gap within the Islamic community.” The author concludes that the U.S. is not achieving its long-term strategic objectives and recommends a new strategy that focuses on the root causes of Islamic hostility.

VISA WAIVER PROGRAM: LIMITATIONS WITH DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY’S PLAN TO VERIFY DEPARTURE OF FOREIGN NATIONALS. U.S. Governmental Accountability Office; testimony before Senate Committee on the Judiciary. Statement of Jess T. Ford. Web posted February 28, 2008.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d08458t.pdf> [pdf format, 18 pages]

On December 12, 2007, DHS reported that it will match records of foreign nationals departing the country, as reported by airlines, to the department’s existing records of any prior arrivals, immigration status changes, or prior departures from the United States. Using this formula, DHS stated that it can attain a match rate above 97 percent to certify compliance with the legislative air exit system requirement. As of February 21, 2008, DHS had not finalized its decision on the methodology the department would use but confirmed that the basic structure would not change. The speaker’s statement examines the limitations of this methodology.