



## INDEPENDENCE DAY

Americans celebrate July 4, 1776, adoption of Declaration of Independence

Independence Day honors the birthday of the United States of America and the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. Drafted by Thomas Jefferson, the Declaration of Independence is the nation's most cherished symbol of liberty and Jefferson's most enduring monument. "The Fourth" is a day of patriotic celebration and family events, including picnics and barbecues, countrywide. July is summer in the United States, and millions of Americans escape the heat at beaches and other vacation spots. Independence Day is not among the legal holidays fixed on a Monday or Friday, but many employees use vacation time to create an extended weekend. Community fireworks displays are common. In New York City, Macy's department store has, for 30 years, sponsored a July 4 fireworks display. In 2005, the 30-minute show featured 35,000 shells launched from seven barges afloat in the East River and in New York Harbor. The Associated Press estimated that more than 3 million watched in person. The event is often televised nationally and internationally.

In the words of Founding Father John Adams, the holiday is "the great anniversary festival. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more."



- [Declaration of Independence – View the original at the National Archives](#)
- [Independence Day –The White House](#)
- [Facts – Fun facts about July 4th from the Census Bureau](#)
- [Flag Facts – Learn more about the U.S. flag](#)
- [Historical Documents](#)
- [History – A look at Independence Day from the Library of Congress](#)
- [Teachers' Resource: Celebrating America's Freedoms – Essays on national symbols and customs](#)
- [A Capitol Fourth – America's Independence Day Celebration in Washington, DC](#)
- [History of the Liberty Bell](#)
- [Independence National Historical Park – Philadelphia](#)
- [Kids' Quiz – See what you know about Independence Day](#)
- [Patriotic Melodies](#)
- [Recipes from and for Americans](#)
- [U.S. Constitution in Our History](#)

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It offers abstracts of current articles from U.S. publications and by U.S. authors, highlighting significant issues in international or U.S. domestic affairs.

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**\*\* You can either read the whole document or skip to subject – pl. see box here at right \*\***

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## **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

**The Iraqization of Africa? Looking at Africom from a South African Perspective** by Abel Esterhuyze in *Strategic Studies Quarterly*, Spring. 20p.

Esterhuyze says the decision to create a new U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) reflects increased U.S. national security interests on the continent. It is uniquely structured to include military and civilian leaders so that both will influence U.S. policy coordination in Africa in a positive way. AFRICOM, which becomes fully operational in the fall of 2008, will focus mainly on humanitarian aid and countering terrorism, but also emphasize public health, economic development, security-sector reform, and infrastructure rehabilitation will be headquartered in Stuttgart, Germany. It will not only raise Africa's strategic profile, but African militaries will benefit from the transfer of expertise, resources and post-conflict reconstruction. It will also establish a career path in the U.S. military for dedicated African specialists.

**ARTICLE 351**

**Countering Iran** by Ruel Marc Gerecht in *The Weekly Standard*, 19 May.

...How to handle Iran may well be the decisive foreign-policy question of the 2008 presidential campaign--especially if Tehran continues to exploit the vacuum left by the collapse of the Bush administration's Iran policy and the general listlessness of the U.S. presence in the Middle East outside of Iraq.

**ARTICLE 352**

**Putin's Plan** by Clifford Gaddy & Andrew Kuchins in *Washington Quarterly*, Spring. 13p.

The authors write that the primary aim of Russia's electoral process has been to legitimize "Putin's Plan," ensuring a degree of continuity and stability after the end of Putin's presidency. Defined as the political course of President Putin, the concept has been around since 2000, and is rooted in a Western business theory studied by Putin when he was with the KGB. Putin believes that Russian society needs unity and cohesion if it is to fulfill its destiny, and that unity can best be guaranteed by the dominance of a single political party; United Russia. Gaddy and Kuchins opine that the growing economic power of Russia should be better reflected in the Bretton Woods institutions that manage the global economy, and that long-term stability and predictability will continue to be vital to the Russian people who "want their children to live better and their country to endure as a strong power" -- the goals of Putin's Plan.

**ARTICLE 353**

**Sustainable Security: Developing a Security Strategy for the Long Haul** by Jim Thomas. *Center for a New American Security*, April. 24p.

Thomas looks at the countries in the developing world and their lack of ability to govern and police themselves to secure their regions and how the lack of global security threatens U.S. interest. He says that in order to maintain America's values, interests, and commitments, the security deficit needs to be effectively addressed with a new approach that is more indirect and prevention focused.

**ARTICLE 354**

**The New Age of Nonpolarity: What Will Follow U.S. Dominance?** by Richard Haas in *Foreign Affairs*, May/June. 13p.

The age of hegemony is over, says Haas, president of the Council on Foreign Relations. Traditional military and economic powerhouses are joined by regionally strong states, global and regional international organizations, multinational corporations, global media outlets, and transnational actors both beneficial (such as charitable foundations and religious institutions) and dangerous (terrorists and drug cartels). "America no longer has the luxury of a 'with-us-or-against-us' foreign policy," says the author, arguing that multilateralism will be key to future U.S. success as it addresses its energy consumption, continues to build strong international security partnerships against terrorism and nuclear proliferation, confronts poverty and disease, and strengthens the global economy in the name of promoting stability.

**ARTICLE 355**

**China's Rising Influence in Asia** by Ellen Frost et al. in *Strategic Forum*, April.

The balance of power in East Asia is stable and favors the United States, but the balance of influence is tipping toward Beijing. China's growing weight stems from its size and market dynamism, reinforced by newfound military restraint and skillful diplomacy that have enhanced its ability to translate power into influence. The authors opine that the shift in the balance of influence, if unaddressed, could undermine U.S. interests.

**ARTICLE 356**

**Is a Pakistan Truce Good for the United States?** by David Markey. *CFR*, 21 May.

The author, a former State Department specialist on South Asia for the Policy Planning Council, has just returned from a trip to Pakistan. He says the U.S. should be concerned about the negotiations going on between the Pakistan army and tribal leaders because in the past, truces between the two have led to increased infiltration of terrorists into Afghanistan. This time, however, may be different. The Pakistani army seems to have moved in force to the frontier regions; further, it is negotiating with tribal leaders to give

them responsibility for bringing the militants under control, instead of negotiating with the Taliban. Markey poses a set of recommendations for the United States to consider in response to Pakistan's ongoing political crisis. [\*\*ARTICLE 357\*\*](#)

**The Hibernation: Meet Dmitri Medvedev, A Docile President for a Docile Russia** by Michael Idov in *The New Republic*, 23 April. 4p.

As Dmitri Medvedev takes office as Russia's president, the author takes stock of contemporary Russian politics since Vladimir Putin came to power in 2001. Idov dissects the Kremlin's concept of "Sovereign Democracy," finding marginalized and corrupted governing institutions, a "superfluous" youth movement, and an outsized state-owned network of industries such as Gazprom, "a parasite country piggybacking on Russia," headed by none other than Medvedev. Living standards have improved, but growing cynicism has prompted many average Russians to disengage politically, says the author, warning that their seeming complacency should not be mistaken for contentedness. But for now, as Medvedev represents the end of the Putin era, he also represents no less than its ultimate triumph.

[\*\*ARTICLE 358\*\*](#)

**The Right Way to Pressure Beijing** by William F. Schulz in *Foreign Policy*, web-posted April.

Human rights groups are rightly outraged by China's abysmal record. But it is foolhardy to treat a rising superpower like a tin-pot dictatorship. Sometimes, a little pragmatism goes a long way. [\*\*ARTICLE 359\*\*](#)

**Propaganda: Can a Word Decide a War?** by Dennis Murphy & James White in *Parameters*, Autumn. 13p.

Murphy and White, of the U.S. Army War College, review the history of American propaganda efforts. It is difficult for the U.S. to balance the principles of a free, democratic society with the need to counter disinformation in an effort to establish credibility. Adversaries have the advantage in an information environment uninhibited by the internal criticism of propaganda facing American leaders. To this, America must react quickly, accurately, and with messages tailored to local populations. [\*\*ARTICLE 360\*\*](#)

**The Phraselator II: A High-Tech Military Device is Helping to Preserve the Tribal Languages of American Indians** by Rob Capriccioso in *The American*, 9 October, 2007.

More than 90 American Indian tribes are using the Phraselator -- a speech interpretation device developed by the U.S. military to translate Arabic words into English -- to capture words and phrases in native Indian languages before they disappear. Most tribes have very few living members who know their native tongue, and "it is increasingly rare to find young Indians who communicate with their elders in the tribal language," says author Rob Capriccioso. Don Thorton, a member of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, paired up with Voxtec, a Maryland-based company, to adapt the Phraselator to the preservation and teaching of American Indian languages. It can record and translate both audio and video files and can store up to 85,000 words or phrases on a flash memory card. The information can then be transferred to other computers so the tribe can build up a database, create dictionaries and teach younger tribe members the language. The tribes can do it all themselves and retain the copyright on their materials. Phraselators cost about \$3,300 plus \$500 for additional software; approximately half the tribes using the device have purchased them via grants from the U.S. government. [\*\*ARTICLE 361\*\*](#)

**Afghanistan: Is Failure an Option?** by Martin Evans on [globalasia.org](http://globalasia.org)

Afghanistan lies at the epicenter of two of the world's most critical issues — drugs and terrorism. The international community cannot afford to walk away from the problems. In Afghanistan, success will only come as a result of a long-haul effort. [\*\*ARTICLE 362\*\*](#)

**Afghanistan: America's Longest War?** by Richard Holbrooke, Chairman, *Asia Society*, Spoke at *CSIS*, 7 May.

Richard Holbrooke, the chairman of the Asia Society and Former U.S. Ambassador to the U.N., spoke at CSIS. He delivered a speech entitled "Afghanistan: America's Longest War?" The discussion was co-sponsored by the The Asia Society and CSIS. Arleigh A. Burke Chair in Strategy Anthony Cordesman moderated a question and answer session following the speech.

[AUDIO](#) (mp3, 01:06:01) | [VIDEO](#) (wmv, 01:07:28)

**The Shi'ite Gamble: Rolling the Dice for Iraq's Future** by Anthony H. Cordesman. *CSIS*, web posted 1 May. 7p.

Cordesman states that it is becoming clear that Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's offensive in Basra is more of a power struggle with Sadr than an effort to deal with security. It is far less clear on how this power struggle will play out, and what its implication will be for the US and Iraq as a whole. There are three possible results: First, Maliki can win, defeat Sadr's militia, the Mahdi Army, or Jaish al Mahdi (JAM) and marginalize the Sadr movement. Second, Maliki can provoke Sadr into open violence and a new form of insurgency. Or, both sides become locked in a lingering intra-Shi'ite power struggle that mixes violence with political power plays. [\*\*ARTICLE 363\*\*](#)

**Think Again: The Peace Corps** by Robert Strauss in *Foreign Policy*, May.

In the eyes of Americans, no government agency better exemplifies the optimism, can-do spirit, and selfless nature of the United States than the Peace Corps. But according to this former Peace Corps country director, it has never lived up to its purpose or principles. [ARTICLE 364](#)

**After Guantanamo: The Case Against Preventive Detention** by Kenneth Roth in *Foreign Affairs*, May/June. 8p.

Roth, Executive Director of Human Rights Watch, argues that the U.S. criminal justice system has the necessary tools needed to try and convict the most dangerous terrorists currently interned at Guantanamo Bay. He says existing conspiracy laws can cover terrorist acts, and that by treating the terrorists as the criminals they are, the U. S. would go a long way toward diminishing their mystique, reaffirm the strength and fairness of American justice, and rally international support against terrorism. [ARTICLE 365](#)

**Small Vessel Security Strategy.** *U.S. Department of Homeland Security*, web posted 1 May. 57p.

As the maritime security efforts have primarily focused on large commercial vessels, the security efforts in the small vessel environment have been limited to traditional safety and law enforcement concerns. Small vessels are vulnerable to potential exploitation by terrorist, smugglers of weapons of mass destruction, narcotics, aliens, and other contraband, and other criminals. The Small Vessel Security Strategy (SVSS) addresses these concerns, providing a coherent framework to improve maritime security and safety. [ARTICLE 366](#)

**Rolling Back Malaria: Rhetoric and Reality in the Fight Against a Deadly Killer** by Roger Bate. *Health Policy Outlook, American Enterprise Institute*, web posted 5 May. 9p.

For the past thirty years, the fight against malaria has been long on rhetoric and short on action. The Roll Back Malaria (RBM) partnership, launched by the *World Health Organization (WHO)* ten years ago in 1998, continued this trend. However, since 2005, the U.S. government has made striving efforts in improving malaria control. While significant problems still remain, for the first time since the 1960s, malaria is being fought effectively on a global scale. [ARTICLE 367](#)

**U.S. Bases and Democratization in Central Asia** by Alexander Cooley in *Orbis*, Winter. 25p.

Columbia University's Cooley, asserts that under the Pentagon's current Global Defense Posture Review (GDPR), the U.S. is reducing its forces at several major Cold War bases and is establishing a global network of smaller, more flexible facilities in new areas such as Central Asia, the Black Sea and Africa. Drawing upon recent experience in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, the author cautions that these new U.S. overseas bases risk becoming enmeshed in the local struggles and political agendas of elites within these host countries. [ARTICLE 368](#)

**Muslim Exceptionalism? Measuring the "Democracy Gap"** by Arthur Goldsmith in *Middle East Policy*, Fall. 10p.

Democratization of the Muslim Middle East is a foreign policy goal of the Bush administration; democracy is lacking in many Islamic countries, though the root cause is unclear. Goldsmith, professor at the University of Massachusetts, uses a couple of measures, including the Freedom House Index, to refute claims that democracy and Islam are irreconcilable. He concludes that every country is unique and generalizations about a particular society and its incompatibility with democracy should never be made. [ARTICLE 369](#)

**U.S. Policy Towards North Africa: Three Overarching Themes** by Christopher Hemmer in *Middle East Policy*, Winter. 12p.

For decades the U.S. has lacked a coherent regional policy for North Africa, a trend that is beginning to change as ties with Libya and Algeria begin to improve. The author, professor at the Air War College, encourages policymakers to build a mature, more nuanced approach to the region, by offering a recent review of country-specific policy successes in the region. Continued support on common concerns such as terrorism will depend on willingness to help countries confront regional challenges and avoiding a tendency toward "with us or against us" diplomacy, supporting opposition within countries in the name of promoting democracy, even if they are not necessarily pro-American. [ARTICLE 370](#)

**Dear Mr. President** by Christopher Hitchens in *World Affairs*, Winter. 6p.

Perennial gadfly Christopher Hitchens takes aim at the White House, urging a "Nixon-in-China" movement toward improving relations with Iran. Many Iranians have relatives abroad, are connected to the outside world despite government censorship, are frustrated with their government, and are open to improving relations. Hitchens proposes building upon U.S. aid to Iran following the 2003 Bam earthquake to a public offer to help seismically vulnerable Iran secure key infrastructure, something its own regime ignores. The U.S. has eliminated external threats in Iraq and Afghanistan, and now should encourage Iranians to bring about things they already want – better governance and improved relations with the outside world. [ARTICLE 371](#)

**A World Free of Nuclear Weapons: An Interview with Nuclear Threat Initiative Co-Chairman Nunn** in *Arms Control Today*, March. 7p.

Former Senator Sam Nunn discusses a range of topical issues relating to strategic and tactical nuclear weapons as well as U.S.-Russian and Russian-NATO relations in a wide-ranging interview with the magazine's editors. He says one of the stumbling blocks for nuclear weapons states to reduce their stockpiles even further is a psychological dependency on them. If those weapons are made less important and relevant, then associated reductions will be easier to achieve, he says. Nunn also emphasizes how important it is to work with Russia on missile defense. He also advocates extending the missile launch times for the United States and Russia and warns of the danger to both countries of having their command-and-control systems penetrated by hackers – individuals, rogue organizations, or governments. [ARTICLE 372](#)

**A Decade of Suffering in Zimbabwe** by David Coltart. *Center for Global Liberty & Prosperity, CATO Institute*, 24 March. 24p.

Just days before Zimbabwe's presidential and parliamentary elections, Coltart looks at Mugabe's rule in the past decade. He finds Mugabe and his supporters responsible for an economic meltdown that has turned one of Africa's most prosperous countries into a country with one of the lowest life expectancies in the world. He believes half a million Zimbabweans may have died already due to HIV/AIDS, poverty and malnutrition. In addition, there is no freedom of speech or assembly and the state has used violence to eliminate its opponents. Coltart hopes for a new government that would work to heal Zimbabwe and her people. [ARTICLE 373](#)

**Beyond Darfur: Sudan's Slide Toward Civil War** by Andrew Natsios in *Foreign Affairs*, May/June. 26p.

While the crisis in Sudan's western Darfur remains in the spotlight, the former U.S. Special Envoy to Sudan calls attention to the lingering tensions that threaten to unravel the tenuous North-South peace; the plight of Sudan's Nubian minority; and the breakdown of yet another peace agreement between eastern Sudan's Beja and Rashaida communities, all of which conspire to make the free and fair 2008 elections key to the country's future and security in the broader region. The international community must continue to impress upon Khartoum the importance of addressing these challenges and avoiding another civil war, but even engagement may not be enough. [ARTICLE 374](#)

**Smart Countries, Foolish Choices** by Amity Shales & Gaurav Tiwari. *Center for Geoeconomic Studies, Council on Foreign Relations*, 8 April. 26p.

It seems to be a common belief that oil-rich countries are not friendly to the U. S., and that entrepreneurial or "smart" countries are not endowed with oil. Shales and Gaurav find a triangular relationship between oil wealth, entrepreneurial spirit, and friendliness to the United States. They recommend that it is in the U.S. interest to support education and economic diversification in oil producing countries so those countries can become entrepreneurial and friendly. [ARTICLE 375](#)

**Estimating the Impact of the Hajj: Religion and Tolerance in Islam's Global Gathering** by David Clingsmith et al. *Harvard Kennedy School, Harvard University*, April. 46p.

This paper estimates the impact on pilgrims after their Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca. Even though the outsiders often fear that the pilgrimage may create antipathy toward non-Muslims, the pilgrims experience a feeling of unity with their fellow Muslims. The Hajj observance increases global Islamic practices such as prayer and fasting while decreasing localized practices such as the use of amulets and dowry. At the same time, it also increases belief in equality and harmony among ethnic groups and Islamic sects and leads to more favorable attitudes toward women. [ARTICLE 376](#)

**Some International Relations online resources which may be of interest:**

**U.S. Foreign Policy in Pakistan: Implications for Regional Security, Stability, and Development** Hearing before the *U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs*, May 7, 2008. [For transcripts](#) and scroll down.

**U.S. Assistance to the Middle East: Old Tools for New Tasks?** Hearing before a *subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs*, 8 May. [For transcripts](#) and scroll down.

**U.S. Foreign Aid to East and South Asia: Selected Recipients** by Thomas Lumm. *CRS*, 1 May.

**Immigration-Related Document Fraud: Overview of Civil, Criminal, and Immigration Consequences** *CRS*, 10 January.

**U.S.-Russia Agreement for Peaceful Nuclear Cooperation** *U.S. Dept of State*, 6 May. [White House statement](#)

**War in Iraq: The Public Perspectives: An Examination of Iraqi and U.S. Views of the War and its Aftermath** by Gary Langer. *CSIS*, 30 April.



**Rethinking Counterinsurgency** *RAND Counterinsurgency Study, Volume 5, 2008. 81p.*

**Briefing on U.S. Preparations for Relief Efforts for Burma** Press conference, *U.S. Dept of State*, 8 May.

**U.S. Dept of the Treasury issues a general license to speed the flow of aid to Burma** [in wake of cyclone disaster], 7 May.

**Natural Catastrophe Insurance: Analysis of a Proposed Comb. Federal Wind and Flood Insurance Program** *GAO*, April.

**Looking Forward to the Medvedev Administration in Russia** Testimony by *U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Daniel Fried to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe*, 8 May.

**Pakistan's 2008 Elections: Results and Implications for U.S. Policy** *CRS*, 9 April.

**Weak and Failing States: Evolving Security Threats and U.S. Policy**, *CRS*, 18 April.

**North Korea and Iran: An Administration Perspective** Remarks, *U.S. Principal Dep. Asst. Sec. of State Patricia McNerney*, 8 May.

**China Naval Modernization: Implications for U.S. Navy Capabilities - Background and Issues for Congress** *CRS*, 16 April.

**Weak and Failing States: Evolving Security Threats and U.S. Policy** *CRS*, 18 April.

**Defense: FY2009 Authorization and Appropriations** *CRS*, 5 May.

**U.S. Policy and the Road to Damascus: Who's Converting Whom?** Hearing before a *subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs*, 24 April. (hearing on U.S. policy on Syria) **For transcripts**, and scroll down.

**Nationalism in China** Backgrounder by Jayshree Bajoria. *Council on Foreign Relations*, 23 April.

**Implementing Smart Power: Setting an Agenda for National Security Reform** Hearing before the *U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations*, 24 April.

**War Powers for the 21st Century: The Executive Branch Perspective** Hearing before a *subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs*, 24 April. **Transcript**, and scroll down.

**Militant Extremists in the United States** Backgrounder by Holly Fletcher. *CFR*, 21 April.

**Aviation Security Research and Development at the Department of Homeland Security** Hearing before a *subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Science and Technology*, 24 April.

**Violent Islamist Extremism, the Internet, and the Homegrown Terrorist Threat** Staff report of the *U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs*, 8 May.

**The National Bio- and Agro-Defense Facility: Issues for Congress** *CRS*, 3 April.

**DefenseImagery.mil** - a new website launched 22 April, 2008, and "dedicated to imagery from and about the [U.S.] Department of Defense". Also, **links to U.S. military visual information sources online**.

**The African Union**. Backgrounder by Stephanie Hanson. *Council on Foreign Relations*, 29 April.

**Country Reports on Terrorism 2007** *U.S. Dept of State*, 30 April. **Remarks at release of the reports**

**Small Vessel Security Strategy** *U.S. Dept of Homeland Security*, April. **Fact sheet**

**Arab Reform Bulletin** *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*, April.

**President Bush discusses food aid. The White House** 1 May. **Leading the Fight Against Hunger** *White House* fact sheet, 1 May. (context: recent major rises in world price of food grains).

**No Direction Home: NGO Persp. on Iraqi Refugees and IDPs** *U.S. House Comm. on For. Affairs*, 1 May. **Transcripts**, scroll down.

## **POLITICS - The 2008 Campaign**

**The First 21<sup>st</sup> Century Campaign** by Ronald Brownstein in the *National Journal*, 19 April.

Brownstein examines the many reasons why he believes that the Democratic battle for the presidential nomination will be remembered as "the first true 21st-century campaign." He believes that the pairing of intense anti-Bush emotions on the part of Democrats combined with major advances in information technology are responsible for creating this new style of campaigning. No longer is television the most important medium, rather it is the ability to leverage the Internet to inspire supporters to fundraise and organize on a candidate's behalf.

**ARTICLE 377**

**Webchat -- U.S. Elections Your Questions -- June 3, 2008, 09:00 a.m. EDT (1300 GMT)** -- Join *America.gov's* elections experts Michelle Austein and George Burkes on the first Tuesday of every month to discuss the people, processes and issues that shape the U.S. presidential race. They will answer your questions and talk about the latest events on the 2008 campaign trail.

**West Virginia Primary Results**   **Kentucky Primary Results**   **Oregon Primary Results**

**Foreign Policy Brain Trusts: Clinton Advisers**

**Foreign Policy Brain Trusts: Obama Advisers**

**Foreign Policy Brain Trusts: McCain Advisers**

**Foreign Policy and the 2008 Presidential Nominating Campaigns** - After the economy, the importance voters have attached to foreign policy issues is a mixed picture, according to a range of exit polls and other opinion surveys.

**Will States Fix 2012 Primary Process?** - What if the presidential primary worked more like a lottery with all the states having a chance at the ultimate prize of voting first in the nominating schedule, ending the coveted tradition of New Hampshire and Iowa leading the pack?

**MCCAIN'S VICE-PRESIDENT? Mitt Romney as running mate** - As Romney ended his quest for the Republican presidential nomination, he staked for himself a position as leader for the conservative future. It's a good position to be in for a potential 2012 run for the presidency. And it's a position that makes him an attractive option for John McCain's No. 2 in 2008.

**OBAMA'S VICE-PRESIDENT? Jim Webb as running mate** - Senator Barack Obama is close to winning the Democratic nomination for president, and must soon turn to the choice of a running mate. The best choice, in my opinion, would be Senator Webb. To make the case, let's first dispose of two contrary arguments.

**The Catholic Vote in the 2008 Democratic Primary Campaign** - Once the cornerstone of the Democratic coalition, Catholics in recent decades have become the most important bloc of swing voters...In the 2008 Democratic nominating contest, Catholics have emerged as key members of Hillary Clinton's base.

**Mich. Dems settle on how to split delegates** - Michigan Democratic leaders settled today on a plan to give presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton 69 delegates and Barack Obama 59 as a way to get the delegates seated at the national convention.

**THE CHALLENGE OF COVERING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS** - how do American journalists and foreign correspondents overcome the challenges and avoid the pitfalls of covering presidential elections?

**McCain's Speech on Climate Change Policy** - ...Along with solar power, fuel-cell technology, cleaner burning fuels and other new energy sources, wind power will bring America closer to energy independence.

**Obama Speaks in West Virginia about Veterans** - When our troops go into battle, they serve no faction or party; they represent no race or region. They are simply Americans.

**Key Battleground States in Fall Campaign (Interactive Map)**

**Bob Barr, a former GOP congressman, is running for president as a Libertarian** - The onetime lawmaker from Georgia says he wants to end out-of-control government spending. Some political analysts see his campaign as a threat to John McCain.

## TRADE / ECONOMY

**The Economist Has No Clothes** by Robert Nadeau in *Scientific American*, March.

The author, who teaches environmental science and public policy at George Mason University, says "it is clear that neoclassical economics has become outdated ... [it] is based on unscientific assumptions that are hindering the implementation of viable economic solutions for global warming and other menacing environmental problems." Among the assumptions of neoclassical economics: that natural resources exist in a domain separate from the closed market system; that the value of these resources can only be determined by the market system; that environmental damage is a cost external to the market system; and that there are no physical limits to the growth of market systems.

[ARTICLE 378](#)

**The Micromagic of Microcredit** by Karol Boudreaux & Tyler Cowen in *Wilson Quarterly*, Winter. 5p.

The authors believe that microcredit is not the solution to world poverty. They say that while it is undeniably making people's lives better around the world, it is not pulling them out of poverty, believing that the more modest truth is that microcredit may help some people, perhaps earning \$2 a day, to earn something like \$2.50 a day – not a dramatic improvement, but definitely a step forward to a poor person in many third-world countries. An important advantage to microcredit is that unlike many charitable services, microcredit is capable of paying for itself. They see the future of microcredit lying in the commercial sector, not in unsustainable aid programs.

[ARTICLE 379](#)

**The Upside of Income Inequality** by Gary Becker & Kevin Murphy in *The American*, May/June.

Much of the widening gap in incomes reflects the rising payoff for a college education and other skills. Rising payoffs are a development that the authors, economists who have won the Nobel Prize and the Clark Prize, call 'beneficial and desirable.

[ARTICLE 380](#)

**Understanding Stagflation and the Risk of its Recurrence** by Brian Cashell & Marc Labonte. *CRS*, web posted 28 April. 17p.

The slowing of economic growth and the rising rate of inflation have given rise to concerns that the U.S. economy is at risk of a bout of stagflation - an economy characterized by high rates of both unemployment and inflation.

[ARTICLE 381](#)

**Putting Meat on the Table: Industrial Farm Animal Production in America.** *Pew Charitable Trusts & Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health*, web posted 30 April. Note: 124p.

This report is the result of a 2½-year study of the effects of industrial farm animal production on public health, the environment, rural communities, and animal welfare. It highlights the varying regulations from state to state and focuses on the "concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFO)" and how these are regulated at the federal and state levels.

[ARTICLE 382](#)

**Putting Your Money Where Your Mouth Is: How Expensive is Food, Really?** by Sharon Astyk in *Grist*, 14 April.

The author, a farmer and writer on food, energy and sustainability issues, notes that skyrocketing food prices are creating widespread hardship, with many low-wage households spending half their income on food. Astyk notes that we cannot regard food prices in isolation from society as a whole; while food prices may have been low, the cost of housing has skyrocketed, and people must work long hours to pay for all the dependencies created by the modern industrial economy. The rise in food prices that has resulted from increased energy costs will eventually require a return to localized agriculture, which will benefit farmers, and will mean that land and house prices will have to return to a level at which they are tied to the value of the soil beneath them.

[ARTICLE 383](#)

**How Ethanol Fuels the Food Crisis** by C. Ford Runge & Benjamin Senauer in *Foreign Affairs*. May.

In the year since the publication of our article, "How Biofuels Could Starve the Poor" (May/June 2007), the average price of corn has increased by some 60 percent, soybeans by 76 percent, wheat by 54 percent, and rice by 104 percent. What at first seemed alarmist has turned out to be an underestimate of the effects of biofuels on both commodity prices and the natural environment.

[ARTICLE 384](#)

**Oil Industry Profit Review 2007** by Robert Pirog. *CRS*, web posted 28 April. 11p.

Increases in the price of crude oil pushed the spot price of West Texas Intermediate (WTI), to nearly \$100 per barrel in the third quarter of 2007, and remained high as the demand growth in China, India, and other parts of the developing world continued. The decline of the value of the U.S. dollar on world currency markets has also been identified by some as a factor in the high price of oil. The potential volatility of the world oil and financial markets, coupled with the weakness of the U.S. and other economies, makes any profit forecast for 2008 highly speculative.

[ARTICLE 385](#)



**Global Agricultural Supply and Demand: Factors Contributing to the Recent Increase in Food Supply and Demand: Factors Contributing to the Recent Increase in Food Commodity Prices** by Ronald Trostle. *Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture*, web posted 2 May. 30p.

World market prices for major food commodities have risen sharply, to historic highs of more than 60 percent above levels just 2 years ago. Some reasons are slower growth in production and more rapid growth in demand. Increased global demand for biofuels, feed stocks, and adverse weather conditions in the last two years in some major grain- and oilseed-producing areas are other contributing factors. The declining value of the U.S. dollar, rising energy prices and increasing agricultural production costs have also led to food commodity price inflation. **ARTICLE 386**

**The Fast-Track Trade War** by in *The American*, May

No matter how America's allies react to the Colombia spat, the politics of *FTA* passage may have been changed forever.

**ARTICLE 387**

**Sovereign Debt Restructuring, Odious Debt, and the Politics of Debt Relief** by Robert Rasmussen in *Law and Contemporary Problems*, Autumn 2007. 13p.

The problems of debt overhang and corrupt regimes can be tackled either simultaneously or separately, notes the author; regardless of the strategy that one adopts, one cannot ask for too much from the system. Debt relief in this context is as much a matter of statecraft as it is of financial theory. Rasmussen believes that modest relief as a matter of right coupled with more generous relief as a matter of self-interest may lead to more overall debt relief than would otherwise be available. **ARTICLE 388**

***Some Trade/Economics online resources which may be of interest:***

**East Asia's Foreign Exchange Rate Policies** *CRS*, 10 April.

**The Economic Stimulus** Remarks by U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Henry M. Paulson Jr, in Kansas City, 8 May.

**Turmoil in the U.S. Credit Markets: Examining the Regulation of Investment Banks** by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. Hearing before a *subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs*, 7 May.

**U.S. Dept of the Treasury and the OECD co-host international conference on financial education**, 7-8 May.

**Free Trade Agreements: Promoting Prosperity in 2008** Backgrounder by Daniella Markheim. *Heritage Foundation*, 2 May.

**Global Financial Turmoil and its Implications for China** by U.S. Under Sec. of Treasury David McCormick, Shanghai, 9 May.

**The Global Marketplace** Briefing, Duncan L. Niederauer, CEO, *NYSE Euronext*, at *Foreign Press Center, U.S. Dept of State*, 1 May.

**Foreign Investment, CFIUS, and Homeland Security: An Overview** *CRS*, 17 April.

**Budget, Revenue & Taxation:**

**The Budget for Fiscal Year 2009** *CRS*, 19 March.

**Sources of the Growth and Decline in Individual Income Tax Revenues Since 1994** *CBO*, May. 24p.

**Value-Added Taxes: Lessons Learned from Other Countries on Compliance Risks, Administrative Costs, Compliance Burden, and Transition** *GAO*, April.

**Cracking the Code: Tax Reform for Individuals** Hearing before the *U.S. Senate Committee on Finance*, 13 May.

**Rethinking Tax Expenditures** Address by Edward D. Kleinbard, chief of staff, Joint Committee on Taxation, U.S. Congress, 1 May (about the use of credits, deductions, exemptions and exclusions in the income tax system to achieve public objectives which would otherwise be met by direct government expenditures)

**Capital Budgeting** *CBO*, May. 25p.

## **Agriculture & Food:**

**Food Price Inflation: Causes and Impacts** by Tom Capehart & Joe Richardson. *CRS*, 10 April. 6p.

In 2007, U.S. food prices rose 4% and are expected to gain 3.5% to 4.5% in 2008. Higher farm commodity prices and energy costs are the leading factors behind higher food prices. The report states that the farm commodity prices have surged because (1) demand for corn for ethanol is competing with food and feed for acreage; (2) global food grain and oilseed supplies are low due to poor harvests; (3) the weak dollar has increased U.S. exports; (4) rising incomes in large, rapidly emerging economies have changed eating habits; and (5) input costs have increased. Higher energy costs increase transportation, processing, and retail costs. **ARTICLE 389**

**The Silent Tsunami** – 7 Questions in *Foreign Policy*, May.

You've heard the frightening statistics, seen the riots, and watched the food lines grow across the world. Have we entered some kind of permanent Malthusian trap? Or is there a way out of the global food crisis? Josette Sheeran, executive director of the U.N. World Food Program, says the situation is dire, but eminently solvable. **ARTICLE 390**

**Responding to the Global Food Crisis** Hearing before the *U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations*, 14 May.

**Contributing Factors & Internat Responses to the Global Food Crisis** Hearing, *U.S. House Comm.Financial Services*. 14 May.

**The Threat of Global Food Shortages: Part I** - Hoarding by countries and speculative bidding on food exacerbate scarcity and cause prices to climb.

**The Threat of Global Food Shortages : Part II** - Big agribusiness may boost crops temporarily, but wreaks environmental havoc over the long term.

**Soaring Food Prices: Response to the Crisis** *Asian Development Bank*, May. 16p.

**High Agricultural Commodity Prices: What Are the Issues?** *CRS*, 6 May.

**Food Price Inflation: Causes and Impacts** by Tom Capehart. *CRS*, 10 April.

**The U.S. Trade Situation for Fruit and Vegetable Products** by *CRS*, 30 April.

**The U.S. Organic Handling Sector in 2004: Baseline Findings of the Nationwide Survey of Organic Manufacturers, Processors, and Distributors** *USDA Economic Research Service*, May. 31p. **General information about this report ; Summary**

**Remarks by U.S. Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Anthony Ryan at the "Wall Street to Washington" conference, 1 May** (discusses four particular areas in the economy requiring cooperation between the U.S. federal government and the financial sector)

**Developments in Interchange Fees in the United States and Abroad** Payments System Research Briefing, *Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City*, April. 7p.

**A Blueprint for Sovereign Wealth Fund Best Practices** by Edwin M. Truman. *Peterson Institute for International Economics*, April. 21p. **Summary**

**Inaugural session of the U.S.-Russia Economic Dialogue** Media note, *U.S. Dept of State*, 28 April. **Briefing by U.S. Under Secretary of State Reuben Jeffery III and Russian First Deputy Foreign Minister Andrey Denisov**

## **Investment, Innovation & Trade:**

**EU-US Open Investment Statement, Brussels, 13 May - Press release** by the *U.S. Dept of the Treasury*, 14 May.

**Innovation in Emerging Markets: 2008 Annual Survey** *Deloitte*, (May?). 6p.

**Textiles and Apparel Enforcement Statistics** *U.S. Customs and Border Protection*, 1 May.

**U.S.-China Trade: USTR's China Compliance Reports and Plans Could Be Improved** *GAO*, April.

## **ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT / RESOURCES**

**Does Rail Transit Save Energy or Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions?** By Randal O'Toole. *Cato Institute*, 3 May. 24p.

Even though most rail transit system uses less energy than buses, it is heavily supplemented by extensive feeder bus operations, with very low number of users. Therefore, most rail transit systems end up using more energy per passenger mile. Many decades of energy savings would be needed to repay the energy cost of rail transit system construction. Even with the attempts to improve the environment by changing people's behavior so that they drive less, such behavioral efforts have been far less successful than technical solutions to toxic air pollution associated with automobiles.

**ARTICLE 391**

**Bottled Water Backlash: Environmental Concerns are Sending People Back to Their Taps** by Melissa Knopper in *E: The Environmental Magazine*, May/June.

Call it reverse snob appeal, but it's a trend that is taking hold in the U.S., Europe and Canada: more people are switching from bottled water to tap. Bottled water once carried a certain European mystique, but these days it's the tap water enthusiasts, concerned about the environment, who get to act self-righteous. Just like it has become cool to bring your own cloth bags to the grocery store and your own mug to the coffee shop, the reusable water bottle is the hip, new eco accessory.

**ARTICLE 392**

***Some environmental online resources which may be of interest:***

**Transportation Fuel Taxes: Impacts of a Repeal or Moratorium** *CRS*, 7 May.

**State and Trends of the Carbon Market 2008** *World Bank*, May 2008. 78p. **Press Release**

**Final Report of the Minnesota Climate Change Advisory Group** April.

**Indigenous and Traditional Peoples and Climate Change: Issues Paper** *IUCN (Int. Union for Conserv. of Nature)*, March. 66p.

**Arctic, Antarctic: Poles Apart in Climate Response** *NOAA*, 2 May. (contrasts in the response to global warming are noted)

**The Renewable Fuels Standard: Issues, Implementation, and Opportunities** Hearing before a *subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce*, 6 May.

**Retail Gas Prices, Part 1: Consumer Effects** Hearing before the *Judiciary Committee Antitrust Task Force, U.S. House Committee on the Judiciary*, 7 May.

**Improving the Capacity of U.S. Climate Modeling for Decisionmakers and End-Users** Hearing before the *U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation*, 8 May.

### **Transportation:**

**Rising Diesel Fuel Costs in the Trucking Industry** Hearing before subcomm. of the *U.S. House Comm. on Transp. & Inf.* 6 May.

**Goods Movement on Our Nation's Highways** Hearing before the *U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works*, 8 May.

**Freight Movement from Origin to Destination** Hearing before subcomm. of the *U.S. House Comm. on Transp. & Inf.* 24 April.

**Impact of Consolidation on the Aviation Industry, with Focus on the Proposed Merger Between Delta Airlines and Northwest Airlines** Hearing before the *Subcomm. on Aviation, U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure*, 14 May.

**U.S. Airline Industry: Issues and Role of Congress** *CRS*, 30 April.

**U.S.-EU Air Transport Agreement** Remarks by U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State John R. Byerly, in Dublin, 8 May.

**The U.S.-EU Air Transport Agreement: Making the Most of the Second Stage** Remarks by U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State John R. Byerly, in Brussels, 13 May.

**Aviation and the Environment: Emissions** Hearing before *Subcomm. on Aviation, U.S. House Comm. on Transp. & Infrast.* 6 May.

**Financing Infrastructure Investment** Joint hearing of the U.S. House Committee on the Budget and the *U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure*, 8 May.

**Condition of Our Nation's Infrastructure and Proposals for Needed Improvements** Hearing before the *U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs*, 11 March.

**Offshore Marine Aquaculture: Multiple Administrative and Environmental Issues Need to be Addressed in Establishing a U.S. Regulatory Framework** *GAO*, May.

**International Fisheries: Management and Enforcement** Hearing, *U.S. Senate Comm. on Commerce, Science & Transp.* 3 April.

**Energy in Brief** - a plain language series launched by DOE's Energy Information Administration in May 2008 to explain energy topics; there is a news release at <http://www.eia.doe.gov/neic/press/press297.html>

**Nuclear Power's Role in Generating Electricity** *CBO*, May. 46p. **Data and blog**

**Oversight on EPA Toxic Chemical Policies** Hearing before the *U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works*, 29 April.

**E-Waste: Can the Nation Handle Modern Refuse in the Digital Age?** Hearing, *U.S. House Comm. Science & Tech.*, 30 April.

**Proposals for a Water Resources Development Act of 2008** Hearing before a *subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure*, 30 April.

**Desalination: A National Perspective** Report. *National Res. Council. National Academies Pr.*, 2008. 316p. **News release**, 24 April.

## **SCIENCE / SPACE**

**Science 2.0 -- Is Open Access Science the Future? Is posting raw results online, for all to see, a great tool or a great risk?** by M. Mitchell Waldrop in *Scientific American*, April.

The first generation of World Wide Web capabilities rapidly transformed retailing and information searching. More recent attributes such as blogging, tagging and social networking, dubbed Web 2.0, have just as quickly expanded people's ability not just to consume online information but to publish it, edit it and collaborate about it - forcing such old-line institutions as journalism, marketing and even politicking to adopt whole new ways of thinking and operating. Waldrop says that science could be next. **ARTICLE 393**

**Arguing for a Comprehensive Space Protection Strategy** by Terry Everett in *Strategic Studies Quarterly*, Fall, 2007. 15p.

Everett, a Republican member of Congress from Alabama, addresses American dependence upon space in military and commercial terms, and has proposed legislation that he feels will protect American interests in space. He maintains that America needs to develop a comprehensive space protection strategy to detect, deter, and respond to space-threat contingencies. Although the U.S. is the leader in the use of and access to space, this leadership cannot be maintained unless America adapts to new and emerging challenges in order to stay ahead of competitors and overcome vulnerabilities in space. **ARTICLE 394**

***Some online resources which may be of interest:***

**Science and Technology Policymaking: A Primer** *CRS*, 22 April.

**NASA's Aeronautics R&D Program: Status and Issues** Hearing before *subcomm. of U.S. House Comm. Science & Tech.* 1 May.

**Reauthorizing the Vision for Space Exploration** Hearing before a *subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation*, 7 May.

**NASA's International Space Station Program: Status and Issues** Hearing before a *subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Science and Technology*, 24 April.

**Remote Sensing Data: Applications and Benefits** Field hearing (in Colorado Springs) of a *subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Science and Technology*, 7 April.

**The National Nanotechnology Initiative Amendments Act of 2008** Hearing before a *subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Science and Technology*, 16 April.

**National Nanotechnology Initiative: Charting the Course for Reauthorization** Hearing before a *subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation*, 24 April.

## AMERICAN SOCIETY

**Philanthropy Annual: 2007 Review.** *Foundation Center*, web posted 2 May. 100p.

The Foundation Center has released *Philanthropy Annual: 2007 Review*, a new annual publication that highlights the news, issues, people, organizations, and giving trends that are shaping the philanthropic field. The focus includes topical issues covered in the mainstream and philanthropic press, news of individuals who have dedicated their professional lives to working for the public good, in-depth interviews and commentary from widely respected leaders and thinkers, a sampling of books, periodicals, and blogs in the field, and key statistical information about U.S. grant making. [\*\*ARTICLE 395\*\*](#)

**The Verdict on Juries** by Valerie Hans & Neil Vidmar in *Judicature*, March-April. 5p.

After surveying nearly 50 years of research studies, Hans and Vidmar, law professors at Cornell and Duke universities respectively, conclude that judges agree with jury verdicts in most cases. Juries carefully weigh evidence and deliberate in substantive discussions about the finer points of the cases. Juries are more diverse and minorities are represented more fully on juries than within the judiciary. Judges who run for re-election might also be predisposed to look favorably at litigants who were campaign contributors. The authors recommend clearer written jury instructions, allowing jurors to ask witnesses questions and other changes to trials. [\*\*ARTICLE 396\*\*](#)

**Los Angeles on the Leading Edge** by Michael Fix et al. *Nat. Center on Immigrant Integr. Policy: Migration Policy Inst.* April. 74p.

This report is one of the first reports which comprehensively details the need for development and implementation of integration strategies and policies that will benefit immigrants and the broader U.S. society. With more than one-third of its 9.9 million residents comprised of immigrants, Los Angeles County stands at the leading edge of national immigration trends because of demography, geography and history. Over 40% of all students in Los Angeles schools are English Language Learners with the great majority of them U.S. citizens. The report concludes that increased access to English language and civics instruction would speed and improve their integration into the fabric of the broader society and economy. [\*\*ARTICLE 397\*\*](#)

**Medical Migration: What We Can Learn From the U.K.'s Perspective** by Martine Rutten. *World Bank Policy Research Working Papers: World Bank*, April. 46p.

Rutten analyzes the effects of the shortage of skilled medical workers, which is often remedied by recruiting immigrant skilled workers into the U.K., noting that recruiting can compare favorably to the use of unskilled domestic workers. Although the net effects generally are indeterminate, the main finding from the applied model is that importing foreign doctors and nurses into the United Kingdom yields higher overall welfare gains than a generic increase in the National Health Service budget. However, the immigration of skilled medical workers is not wholly desirable since they are needed in their own countries. [\*\*ARTICLE 398\*\*](#)

**Global HIV/AIDS: A More Country-Based Approach Could Improve Allocation of PEPFAR Funding.** *GAO*, 29 April. 73p.

*The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)* provides assistance for combating HIV/AIDS around the world, with global targets for prevention, treatment, and care. The "*Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria Act of 2003*," which authorized the \$15 billion program, contains directives to guide the Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator's allocation of this funding. The President has announced his intention to ask Congress to authorize \$30 billion for these efforts for the next 5 years. [\*\*ARTICLE 399\*\*](#)

### **Some online resources which may be of interest:**

**Emerging Transatlantic Drug Threats** Briefing by John Walters, Director, *U.S. Office of National Drug Control Policy*, at Foreign Press Center, U.S. Dept of State, 28 April.

**Methamphetamine, Cocaine Use Plummet: New Workplace Drug Testing Data Show Effects of Supply Crunch** News release, *U.S. Office of National Drug Control Policy*, 12 March.

**Seizing the New Opportunity for Health Reform** Hearing before the *U.S. Senate Committee on Finance*, 6 May.

**Preliminary Analysis of a Proposal for Comprehensive Health Insurance** *CBO*, 1 May.

**Cancer: Challenges and Opportunities in the 21st C.** Hearing, *U.S. Sen.Comm. on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions*, 8 May.

**Mitigating the Impact of Foreclosures on Neighborhoods** Speech by Randall Kroszner, a governor, U.S. Fed. Reserve, 7 May.

**Mortgage Delinquencies and Foreclosures** Speech by Ben S. Bernanke, Chairman, Federal Reserve Board, 5 May.

**Reverse Mortgages: The Next Hot Spot?** by Heidi Kaplan. Federal Reserve Bank of St Louis, *Bridges*, Spring.

**Foundation Growth and Giving Estimates: Current Outlook: 2008 Edition** *The Foundation Center*, 2008. 20p. [\*\*News release\*\*](#)

**Key Facts on Family Foundations** *The Foundation Center*, March. 4p.



## EDUCATION

**Entrepreneurship in Higher Education, Especially Within Non-Business Studies** Enterprise and Industry Directorate-General, European Commission. March. 69p.

The report stresses Europe's need to stimulate the entrepreneurial mindsets, encourage creative business start-ups, and foster a culture that is friendlier to the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises. The benefits of entrepreneurship education can expand an individual's ability to turn ideas into action and is therefore a key competence for all, helping young people to be more creative and self-confident in whatever they set out to accomplish.

[ARTICLE 400](#)

**College for All?** By Anthony Carnevale in *Change*, January/February. 7p.

The American belief in "college for all" stems from our egalitarian nature, and is rooted in parents' desire in upward mobility for their children. The challenge for the United States now is that, in the face of the increasing expense of post-secondary institutions, the "college for all" promise develops into reality.

[ARTICLE 401](#)

**Bad Rap on the Schools** by Jay Matthews in *Wilson Quarterly*, Spring. 6p.

Matthews, 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. He 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, Matthews notes that the U.S. school system is greatly superior to those in China and India -- the real problem is the bottom 30% of U.S. schools in urban and rural communities which are full of low-income children.

[ARTICLE 402](#)

**How Many College Graduates Does a Labor Force Really Need?** by Paul Barton in *Change*, January/February.

Despite a common assumption that there is great economic demand for more college-educated workers, compelling evidence does not exist that there will be a rapid rise in the general demand for college graduates in the future—or a damaging shortfall in their supply.

[ARTICLE 403](#)

**Birthright** by Ray Bacchetti in *Perspectives*. 2007.

How many of your relatives have college degrees?

[ARTICLE 404](#)

**Trends in Infancy/Early Childhood and Middle School Well-Being, 1994-2008** by Kenneth C. Land. *The Foundation for Child Development*, web posted 3 May. 32p.

This study presents the first wide-ranging picture of how children in their first decade of life are faring the U.S. It comprehensively looks at the overall health, well-being, and quality of life of America's youngest children, from birth through eleven years old, using the *Child Well-Being Index (CWI)*. It also tracks and compares child well-being across three primary stages of development, early childhood, middle childhood, and adolescence.

[ARTICLE 405](#)

### **Some education online resources which may be of interest:**

**A Nation Accountable: 25 Years After A Nation at Risk** U.S. Dept of Education, May. 25p. [Summary](#)

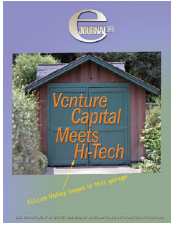
**Education Tax Incentives** Hearing before a *subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means*, 1 May.

**Dismal Science: The Shortcomings of U.S. School Choice Research and How to Address Them** by John Merrifield. *Cato Institute*, 16 April. 20p.

**Teachers' Work Patterns: When, Where, and How Much Do U.S. Teachers Work?** U.S. Dept of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Monthly Labor Review*, March.

**Higher Education in Africa: Making the Link Between Intellectual Capital and Regional Development** Hearing before a *subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs*, 6 May. [For transcripts](#) and scroll down.

## BUSINESS/LABOR



**Capital Meets Hi-Tech** *U.S. Dept of State, Office of International Information Programs, eJournal USA, May 2008.*

This *eJournal USA* "explores the phenomenon that drives uncounted Americans - and now citizens of other nations - to create fledgling 'start-up' businesses that explore and exploit the latest developments in high technology. It also investigates the closely related 'venture capital' phenomenon."

**Adapting to Climate Change: A Business Approach** by Frances G. Sussman & J. Randall Freed. *Pew Center on Global Climate Change, April. 40p.*

The authors contend that, while not all businesses need to follow with action, all need to be aware of the possible threats of climate change. The screening, that can be done easily, using currently available information on climate trends and projections, can identify important risks and also possible opportunities for businesses. This framework can be used to identify a company's potential risks from climate change. **ARTICLE 406**

**Confronting the Talent Crunch: 2008.** *Manpower, Inc., web posted April. 20p.*

There is a global shortage of talent. Even though Eastern Europe has become a key source for manual and skilled trades for employers in Western Europe, Norway recruits trained butchers from Ireland and as far away as Brazil to work in the Nordic state. The needs vary among regions and countries; French employers finding it more difficult to find chefs and cooks, while for U.S. employers, finding engineers becomes a major task. The paper looks at the methods the governments, employers, and individuals take to confront the issue. **ARTICLE 407**

**Human Capital and Women's Business Ownership** by Darrene Hackler et al. *U.S. Small Bus. Admin. web posted 28 April. 75p.*

Self-employed women differ from their wage and salary earning counterparts in several human capital areas. The self-employed women tend to be older, are better educated, and have more managerial experience than wage and salary earners. "Human capital factors such as education and experience have long been known to have a positive correlation with entrepreneurship," said Dr. Chad Moutray, Chief Economist for the Office of Advocacy. **ARTICLE 408**

**Never the Same After the First Time: The Satisfaction of the Second-Generation Self-Employed** by Andrew Clark et al. *Institute for the Study of Labor, web posted, 4 May. 26p.*

Andrew and friends contribute to the existing studies which show that the self-employed are generally more satisfied than those employed by others. French data and British data were used to draw conclusions. The self-employed workers are generally more satisfied with working conditions and pay, but less satisfied than other employees with respect to job security, but there are considered differences between the first- and second-generation self-employed. **ARTICLE 409**

**Mind the Gap – Women's and Men's Quality of Work and Men's Quality of Work and Employment** by Kasia Jurczak & John Hurley. *European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, web posted 30 April. 12p.*

Gender mainstreaming is an integral part of the research conducted by the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions. When labor market participation, working conditions and the resulting labor market outcomes are analyzed, the difference in the situation of women and men is evident. This report highlights the main issues concerning women's situation in the labor market and indicates where the principal barriers to women's participation lay. **ARTICLE 410**

**Labour Mobility in a Transatlantic Perspective: Conference Report** by Peter Ester & Hubert Krieger. *European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, web posted 21 April. 8p.*

The seminar brought together about 60 leading European and American researchers and policymakers in the field of labor mobility, in order to examine transatlantic mobility trends and the social, economic and cultural impacts of geographical and long-distance labor market mobility. It focused on long-distance geographic mobility trends in the US and in Europe. Overall, it concluded that increased but improved mobility is needed and that the mobility concept covers different forms and motives. **ARTICLE 411**

***Some business/labor online resources which may be of interest:***

**Hard Hats See Hard Times** by Michael Dimock. *Pew Research Center, 7 May.* (Job prospects of people in lower portions of the income spectrum in the U.S. are much poorer than in previous periods of economic stress)

**6th Annual Survey of Employee Benefits Trends: Findings from the National Survey of Employers and Employees**  
*MetLife*, 2008. 65p.

**The Effect of Minimum Wages on Immigrants' Employment and Earnings** *Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas*, April. 42p.

## **THE ARTS & CULTURE**

**Why the Demise of Civilization May be Inevitable** by Debora Mackenzie in *New Scientist*, 2 April.

Civilization is ineluctably headed toward collapse, not because of a massive asteroid, global nuclear war or a catastrophic pandemic, but because of its very success in solving challenges. In presenting this intriguing hypothesis, MacKenzie discusses the views of scholars from a variety of disciplines who are reaching the same conclusion via different routes. The thread of reasoning that connects archaeologists, environmentalists, a political scientist, a futurologist and a scholar of industrial accidents is that civilization develops by solving problems. The author quotes futurologist and industry consultant Ray Hammond as saying, "I don't see a collapse in society because of increased complexity. Our strength is in our highly distributed decision making." **ARTICLE 412**

**Insights Gained into Arts and Smarts** by Debra Viadero in *Education Week*, 12 March. 2p.

Since the 1990s, a popular, but unproven theory has circulated that the arts, and music in particular, could make children smarter. Now, recently released findings have lent credibility to this claim. After three years of studies by university neurologists and cognitive psychologists, a tentative conclusion can be made that training in the arts might improve general thinking skills of children and adults. The report, released in March, does not provide any definitive answers to the "arts-makes-you-smarter" question, but lays to rest the notion that students are either right- or left-brained learners. Dana Gioia, poet and chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, concurs and points out that "the purpose of education is to realize the full human potential of every child." **ARTICLE 413**

**Legal Protection of Cultural Property** by Louise Tsang on *LLRX.com*, 24 April, 2007.

A selective resource guide.

**ARTICLE 414**

**If Walls Could Speak** by Kirsten Swenson in *Art in America*, May.

Over four decades, Asher's career has unfolded in a series of subtly provocative installations, many of which are now touchstones for contemporary artists and critical anchors. In this mazelike installation, renowned Conceptualist Michael Asher re-created the framing for every temporary exhibition wall built at the Santa Monica Museum of Art. **ARTICLE 415**

**Can Money Buy Happiness?** by Arthur C. Brooks in *The American*, May/June.

Money doesn't buy happiness, but success does. Capitalism, moored in the values of hard work, honesty, and fairness, is key. But wouldn't you just as soon see for yourself? People throughout history have insisted on striving to get ahead. **ARTICLE 416**

### ***Some Politics/Government online resources which may be of interest:***

**A debate on the Electoral College will be held at the National Archives and Records Administration** on 21 May.

**The Constitutionality of Requiring Photo Identification for Voting: An Analysis of Crawford v. Marion County Election Board** *CRS*, 19 May.

**The Congressional Research Service and the American Legislative Process** *CRS*, 19 March.

**Churches and Campaign Activity: Analysis Under Tax and Campaign Finance Laws** *CRS*, 14 April.

**The Incredible Shrinking Republican Base** by Alan I. Abramowitz, 1 May.

## **Public Administration**

**The Executive Office of the President: An Historical Overview** *CRS*, 17 March.

**StateScope** - a fee-based policy tracking and analysis service which also has numerous free information resources including tracking of U.S. state and federal bills, information on the legislative process of each state, etc

## **Development and International Assistance**

**World Development Indicators 2008** *World Bank*, April 2008. **News Release**

**Poverty and Development: Three Paradoxes** Remarks Henrietta Fore, *USAID Admin. & Director of U.S. Foreign Assistance*, 9 May.

**The World Bank's International Development Association (IDA)** *CRS*, 1 April.

**Iraq: Reconstruction Assistance** *CRS*, 24 March.

**U.S. Assistance to South Asia: Is There a Strategy to Go with All That Money?** Hearing before a subcommittee of the *U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs*, 14 May. **For transcripts** and scroll down.

**Is Liberia's Governance and Economic Management Assistance Program a "Necessary Intrusion?"** by Raymond Gilpin & Emily Hsu. *U.S. Institute of Peace*, May.

## **MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**Foreign Affairs** by Kevin Rector in *American Journalism Review*, April/May.

As established news organizations cut back on international reporting, a new web Site, Global News Enterprises, seeks to cover the world. To be launched in early 2009, it will be the first U.S.- based web site dedicated entirely to foreign news. **ARTICLE 417**

**A Bad Omen** by Kathleen McLaughlin in *American Journalism Review*, June.

The anti-press upsurge in China following the rioting in Tibet is not an encouraging sign as to how the news media will be treated during the 2008 Olympics. **ARTICLE 418**

**Explaining International Broadband Leadership.** *Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF)*, 2008. 108p.

This new report examines broadband policies in 9 nations. *ITIF* concludes that while we shouldn't look to other nations for silver bullets or assume that practices in one nation will automatically work in another, U.S. policymakers can and should look to broadband best practices in other nations. Learning the right lessons and emulating the right policies here will enable the U.S. to improve its broadband performance faster than in the absence of proactive policies. The report analyzes the extent to which policy and non-policy factors drive broadband performance, and how broadband policies related to national leadership, incentives, competition, rural access, and consumer demand affect national broadband performance. A number of recommendations to boost U.S. broadband performance are included, along with the updated 2008 ITIF Broadband Rankings, a composite measure of broadband penetration, speed and price among OECD countries. When these factors are considered together, the United States ranks 15<sup>th</sup> out of 30 *OECD* nations in broadband performance. **Executive summary** (5p.) **Full Report** (108p.)

### ***Some online resources which may be of interest:***

**Five Blogs Worth Reading** *Federal Computer Week*, May 12, 2008 (describes five blogs including blogs from HHS, CBO, U.S. Dept of State and U.S. Dept of the Navy)

**Visual Resources Online: Digital Images of Primary Materials on Public Web Sites** by Anne Blecksmith. *C&RL News*, May.

**The Future of the Internet** Hearing before the *U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation*, 22 April. (focus is on developing applications, consumer expectations, and network operations)

**Online Virtual Worlds: Applications and Avatars in a User-Generated Medium** Hearing before the *Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet, U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce*, 1 April.

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