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# U.S. Society and Values

May 2008

## Memorial Day - Honoring Our War Dead



## **Memorial Day Holiday Honors American War Dead Holiday originated in tiny village of Waterloo, New York**

By Michael Jay Friedman  
Staff Writer

Washington -- The Memorial Day holiday celebrated by Americans on the last Monday of May represents for many the unofficial beginning of summer. Many will travel over the long holiday weekend to seek out friends and family, beaches and amusement parks. But most will pause at some point to recall the holiday's true purpose: honoring those who died defending their nation.

Memorial Day entertainments throughout the United States range from large sporting events to quintessentially small-town celebrations. The Indianapolis ("Indy") 500 motor race, by some measures the world's largest single-day sporting event, attracts an estimated global audience of more than 320 million.

Congress established Memorial Day as a federal holiday in 1971 and fixed its observance on the last Monday in May.

The original Waterloo commemoration centered on the decoration of soldiers' graves, the lowering of flags to fly at half-staff, and the organization of veterans' parades. These ceremonies continue in cities and towns across the nation on Memorial Day. The U.S. president or vice president typically presides at Arlington National Cemetery, where a small American flag is placed on each grave. Solemn observances are held at Civil War battle sites, including Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, and Sharpsburg (Antietam), Maryland.

At 3 p.m., a National Moment of Remembrance unites Americans in prayer and thought as they contemplate the sacrifices made in their behalf.

Thus, even as Americans enjoy their long weekend and the prospect of summer, they also can be found in more somber moods. Wreaths will be laid, thanks given and heads bowed in recognition of those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

**<http://www.america.gov/st/diversity-english/2008/May/20060524125235jmnamdeirf7.503909e-02.html?CP.rss=true>**

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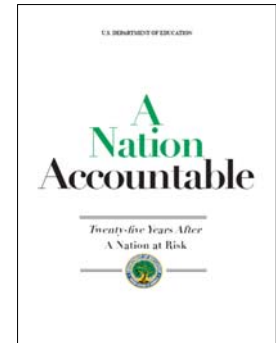
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## GOVERNMENT

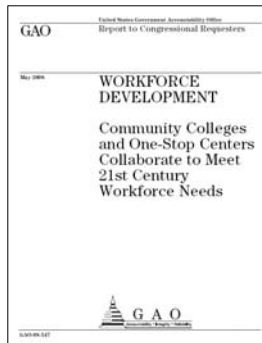
### **A NATION ACCOUNTABLE: TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AFTER A NATION AT RISK. U.S. Department of Education. Web posted May 2, 2008. 08AD722**

In 1983, the landmark U.S. Department of Education report, *A Nation at Risk*, found that about 13 percent of 17-year-olds were functionally illiterate, SAT scores were dropping, and students needed more remedial courses in college. Such trends threatened both our children's opportunities and our collective future. Twenty-five years later, U.S. remains a nation at risk but is also now a nation more informed, accountable, with recognition that there is much work to be done. By leveraging this information, work needs to be done to achieve better results.



<http://www.ed.gov/rschstat/research/pubs/accountable/accountable.pdf>  
[PDF format, 25 pages].

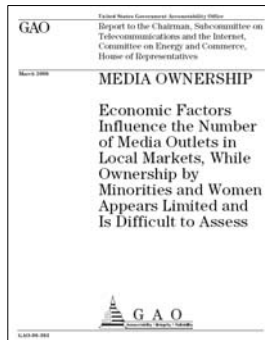
### **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT: COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND ONE-STOP CENTERS COLLABORATE TO MEET 21ST CENTURY WORKFORCE NEEDS. Government Accountability Office. GAO-08-547, May 15, 2008**



In the future, businesses will demand workers with higher-level skills and more education. Community colleges are key providers of career and technical training as well as traditional academic education. These colleges can also play important roles in the one-stop system created by the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), through which a variety of federally funded employment and training programs provide services. Given the importance of community colleges to workforce development, GAO was asked to examine (1) how community colleges meet the workforce training needs of their communities; (2) what community colleges do to integrate with the nation's one-stop system; (3) the conditions or practices that enhance or impede these efforts; and (4) the actions the Departments of Labor and Education have taken to encourage linkages between community colleges and the workforce investment system, including one-stops. To address these objectives, GAO visited 20 community colleges, surveyed one-stop centers and their associated workforce investment boards, and talked to Labor and Education officials. Labor and Education generally agreed with GAO's findings.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d08547.pdf>

**MEDIA OWNERSHIP: ECONOMIC FACTORS INFLUENCE THE NUMBER OF MEDIA OUTLETS IN LOCAL MARKETS. Government Accountability Office; GAO-08-383. Web posted April 11, 2008. 08AD630**

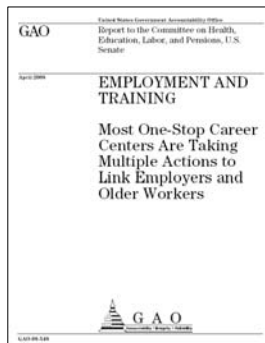


The media industry plays an important role in educating and entertaining the public. While it provides the public with many national choices, media outlets located in a local market are more likely to provide local programs that meet the needs of residents in the market compared to national outlets. This report reviews (1) the number and ownership of various media outlets; (2) the level of minority- and women-owned broadcast outlets; (3) the influence of economic, legal and regulatory, and technological factors on the number and ownership of media outlets; and (4) stakeholders' opinions on modifying certain media ownership laws and regulations.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d08383.pdf> [pdf format, 69 pages]

**EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING: MOST ONE-STOP CAREER CENTER ARE TAKING MULTIPLE ACTIONS TO LINK EMPLOYERS AND OLDER WORKERS. U.S. Government Accountability Office. April 2008. 08AD670**



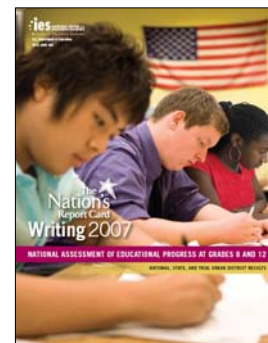
The share of older persons in the U.S. population age 55 and older is projected to increase to 30 percent by 2025 and continue to grow through 2050. At the same time, the labor force growth is expected to slow and employers will be faced with a relatively smaller and younger available workforce. As a result, some businesses will need to retain existing older workers or attract additional older workers to meet their workforce needs. The Department of Labor has identified one-stop career centers as a means to link older workers with employers through employment and training services. <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d08548.pdf> [PDF format, 39 pages].

**THE NATION'S REPORT CARD: WRITING 2007. National Center for Education Statistics. Deborah Salah-Din, et. al. Web posted April 3, 2008. 08AD586**

Nationally representative samples of more than 165,000 eighth- and twelfth-graders participated in the 2007 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) writing assessment. Comparing the results of the 2007 writing assessment to results from previous years shows the progress eighth- and twelfth-graders are making in improving writing skills.

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/pdf/main2007/2008468.pdf> [pdf format, 72 pages]



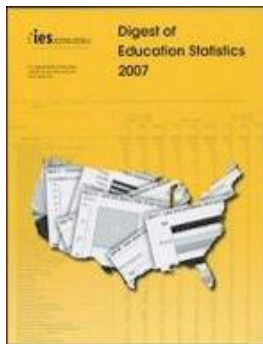
**FIRST RESPONSE TO VICTIMS OF CRIME. Office for Victims of Crime, U.S. Department of Justice. April 2008. 08AD648**

The handbook was created to help law enforcement officers better understand and meet the needs of victims of crime, particularly during the first response period. It addresses issues that arise during the initial contact between officers and victims. The first response can strongly influence victims' subsequent participation in the investigation and prosecution of the crime. Ultimately, victims who have had a positive experience with law enforcement will be more likely to report future offenses. In this way, a good first response to victims by officers ultimately increases the overall effectiveness of law enforcement.



<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/publications/infores/pdf/txt/FirstResponseGuidebook.pdf>  
[pdf format, 97 pages].

**DIGEST OF EDUCATION STATISTICS 2007. Thomas Snyder, Sally Dillow, Charlene Hoffman. Department of Education. 03/01/2008**



Provides a compilation of statistical information covering the broad field of American education from prekindergarten through graduate school. This publication includes a selection of data from many sources, both government and private, and draws especially on the results of surveys and activities carried out by the National Center for Education Statistics. To qualify for inclusion in the digest, material must be nationwide in scope and of current interest and value. The publication contains information on a variety of subjects in the field of education statistics, including the number of schools and colleges, teachers, enrollments, and graduates, in addition to educational attainment, finances, and federal funds for education, libraries, and

international comparisons. Supplemental information on population trends, attitudes on education, education characteristics of the labor force, government finances, and economic trends provides background for evaluating education data.

[http://edpubs.ed.gov/Product\\_Detail.aspx](http://edpubs.ed.gov/Product_Detail.aspx)

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

**ISLAM IN AFRICA. Congressional Research Service, RL22873, Library of Congress. Hussein D. Hassan. Web posted May 12, 2008. 08AD706**

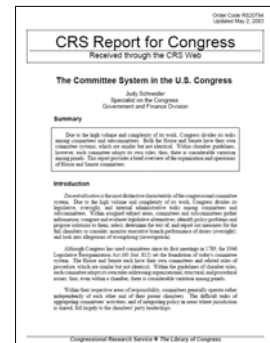
The attacks on U.S. soil on September 11, 2001 and the rise of militant transnational Islamism have prompted both the Bush Administration and the U.S. Congress to reassess foreign policy in Africa and Africa's Muslim populations. Some experts have noted that Africa's failing and failed states may serve as a breeding ground for terrorists. In response to terrorist threats, the United States, in partnership with countries across Africa, has



developed a range of strategies to help regional governments face the challenge of terror.  
<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/RS22873.pdf> [PDF format, 5 pages].

**THE COMMITTEE SYSTEM IN THE U.S. CONGRESS. Congressional Research Service, RS20794, Library of Congress. Judy Schneider. Re-posted to web April 6, 2008. 08AD606**

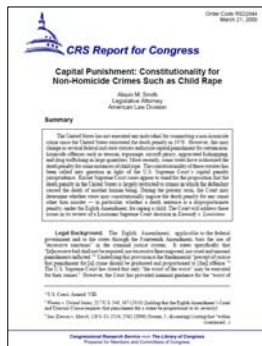
Initially posted in 2003, this report has been reposted in light of the current election season. Congress divides its tasks among committees and subcommittees. Both the House and Senate have their own committee systems, which are similar but not identical. Within chamber guidelines, however, each committee adopts its own rules; thus, there is considerable variation among panels. This report provides a brief overview of the organization and operations of House and Senate committees.  
[http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RS20794\\_20030502.pdf](http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RS20794_20030502.pdf) [pdf format, 6 pages]



**RAPE AS A WEAPON OF WAR: ACCOUNTABILITY FOR SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT. U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, Subcommittee on Human Rights and the Law; hearings. Sen. Richard Durbin, Chairman. April 1, 2008. 08AD594**

This document is the record of the first-ever Congressional hearing on sexual violence within the context of war. Rape, even of children, has become systematic and deliberate as a weapon of war in a variety of recent conflicts. The purpose apparently is to humiliate, expel and destroy entire communities. Mass rape has been a feature common to conflicts in Bosnia, Darfur, the Democratic Republic of Congo, East Timor, Rwanda and Sierra Leone.  
<http://judiciary.senate.gov/hearing.cfm?id=3225>

**CAPITAL PUNISHMENT: CONSTITUTIONALITY FOR NON-HOMICIDE CRIMES SUCH AS CHILD RAPE. Congressional Research Service, RS22844, Library of Congress. Alison M. Smith. March 21, 2008. 08AD580**



The United States has not executed any individual for committing a non-homicide crime since the United States reinstated the death penalty in 1976. This may change as several federal and state statutes authorize capital punishment for certain non-homicide offenses such as treason, espionage, aircraft piracy, aggravated kidnapping, and child rape. The constitutionality of these statutes has been called into. During the present term, the Supreme Court may determine whether states may constitutionally impose the death penalty for any crime other than murder.  
[http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RS22844\\_20080321.pdf](http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RS22844_20080321.pdf) [ pdf format, 6 pages]

## THE WHITE HOUSE

### **FACT SHEET: PROVIDING GREATER OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR CHILDREN BY ENSURING ACCESS TO FAITH-BASED SCHOOLS. White House Summit Explores Ways To Help Faith-Based And Other Public School Alternatives Serve Our Nation's Urban Students. Office of the Press Secretary. April 24, 2008**

Today, President Bush hosted a White House Summit on Inner-City Children and Faith-Based Schools in Washington, D.C. The event brought together educators, policymakers, and community leaders to develop local strategies to keep the doors of inner-city faith-based schools open to America's disadvantaged students. For many inner-city children across our Nation, America's faith-based schools provide an option for a better future. As we continue working to improve urban public schools through the No Child Left Behind Act, we must also work to preserve important educational alternatives for underserved students attending chronically underperforming public schools.

- Non-public schools, including faith-based schools, have helped educate generations of low-income students, but they are disappearing at an alarming rate. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, from 2000 to 2006, nearly 1,200 inner-city faith-based schools closed, displacing 425,000 students.
- To continue the promise of a quality education for every student, we must pursue innovative solutions to improve public education and keep our high-performing faith-based schools open as valuable education alternatives.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2008/04/20080424-3.html>

## THINK TANK PUBLICATIONS

### AMERICAN ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE

#### **LITTLE LEAGUE, HUGE EFFECT. By Scott Ganz and Kevin Hassett. AEI. *The American*. May/June 2008 Issue**

How youth sports shape the economic, academic, and social prospects of Americans.

When pundits discuss the influence of sports on American culture, they often emphasize the negatives: Michael Vick and dogfighting; the steroids scandals in baseball; lewd fan behavior in football; doping incidents in cycling and track. But below the radar of popular athletic culture is something that has profoundly shaped the lives of millions of Americans for the better: youth sports. A growing body of research is showing the social and economic benefits of participation in youth sports to be surprisingly large and overwhelmingly positive. Other things being equal, if a kid plays sports, he will earn more money, stay in school longer, and be more engaged in civic life.

<http://www.american.com/archive/2008/may-june-magazine-contents/little-league-huge-effect>

**ATTITUDES ABOUT HOMOSEXUALITY AND GAY MARRIAGE. By Karlyn Bowman. AEI Studies in Public Opinion. May 19, 2008**

Updated for Fall 2006, this study is a compilation of public opinion polls on acceptance of homosexuality, gay marriage, civil unions, partner benefits, party identification and voting of gays, employment, and adoption. The study includes all of the latest polling data as well as important historical trends for comparative purposes.

[http://www.aei.org/publications/filter.all,pubID.14882/pub\\_detail.asp](http://www.aei.org/publications/filter.all,pubID.14882/pub_detail.asp)

**IS THE U.S. PUBLIC SERVICE ACADEMY A GOOD IDEA? TWO VIEWS. By Philip I. Levy, Chris Myers Asch. AEI Online. WORKING PAPERS. May 1, 2008**

The idea of creating a national university is not new. More than two centuries ago, George Washington, James Madison and Thomas Jefferson advocated for a national university. In 1797, the American Philosophical Society hosted a contest for proposals on the best system of education for the new nation. Winner Henry Knox proposed a national university, which he argued "would thus constitute the fountainhead of science, that . . . would diffuse the rays of knowledge and science to the remotest situations of the United government." In 1897, Congress considered the creation of a "University of the United States." Thus far, policymakers have opted not to act on these proposals.

Today--energized by concerns about the performance of civil servants and the need to recruit a new generation of talent into key federal, state, and municipal positions--a new proposal to launch a U.S. Public Service Academy has drawn much attention.

(...)These two essays constitute less of a debate than two provocative looks at an ambitious policy proposal.

[http://www.aei.org/publications/filter.all,pubID.28003/pub\\_detail.asp](http://www.aei.org/publications/filter.all,pubID.28003/pub_detail.asp)

**STILL AT RISK. By Frederick M. Hess. AEI Online. EDUCATION OUTLOOK No. 2, April 2008**



In 1983, the seismically influential Reagan-era blue-ribbon report A Nation At Risk declared, "If an unfriendly foreign power had attempted to impose on America the mediocre educational performance that exists today, we might well have viewed it as an act of war." Twenty-five years later, when it comes to the crucial task of preparing our children for citizenship, how do we fare?

A new study (...) seeks to fill this void and determine just how much today's seventeen-year-olds know about history and literature. While the findings cannot be readily compared to those collected in 1986--given substantial differences in how the tests were administered and how the data were

collected--they offer valuable insights into where we stand today. Because the data were collected using questions developed, refined, and administered as part of NAEP, they represent a carefully designed measuring stick.

[http://www.aei.org/publications/pubID.27846/pub\\_detail.asp](http://www.aei.org/publications/pubID.27846/pub_detail.asp)

**THE CASE FOR KEEPING THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE. American Enterprise Institute, AEI on the Issues. Walter Berns. April 7, 2008. 08AD605**

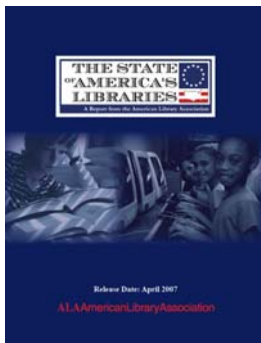
Debate over whether to keep the Electoral College or move to a system of direct popular election of the president occurs in every presidential election season. Over the years, several hundred proposed Constitutional amendments have suggested amending or eliminating it, but, since early in the 19th century, the Electoral College has been maintained unaltered. In this article, the author outlines the arguments in favor of the Electoral College and dissects the proposals of those who would nullify it without having to abolish it.

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.aei.org/publications/pubID.27766,filter.all/pub\\_detail.asp](http://www.aei.org/publications/pubID.27766,filter.all/pub_detail.asp) [direct link; click inside for pdf format, 2 pages]

**AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**

**THE STATE OF AMERICA'S LIBRARIES: A REPORT FROM THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION. American Library Association. April 2007. 07AD524**



This report presents the highlights of American libraries' activities during 2006. The research found that public, school, and university libraries have flourished; investments in e-books increased by 68% from 2002 to 2004; and the public continued to show strong support for public libraries. But, school media centers suffered funding cuts over the past 12 months.

Additionally, over the past year, the library community has continued its strong defense of First Amendment rights of library users against government surveillance. It also received widespread acclaim for its efforts in restoring school libraries and media centers in the gulf coast regions after hurricanes

Katrina and Rita.

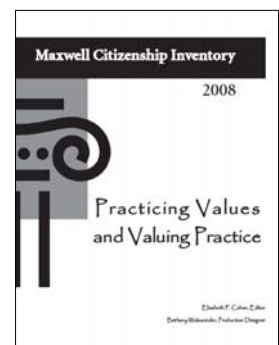
[Note: Contains copyrighted material.]

[http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/march2007/SAL\\_AnnualReport-FINAL.pdf](http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/march2007/SAL_AnnualReport-FINAL.pdf) [pdf format, 19 pages]

**ALAN K. CAMPBELL PUBLIC AFFAIRS INSTITUTE**

**MAXWELL CITIZENSHIP INVENTORY 2008: PRACTICING VALUES AND VALUING PRACTICE. Elizabeth F. Cohen, Editor Bethany Walawender, Production Designer. Alan K. Campbell Public Affairs Institute.**

Beyond encouraging its faculty to think collectively about political membership from the perspective of their own disciplinary background and as participants in an interdisciplinary, intergenerational dialogue, it is also the mission of the school to embody the values of good scholarly citizenship. Citizenship unfolds as much in our practices as it does on the



pages of publications and in classroom discussions of scholarly research. All those who share this ideal should consider this document an invitation to contact any and all members of our faculty and student body and join in the ongoing public discussions about this subject. In the service of this invitation, we offer below an abbreviated bibliography of recent Maxwell faculty publications on citizenship.

<http://www.maxwell.syr.edu/campbell/programs/citizenship/CitizenshipInventory.pdf>

## BBC WORLD SERVICE POLL

### **GLOBAL VIEWS OF USA IMPROVE. BBC; BBC World Service Poll. April 2, 2008. 08AD577**

After years of becoming progressively more negative, public views of the United States have begun to improve, according to a BBC World Service Poll across 34 countries.

While views of US influence in the world are still predominantly negative, they have improved in 11 of the 23 countries the BBC polled a year ago, while worsening in just three countries. The average percentage saying that the US is having a positive influence has increased from 31 per cent a year ago to 35 per cent today while the view that it is having a negative influence has declined from 52 per cent to 47 per cent.

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.worldpublicopinion.org/pipa/pdf/apr08/BBCEvals\\_Apr08\\_rpt.pdf](http://www.worldpublicopinion.org/pipa/pdf/apr08/BBCEvals_Apr08_rpt.pdf) [pdf file, 24 pages]

## BROOKINGS INSTITUTION

### **HELPING DISCONNECTED SINGLE MOTHERS. Rebecca Blank and Brian Kovak. Brookings Institution. Center on Children and Families. May 2008.**



Recent research has identified a growing number of low-income single mothers who tend to be very poor and face serious barriers to achieving economic self-sufficiency for their families. This group includes long-term welfare recipients as well as those who left welfare without stable employment, often referred to as “the disconnected.”

(...) Compared to women who left welfare and are working, the disconnected tend to have more barriers to employment, with less education, younger children, higher rates of mental and physical health problems, higher rates of substance abuse, and a greater history of domestic violence.

This brief recommends the development of a Temporary and Partial Work Waiver Program (TPWWP) to assist disconnected single mothers who face multiple barriers to securing and sustaining employment. A TPWWP would link families to medical and economic supports to prevent extreme poverty while providing more intensive case work assistance to ease the severity and duration of employment barriers.

[http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2008/05\\_single\\_mothers\\_blank/05\\_single\\_mothers\\_blank.pdf](http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2008/05_single_mothers_blank/05_single_mothers_blank.pdf)



**CANDIDATE ISSUE INDEX: CHILDREN. Julia B. Isaacs, Child and Family Policy Fellow, Economic Studies. The Brookings Institution. May 15, 2008**



Compiled by Brookings Institution experts, this chart is part of a series of issue indices to be published during the 2008 Presidential election cycle. The policy issues included in this series were chosen by Brookings staff and represent the most critical topics facing America's next President.

[http://www.brookings.edu/papers/2008/~media/Files/rc/papers/2008/0515\\_children\\_isaacs\\_op08/0515\\_children\\_isaacs\\_opp08.pdf](http://www.brookings.edu/papers/2008/~media/Files/rc/papers/2008/0515_children_isaacs_op08/0515_children_isaacs_opp08.pdf)

**REEXAMINING AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALISM. A Governance Studies Event. Brookings Institution. April 23, 2008.**

What exactly is "America"? And does the idea live up to the reality? During the nation's infancy, Alexis de Tocqueville meticulously studied America's democratic experiment and defined the contours of American exceptionalism. Nearly 200 years later, scholars James Q. Wilson and Peter Schuck have gone back to reconsider what defines the United States and its role in our rapidly changing world. Their new book, *Understanding America: The Anatomy of an Exceptional Nation* (Public Affairs, 2008), is the ground-breaking result.

On Wednesday, April 23, Brookings hosted a panel discussion featuring Wilson and Schuck. They were joined by expert panelists, who commented on how federalism and bureaucracy structure our institutions, and on how economic inequality and immigration shape our democratic society. The discussion was part of the "Governing Ideas" series moderated by Brookings Senior Fellow William A. Galston. The series, hosted by Governance Studies at Brookings, is intended to broaden the discussion of governance issues through forums on timely and relevant books on history, culture, legal norms and practices, values and religion.

[http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/events/2008/0423\\_exceptionalism/20080423\\_exceptionalism.pdf](http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/events/2008/0423_exceptionalism/20080423_exceptionalism.pdf)

**HOW AND WHEN EXPERIENCE IN A PRESIDENT COUNTS. Brookings Institution. Charles O. Jones. April 3, 2008. 08AD593**

Experience has become a dominant issue in the 2008 presidential campaign. Initially thought to be an open contest, the range and types of candidate experience have varied substantially: sitting and former senators, representatives and governors, and a former mayor and first lady. Stress on experience justifies a review of the historical record. How might the historical experience of experience apply to 2008?

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.brookings.edu/papers/2008/03\\_presidency\\_jones.aspx](http://www.brookings.edu/papers/2008/03_presidency_jones.aspx)



## CATO INSTITUTE



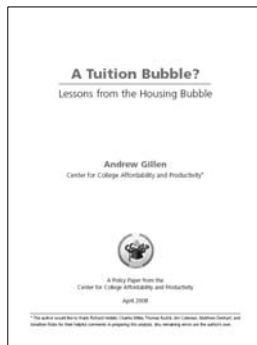
### **CATO POLICY REPORT, vol. XXX, no. 3 (May/June 2008)**

- "Government, War, and Libertarianism", by Justin Logan
- "On Trees, Wind, and American Idol", by Edward H. Crane
- "Hayekian Insights on Development,"
- "Cato Analysts Take a Skeptical Look at the Candidates"

[http://www.cato.org/pubs/policy\\_report/v30n3/cpr30n3.pdf](http://www.cato.org/pubs/policy_report/v30n3/cpr30n3.pdf)

## CENTER FOR COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY AND PRODUCTIVITY

### **A TUITION BUBBLE? LESSONS FROM THE HOUSING BUBBLE. Andrew Gillen. A Policy Paper from the Center for College Affordability and Productivity. April 2008**



Until relatively recently, both the price of housing and tuition at America's institutions of higher education were rising at unsustainable rates. As the late economist Herbert Stein once said, "Anything that can't go on forever, won't." His prophecy has proven correct for the housing market.

By 2007, house prices were falling in many parts of the country, a trend that showed signs of spreading and accelerating in 2008. College tuition, however, continued its ascent. It would seem only a matter of time before these "unsustainable" increases in tuition cease and likely reverse, but as we have seen with the dot-com bubble and now the housing bubble, readjustments can

be very painful. Thus, if tuition increases truly are unsustainable, we should aim to minimize any bubble in the interest of avoiding additional pain—such as school closures and large-scale student dislocations—from the inevitable readjustment. Intriguingly, the housing bubble offers some insights into what might be termed the "tuition bubble."

<http://www.collegeaffordability.net/Bubble%20Report%20Final.pdf>

## CENTER FOR IMMIGRATION STUDIES

### **IMMIGRATION: NO FIX FOR AN AGING SOCIETY. Video Produced by Center for Immigration Studies. May 2008**

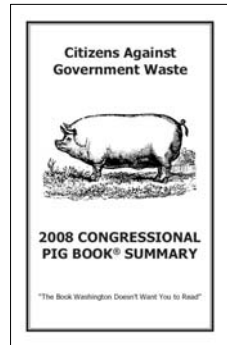
Many proponents for high levels of immigration assert that it is needed in order to save Social Security. The Center for Immigration Studies has produced a new web video, "Immigration: No Fix for an Aging Society", that examines this argument. In the video, Dr. Steven Camarota discusses immigration, income, and the population's effect on our Social Security system. To view the video, please visit:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DhKP5Lw6S1U>

## CITIZENS AGAINST GOVERNMENT WASTE

### **2008 CONGRESSIONAL PIG BOOK® SUMMARY (actual title). Citizens Against Government Waste. April 2, 2008. 08AD604**

In fiscal year 2008, Congress included 11, 610 projects worth \$17.2 billion into the 12 appropriations bills. That is a 337 percent increase over the 2,658 projects in fiscal year 2007. The Pig Book Summary profiles what it considers to be “the most egregious examples” of wasteful spending by government. It breaks down the projects per capita by state and lists the names of the individual members of Congress associated with the projects.

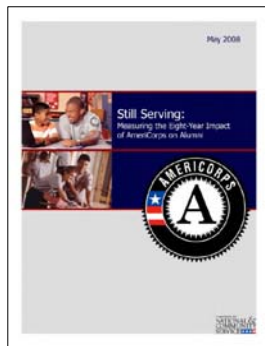


[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.cagw.org/site/DocServer/CAGW-Pig\\_Book\\_08.pdf?docID=3001](http://www.cagw.org/site/DocServer/CAGW-Pig_Book_08.pdf?docID=3001) [pdf format, 59 pages]

## CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

### **STILL SERVING: MEASURING THE EIGHT-YEAR IMPACT OF AMERICORPS ON ALUMNI. Corporation for National and Community Service. May 2008**



Results from a rigorous evaluation of AmeriCorps show that AmeriCorps has long-term impacts on members' years after they serve. Over the last eight years, since 1999, we have been following more than 2,000 individuals in AmeriCorps State and National and NCCC to look at the effect of service on their future civic engagement and volunteering, employment and careers, and educational attainment. Findings reveal that AmeriCorps is a pipeline to careers in public service and creates civic leaders who continue to serve in their communities long after their service has been completed.

[http://www.nationalservice.gov/pdf/08\\_0513\\_longstudy\\_report.pdf](http://www.nationalservice.gov/pdf/08_0513_longstudy_report.pdf)

## EDUCATION COMMISSION OF THE STATES

### **SCHOOL PRAYER, MOMENT OF SILENCE, OTHER POLICIES CONCERNING RELIGION. Education Commission of the States. Michael Colasanti. Web posted April 7, 2008. 08AD610**

Religion in public schools is generally analyzed through the lens of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The government is prohibited from establishing a religion or favoring specific religious expression, and controversies are typically analyzed by the courts using what is known as the “Lemon test”, established in the Supreme



Court case of Lemon vs. Kurtzman, 403 U.S. 602. This document examines, state by state, current legislation and practices with regard to public prayer in American schools.

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.ecs.org/clearinghouse/77/89/7789.pdf> [pdf format, 10 pages].

## EDUCATION SECTOR

**WAITING TO BE WON OVER: TEACHER SPEAK ON THE PROFESSION, UNIONS AND REFORM. Authors: Ann Duffett; Steve Farkas; Andrew J. Rotherham; Elena Silva. Education Sector Reports. May 6, 2008**

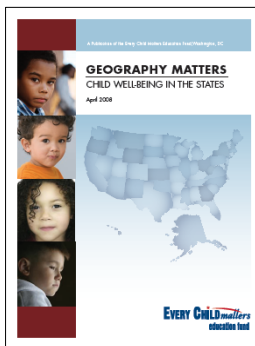


American public education is in the midst of intense change, and teachers, in particular, are facing pressure to produce better outcomes for students. As policymakers, teachers unions, and other stakeholders react to changing demands on the nation's public education system, there remains considerable debate about what teachers think and what they want. Too often assumptions define the conversation rather than actual evidence of teachers' views. In an effort to facilitate and inform this conversation, Education Sector and the FDR Group surveyed 1,010 K–12 public school teachers about their views on the teaching profession, teachers unions, and a host of reforms aimed at improving teacher quality.

[http://www.educationsector.org/usr\\_doc/WaitingToBeWonOver.pdf](http://www.educationsector.org/usr_doc/WaitingToBeWonOver.pdf)

## EVERY CHILD MATTERS EDUCATION FUND

**GEOGRAPHY MATTERS: CHILD WELL-BEING IN THE STATES. Every Child Matters Education Fund. Web posted May 7, 2008. 08AD720**



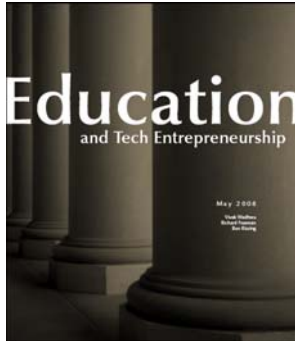
Across the United States, where a child is born and raised can make a large difference to their chances of getting and staying healthy and then surviving to adulthood, according to the study. Such inequalities affect all Americans, rich and poor alike, and weaken both our economy and our democracy.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.everychildmatters.org/homelandinsecurity/geomatters.pdf>  
[PDF format, 13 pages].

## EWING MARION KAUFFMAN FOUNDATION

### **EDUCATION AND TECH ENTREPRENEURSHIP. Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation. Vivek Wadhwa et al. May 2008. 08AD718**



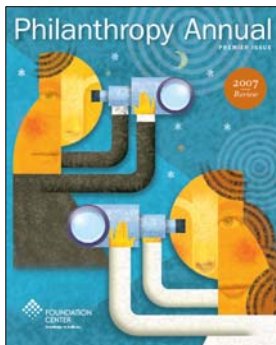
The popular image of American tech entrepreneurs is that they come from elite universities. Some graduate and start companies in their garages, while others drop out of college to start their business careers. The dot-com boom reinforced the image of technology CEOs being young and brash. But, even though Bill Gates and Steve Jobs founded two of the world's most successful companies, they are not representative of technology and engineering company founders. A larger proportion of tech founders are middle-aged, well- educated in business or technical disciplines, with degrees from a wide assortment of schools.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.kauffman.org/pdf/Education\\_Tech\\_Ent\\_042908.pdf](http://www.kauffman.org/pdf/Education_Tech_Ent_042908.pdf) [PDF format, 16 pages].

## FOUNDATION CENTER

### **PHILANTHROPY ANNUAL: 2007 REVIEW. Foundation Center. Web posted May 2, 2008. 08AD678**



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.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://foundationcenter.org/gainknowledge/philanthropy2007/philanthropyannual2007.pdf> [PDF format, 100 pages].

### **KEY FACTS ON CORPORATE FOUNDATION: OUTLOOK FOR CORPORATE FOUNDATION GIVING. Foundation Center. Web posted April 25, 2008. 08AD671**

Giving by corporate foundations increased 6.6 percent in 2007 to an estimated \$4.4 billion, according to Key Facts on Corporate Foundations, a new summary report released by the Foundation Center. Further, slightly more than half of corporate foundations surveyed expect their giving to increase in 2008. The report highlights the Foundation Center's latest research on the size, scope, and giving interests of the nation's nearly 2,600



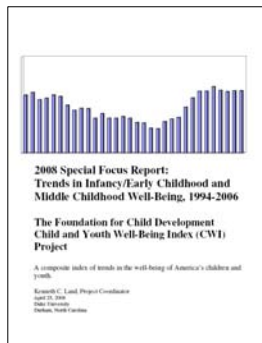
corporate foundations. The corporate foundation giving has nearly doubled since 1990, with education as the top priority of corporate foundations across regions, making up about one-quarter of grant dollars. The banking and finance sector accounted for the largest share of corporate foundation giving, at 23.3 percent, The Northeast and Midwest accounted for the largest shares of corporate foundation giving, coming in at 34 percent and 30 percent, respectively.

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

[http://foundationcenter.org/gainknowledge/research/pdf/keyfacts\\_corp\\_2008.pdf](http://foundationcenter.org/gainknowledge/research/pdf/keyfacts_corp_2008.pdf) [PDF format, 8 pages].

## FOUNDATION FOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT

### **TRENDS IN INFANCY/EARLY CHILDHOOD AND MIDDLE SCHOOL WELL-BEING, 1994-2008. The Foundation for Child Development. Kenneth C. Land. Web posted May 3, 2008. 08AD725**



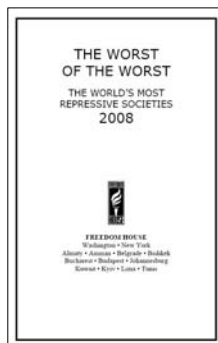
The study presents the first wide-ranging picture of how children in their first decade of life are faring the U.S. It comprehensively looks at the overall health, well-being, and quality of life of America's youngest children, from birth through eleven years old, using the Child Well-Being Index (CWI).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

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.fcd-us.org/usr\\_doc/EarlyChildhoodWell-BeingReport.pdf](http://www.fcd-us.org/usr_doc/EarlyChildhoodWell-BeingReport.pdf) [PDF format, 32 pages].

## FREEDOM HOUSE

### **WORST OF THE WORST: THE WORLD'S MOST REPRESSIVE SOCIETIES 2008. Freedom House. May 2008. 08AD705**

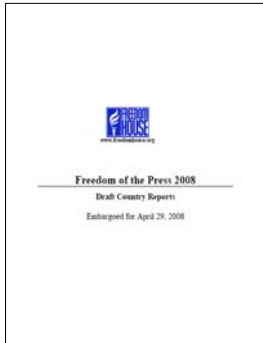


Worst of the Worst examines civil liberties and political rights in 17 countries and three territories. Increased corruption and controls on nongovernmental organizations placed Chad on a list of the world's most repressive societies for the first time. Chad replaced Côte d'Ivoire, which saw an improvement in its status after a 2007 peace agreement brought ruling party and rebel leaders into a coalition government. On the other hand, Chad's status declined as the government diverted oil revenues away from poverty alleviation toward security and sought to limit the activities of nongovernmental organizations, including the World Food Programme.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.freedomhouse.org/uploads/special\\_report/62.pdf](http://www.freedomhouse.org/uploads/special_report/62.pdf) [PDF format, 124 pages].

**FREEDOM OF THE PRESS 2008: DRAFT COUNTRY REPORTS. Freedom House. Web posted May 1, 2008. 08AD675**



According to the study, global press freedom underwent a decline in 2007, with journalists struggling to work in increasingly hostile environments in almost every region in the world. The decline continues a six-year negative trend. However, there was some improvement in the regions with the least amount of press freedom: the Middle East and North Africa. The study attributes the improvement to a growing number of journalists who were willing to challenge government restraints.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.freedomhouse.org/uploads/fop08/CountryReportsFOTP2008.pdf> [PDF format, 239 pages].

**TODAY'S AMERICAN: HOW FREE? Excerpts. Freedom House. May 2008.**

Today's American: How Free? examines whether Americans are sacrificing essential values in the war against terror, and scrutinizes other critical issues such as the political process, criminal justice system, racial inequality and immigration. Today's American: How Free? is the first time that Freedom House, best known for its annual survey of the state of freedom around the world, has produced a book-length report on an individual country.

<http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=384&key=44&parent=5&report=61>

**HARRIS INTERACTIVE**

**AMERICANS WHO ARE RELIGIOUS AND OLDER PEOPLE ARE HAPPIER. The Harris Poll® #46, April 22, 2008**

Only 35 Percent of Americans are Very Happy According to a New National "Happiness" Index

This spring, The Harris Poll® has asked Americans about nine areas in their lives that contribute to their overall happiness, and has created a National Happiness Index with the intention of tracking changes in happiness in the United States over time. This year's index stands at 35 (out of a possible 100).

Following are some of the findings of a Harris Poll of 2,513 adults surveyed online between March 11 and 18, 2008 by Harris Interactive®. This survey was conceived and developed by Harris Interactive and was not commissioned by any organization. Harris Interactive worked closely with MBA students at the Marriott School of Management at Brigham Young University in developing the survey questions and in the analysis of the results.

[http://www.harrisinteractive.com/harris\\_poll/index.asp?PID=900](http://www.harrisinteractive.com/harris_poll/index.asp?PID=900)

**FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT WHY AMERICANS WHO ARE MORE RELIGIOUS ARE HAPPIER. The Harris Poll® #47, April 23, 2008**

Also, Happy Americans are Less Frustrated at Work and Worry Less about Their Health

While Harris Poll #46 reported how happy certain groups of Americans are, Harris Poll #47 looks more into some possible reasons for this happiness, or lack of happiness. Religious people are significantly happier than the non-religious, worry less about their health, and find less frustration with their work. However, religion is not the only place where Americans experience a wide divide in their happiness. Higher education is correlated with higher happiness, older people are happier than younger, and people who rarely feel pressured to act unethically are happier than people who experience such pressures.

[http://www.harrisinteractive.com/harris\\_poll/index.asp?PID=901](http://www.harrisinteractive.com/harris_poll/index.asp?PID=901)

**HALF OF AMERICANS BELIEVE CELEBRITIES MAKE LITTLE OR NO POSITIVE DIFFERENCE ON ISSUES AND CAUSES THEY PROMOTE. The Harris Poll® #43, April 17, 2008**

Half of Americans also say Oprah Winfrey is the Most Effective Celebrity at Promoting a Cause

Whether it is Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt discussing the orphans in third world countries, Oprah's school for girls in Africa or Robert Redford's environmentalism, many celebrities are in the public eye supporting causes near and dear to them personally. The idea, presumably, is to use that celebrity status to garner even more attention to, or raise more money for, that cause or issue. But does it really make a difference? Americans are pretty divided on that as just over half (51%) say that these celebrities make little or no positive difference to the issue they are promoting while just under half (45%) say they make a large or some positive difference.

[http://www.harrisinteractive.com/harris\\_poll/index.asp?PID=897](http://www.harrisinteractive.com/harris_poll/index.asp?PID=897)

**OVER ONE-THIRD OF AMERICANS READ MORE THAN TEN BOOKS IN TYPICAL YEAR. Harris Interactive, HarrisPoll #37. April 8, 2008. 08AD616**

The practice of reading seems to be declining but Americans are still reading. According to this poll, only 9% of Americans typically read no books in an average year. Some 23% read one to three books per year; 19% read four to six, and 13% read seven to ten books per year. Over one-third, 37%, say they read more than ten books in an average year.

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.harrisinteractive.com/harris\\_poll/index.asp?PID=891](http://www.harrisinteractive.com/harris_poll/index.asp?PID=891)



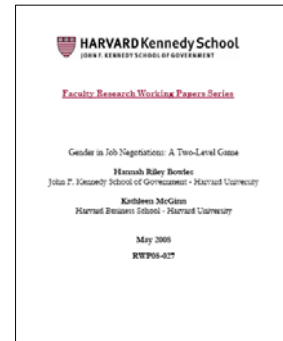
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**HARVARD UNIVERSITY, JOHN F. KENNEDY SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT**

**GENDER IN JOB NEGOTIATIONS: A TWO-LEVEL GAME. By Hannah Riley Bowles and Kathleen McGinn. Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government. Working Paper Number:RWP08-027. Submitted: 05/09/2008**

We propose a two-level-game (Putnam, 1988) perspective on gender in job negotiations. At Level 1, candidates negotiate with the employers. At Level 2, candidates negotiate with domestic partners. In order to illuminate the interplay between these two levels, we review literature from two separate bodies of literature. Research in psychology and organizational behavior on candidate-employer negotiations sheds light on the effects of gender on Level 1 negotiations. Research from economics and sociology on intra-household bargaining elucidates how negotiations over the allocation of domestic labor at Level 2 influence labor force participation at Level 1. In conclusion, we integrate practical implications from these two bodies of literature to propose a set of prescriptive suggestions for candidates to approach job negotiations as a two-level game and to minimize disadvantageous effects of gender on job negotiation outcomes.

[http://ksgnotes1.harvard.edu/Research/wpaper.nsf/rwp/RWP08-027/\\$File/rwp\\_08\\_027\\_bowles.pdf](http://ksgnotes1.harvard.edu/Research/wpaper.nsf/rwp/RWP08-027/$File/rwp_08_027_bowles.pdf)



**CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY THROUGH AN ECONOMIC LENS. By Robert Stavins, Forest Reinhardt and Richard Vietor. John F. Kennedy School of Government. Working Paper Number:RWP08-023. Submitted: 04/20/2008**

Business leaders, government officials, and academics are focusing considerable attention on the concept of “corporate social responsibility” (CSR), particularly in the realm of environmental protection. Beyond complete compliance with environmental regulations, do firms have additional moral or social responsibilities to commit resources to environmental protection? How should we think about the notion of firms sacrificing profits in the social interest? May they do so within the scope of their fiduciary responsibilities to their shareholders? Can they do so on a sustainable basis, or will the forces of a competitive marketplace render such efforts and their impacts transient at best? Do firms, in fact, frequently or at least sometimes behave this way, reducing their earnings by voluntarily engaging in environmental stewardship? And finally, should firms carry out such profitsacrificing activities (i.e., is this an efficient use of social resources)? We address these questions through the lens of economics, including insights from legal analysis and business scholarship.

[http://ksgnotes1.harvard.edu/Research/wpaper.nsf/rwp/RWP08-023/\\$File/rwp\\_08\\_023\\_stavins.pdf](http://ksgnotes1.harvard.edu/Research/wpaper.nsf/rwp/RWP08-023/$File/rwp_08_023_stavins.pdf)

**ESTIMATING THE IMPACT OF THE HAJJ: RELIGION AND TOLERANCE IN ISLAM'S GLOBAL GATHERING. Harvard Kennedy School, Harvard University. David Clingsmith et al. April 2008. 08AD639**

The 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 paper finds that 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.

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

<http://ksgnotes1.harvard.edu/Research/wpaper.nsf/rwp/RWP08-022>

Or:

<http://www.upenn.edu/provost/idw/KremerAbs.pdf>

**HERITAGE FOUNDATION**

**CUBA SOLIDARITY DAY 2008: REMEMBERING OUR TOTALITARIAN NEIGHBOR. By Ray Walser. Heritage Foundation. WebMemo #1928. May 20, 2008**



May 21 is Cuba Solidarity Day. The day seeks to remind Americans that 90 miles away from the United States is an island nation controlled by a government that remains by all objective definitions a Communist, totalitarian regime.

In the globalizing, market-based world and more democratic hemisphere of 2008, Cuba is governed by a Communist one-party regime installed in 1959. At the helm is an ailing Fidel Castro, his 75-year-old brother Raul Castro, now officially head of state, and a handful of hardened Communists—an elite whose authority is limited only by the meager resources of the country's

obsolete economy. In Cuba's Orwellian dystopia, control over all aspects of political, economic, legal, artistic, educational, and cultural life remains in the hands of Communist officials.

[http://www.heritage.org/Research/LatinAmerica/upload/wm\\_1928.pdf](http://www.heritage.org/Research/LatinAmerica/upload/wm_1928.pdf)

**SCHIP: THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION'S EFFORT TO PRESERVE CHILDREN'S PRIVATE HEALTH COVERAGE. By Nina Owcharenko. Heritage Foundtion. WebMemo #1933 May 20, 2008**

In August of 2007, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid released a directive on the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). The directive keeps the program focused on its core population—low-income uninsured children—and pays particular attention to the impact that SCHIP expansions have on existing private coverage.



The SCHIP statute describes the purpose of the program as assisting uninsured low-income children. Although there is some disagreement over its interpretation, the statute defines "low-income" children as those children whose family income is at or below 200 percent of the poverty line. In an effort to keep the program focused on uninsured children, the statute also includes provisions to ensure that the program does not substitute for coverage under a group health plan and to inform parents, through outreach efforts, of the possible availability of private coverage.  
<http://www.heritage.org/Research/HealthCare/wm1933.cfm>

**'SUNSHINE' SHOULD NOT TRUMP PRIVACY IN CIVIL LITIGATION. By Andrew M. Grossman. Heritage Foundation. Legal Memorandum #24. 15 May 2008**

The Sunshine in Litigation Act would limit judges' discretion to approve and enforce litigants' confidentiality agreements. In many cases, discovery would grind to a halt as parties, unable to rely on broad protective orders, would be forced to challenge far more requests for evidence. Plaintiffs especially would lose out. Without the ability to offer confidentiality, they could expect to see smaller settlements, higher litigation costs, and even the disclosure of their own personal information.

[http://www.heritage.org/Research/LegalIssues/upload/lm\\_24.pdf](http://www.heritage.org/Research/LegalIssues/upload/lm_24.pdf)



**FEDERAL FUNDS AND STATE FISCAL INDEPENDENCE. By Sven R. Larson, Ph.D. Heritage Foundation. Backgrounder #2136. 15 May 2008**

If the present trend in federal aid to states continues, federally sponsored programs will soon eclipse state budgets and turn the federal government into the single largest revenue source for states. Federal aid to states blurs lines of government accountability to voters and erodes state fiscal independence, limiting states' ability to implement innovative fiscal policies and meet state priorities effectively.

[http://www.heritage.org/Research/Budget/upload/bg\\_2136.pdf](http://www.heritage.org/Research/Budget/upload/bg_2136.pdf)

**IMPROVING EDUCATION IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL: EXPANDING SCHOOL CHOICE. By Dan Lips and Evan Feinberg. Heritage Foundation. Backgrounder #2137. 14 May 2008**

Over the past decade, the District of Columbia has made strides in offering families greater choice about which schools their children attend, thanks to a strong charter school law and the federally funded D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program. District leaders and Members of Congress should implement policies to give all District families the opportunity to choose good schools for their children.

[http://www.heritage.org/Research/Education/upload/bg\\_2137.pdf](http://www.heritage.org/Research/Education/upload/bg_2137.pdf)

**PRIVATE FAITH, BIG GOVERNMENT: UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT OF MARGINALIZING RELIGION. Heritage Foundation; Heritage Backgrounder #2123 . Ryan Messmore. April 15, 2008. 08AD631**



Traditionally, religious congregations in America have served as important social institutions for providing for those who are in need but an increasing division between “public” and “private” spheres of life has relegated religion to a reduced social role. Together, these trends narrow the focus of religion and open the door for government to present itself as the primary authority for meeting material and social needs. A more comprehensive, robust conception of religion is important for safeguarding the constitutional freedom of people not just to believe or profess doctrines, but to “exercise” faith in public. Such understanding is also important for legally protecting religious communities that can provide a sense of mutual responsibility and

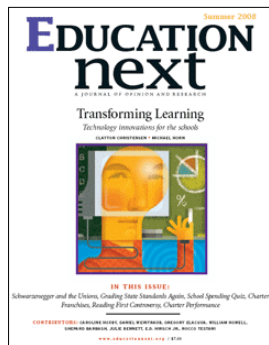
community belonging — key factors in meeting people’s needs and preventing unhealthy dependence upon the government.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://www.heritage.org/Research/LatinAmerica/upload/bg\\_2123.pdf](http://www.heritage.org/Research/LatinAmerica/upload/bg_2123.pdf)

**HOOVER INSTITUTION, STANFORD UNIVERSITY**

**EDUCATION NEXT. Summer 2008 (vol. 8, no. 3) Hoover Institution, Stanford University**



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

From the contents of the current issue:

- How Do We Transform Our Schools? by Clayton Christensen, Michael Horn
- Brand-Name Charters by Julie Bennett
- Accountability Left Behind by Rocco Testani, Joshua Mayes

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

**INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF LABOR**

**DOES MORE MEAN BETTER? SIBLING SEX COMPOSITION AND THE LINK BETWEEN FAMILY SIZE AND CHILDREN’S QUALITY. Javier E. Baez. Institute for the Study of Labor. Web posted May 9, 2008. 08AD700**

The conclusion from Colombia data suggests that family size has negative effects on average child quality. Children from larger families have almost one year less of education. They are less likely to enroll in school and about



twice as likely to be held back in school. They are also more likely to be physically or psychologically affected by domestic violence within the household. The oldest children are more likely to engage in labor activities or domestic chores. Even though the findings are results of data from Colombia, they reflect possible effects of fertility on economic circumstance of people in countries with similar constraints.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://ftp.iza.org/dp3472.pdf> [PDF format, 42 pages].

**NEVER THE SAME AFTER THE FIRST TIME: THE SATISFACTION OF THE SECOND-GENERATION SELF-EMPLOYED. Institute for the Study of Labor. Andrew Clark et al. Web posted May 4, 2008. 08AD685**



The paper contributes 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. Then the authors considered the differences between the first- and second-generation self-employed. The first-generation self-employed are more satisfied overall than are the second-generation self-employed.

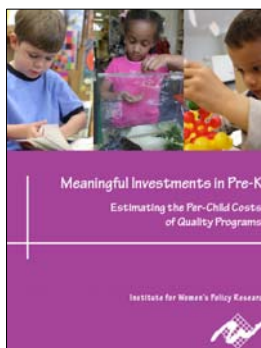
[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

<http://ftp.iza.org/dp3476.pdf> [PDF format, 26 pages].

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

**MEANINGFUL INVESTMENTS IN PRE-K: ESTIMATING THE PER-CHILD COSTS OF QUALITY PROGRAMS. Report by Dr. Barbara Gault, Anne W. Mitchell, and Erica Williams. IWPR. May 2008**



The report examines the costs associated with improvements to teacher education (and pay) and class-size, two major components of pre-k that have a large impact on child outcomes. By these criteria, three of the largest states in the country – California, Florida, and Texas – have poor quality pre-k programs.

"We needed to look at the numbers behind quality early education because, as research reveals, quality is key to effectiveness and requires substantial investments," said Barbara Gault, vice president and director of research at the Institute for Women's Policy Research. "Our data will inform the

ongoing national conversation among policymakers about what it means to ensure that children enter school ready to learn and succeed."

<http://www.iwpr.org/pdf/G718preknow.pdf>

**WOMEN AT GREATER RISK OF ECONOMIC INSECURITY: A GENDER ANALYSIS OF THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION'S AMERICAN WORKER SURVEY. Report by Dr. Vicky Lovell, Dr. Heidi Hartmann, and Claudia Williams May 2008**

As America's economy gets worse, women will get the worst of it, according to a new report issued in New York today by the Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR) through a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation.

"Whether the issue is retirement savings, or feeding your children or paying for medicine, women are more worried about economic security than men," noted Rockefeller Foundation Associate Director Margot Brandenburg. "And single moms are the hardest hit."

<http://www.iwpr.org/pdf/D482AWSReport.pdf>



**NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DISABILITY (NCD)**

**FINDING THE GAPS: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF DISABILITY LAWS IN THE UNITED STATES TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (CRPD). John R. Vaughn, Chairperson. National Council on Disability. May 12, 2008**

The purpose of this paper is to help the National Council on Disability (NCD), and others, better understand how the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, if ratified by the United States, might impact U.S. disability laws by examining the degree to which U.S. law is consistent with the CRPD. The paper endeavors to analyze the issue in the way a treaty monitoring body would - to see if any area within federal law contravenes the Convention and/or whether there are gaps where legislation or practice might be introduced or reformed to ensure compliance.

[http://www.ncd.gov/newsroom/publications/2008/doc/ncd\\_crpd\\_analysis.doc](http://www.ncd.gov/newsroom/publications/2008/doc/ncd_crpd_analysis.doc)

**PEW**

**EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC MOBILITY. Grawe, Nathan. Pew Charitable Trusts, American Enterprise Institute, Brookings Institution, Economic Mobility Project, Heritage Foundation, Urban Institute. April 2008**

Surveys the literature on how education affects intergenerational mobility. Discusses the impacts of parents' education, financial resources, GED and job training programs, K-12 quality improvements, and early childhood education and intervention.

[http://www.economicmobility.org/assets/pdfs/EMP\\_LitReview\\_Education.pdf](http://www.economicmobility.org/assets/pdfs/EMP_LitReview_Education.pdf)



**BACK TO PAPER: A CASE STUDY. Pew Center on the States; electionline.org briefing. Web posted April 15, 2008. 08AD626**

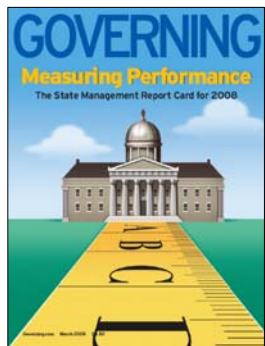


Six years and millions of dollars into a major overhaul of the U.S. election system, a number of states are contemplating returning to paper-based voting systems after failed or troubled experiments with newer voting technology. Electronic voting machines were considered the ideal solution to the problems of punch-card voting shortly after the troubled 2000 election. Direct-recording electronic (DRE) machines offer accessibility for people with disabilities, prevent over-voting, and eliminate the subjectivity of paper-based balloting. But DREs also began to raise questions shortly after their deployment in major battleground states, including Florida, Ohio and California as well as in Colorado and New Mexico. These questions, along with problems at the polls, prompted decisions to scrap the recently purchased machines.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.pewcenteronthestates.org/uploadedFiles/EB21Brief.pdf> [pdf format, 24 pages]

**GRADING THE STATES '08: THE MANDATE TO MEASURE. Pew Center on the States; Government Performance. Originally posted March 3, 2008. 08AD629**



Information is king. No single idea emerges more clearly from year-long research done for the 2008 Government Performance Project. As always, this report focuses on four fundamental areas of government management: Information, People, Money and Infrastructure. But this year, the elements that make up the information category —planning, goal-setting, measuring performance, disseminating data and evaluating progress — overlap with the other three fields to a greater degree than ever before. Information elements, in short, are key to how a state takes care of its infrastructure, plans for its financial future and deals with the dramatic changes affecting the state workforce.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.pewcenteronthestates.org/uploadedFiles/Grading-the-States-2008.pdf> [pdf format, 61 pages]

**PUBLIC AGENDA**

**LESSONS LEARNED: NEW TEACHERS TALK ABOUT THEIR JOBS, CHALLENGES AND LONG-RANGE PLANS: Issue No. 3 Teaching in Changing Times: Diverse Classrooms Challenge New Teachers' Skills. By Jonathan Rochkind, Amber Ott, John Immerwahr, John Doble and Jean Johnson. May 2008**

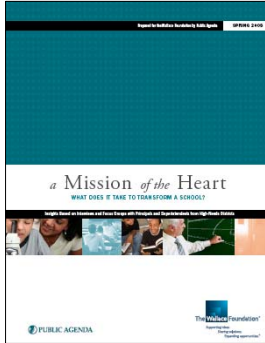
This report, third in the Lessons Learned series, is based on a nationwide survey of first-year teachers. Questionnaire design and analysis in



cooperation with REL-Midwest.

[http://www.publicagenda.org/lessonslearned3/pdfs/lessons\\_learned\\_3.pdf](http://www.publicagenda.org/lessonslearned3/pdfs/lessons_learned_3.pdf)

**A MISSION OF THE HEART: What does it take to transform a school? Jean Johnson, Jonathan Rochkind and John Doble. Public Agenda. Spring 2008.**



What does it really take to transform a troubled school into one where students thrive? What do principals actually do during the school day? What traits and skills do they consider essential to turning a struggling school around?

Prepared for The Wallace Foundation by Public Agenda, "A Mission of the Heart: Leaders in High-Needs Districts Talk about What It Takes to Transform a School" attempts to understand the best ways to recruit and sustain top leaders in high-needs schools. The study is based on in-depth focus groups with principals in high-needs districts and sixteen one-on-one interviews with superintendents and other high-ranking education officials,

including a state superintendent of education.

<http://www.publicagenda.org/research/pdfs/missionheart.pdf>

## RAND

**THE ECONOMICS OF EARLY CHILDHOOD POLICY: WHAT THE DISMAL SCIENCE HAS TO SAY ABOUT INVESTING IN CHILDREN. By: M. Rebecca Kilburn, Lynn A. Karoly. Occasional Paper. RAND. May 2008.**



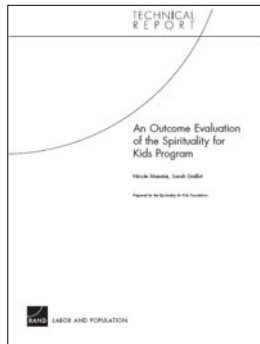
Scientific discoveries over the past two decades have transformed the way in which researchers, policymakers, and the public think about early childhood. For example, recent research in brain science has provided a biological basis for prevailing theories about early child development, and cost-benefit analysis has reoriented some of the discussion about early childhood toward prevention programs. Several recent reports have been particularly helpful in translating research findings into practical information that improves policy. This paper summarizes the contributions from the field of economics, which has played an increasingly prominent role in recent discussions about early childhood policy. The insights from economics also have broader

implications for social programs focused on prevention, especially during childhood, rather than later-in-life remediation. This research will be of value to individuals who are interested in early childhood policy, including decisionmakers in the public and private sectors, service providers, and the public more generally.

[http://rand.org/pubs/occasional\\_papers/2008/RAND\\_OP227.pdf](http://rand.org/pubs/occasional_papers/2008/RAND_OP227.pdf)



**AN OUTCOME EVALUATION OF THE SPIRITUALITY FOR KIDS PROGRAM. Rand Corporation. May 2008. 08AD724**



The report presents results from a multi site, quantitative evaluation of the international Spirituality for Kids (SFK), a nonreligious, after-school program. The SFK program focuses on spiritual development, with emphasis on outcomes related to resilience rather than academics. The authors found that the program had beneficial effects on adaptive skills, behavioral problems, and school problems. In addition, the program positively affected school-related outcomes, even though it is not an academic intervention. A major strength of the program appears to be its careful attention to uniformity of program delivery, the standardized curriculum, the use of experienced teachers, and formal teacher-training program.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://rand.org/pubs/technical\\_reports/2008/RAND\\_TR575.pdf](http://rand.org/pubs/technical_reports/2008/RAND_TR575.pdf) [PDF format, 71 pages].

**IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW CURRICULUM ARRANGEMENTS FOR 14-19 YEAR OLDS; INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS. By: Cathleen Stasz, Jack Clift, Jennifer Rubin. Technical Report. RAND. May 2008.**



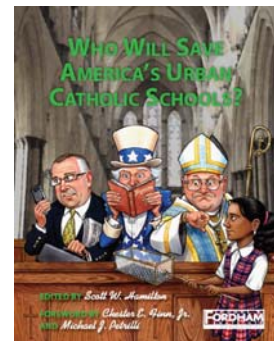
This report, which was commissioned by the National Audit Office (NAO) in the United Kingdom, presents results of a comparative study investigating the implementation of education programmes for 14-19 year olds in three countries: The Netherlands, Sweden, and Australia. The main purpose of the study is to identify lessons that could lead to improvements in implementation and delivery of the new 14-19 Diplomas programme. In particular, the study focuses on two aspects of Diploma implementation: local delivery partnerships and employer involvement. The case study reports provide a general overview of each country's secondary education system; processes for implementation and delivery of qualifications; the nature and level of employer involvement; and comparative lessons. In addition, an overarching analysis, which is presented in the final chapter, draws out the principal themes of the comparison between the case studies and aims to identify lessons for 14-19 Diplomas.

[http://rand.org/pubs/technical\\_reports/2008/RAND\\_TR529.pdf](http://rand.org/pubs/technical_reports/2008/RAND_TR529.pdf)

**THOMAS B. FORDHAM INSTITUTE**

**WHO WILL SAVE AMERICA'S URBAN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS? Thomas B. Fordham Institute. Scott W. Hamilton, Ed., April 10, 2008. 08AD634**

Over 1,300 Catholic parochial schools in the United States have shut down since 1990, mostly in large cities. As a result, some 300,000 students have been forced to attend other public, private, or parochial schools. The cost to taxpayers has been more than \$20 billion to accommodate the additional



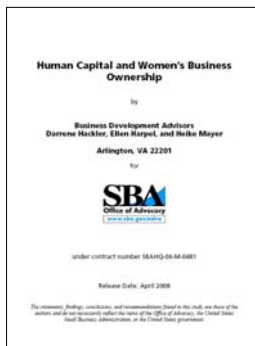
students that public schools have had to absorb. This report examines the decline over time and makes several recommendations for reversing the decline.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://www.edexcellence.net/doc/catholic\\_schools\\_08.pdf](http://www.edexcellence.net/doc/catholic_schools_08.pdf) [pdf format, 122 pages]

## UNITED STATES SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

### **HUMAN CAPITAL AND WOMEN'S BUSINESS OWNERSHIP. U.S. Small Business Administration. Darrene Hackler et al. Web posted April 28, 2008. 08AD691**



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.

<http://www.sba.gov/advo/research/rs323tot.pdf> [PDF format, 75 pages].

## VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY

### **DIFFERENTIATING CHURCH AND STATE (WITHOUT LOSING THE CHURCH). Villanova University Legal Working Paper Series. Patrick McKinley Brennan. Web posted May 6, 2008. 08AD717**

There is an ongoing debate about whether the U.S. Constitution includes a principle of “church autonomy.” Catholic doctrine and political theology, by contrast, clearly articulated a principle of “libertas ecclesiae,” liberty of the church. This article explores the meaning and origin of the doctrine of the libertas ecclesiae and the proper relationship among churches, civil society, and government.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

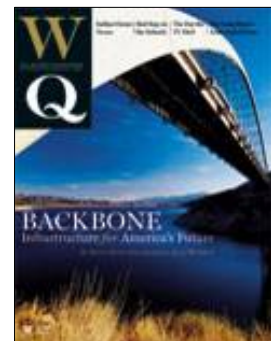
<http://law.bepress.com/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1116&context=villanovalwps> [PDF format, 35 pages].

## WOODROW WILSON INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR SCHOLARS

### **WQ THE WILSON QUARTERLY. Spring 2008**

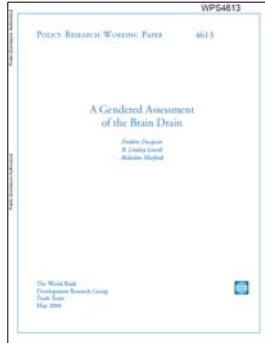
- Backbone: Infrastructure for America's Future
- Bad Rap on the Schools
- Indian Ocean Nexus
- The Day the TV Died

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



## WORLD BANK

### **A GENDERED ASSESSMENT OF THE BRAIN DRAIN. Policy Research Working Paper, World Bank. Frederic Docquier et al. May 2008. 08AD699**



The authors use homogenized definitions of what a migrant is and compute gender-disaggregated indicators of the brain drain. Emigration stocks and rates are provided by level of education and gender for 195 countries in 1990 and 2000. The data set is used to capture the recent trend in women's skilled migration and to analyze its causes and consequences for developing countries. The findings show that women represent an increasing share of the OECD immigration stock and exhibit higher rates of brain drain than men. The gender gap in skilled migration is strongly correlated with the gender gap in educational level.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www->

[wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/IW3P/IB/2008/05/06/000158349\\_20080506085333/Rendered/PDF/wps4613.pdf](http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/IW3P/IB/2008/05/06/000158349_20080506085333/Rendered/PDF/wps4613.pdf) [PDF format, 34 pages].

## ARTICLES FROM U.S. JOURNALS

### **THE VERDICT ON JURIES. Hans, Valerie; Vidmar, Neil. *Judicature* vol. 91, no. 5, March-April 2008, pp. 226-230 AA08131**

Summary: 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, 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. Citizen participation in legal decision-making has positive carryover effects. After serving on a jury, jurors are more likely to vote than the rest of the population. Former Soviet republics and other countries are introducing or reintroducing the jury into their legal systems. Currently available online at [http://www.ajs.org/ajs/publications/Judicature\\_PDFs/915/Hans\\_915.pdf](http://www.ajs.org/ajs/publications/Judicature_PDFs/915/Hans_915.pdf)

### **THE PHRASELATOR II: A HIGH-TECH MILITARY DEVICE IS HELPING TO PRESERVE THE TRIBAL LANGUAGES OF AMERICAN INDIANS. Capriccioso, Rob. *American*. October 9, 2007 AA08145**

Summary: 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. Currently available online at <http://www.american.com/archive/2007/october-10-07/the-phraselator-ii>

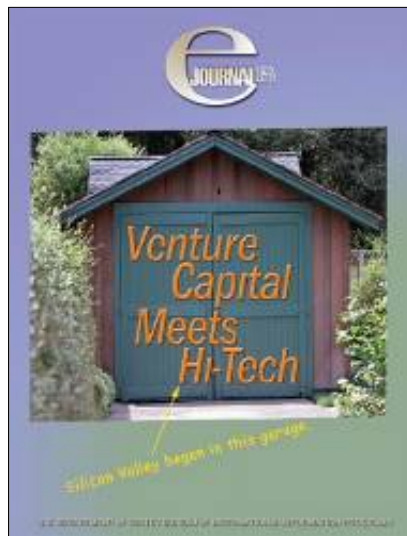
**THE FIRST 21ST-CENTURY CAMPAIGN. Brownstein, Ronald. *National Journal* vol. 40, no. 16, April 19, 2008 AA08109**

Summary: 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. Brownstein says “this transformation may be changing the model of what it takes to succeed in presidential politics.” 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. The Democratic candidates’ capacity to raise money, ability to communicate with supporters at a low cost and capacity of supporters to communicate with like-minded people independently of the campaign has demonstrated the strengths of this new style of campaigning. Brownstein’s article provides numerous examples of both Barack Obama’s and Hillary Clinton’s successful campaign techniques. Currently available online at [http://www.nationaljournal.com/njmagazine/cs\\_20080416\\_3324.php](http://www.nationaljournal.com/njmagazine/cs_20080416_3324.php)

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

<http://www.america.gov/>

### **VENTURE CAPITAL MEETS HI-TECH. An Electronic Journal of the U.S. Department of State, Volume 13, Number 5. May 2008**



This eJournal 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. How investors match their funds to (hopefully) winning ideas is a big part of the start-up story.

<http://www.america.gov/publications/ejournalusa/0508.html>

Or:

<http://www.america.gov/media/pdf/ejs/0508.pdf>

### **THE OLYMPIC EXPERIENCE. An Electronic Journal of the U.S. Department of State, Volume 13, Number 5. April 2008**

The Olympic Games remind us of certain universal human values. Every Olympian has a story that echoes the shared human struggle for excellence and our devotion to pursue purpose in life. In this issue of eJournal USA, we celebrate the Olympics through the individual experiences and insights of athletes who share their memories of the Olympic Experience.

<http://www.america.gov/publications/ejournalusa.html#0408>

Or:

<http://www.america.gov/media/pdf/ejs/0408.pdf>



**STEICHEN: A LEGEND WHO REIMAGINED PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHY; New exhibition explores photographer's artistry and lasting influence. By Lauren Monsen, Staff Writer. 14 May 2008**

Washington -- Of all the innovators who helped propel photography to its hard-won status as a fine-arts medium in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, probably none has been as widely praised, as harshly criticized or as influential as photographer Edward Steichen (1879-1973).

Edward Steichen's 1930 portrait of actress Anna May Wong has an Art Deco flair.  
(© Joanna T. Steichen)



A new exhibition, Edward Steichen: Portraits, at the National Portrait Gallery in Washington reveals how Steichen's aesthetic evolved from the romanticized vision of his early years into an urbane and stylized -- yet intimate -- perspective. Although he began his photographic career by experimenting with a soft-focus "pictorialist" technique that yielded impressionistic, gauzy images, he soon adopted the linear, modernist approach that became his signature.

<http://www.america.gov/st/arts-english/2008/May/20080513163837GLnesnoM0.5364344.html?CP.rss=true>

**POETIC THEATER ENSEMBLE ENTHRALLS AUDIENCES ON SIX-NATION TOUR; For "Universes" quartet, travel offers illuminating cultural exchange. By Lauren Monsen Staff Writer. 25 April 2008**



Washington -- What happens when a New York-based poetic theater ensemble, whose unique brand of fusion art combines elements of hip-hop, blues, jazz, gospel and Spanish bolero, brings its act to six nations as disparate as Morocco, Tunisia, Turkey, Romania, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom?

The members of Universes are William "Ninja" Ruiz, Mildred Ruiz, Gamal Abdel-Chasten and Steven Sapp. (© H.N. Hershey)

According to members of the ensemble -- a quartet that calls itself Universes -- the result is a richly rewarding cultural exchange that highlights the power of music to bridge differences among people who might otherwise be separated by language, custom and national boundaries.

<http://www.america.gov/st/arts-english/2008/April/20080424171946GLnesnoM0.9658167.html>

**IRANIAN PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT SHOWS AMERICANS A PERSONAL IRAN;  
Persian Visions: Contemporary Photography From Iran tours 11 U.S. cities. By Elizabeth  
Kelleher, USINFO Staff Writer. 16 April 2007**



College Park, Maryland -- The first major exhibition of contemporary Iranian photography in the United States emphasizes the interior life of individuals and families in Iran over journalism or documentary-type photography.

Koroush Adim's "Revelations2" is one of several photographs in which the chador is patterned, not black, and associated with personal space. (Photo courtesy of the Art Gallery, University of Maryland)

Co-curators Hamid Severi, of the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, Iran, and Gary Hallman, of the Regis Center for Art at the University of Minnesota, chose photos to show American audiences that, although Iran is awash in photojournalism, its photographers also have a modern, artistic sensibility, Hallman told USINFO.

<http://www.america.gov/st/washfile-english/2007/April/20070416130947berehellek0.7617151.html>

**SPORTS FILMS CELEBRATE AMERICAN BRAND OF PERSEVERANCE; Inspiring  
movies assert that nice guys really can finish first. By Yvette Ridenour, Special  
Correspondent. 14 April 2008**



Washington -- Like a crucible, sports turns up the heat under its participants to burn off the dross -- not only of their athletic imperfections, but often of their character. For many years, American sports films have focused on the never-say-die spirit that emerges from the competitive fires as pure gold.

Baseball icon Jackie Robinson starred as himself in the 1950 biographical film *The Jackie Robinson Story*. (© AP Images)

One classic example is *Pride of the Yankees*, the 1942 film biography of baseball's legendary first baseman "Iron Horse" Lou Gehrig, whose Hall of Fame career was cut short by a debilitating -- and fatal -- nerve disease. Starring Gary Cooper, the film features Gehrig's real-life New York Yankees teammates, including Babe Ruth. Gehrig says, in his well-known farewell speech at Yankee Stadium, "Today, I consider myself the luckiest man on the face of the earth." The movie suggests that Gehrig's bravery in the face of approaching death -- his conclusion, in effect, that "I might have been given a bad break, but I have an awful lot to live for" -- is the stuff of which true American heroes are made.

<http://www.america.gov/st/arts-english/2008/April/20080414142050GLnesnoM0.1699945.html?CP.rss=true>

**NO JOKE! STAND-UP COMEDIANS BATTLE INTOLERANCE; Multicultural comics share stage to promote religious harmony. By Ralph Dannheisser, Special Correspondent. 06 May 2008**



Washington -- A Muslim, a Christian, a Jew, a Hindu and a Sikh walk into a hotel ballroom.

The opening line of a joke?

Comedian Rajiv Satyal hosts the Bollywood Music and Fashion Awards in Atlantic City, New Jersey, in November 2007. (© AP Images)

No, but in this case it was the start of a full evening of stand-up comedy aimed -- its creators say -- at easing religious tensions through laughter “and a healthy dose of political incorrectness.”

Titled “Make Chai, Not War,” the event was the brainchild of two Indian-American comics, Azhar Usman and Rajiv Satyal. It grew out of a two-man comedy show previously mounted by the Muslim Usman and Hindu Satyal.

<http://www.america.gov/st/diversity-english/2008/May/20080505181105zjsredna0.4241297.html>