



**AMERICAN INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER**  
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**WHAT'S NEW**  
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<b>Electronic Journals – all e-journals</b>	<b>IIP Publications – all publications</b>
	<p><b>Sixty Years: Celebrating the Universal Declaration of Human Rights</b></p> <p>This issue of eJournal USA celebrates the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It explores the document's origins, sites it within humanity's common intellectual heritage, and explains how it has bettered the lives of individuals in every corner of the globe.</p>
<p><b>Ask America</b></p> <p>Ask America allow foreign audiences to interact with American citizens on wide range of topics using a chat tool over the Internet. U.S. government and private sector subject experts, academics, journalists, and everyday citizens are brought on as guests to do webchats on USINFO. You may visit the <a href="#">Ask America HomePage</a> to see upcoming ones, and read the transcripts of the previous webchats.</p>	<p><b>Podcasts</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.america.gov/multimedia/podcasts.html">http://www.america.gov/multimedia/podcasts.html</a></p> <p>Audio files and transcripts from America.gov</p>
<p><b>Videos</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.america.gov/multimedia/video.html?videoid=1498976413">http://www.america.gov/multimedia/video.html?videoid=1498976413</a></p> <p>Video files on foreign policy, U.S. politics, American life, democracy, science and health.</p>	<p><b>Blogs</b></p> <p><a href="http://blogs.america.gov/">http://blogs.america.gov/</a></p> <p>Blogs at America.gov offers readers a place to discuss designated topics with experts from the United States and around the world, and to share their comments and reactions with the broader Internet public.</p>

## SIGNIFICANT E-DOCUMENTS

ATMOSPHERIC BROWN CLOUDS: REGIONAL ASSESSMENT REPORT WITH FOCUS ON ASIA. United Nations Environment Programme. November 13, 2008.

According to the study, cities from Beijing to New Delhi are getting darker, glaciers in ranges like the Himalayas are melting faster and weather systems becoming more extreme, in part, due to the combined effects of man-made Atmospheric Brown Clouds (ABCs) and greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. These are among the conclusions of scientists studying a more than three km-thick layer of soot and other manmade particles that stretches from the Arabian Peninsula to China and the western Pacific Ocean.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.unep.org/pdf/ABCSummaryFinal.pdf> [PDF format, 44 pages].

CALL TO ACTION: HEALTH REFORM 2009. Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus (D-Mont.). Web posted November 15, 2008.

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus (D-Mont.) unveils his "Call to Action" for health care reform in 2009, outlining a path to quality, affordable health care for all Americans. The Baucus "white paper" details specific policy options for consideration by the 111th Congress. The main objectives of the Baucus plan are to achieve universal coverage, reduce health care costs and improve the quality of care our system provides. Baucus also suggests potential savings and efficiencies that can be found in a remade health care system to reduce the cost of reform. <http://www.finance.senate.gov/healthreform2009/finalwhitepaper.pdf> [PDF format, 98 pages].

COMMODITIES MARKET SPECULATION: THE RISK TO FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE. Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy. Web posted November 19, 2008.

According to the report, excessive speculation in agriculture commodity markets has played a major role in the rapid rise and fall in global food prices, contributing to a massive increase in undernourished people and commodity market instability. The United Nations concludes that global food prices rose an estimated 85 percent between April 2007 and April 2008. Prices rose for wheat (60 percent), corn (30 percent) and soybeans (40 percent) beyond what could be explained by supply, demand and other fundamental factors. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.iatp.org/iatp/publications.cfm?accountID=451&refID=104414> [PDF format, 15 pages].

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND SERVICE-LEARNING IN AMERICA'S SCHOOLS. Corporation for National & Community Service. Kimberley Spring and et al. November 2008.

The report shows that community service in America's schools has reached a new peak, with 68 percent of all K-12 schools offering or recognizing service opportunities for their students. It finds that the prevalence of community service has risen in K-12 schools, up from 64 percent from a similar study conducted in 1999. High schools are especially supportive of community service, with a whopping 86 percent of high schools recognizing student service, up from 83 percent in 1999. While school-based community-service has remained robust, the percentage of schools with service-learning declined from 32 percent in 1999 to 24 percent in 2008. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.nationalservice.gov/pdf/08\\_1112\\_lsa\\_prevalence.pdf](http://www.nationalservice.gov/pdf/08_1112_lsa_prevalence.pdf) [PDF format, 44 pages].

A DECADE OF BROKEN PROMISES: THE 1998 STATE TOBACCO SETTLEMENT TEN YEARS LATER. Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. November 18, 2008.

Ten years after reaching more than \$246 billion in legal settlements against the tobacco industry, the states have failed to keep their promise to spend a significant portion of the money on programs to protect kids from tobacco and help smokers quit, according to the report. [Note:

contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.tobaccofreekids.org/reports/settlements/2009/fullreport.pdf> [PDF format, 142 pages].

DECLARATION OF THE SUMMIT ON FINANCIAL MARKETS AND THE WORLD ECONOMY. White House. November 15, 2008.

Since the outbreak of the financial crisis, the world's leading nations have coordinated actions more closely than ever before. In large part to these decisive measures, once frozen global credit markets are beginning to thaw and businesses, around the world, are gaining access to essential short-term financing. No single nation will be able to fix this crisis, but with continued cooperation and determination, it will be solved with commitment to reform financial sectors and maintain free and open markets.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2008/11/20081115-1.html> [HTML format, various paging].

DO FOUNDATION GIVING PRIORITIES CHANGE IN TIMES OF ECONOMIC DISTRESS?

Foundation Center. Steven Lawrence. November 2008.

Despite concerns among some nonprofits that the economic downturn may cause foundation funding priorities to shift, the study suggests that grant making priorities in most areas, such as health, the arts, and international affairs, do not shift suddenly in the face of reduced resources and are remarkably consistent over the long term.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://foundationcenter.org/gainknowledge/research/econ\\_outlook2.html](http://foundationcenter.org/gainknowledge/research/econ_outlook2.html) [HTML format, various paging].

ECONOMIC PROJECTIONS FOR THE US, JAPAN & EURO AREA. Organisation for Economic Co-operation & Development. Jorgen Elmeskov. Web posted November 23, 2008.

Economic activity is expected to fall by 0.9 percent in the U.S. next year, by 0.5 percent in the Euro area and by 0.1 percent in Japan as OECD countries enter a protracted slowdown, according to latest projections. As a high degree of uncertainty surrounds the outlook, much depends on the depth and duration of the financial crisis, the main driver of the current recession. Elmeskov says that inflation should continue to ease as economic slack puts downward pressure on prices and if, as assumed, commodity prices maintain their recent lower levels. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/55/17/41666279.pdf> [PDF format, November 2008].

ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS APPLICABLE TO CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF BIODIESEL PRODUCTION FACILITIES. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. November 2008.

EPA Region 7 has developed a user-friendly manual that identifies environmental regulatory rules and requirements for the construction and operation of biodiesel production facilities. The manual serves as a road map of federal environmental information. It addresses the nation's growing energy demand in a way that supports its goals for a clean environment, farmers and rural America, and greater energy security. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.epa.gov/region07/priorities/agriculture/biodiesel\\_manual.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/region07/priorities/agriculture/biodiesel_manual.pdf) [PDF format, 144 pages].

THE FINANCIAL CRISIS AND STATE/LOCAL DEFINED BENEFIT PLANS. Center for Retirement Research, Boston College. Alicia H. Munnell et al. Web posted November 14, 2008.

Equity assets in retirement plans dropped in value by about \$4 trillion between October 9, 2007 and October 9, 2008. The decline was divided equally between defined benefit and 401(k)/Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs). The decline in the defined benefit arena was in turn divided equally between private sector plans and those sponsored by state and local governments. The brief explores what a loss of roughly \$1 trillion of state and local defined benefit equity assets means for the individual participants and for the taxpayers of the sponsoring entities. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://crr.bc.edu/images/stories/Briefs/ib\\_8-19.pdf](http://crr.bc.edu/images/stories/Briefs/ib_8-19.pdf) [PDF format, 9 pages].

FINDINGS FROM THE 2008 CGS INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE ADMISSIONS SURVEY: PHASE III: FINALS OFFERS OF ADMISSION AND ENROLLMENT. Council of Graduate Schools. November 2008.

The latest in Council of Graduate School's survey series on international graduate admissions trends found that both first-time and total enrollment of international graduate students increased 3% this fall, compared to 4% and 7% growth last year, respectively. Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.cgsnet.org/portals/0/pdf/R\\_IntlEnrl08\\_III.pdf](http://www.cgsnet.org/portals/0/pdf/R_IntlEnrl08_III.pdf) [PDF format, 11 pages].

FOOD: FROM FARM TO FORK STATISTICS. Eurostat. Web posted November 23, 2008.

The pocketbook provides statistical information on how the food chain evolves in Europe; it gives different indicators for each step of the production-consumption chain, including food and feed. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY\\_OFFPUB/KS-30-08-339/EN/KS-30-08-339-EN.PDF](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-30-08-339/EN/KS-30-08-339-EN.PDF) [PDF format, 199 pages].

GOVERNMENT IN 3D: HOW PUBLIC LEADERS CAN DRAW ON VIRTUAL WORLDS. IBM Center for the Business of Government. David C. Wyld. November 15, 2008.

The report shows an example of how Web 2.0's "teen toys" have become a serious work tool. It explores how cutting-edge government organizations are using 3-dimensional virtual worlds on the Internet to conduct training, recruit new employees, and educate the public. It also provides a guide to how virtual worlds have become a fast-growing social phenomenon that believe that, by the end of 2011, fully 80 percent of all active internet users will be participating in 3-D virtual worlds.[Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.businessofgovernment.org/pdfs/Wyld3dReport.pdf> [PDF format, 87 pages].

HUD ISSUES NEW MORTGAGE RULES TO HELP CONSUMERS SHOP FOR LOWER COST HOME LOANS. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Web posted November 12, 2008.

For the first time in more than 30 years, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development issued mortgage reforms that will help consumers to shop for the lowest cost mortgage and avoid costly and potentially harmful loan offers. HUD will require, for the first time ever, that lenders and mortgage brokers provide consumers with a standard Good Faith Estimate (GFE) that clearly discloses key loan terms and closing costs. HUD estimates its new regulation will save consumers nearly \$700 at the closing table. <http://www.hud.gov/news/release.cfm?content=pr08-175.cfm> [HTML format, various paging].

<http://www.hud.gov/content/releases/goodfaithestimate.pdf> [PDF format, 3 pages. Good Faith Estimate (GFE)].

<http://www.hud.gov/offices/hsg/sfh/res/hud1.pdf> [PDF format, 3 pages. Settlement Statement (HUD-1)].

INTELLIGENT DIALOGUE: CRADLE AND GRAVE. Porter Novelli. Fall 2008.

The study examines global shifts in birth, health and death trends that will have profound implications for businesses and consumers. It challenges key assumptions that previous generations have held about life and death. How can employers adapt to the increasing age of women having children? Can corporate wellness programs actually save the company money, while at the same time help solve health concerns such as obesity? These and other issues will affect businesses far beyond the health care and pharmaceutical industries. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://pnintelligentdialogue.files.wordpress.com/2008/10/cradle-grave-porter-novelli.pdf> [PDF format, 32 pages].

LIVING AND LEARNING WITH NEW MEDIA: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS FROM THE DIGITAL YOUTH PROJECT. John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. November 2008.

The study shows that America's youth are developing important social and technical skills online,

often in ways adults do not understand or value. It shows that spending time online is essential for young people to pick up the social and technical skills they need to be competent citizens in the digital age. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.macfound.org/att/cf/%7BB0386CE3-8B29-4162-8098-E466FB856794%7D/DML\\_ETHNOG\\_WHITEPAPER.PDF](http://www.macfound.org/att/cf/%7BB0386CE3-8B29-4162-8098-E466FB856794%7D/DML_ETHNOG_WHITEPAPER.PDF) [PDF format, 58 pages].

MEASURING THE STATUS AND CHANGE OF NAEP STATE INCLUSION RATES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES. National Center for Education Statistics. November 19, 2008. Characteristics examined by the report include the type of disability, the severity level of the disability, and whether the student requires accommodations not permitted by National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). Some students, for example, cannot participate meaningfully in the assessments due to the nature of their disabilities or because their Individualized Educational Programs (IEPs) specify an accommodation that is not permitted in NAEP assessments. NAEP used two statistical models, a state-specific and nation-based model, to measure whether these new strategies for inclusion can be reliably associated with higher state-by-state inclusion rates.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/pdf/studies/2009453.pdf> [PDF format, 118 pages].

MIGRANT WOMEN IN THE EU LABOUR FORCE: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS. RAND Corporation. Jennifer Rubin et al. Web posted November 17, 2008.

Given the European economic and social agendas for growth, equality and social cohesion, the study aims to contribute to understanding migrant women's participation in the European labor force. Labor force participation, unemployment, involuntary part-time employment, temporary-contract employment, and degree of concentration in low-skill occupations are used in evaluating the labor market outcomes of third-country migrant women relative to native-born women, relative to other EU-born women and relative to third-country migrant men. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical\\_reports/2008/RAND\\_TR591.3.pdf](http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical_reports/2008/RAND_TR591.3.pdf) [PDF format, 16 pages].

NEW MEMBER PICTORIAL DIRECTORY. 111<sup>th</sup> Congress New Member Orientation. Web posted November 20, 2008.

Images and basic bio info for new members of the U.S. Congress.

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/pictorial/111th/pdf/fulldoc.pdf> [PDF format, 30 pages].

OIL SHALE MANAGEMENT – GENERAL. Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior. November 18, 2008.

As part of its ongoing effort to increase and diversify America's energy supply, the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management published final regulations to establish a commercial oil shale program that could result in the addition of up to 800 billion barrels of recoverable oil from lands in the Western United States. In keeping with the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, the BLM final regulations provide the critical "rules of the road" on which private investors will rely in determining whether to make future financial commitments to prospective oil shale projects.

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/pdf/E8-27025.pdf> [PDF format, 75 pages].

OPEN OIL EXPORT REVENUES. Energy Information Administration. Web posted November 13, 2008.

Based on projections from the Energy Information Administration, members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) could earn \$979 billion of net oil export revenues in 2008, and \$595 billion in 2009. Through October, OPEC has earned an estimated \$884 billion in net oil export earnings in 2008. Last year, OPEC earned \$671 billion in net oil export revenues, a 10 percent increase from 2006. Saudi Arabia earned the largest share of these earnings, \$194 billion, representing 29 percent of total OPEC revenues. On a per-capita basis, OPEC net oil export earning reached \$1,137, a 8 percent increase from 2006. [Note: contains copyrighted



material]

[http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/OPEC\\_Revenues/Factsheet.html](http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/OPEC_Revenues/Factsheet.html) [HTML format, various paging].

THE OUTLOOK FOR HOUSING STARTS, 2009 TO 2012. Congressional Budget Office. November 2008.

Over the past two years, starts of new homes have fallen sharply, and the resulting decline in real residential construction over that period subtracted an average of 1.0 percentage point from the growth rate of real gross domestic product. Looking forward, several alternative paths for residential construction are possible, ranging from a fairly quick turnaround to a severe slump that lasts several years. Background paper examines the various factors that have determined the number of housing starts in the United States in the past and will continue to determine it in the future. Those factors include the underlying demand for new housing units, especially the role of demographics; cyclical and financial conditions, such as unemployment rates and lending standards; and the number of excess vacant units.

<http://cbo.gov/ftpdocs/98xx/doc9885/11-17-HousingStarts.pdf> [PDF format, 36 pages].

PARTNERSHIP FOR PROGRESS: ADVANCING A NEW STRATEGY FOR PROSPERITY AND STABILITY IN PAKISTAN AND THE REGION. Center for American Progress. Caroline Wadhams et al. Web posted November 17, 2008.

Pakistan lies at the nexus of one of the world's most complicated geopolitical regions, one plagued by poverty, nuclear proliferation, and global terrorism. With a growing population of more than 165 million people, Pakistan is a vital link between South and Central Asia and the broader Middle East. Pakistan's multiple internal challenges extend beyond its borders and have a wide-ranging impact on regional and global stability. Just as conditions in Afghanistan, India, Iran, and Central Asian countries affect Pakistan, events in Pakistan shape its neighbors. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2008/11/pdf/pakistan.pdf> [PDF format, 80 pages].

PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT FY 2008. U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. November 2008.

The report shows that the agency has achieved its safety and security performance goals over the past 12 months. The NRC's service to the public oversees the civilian use and management of radioactive materials and nuclear fuel while protecting public health and safety and the environment, and promoting the security of the nation. The agency's FY 2008 new reactor licensing efforts include active reviews of nine Combined License applications to build and operate 15 new nuclear power plants. These proposed nuclear power plants, if approved and constructed, would be the first new plants built in more than 30 years.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/staff/sr1542/v14/nureg-1542-vol-14.pdf> [PDF format, 180 pages].

THE PLACE WE LIVE, THE HEALTH WE HAVE: A MULTI-LEVEL, LIFE COURSE PERSPECTIVE ON THE EFFECTS OF RESIDENTIAL SEGREGATION AND NEIGHBORHOOD POVERTY ON HEALTH AND RACIAL HEALTH DISPARITIES. RAND Corporation. D. Phuong Do. 2008.

The author investigates the relationship between metropolitan-level segregation measures and individual-level health outcomes; distinguishes between transient and persistent exposure to individual and neighborhood poverty in estimating individual and neighborhood poverty effects on health and racial health disparities; and estimates the causal impact of neighborhood disadvantage on health. Racial and economic segregation detrimentally affects the health of blacks, even after adjustment of individual socioeconomic factors, but its effects on health for whites are either neutral or beneficial. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.rand.org/pubs/rgs\\_dissertations/2008/RAND\\_RGSD238.pdf](http://www.rand.org/pubs/rgs_dissertations/2008/RAND_RGSD238.pdf) [PDF format, 119 pages].

POLL: CONCERNS ABOUT RACIAL TENSIONS DECLINE SHARPLY IN AMERICA. Anti-Defamation League. November 16, 2008.

There has been a steep decline in concerns about racial tensions in America over the past 15 years, according to a poll from the Anti-Defamation League (ADL). The poll also found a significant majority, 66%, views the growth of America's minority populations as advantageous to the economy and society. The poll also found that 66% of Americans view the country's population growth due to immigration as "an advantage for America." [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.adl.org/poll\\_2008/11-12-08\\_immigration.pdf](http://www.adl.org/poll_2008/11-12-08_immigration.pdf) [PDF format, 9 pages].

PROHIBITION ON FUNDING OF UNLAWFUL INTERNET GAMBLING AGENCIES. Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and Departmental Offices, Department of the Treasury. Web posted November 12, 2008.

The Department of the Treasury and the Federal Reserve Board release a joint final rule to implement the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act of 2006. The Act prohibits gambling businesses from knowingly accepting payments in connection with unlawful Internet gambling, including payments made through credit cards, electronic funds transfers, and checks.

<http://www.treas.gov/press/releases/reports/unlawfuinternetgambling11.12.08.pdf> [PDF format, 121 pages].

PROMISE LOST: COLLEGE-QUALIFIED STUDENTS WHO DON'T ENROLL IN COLLEGE. Institute for Higher Education Policy. Ryan D. Hahn and Derek Price. November 2008.

Despite being academically qualified, many of the nation's high school students face influential misconceptions and barriers that deter them from pursuing a college education. Some challenges deterring college-qualified students from enrolling may include mixed messages about academic preparation, financial concerns, poor understanding of admission and financial aid application processes, and limited community encouragement. These reasons are especially true for high-achieving students from disadvantaged populations, such as minorities and those with low incomes, who already face additional adversities while on their educational path. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.ihep.org/assets/files/publications/m-r/PromiseLostCollegeQualifiedStudentsRpt.pdf> [PDF format, 47 pages].

RECORD HIGH NUMBER OF AMERICAN STUDENTS STUDYING ABROAD, INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AT U.S. COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES. U.S. Department of State. November 17, 2008.

International student enrollment in U.S. colleges and universities increased by 7 percent to a record high. A total of 623,805 international students were enrolled in U.S. colleges and universities, 6 percent higher than the previous record high from 2002-2003 and the largest one year jump ever (40,821) in the number of foreign students enrolled. Moreover, U.S. student participation in study abroad was up 8 percent in 2006-2007 from the previous year, to a new record total of 241,791. The number of Americans studying abroad has increased more than 150% during the past decade. <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2008/nov/111891.htm> [HTML format, various paging, with links to Open Doors Survey].

REPORT: READING FIRST IMPACTS INSTRUCTION OF STRUGGLING READERS. U.S. Department of Education. November 2008.

The report includes data from 2006-2007 on student reading comprehension and classroom instruction. In addition, it includes information on the impact of the program on first-grade students' decoding skills. The study was conducted in 248 schools (125 Reading First schools, 123 non-Reading First schools) in 18 sites (17 districts and 1 statewide program) in 13 states. It measured Reading First schools against other schools in Reading First districts, schools that may have implemented the same reforms. <http://www.ed.gov/nclb/methods/reading/readingfirst-report.html> [HTML format, various paging].

THE ROLE OF CHIEF ACQUISITION OFFICERS: WHAT SHOULD THEY BE DOING? IBM Center for the Business of Government. Alland V. Burman. Web posted November 12, 2008. The Service Acquisition Reform Act (SARA) Legislation of 2003 (41 U.S.C. 414) established new positions of Chief Acquisition Officers to oversee Federal civilian agency acquisition operations. The expectation was that the CAO would be highly placed in the agency, advising the agency head on business strategy and focusing on acquisition in the broadest sense of the term. Many would argue that the CAO position has not lived up to its promise. This problem is compounded by the fact that the position has frequently become a part-time "other duty as assigned" for a senior political appointee who already has many other responsibilities. Read the brief to learn about the recommendations from this seminar. [Note: contains copyrighted material] [http://www.businessofgovernment.org/pdfs/CAOBrief\\_1008.pdf](http://www.businessofgovernment.org/pdfs/CAOBrief_1008.pdf) [PDF format, 2 pages].

SHORT-TERM ENERGY OUTLOOK. Energy Information Administration. Web posted November 14, 2008.

The current U.S. and global economic downturn has led to a decrease in global energy demand and a rapid and substantial reduction in crude oil and other energy prices. As a result, projections for both energy demand and prices are considerably lower than last month's Outlook. The impact of the economic downturn on demand is also lowering current and expected natural gas prices. The Henry Hub natural gas spot price is projected to average \$9.27 per Mcf in 2008. The projected 2009 annual average Henry Hub price is \$6.82 per Mcf compared with \$8.17 in the previous Outlook. [Note: contains copyrighted material] <http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/steo/pub/nov08.pdf> [PDF format, 41 pages].

STATE OF WORLD POPULATION 2008: REACHING COMMON GROUND: CULTURE, GENDER AND HUMAN RIGHTS. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). November 16, 2008.

Development strategies that are sensitive to cultural values can reduce harmful practices against women and promote human rights, including gender equality and women's empowerment, according to the report. Human rights express values common to all cultures and protect groups as well as individuals. The report endorses culturally sensitive approaches to development and to the promotion of human rights, in general, and women's rights, in particular. Note: contains copyrighted material] <http://www.unfpa.org/swp/2008/presskit/docs/en-swop08-report.pdf> [PDF format, 108 pages].

STAYING THE COURSE: ONLINE EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES, 2008. Sloan Consortium. I. Elaine Allen and Jeff Seaman. Web posted November 13, 2008.

The study aims to answer some of the fundamental questions about the nature and extent of online education. A collaborative effort between the Babson Survey Research Group, the College Board and the Sloan Consortium and supported by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation the study is based on responses from more than 2,500 colleges and universities. [Note: contains copyrighted material] [http://www.sloanconsortium.org/publications/survey/pdf/staying\\_the\\_course.pdf](http://www.sloanconsortium.org/publications/survey/pdf/staying_the_course.pdf) [PDF format, 28 pages]. Web posted November 13, 2008.

SUPERFUND NATIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS SUMMARY FISCAL YEAR 2008. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. November 20, 2008.

EPA continues to make progress in cleaning up America's most contaminated hazardous waste sites and making them ready for productive use. EPA's annual summary of the Superfund program's accomplishments shows that construction was completed at 30 sites in 2008, for a cumulative total of 1,060 sites or approximately 67 percent of the sites on the National Priorities List. Superfund is the federal government program that cleans up the most serious hazardous waste sites across the country. <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/accomp/numbers08.htm> [HTML format, various paging].



TIME TO BAIL OUT: ALTERNATIVES TO THE BUSH-PAULSON PLAN. Levy Economics Institute of Bard College. Dimitri B. Papadimitriou and L. Randall Wray. Web posted November 20, 2008.

Dimitri B. Papadimitriou and Research Scholar L. Randall Wray take a look back at Wall Street's path to Armageddon, and propose some alternatives to the Bush-Paulson plan to "bail out" both the Street and the American homeowner. Resolving the liquidity crisis is the best strategy, the authors say, and keeping small-to-medium-size banks open is the best way to ensure access to credit once the economy recovers. A temporary suspension of the collection of payroll taxes would put more income into the hands of households while lowering the employment costs for firms, fueling spending and employment. The government should assume a more active role in helping homeowners saddled with mortgage debt they cannot afford, providing low-cost 30-year loans directly to all comers; in the meantime, a moratorium on foreclosures is necessary. And federal grants to support local spending on needed projects would go a long way toward rectifying our \$1.6 trillion public infrastructure deficit. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.levy.org/pubs/pn\\_08\\_06.pdf](http://www.levy.org/pubs/pn_08_06.pdf) [PDF format, 8 pages].

THE TIPPING POINT?: ORG INTERNATIONAL SECURITY REPORT 2008. Oxford Research Group. Paul Rogers. November 2008.

The report examines international security trends in relation to Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, the al-Qaida movement, East-West relations after the Russian intervention in Georgia, and the probable security impact of the international economic downturn. The analysis is in the context of the U.S. Presidential Election result. The global economic downturn is the biggest single threat to security across the world. On present trends many hundreds of millions of people among the poorest communities across the world will suffer most. This is likely to lead to the rise of radical and violent social movements, which will be controlled by force, further increasing the violence. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.oxfordresearchgroup.org.uk/publications/books/pdf/thetippingpoint.pdf> [PDF format, 12 pages].

TRENDS IN EMISSIONS OF OZONE-DEPLETING SUBSTANCES, OZONE LAYER RECOVERY, AND IMPLICATIONS FOR ULTRAVIOLET RADIATION EXPOSURE. U.S. Climate Change Science Program. November 2008.

A new NOAA-led assessment of the global ozone layer says the U.S. has reduced by 97-98 percent the production of ozone damaging substances since the late 1980s. The assessment is one in a series of synthesis and assessment reports coordinated by the U.S. Climate Change Science Program. The report also offers a glimpse into expectations for recovery of the ozone layer in a changing climate, as well as the first detailed look at the U.S. role in emitting, and reducing the emissions of, the chemicals that deplete the ozone layer. The ozone layer, which surrounds the globe about 10-15 miles above the surface, protects living things from the sun's harmful ultraviolet rays. <http://downloads.climatechange.gov/sap/sap2-4/sap2-4-final-all.pdf> [PDF format, 240 pages].

UNDERSTANDING LANDUSE CHANGE AND U.S. ETHANOL EXPANSION. Renewable Fuels Association. Web posted November 15, 2008.

The amount of agricultural land required to produce 15 billion gallons of grain ethanol in the United States by 2015, as required by the 2007 Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA), is likely to be less than 1 percent of total world cropland, according to the report. Gains in agricultural productivity, coupled with the contribution of feed produced as an ethanol co-product, are expected to significantly mitigate the need for conversion of non-agricultural lands to support expanded U.S. bio-fuels production. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.ethanolrfa.org/objects/documents/2041/final\\_land\\_use\\_1110\\_w\\_execsumm.pdf](http://www.ethanolrfa.org/objects/documents/2041/final_land_use_1110_w_execsumm.pdf) [PDF format, 18 pages].

USCC 2008 ANNUAL REPORT. U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission. Web posted November 20, 2008.

China relies on heavy-handed government control over its economy to maintain an export advantage over other countries. The result: China has amassed nearly \$2 trillion in foreign exchange and has increasingly used its hoard to manipulate currency trading and diplomatic relations with other nations. These are among the conclusions in the report. "Rather than use this money for the benefit of its citizens, by funding pensions and erecting hospitals and schools, for example, China has been using the funds to seek political and economic influence over other nations," said Larry Wortzel, chairman of the Commission. Note: contains copyrighted material] [http://www.uscc.gov/annual\\_report/2008/annual\\_report\\_full\\_08.pdf](http://www.uscc.gov/annual_report/2008/annual_report_full_08.pdf) [PDF format, 405 pages].

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## ARTICLES

### DEMOCRACY AND GLOBAL ISSUES

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Jaeger, John GENOCIDE RESOURCES: 2000 TO THE PRESENT (Choice, vol. 46, no. 3, November 2008, pp. 435-436, 438-445)

In this bibliographic essay, the author, a reference librarian at Dallas Baptist University, notes that the twentieth century witnessed more loss of life through genocide than any previous century, and numerically more genocides occurred then. The 1948 U.N. Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide defines genocide as an act "committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group." The literature on genocide has grown significantly since 2000 for a wide range of scholars and educators, allowing for a multidisciplinary analysis of the topic. Among the categories the author discusses are Armenian genocide; the Holocaust, which continues to generate a small publishing industry to such an extent that no single volume can give complete coverage; and the genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. The article also mentions discussions of genocide by eyewitnesses and in newspapers, genocide and religion, why genocides occur, and what can be done to avoid future genocides. There is also a list of web resources.

Jentleson, Bruce; Weber, Steven AMERICA'S HARD SELL (Foreign Policy, vol. 169, November-December 2008, pp. 43-49)

Jentleson and Weber, professors of political science at Duke University and the University of California at Berkeley respectively, argue that the public diplomacy strategies of the last century won't work as well in the 21st century. The "War of Ideas" metaphor is outdated and should be replaced with the "Marketplace of Ideas" where the U.S. competes for market share against other ideologies, some from nonstate sources. The authors contend that ideology is the most important component of national powers, technology massively multiplies soft power, and "domestic values" and "international values" must be consistent. The authors write that the U.S. will have to compete with countries, global corporations, religious movements, Internet communities -- each with strengths and shortcomings -- on a level playing field.

Martinez-Conde, Susana; Macknik, Stephen MAGIC AND THE BRAIN: HOW MAGICIANS "TRICK" THE MIND (Scientific American, November 2008)

Magicians have been testing and exploiting the limits of cognition and attention for centuries; neuroscientists are just beginning to catch up. Magic tricks often work by covert misdirection,

drawing the spectator's attention away from the secret method that makes a trick work. Neuroscientists are scrutinizing magic tricks to learn how they can be put to work in experimental studies that probe aspects of consciousness not necessarily grounded in current sensory reality. Brain imaging shows that some regions are particularly active during certain kinds of magic tricks. Currently available online at

<http://www.sciam.com/article.cfm?id=magic-and-the-brain>

Meyer, Michael SURFACE ROUTINES: HOW WE READ ON THE WEB (Columbia Journalism Review, vol. 47, no. 4, November/December 2008)

People's limitations when faced with the huge volume of information on the Internet, coupled with their compulsion to know what is there, is changing the way people read printed and online material. In-depth reading is often replaced by skimming greater quantities of content. Studies, such as that by Jakob Nielsen, show that people read much less in their pursuit of relevant information. Although some fear a negative impact on introspective literacy, evidence from a 2007 Poynter Institute EyeTrack study indicates readers online read substantially more text than those devoted to print, and were drawn by text rather than photos. The author concludes that while the Web may influence behavior, it merely highlights cultural inadequacies already present in social and educational institutions. Currently available online at

[http://www.cjr.org/feature/surface\\_routines.php](http://www.cjr.org/feature/surface_routines.php)

Nordenson, Bree OVERLOAD! JOURNALISM'S BATTLE FOR RELEVANCE IN AN AGE OF TOO MUCH INFORMATION (Columbia Journalism Review, vol. 47, no. 4, November/December 2008)

The vast amount of information available on the Internet, and the limited ability of human beings to consume it, is affecting news production, distribution and design. It may also have a long-term negative effect on readers subjected to the overload, studies find. Some news organizations, such as the Associated Press, have taken heed and altered their formats; nonetheless, interruptive clutter abounds. Seemingly limitless freedom of choice becomes a burden which may change the roles of news agencies and journalists from being gatekeepers to guides through the information glut. Currently available online at

[http://www.cjr.org/feature/overload\\_1.php?page=all](http://www.cjr.org/feature/overload_1.php?page=all)

Packer, George THE NEW LIBERALISM (New Yorker, vol. 84, no. 37, November 17, 2008)

After looking back at presidential history, interviewing President-elect Obama's advisors, and reviewing Obama's words from his books and campaign speeches, Packer tries to describe how Obama might lead the country. Packer compares this moment to the election of President Roosevelt in 1932 but believes in Obama's idea of "deliberative democracy", in which adults listen to one another -- "who attempt to persuade one another by means of argument and evidence, and who remain open to the possibility that they could be wrong." Obama reads widely from both the "right-wing and left-wing book clubs" but Packer states that Obama's liberalism is more procedural than substantive -- his most fervent belief is in rules and standards of serious debate. Packer believes that Obama will favor activist government in questions of social welfare such as jobs, income, health care and energy but will attempt to accommodate differences on social and legal issues such as guns, abortion, the death penalty, same-sex marriage, the courts and the constitution. Currently available online at

[http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2008/11/17/081117fa\\_fact\\_packer](http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2008/11/17/081117fa_fact_packer)

## ECONOMIC SECURITY

Delong, J. Bradford REPUBLIC OF THE CENTRAL BANKER (American Prospect, vol. 19, no. 11, November 2008, pp. 14-17)

The author, professor of economics at the University of California at Berkeley and former deputy assistant secretary of the treasury in the Clinton administration, writes that Ben Bernanke "is the closest thing to a central economic planner the United States has ever had". He notes that the fate of the U.S. economy depends much more upon the Federal Reserve chairman than on the president. Delong believes that Bernanke may very well be the right person for his job at this juncture in U.S. economic history; a former chair of the economics department at Princeton University, Bernanke is a student of the Great Depression, and his highest priority is to avoid the mistakes that were made at the time. The evolution of central banks on either side of the Atlantic was not by design, notes Delong, but came about through a series of accidents and crises. The absence of a central bank in the U.S. was blamed for most of the financial panics between the 1860s and World War I; presidential administrations after World War II did not plan to turn over macroeconomic policy to the Federal Reserve, writes Delong -- "it just seemed like the least-bad idea at the time."

Fisman, Raymond; Miguel, Edward HOW ECONOMICS CAN DEFEAT CORRUPTION (Foreign Policy, no. 168, September/October 2008, pp. 66-74)

The authors, professors at Columbia Business School and the University of California at Berkeley, respectively, note that we have very little idea about how corruption works or how pervasive it is. Corruption undermines the rule of law, distorts trade, and confers economic advantages on a privileged few. It prevents aid money from reaching disaster victims, topples buildings thanks to shoddy construction, and strangles business with the constant burden of bribes and payoffs. The hidden underworld of corruption often reveals itself in unexpected ways and in situations that allow people not only to measure actual corruption but to test different methods of preventing it. They write that governments should become more experimental, in how they deal with their corruption problems, and must think seriously about evaluating what does and does not work in the real world. At some point, economic theories must be tested in the chaos of real economies to see which anticorruption approaches work, whether it is some combination of higher salaries, government transparency, or stricter punishments. If policymakers work to end corruption systematically, they may just find that economics, armed with a little creativity, can make corruption a little less common.

Lewis, Michael THE END (Conde Nast Portfolio, December 2008)

In this article Lewis, a former Wall Street investment banker and the author of LIAR'S POKER, returns to his old haunts to chronicle the causes of the monumental collapse of the financial markets that the Wall Street firms brought about. He writes that even financial-world insiders had a hard time grasping the scope of the economic bubble in housing and finance that evolved during the past decade. Lewis profiles a small group of bankers and hedge-fund managers who shared a jaded view of Wall Street, and who were among the few who realized that Wall Street had constructed a "doomsday machine" that would eventually implode. Available online at <http://www.portfolio.com/news-markets/national-news/portfolio/2008/11/11/The-End-of-Wall-Streets-Boom>

Swelbar, William CHANGE IS IN THE AIR (Foreign Policy, vol. 169, November/December 2008, pp. 40-41)

Only a complete overhaul can save the airline industry in the face of the current global recession and high fuel prices, says Swelbar, a research engineer at MIT's International Center for Air Transportation. So far this year, more airlines around the world went bankrupt than in the aftermath of September 11, mostly because of high fuel prices. U.S. airlines still dominate the field but regional budget carriers in China and Europe are rapidly catching up. U.S. carriers are overextended, flying almost everywhere and often; this translates into higher passenger numbers

but not necessarily higher revenue. They have reduced (or kept steady) their labor and maintenance costs, but the share of fuel costs in the overall costs has more than doubled since 2003. A short article with much statistical data suggests that, to survive, U.S. airlines will have to pare their routes and number of flights and charge much higher prices. Currently available online at [http://www.foreignpolicy.com/story/cms.php?story\\_id=4529](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/story/cms.php?story_id=4529)

## INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

OBAMA'S WORLD; CHALLENGES FACING BARACK OBAMA (Economist, vol. 389, no. 8605, November 8-14, 2008, pp. 31-32, 34)

The historic election of Barack Obama as the first African-American president of the U.S. will be tempered by the huge domestic and global challenges Obama faces when he moves into the White House in January. In his 2006 book, *THE AUDACITY OF HOPE*, Obama wrote of America's need to build a new international consensus to confront transnational threats. The world of great-power rivalry, he argued, no longer exists but the argument can be made that old-fashioned competition between the powers has come back with a vengeance since the fleeting post-Soviet interlude of the 1990s. This is hardly the agenda Obama would have chosen for himself, but he will begin his term as a war president, one who has promised to end the war in Iraq but to win the one in Afghanistan. Obama has inherited a world of pressing troubles, but as he tackles them he will have to keep an eye on the longer game -- how to prepare for the day when America may no longer be the sole superpower and only one of many big powers.

Abramsky, Sasha THE ANGLO-AMERICAN MISALLIANCE (World Policy Journal, vol. 25, no. 1, Spring 2008, pp. 72-79)

Most Americans believe that they share a "special relationship" with the United Kingdom. However, modern Americans and Britons do not understand or appreciate the role their countries currently play in world affairs. Abramsky, senior fellow at the Demos think tank, offers suggestions to clear up the misunderstandings between these two countries. Americans need to understand how their actions are perceived by the British while the British must be more understanding of the challenges facing the United States. Both countries should look to their own pasts in order to understand the other's present; a century ago, Great Britain was engaged in several wars to maintain its empire and America found that behavior hostile and aggressive. Understanding the British past may also give the U.S. insight into this country's future.

Eilstrup-Sangiovanni, Mette; Jones, Calvert ASSESSING THE DANGERS OF ILLICIT NETWORKS (International Security, vol. 33, no. 2, Fall 2008, pp. 7-44)

A common theme receiving considerable attention in recent international relations scholarship is that governments are facing challenging network-based threats posed by organized international crime and terrorist organizations. The authors, at the University of Cambridge and Yale University respectively, believe that battling these networks may not be as difficult as first believed within international security studies. They have recognized and illuminated some significant network weaknesses, noting that while both terrorism and organized crime networks are formidable, they are also vulnerable. Repeatedly targeting these networks and taking advantage of splits in these organizations can lead to breakthroughs previously not thought possible. Effectively sowing doubts and mistrust through infiltration and manipulation of information also can be effective tools, the researchers conclude.

Flournoy, Michele; Brimley, Shawn THE DEFENSE INHERITANCE: CHALLENGES AND CHOICES FOR THE NEXT PENTAGON TEAM (Washington Quarterly, vol. 31, no. 4, Autumn 2008, pp. 59-76)

The authors, both with the Center for a New American Security, note that when Barack Obama is inaugurated in January, he will face "the most daunting defense inheritance in generations" --



wars in Iraq and Afghanistan; the search for bin Laden; the increasing power of China, Russia, India, and Pakistan; changes in the nature of war, as shown by the Israeli experience in Lebanon; cyberspace warfare; instability on the world's oceans; and broader systemic problems such as climate change and increased competition for resources, including food. This dire situation is compounded by American budgetary woes made worse by the economic crisis, the spiraling costs of entitlements, and the exploding costs of the two wars. The Pentagon will be forced to make tough choices regarding personnel and weapons programs. The authors note that the Defense Department "cannot afford to continue hemorrhaging taxpayer dollars because of its broken acquisition system." Other problems facing the new administration include countering weapons of mass destruction, reducing the U.S. nuclear posture, reexamining the U.S. global military posture, sustaining the all-volunteer force, fixing dysfunctional management processes, and improving interagency cooperation. Currently available online at [http://www.twq.com/08autumn/docs/08autumn\\_flournoy.pdf](http://www.twq.com/08autumn/docs/08autumn_flournoy.pdf)

Frum, David BUSH'S LEGACY (Foreign Policy, no. 168, September/October 2008, pp. 32-38)  
The author, a former speechwriter and special assistant to President Bush, and now a resident fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, admits that the president may be the most unpopular president in modern times, often considered a "reckless, unilateralist cowboy", but history will be kinder to George W. Bush than contemporary caricatures. After eight years, he leaves behind much more than a defeated dictator in Iraq. His successes include closer ties to India, a pragmatic relationship with China, pressure applied to Iran that will pay dividends for years to come, the signing of new bilateral trade agreements, and the world's first convention on cybercrime. In the two decades leading up to Bush's presidency, the US and its allies were struck by a rising number of increasingly ambitious, aggressive, and deadly terrorist attacks. Conversely, if Iran is allowed to follow North Korea into the nuclear weapons club, it could well be the failure to act against the other two thirds of the "axis of evil," not the willingness to act in Iraq, that will be regarded as the most important decision of the Bush years. Bush's political opponents will continue to attack him after he leaves the presidency. Just as the Bush presidency led Democrats to express an unexpected nostalgia for Ronald Reagan, the next Republican president can expect to hear from pundits and academics alike that he falls far short of the high standard set by the last one.

Hammes, T.X. THE ART OF PETRAEUS (National Interest, No. 98, November-December 2008, pp. 53-59)

According to Hammes, retired from the U.S. Marine Corps, what General David Petraeus did to turn around the war in Iraq was make careful analysis of the actual situation on the ground and then have the will and judgment to carry out the military campaign based on that analysis. The wrong idea to take away is that a troop surge is a replicable, universal approach to countering an insurgency. In Afghanistan and Pakistan, for example, a simple solution does not exist. Despite the experience in Iraq, a number of bureaucratic and legislative reasons make unlikely that the Defense Department will focus enough attention on fighting insurgencies and too much attention on fighting conventional wars. "We need a flexible force that can organize to fight nation-states as well as nonstate actors," Hammes writes.

Pham, J. Peter AFRICOM STANDS UP (World Defense Review, October 2, 2008)

The author, Director of the Nelson Institute for International and Public Affairs at James Madison University, says the new sixth U.S. regional military command, which became fully operational October 1, 2008, is defined by the goal of empowering Africans and other partners to deal with the man-made and natural challenges facing Africa, fighting terrorism and protecting access to strategic resources on the continent. He says the civilian experts and military officers that staff AFRICOM know well that diplomatic outreach, political persuasion and economic programs are the key to the success of U.S. policy in Africa. Will the command succeed in its mission over time? The author says only time will tell "but given the strategic interests at stake, both for the United States and for its African partners, it is an effort certainly worth undertaking." Currently available online at <http://worlddefensereview.com/pham100208.shtml>

## U.S. SOCIETY & VALUES

Maine, Stephen INSIDE THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE (Art in America, October 2008, pp. 154-157)

The author profiles a traveling exhibition of Harlem Renaissance illustrator Aaron Douglas. The exhibit, titled "Aaron Douglas: African American Modernist" was organized by Susan Earle of the Spencer Museum of Art at the University of Kansas. Douglas, a schoolteacher from Kansas, came to New York in 1925 with intentions of continuing on to Paris. He stayed for six years and became an integral part of the New Negro Movement (later termed the Harlem Renaissance). Douglas's work is influenced by Cubism, Art Deco, ancient Egyptian painting, and West African sculpture and masks and tells the story of self, race, and history. Douglas provided color illustrations for the works of many prominent black authors of the day. His "Aspects of Negro Life," considered to be his signature piece, is part of the traveling show.

McEvelley, Thomas JAMES LEE BYARS: A STUDY OF POSTERITY (Art in America, November 2008, pp. 142-149, 208-209)

The author, an art critic and friend of the late artist James Lee Byars (1932-1997), notes that Byars, whose conceptual and performance art was often overshadowed by his "abrasive personal behavior", is now receiving a more favorable response from the U.S. art establishment that once shunned him. This is possible, says Thomas, because, now that Byars has been dead for more than a decade, "people in America are beginning to forget how obnoxious he was." A manic-depressive and a flamboyant, gaudy dresser, Byars was never taken as seriously in the U.S. as he was in Europe, and some U.S. critics dismissed him as a charlatan. But as memories of his difficult personality have faded, U.S. art patrons and critics are expressing renewed interest in Byars' installation pieces (which were often understated and flamboyant at the same time) and his performance art, which stressed the fleeting nature of aesthetic experience. Byars, who famously said "I create atmospheres", revisited certain themes repeatedly. His installation work "The Angel" (1989) consisted of 125 transparent glass spheres placed on a floor and arranged symmetrically to evoke the abstract form of an angel. In "The Red Angel" (1993), Byars created a baroque version of the same image, using 1,000 red crystal spheres arranged in a much more elaborate pattern. Although Byars resisted the commercialization of his work, the posthumous reappraisal of his career means that market forces are now "closing in on him," Thomas observes. This is not altogether a bad thing, argues Thomas, since even Byars, "toward the end, growing exhausted by his 50-year-long rebel role, may have wanted conventional success a little bit."

Otto, Mary HIDDEN HURT (Washington Post Magazine, November 9, 2008, pp. 8-15)

One of the most important priorities for President-elect Barack Obama will be to address the health care for Americans, especially those in the lower income levels. At the Wise County, Virginia fairgrounds, the Remote Area Volunteer Medical Corps makes an annual three-day visit to establish a health clinic for people with no place else to go. In tents, barns and exhibition halls, the medical staff use clotheslines, hospital sheets and medical clamps to set up examination rooms, surgeries, a vast open-air dental clinic, a laboratory, eye and ear clinics and a pharmacy. During this three-day period, more than 800 volunteer doctors, dentists, nurses and other health-care workers come from all over Virginia and beyond to this isolated Appalachian locale to provide free medical care to those who cannot afford it. Currently available online at [http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/story/2008/11/07/ST2008110703006.html?sid=ST2008110703006&s\\_pos=list](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/story/2008/11/07/ST2008110703006.html?sid=ST2008110703006&s_pos=list)

Ouellette, Dan NEW IMPRESSIONS (Downbeat, vol. 75, no. 9, September 2008, pp. 30-33)

This article profiles Ravi Coltrane, son of John and Alice Coltrane, as a jazz musician in his own right. After initial skepticism about music, he decided to attend the California Institute of the Arts to see if he could make it in the music business. He has not relied on the legacy of his father,

whom he never knew personally, but rather sought to create his own path. Ravi Coltrane was close to his late mother Alice, and produced the follow-up album to her 2004 return to music. As a tenor and soprano saxophonist, he is now a permanent member in the band Saxophone Summit.

Seabrook, John SUFFERING SOULS: THE SEARCH FOR THE ROOTS OF PSYCHOPATHY (New Yorker, November 10, 2008)

Dr. Kent Kiehl wants to amass a database of 10,000 psychopaths complete with brain scans, DNA and case histories to serve as a reference for researchers seeking to learn more about psychopathy, the condition of severe emotional detachment that leads people to act without conscience. There is debate among mental-health experts about what qualifies as psychopathy and how to diagnose it. Some psychologists believe psychopathy exists in one percent of the adult male population. The average psychopath will be convicted of four violent crimes by the age of 40, "and yet hardly anyone is funding research" into the causes and possible treatments of the mental disorder, says Kiehl. Considerable evidence points toward a genetic component to the disorder, yet psychopaths are more likely to come from neglectful families than loving, nurturing ones, author John Seabrook points out. There is evidence that psychopathy manifests itself at ages earlier than 18, and while it is extremely difficult to treat in adults, young people seem to benefit from treatment because their brains are more malleable. Kiehl theorizes that psychopathy is caused by defects in the way the brain processes emotion, inhibition and attention, while others posit an extreme and far-reaching attention deficit or a dysfunction of the amygdala. Kiehl is doing MRI scans of inmates at the Western Mew Mexico Correctional Facility and is also using a Psychopathy Checklist to score inmates on tendencies such as lying, lack of empathy, poor impulse control, irresponsibility and criminal versatility. "If you could target the brain region involved, then maybe you could find a drug that treats that region," he says.

Currently available online at

[http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2008/11/10/081110fa\\_fact\\_seabrook](http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2008/11/10/081110fa_fact_seabrook)

Sublette, Ned MUSICAL HEALING? (Downbeat, vol. 75, no. 11, November 2008, pp. 38-43)

Three years after Hurricane Katrina, a big part of the community that created New Orleans music is still gone. Many lost not only their homes to the flood, but also irreplaceable archives, books, recordings, CDs, rare artifacts, vintage instruments, research materials and sheet music. New Orleans is back up to 72 percent of its pre-flood population, but for African Americans, it's just 63 percent. Most of the big names in music are back, but less so the rank and file. New Orleans has maintained its schedule of festivals, but the musicians' union membership and theatrical performances are down. Most clubs have reopened. "The people who have had the most difficulty in returning are the working-class families, from whose ranks the new generation of musicians would emerge ... a generation of elders was lost," says Sublette. Volunteer and charitable programs are struggling to meet the vast need that the government isn't meeting. Pianist Henry Butler was turned down by a state program that offers assistance to Katrina victims; he now lives in Denver but returns for gigs, as do many other musicians. "My music has grown exponentially since Katrina," he said, "partly because I'm feeling more." But he doesn't know if he'll live in New Orleans again, because, he says, "I don't know what direction the city is going to take."

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