

Aufsatzdienst Oktober 2008

01

Happy Campers / Jim Rasenberger

In: Wilson Quarterly, Summer2008. – 2898 words

“THIS SUMMER, MILLIONS OF AMERICAN CHILDREN will leave their homes in the cities and suburbs and embark for the nation's hinterlands. Following the seasonal migratory patterns of summers past, they will travel along crowded interstates and thruways, down winding rural lanes and over dirt roads that lead through piney woods to the shores of quiet lakes. They will arrive, at last, at that peculiar province of American summerhood known as sleepaway camp.”

02

JOHN MUIR'S Yosemite / by Perrottet, Tony

In: Smithsonian, July 2008. – 2736 words

The article presents a profile of the 19th century naturalist John Muir and his work towards the protection of Yosemite National Park in California. The history of Yosemite itself is also discussed, discussing its violent annexation from the native inhabitants in the 1850s and its evolution into a legally protected forest.

03

In a Gangster's Paradise / Mary Ellen Flannery

In: NEA Today, April 2008 – 3 pages

The article discusses the spread of gangs in various schools in cities and towns in the U.S. According to U.S. Justice Department surveys, somewhere around 760,000 kids are hanging, fighting, and pushing drugs in 24,000 different gangs. For decades, gang membership in has been expanding from the inner cities of Los Angeles, Chicago, and New York, into such places as small town Wisconsin.

04

The Next Slum? / Christopher B. Leinberger

In: Atlantic Monthly, March 2008. – 5 pages

The article discusses the decline of suburban neighborhoods due to foreclosures attributed to the subprime-mortgage crisis and to an American return to urban living. It examines reasons people left cities for the suburbs during the 1940s and 1950s along with the urban gentrification experienced during the 1990s and early 2000s.

05

Fearful Cry of Freedom / Andrew Ward

In: American History, August 2008. – 6 pages

„On the eve of the Civil War one in seven people in the United States was a slave. Moreover, Africa was already a distant ancestral memory for these 4 million enslaved men, women and children, 99 percent of whom were American born and had little knowledge or experience of the world outside the parochial domains of their masters.“

06

How the West was Spun / Stephen G. Hyslop

In: American History, October 2008. – 8 pages

The article discusses the life and theatrical Wild West shows of entertainer Buffalo Bill Cody. The various aspects of the show, including the Indian chief Sitting Bull, sharpshooter Annie Oakley, and cowboy and Indian fight reenactments, are described. The impact of Cody's Wild West show on the U.S. population's perception of the American west is also discussed.

07

Workingman's blues / o. A.

In: Economist, July 26, 2008. – 1936 words

The article examines the attitudes of U.S. consumers towards economic conditions in 2008. Public opinion polls show an almost unprecedented level of anger and pessimism over the economy. By historical standards, conditions do not warrant such strong feelings, but rapidly rising prices for necessities such as gasoline and medical care and falling housing prices mean economic distress is affecting the middle class as much as poorer Americans.

08

Juan Crow in Georgia / Robeto Lovato

In: Nation, May 26, 2008. – 5 pages

The author reports on legislation regarding the rights of illegal immigrants in the South. Comparisons are made in the article regarding the treatment of immigrants to the treatment of African-Americans due to Jim Crow laws. Legislation which has been established regarding the treatment of undocumented Mexican citizens in Georgia is discussed.

09

SECOND LIFE: IS THERE ANY THERE THERE? / Gary Anthes

In: Computerworld, December 3, 2007, Vol. 41 Issue 49, p30-37, 6p

A personal narrative is presented which explores the author's experience regarding the use of Second Life virtual world computer game.

“Until recently I thought “second life” referred to one of those places th Bible says we’ll go afer we depart this life. Now I know it’s a virtual place, a vast collection of electrons on computers all over the world and, more to the point, a state of mind and a place for adventure, romance, business and just plain fun for millions of users.”

10

L.A.’s Fast-Food Drive-By / Anne Kingston and Nicholas Köhler

In: Maclean's, August 25, 2008, p36-40. – 3063 words

The article reports on the 2008 legislation, enacted by the city council of Los Angeles, California, that bans the establishment of new fast food outlets in a portion of the city. The initiative seeks to lower the consumption of fast food and to combat rising obesity rates in south Los Angeles, a poverty-stricken part of the city.

“The birthplace of the Bloods and Crips and home to the 1992 Rodney King riots is also a “*food desert*,” a term adopted by social policy planners in the 1990s to describe the growing number of low-income areas with poor access to healthy, affordable food.”

11

Clan-Do Spirit / Jake Halpern

In: Smithsonian, September 2008. – 2020 words

A personal narrative is presented which explores the author's experience of discovering a genealogical connection between his Jewish family and a German one.

12

The West the Railroads Made / James Pl. Ronda

In: American Heritage, Spring/Summer2008. – 2094 words

The article focuses on the development of railroads in the western part of the U.S., and describes the prosperity brought by rail. It states that the first transcontinental railroad was completed when trains started at Promontory, Utah. It mentions that with the advent of the railroad, trains and tracks out beyond Chicago, Illinois and St. Louis, Missouri symbolized progress, prosperity and the promise of the future, and the initial rights-of-way expanded to include telegraph poles and wires.

13

HOW CANADA STOLE THE AMERICAN DREAM / Duncan Hood and Patricia Treble

IN: Maclean's, July 7, 2008. - 3133 words

The article presents the findings contained in a study, conducted by the magazine, that measured the quality of life in Canada versus that in the United States. According to the article Canadians live better lives than Americans, as measured by a number of criteria including life expectancy, personal income and health.

14

How a War of Terror Kept Blacks Oppressed Long After the Civil War Ended / Stephen Budiansky

In: American History; April 2008. – 5563 words

The article reports on the social conditions of African Americans in the Southern States in the aftermath of the Civil War. Details are given highlighting the efforts of various anti-abolition groups to suppress the non-white population through intimidation, violence, and personal threats. Commentary is given outlining how the white supremacist movement severely delayed the progress of the Reconstruction.

15

The End of the Black American Narrative: A new century calls for new stories grounded in the present, leaving behind the painful history of slavery and its consequences / Charles Johnson

In: The American Scholar, Summer 2008. – 4933 words

The author expresses his thoughts about the African American narrative. „ This unique black American narrative, which emphasizes the experience of victimization, is quietly in the background of every conversation we have about black people, even when it is not fully articulated or expressed. It is our starting point, our agreed-upon premise, our most important presupposition for dialogues about black America”