

## Aufsatzdienst Mai 2009

### 01

#### **Rethinking the American Dream** / David Kam

In: Vanity Fair, April 2009. - 6800 words

Along with millions of jobs [...], the concept of a shared national ideal is said to be dying. But is the American Dream really endangered, or has it simply been misplaced? Exploring the way our aspirations have changed—the rugged individualism of the Wild West, the social compact of F.D.R., the sitcom fantasy of 50s suburbia—the author shows how the American Dream came to mean fame and fortune, instead of the promise that shaped a nation.

### 02

#### **Who's Coming to America** / Sam Roberts

In: The New York Times Upfront, April 6, 2009 – 4 pages

“Early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, more than 80 percent of the immigrants arriving in the United States were from Europe. Barely 1 percent were from Latin America, and even fewer came from Asia and Africa. Today's immigrants present a very different profile.”

### 03

#### **Obama's Vietnam.** (cover story) / Barry, John Barry ; Evan Thomas ; Ron Moreau ; Sami Yousafzai

In: Newsweek, February 9, 2009. - 3493 words

This article observes similarities and extrapolates on key differences between the war in Vietnam and the current situation in Afghanistan. U.S. General David Petraeus will want American soldiers to train local village militias to fight the Taliban since he realizes the challenge of foreign troops fighting insurgents. Americans are skeptical of U.S. President Barack Obama's ability to make progress in Afghanistan.

### 04

#### **San Francisco Giant** / Michael V. Tueth

In: America, February 23, 2009. – 3 pages

The article reviews the film "Milk," starring Sean Penn, directed by Gus Van Sant.

“Milk” is likely to enter the ranks of the few outstanding films that have chronicled the life – and often the death – of history's heroes, everyone from Mahatma Gandhi and St. Thomas More to Erin Brockovich, Karen Silkwood and the freedom riders of Mississippi.”

### 05

#### **The Freedom Riders** / Marian Smith Holmes

In: Smithsonian, February 2009. – 5 pages

The article focuses on racial segregation protesters who gathered at bus depots in 1961 known as 'Freedom Riders.' Particular attention is given to the book "Breach of Peace: Portraits of the 1961 Mississippi Freedom Riders," by Eric Etheridge. An account of various violent attacks on Freedom Riders on May 14, 1961, in Alabama is presented. [...] Comments from various Freedom Riders on their experience are presented.

### 06

#### **Hemingway at War** / Peter Moreira

In: Military History, April/May 2009. – 3845 words

The article features the late U.S. novelist Ernest Hemingway and his experiences in war. The author served as a Red Cross ambulance driver and rescued a wounded soldier despite having serious wounds in Italy on July 8, 1918. It is said that his stories about war helped him rise to literary prominence.

### 07

#### **Three Mile Island** / Matthew L. Wald

In: The New York Times Upfront, March 16, 2009 – 4 pages

“Sometimes, life really does imitate art. *The China Syndrome*, a Hollywood Thriller about a fictional accident at a U.S. nuclear power plant, opened in theaters on March 16, 1979. Two weeks later, it got a big boost in ticket sales when Americans awakened to the ominous news that something had gone wrong at the Three Mile Island nuclear plant, near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

**08**

**Living the New York Dream** / Melody Serafino

In: USA Today Magazine, January 2009. - 2742 words

[The article] offers an overview of the luxurious lifestyle of some Generation Y people who live in New York. It relates that this lavish lifestyle for the 22- to 26-year-olds is being subsidized by their parents. The author comments on the importance of financial independence among Generation Y.

**09**

**Gang Grief** / Melissa Klein

In: Current Health 2, March 2009. – 1432 words

“Experts say that the glamorization of gang life in music videos, video games, and movies fuels the desire to belong to one or just dress and act like a “G” (or gangster). But gang life often turns out to be very different from what members imagined.”

**10**

**Reinventing the American Dream** / Christopher Jencks

In: Chronicle of Higher Education, 10/17/2008. – 2097 words

The article presents reflections on the American dream as seen both ideologically and practically in the 20th and early 21st century U.S. Two contrary conceptions of the American dream are presented: one as the freedom for an individual to pioneer innovation and grow wealthy, the other as a social equality of fair standard of living in response to labor efforts. The political party alignments which champion each version are discussed in depth, outlining times in 20th century U.S. economic history where one was favored above the other. Additional critical analysis is offered towards both ideals and suggestions for reform are given.

**11**

**What We Owe the Indians?** / Paul VanDevelder

In: American History, June 2009 – 5 pages

“At a time when the nation’s industrial machinery and extractive industries are running out of critical mineral resources, Indian lands hold 65 percent of the nation’s uranium, untold ounces of gold, silver, cadmium, platinum and manganese, and billions of board feet of virgin timber.”

**12**

**Alien World** / Alexander Zaitchik

In: Reason, February 2009. – 2328 words

The article focuses on young middle-class Mexicans who pay for a border crossing experience in Alberto Eco Park: “These would-be migrants wear Diesel jeans and John Deere mesh caps, nose studs and gelled emo haircuts. Like me, each has paid \$125 for two days of camping and a midnight “border crossing” experience in central Mexico.”

**13**

**The Founding Father of American Financial Disaster** / John Steele Gordon

In: American History, April 2009. – 2769 words

The article discusses how U.S. President Thomas Jefferson's dislike of capitalists helped to create a disorderly financial regulatory and banking system, which has led to the U.S. economic crisis of 2009. How Jefferson's disagreements with the first U.S. secretary of the Treasury, Alexander Hamilton, over the debts from the Revolutionary War, an unstable money supply, and whether or not the country needed a central bank, contributed to people's fear of the financial industry is discussed.

**14**

**Language Barriers** / Robbie Brown

In: The New York Times Upfront, March 16, 2009 – 2 pages

“The United States has never had an official language. But the debate over language in this country goes back at least as far as the 1750s, when British colonists in Pennsylvania began to resent the influx of Germans. Benjamin Franklin questioned why Germans should “be suffered to swarm into our settlements, and by herding together establish their language and manners to the exclusion of ours.”

**15**

**Not by Accident: Building a Sustainable New Orleans** / Mark Davis

In: The American Prospect, March 2009. – 3 pages

New Orleans was built in a place that is both insane and inevitable. The Culture of the City and the region is both parochial and cosmopolitan. The swamps and marshes that define the region’s landscape seem timeless – even primordial – yet are mere thousands of years old and incredibly dynamic, geologically and hydrologically. New Orleans can be simultaneously inspiring, romantic, and frightening.