

Aufsatzdienst Januar 2010

01

New Weapons in the Fight Against Gangs / Boris Weintraub

In: Parks & Recreation, November 2009. – 1600 words

The article discusses how opening of recreation centers only until midnight in Los Angeles, California helped in checking the increasing youth gang violence. These centers were made to offer free meals, sports, concerts, movies, discussions, mentoring, and a host of community-chosen programs to lure young people, keep them busy and happy. After these steps were taken, the eight Summer Night Lights neighborhoods experienced a 17 percent drop in overall violent crime.

02

How to Win American Idol / Scott Barry Kaufman

In: Psychology Today, January/February 2010. – 8 pages

„We’ve inculcated kids with the idea that celebrity is good, and that everyone can and should be able to achieve it.”
“One theme that appears every season is that of the underdog doing well. For good reason: It gratifies our deeply ingrained desire for justice.”

“Auditioners strive for uniqueness just as intensely as they strive for acceptance by the larger group.”

03

The Greatest Show on Earth. (cover story) / Neal Gabler

In: Newsweek, December 21, 2009. - 2903 words

The article discusses modern celebrity culture and society's fascination with it. The author describes the controversy involving Tiger Woods' alleged extramarital affairs and says the public's fascination with it is an example of how celebrities have created a different type of entertainment that has become almost more popular than traditional movies, plays and television shows.

04

1960: Sitting Down to Take a Stand 1960: When Four students sat down at a lunch counter in Greensboro, N.C., 50 years ago, they helped re-ignite the Civil Rights Movement / Suzanne Bilyeu

In: The New York Times Upfront, January 18, 2010. – 1637 words

Ezell Blair Jr., Franklin McCain, Joseph McNeil, and David Richmond, now known as the "Greensboro Four," were all students at North Carolina A & T (Agricultural and Technical) College, a black college in Greensboro. They were teenagers, barely out of high school. But on that Monday afternoon, Feb. 1, 1960, they started a movement that changed America.

05

Refugees of Diversity / Rich Benjamin

In: The American Prospect, October, 2009. – 2467 word

“Imagine moving to a place where you can leave your front door unlocked as you run errands. Where the community enjoys a winning ratio of playgrounds to potholes. Where you can turn your kids loose at 3 P.M., not worry, then see them in time for supper. Where the neighbours greet you by name. Where your trouble-free high school feels like a de-facto private school. [...] If you could move to such a place, would you?”

06

The Changing Face of Homelessness / Lawrence Hardy

In: American School Board Journal, June 2009. – 3 pages

The article focuses on the changing aspect of homelessness in the U.S. as homeless single adults and families are being joined by middle-class families who never experienced homelessness. According to the article, the increasing number of people who are homeless is due to the worsening economy and mounting job losses. Guidance Services Supervisor Jeanette Kaufman stated that as response to the growing condition, homeless children receive special attention from school counselors, visits from tutors, and home visits from pupil personnel workers.

07

Food for All (cover story) / Dan Barber et al.

In: Nation, November 21, 2009. – 4 pages

The article discusses the implications of a grassroots movement in the United States that is concerned about "food democracy" and consumers' right to have access to safe, nutritious food. Five people in the food movement offer their views on how food democracy can be attained.

08

Working at Diversity / o. A.

In: Canada and the World Backgrounder, October 2009. – 4 pages

"The United States has been seen as a "melting pot" and Canada as a multicultural "mosaic." That view suggests that the U.S. favoured a single American identity that everyone blended into. In Canada, on the other hand, citizens were supposedly encouraged to maintain their distinct ethno-cultural heritage as they pleased."

09

Disclosed Encounters / Daniel Fromson

In: Washington Monthly, January/February 2010. – 1406 words

Stephen Bassett works on behalf of the "exopolitical disclosure movement," a subculture of UFO fanatics toiling to end what they believe is a government cover-up of the extraterrestrial presence on our planet.

"Like all good lobbyists, Bassett insists that his interests are perfectly aligned with the country's. Disclosure, he believes, is the key to America's continued global dominance: Obama will command international respect not only because of his moral courage but also because he will introduce "the common man's payoff"--ET technology."

10

The New Dust Bowl / Josh Harkinson

In: Mother Jones, Nov/Dec2009. – 2708 words

The article focuses on the projected effects of climate change on California's Central Valley including high temperatures and loss of 90 percent of the Sierra Nevada snowpack, the main source of water. The agricultural economy of the region is in collapse due, in part, to its lack of preparation for drought. The author focuses on the town of Mendota in the Central Valley.

11

OMM: The year of living dangerously / Sean O'Hagan

In: The Guardian (London), May 17, 2009 – 5093 words

"Woodstock has entered the public consciousness as the high watermark of hippie idealism - "Three Days of Peace & Music" - but it was an event that succeeded against almost insurmountable odds. Fraught with organisational and logistical difficulties, dogged by bad weather and chronic shortages of food, water and toilets, it was first declared a financial disaster then a human one."

12

Racially Offensive Imagery at Carpinteria High School / Monique Sonoquie; Corine Fairbanks

In: News from Native California, Fall 2009. – 5 pages

The article reports on the controversy on the removal of Indian images at Carpinteria High School. It mentions that Native identity has been adversely affected by European theories, historical, governmental and religious coercions. Due to misrepresentations of past and present histories, inaccurate images and notions about the Native promote stereotypes and racism. The Native people want the removal of racist depictions in advertisements and schools, and the teaching of accurate historical information about the Native history.

13

Under One Roof: Legal & Illegal / David Gonzalez

In: New York Times Upfront, September 21, 2009. – 1663 words

"Nearly 2.3 million undocumented families—about three quarters of those that are in the U.S. illegally—have at least one child who is a U.S. citizen, according to the Pew Hispanic Center in Washington, D.C.; nearly 400,000 families have both citizen and non-citizen children. "

14

The Long Way Home / Paul Theroux

In: Smithsonian, Sep2009. - 4385 words

A personal narrative is presented which explores the author's experience of traveling across the U.S. beginning in Los Angeles, California, and ending in Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

15

Generation Text / Mark Bauerlein

In: America, October 12, 2009. - 3 pages

The article offers the author's insight on the use of digital devices in youth. The author argues the influence to youth of these devices, such as cell phones and laptops, wherein some call it as a key to their social life and essential to their lives. He also mentions that these devices affect the behaviors of the youth, wherein they tend to be independent but slow in maturity. Moreover, the author suggests that these attributes reflect to the so called dumbest generation.