

## Aufsatzdienst Mai 2010

### 01

#### **Mark Twain's Guide to Our Most Tumultuous Century** / Peter Carlson

In: American History, April 2010. – 10 pages

The article discusses author Mark Twain and his observations on events related to U.S. history. Emphasis is given to Twain's criticism of slavery, the polygamy of Mormon settlers, and the impeachment of U.S. president Andrew Johnson. Other topics include robber barons, U.S. imperialism, waterboarding, and U.S. president Theodore Roosevelt.

### 02

#### **Looking For Precious** / Darryl Lorenzo Wellington

In: The Crisis, Winter 2010. – 4 pages

„Precious forces the viewer to confront the ugliest aspects of contemporary society: poverty, illiteracy, depravity, sexism and violence against women committed by men and by a female family member. It offers mere glimpses of a world beyond a literate, educated and benevolent Black middle class.“

### 03

#### **The Upper West Side, Then and Now** / John Podhoretz

In: Commentary, May 2010. – 3385 words

In: The article offers a reflection on the civic, cultural, and social developments in the Upper West Side of New York City from the 1970s to 2010. It describes the turnover in restaurants, the liberal political ideologies of most people living in the Upper West Side, and the socio-economic conditions of the area in comparison to other enclaves in the city such as East Side, Fifth and Park Avenues, and Brooklyn.

### 04

#### **Sport and 20<sup>th</sup>-Century American Society** / Viv Saunders

In: History Review, March 2010. – 3455 words

The article explores the social aspects of sports in the U.S. The author reflects on the commercial influence of sports on the U.S. economy and the relationship of sports to public violence and crime rates. Other topics include the physical abuse of women by athletes, cheating, and reinforcement of racist stereotypes.

### 05

#### **(Un)safe Sex: Romancing the Vampire** / Karen Backstein

In: Cineaste, Winter 2009. – 3510 words

The article discusses the appeal of vampire films to 21st century audiences and changes made to keep the genre relevant. It notes that in Victorian vampire stories, such as "Dracula," the heroines were vulnerable and met misfortune when they succumbed to the seduction of dangerous men. Modern vampires, it notes, work to control their impulses so as not to harm the heroine, who is strong, resourceful and smart. Examples of this are the films "Twilight" and "True Blood."

### 06

#### **The Pony Rides Again (And Again)** / Christopher Corbett

In: American Heritage, Spring 2010. - 2618 words

“The Pony Express was one of the most colossal and celebrated failures in American business history, but its legacy [...] remains an enduring and revered piece of the Old West myth. Even today, old-timers in the remotest parts of the American West still speak of "the days of the Pony." Few figures in that region's history loom larger than those true riders of the purple sage, whom Mark Twain called "the swift phantoms of the desert."

### 07

#### **Did Christianity Cause the Crash?** / Hanna Rosin

In: Atlantic Monthly, December 2009. - 7344 words

The article focuses on the success of the prosperity gospel in the U.S., particularly among Hispanic American communities. The connection between the prosperity gospel and the teachings used by Pentacostal preacher Oral Roberts, the megachurch movement, and positive thinking are examined. Criticism of the gospel is also presented and the possible connection between its teachings and the 2008-2009 subprime mortgage crisis in the U.S. is explored.

08

**From Slavery to the White House:** Michelle Obama's roots go back to the pre-Civil War South: the five-generation journey of the First Lady's family / Rachel L. Swarns & Jodi Kantor .

In: The New York Times Upfront, February 8, 2010. – 1499 words

“While President Obama's biracial background has drawn attention, his wife's pedigree, which includes American Indian strands, highlights the nation's complicated history of racial intermingling, sometimes born of violence or coercion. That history is in the bloodlines of many African-Americans.”

09

**Pushed Out** / Rhonda Brownstein, Rhonda

In: Education Digest, March 2010. – 5 pages

The article discusses how schools' use of zero tolerance policies were intended to prevent school violence but has pushed students out of school and into juvenile delinquency. The "one-size-fits-all" disciplinary policies that apply to a variety of student actions is noted. Several alternatives to zero tolerance policies are given.

10

**African Americans after the Civil War** / John Spiller

In: History Review, December 2009. – 3425 words

The article examines the history of U.S. race relations in the South in the period from 1865-1877 known as Reconstruction. A chronology of the period is presented, which culminated in whites succeeding in denying civil rights to African Americans. A summary of the historiography of Reconstruction is given, noting that the most recent research has concluded that blacks made more economic progress than had been thought despite the loss of civil and political rights.

11

**1975: The Fall of Saigon: Why the Vietnam War Still Matters 35 Years after It Ended** / Patricia Smith

In: The New York Times Upfront, April 5, 2010. – 4 pages

The war was the longest in U.S. history, and it divided Americans like nothing since the Civil War. More than 58,000 American soldiers died and more than 300,000 were wounded in the fight against Communist North Vietnam and Vietcong guerillas in South Vietnam. The war split families, turned the old against the young, and drove a wedge of mistrust between many Americans and their leaders.

12

**Culture of Corpulence** / Claudia Kalb

In: Newsweek, March 22, 2010. – 2964 words

The article discusses the incidence, causes, and consequences of obesity in the U.S. By one estimate obesity costs the U.S. \$147 billion annually. Diets rich in processed foods, such as those served at fast-food restaurants, have played a role. Over 40% of school lunch programs in the U.S. don't regularly offer fresh fruits and vegetables.

13

**America Is Angry** (cover story) / Nicholas Köhler

In: Maclean's, April 19, 2010. – 4070 words

The article reports on the organizations in the U.S. such as the Guardians of the Free Republics, the different "Patriot" groups, and the Tea Party movement, which have polarized politics in Washington, D.C. According to the article, political scientists Marc Hetherington suggested that this level of partisan conflict hasn't occurred since the Reconstruction era of the U.S. Civil War. The increasing number of extremist paramilitary groups in the U.S. is discussed.

14

**Who Has the Right to 'Bear Arms'?** /Patricia Smith

In: The New York Times Upfront, April 19, 2010. – 1217 words

More than 200 years after the adoption of the Bill of Rights, the Supreme Court may finally clarify how far second amendment rights go. „Advocates of gun-control laws say that much has changed since 1791, when people kept muskets to be ready for militia service and to hunt for their food. And modern weapons are far deadlier than those of the 18th century.“

15

**Love, Sex, Freedom and the Paradox of the Pill.** (cover story) / Nancy Gibbs; Deidre Van Dyk; Kathleen Adams

In: Time, May 3, 2010. – 4968 words

The article is a cover story on oral contraception, the so-called Pill, the 50th anniversary of its approval by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and the Pill's influence on society ever since. The history of the Pill is noted along with views on it expressed by its supporters and critics. Research published in March 2010 indicates that women who used the Pill have greater longevity than other women. Historical and religious aspects of birth control are discussed. The role of birth control advocate and nurse Margaret Sanger in the development of pharmaceutical birth control is reported.