

Aufsatzdienst Januar 2012

01

What Obama Needs to Win in 2012 / Melissa Harris-Perry

In: Ebony, Nov. 2011. – 5 pages

“Can Barack Obama win re-election? Yes, but even with full knowledge of every potential challenger, every economic indicator and every public opinion poll, the outcome is far from certain. What we can be certain of is this: The president is facing a tough fight and Black voters are his strongest political allies. Whatever his fate, Black Americans will be critically important in determining it.”

02

My Parents Were Educational Anarchists / Heidenry, Margaret.

In: The New York Times Magazine, 13 Nov. 2011. – 4310 words

[Home schooling] “Tired of the constraints of the 40-hour workweek, my father, in 1972, quit his job in publishing. My parents were in their early 30s, and they had four children under 7. “But we still wanted to explore the world,” my father recalled recently. They bought six one-way tickets to Europe, leaving only a laughable \$3,000 to subsist on. Young and idealistic, they thought they could easily educate us along the way. “Life itself would become a portable classroom.”

03

1961: The Freedom Riders / Merrill Perlman

In: The New York Times Upfront, Vol. 143, January 10, 2011. - 1583 words

“In 1961, almost a century after the Civil War, segregation was still a way of life in the South. Changes had come steadily, but slowly: President Harry S. Truman integrated the armed forces after World War II, in 1948. And in the 1954 landmark case *Brown v. Board of Education*, the Supreme Court ruled that “separate but equal” schools for blacks and whites were inherently unequal and unconstitutional. But despite two Supreme Court rulings outlawing segregation in interstate rail and bus terminals as far back as 1946, many stations in the South maintained separate lunch counters, restrooms, and water fountains.”

04

The New Faces of Islam / Robin Givhan

In: Newsweek, 158.13 (Sept. 26, 2011): p44. – 1971 words

“They’re proud Muslims, they’re top models, and they’re remaking the fashion world’s ideal of beauty. When 20-year-old Hind Sahli, a brown-skinned young woman with dark shoulder-length hair, was growing up in Casablanca, she used to watch television shows like America’s Next Top Model and daydream about being on a fashion runway. Sahli was appropriately tall and thin, but in Morocco, the beauty ideal is a voluptuous figure. She was mercilessly teased for her spare frame and would soothe her hurt feelings by sashaying around her living room.”

05

America's Peculiar and Horrifying Tradition of Vigilante Justice / Reed Karaim

Source: American History, 46.6 (Feb. 2012): p50. – 2720 words

“Although lynchings tapered off after the 1960s, they have not disappeared. White supremacy groups are active in both the North and the South. The FBI lists 6,604 hate crimes reported in 2009. Pfeifer sees the harsh tone of some opponents of illegal immigration as “a direct outgrowth and extension” of America’s history of lynching people.”

06

Outlaw / Jose Antonio Vargas

In: The New York Times Magazine, (June 26, 2011): Lifestyle: p22 (L). – 4774 words

“There are believed to be 11 million undocumented immigrants in the United States. We’re not always who you think we are. Some pick your strawberries or care for your children. Some are in high school or college. And some, it turns out, write news articles you might read. I grew up here. This is my home. Yet even though I think of myself as an American and consider America my country, my country doesn’t think of me as one of its own.”

07

'God, It's Got to Stop' / David Kennedy

In: Newsweek, 158.14 (Oct. 3, 2011): p25. – 2345 words

“After making Ceasefire work in cities like Boston, Baltimore, Minneapolis, and elsewhere, I knew we could do it again. Ceasefire was basically simple-have law enforcement, community elders, and social-service providers sit down and talk with the gangs and drug crews that drove the shooting. The community said that the violence had to stop, the providers offered help, and the cops promised that the first gang that killed someone after the meeting was going to get all their attention.”

08

The Great Gatsby / John A. Pidgeon

In: Modern Age, 49.2 (2007): 178+. – 3107 words

“I AM ABSOLUTELY CONVINCED that *The Great Gatsby* (1925) is one of the finest pieces of American literature. It is such because F. Scott Fitzgerald has displayed not only insight into the American psyche but also a magnificent grasp of “The American Dream” which *Jay Gatsby* represents.”

09

Fanatics Attack / Amos Oz

In: Utne Reader, November-December 2011. – 2692 words

“I have called myself an expert on comparative fanaticism. This is no joke. If you ever hear of a school or university starting a department of comparative fanaticism, I am hereby applying for a teaching post. As a former Jerusalemite, as a recovered fanatic, I feel I’m fully qualified for that job. Perhaps it is time that every school, every university teach at least a couple of courses in comparative fanaticism, because it is everywhere.”

10

Native Americans First View Whites From The Shore/ Collin G. Calloway

In: American Heritage, Spring 2009, Volume 59, Issue 1. – 2116 words

“In some accounts people looked from the shore and thought the awesome approaching ships were giant white seabirds or floating islands. The hairy men onboard had firearms, armor, and metal goods. But, contrary to what European explorers frequently asserted, there is little evidence that Indians regarded them as gods. Early Europeans lacked the power and dominance they would later amass, and they did not always seem to pose an immediate threat. They relied on Indian guides, Indian foods, and Indian technology (birch-bark canoes, for instance) to travel inland. To native eyes, their pale skins made them look sickly.”

11

We the People Make This a Great Country: Immigrants Are Us / Frederick Allen

In: Saturday Evening Post. 283.4 (July-August 2011): p30. – 1620 words

“The immigrants came mostly in two great waves, first from northern Europe--places like Ireland, Germany, Scandinavia--and then from southern and eastern Europe--Italy, Russia--but they also came from China and Japan and Mexico and Canada and almost everywhere else on earth.”

12

All I Want For Christmas Is a Brand-New Face / Rebecca Dana

In: Newsweek, 158.25 (Dec. 19, 2011): p13. – 1592 words

“The economy may be a shambles this holiday season, but you wouldn't know it from looking at the cosmetic-surgery business. After a slight dip at the peak of the recession in 2008, the industry has rebounded in the last two years, even as most Americans were scrimping and saving on so much else.”

13

What Ever Happened To Upward Mobility? / Rana Foroohar

In: Time, 11/14/2011, Vol. 178, Issue 19. -2873 words

“America's story, our national mythology, is built on the idea of being an opportunity society. From the tales of Horatio Alger to the real lives of Henry Ford and Mark Zuckerberg, we have defined our country as a place where everyone, if he or she works hard enough, can get ahead. [...]But does America still work like that?”

14

That's Advertainment / Veronica Majerol

Reprinted from: The New York Times Upfront; 1/10/2011, Vol. 143, Iss. 8. – 1307 words

“For years, food, car, and electronics companies have offered, and often paid, to have their products included as props in TV shows and movies. But in recent years, as DVRs [Digital Video Recorder] have made it easier to skip traditional 30-second ads, advertisers have sought new ways to pitch their brands, including paying producers to script them into TV shows, as well as movies, videos, and video games. “

15

1852: Did a Novel Start the Civil War? / [anon.]

In: The New York Times Upfront, Jan. 2, 2012. - 1570 words

“Stowe wrote *Uncle Tom's Cabin* in protest against the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850, which instituted fines for federal officials who didn't arrest runaway slaves. The novel set sales records and became an international sensation soon after it was published in 1852.”