

OUTREACH SERVICE  
**U. S. SOCIETY & VALUES**  
AMERICAN EMBASSY RESOURCE CENTER

October 2006

**IN BRIEF...**

Views expressed in the **articles** are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect U.S. government

**Commercial Sources:**

**Fabric of Their Lives**

A new exhibition features works by the quilters of Gee's Bend, Alabama, a small rural community that had developed a quilting tradition in the early 1800s. Gee's Bend women made the quilts to keep their families warm in unheated shacks with no water or electricity...

**Survival By Song**

Focusing on some of the reasons Tony Bennett has had such a long and prosperous career, McDonough describes his visit to the studio where Bennett is recording his album of American classics with a number of top contemporary artists...

**Where the Brains Are**

The author notes that America's educated elite is clustering in a few major metropolitan areas, leaving the rest of the country behind -- a demographic realignment that is every bit as significant as previous migrations in U.S. history...

**Government Sources:**

**Happy Halloween from the White House**

**U.S. Children, Adults Celebrate Halloween**

**Costumes, candy high on pre-teen schedule on night of October 31**



While not an official holiday, the traditional October 31 Halloween celebration is much beloved by children in the United States, for whom the day is a chance to don costumes—often depicting ghosts, goblins and other "supernatural" creatures—and to collect candy and other treats from adults.

Most Americans consider Halloween a festive occasion, but its roots long predate the United States and its meaning has changed greatly over time. Even today, many other nations observe their own versions of this long-observed festival.

A child, wearing his Halloween costume, buzzes around a pumpkin patch in San Antonio, Texas.  
(© AP Images)

**Youth Interfaith Movement Thrives in United States**

At U.S. universities with religiously diverse student bodies, students of different faiths connect with each other because each has a strong belief in something, even if that something varies, say young people involved in interdenominational dialogue.

"Students who are not religious -- and this is a generalization -- might not find this immediate common ground," said Tyler Zoanni, a political science major at the University of Chicago, in a webchat October 26.

**More Students from Other Nations Earning Doctorates in U.S.**

**U.S. universities welcome students from other countries, new reports show**

International students represent an important means for strengthening U.S. cultural diplomacy around the world, according to new reports that show that the United States continues to welcome more international students than any other country and that a growing percentage of the doctorates U.S. universities award are earned by students who are not residents of the United States.

**U.S. Teens Assist at Polling Places, Learn About Democracy**

**Election Day programs encourage civic involvement, volunteerism**

In several counties across the United States, local election boards are offering programs that enable middle-school and secondary-school students to assist at polling places on Election Day, giving teenagers an opportunity to observe the democratic process in action.

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**Commercial Sources:**

**20 YEARS LATER: SPIKE LEE STILL GOTTA HAVE IT**

Spike Lee has been described as "the most important African-American filmmaker ever." But he says he's come a long way since his famous first studio film, SHE'S GOTTA HAVE IT, debuted at the Cannes Film Festival in 1986. In fact, Lee says he's learned not only about his inner self, but also about the outside world -- and not to have preconceived notions about anything or anyone, especially his audience...

**THE EVOLUTION OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN**

"Over his long life the founding father slowly changed from an unabashed slaveholder to a true abolitionist," contends Huntington, who traces the contradictions and ambivalence in Franklin's attitude toward slavery in this detailed article...

**ALL IN THE FAMILY**

This special issue of Downbeat, edited by Branton Marsalis, pays tribute to the musical traditions of New Orleans one year after Hurricane Katrina and floods devastated the city. In the lead article, Odell sets the scene, focusing on the city's musical families who have passed down New Orleans jazz traditions from generation to generation.

**Government Sources:**

**State Department Launches Global Cultural Initiative**

At a White House ceremony featuring performances by young Azeri and Canadian musicians, first lady Laura Bush introduced the Global Cultural Initiative (GCI), an effort to enhance and expand the United States' cultural diplomacy.

Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs Karen Hughes represented the Department of State, which will partner with public and private cultural organizations to launch the initiative.



State's Karen Hughes talks about the diplomatic power of the performing arts at the Initiative's launch. (© AP Images)



First Lady Laura Bush introduces her husband, President Bush, before his address to The White House Conference. (© AP Images)

**White House Sponsors First International Literacy Conference**

Welcoming representatives of more than 75 nations to the inaugural White House Conference on Global Literacy, U.S. first lady Laura Bush challenged governments to educate all people -- men, women and children, rich and poor -- and urged private-sector organizations to dedicate their resources to ending illiteracy.

Investment in education, she said, "no matter how significant, is always worthwhile, because investing in literacy and education helps governments meet their fundamental obligations by improving opportunities for children and families, by strengthening their economies and by keeping their citizens in good health."

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**Commercial Sources:**

**From The Fields, To The Factory, To The Ceo's Desk, African American Pioneers In Corporate America**

This special supplement to American Legacy magazine, begins with the story of Richard D. Parsons, the head of Time Warner, Inc. and discusses the lives of the Afro-American trailblazers who went before him. William Perry, who helped Henry Ford get his start by helping Ford saw trees on Ford's wooded land and convert it into useful property...

**American Musings**

Mills, the executive editor of American Art, introduces this series of essays by members of the magazine's editorial board. Each of the works, selected from the collections of the newly renovated Smithsonian American Art Museum (SAAM), has touched the authors' lives, and most "evoke recollections of spaces or places" in the United States.

**Does America Have An Arts Policy?**

In this article, Cowen debunks several myths about arts in the U.S., contending that "the United States has arts policies as active as those of Europe, and more effective." While many European arts institutions receive 80 percent of more of their budgets from governments and the U.S. government provides just five percent, these numbers do not reflect the total picture.

**Government Sources:**

**Women's Equality Day - Celebrated August 26**

The U.S. Congress designated August 26 as "Women's Equality Day" in 1971 to commemorate the 1920 passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, which granted women in the United States the right to vote. Each year a Presidential Proclamation recognizes the hard work and perseverance of those who have helped secure women's suffrage.



**Foreign Born in the United States Become More Dispersed**

**Usual destinations still popular, but Southeast states see surge**

Immigrants in the United States are dispersing to areas beyond their traditional destinations. According to new data released August 15 by the U.S. Census Bureau, there were 36 million foreign-born people in the United States in 2005, making up 12.4 percent of the population. More than one in three residents living in Los Angeles and New York were not U.S. citizens at birth.

Spanish dancers perform a flamenco style dance in Anderson, South Carolina.

(© AP/Anderson Independent, Ken Ruinard)

**Legendary Record Producer Shaped Early Rock and Roll**

**Sam Phillips and Sun Records fused musical genres**

In January 1986, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inducted its first 12 members. Elvis Presley was honored. So was Jerry Lee Lewis. And so was Sam Phillips, the man who launched their careers. Twelve years later, Phillips entered the Blues Hall of Fame, where B.B. King, Howlin' Wolf and other legends who cut their first records for Phillips already were honored. In 1998, Phillips joined Johnny Cash -- another of his discoveries -- as a member of the Country Music Hall of Fame.

**Reggaeton Making Inroads in U.S. Music Market**

**Latin music breaks barriers, embraces hip-hop and Jamaican influences**

It has been called hip-hop spiced with Spanish flavor by USA Today and it has swept over the United States, especially in Latin communities. A mix of dancehall reggae, hip-hop, salsa, merengue, cumbia and other Caribbean beats fused together and known as reggaeton it is the newest music-genre to hit the West.

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**Commercial Sources:**

**Grand Reopening**

The U.S. Patent Office Building in downtown Washington underwent a six-year, multi-million dollar renovation, and has been reopened as the Donald W. Reynolds Center for American Art and Portraiture. In this two-article series celebrating its reopening, Adam Goodheart in *BACK TO THE FUTURE* traces the history of the Patent Office Building since its construction in 1836...

**All Roads Lead Through America: Celebrating 50 Years of The Interstate Highway System**

A half-century after President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the Federal Highway Act of 1956, thus launching one of the most ambitious infrastructure endeavors in U.S. history, the Interstate Highway System underscores how much America has changed -- much for the better, but not without a bit of nostalgia for the less complicated life of days long past...

**Small Business, Big Returns**

With a growth rate of 82 percent since 1997, Hispanic-owned businesses are among the fastest-growing in the United States. Hispanic women actually lead that growth: approximately 35 percent of Hispanic firms are owned by women...

**Government Sources:**



**Snapshot USA**

**An Electronic Journal of the U.S. Department of State – June 2006**

This edition of eJournal USA is designed to provide a central resource for information about the United States. It is but an introduction, tailored to the current generation of young people around the world, containing many facts and statistics, but also essays which describe a little of how Americans think about their country and the world.

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**Commercial Sources:**

**Make A Joyful Noise**

A group of African-Americans from Alabama and Scottish residents of an island in the Outer Hebrides have something in common -- a rare style of hymn singing that has its roots in both cultures...

**Wyeth's World**

Immensely popular over a career that has spanned seven decades, American artist Andrew Wyeth remains the subject of intense debate among critics, museum curators, and art historians... In this article, Adams traces Wyeth's life and work, from the early influences of his father, artist N.C. Wyeth, to the surreal, personal paintings he is creating today.

**American Pie**

Pizza has become "the most successful immigrant of all" to the U.S., notes the author. Although it arrived in the U.S. relatively late compared with long-standing favorites such as the hamburger and hot dog, pizza "has secured a special place on the American table."

**Government Sources:**

**Laura Bush Previews Venetian Painting Exhibit in Washington**

**Exhibit of Bellini, Giorgione, Titian runs June 18 -- September 17**

First lady Laura Bush on June 14 previewed an exhibition of Renaissance Venetian paintings at the National Gallery of Art in Washington.

She was accompanied by Leila Castellaneta, wife of Italian Ambassador to the United States Giovanni Castellaneta.

The first lady expressed delight at "these magnificent works," which are drawn from the first three decades of the 16th century, the Venetian Golden Age. She encouraged people to visit the exhibition -- titled "Bellini, Giorgione, Titian, and the Renaissance of Venetian Painting" -- which opens June 18 and continues until September 17.

**Empire State Building Celebrates 75th Anniversary**

**Throughout the world, iconic skyscraper symbolizes New York**

For more than a century, steel-framed towers piercing ever higher into the sky have captured the modern imagination. "One of the most stupendous, one of the most magnificent opportunities ... ever offered to the spirit of man," wrote architect and "father of the skyscraper" Louis Sullivan of the lofty structures. "The force and power of altitude must be in it, the glory and pride of exaltation must be in it."

Possibly no skyscraper better represents that spirit than the Empire State Building in New York City, which celebrated its 75th anniversary in May. Although it no longer is the world's -- or even the United States' -- tallest, the Empire State Building remains iconic.



**Giving: U.S. Philanthropy**

**An Electronic Journal of the U.S. Department of State - May 2006**

This journal highlights several forms of giving and the activities of a wide variety of philanthropic organizations, some under the patronage of the rich and famous, others created and operated by ordinary people. It also contains valuable resources for those who want to learn about nonprofit management, grant writing, and other topics related to modern philanthropy.

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**Commercial Sources:**

**Hip-Hop Visions Of An Ancient World**

Will Power, who is best known as a writer and performer in the hip-hop solo show FLOW, is interviewed here about his reworking of Aeschylus's *Seven Against Thebes* at the New York Theatre Workshop...

**San Francisco Then And Now**

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the 1906 earthquake in San Francisco. The article describes how the city recovered from one of the greatest natural disasters to strike the U.S., and the potential earthquake threats that lie ahead...

**Americans Abroad**

For decades, American performing artists have gone to Europe to pursue their careers. The author interviews several U.S. dancers on the cultural differences they have encountered since leaving the U.S.

**Government Sources:**



Fab 5 Freddy speaks at the launch of the Smithsonian's upcoming history of hip-hop exhibit. (© AP/WWP)

**Hip-Hop Culture Crosses Social Barriers**

**Musical artists tell America's story in rap**

African-American and Latino teens with a turntable and time on their hands in the 1970s invented hip-hop -- born in the USA and now the center of a mega music and fashion industry around the world.



Poet laureate Stanley Kunitz at home in his garden, September 2000. (© AP/WWP)

**U.S. Poet Laureate Stanley Kunitz Dies at 100**

**"Poetry is for the Sake of Life," Pulitzer Prize winner declared**

"The poem in the head is always perfect," U.S. poet laureate Stanley Kunitz once observed. "Resistance starts when you try to convert it into language."

Kunitz, one of the most respected artists in his field throughout the past century and into the 21st, died May 15 at the age of 100. In the summer of 2000, when he was 95, Kunitz chose to look to the present and future by accepting an appointment as poet laureate of the Library of Congress -- making him, effectively, the U.S. poet laureate.

**President Bush Honors Asian Pacific Americans**

**Bestows volunteer awards during Heritage Month celebration**

President Bush praised the 14 million Americans claiming ancestry from the Asian Pacific region for demonstrating that "the American dream is within reach for all who study hard and persevere."

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**Commercial Sources:**

**Jazz Bridge To Afghanistan**

This brief article outlines the path-breaking work of "American Voices," an organization founded in 1992 to further the understanding of American music in countries such as Burma, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, and Belarus, that lack opportunities for cultural exchange with the United States.

**Government Sources:**



Smithsonian Jazz Appreciation Month poster (Courtesy the Smithsonian Institution)

**America Savors Its Music During Jazz Appreciation Month**

**Smithsonian expert tours clubs, historic sites devoted to jazz**

Each April, the United States celebrates Jazz Appreciation Month (JAM), an opportunity to savor a major American contribution to world culture. Initiated by the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History, JAM aims to focus public attention on the music, and on the many talented composers, musicians and other contributors to the sound.



**Laura Bush Announces Global Literacy Conference**

**First lady calls reading educational bedrock "on which the entire mind is built"**

A conference on global literacy will be held in New York in September in conjunction with the 61st session of the United Nations General Assembly, first lady Laura Bush announced April 24.

She spoke at an April 24 UNESCO luncheon marking Education for All Week. The Education for All movement originated in 1990 when participants at the World Conference on Education for All in Jomtien, Thailand, pledged to support primary education for all children and to reduce adult illiteracy.

**President Bush Declares National Volunteer Week**

**Urges striving toward more compassionate and decent society**

President Bush proclaimed April 23 through 29 National Volunteer Week. He praised the millions of individuals who dedicate their time, talent and energy to help others and called upon Americans "to explore ways to help their neighbors in need and serve a cause greater than themselves."

**United States Steps Up Enforcement of Immigration Laws**

**ICE conducts largest work site enforcement in U.S. history**

Washington – Recognizing that enforcement of immigration laws inside the United States is crucial to securing the nation's borders, U.S. Immigration and Customs (ICE) officials have conducted the largest work site enforcement of immigration laws against a company in U.S. history, according to Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff.

**Hispanic-Owned Business Booming in the United States**

**Census figures show Hispanic firms growing three times faster than average**

Hispanic-owned businesses in the United States are growing three times faster than the national average for all firms and generating more than \$200 billion in annual revenue, according to a new report released by the U.S. Census Bureau.

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**Commercial Sources:**

**Women Of Influence: A Conversation With Cokie Roberts**

Cole, chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, talked with news analyst Cokie Roberts about her recent book, *FOUNDING MOTHERS*, and the importance of women in U.S. political history...



**Philanthropy In Action: Managing The Workload**

The author, president of Draper Consulting Group, offers a number of tips for grantmakers (as well as for everybody else) who are doing more work with smaller staffs. Based on interviews with leading professionals, this article addresses meeting increased demands, maintaining high standards, seeking technological solutions, balancing work with life outside the office, and focusing on priorities...

**Video Games And The Future Of Learning**

Video games are commonly looked upon as "merely entertainment," within the academic community, but corporations, the government, and the military have already recognized their value as educational tools, and schools need to catch up, say the authors, who are faculty members at the University of Wisconsin, and founding members of the Games and Professional Practice Simulations Research Group...

**Government Sources:**

**Actor with Nigerian Roots Has Key Role in Top-Grossing U.S. Movie  
Chiwetel Ejiofor plays alongside Denzel Washington in Inside Man**

When the figures came in for top-grossing movie in the United States for the weekend of March 24-26, the leader was *Inside Man*, directed by African-American Spike Lee and featuring British actor Chiwetel Ejiofor, whose roots are in Nigeria.

**Americans Celebrate Asian Tradition of Dueling Kites**

**Smithsonian holds "Rokkaku Battle" as part of annual kite festival March 25**

Dozens of brightly colored kites glided through the skies around the National Mall in Washington March 25 performing aerobatics and engaging in aerial combat as part of the Smithsonian Institution's 40th Annual Kite Festival.

**Visiting African Female Journalists Get Boost from Laura Bush**

**Women participate in media program sponsored by State Department**

A group of visiting women journalists from Africa say Washington's impressive monuments and institutions paled in comparison to a meeting they had recently with first lady Laura Bush, who spoke passionately about the scourge of HIV/AIDS.

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**Commercial Sources:**

**Black Architects; Embracing And Defining Culture**

Jack Travis, one of the top architects in the United States, spends much of his time mentoring young people...

**Honoring Others Honors Ourselves**

Various age-old traditions and rituals that celebrate life's passages and achievements serve to demonstrate to Native Americans who they are and their origins...

**Bridging Two Worlds: A Conversation With Bette Bao Lord**

The magic of America, novelist and essayist Lord observes in this interview, is the idea that Americans can be as different as sisters and brothers are and still be part of the same family...

**Government Sources:**

**State's Hughes Discusses Private, Public Philanthropy**

**Says U.S. aid now tied to results, nations' investment in their people**

The diverse, and sometimes overlooked, ways in which Americans engage in "the act of giving" were highlighted by the State Department's Karen Hughes in an address to business leaders in Seattle, Washington.

Speaking on February 27, National Corporate Philanthropy Day, the under secretary for public diplomacy and public affairs said that private, government and private-public partnership efforts reflect "one of our founding convictions -- that every person has worth, and dignity and value."

**Peace Corps Celebrates 45 Years of Service to Developing Nations**

**Director Gaddi Vasquez presents awards to members of Congress**

At a time when some perceive a widening rift between the West's emphasis on modernity and developing nations' desire to maintain traditional values, the Peace Corps, for more than 45 years, has been in the forefront of helping people struggle out of poverty while mirroring traditional American values of democracy and fair play.

Far from being quaint beliefs, those are the same traditions that motivated the thousands of Americans who answered the call first made by President John F. Kennedy when he established the volunteer agency in 1961.

**Americans Breaking Out of Their English-Only Shells**

**Better resources, opportunities encourage U.S. foreign language students**

For decades, Americans have been stereotyped as unwilling to learn any language but English.

The rest of the world was learning English, according to the stereotypical American, so why struggle learning a foreign language?

In truth, mastering foreign languages was a grim task for many Americans in the 1950s, 1960s and early 1970s. Many American students suffered a regimen of dull classroom work followed by long hours locked up in "language labs" listening to language tapes.

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**Bridging Two Worlds: A Conversation With Bette Bao Lord**

The magic of America, novelist and essayist Lord observes in this interview, is the idea that Americans can be as different as sisters and brothers are and still be part of the same family...

**Remembering Rosa Parks**

It has taken time and reverence, death and tribute for history to fully record how the events on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama, in December 1955 lifted America to a higher calling and Rosa Parks to iconic status. The author recounts details of that day and its aftermath, and its impact on numerous individuals who later became pivotal in civil rights history, and describes how Parks was commemorated across the nation in the days following her recent death at 92.

**Fulbright Connects With The Muslim World**

Fulbright, the United States' best-known academic-exchange program, is increasing its focus on the Muslim world, strengthening its ties with critical countries and establishing a short-term exchange program for professors from Muslim countries...

**Honoring Others Honors Ourselves**

Various age-old traditions and rituals that celebrate life's passages and achievements serve to demonstrate to Native Americans who they are and their origins...

**Government Sources:**



U.S. Gold medallist Joey Cheek takes a victory lap after winning the men's 500 meter speedskating sprint race. (© AP/WP)

**For 2006 Winter Olympics, U.S. Sending Its Most Diverse Team Ever  
Athletes hope to repeat successes of 2002, when United States won 34 medals**

The team representing the United States at the 2006 Winter Games in Torino, Italy, comprises internationally renowned stars and speed skaters hailing from such unlikely and traditionally warm states as Texas, Florida and North Carolina. The 211-member team competing in the February 10-26 games is made up of 89 women and 122 men, and reflects a wide geographic and racial diversity, representing 33 out of the 50 U.S. states, and the number of African-American, Asian-American or Hispanic-American athletes is double their representation from the team's participation at the 2002 games held in Salt Lake City.



Playwright August Wilson poses for a portrait at Yale University April 7, 2005. (© AP/WWP)

**Meet August Wilson, a Playwright for an American Century  
Black History Month tribute to heralded American dramatist who died in 2005**

In one of the last stage directions that American playwright August Wilson wrote, for productions of his final work, *Radio Golf*, he described a central character's burst of laughter as that of "a man who has been bleeding and didn't know he was cut. It is the laugh of a man who has severed his bonds and is truly free." It could have been a self-portrait.

Wilson died of liver cancer on October 2, 2005, less than two months after revealing his terminal illness to the world.

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**Commercial Sources:**

**Of Many Things**

In the US, the primary issue is not so much migration as immigration, especially the struggle of impoverished or persecuted people. Here, Anderson discusses the importance of a combination of research, curriculum, and advocacy could lead to ways to address proactively the issue of migration through a network of Jesuit colleges and universities.

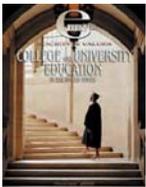
**What Would America Be Like Without 60 Years Of Black Contributions?**

Dyson details the legacy of some Black public figures who have transformed society through their love affair with excellence, and that without their contributions, the US would not look the same, sound the same, or struggle in the same way to fulfill its promise of opportunity and justice for all. He likewise highlights the contributions of Black artists who have profoundly changed what and how America sees--in the images that flare on the canvas as well as those that flicker on the large and small screen.

**Dimensions of Diversity**

Malveaux comments that the diversity movement suggests that there is strength in one's differences and that one's differences enhance each other. At the same time, the movement insists that one's differences should not have economic, social or political consequences. Everyone are entitled to the same access of resources and opportunities regardless of their differences.

**Government Sources:**



**College and University Education in the United States**

An Electronic Journal of the U.S. Department of State, November 2005

**About this issue:**

From the many types of institutions to the virtually unlimited array of programs and majors, the universities and colleges in the United States reflect the diversity, tolerance, and pursuit of excellence that characterize the best of the country as a whole. Through this journal, prospective international students and their parents and advisors will learn about the American system of higher education and academic and student life at U.S. colleges and universities...

The journal includes descriptions of various types of U.S. institutions of higher learning, followed by articles that feature more detailed information about individual university programs, as well as articles about the concept of a "major," college life, and the American styles of instruction. Numerous photos and a video are included to enhance the written descriptions. We also present information about resources for students seeking guidance in navigating the selection, application, and financial aspects of the U.S. system. EducationUSA's educational Advising Centers and their Web site <http://educationusa.state.gov/>. are among the most useful of these resources. Potential international enrollees are advised to begin the application process at least one year prior to the application deadline in order to obtain and submit all the necessary academic records and to arrange to take required tests...

In putting together this issue of *eJournal USA: Society & Values*, we were reminded of how important the college experience is to the student. Without exception, everyone we spoke to suggested we cover his or her college, or the one a family member attends or did attend. This sense of connection, even after many years in some cases, is an important reminder of the role the college experience plays during a time of personal development, intellectual challenge, and the search for community...

*The Editors*

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### Commercial Sources:

#### Alaska's Digital Archive

Alaska's digital archive located at <http://vilda.alaska.edu> is a trove of primary sources about Alaskan cultural and political history. The site offers considerable historical and educational value, including maps of Alaska, extensive photographs and images of Alaska's people and way of life, and footage of the 1964 Good Friday Earthquake.

#### The Tennessee Encyclopedia Of History And Culture

The Tennessee encyclopedia of history and culture located at <http://tennesseeencyclopedia.net> is a comprehensive resource for information on the Volunteer State extending from the prehistoric period to the present. The site offers historical sketches for each Tennessee's 96 counties and numerous biographical essays about Tennesseans who have made important contributions to their state's history.

#### AMOCA: The American Museum of Ceramic Art

The new American Museum of Ceramic Art (AMOCA) <http://www.ceramicmuseum.org/>, located in downtown Pomona is out to educate and excite the public about ceramics. One of the few ceramics museums in the country, and the first in southern California, this place has a mission: to serve as a community arts center, and show works from far and wide to audiences from far and wide. Here, Rosen highlights the AMOCA and its important role in the arts community and in the city of Pomona's renaissance.

#### Voyage Of Discovery

According to Niles Eldredge, a paleontologist at the American Museum of Natural History in New York, scientists didn't begin to find answers about life until the 19th century, when Charles Darwin (1809-1882) came up with ideas that changed people's thinking about the different organisms on Earth. When Darwin was 22 years old, he sailed the HMS Beagle on an ocean voyage to explore South America. Here, an interview with Eldredge on how the eye-opening sights on that five-year-long trip inspired Darwin's thoughts on wildlife.

#### The Intellectual Creativity And Public Discourse Of Malcolm X: A Precursor To The Modern Black Studies Movement

This article seeks to explore the education and public dialogue of Malcolm X, a major African American leadership figure of the 1950s and 1960s. It is the author's intent to explore an aspect of Malcolm X's leadership not addressed in much of the current literature, his educational attainment leading to his role as the intellectual and pedagogical antecedent to the modern Black studies movement of the 1960s. This article examines his educational and intellectual development, his role as a public activist and debater, and his contribution to curricular reform in his public rhetoric...

#### Education, Not Litigation

The federal court system has played an important role in education during the last century, protecting the rights of minority students, students with disabilities, and the First Amendment rights of all students. Here, Reeves discusses the four keys that provide the way to a mediated solution of the current 'No Child Left Behind' debate.

#### Education Goes Digital; The Evolution Of Online Learning And The Revolution In Higher Education

In this article, it is argued that the current evolutionary changes in educational technology and pedagogy will be seen, 50 years from now, as revolutionary changes in the nature of higher education as a process and as an institution. Education is in the process of moving from face-to-face courses using objectivist, teacher-centered pedagogy and offered by tens of thousands of local, regional, and national universities to online and hybrid courses using digital technologies to support constructivist, collaborative, student-centered pedagogy, offered by a few hundred mega-universities that operate on a global scale...

## **Government Sources:**

### **Honored Playwright August Wilson Dead at 60**

**American playwright August Wilson, who died of liver cancer October 2, once observed of his plays that they are "about love, honor, duty, betrayal -- things humans have written about since the beginning of time."**

Wilson, one of the most revered dramatists of the late 20th and early 21st century, sought, in his words, "to take culture and put it onstage, demonstrate it is capable of sustaining you. There is no idea that can't be contained by life: Asian life, European life, certainly black life." As a result, he was the quintessential universalist, a playwriting paragon whose works continue to speak to all cultures and to all the world's people.

### **Bush Proclaims National Disability Employment Awareness Month**

**President Bush on September 30 proclaimed October National Disability Employment Awareness Month.**

Bush lauded disabled Americans' increasing contributions in the workplace, particularly since the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and his own administration's New Freedom Initiative, which has expanded workplace opportunities for the disabled. The president promised to continue working "to ensure that Americans with disabilities can realize the promise of America."

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**A M E R I C A N   E M B A S S Y   R E S O U R C E   C E N T E R**

September 2005

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**Commercial Sources:**

**Coast to Coast Museum Boom**

This fall marks the much-anticipated openings of five new or renovated museum buildings across the US. Perhaps the highest-profile project is the de Young Museum in San Francisco, which will reopen on Oct 15.

**America's Traditional Values: The Conscience Of A Nation**

Discussion of traditional values has been prominent not only in political slogans and speeches but some polls indicate that they are an important concern for a significant segment of the electorate as well. However, discussions have often been confusing, misdirected, and skewed for partisan advantage. For the most part, those using the rhetoric of traditional values have totally missed the point how a very special set of values developed as an integral part of the great experiment called the United States of America. Here, Gray offers a historical look at the values that have served as the goal of America's evolving society.

**A New Perspective on Urban Spaces**

As the 21st century unfolds, the sprawling development pattern in the US has emerged as a major issue for the collective society. Urban development influences the quality of life in the communities. Here, DeGraff et al discuss the problems of urban sprawl, the principles of new urbanism, and the role of park and recreation field in relation to quality of life.

**Joining Hands Across A Cultural Divide**

Leaver emphasizes the need for cultural sensitivity in the child welfare field in the United States' growing Hmong refugee population. Accounts detailing the many distinct cultural factors that characterize the Hmong people are also presented.

**Government Sources:**

**Bush Proclaims National Historically Black Colleges Week**

Praising the nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) for their high standards of excellence, for preparing rising generations for success and for helping to fulfill the nation's commitment to equal education, President Bush proclaimed September 11-17 as National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week, 2005.

"By upholding high standards of excellence and providing equal educational opportunities to all Americans, these valued institutions help ensure that all our citizens can realize their full potential and look forward to a prosperous and hopeful future," Bush said in a September 9 presidential proclamation.

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## **Government Sources:**



**See You in the U.S.A.** - An Electronic Journal of the U.S. Department of State,  
September 2005

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice**

Millions of foreign visitors travel to America each year, and each visitor, whether a tourist, a business traveler, or an immigrant, adds to America's cultural, educational, and economic life. I am delighted to welcome all our guests to the United States.

As Americans, we are eager for our international visitors to explore our culture, meet Americans, and see our country. We are equally eager to learn from our visitors about the richness and diversity of their cultures, history, languages, and ideas.

President Bush and I are convinced that developing ties based on respect, understanding, and a grounding in the common values of different countries, backgrounds and faiths will help us all build a safer and better world. The key to success rests with making individual connections and building understanding.

We believe that travel and people-to-people exchanges can be utterly transformative. Participants in international exchange programs, Americans and foreigners alike, time and time again describe their lives as being forever changed by their experiences.

As a nation of immigrants, the United States has always welcomed visitors. We will continue to work hard to ensure the safety of all people within our borders, tourists and residents alike, and we will continue to cherish the richness and diversity our visitors bring to this great country.

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### Commercial Sources:

#### **The Heat Is On**

The Hubbard Street Dance Chicago troupe began in the 1970s as a jazzy little ensemble of performers with impeccable technique and memorable stage personalities...

#### **Brooklyn Rising**

The New York City borough of Brooklyn has a storied history, with many familiar names among its native sons and daughters, and an identity that is rooted in its varied neighborhoods. But rather than celebrating the past, Brooklyn today has become a world-class venue and destination, having undergone remarkable changes with more in its immediate future.

#### **Cultures Aren't Equal**

Most Americans know there is something special about America's cultural heritage. While Harvard and Brown are replacing scholars of the founding period with those studying other things, book buyers are snapping up first-rate histories of the founders by David McCullough, Joseph Ellis, and Ron Chernow. Multiculturalist intellectuals do not think US society is worth defending. But millions in the US and increasing numbers in Britain and other countries know better.

#### **Performing arts in America, 1875-1923**

Performing arts in America, 1875-1923 located at [http://digital.nypl.org/lpa/nypl/lpa\\_home4.html](http://digital.nypl.org/lpa/nypl/lpa_home4.html), created and maintained by The New York Public Library, makes available a sample of the library's extensive holdings in the history of performing arts. It offers a glimpse inside a society in which entertainment for the masses became a thriving industry.

#### **A New Perspective on Urban Spaces**

As the 21st century unfolds, the sprawling development pattern in the US has emerged as a major issue for the collective society. Urban development influences the quality of life in the communities. Here, DeGraff et al discuss the problems of urban sprawl, the principles of new urbanism, and the role of park and recreation field in relation to quality of life.

### Government Sources:

#### **Women's Equality Day Celebrated August 26**

The U.S. Congress designated August 26 as "Women's Equality Day" in 1971 to commemorate the 1920 passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, which granted women in the United States the right to vote. Each year a Presidential Proclamation recognizes the hard work and perseverance of those who have helped secure women's suffrage.

#### **The 40th Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act**

Writing in 2005, Representative John Lewis lauded the "tremendous progress since the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965." Forty years ago, he continued, only 7% of eligible black Mississippians were registered to vote. The figure today is 70%, and 71 Members of Congress boast of African American, Latino, Native American, or Asian descent. The VRA, he concluded, "has indeed been successful and has revolutionized enfranchisement in America during the past forty years."

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**Commercial Sources:**

**Matters of faith**

This week, the Muslim American Society, based in Washington, D.C., with 50 chapters nationwide, announced a plan to emphasize the proper understanding of Islam among youths and within mosques. Many imams in the US have agreed to dedicate Friday's sermons to the religious duty of Muslims to work against the hate and violence behind terrorism, says MAS executive director Mahdi Bray.

**Black History Museum To Have a Story for All**

A central principle of the future National Museum of African American History and Culture will be that the varied stories of African Americans have broad meaning to all people. The African American History Museum has long been a goal of many politicians, civil rights groups, historians and citizens. After a prolonged journey through Congress, the museum was approved, and President Bush signed the legislation in 2003.

**"Disneyland is America's home town"**

When Disneyland's gates opened on July 17, 1955, there were minor disasters immediately: power outages, stuck rides, faulty drinking fountains, backed-up toilets, a suspected gas leak. But only seven weeks after opening day, the 1 millionth customer walked through the gates. They've kept on coming, and much of American culture hasn't been the same...

**Professor reveals how Civil War lives through today's American culture**

Paper money. Home mail delivery. Salisbury steak. All it took for these things to come into existence was the Civil War. In his lecture, [James I.] Robertson explained to the crowd of almost 400 people how the Civil War helped bring about many aspects of modern American culture.

**Government Sources:**



President George W. Bush speaks to an Independence Day crowd in Morgantown, W.Va., Monday, July 4, 2005. The President told the estimated 3,000 people at West Virginia University that "the revolutionary truths of the Declaration are still at the heart of America." White House photo by Krisanne Johnson.



**American Teenagers** - An Electronic Journal of the U.S. Department of State,  
July 2005  
[Download Adobe Acrobat \(PDF\) version](#)

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**Commercial Sources:**

**When Giants Walked The Village AA05183**

In the 1930s, the Greenwich Village section of New York City began to replace Harlem as the center of jazz, hosting such modernists as Miles Davis, Thelonious Monk, Sonny Rollins and Cannonball Adderley. Most of the clubs that sprang up during that era have long since gone -- the only one that remained, and still flourishes, is the Village Vanguard, which became the epicenter of progressive music in the 1950s and 1960s. The author narrates the history of the Vanguard and its cantankerous, colorful founder, the late Max Gordon, and his wife Lorraine, who has taken over the business.

**After 25 Years, Ed Is Here To Stay AA05182**

The U.S. Department of Education was created in 1980, after a legislative battle in the late 1970s between the two major teachers' organizations, the National Education Association (NEA) and the AFL-CIO union American Federation of Teachers (AFT). The NEA, which supported President Carter, wanted to give education a higher profile in the federal government; the Office of Education was at the time buried in the then-Department of Health, Education and Welfare. The losing coalition, headed by the AFT, opposed increasing federal influence in education and defended local control of schools. The author chronicles the history of the Education Department and the often-contentious debates over its role in education in the U.S.

**The Inside Story On The 'Always Oscar Worthy' Don Cheadle AA05180**

The author profiles Don Cheadle, the actor who starred in the award-winning film HOTEL RWANDA, and the dramatic effect it had on his life, turning him into an activist who has spoken out about the Rwandan genocide during which almost 1 million people were killed during the civil war in the 1990s.

**Government Sources:**

**President Bush Proclaims Flag Day and National Flag Week, 2005**

"For more than two centuries, the flag of the United States has been a symbol of hope and pride. The flag has inspired our citizens during times of conflict and comforted us during moments of sorrow and loss. On Flag Day and throughout National Flag Week, we celebrate the proud legacy of Old Glory and reflect on this enduring symbol of freedom," said President Bush in his June 10th proclamation declaring June 14, 2005, as Flag Day and the week beginning June 12, 2005, as National Flag Week.

**Smithsonian Festival Celebrates Folklife Around the Globe  
Crafts, music, food, exhibits offer rich sampling of cultures and traditions**

Latino music returns to the Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington in 2005, while the culture of an Arab nation is explored in detail for the very first time with an exhibition on Oman.

**University in Sharjah Offers U.S. Education in Islamic Setting  
Students taught independent thinking, appreciation for different views**

Sharjah, United Arab Emirates -- Located at the end of Sharjah's University City on the edge of the Arabian desert, the 12 buildings of the American University of Sharjah (AUS) evoke classical Islamic design on a scale reminiscent of the height of Arab civilization.

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### Commercial Sources:

#### IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF TOCQUEVILLE

Commemorating the bicentennial of the birth of Alexis de Tocqueville, the legendary interpreter of America, another Frenchman spent nearly a year traveling from one end of the country to the other to report on what he found. Drawing comparisons with Tocqueville as he journeys throughout the United States, Lévy reveals many insights into the American psyche from the simple to the profound. While visiting Arab Americans in Detroit, he sees "democracy at work -- that is, of integration and compromise." On the highway, he observes the love of equality. And at the Republican National Convention, he finds an ideological passion virtually unknown in Europe today.

#### VISITING THE ART OF AMERICA

The Children's Museum of Indianapolis will show some of the great works by Norman Rockwell, the famous American illustrator best known for his covers for the magazine The Saturday Evening Post. The exhibit will even include sound, multimedia, and live character interpretation.

#### MADAM AMBASSADOR

"Women diplomats have risen to the highest levels in some of the world's most dangerous places, but not without a fight," writes Harris in this in-depth profile of three high-ranking Foreign Service women. Although Ambassadors Prudence Bushnell (Guatemala and Kenya), Barbara Bodine (Yemen), and Elizabeth Jones (Kazakhstan) have made great strides, the glass ceiling still exists. Only 8 percent of the top diplomatic posts of ambassador or minister, deputy chief of mission or chargé d'affaires have been filled by women since 1933...

### Government Sources:

#### Jazz, Originally American, Now Celebrated Around the World

##### Voice of America's "Music Man," Leo Sarkisian, opens Jazz Appreciation Month

"The sound of surprise," as a famous critic once called jazz, is being celebrated around the world during the month of April, with a wide variety of events that keynote the significance of this music in the global culture.

To help kick off the celebration, longtime Voice of America broadcaster and noted musicologist Leo Sarkisian recounted the story of his love affair with jazz and gave his perspective on the music in an interview in March with Al Murphy at the State Department.

#### Laura Bush Urges Literacy Efforts, Expanded Rights for Women

##### First lady cites progress in speech at economic forum in Jordan

Freedom, especially freedom for women, must embody the right to speak, vote and worship freely, first lady Laura Bush says.

#### President Bush Proclaims April 17 through 23, 2005 as National Volunteer Week

The great strength of our Nation is found in the hearts and souls of the American people. During National Volunteer Week, we recognize the millions of individuals who touch our lives as soldiers in America's armies of compassion. Our Nation's volunteers inspire us with their dedication, commitment, and efforts to build a more hopeful country for our citizens.

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**Commercial Sources:**

**TOWARD A UNIFIED THEORY OF BLACK AMERICA**

Roland Fryer, a 27-year-old professor of economics at Harvard University and an African-American, is conducting ambitious research, using the tools of economics to figure out what is holding Black America back. His colleagues have been impressed by the breadth of his ideas; one recent paper argues that the high rates of hypertension and the six-year disparity in life expectancy of African-Americans versus whites, may be due to a single genetic factor: a higher rate of salt sensitivity among African-Americans. Fryer theorizes that the slaves who had the best chance of surviving the grueling voyage from Africa to America, in which as many as 15 percent died en route from illnesses that led to dehydration, were those who had a higher capacity for salt retention and would have retained more water. Other projects include studies of mixed-race children, to determine the influence of environment versus genes, and an experimental program of incentives to inspire minority students to improve grades.

**THE GREAT LATE SALVADOR DALI**

The retrospective of the long career of the internationally known Spanish surrealist painter Salvador Dali runs through May 15 at the Philadelphia Museum. The "late" Dali, those works that Dali created after 1939 in the last half-century of his life, were traditionally dismissed as lesser works that did not reach the masterpiece status of his earlier creations. However, that view is being challenged by a younger generation who sees his later works as central to the development of Pop art. This article explores that relationship and show how Dali's persona detracted from the artistic merits of his later works.

**Government Sources:**

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**Jazz, Originally American, Now Celebrated Around the World**

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**US Students Launch Campaign to Raise Private Funds for Darfur Peacekeeping**

A group of American students has launched a campaign to raise money from private individuals in an effort to stop the genocide in Sudan's Darfur region. The effort received support from members of Congress.

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**Commercial Sources:**

**CITY FOCUS: NEW ORLEANS**

The author, New Orleans correspondent for the magazine, describes the city's thriving arts scene and its role as a leading center for the arts in the South. New Orleans is rich in both international and local art, a reflection of its blend of European and African-Caribbean cultures...

**THE '70s: WHEN BLACK EXPRESSION CONQUERED POP CULTURE**

This issue of American Legacy features a series of articles on the 1970's -- "when black expression conquered pop culture." In the lead article, Gene Seymour explains why the 1970s was a turning point in African-American -- and American culture in general...

**"WE NEED TO PAY MORE ATTENTION TO BOYS"**

Laura Bush has adopted an agenda for the next four years that is difficult and unprecedented for a First Lady. Among the issues are global illiteracy and women's rights...

**THE ASIAN INVASION (OF MULTICULTURALISM) IN HOLLYWOOD**

The author chronicles the so-called "Asian invasion" of Hollywood, a growing number of films made by Chinese producers such as Ang Lee, and starring Chinese actors, such as Jackie Chan, that have appeared in U.S. movie theaters in the past decade and have enjoyed widespread popularity...

**KICK IT: OVER THE EDGE, DOWN TO THE ROOTS, AND IN THE MAINSTREAM**

In the late 1960s and 1970s the four elements of hip hop -- graffiti, rap, break dancing and DJ-ing -- burst out of the Bronx in New York City in a complete cultural package...

**OBITUARY**

Arthur Miller, playwright, died on February 10th, aged 89...

**Government Sources:**

**President Bush Proclaims Women's History Month, 2005**

During Women's History Month, we celebrate the achievements of our Nation's women. For generations, American women have helped build our great Nation through their leadership as writers, teachers, artists, politicians, doctors, and scientists, and in other professions. As mothers, daughters, and sisters, women have supported and strengthened American families and communities. Women are at the forefront of entrepreneurship in America, creating millions of new jobs and helping to build our Nation's economic prosperity.

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