



World Press Freedom Day— May 3



The Committee to Protect Journalists reports that 41 journalists were killed and 125 were imprisoned in 2008.

The United Nations highlighted the importance of a free media by establishing World Press Freedom Day in 1993, setting aside May 3 each year to remember slain and imprisoned journalists. This year's theme is the safety of journalists.

There has been a disturbing upswing in the number of journalists being imprisoned or killed, and more online journalists are being jailed by autocratic governments, say experts who spoke at a conference marking World Press Freedom Day.

[Read more...](#)



Lasantha Wickremetunga, winner of the 2009 UNESCO World Press Freedom Prize, was killed January 8.

A 2008 report compiled by CIMA/NED called "Empowering Independent Media" states that in many political settings, "violence against journalists is prevalent." Some of the reasons for this include:

- Media laws are often weak and selectively enforced.
 - Governments control and censor the media.
 - Cooperation for access to information is lacking.
 - Too few lawyers are willing to defend or protect journalists.
- [Read more...](#)

CIMA's newest online report, "[10 Worst Countries to Be a Blogger.](#)"

Great Moments in American Media Satire

Do you sometimes wonder if the news you are getting is fictitious or intentionally skewed? There have been many instances where it was exactly that, intended to accomplish specific goals: to influence, scare, or simply entertain the audience or the creator.

Humor is a powerful communication tool, and journalists (real and fake) have done their share of attempting to harness it, from early cartoons like this attempt to mock President Andrew Jackson's ambitions to modern TV programs that consist of nothing but satire. (See the blog entry "[Is The Daily Show news in disguise?](#)")



America.gov News

Statement by Secretary Clinton on World Press Freedom Day
Clinton reaffirms strong U.S. commitment to media freedom worldwide



President Obama delivers remarks at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington on April 27

Science more essential than ever, president says

NSF and NIH are primary sources of funding for academic research; the Office of Science "*builds and operates accelerators, colliders, supercomputers, high-energy light sources and facilities for making nanomaterials,*" Obama said.

Evolving Media and a Free Press

"Congress shall make no law ... abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press." The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution enshrines a basic U.S. belief: A free press nurtures democracy. Freedom of the press is essential to democracy because it empowers the citizenry and holds governments accountable.

But a free press cannot be effective without efficient mechanisms to deliver the news. From the earliest printing press to modern-day satellite transmissions, advances in technology have enhanced the power of the press by increasing the speed and reach of information distribution.

Related Links:

[Committee to Protect Journalists](#)

[Freedom House](#)

[International Center for Journalists](#)

[Internews](#)

[Reporters Without Borders](#)

Articles:

[Women Journalists Honored for Risking Their Lives](#)

[For Iranian Bloggers, Risks Have Not Deterred Activity](#)

[Independent News Media Important for Democracy Worldwide](#)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

[Journalism under Siege](#) 3

[Did you know?](#) 3

[E-Journal](#) 3

[English Teaching Corner](#) 4

[Library Corner](#) 5

[New Museum of American Jewish History to Open in 2010](#) 5

[Latest Reports](#) 6

Remarks by the President at the National Academy of Sciences Annual Meeting

(begin transcript)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, thank you so much for the wonderful welcome. To President Cicerone, thank you very much for your leadership and for hosting us today. To John Holdren, thanks, John, for the outstanding work that you are doing. I was just informed backstage that Ralph and John both are 1965 graduates of MIT -- same class. And so I'm not sure this is the perfectly prescribed scientific method, but they're sort of a control group -- (laughter) -- who ages faster: The President's Science Advisor or the President of the Academy? (Laughter.) And we'll check in in a couple of years. But it is wonderful to see them. To all of you, to my Cabinet

Secretaries and team who are here, thank you. It is a great privilege to address the distinguished members of the National Academy of Sciences, as well as the leaders of the National Academy of Engineering and the Institute of Medicine who've gathered here this morning. And I'd like to begin today with a story of a previous visitor who also addressed this august body. In April of 1921, Albert Einstein visited the United States for the first time. And his international credibility was growing as scientists around the world began to understand and accept the vast implications of his theories of special and general relativity. And he attended this annual meeting, and after sitting through a series of long speeches by others, he reportedly said, "I

have just got a new theory of eternity." (Laughter.) So I will do my best to heed this cautionary tale. (Laughter.) The very founding of this institution stands as a testament to the restless curiosity, the boundless hope so essential not just to the scientific enterprise, but to this experiment we call America. A few months after a devastating defeat at Fredericksburg, before Gettysburg would be won, before Richmond would fall, before the fate of the Union would be at all certain, President Abraham Lincoln signed into law an act creating the National Academy of Sciences -- in the midst of civil war. [Read more...](#)

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT IN NOMINATING JUDGE SONIA SOTOMAYOR TO THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT. THE WHITE HOUSE. MAY 26, 2009. "OVER A DISTINGUISHED CAREER THAT SPANS THREE DECADES, JUDGE SOTOMAYOR HAS WORKED AT ALMOST EVERY LEVEL OF OUR JUDICIAL SYSTEM, PROVIDING HER WITH A DEPTH OF EXPERIENCE AND A BREADTH OF PERSPECTIVE THAT WILL BE INVALUABLE AS A SUPREME COURT JUSTICE," SAYS THE PRESIDENT OBAMA AS HE NOMINATES SONIA SOTOMAYOR.

President Obama Proclaims June as Gay and Lesbian Pride Month

Calling on Congress and the American people to "work together to promote equal rights for all, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity," President Obama issued a presidential proclamation June 1 in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month. [Read more...](#)

The first gay pride parade was

held in 1970 on the one-year anniversary of what came to be known as "the Stonewall Rebellion." (See "[Gay and Lesbian Pride Month Celebrates Diversity, Liberty.](#)")

Five states are or will soon be issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples: Connecticut, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts and Vermont. Several other states offer

some form of domestic partnership or civil union to same-sex couples.

Cheer SF — a gay-lesbian-bisexual-transgender cheerleading group — performs during San Francisco's gay pride parade June 29, 2008.



CO.NX Upcoming Events — U.S. Department of State

Just follow the links:

June 16: Is There Hope for Somalia?

June 17: Fighting Corruption in Africa

June 23: Sri Lanka and the Maldives Q & A

June 25: Gays and Lesbians in America Seek Equal Rights



Did you know?



Iran was one of the first countries to welcome the U.S. Peace Corps in 1962, a year after President John Kennedy announced the program.

Learn more:
[Being Muslim in America](#)
 Podcast: President Obama's speech in Cairo

The United States has a long tradition of religious tolerance, including tolerance for Islam. As far back as 1796, John Adams, the second U.S. president, wrote, "The United States has in itself no character of enmity against the laws, religion or tranquillity of Muslims."

Learn more:
[Being Muslim in America](#)
 Podcast: President Obama's speech in Cairo



Quiz

How many mosques are there in the United States?

- A Less than 50
- B Nearly 500
- C More than 1,000

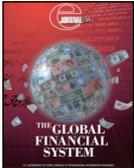
Learn more:
[Muslims in America – A Statistical Portrait](#)

Correct answer:
 C - More than 1,000

PRESIDENT OBAMA SEEKS NEW FUEL EFFICIENCY STANDARDS

"THE GOAL IS TO SET ONE NATIONAL STANDARD THAT WILL RAPIDLY INCREASE FUEL EFFICIENCY, WITHOUT COMPROMISING SAFETY, BY AN AVERAGE OF 5 PERCENT EACH YEAR BETWEEN 2012 AND 2016," OBAMA SAID.

eJournal USA / Other America.Gov Publications



THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL SYSTEM

Experts describe the mechanics of the global financial system presenting their

views concerning the cyclical nature of markets, the interdependence of global trade relationships, and the role of regulation.

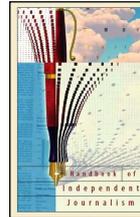
Inside this publication

HANDBOOK OF INDEPENDENT JOURNALISM

This handbook covers the ins and outs of what every professional journalist should know — from how to research, write, and edit a story to

how to write headlines, choose graphics, and select quotes and sound bites. Print, radio, TV, and Web-based or online journalism forms are discussed in detail, as well as the skills required in beat reporting.

Inside this publication



Journalism under Siege

"At times it feels really lonely as a journalist [so Press Freedom Day] becomes a good day to remember that our work has a lot of meaning ... allows us to still believe that [journalism is] a profession that's really needed to change the world."

--Lydia Cacho Ribeiro, freelance journalist

Cacho won UNESCO's 2008 World Press Freedom Prize for her work exposing political corruption, organized crime and

domestic violence despite an attempt on her life and legal battles. She says that her 18 years as a freelance journalist in Mexico have not been easy.

* * *

A free press "plays a key role in sustaining and monitoring a healthy democracy, as well as in contributing to greater accountability, good governance, and economic development."

-- Karin Deutsch Karlekar, senior researcher and managing editor for Freedom House

Freedom House monitors threats to media independence, primarily through its annual index, Freedom of the Press, which draws attention to countries and regions where such freedom is in jeopardy. Karlekar says the group's 2008 findings show a sixth straight year of decline in global press freedom.



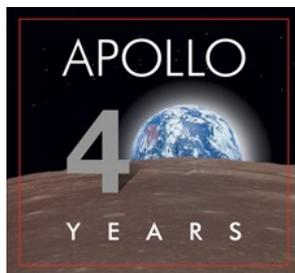
FREE OR NOT FREE?

FREEDOM HOUSE, A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION AND VOICE FOR DEMOCRACY AROUND THE WORLD, ANALYZES THE STATUS OF PRESS FREEDOM IN NATIONS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. (PDF)

English Teaching Corner

40th Anniversary of Man
Landing on the Moon
1969-2009

*One Giant Leap
for Mankind*



Astronauts Neil Armstrong, Mike Collins and Buzz Aldrin flew on the Apollo 11 mission. Image Credit: NASA

The sign the astronauts left on the moon says, "Here men from the planet Earth first set foot upon the moon July 1969, A.D. We came in peace for all mankind." Image Credit: NASA



To explore with your students:

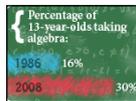
[Apollo 40th Anniversary: Celebrate Apollo, Exploring the Moon and Discovering Earth](#)

The Word of the Day

allopathy -(n.).The method of treating a disease by the use of agents that produce effects different from those of the disease treated.

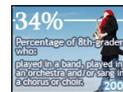
Education Statistics / Fast Facts

Compared to 1986, the percentage of 13-year-olds in 2008 taking algebra increased from 16 to 30 percent. (Source: NAEP 2008 Long-Term Trend) [\(more info\)](#)



In 2008, 34 percent of eighth-graders reported participating in one or more of the following musical activities at school: play-

ing in a band, playing in an orchestra, singing in a chorus or choir. [\(more info\)](#)



What are the most popular majors for college students? Of the 1,485,000 bachelor's degrees conferred in 2005–06, the largest numbers of degrees were conferred in the fields of business (318,000), social sciences and history (161,000), and educa-

tion (107,000). At the master's degree level, the largest numbers of degrees were in the fields of education (175,000) and business (146,000). The fields with the largest number of degrees at the doctor's degree level were education (7,600), engineering (7,400), health professions and related clinical sciences (7,100), biological and biomedical sciences (5,800), psychology (4,900), and physical sciences (4,500).

The Quote of the Month

"Whenever you are asked if you can do a job, tell 'em, 'Certainly I can!' Then get busy and find out how to do it."

- Theodore Roosevelt

Feature Article and more Resources for Students and teachers...

Youth Science Web Site Builds International Ties
Gifted students from 50 countries share ideas

Imagine being able to connect young people interested in science and math from around the world by means of a free, state-of-the-art Web site. This is the vision behind Cogito, a math and science site for

gifted pre-college students. Other useful links:

[Top University Programs: Science & Engineering](#)

[Community Colleges](#)



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. [Read more...](#)

Library Corner

If you are interested in receiving full-text of the following articles, just send an email to: reflisbon@state.gov

AA09158 Bedord, Jean
EBOOKS HIT CRITICAL MASS: WHERE DO LIBRARIES FIT WITH OPRAH? (Online, vol. 33, no. 3, May/June 2009, pp. 14-17)

The author, a private consultant, was one of the earliest eBook readers and one of its strongest proponents of the then-emerging format. The earliest eBooks were large, bulky contraptions that looked like thick

binders. Since then, readers have shrunk to the size of a thin paperback, more titles are available (now a major key to the success of eBooks), and the term "eBook" is now part of the general lexicon. Much of the credit for this change goes to television celebrity Oprah Winfrey's endorsement of the Amazon Kindle, which did much to change the mind-set for both readers and publishers, plus infrastructure changes that created larger inventories of book titles.

AA09188 Knapp, Jeffrey
LEGAL RESEARCH: AN INTRODUCTION TO KEY ONLINE

AND PRINT SOURCES (Choice, vol. 46, no. 8, April 2009, pp. 1439//1449)

The author, a librarian with Pennsylvania State University, Altoona, offers a basic overview of the legal process, a collection of resources for finding primary and secondary sources of legal information, resources for understanding the legal process, and resources specifically tailored for legal research. The essay is divided into two parts -- focusing on how a law is made and recorded, and aids in researching the law. Law reviews and legal periodical articles provide interpretation of the law as well as detailed articles on particular legal topics...

American Library Association News

ALA Annual Conference

The 2009 Annual Conference will take place in Chicago, IL July 9- July 15, 2009 at McCormick Place West located at 2301 S. Lake Shore Drive Chicago, IL 60616.



Statistical Summaries for Academic Libraries

Summary reports from ACRL's 2007 Academic Library Trends & Statistics with data from over 1,100 institutions. ([Free access.](#))

New Museum of American Jewish History Set to Open in 2010

Exhibits to focus on freedom enjoyed in United States, rich diversity

A new museum quickly taking shape just 90 paces from the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia will chronicle the experience of Jews in the United States from their first arrival by ship in 1654 to the present day.

Multimedia displays and some 20,000 cultural artifacts will focus on telling their story in the context of the freedom America

has offered and the rich diversity of the Jewish community itself, said Jonathan Sarna, chief historian of the National Museum of American Jewish History.

While exhibits will focus mainly on the Jewish community, he added, "I think any immigrant group, any minority group, will find moments that resonate for them." [Read more...](#)

The National Museum of American Jewish History's new building is under



construction near Independence Hall in Philadelphia.

STATISTICS ABOUT LIBRARIES

HOW MANY LIBRARIES ARE THERE IN THE UNITED STATES?

HOW MANY PEOPLE WORK IN LIBRARIES IN THE UNITED STATES?

THE NATION'S LARGEST LIBRARIES: A LISTING BY VOLUMES HELD

**AMERICAN EMBASSY RESOURCE CENTER
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Av. das Forças Armadas
1649-044 Lisboa

Phone: 217 273 127
Fax: 217 266 219
E-mail: reflisbon@state.gov



EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES
LISBON • PORTUGAL

**EMBASSY
HIGHLIGHTS**

*U.S. Chancery Celebrates
25th Anniversary in Sete
Rios*

ON MAY 28 FORMER AND CURRENT EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. EMBASSY IN LISBON GATHERED TO CELEBRATE THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHANCERY THAT MOVED ITS FACILITIES FROM AVENIDA DUQUE DE LOULÉ TO ITS PRESENT LOCATION A QUARTER OF A CENTURY AGO. VISITING US FOR THE OCCASION WERE FORMER AMBASSADORS EVERETT E. BRIGGS AND GERALD S. MCGOWAN.



[\(MORE\)](#)

**WE WOULD LIKE TO
HEAR FROM YOU!**

PLEASE SEND YOUR
COMMENTS OR
SUGGESTIONS TO
REFLISBON@STATE.GOV

**The IRC is your
information key!**

The Resource Center is part of the Office of Public Affairs and assists the Embassy staff as well as Portuguese government institutions, the private sector, NGO's, the media, researchers, scholars, and others with a serious research interest in the United States.

Hours of Operation

- The AERC provides telephone service every day between 9:30 and 16:30 except during: Lunch Hour (12:30 - 13:30), weekends, and **Portuguese/American Holidays**
- AERC also responds to queries by fax, telephone, e-mail and regular mail.
- Access to our facility is by appointment only. Please call us in advance to schedule your visit.

Latest Reports - If you are interested in receiving full text of the following reports, just send an email to: reflisbon@state.gov

**CLIMATE CHANGE AND
THE GLOBAL WATER CRI-
SIS: WHAT BUSINESSES
NEED TO KNOW AND DO.**

Pacific Institute and United Nations
Global Impact. May 2009.

The report explores the linkages between climate change and water, from both the scientific and corporate management perspectives. It covers a number of critical areas, including how climate change is expected to impact water scarcity, water quality, and water demand; the ways in which water and energy are interconnected, including trade-off scenarios; and how businesses can strategically manage water-climate risks.

**INTERNATIONAL ENERGY
OUTLOOK 2009.** Energy Infor-
mation Administration. May 2009.

World marketed energy consumption is projected to grow by 44 percent between 2006 and 2030, driven by strong long-term economic growth in the developing nations of the world, according to the reference case projection. The current global economic downturn will dampen world energy demand in the near term, as manufacturing and consumer demand for goods and services slows. However, with economic recovery anticipated to begin within the next 12 to 24 months, most nations are expected

to see energy consumption growth at rates anticipated prior to the recession.

**THE CONDITION OF EDUCA-
TION 2009.** U.S. Department of
Education. May 28, 2009.

The report summarizes important developments and trends in education using the latest available data. It presents 46 indicators on the status and condition of education. The indicators represent a consensus of professional judgment on the most significant national measures of the condition and progress of education for which accurate data are available. The 2009 print edition includes 46 indicators in five main areas: (1) participation in education; (2) learner outcomes; (3) student effort and educational progress; (4) the contexts of elementary and secondary education; and (5) the contexts of postsecondary education.

**SAVING THE NEWS: TO-
WARD A NATIONAL JOUR-
NALISM STRATEGY.** Free
Press. Victor Pickard et al. May 12,
2009.

The study reports on how the govern-
ment should respond to the
current crisis in journalism. It pro-
vides an in-depth analysis of ideas
and proposals being debated

around the future of the news
business and advocates for a
range of short- and long-term
strategies. The report analyzes
the collapse of the traditional
business model for news and
describes the alternatives emerg-
ing in its place. It also argues that
new policies are needed to sus-
tain vital professional journalism
while embracing digital technol-
ogy and the power of the Inter-
net.

POPULATION ESTIMATES.

U.S. Census Bureau. May 14,
2009.

The Census Bureau releases state
and county data depicting na-
tion's population ahead of 2010
Census. Orange County, Fla., the
nation's 35th most populous
county, is one of six counties to
have become majority-minority
between 2007 and 2008, accord-
ing to state and county popula-
tion estimates by age, sex, race
and Hispanic origin released to-
day by the U.S. Census Bureau.
Majority-minority is defined as
more than half the population
being of a group other than sin-
gle-race, non-Hispanic white.