

Aufsatzdienst Mai 2012

01

"Obama: pass or fail? When a president runs for a second term, the election is usually about the job he's done so far. What grade will voters give President Obama?" / Sanger, David E.

In: New York Times Upfront 2 Jan. 2012: 12+, 1850 words

"It seems hard to remember now that election night a little more than three years ago, when tens of thousands of people gathered in Chicago's Grant Park to hear President-elect Barack Obama declare that "change has come to America." The excitement that the 2008 election would lead to a new era in which lawmakers would heed Obama's call for bipartisan compromise and tackle the country's biggest problems has largely evaporated."

02

Burritoville / Mark Jude Poirier (Short story)

In: American Scholar 79.1 (2010): 87+, 2006 words, Academic OneFile.

"When I was 16, my father rode a bus for three days to attend my mother's funeral in Manhattan, even though my mother had openly hated him and had made it clear to everyone that she did not want him there. He called me from a pay phone in the Port Authority and met me for dinner a few blocks from our apartment. He asked me, between bites of chicken burritos, if I had plans."

03

Locked away forever: the Supreme Court is considering whether life without parole for teens who've committed murder is a 'cruel and unusual' punishment / Patricia Smith

In: New York Times Upfront 2 Jan. 2012: 8+, 1302 words, Academic OneFile.

Evan Miller was 14 years old when he committed the crime that landed him in prison for life. In a trailer park in northern in 2003, Miller, another teen, and a 52-year-old neighbor spent an evening smoking pot and playing drinking games. By the end of the night, Miller and the other teen had beaten the neighbor with a baseball bat, stolen \$350 and the man's baseball card collection, and set his mobile home on fire. The man died of smoke inhalation.

04

3 days in Vegas: Cousin Phil gambled on a big win, but Sin City taught him a different lesson about playing hunches--and going for broke / unknown author

In: Saturday Evening Post July-Aug. 2010: 56+, 1070 words, Academic OneFile.

"I know Phil would never lie to me. He's confided in me since he could talk, and told me secrets that all turned out to be true--our mothers were sisters, and they had the same relationship; they told each other everything. So when my cousin Phil told me about his three days in Las Vegas, I believed him. It sounded like a movie, but it happened to him."

05

Uptown is upside down / Rodney Robinson

In: Utne, Jan-Feb. 2012, 1 page

"You been to Harlem lately? I know things change, but this is crazy. It's like I blinked and the whole neighborhood was different. The vibe of it, the tone, the attitude – the things that made Harlem-World were gone ... I ain't no racist, but why is gentrification always synonymous with whitewashing?"

06

Bollywood vs. Jihad: which is the bigger threat to fundamentalist Islam: the Pentagon or Mumbai? / Shikha Dalmia

In: Reason, August-September 2011. – 2449 words

"India is a country riven with religious, linguistic, socioeconomic, and regional clashes. But the battle that split the country in two last year concerned a far more basic, existential question: Munni or Sheila?"

07

Mending the past: memory and the politics of forgiveness / Irniq, Peter. "

Canadian Dimension Nov.-Dec. 2011: 29+, 2595 words. Academic OneFile

"I WAS TAKEN, by a Roman Catholic priest, in broad daylight, right in front of my parents! We were at our summer camp near Naujaat, a tiny settlement on the west coast of Hudson's Bay, getting ready to walk inland for our annual caribou hunt. It was 1958. I was 11 years old, and I was to attend Sir Joseph Bernier Federal Day School in Igluligaarjuk (Chesterfield Inlet) for the first time."

08

Remembering Uncle Al (Capone, that is) / Deirdre Marie Capone

In: USA Today (Magazine), March 2012. – 2390 words

"I AM A CAPONE. My grandfather was Ralph Capone, listed in 1930 as Public Enemy No. 3 by the Chicago Crime Commission. That makes me the grandniece of his partner and younger brother, Public Enemy No. 1: Al Capone. For almost half of my life, this was not information I volunteered readily. In fact, I took much care to hide the fact that I was a Capone, a name that had brought endless heartache to so many members of my family. "

09

Scenes from the border: illegal immigration from Mexico continues to be a big issue in the U.S. But who is crossing the border--and why--may surprise you / Marc Lacey

In: New York Times Upfront 2 Jan. 2012: 18+, 1456 words, Academic OneFile

"From the moment he was arrested in Seattle for driving with an expired license, all the way through the deportation proceeding that sent him back to Mexico in June, Daniel kept telling himself the same thing: "My wife, my son--I have to get back to them." He'd left his hometown in Mexico at 24 to cross illegally into the United States. Now, 12 years later, he speaks nearly fluent English and has a wife, three brothers, and an American son in the U.S."

10

Guns & America: love them or hate them, guns--and the arguments about them--are woven into the very fabric of our society / Frederick Allen

In: Saturday Evening Post Nov.-Dec. 2011: 30+, 2092, Academic OneFile

Last January, after Jared Lee Loughner shot Representative Gabrielle Giffords in Tucson, seriously wounding her and killing or injuring 19 others, Clarence Dupnik, sheriff of Pima County where it happened, told a TV interviewer that the law allowing Loughner to carry a concealed handgun anywhere (which he had purchased legally despite a history of mental illness) was "the height of insanity".

11

'Our gender is soldier': women in the U.S. military are still officially barred from combat. But in practice, they're fighting--and dying--alongside the men-in Afghanistan / Rod Norland

In: New York Times Upfront 12 Mar. 2012: 8+, 2593 words, Academic OneFile.

"When Specialist Devin Snyder, a 20-year-old from western New York State, was killed last June by a bomb planted on a highway, she became the 28th female American soldier to die in Afghanistan. Servicewomen have died in all of America's wars, but usually they were support personnel such as nurses and clerks. In Afghanistan, [...]most women who have died were killed in combat situations.

12

The Queen's Golden Age: shades of the first Elizabethan Era / Sian Ellis

In: British Heritage, September 2011. – 2428 words

"When a youthful, pretty Elizabeth II acceded to the throne in 1952, she was hailed by newspapers as a fairytale queen, "the hope of our nation." And who can deny the glamor and spectacle of carriages and costumes at her coronation the following year? Here was a "New Elizabethan Age" that promised to chase away the shadows of postwar gloom. "

13

Religion & the White House: as Mitt Romney seeks to become the nation's first Mormon president, a look at the role of religion in presidential campaigns past and present / Patricia Smith

In: New York Times Upfront 20 Feb. 2012: 16+, 1481 words, Academic OneFile

"Brad Atkins is a Baptist minister in South Carolina, so it's not surprising that religion is a key factor for him when deciding whom to support in this year's presidential election. "You can't separate the spiritual aspect of a man from the political aspect," Atkins says. "The core of who we are is found in our spiritual beliefs." Atkins isn't alone. For many American voters, a candidate's religion is a big consideration--especially when it comes to voting for president."

14

Crossing the color line: fifty years ago, Black Like Me gave readers an unflinching view of the Jim Crow South. How has the book held up? / Bruce Watson

In: Smithsonian Oct. 2011: 108+, 2314 words, Academic OneFile.

"John Howard Griffin had embarked on a journey unlike any other. Many black authors had written about the hardship of living in the Jim Crow South. A few white writers had argued for integration. But Griffin, a novelist of extraordinary empathy rooted in his Catholic faith, had devised a daring experiment. To comprehend the lives of black people, he had darkened his skin to become black." (*Video "Black Like Me" available in the Amerika-Haus-Bibliothek, Signatur S113*)

15

Insult or honor? Indian-themed mascots are a tradition for thousands of school and pro sports teams in the U.S. But many Native Americans find the imagery offensive / Veronica Majerol

In: New York Times Upfront 20 Feb. 2012: 6+, 1089 words, Academic OneFile. Web.

"Branden Lloyd and the rest of the football team at Mukwonago High School in Wisconsin have a ritual they perform before each home game: For strength and luck, players touch the painting of a Plains Indian Warrior, their mascot, that hangs in their stadium as they head out to take the field. "I always felt like the mascot just resembles the pride, honor, and courage we have," says Lloyd, an 18-year-old senior. "