



**January 2010
Issue 1**

The U.S. Information Resource Center (IRC) of the American Embassy in Athens is happy to provide you with *Latest on Humanities*, a bulletin focused on American society and culture. This publication is a bi-monthly compilation of recent articles from a wide range of authoritative journals and periodicals. Internet sites related to cultural themes and current issues of interest are also included. By organizing and disseminating one more thematic publication about the United States, IRC seeks to promote better understanding of the principles and institutions that shape American values.

1. Articles of Faith: The Existential Crisis of Magazines Online

By Virginia Heffernan

(*The New York Times Magazine*, January 3, 2010, pg. 20)

In the '90s, "magazines" was a pacifier, a word like "bookmark" to keep us quiet as we acclimated to life online. But now that we are here, Slate and Salon are communities and producers of influential articles; they are not really magazines. Two online things – The Huffington Post and the Daily Beast – don't call themselves magazines. HuffPo is "an American liberal news website and aggregated blog" and the Daily Beast offers "curated news aggregation plus original reporting and opinion."

2. Top of the Pops: Did Andy Warhol Changed Everything?

By Luis Menand

(*The New Yorker*, January 11, 2009, pg. 56)

"Whether or not Warhol's work continues to shape the course of art, it certainly defines the market. The art world was thrown into uncertainty by the recession, but Warhol's works didn't seem to lose liquidity or value."

3. The Genius of Thom Gunn

By Colm Toibin

(*The New York Review of Books*, January 14, 2010, pg. 43)

Like the hawk in his poem, Gunn as a poet is notoriously difficult to pin down. He was, as August Kleinzahler says, "an Elizabethan poet in modern dress."

4. Placards at the White House

By Jean H. Baker

(*The American Heritage*, Winter 2010, pg. 74)

On October 20, 1917, National Woman's Party founder, Alice Paul picketed in front of the White House. District police quickly arrested her to a workhouse for seven months. Fed up with the inaction of conservative suffragists, Alice Paul decided on the highly unorthodox strategy of pressuring the president.

5. The Fall and Rise of Alec Baldwin

By Scott Brown

(*Wired*, January 18, 2010, pg. 86)

"Celebrities tend to be endlessly, tediously positive: Every day is a Gift, every project a Personal Best, and every costar a Genius. Alec Baldwin is not afflicted with this syndrome. At 51, he is a failure, self described. He is also at the peak of his career, a peak he reached by scaling a K2

of catastrophe, personal and professional.”

6. Moving Through Trauma: Survivors Find Hope in the Healing Power of Dance

By Abigail Rasminsky

(*Dance*, December 2009, pg. 58)

“For decades, choreographers have been making work with – or about – victims of disease or war; and teachers and dance therapists have been using dance to help people heal from trauma, torture and abuse.”

7. The Aspirational Woman

By Daphne Merkin

(*The New York Times Magazine*, December 20, 2009, p. 30)

Nancy Meyers makes movies set in beautifully appointed (but not opulent) houses about attractive (but not perfect-looking) people in which the

(unintentionally seductive) middle-aged woman always triumphs. Is this what women want?

8. 2010: A Look Ahead

By James Parker

(*The Spin*, January/February 2010, pg. 52)

Ten new artists to watch in the new year, starring Free Energy, Foxy Shazam, Neon Indian, J. Cole, Final Fantasy, the xx, the Soft Pack, Nneka, Cold Cave, and Revocation.

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- ❖ **AMG All-Music Guide**
<http://www.allmusic.com>

This web site covers over 307,000 recordings and over 1,5 million song titles, with 45,000 biographies and over 107,000 reviews available via a search form accessible by album, artist, song title, style, and record label.

- ❖ **Filmsound.org**
<http://www.filmsound.org>

This is a web site that serves as an essential learning space dedicated to aspects of film sound. The home page is organized in sections that include links to articles (from practical to scholarly) on how sound is used in films.

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