



**March/April 2011
Issue 2**

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. 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. Democracy 101: Mark Twain's Farewell Address

By Lewis H. Lapham
(*Harper's Magazine*, April 2011, pg 31)
"Toward the end of his life Mark Twain lost much of his liking for what he had come to regard as "the damned human race," but he held fast to his delight in the one gift only in which he believed man superior to the animals. It is the mark on even the least of the pages in the edition of his autobiography that after a century in exile emerged last November from the University of California Press."

2. Viva La Mama

(*American Theatre*, March 2011 pg. 30)
Ellen Stewart's friends, collaborators and "babies" remember the woman who invented American alternative theatre and changed the face of world theatre.

3. Marilyn

By Larry McMurtry
(*The New York Review of Books*, March 10, 2011, pg. 4)
"Of the three books under review in this article, easily the most accessible is *MM-Personal: From the Private Archive of Marilyn Monroe*, particularly during the decades of the 1940s and 1950s was

arguably the most famous woman on earth."

4. The Ballad of the Bit

By Kevin Kelly
(*Wired*, March 2011, pg. 90)
In his new book, *The Information*, science writer James Gleick documents the rising role of information in our lives and the way new technologies continue to increase its velocity, volume, and importance.

5. Iron & Wine

(*Spin*, March 2011, pg. 30)
"Every assumption you have ever had about Sam Beam, the folk singer otherwise known as Iron & Wine might go out the window when you learn that the epically bearded 36-year-old is a closet metalhead."

6. Building Pictures

By Rebecca Robertson
(*ArtNews*, March 2011, pg. 76)
Working everywhere from Photoshop to the woodshop, a growing number of photographers shoot, appropriate, manipulate, print, paint, and sculpt their works, making objects that stretch the traditional definition of the medium.

7. A Female Force

By Victoria Looseleaf

(*Dance Magazine*, March 2011, pg. 27)

Dance Magazine spoke to five women in charge of major dance companies today. Discussing their leadership styles, how they have evolved, and their status in the 21st century, these feisty females all have strong identities and ideas about their places at the top of the ladder.

8. Hollywood Shadows: A Cure for Blocked Screenwriters

(*The New Yorker*, March 21, 2011, pg 50)

By Dana Goodyear

"The writer was in despair. For a year and a half, he had been trying to write a script that he owed to a studio, and had been unable to produce anything. Finally he started seeing a therapist. The therapist, Barry Michels, told him to close his eyes and focus on the things he was grateful for."

9. Boardwalk Bromance

By Evgenia Peretz

(*Vanity Fair*, March 2011, pg. 12)

Whether starring in a hit (*The Fighter*) or producing one (*Entourage*, *Boardwalk Empire*), Mark Wahlberg always has an

ace in the hole: his business partner, Steve Levinson. Evgenia Peretz sees the team in action.

10. How Longfellow Woke the Dead

By Jill Lepore

(*The American Scholar*, Spring 2011)

Generations of American schoolchildren have memorized his poems and recited them in class, sweating it out, which is why Longfellow is known as a schoolroom poet. "Dear Mr. Longfellow: I am a little girl nine years old. I have learned some of your poems and love them very much," wrote Berta Shaffer from Ohio in 1880. This is, no doubt, a kind of acclaim. But for a poet's literary reputation, to be read by children- and especially to be loved by children-is the sweet, sloppy kiss of death.

NOTE: Latest on Humanities is available to subscribers only. You may contact us through telephone, fax or e-mail to order the requested material. Full text of articles will be faxed to you as soon as possible. Please send your comments and remarks to AthensIRC@state.gov

For information on the U.S. Embassy in Athens, please visit the American Embassy homepage at <http://athens.usembassy.gov>

Also feel free to visit Mosaiko at <http://www.mosaiko.gr> and the American Corners in Greece website at www.amcorners.gr

**U.S. Information Resource Center, 91 Vassilisis Sophias Avenue, 101 60 Athens, Greece
Telephone: (210) 720 2888, Fax: (210) 720 2859**
