

INSIDE THE TIMES: November 2, 2008

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Body

INTERNATIONAL

ENCLAVE OF BRAZILIANS

Tests Insular Japan

With an aging population and a shrinking work force, Japan, notoriously unwelcoming to immigrants, will have to undergo a difficult cultural transformation to attract the immigrant workers it needs. A test case for such a change is posed by a pocket of Japanese-Brazilians, the children and grandchildren of Japanese emigrants to Brazil. PAGE 8

PLACID, BUT NO PEACE

A vendor sells sunglasses, shampoo and cigarettes. A man with a Polaroid camera sells souvenir photos. But the Preah Vihear temple, on the Thailand-Cambodia border, is still closed to tourists. Less than three weeks ago, the temple was the scene of an hourlong firefight between Thai and Cambodian troops in a dispute over sovereignty, the most volatile international confrontation in Indochina in 20 years. PAGE 13

AID FOR CONGO READY

The European Union, set to send humanitarian aid to civilians fleeing conflict in eastern Congo, is also considering sending European troops to the area, France's foreign minister, Bernard Kouchner, said. France had at one point suggested that the union send troops to support hard-pressed United Nations peacekeepers in the region. PAGE 14

NATIONAL

ON DIFFERENT NETWORKS,

Disparate Election Tales

The viewers of the Fox News Channel and watchers of MSNBC (is there anyone tuning in to both?) are seeing two **2008** elections that are poles apart. On one channel, Senator John McCain seems to have a much better chance of winning than he does on the other. PAGE 28

KILLER SMOG REMEMBERED

For decades, residents of Donora, Pa., kept mostly silent about the day killer smog rolled into town in October 1948, eventually killing 20 people. But over the last two weeks, they marked the day's 60th anniversary with memorials for those who died, discussions with experts about the lessons learned, and the opening of the Donora Smog Museum, with the slogan "Clean Air Started Here." PAGE 22

MILLION-DOLLAR POSTAGE

A pink 3-cent stamp issued in 1868 depicting George Washington has been bought by an anonymous bidder for \$1,035,000, including commission. What made it so costly is a distinct, waffle-like grill pressed into the back of the stamp as part of a short-lived government experiment to prevent fraudulent re-use. PAGE 24

OBITUARIES

C. W. SPANGENBERGER, 102

He was the last president of the Cornell Steamboat Company which, with its more than 60 vessels, was for many years the largest tugboat company in the United States, and maybe the biggest in the world. PAGE 34

SPORTS

UNUSUAL TEST TRIPS

North Texas Players

After Coach Todd Dodge of the University of North Texas chose to have his entire active roster tested for recreational -- not performance-enhancing -- drugs, 15 of 88 players failed. Such testing is not required. But the coach and university did the right thing, William C. Rhoden writes in Sports of The Times. PAGE 7

WRONG CALL ON CALLS

A few prominent goofs by officials have raised the chorus about an increase in bad calls in the N.F.L. But the statistics show that officiating is no worse: Officials are averaging about four mistakes a game, about the same as in 2007. PAGE 3

GETTING OLDER AND BETTER

The average age of the 41 elite women in the New York City Marathon is about 33, making it one of the oldest groups of elite women, if not the oldest, in the history of the race. There are various reasons these runners keep racing into their 30s. A big one is financial. PAGE 1

NEW YORK

BLUEST OF AMERICA LONGS

For a President 'Like Us'

There's no mystery surrounding the outcome of voting in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut on Tuesday, Peter Applebome writes in Our Towns. Instead, the heart of Blue America evinces an almost palpable yearning. PAGE 37

MAGAZINE

THE SAFETY GAP IN THE MEDICINE CABINET

China is becoming the biggest producer of pharmaceutical ingredients in the world -- but the Food and Drug Administration inspects just a tiny fraction of China's drug plants. PAGE 44

Questions for: James K. Galbraith 13

The Ethicist: Ill-Gotten Gains 15

SUNDAY BUSINESS

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LAWSUIT CHALLENGES SAFETY

Of Flares for Military

An employee's lawsuit contends that his employer, ATK Thiokol, an aerospace and military contracting giant, cheated taxpayers by selling the military fragile flares, and, by doing so, knowingly put soldiers at risk. The case may revive questions about the reliability of military contractors and the safety of their products. PAGE 1

THE SOCIOLOGY OF SUCCESS

A book on why the best hockey players in Canada are disproportionately born in January, February and March; why American children born in the latter part of the year are underrepresented in college; why Asian children's high scores at math are related to work in rice paddies. Must mean Malcolm Gladwell has a new book out. PAGE 6

EDUCATION LIFE

OLD ENOUGH FOR COLLEGE,

Old Enough to Drink?

The presidents of some universities have suggested the legal drinking age should be lowered to 18 to reduce the number of students who binge-drink. Looking to see if that change would work at America's No. 1 party school, the University of Florida. PAGE 20

ONWARD, FIGHTING OKRA!

Sure, the Buckeyes, Trojans and Nittany Lions are easy. But can you match the right college team with the Banana Slug, above? The Anteaters? Okra? PAGE 35

BOOK REVIEW

THEY'VE GOT

Your Number

In "The Numerati," Stephen Baker looks at the people -- "crack mathematicians, computer scientists and engineers" -- who use the data we supply (right down to the font choices for our blogs) to categorize us for the consumer product companies and politicians who hire them. (You knew this kind of thing was going on, right?) PAGE 6

ARTS & LEISURE

RE-EXAMINING THE LEGACY

Of Hank Williams

More than five decades after his death, two projects -- an exhibition in Nashville and a new CD box-set -- have recast Hank Williams in a revealing new light, without whitewashing intemperance and scandal. The exhibition and box-set give the impression of a devout man who, despite debilitating health and personal problems, loved his family (and a good prank). PAGE 9

PLAY

STRETCHING: THE TRUTH

(It's Not What You Think)

To warm up before an athletic endeavor: touch toes while standing, do ten jumping jacks, touch toes while sitting and so on. Most people learned this routine in grade school, and their parents probably learned the same routine when they were in grade school. Well, bad news: science has moved on. PAGE 20

AUTOMOBILES

NEW PRESIDENT MAY GET

A New Set of Wheels

The Secret Service and General Motors are both mum, not surprisingly. But an analysis of images by a photographer who hunts future automobile models that haven't been publicly revealed suggests that the new president may be in for a new ride come January. A model being tested looks to be a truck-based Cadillac. SPORTS, PAGE 11

STYLES

MAKING PARTY PLANS,

Whichever Party Wins

Not everyone can be at the Wasilla Multi-Use Sports Complex in Alaska for election night, dancing to a new local rock band, Sarah and the Pit Bulls. But everyone has to be somewhere. PAGE 1

HOLIDAY MOVIES

REVISITING JAMES BOND

And a Space Alien

Daniel Craig is back as James Bond, contending with the emotional repercussions of losing the treacherous love of his life in the previous 007 movie; and 20th Century Fox is banking on Keanu Reeves to carry an updated "Day the Earth Stood Still." (Yes, "Klaatu barada nikto" will be spoken.)

TRAVEL

A REASON FOR BEER LOVERS

To Explore Northern Italy

Wine undoubtedly would still be the first choice in a beverage-association game involving Italy. But a craft beer scene has begun to emerge there, bringing well-made brews into the kitchens and dining rooms of some of Northern Italy's best restaurants. PAGE 1

A FOREST OF HISTORY

The Compiègne area is there for the day-tripping, just an hour north of Paris, to the particular delight of history buffs: the Germans surrendered there in 1918, the French surrendered there 22 years later, and Joan of Arc found a place to hide there before her capture in 1430. PAGE 11

36 Hours: Burlington, Vt. 10

WEEK IN REVIEW

WHAT MOTHER WOULD LET

Her Child Take This Job?

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Even in the best of times the job is no day at the beach, and these are certainly not the best of times. So what is it that drives people to run for president? One former presidential counselor said that "you have to almost be a fanatic." As a scholar put it: "It's not a job for ordinary mortals." PAGE 3

IS IT ONLY ABOUT SEX?

A certain four-letter word -- perhaps the king of them all -- is central to a case that comes before the Supreme Court for argument on Tuesday. A central question is whether every permutation of the word evokes sex and thus runs afoul of indecency regulations for broadcasting. The Federal Communications Commission says yes. PAGE 4

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