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Obama Taking an Active Role in Health Talks

By DAVID D. KIRKPATRICK
President Obama has presented himself as aloof from the legislative fray, but behind the scenes, the White House has negotiated deals potentially at odds with his rhetoric.

- Bound by Blood, Torn by Policy and Angrier by the Minute
- Thousands Line Up for Promise of Free Health Care

A NEW BLOG Prescriptions

Insights on health care policy from providers, experts, legislators and patients.

- Go to Prescriptions

Fed Views Recession as Near an End

By EDMUND L. ANDREWS
29 minutes ago
The central bank gave its most upbeat assessment of the economy in more than a year and said it would soon end its program to buy back billions in Treasury bonds.

POINT/COUNTERPOINT
INTERACTIVE FEATURE: Another Stimulus Package?

Two economists debate the merits of more financial stimulus.

- MORE NEWS
- Patients Are Reminded of Aspirin's Risks
 - W.T.O. Rules Against China's Limits on Imports
 - Iraqi Immigrants Face Lonely Struggle in U.S.



Natasha Calzatti for The New York Times

Dig Out the Spandex and Feel the Burn

By TRICIA ROMANO
At a Los Angeles dance class, the dress code (think Jane Fonda) is as intense as the workout.

- Slide Show: Sweaty Sundays in L.A.

As Afghan Vote Nears, Taliban Intimidation Rises

By CARLOTTA GALL and RUHULLAH KHAPALWAK
9:35 PM ET
Insurgents have warned voters not to vote in the presidential election lest they face "strong punishment."

- New Army Handbook Teaches the Lessons of Afghanistan INTERROGATION INC.

A Window Into C.I.A.'s Embrace of Secret Jails

By DAVID JOHNSTON and MARK MAZZETTI
1 minute ago
A look at the rise of Kyle D. Foggo, from fringe player into the C.I.A.'s indispensable man provides a fuller account of how the detention centers were built and life inside them.

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Biggest Union Is Said to Back Bloomberg Rival

By MICHAEL BARBARO
15 minutes ago
District Council 37, which endorsed the mayor in 2005, has chosen William C. Thompson Jr., two people said.

Independent Filmmakers Distribute on Their Own

By MICHAEL CIEPLY
17 minutes ago
Instead of playing the cool auteur waiting for discovery by a studio, aspiring filmmakers are paying for distribution and marketing movies on their own.

Jackson Earnings Grow by Millions After Death

By TIM ARANGO
24 minutes ago
Since Michael Jackson's death, merchandising contracts and a film deal have brought in about \$100 million.

Espada's Son Will Leave Senate Job

By NICHOLAS CONFESSORE
31 minutes ago
Aids to Attorney General Andrew M. Cuomo said that they were investigating whether the appointment of State Senator Pedro Espada Jr.'s son violated state law.

OPINION » THE OPINIONATOR Senate, Heal Thyself

All sides are up in arms about health care, but some observers say that the Senate itself is patently undemocratic.

- Dowd: Toilet-Paper Barricades (350)
- Editorial: A.I.G.
- Room for Debate: Japan's Hostess Culture
- Schott: Zombie Households

PERSONAL TECH » Getting Your Wireless Network Up to Speed

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TALK TO THE TIMES John Harwood

A reporter in Washington is answering questions.

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10 minutes ago

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12 minutes ago

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Chavez Loyalists Push to Close the Golf Clubhouse

OPINION »

Olivia Judson: Humpty Dumpty and the Ghosts

When a species disappears, can its ecosystem be put together again?

GREAT HOMES »



What You Get for ... \$425,000

OPINION »



Molly Ringwald: The Neverland Club

DINING & WINE »



Sixties Accuracy in Every Sip

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Writer's Myth Still Looms Large

A biography of the avant-garde Brazilian writer Clarice Lispector, who is little known in America but literary royalty back home.

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- Developer's Plea Deal Shadows Christie

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- Reviving the Lost Art of Naming the Earth
- Finding: The World Is Warming? Adjust the Thermostat

HEALTH »

- Survey Finds High Fees Common in Medical Care
- Senator Goes Face to Face With Dissent
- A Primer on the Details of Health Care Reform

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- Disabled Students Are Spanked More
- Bloomberg Plans to Stop Promoting Low-Performing Fourth and Sixth Graders

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- Sacramento Project 'Almost a City in Itself'

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- For Lloyds, a Leader and a Test
- Madoff Aide Holds Key to Intrigue

TECHNOLOGY »

- Sony Plans to Adopt Common Format for E-Books
- Getting Your Wireless Network Up to Speed
- Phone Smart: Cellphones Largely Immune to Viruses, for Now

SPORTS »

- Mexico 2, United States 1: Mexico Restores Order to Its Universe
- Mets 6, Diamondbacks 4: Mets Confront Adversity on the Road, but Avoid a Sweep
- Yankees 4, Blue Jays 3, 11 Innings: Difficult Victory, And Yankees Have Bruises to Prove It

OBITUARIES »

- Ennice Kennedy Shriver, Influential Founder of Special Olympics, Dies at 88
- Merlyn Mantle, Who Was Married to Yankees Great for 43 Years, Dies at 77
- Mark Rosenzweig, Brain Researcher, Is Dead at 86

TRAVEL »

- Frugal Traveler: Try Walking in My Shoes
- Where Camels Once Trod, a Train Crosses Australia
- Q&A: Majorca or Seville for a Second Trip to Spain?

DINING & WINE »

- The Pour: Rooted in Rioja, Traditions Gain New Respect
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HOME & GARDEN »

- It's August. They're Coming for You.
- Who Lives There: The Spaceship Down the Street

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- G.M. Puts Electric Car's City Mileage in Triple Digits
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- On Washington: A Clunker of a Program?

OPINION »

- Op-Ed Columnist: Toilet-Paper Barricades
- Editorial: A Chance to Return the Favor
- Letters: A Raucous Side of the Health Debate

ARTS »

- Life, Art and Chickens, Afloat in the Harbor
- Ballroom: More Sexily, Less Strictly
- Yale Press Bans Images of Muhammad in New Book

MOVIES »

- Movie Review | 'Yasukuni': Entwined at a Japanese Shrine, the Nobility and Horrific Brutality of War
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- Lego Rejects a Bit Part in a Spinal Tap DVD

THEATER »

- Ballroom: More Sexily, Less Strictly
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- Theater Review | 'A Life Time Burning': A Memoir So Compelling It Just Has to Be Phony

BOOKS »

- Yale Press Bans Images of Muhammad in New Book
- Books of The Times: Eyes May Be Moist, but the Jokes Are Dry
- Civil War in Uganda, Illustrated and in Panels

WEEK IN REVIEW »

- Collisions: When Mortals Work on Cosmic Time
- Where Have You Gone, Joe the Citizen?
- Coming to Terms With Containing North Korea

MAGAZINE »

- Karzai in His Labyrinth
- What's a Big City Without a Newspaper?
- Arms-Control Breakdown

T MAGAZINE »

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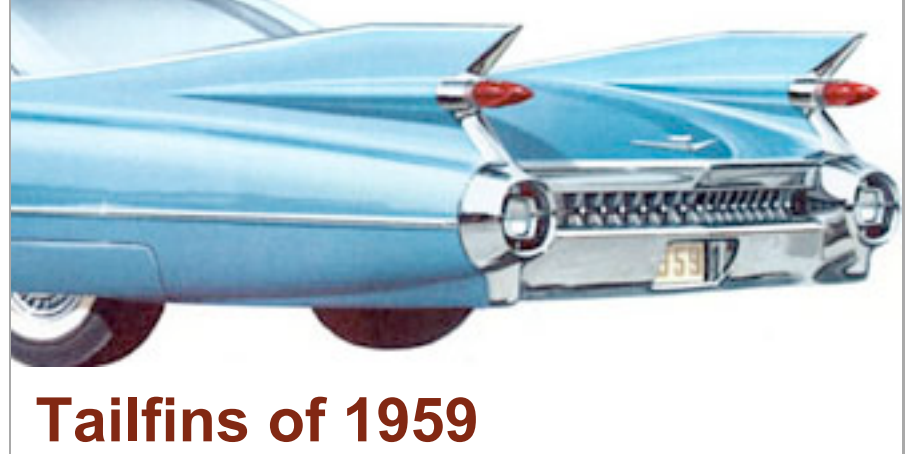
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- FREAKONOMICS: Pick Your Apocalypse
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