

American Democracy Project / Indiana University South Bend

[HOME](#) | [EVENTS](#) | [NEWS*](#) | [HIGHLIGHTS \(2006\)](#) | [RADIO](#) | [SEMESTER AT SEA](#) | [SEARCH](#) | [CONTACT](#)

ADPblog

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

International perspectives

I grew up in a Canadian border town where my family always watched the Detroit TV news. In the 1970s, this made my mother worry. She'd say "All those murders! We can't even feel safe in our own homes!" This was when next-door Detroit was the murder capital of the universe, or so we were told.

Despite the presence of the large US media right next door, I became a news junkie by virtue of the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. Through the CBC, I learned more about Soviet perestroika, US Constitutional Amendments, and troubles in El Salvador than I learned about Canada, but maybe that's what was so great about it. Even today, CBC news often highlights international before domestic information. That may well be because Canada is hardly a global player, so it can afford to turn its attention elsewhere.

But there is an effect of this outward-looking tendency, and that is to feel connected with other people in other places as events are happening. The world just feels smaller, I think, thanks to my exposure to global events via the news media that I grew up with. Not having had the opportunity to be a world traveler, I was still able to learn about the nuances of Iranian resistance during the revolution and afterwards; I understood the separatist ambitions of the Kurds; I mourned along with Irish families who lost children to terrorist bombings. I remember, vividly, a radio interview with a terrified Rwandan woman that took place just hours before she was massacred. And I remember beloved CBC broadcaster Michael Enright signing off with a heart-felt "Shalom" when a 1993 handshake between Arafat and Rabin suggested that there might, finally, be a peace deal acceptable to both sides. I was moved by events that were outside my everyday life. I even felt like a participant.

Since moving to the United States from Canada, however, I've felt as if I have to work harder to gain this international perspective – and many would argue that gaining an international perspective has never been more important. Living in Indiana, I still seek out that global connection to the news. My internet bookmarks include links to news websites the world over, from India to South Africa, as well as more familiar ones like CNN and the BBC (and NPR of course). As an amateur news junkie, I feel compelled to check many of these every day to know what is going on in the larger world.

In a recent daily tour of these web editions, the headlines of top stories from Canada's "paper of record", the Toronto Globe & Mail, featured six main stories, only one with direct ties to Canada. They ranged from the trend among young Japanese women preferring to remain unmarried, to UN peacekeepers being killed in Congo. In contrast, the paper of record in the US, The New York Times, featured on the same day just 2 stories with international content: one about President Bush's

Quotations & provocations

- Read or comment on [earlier Q & P entries](#).
- Suggest a new topic or quotation.

Recent weblog entries

- [Highlights from 2006 \(Part 5\)](#)
- [The role of a presidential library](#)
- [Visiting the Ford Presidential Museum](#)
- [On political blogging](#)
- [Highlights from 2006 \(Part 4\)](#)
- [New newspapers, new politics](#)
- [The web tech side of running for office](#)
- [Photographs of the year](#)
- [Highlights from 2006 \(Part 3\)](#)
- [Earlier weblog entries](#)

88.1 WVPE
Your NPR® Station

Elkhart-South Bend NPR radio station **WVPE** broadcasts selections from ADP/SB (Tuesdays -- 7:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.) at 88.1 FM.

American Democracy Project



The New York Times

AASCU and the *New York Times* sponsor and support the [American Democracy Project](#).

Weblog categories*

- [Active Citizenship](#)
- [ADP at IUSB](#)
- [ADP Elsewhere](#)
- [Campaigns](#)
- [Campus Life](#)
- [Congress](#)
- [Conversations on Race](#)
- [Diversity and Dialogue](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Events](#)
- [From the Archive](#)
- [In the News](#)
- [Letters](#)
- [Media](#)
- [One Book, One Campus](#)
- [Pedagogical Provocations](#)
- [Poetry and Prose](#)
- [Public Policy](#)
- [Quality of Democracy](#)
- [Quotations and Provocations](#)

meeting with Vladimir Putin, and the other involved the ordination of gay bishops in the global Anglican church. I could – and often do – dig further into the New York Times, relishing their second page that highlights international events, sometimes even offering small stories of individuals and families in obscure corners of the world. But usually I'm pressed for time like everyone else and make do by scanning only the front pages, getting a basic feel for the cross-section of events that a media outlet believes I need to know about.

If that news outlet is American, I know that they believe that I need to know about this country first: the decisions and statements of its President; its fiscal situation, legal challenges, and state disputes; its pop stars, Oscar nominees, and basketball players. But I wonder how well served we are by the choices made on our behalf. UN peacekeepers murdered in Congo. Supporters waving signs at the Michael Jackson trial. Who decides which of these stories I will learn about first?

And just how hard should this news junkie have to work in order to find out what's happening in her world?

Contributed by [Catherine Borshuk](#) on 03/15/2005
[Active Citizenship](#) • [In the News](#) • [Radio Essays](#) • [Permalink](#) • [Printer Friendly](#)

- [Radio Essays](#)
- [Readers Suggest](#)
- [Research](#)
- [Resources](#)
- [Role of the University](#)
- [Semester at Sea](#)
- [Social Action Project](#)
- [Sustainability](#)
- [Teaching Circles](#)
- [Voter Registration](#)

*What is a [weblog](#)?

Archives and syndication*

- [Weblog entries by month](#)
- [RSS 2.0](#) for the ADPblog

*What is [RSS syndication](#)?

Schurz Library News

- [Final Harry Potter title announced, no release date given](#)
- [IUCAT and Interlibrary Loan outages during holiday break](#)

Technorati

SITE INFORMATION

THE ADP BLOG IS A PUBLICATION OF INDIANA UNIVERSITY SOUTH BEND, PO BOX 7111, SOUTH BEND, INDIANA, 46634-7111. MAIL THE PUBLICATION IN CARE OF THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT AT THAT ADDRESS OR EMAIL THROUGH THE CONTACT LINK AT THE TOP OF THE MAIN PAGE. NEW PIECES APPEAR MOST WEEKDAYS. COPYRIGHT 2006, THE TRUSTEES OF INDIANA UNIVERSITY, EXCEPT AS NOTED. COPYRIGHT COMPLAINTS. APPROPRIATE CONTENT POLICY. TECHNICAL CREDITS. THIS PAGE HAS BEEN VIEWED **577921** TIMES • PAGE RENDERED IN 0.4996 SECONDS • 47 QUERIE(S) EXECUTED

POWERED BY [EXPRESSIONENGINE](#)