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Business

Driven to Distraction: High-Tech Baby Sitters Get Drivers Off Phone

Which is safer: technology that disables a cellphone in a moving car, or that makes the conversation completely hands-free?

Back to Business: Wall St. Finds Profits Again, Now by Reducing Mortgages

Investment funds are buying mortgages, trimming some of them to the benefit of homeowners, and shifting any risk to the federal government.

Best Soup Ever? Suits Over Ads Demand Proof

Companies that were once content to fight in store aisles and on commercials are choosing a different route — formal grievances challenging their competitors' claims.

Go Ahead and Yell. He's Everyone's Punching Bag.

Day in, day out, Norman Radow deals with the unpleasantness of the real estate mess. He works for lenders to revive developments gone awry.

At a Software Powerhouse, the Good Life Is Under Siege

SAS, the giant private company that specializes in business intelligence software, is facing new rivals, as well as free alternatives to some of its products.

Glenn Beck Stakes Out a More Activist Role in Politics

The conservative firebrand Glenn Beck is planning voter registration drives and rallies, but he is cautious about how he might directly support particular candidates.

The Forest, the Trees and Your Portfolio

Many investors take wrong turns because they are swayed by emotion and assume that recent performance will predict the future.

The Hagglers: The Great Unknowns of Credit Card Bills

The Hagglers confronts card issuers over his own unmarked bill and a reader's unexpected finance charge.

Ping: A Friend's Tweet Could Be an Ad

A group of start-up marketers see value in getting regular people to send a sentence or two of text to their friends and admirers.

Economic View: What if a Recovery Is All in Your Head?

There may be credibility in the idea that rebounds from recessions are attributable mainly to public psychology.

Novelties: From the Lab, a New Weapon Against Cholesterol

Tiny particles containing gold and other metals may someday help keep cholesterol from building up in blood vessels.

Scene Stealer: Ad Budget Tight? Call the P.R. Machine

Movie studios have cut paid advertising and are leaning more heavily on free coverage in print, television and online outlets generated by publicists.

The Count: When a Coin Doesn't Pull Its Own Weight

Even as they weigh down our purses and pockets, pennies are not pulling their weight as an actual currency.

Career Couch: Expecting a Baby, but Not the Stereotypes

A woman who is having a baby and wants to maintain her career can do so more easily if she has a strategy to help her colleagues adjust to her situation.

The Boss: The Business Must Go On

Diane Hendricks, the chairwoman of ABC Supply, says that even after the death of her husband and business partner, their life's work continues.

Square Feet | The 30-Minute Interview: K. Thomas Elghanayan

Mr. Elghanayan, 64, is the chairman of TF Cornerstone.

Open & Shut: Chronicle of a Changing City

A new bookstore appears on Broadway and 114th Street as a pizza place known for cheap beer and raging punk music closes on the Lower East Side.

Letters: Letters: A Break for Builders

Letters to the editor about tax breaks for builders.

Letters: Letters: Examining Doctors' Pay

Letters on paying doctors by salary instead of using the fee-for-service model.

Is There Such a Thing as Agro-Imperialism?

Fearing food shortages, investors from wealthy countries are snapping up land in poor countries to grow food there. Is this development or exploitation?

Wall Street's Spin Game

Big profits are back, and we're about to learn what happens when the banks try to make nice with the public. It'll be no bed of roses.

Fair Game: Revisiting a Fed Waltz With A.I.G.

A government report on the bailout of A.I.G. is must reading for taxpayers looking to know why the \$182 billion “rescue” is the most troubling episode of the financial disaster.

Corner Office: 68 Rules? No, Just 3 Are Enough

William D. Green, the chairman and chief executive of Accenture, says it is crucial for new managers to exude competence, confidence and caring.

World

As Afghans Resist Taliban, U.S. Spurs Rise of Militias

The Americans hope the militias will encourage an increasingly demoralized Afghan population to take a stake in the war against the Taliban.

Cleric Wields Religion to Challenge Iran's Theocracy

Grand Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri, who played a role in the founding of the Islamic Republic, has emerged as the spiritual leader of the opposition.

Survey of Pakistan's Young Predicts "Disaster" if Their Needs Aren't Addressed

A majority of the country's young people think the nation is on the wrong course, and they are divided between a preference for democracy and Islamic law, a report says.

In Turkey, Trial Casts Wide Net of Mistrust

The investigation of an underground group known as Ergenekon has strained ties between a secular elite and a growing population of observant Muslims.

A Terror Suspect With Feet in East and West

The profile that has emerged of David Headley, a U.S. citizen accused of plotting revenge against a Danish newspaper, suggests a man pulled between two cultures.

At Least 87 Die in Chinese Mine Explosion

The explosion on Saturday was unusual in that it involved a large mine operated by one of China's biggest state-owned companies.

Benedict Woos Artists, Urging ‘Quest for Beauty’™

The Vatican pulled out all the stops Saturday at a meeting that aimed to revive the age-old ties between the Catholic Church and artists.

Gaza Militants Agree to Halt Rocket Fire

Hamas announced Saturday evening that it had reached an agreement with other militant groups in Gaza to stop firing rockets at southern Israeli towns to prevent retaliatory attacks.

3 Suspected Militants Blow Themselves Up in Pakistani Kashmir

The suspects were being pursued by the police after weapons were reported dumped along a road.

Chávez Offers Public Defense for Carlos the Jackal

President Hugo Chávez of Venezuela heaped praise on Ilich Ramírez Sánchez, describing him as a "revolutionary fighter."

Italy Arrests 2 Over Attacks in Mumbai

The authorities arrested a Pakistani father and son accused of providing logistical support and money for a terrorist strike in India.

Medvedev Says â€˜Backwardnessâ€™TM Undermines Party

President Dmitri A. Medvedev of Russia warned leaders of his party that they must learn to win elections honestly if it is to survive.

Italian Prosecutors Ask for Life Sentence in Trial of U.S. Student

Prosecutors asked an Italian court to hand down life sentences to an American student and her former boyfriend for their alleged roles in a fatal stabbing.

Sri Lanka Plans to Let Tamils Leave Camps

Sri Lanka plans to release refugees still in government camps where they have been detained since the country's civil war ended six months ago, a top official said.

Anglican Leader and Pope Hold “Cordial”™ Talks

Benedict XVI and Archbishop Rowan Williams met a month after the Vatican announced a new Anglican rite within the Roman Catholic Church.

Iran Plans Military Drills to Guard Nuclear Sites

The air defense war games reflected a concern in Tehran that Israel could carry out its threats to strike militarily.

Currents: Are Metrics Blinding Our Perception?

Welcome to the Age of Metrics - or to the End of Instinct.

Plotting Thrillers in the Fog of China

So much of what is known of China's beating Communist heart is guesswork. But not for the spy novelist.

Haleh Esfandiari: Prisoner of Tehran

A love of Iran underlies a scholar's memoir of surreal interrogation and solitary confinement in Tehran.

US

Pain Spreads as Credit Vise Grows Tighter

Lenders have become even less willing to part with their money, further crimping budgets and family spending.

For Rivals, Finance Crisis Is Posing on-the-Fly Tests

The presidential race has turned into an audition for who could best handle a national economic emergency.

Drug Label, Maimed Patient and Test for Court

At issue is whether plaintiffs have the right to sue when the products that hurt them had met federal standards.

After Impasse, New California Budget Agreement

California legislative leaders and the governor have come to an agreement on the state budget, which is now roughly three months late.

California Bans Texting by Operators of Trains

After investigators said an engineer in last week's collision had been texting on the job, regulators temporarily banned the use of all cellular devices by anyone at the controls of a moving train.

Political Memo: Given G.O.P. Predicament, Rangel Opts to Ride Out the Storm

Democrats believe that a long list of Republican lawmakers with legal troubles makes it impossible for Republicans to gain much ground on the issues of ethics and good government.

Panel Proposes Broad Changes in Federal Financial Aid for College

The recommendations included a simpler application, Pell grant maximums linked to the consumer price index and federally financed college savings accounts for children in low-income families.

Chicago Unveils Multifaceted Plan to Curb Emissions of Heat-Trapping Gases

The blueprint would change the city's building codes to promote energy efficiency, and it calls for installing huge solar panels at municipal properties and building alternative fueling stations.

Vast Bailout by U.S. Proposed in Bid to Stem Financial Crisis

Treasury and Fed officials were discussing with leaders in Congress a plan for the government to buy up distressed mortgages.

A Bid to Curb Profit Gambit as Banks Fall

A backlash against short sellers has begun, with regulators in the U.S. and Britain tightening rules and authorities in New York intensifying investigations.

Bush Emerges After Days of Financial Crisis

The president spoke briefly on Thursday after remaining largely out of sight as Wall Street has become engulfed by a financial crisis.

The New McCain: More Aggressive and Scripted on the Campaign Trail

Senator John McCain's once easygoing if irreverent campaign presence "endearing to crowds, though often resulting in gaffes" has been put out to pasture.

Alaska Star May Add Luster to Tarnished Senator

As Gov. Sarah Palin has moved to the national stage, Senator Ted Stevens, who goes on trial next week, has risen in some opinion polls in Alaska.

Husband of Alaska Governor Refuses to Testify in Legislature's Trooper Inquiry

Todd Palin was one of 13 people subpoenaed in the inquiry into whether Gov. Sarah Palin or members of her administration abused their power in the dismissal of a top state administrator.

The Ad Campaign: Obama Attacks McCain in a Bid to Attract Hispanic Voters

A Spanish-language Obama ad misrepresents John McCain's record on the immigration issue and his relationship with Rush Limbaugh.

Agency and Bush Are Sued Over Domestic Surveillance

A privacy group filed a class-action lawsuit on Thursday seeking to halt what it describes as illegal surveillance of Americans' telephone and Internet traffic.

Power Still Not Restored to Many in the Midwest

Remnants of Hurricane Ike swept through the region on Sunday, bringing torrential downpours and strong winds.

Action Is Sought to Ensure Timely Financing for V.A.

As the veterans' health system strains to handle a growing caseload, a move is under way in Congress to avoid yearly delays in financing that can hamper the medical care of the nation's veterans.

Simpson Defense Alleges Police Glee in His Arrest

O. J. Simpson's legal team began Thursday to mount a defense that will sound familiar to anyone who followed his 1995 murder trial.

National Briefing | Midwest: Minnesota: Rebuilt Bridge Opens

Flashing headlights and honking horns penetrated the early-morning sky as police officers and first responders led drivers in a slow procession across the new Interstate 35W bridge in Minneapolis.

National Briefing | South: Mississippi: Rearranging the Ballot

Gov. Haley Barbour agreed to move a special election for Trent Lott's™ former Senate seat to near the top of the November ballot, ending a dispute that had threatened to delay the start of absentee voting.

National Briefing | Northwest: Alaska: Concession in House Race

Lt. Gov. Sean Parnell of Alaska conceded to Representative Don Young in the Republican primary for Alaska's only House seat.

National Briefing | Immigration: Meat Plant Names Top Executive

Agriprocessors Inc., an embattled kosher meatpacker with a plant in Postville, Iowa, named a corporate lawyer from New York to be its chief executive, responding to an ultimatum from the leading kosher certifying organization.

National Briefing | Religion: Pittsburgh Bishop Is Ousted

An Episcopal bishop, whose diocese is moving toward splitting from the national church, was ousted from ministry.

National Briefing | Midwest: Illinois: 4 More Murder Charges

A man charged in the killings of four people who died during a June killing spree in Illinois and Missouri has been charged with murder in four more bludgeoning deaths.

Bread Stays on Menu for Carp at Pennsylvania Lake

Every year, an estimated 500,000 people trek to a lake to see a veritable carpet of carp, and the state has temporarily called off a plan to force people to stop feeding bread to the fish.

New York / Region

Let's Take It Outside

Unlike rival small-claims shows, "Street Court" goes right to the dispute's heart, bathroom or front lawn.

High-Tech 'Ears' Listen for Shots

By pinpointing the origin of gunfire, a system called ShotSpotter is assisting New York-area police departments in reducing violent crime.

Sunday Routine | Seth Meyers: Mostly, It's About Recovering From 'S.N.L.'

The "Saturday Night Live" fixture starts slowly and builds toward the palate-cleansing act of doing some improvisational comedy.

City Critic: Warm Intentions, Meet Cold Reality

Seeking the satisfaction of doing good, and discovering that feeding the hungry is not as simple as it might at first appear.

Queens Man Accused of Killing His Wife and Son

Otto Herrarte, 48, was charged with second-degree murder after the bodies of his wife and 14-year-old son were found with their throats cut in their apartment in Corona.

Man Fatally Stabbed on D Train in Manhattan

The killing occurred at about 2 a.m. after an argument over a seat, the police said, and a suspect was arrested.

For the Soul

A lingering cold has one positive side effect: having a reason to explore chicken soup in a variety of ethnic cuisines, and finding all of them delicious.

Open & Shut: Chronicle of a Changing City

A new bookstore appears on Broadway and 114th Street as a pizza place known for cheap beer and raging punk music closes on the Lower East Side.

Local Stop | Flushing: Spots of Tranquillity Amid the Bustle

If you know where to look on the busy streets of Flushing, Queens, you'll find great food and plenty of ways to relax, like herbal emporiums and a botanical garden.

F.Y.I.: Construction Sights

Readers' questions about New York City answered.

Theater Review | New Jersey: Sailors and Mates, at Liberty

In the Paper Mill Playhouse production of the '40s musical "On the Town," the female characters let loose.

Arts | Westchester: Getting Into Shakespeare, No Memorizing Required

Teaching artists from the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival go to schools to share their expertise and make students think about how to portray characters.

Art Review | Connecticut: The Nature of Time, Ever Passing

“Continuous Present,” at the Yale University Art Gallery, examines how 11 artists work with ideas of time, presenting contemporary artwork in an engaging yet scholarly way.

Arts Long Island: Studio in Stony Brook, Heart in the Desert

The Staller Center honors Mel Pekarsky, a retired professor who has specialized in the dry beauty of the American Southwest.

Spotlight | Madison: Raw Theater, Reaching for the Young

Playwrights Theater of New Jersey and the ensemble StrangeDog present “Omnivores,” which its author, Ben Clawson, calls a play about “why people have fights with one another.”

Spotlight Garden City: Rock Songs and Rubber Ducks

Bari Koral and her band will perform tunes for tykes at the Long Island Children's Museum on Nov. 27 and 28.

Long Island Dining | Williston Park: A Thai Offshoot With Ancestral Heat

Sripraphai is an offshoot of a restaurant in Woodside, Queens. Since it opened in October, it has been packed.

New Jersey Dining | Ewing: Speaking to a Big Crowd, With a Greek Accent

Erini, perched on the Delaware River, offers dishes that are well made with high-quality ingredients, but the owners' Mediterranean heritage takes only a supporting role.

Connecticut Dining | Orange: Down the Stairs, Latin With a Twist

Ola, a restaurant in Orange, Conn., has the feel of a hip eatery in Miami or the Caribbean.

Westchester Dining | Pelham: A Bistro That Does Grand- mère Proud

Bistro Rollin opened in June, and the chef, Manny Lozano, has one foot in Paris, one in the provinces.

About New York: Citizen Bruno, Unbound

The federal trial of the former State Senate leader Joseph L. Bruno has put a new light on the way he ran legislative affairs in Albany for 14 years.

Complaint Box | Picky Eaters

A writer complains about dinner guests whose dietary demands extend well beyond their allergies.

The Neediest Cases: After Katrina, Struggle for High Ground

Jennifer Hero's life will always be divided — before the flood and after — even after her relocation to Park Slope, Brooklyn.

Editorials / Op-Ed

Op-Ed Columnist: Visceral Has Its Value

Barack Obama, who once had his own electric book tour testing the waters for a campaign, could learn a thing or three from Sarah Palin.

Op-Ed Columnist: The Pit Bull in the China Shop

Sarah Palin is far and away the most important brand in American politics after Barack Obama. Her 15 minutes is far from up.

Op-Ed Columnist: Advice From Grandma

A great power that can only produce suboptimal responses to its biggest challenges will, in time, fade from being a great power.

Op-Ed Contributor: Animal, Vegetable, Miserable

The free-range turkey debate ignores whether it's wrong to kill animals for human consumption at all.

Op-Ed Contributor: Who Created Major Hasan?

The wars in Afghanistan and Iraq may be inspiring homegrown terrorism.

Op-Ed Contributor: My Chocolate Meltdown

How a corporate takeover ruined the perfect 82 percent cacao extra-dark bar.

Op-Ed Contributor: Avoidance by the Numbers

Anxiety often undermines sound accounting. Facing that fear could be the first step to balancing the books.

Editorial: Goldman's Non-Apology

If Goldman Sachs really wants to help small businesses, its recent pledge would have to be in the billions, not millions, and aimed more directly at taxpayers.

Editorial: The Senate's Duty on Climate

A climate change treaty in Copenhagen has been tabled, in part, because the United States Senate has failed to make the reduction of emissions a priority.

Editorial: A Ban on Genetic Discrimination

A new law rightly protects people who have inherited a predisposition to disease and opens a door to genetic testing.

Editorial: Roll Your Own Tax Rate

A recent law should be amended to bring roll-your-own cigarettes under proper federal controls and full taxation.

Letters To the Public Editor: Other Views: The Columnist's Voice

Readers respond to the public editor on recent columns.

Heading Home: Free at Last

When the baseball season ends, another game begins – the game of free agency.

The Thread: Whose Recession Is It, Anyway?

Polls show that the public is increasingly blaming Democrats for the economy. Will they drag President Obama down?

What the Law Commands

The surprising similarities between Chief Justice John Roberts and his newest colleague, Sonia Sotomayor.

Western Men Are Doomed

Are certain groups of people, because of their culture or style of thinking, better suited to handling the problems of the future?

iPols

Two women, both rich, accomplished, confident and full of ideas, are trying to become the fresh face of the G.O.P.

Abstract City: Bio-Diversity

Turning autumn leaves take some strange turns indeed.

Letters: An Evolutionary Bent Toward Religion?

To the Editor:

Letters: End-of-Life Planning and the House Health Bill

To the Editor:

Letters: Name That Decade

To the Editor:

Editorial: The Controversy Over Mammograms

The recent recommendation on mammographies is guidance for women and doctors, and should not be injected into the partisan debate over health care reform.

Editorial: Assessing the China Trip

President Obama was elected in part because he promised a more cooperative and pragmatic leadership in world affairs, but he should also be willing to stand up to Beijing.

Editorial: Mr. Obama's Task

To move forward in Afghanistan, President Obama needs to explain the stakes, the aim of the war, the costs and his definition of success.

Editorial: Another Round of Regulatory Reform

If senators really want strong financial reform, they must not give into lobbies trying to weaken the plan as it makes its way through the legislative process.

Editorial: Obama's Judicial Nominations

The White House and the Senate should speed up judicial nominations and confirmations to restore balance to the federal courts.

Op-Ed Contributor: Protect the Farm, Tax the Manor

Congress and the president should forge a compromise on the estate tax that would protect the family farmer and business owner, but impose appropriate taxes on the wealthy.

Op-Ed Contributor: Addicted to Mammograms

The public has been led to believe that breast cancer tumors need to be found as early as possible, so convincing people that we are screening too much is an uphill battle.

Op-Ed Contributors: The Senate's Health Care Calculations

Lawmakers' opposition to reform generally has less to do with the views of their constituents and more to do with the issue of presidential popularity.

Op-Ed Contributor: Why We Should Put Jihad on Trial

If the Khalid Shaikh Mohammed trial provides a propaganda platform for anybody, it will be for our side.

Op-Ed Contributor: In the Wilderness, a New Frontier

With her political and tabloid prominence, Sarah Palin has given Alaska something it had never experienced: celebrity.



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Food for the mind