



Jan. 26, 2010

Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

This past weekend I was in Washington, D.C., for the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) Board of Directors meeting where we focused on several national issues that will impact our schools. There is significant movement along common learning standards and assessments, and the possibility of additional federal stimulus dollars seems to be gaining momentum.

CCSSO, along with the National Governors’ Association and Achieve, is overseeing the Common Core initiative. The development of the internationally benchmarked common standards for English Language Arts and Math is entering the final stages. They have been distributed to state departments of education for final review and feedback. The Common Core standards are scheduled to be released in mid-March and are still on track to be adopted by states by August of this year.

As we move forward with the Common Core, a number of state level consortia are being created to develop assessments aligned to the new learning standards. Illinois has joined several of these consortia to ensure that we have a voice in the development of the new assessments.

There is much debate on the national level about the construction of these assessments and the purposes for which they will be used. Now is the time to have these debates, and I want Illinois to be a part of the discussions. Membership in these consortia does not mean we will adopt all of the assessments that are developed, but we do want to be a part of the process. I intend to involve educators and other stakeholders along the way as we move toward new assessments and the development of growth models. It is my intent to ensure that you have a say in where we are going, and I want to make sure that our education community is comfortable with the systems we put in place.

It also appears there is growing momentum at the federal level for additional stimulus funding for education. Last week, President Obama announced his intention to seek an additional \$1.35 billion from Congress for a third round of Race to the Top. The details would still need to be worked out on this, but it would apparently be another chance for states to seek additional funding for innovation and this time, it may be possible for local districts to apply directly for funds.

Additionally, there appears to be support building in Congress for more federal stimulus funding to create and retain jobs. It is possible that this could mean additional federal funds for schools, and if it does occur, it could certainly assist us with the FY 2011 funding cliff. As you encounter your elected representatives, it is important for you to let them know how the state’s financial difficulties are impacting your districts. I encourage you to let them know your thoughts

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on possibly receiving additional federal dollars aimed at preventing reductions in education funding and what it could mean to jobs within your local school districts.

Have a great week.

Chris

Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

- **School Year 2011 Annual Commodity Order Deadline** – Feb. 1
- **Illinois Association for Gifted Children Convention** – Feb. 7-9
- **Statewide No Child Left Behind Conference** – Feb. 9-11
- **Part 228 (Transitional Bilingual Education) and Part 235 (Early Childhood Block Grant)** – Public comment period ends Feb. 15
- **Part 35 (Mentoring Program for New Principals) and Part 145 (Temporary Relocation Expenses)** – Public comment period ends Feb. 22.
- **Non-Certified Staff Salary Study survey deadline** – March 1
- **Preserve America History Teacher of the Year Award nomination deadline** – March 15
- **Part 180 (Health/Life Safety Code for Public Schools)** – Public comment period ends March 15
- **Illinois Young Authors' Conference in Bloomington-Normal** – May 15
- **2009-10 Eye Examination Data Collection deadline** – June 30
- **Superintendents' Conference** – Oct. 26-27

Funding and Disbursement Services

FY 2010 General State Aid Finalized

Fiscal Year 2010 General State Aid (GSA) calculations have been finalized. Final computations and claim information can be accessed in GSA Inquiry at <http://webprod1.isbe.net/gsainquiry/asp/default.asp>. The GSA appropriation was almost \$18.9 million short of the final computed cost, so according to the GSA statute, the Supplemental GSA (Poverty Grant) must be prorated to 98.3 percent of the eligible reimbursement. The last FY 2010 GSA payment will reflect the prorated amount.

Two bills passed late in the legislative session contributed to the shortfall since their cost was not included in the FY 2010 GSA projections. PA 96-0300 requires that a year newer Corporate Personal Property Replacement Tax be used in the GSA calculation and resulted in an increased cost of just under \$9 million. The second law, PA 96-0152, required an alternate Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL) adjustment in the GSA formula for districts that passed a referendum to increase the limiting rate. This law resulted in an increased cost of \$10.5 million. In addition, errors discovered in some district tax rates and average daily attendance also delayed the final calculation of GSA.

Please note that the remaining GSA payments will not be loaded in the Final Reimbursement Information System (FRIS) Inquiry until after the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF) – Education payments are vouchered in GSA in the next couple of months. We anticipate that three out of four GSA payments will be made with SFSF Education payments in February and March. Further information will be forthcoming.

If you have any questions about General State Aid or the computations, please contact Jim Mathes jmathes@isbe.net or phone 217-782-5256.

Illinois Department of Central Management Services

Reminder: New Cellular Laws in 2010

Please be aware of two new cellular laws that took effect Jan. 1.

Illinois is now among 19 states that have outlawed texting while driving to reduce the number of crashes and fatalities. On Aug. 6, Gov. Pat Quinn signed into law House Bill 71 and House Bill 72, which took effect on Jan. 1.

Motorists are impacted in three ways according to the two new laws: 1) no motorist will be allowed to compose, send or read messages or access the Internet while driving; 2) no motorist will be allowed to talk on a cell phone, even through a hands-free device, while driving through a construction zone or a school zone; and 3) no motorist under the age of 19 can use a cell phone at all while driving. The ban includes personal digital assistants and portable or mobile computers.

For additional details, please refer to <http://www.dot.il.gov/texting.asp>.

ARRA

Required ‘Study of School Level Expenditures’ Application on IWAS

A school level expenditure report for the 2008-09 school year is being required per the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) for local education agencies (LEAs) that are entitled to funds under Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) provided under ARRA (i.e., LEAs that are entitled to ARRA Title I funds calculated under the Targeted Grant and Education Finance Incentive Grant formulas). Such LEAs are required to report school-by-school expenditures from state and local funds for the 2008-09 school year for all of their schools (not just Title I schools). The U.S. Department of Education states that they will use these data to examine the extent to which school-level education resources are distributed equitably within and across LEAs.

To facilitate this required reporting, we have created a new IWAS application, “Study of School Level Expenditures.” To access the application, log on to IWAS, and under System Listing, it is located under “Reporting.”

This specific report is focused on only state and local fund expenditures for Regular K-12 instruction, within four categories:

- Personnel salaries at the school level for all school-level instructional and support staff.
- Personnel salaries at the school level for instructional staff only.
- Personnel salaries at the school level for teachers only.
- Non-personnel expenditures at the school level (if available).

An Excel worksheet is available for download and completion, which can be accessed at <http://webapps.isbe.net/expstudy/download/schoolworksheet.xls>. The specific function and object codes, per Part 100 Requirements for Accounting, Budgeting, Financial Reporting and Auditing, are provided to assist in the calculation of reporting data per school. It is highly recommended that a separate spreadsheet be completed and maintained for future reference and review for each of your schools. These spreadsheets are not to be submitted to ISBE, but used as a tool for assist in arriving at the totals necessary for this report. The four totals calculated for each school, as well as the number of hours necessary to arrive at the data for each school, are the components that must be entered in the “Study of School Level Expenditures” report.

A “calculate and save” feature is available on the “Details” page of the report, to allow multiple sessions of entry of the data. Once all data have been entered, the document author must submit to the district administrator in IWAS. It is the district administrator that submits to ISBE. You will receive IWAS messages when each step is complete.

School level expenditures to be excluded from this report include those:

- From federal program funds.
- From special education funds.
- Not associated with regular K-12 programs, such as preschool and adult education.
- That serve students from more than one school attendance area, such as summer school.
- Expenditures for employee benefits.

The report of this data is due Friday, Feb. 26.

If you have any questions, please contact Sally Cray of the Division of Funding and Disbursements, at 217-782-5256 or scray@isbe.net.

School Business Services

School District Reorganization Feasibility Study Funding Available

Interested school districts may still take advantage of School District Reorganization Feasibility Study funding in FY 2010. Feasibility studies are a tool to be used by school districts wanting to investigate the advantages and/or disadvantages of reorganization options. Interested school districts should submit a proposed agreement with an independent contractor(s) to their

Regional Office of Education (ROE). The ROE will submit the agreement to the Illinois State Board of Education for approval.

Each study will be funded on a base tier according to the number of school districts involved in the study. Studies will be funded an additional tier based on the combined enrollment of the districts involved in the study. Studies are funded between \$4,500 and \$8,000 based on the procedure listed above. Funds are available on a “first-come, first-served” basis. In order to receive reorganization feasibility study funds in FY 2010, agreements must be approved by both ROE and ISBE, and studies must be completed and approved for payment no later than June 30.

Procedures, funding allotment and sample forms are at <http://www.isbe.net/sfms/html/feasibility.htm>.

If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Heninger, School Business Services, at 217-785-8779 or mheninge@isbe.net.

Green Cleaning Schools Act Reminder

The Green Cleaning Schools Act is the Illinois law that requires green cleaning in Illinois schools. The act requires Illinois elementary and secondary schools, both public and non-public, to purchase and use only environmentally sensitive cleaning supplies. Schools are required to purchase and use six categories of green cleaning supplies;

- Bathroom Cleaners: glass, window and mirror cleaners
- Carpet Cleaners: hand cleaners and hand soaps
- General Purpose Cleaners: paper products used for cleaning

Schools were required to begin purchasing and using environmentally sensitive cleaning supplies as of May 9, 2008.

The Green Cleaning Schools Act allows individual schools to forego green cleaning if to do so would not be economically feasible. Any school in such a circumstance may complete an application to provide written notification to the Illinois Green Governments Coordinating Council. For additional information regarding the Green Cleaning Schools Act, visit <http://www.GreenSolutions.il.gov> and follow the link under “Schools” in the navigational menu.

Feedback Sought on Illinois Green Cleaning Schools Act

In 2007, legislation passed regarding “green cleaning” for schools. Please help us understand the impact of this law and let us know how your school is implementing a green cleaning program by visiting <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/5PG662R>. This survey will take less than 15 minutes to complete and will maintain your anonymity. Please submit your survey as soon as possible!

Lawn Care Products Application and Notice Act

On Aug. 18, 2009, Senate Bill 1769 was signed into law by the Governor as Public Act 96-0424 amending the School Code [105 ILCS 5], the Child Care Act of 1969 [225 ILCS 10] and the Lawn Care Products Application and Notice Act [415 ILCS 65].

In summary, language was added to the School Code, Child Care Act and the Lawn Care Products Application and Notice Act requiring:

- each school district and the Chicago Board of Education to adopt a procedure to comply with the requirements of the Lawn Care Products Application and Notice Act (which requires written or telephonic notification at least four business days before application of the lawn care product) and the Structural Pest Control Act (which maintains the requirement of written notification at least two business days before application of the pesticide), along with designating a staff person who is responsible for compliance with the requirements of these Acts.
- the owners and operators of licensed day care centers to ensure that lawn care products will not be applied to day care center grounds when children are present at the center or on its grounds, and to ensure that proper notice as is given to parents and guardians before applying pesticides or having pesticide applied to the day care center grounds,

Please contact your Regional Office of Education for more specific information about the amendments to the School Code, your Department of Children and Family Services representative regarding the amendments to the Child Care Act of 1969 or the Department of Agriculture at 217-785-2427 regarding the amendments to the Lawn Care Products Application and Notice Act.

Teacher of the Year

State's Top Educators Available to Speak at Events

This year's Illinois Teacher of the Year, Kevin Rutter of Carl Schurz High School in Chicago, is remaining in the classroom. But he is available to speak at your function/event. Because of the current budget crisis we are requesting a stipend that can be used to cover his travel expenses.

Another option for districts or groups is to contact one of the Teacher of the Year finalists who hail from all over Illinois. These teachers offer a wide range of expertise.

Visit http://www.isbe.net/toy/pdfs/meet_toy_10.pdf to meet the Illinois State Board of Education's Teacher of the Year and the finalists. Contact information is included for the teachers.

Nomination packets for the 2010-11 Those Who Excel/Illinois Teacher of the Year program is available online at http://www.isbe.net/those_who_excel.htm.

For additional information, or a paper copy, please contact Ann Muraro-Lacopo at 217-782-4648 or amuraro@isbe.net.

English Language Learning

Migrant Supplemental Education Services Funding Applications Available

The division of English Language Learning is accepting applications for migrant supplemental education services funding for the summer of 2010 in districts with qualifying migrant children under Title I, Part C of the No Child Left Behind Act. The application is available at <http://www.isbe.net/bilingual/htmls/migrant.htm>. The application deadline is March 15.

Eligibility: Students who are under the age of 22 and have not graduated from high school may be eligible if they have moved (within the past three years due to economic necessity) across state or school district lines with a parent or guardian or on their own to obtain temporary or seasonal work in agricultural production, fishing or food processing industries. A certified recruiter must document that children qualify as migrant students.

The Illinois State Board of Education can assist districts in identifying eligible migrant children. Information

about how to request assistance is available at http://www.isbe.net/bilingual/pdfs/migrant_survey.pdf.

For more information, contact Beth Robinson at 312-814-3850.

Innovation and Improvement

Conference on No Child Left Behind to be Held in Chicago Next Month

This year's Statewide No Child Left Behind Conference, "From Hope to Progress: Shaping Change in Illinois Schools," will take place Feb. 9-11 in Chicago. This conference brings together several thousand K-12 educators who learn about approaches to improving teaching and learning in our classrooms.

The conference will focus on four specific areas: rigorous and high-quality standards and assessments; data systems that support instruction; development of great teachers and leaders; and intervention in the lowest-performing school and districts.

Other sessions will address No Child Left Behind policy, legal matters, and programs, school safety and violence prevention issues, professional development, assessment and data-driven decision making, and other topics. This year, the conference will also provide three special expert panels on current issues. The sessions are: School Restructuring, Response to Intervention, and Eradicating Violence and Empowering At Risk Youth and the Learning Community. Panels, sessions and workshops, several led by Illinois State Board of Education consultants, will provide participants with updated information about the educational priorities of the nation and the state.

For more information and registration materials, visit http://www.thecenterweb.org/irc/pages/f_events-nclb.html.

Nutrition

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Grant Applications Available

The Illinois State Board of Education is accepting applications for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) Grant for the 2010–11 school year. The purpose of the FFVP Grant is to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to elementary students during the school day at times other than meal periods at a minimum of two times a week. Any elementary school participating in the

National School Lunch Program is eligible to apply but priority will be given to those schools with 50 percent or greater free and reduced-price eligibility.

See http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/ffv_program.htm for additional information about the FFVP Grant, program requirements and to access the FFVP Grant application. You must complete and submit the FFVP Grant application to ISBE no later than March 15 to be considered for the 2010–2011 school year.

If you have any questions, please contact Lindsay Blough (lblough@isbe.net), Stephanie Hinds (shinds@isbe.net) or Roxanne Ramage (rramage@isbe.net) at 800-545-7892 or 217-782-2491. We look forward to another successful year of working with schools to increase children's fresh fruit and vegetable consumption and to influence lifelong healthy eating habits.

Training Workshops on Summer Food Service Program Coming Up

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) is designed to provide nutritious meals during summer months to children from areas where at least 50 percent are eligible for free or reduced-priced meals during the school year through the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. Does your area meet this criterion? If so, consider becoming a sponsor to help bridge the gap for children in your community. All sponsors are required to submit the program application and monthly Claims for Reimbursement via the Internet.

If the responsibilities of sponsorship in the SFSP are not possible, you can still participate in the program by operating as a site under a different sponsor, being a vendor or volunteering your time. Visit our Web site at <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/summer.htm> to learn more about this vital program and how you can help.

Training workshops for the Summer Food Service Program will be held at the locations listed below for organizations interested in sponsoring the SFSP during the summer of 2010. To register for the workshops, visit <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition>.

Workshop Schedule

Thursday, Feb. 25 — Marion
 Thursday, March 4 — Alsip
 Tuesday, March 16 — Champaign
 Thursday, March 25 — Fairview Heights
 Thursday, April 8 — Palatine
 Thursday, April 15 — Morton
 Thursday, May 6 — Chicago

Monday, May 10 — Springfield

The training sessions are designed to provide a complete overview of the SFSP, including the Illinois State Board of Education's Internet-based program application and claim system. All new sponsors are required to attend training before they can be approved to serve meals.

For additional information, contact Amy Bianco or Deb Collins at 800-545-7892 or cnp@isbe.net.

USDA Farm-to-School Tactical Teams Prepare to Visit Schools

The Tactical Team is comprised of individuals from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) and the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS). This Tactical Team will work together to assist schools in purchasing more local foods.

USDA's Farm-to-School Tactical Teams will soon begin touring America's school cafeterias to identify challenges and opportunities to help them transition to purchasing more locally grown foods. In 2010, the Tactical Team will conduct visits at nine schools that represent varied demographics and characteristics. During these site visits, the team will seek to learn about the school district's Farm-to-School efforts including, but not limited to, how the activities first began, the relationship between growers and the school district, what obstacles exist or were faced along the way, and the effects the activities have had on the school and the community.

If you are a district interested in being considered for a USDA Farm-to-School Tactical Team visit, would like additional information or to place a request for a visit, go to <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/F2S/f2stacticalteam.htm>. Districts have until Jan. 31 to send in their request for consideration. If you have any additional questions, please contact the Illinois State Board of Education Nutrition Programs Division at cnp@isbe.net or 800-545-7892.

School Breakfast Program Mandate – UPDATE

Public Act 96-0158 requires each school district to implement and operate a School Breakfast Program in the next school year in accordance with federal guidelines in each school building within its district in which at least 40 percent or more of the students are currently eligible for free or reduced-price lunches. If a school is seeking an exemption from this mandate, they must petition their Regional Office of Education (ROE)

by Feb. 15 of each year. By March 15, the ROE must have convened a public hearing in accordance with the Open Meetings Act and informed the school district and Illinois State Board of Education (e-mail: cnp@isbe.net) of his/her decision in writing.

For additional information on this mandate, including how to determine which schools are mandated and how to request an exemption from this mandate, go to http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/hb_756.htm.

Curriculum and Instruction

First-Graders Through 12th-Graders Eligible for Youth Internet Safety Contest

The Illinois State Board of Education, Attorney General and Governor's offices are sponsoring the Youth Internet Safety Contest. The contest is open to all students in grades first through 12th and encourages students to help spread the word to their peers about Internet safety.

Students are asked to create a poster, video, podcast or slideshow addressing Internet safety, and specifically cyberbullying. Many schools have taught online safety for years. But starting with this school year, districts are required to incorporate Internet safety at least once each school year in grades from third through 12th. The full text of the law can be found in the School Code, Section 27-13.3 (<http://tiny.cc/m9ymS>).

Each local school district can determine how to incorporate the lessons into curriculum. But some recommended topics include safe and responsible use of social networking Web sites, chat rooms, bulletin boards and other means of communication on the Internet. It is also recommended that instruction includes information on recognizing, avoiding and reporting online solicitation by sexual predators; recognizing and reporting online harassment and cyberbullying; and knowing the risks of transmitting personal information on the Internet.

The agency has Internet safety resources and best practices for schools posted to its Web site. Contest rules, terms and conditions, can be found at the same page: http://www.isbe.net/curriculum/html/internet_safety.htm.

Classroom Earth's 2010 National High School Challenge Under Way

Teachers from all subject areas are encouraged to apply for Classroom Earth's 2010 National High School Challenge. This program encourages the incorporation of environmental education into all subject areas through

innovative teaching strategies. Teachers across the nation can receive up to \$4,000 to help make their ideas a reality.

The deadline for submission is Feb. 22. Apply at <http://www.classroomearth.org>.

Professional Development

Science Educators in Illinois Teaching at Grades 6-12 Eligible for Award

Nomination forms are available for iBIO Institute's iCON Knowledge Builder Award, which is given annually in Illinois to an individual who demonstrates exemplary teaching at the Grade 6-12 level, and who has positively impacted students' understanding of biotechnology's promise and challenges. This educator also serves as a model for colleagues on how to incorporate biotechnology into the classroom and acts as a resource for peers.

The nomination form is available at http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=r869vnOv1qfEN7ow_2fFz1Fw_3d_3d.

Previous winners include Terry Meyer of Red Bud High School in 2009, Hortense Brice of Lindblom Math & Science Academy in 2008 and Myrna Alvarez of Dunbar Vocational Career Academy.

The iBIO Institute provides training and research in biotechnology to members of the business and education world and the public. For more information, visit <http://www.ibioinstitute.org/programs/icon/index.html>.

American Association of School Administrators Conference Coming Up

Registration is under way for the American Association of School Administrators' National Conference on Education, which is set for Feb. 11-13 in Phoenix.

Featured speakers include U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan and Malcolm Gladwell, the author of three No. 1 New York Times bestsellers: "The Tipping Point: How Little Things Make a Big Difference," "Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking" and "Outliers: The Story of Success."

For more information about the conference and to register, visit <http://www.aasa.org/nce/>.

Student Opportunities

Program to Honor 25 Scholar Athletes

Nominations are being sought for the Scholar Athlete Milk Mustache of the Year 2010 Award Program. Twenty-five senior scholar athletes will be selected from across the country.

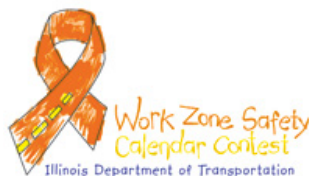
Winners in the 13th annual SAMMY awards receive a \$7,500 college scholarship, an invitation to attend an awards ceremony in June and an opportunity to be pictured in a Milk Mustache ad in national publications.

The awards program is presented by America's Milk Processors and USA Today, joined by the American Association of School Administrators, the National Association for Sport and Physical Education, the American School Counselor Association and the National School Public Relations Association.

For the online application and more information, visit <http://www.bodybymilk.com>. The deadline for nominations is March 5. Students can nominate themselves or be nominated by teachers, coaches, parents, etc.

Deadline Coming Up for Illinois Work Zone Safety Calendar Contest

The Illinois Department of Transportation, the Illinois State Board of Education, the American Traffic Safety Services Foundation and the Illinois Chapter of the American Traffic Safety Services Association are sponsoring the fifth annual Illinois Work Zone Safety Calendar Contest for elementary students. This year's theme is "See Orange. Slow Down. Save Lives." The contest categories are K-first grade, second-fourth grade and fifth-sixth grade. Each school must select the top four posters from each category (12 posters total) and submit them to IDOT by Jan. 29.



The artwork will be voted on by three semi-finalist judges. The top 30 entries, 10 from each category, will move on to a judging panel that will determine the 12 finalists. The 12 finalists' drawings will be displayed in the 2011 Illinois Work Zone Safety Calendar.

For more information, visit the contest Web site at <http://www.dot.il.gov/trafficsafety/WZS/WZScontest.html> or contact Jessica Baker at 217-785-3062.

Green Education Foundation Prepares for National Green Week

The Green Education Foundation is gearing up for National Green Week, which is set for Feb. 1-5. The free program includes environmental educational content and curriculum.

The event aims to get students to take part in energy and waste reduction programs and gardening initiatives along with lessons and activities. The foundation has set goals to plant 10,000 gardens, eliminate 500,000 pounds of trash and reduce utility costs by 5 percent this spring.

For questions or more information on National Green Week, visit <http://www.greeneducationfoundation.org>.

Rules and Waivers

Invitation to Comment on Rules

A rulemaking recently reviewed by the Illinois State Board of Education is available for public comment. The proposal has been posted on the agency's Web site at <http://www.isbe.net/rules>; choose "Proposed Rules and Amendments." Please submit any comments or suggestions to rules@isbe.net.

Part 180 (Health/Life Safety Code for Public Schools)

Clarifies procedures for districts seeking to use fire prevention and safety funds for emergency situations, as set forth in P.A. 96-252, effective Aug. 11, 2009.

Deadline for Public Comment: March 15

Employment Opportunities

ISBE External Vacancy List

An External Vacancy List for the Illinois State Board of Education is available at <http://www.isbe.net/hr/Default.htm>.

In the News

Weekly News Clips

ISBE has posted highlights from last week's education news clips at <http://www.isbe.net/news/2010/newsclips/100122.htm>.