

EDITORIAL
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It is an exciting time to live in. We live in an era when long-marginalized Americans are awakening and arising in the political life of the society. In the 2008 presidential election, three marginals that have long been politically excluded - *race*, *religion* and *gender*, now compete for recognition. Within the Democratic Party, *change* clashes against *experience*. On the Republican side, *status quo* contests against *religion* (Mormonism and Christianity). The question of who becomes the next leader of the world's most powerful nation-state is uncertain, as we go to press.

In this second edition of the E-Journal, our contributors continue the tradition of *exploring a scholarly community*. *First*, according to the November-December edition of the *Campus Activities Programming* magazine, assessment in student activities is not only possible, but also a necessary element in the formula that creates successful programming on every college campus. But, faculty assessment has always been a polemical issue which generates anger and sometimes resentment. Find out why Gregg Ventello feels "mildly violated" in his anti-assessment manifesto. *Second*, WWII veterans are often referred to as "The Greatest Generation." They have become an endangered species- dying at the rate of 1,000 per day. Joseph Grasela examines the contributions made by KCKCC students and staff in the fight to win WWII. *Third*, it seems improbable or unthinkable to know that white journalism students at the KCK Junior College could name their mascot "Blue Devil" after a popular African American Jazz band in the 1920s. Curtis Smith recreates this amazing history of the KCKCC mascot. The *fourth* article is partly a sequel to Steve and Dorothy Collins' essay on the "Quindaro Underground Railroad." In this regard, Charley Reitz's essay is a continuum, which leads towards a meta-narrative in an attempt to reconstruct the "crucial cultural aspects of this history which have been suppressed by conventional scholarly accounts." Charley's piece, "White Radicals for Racial Equality: An Intercultural Perspective of the Kansas Free State Struggle, 1854-1864, is not only remarkable, but also revealing. *Fifth*, from the lens of an economist, Mehdi Shariati, examines the U.S. national debt in "Socializing the Cost of Globalization, Imperialism, and Militarism..." In this article, Mehdi analyzes the theoretical and institutional contradictions of the North-South relations and their implications to society. This edition is indeed stimulating. Enjoy the readings!!!

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