



This Week's Newsmakers

Dec. 10 – Dec. 17, 2010

Prepared by University Communications

Top Story

Report Details Ties between U.S., Nazi War Criminals



Associated Press

Richard Breitman, professor of history, talked to the [Associated Press](#) about a report he coauthored that uncovered the CIA's use of Nazi war criminals to wage "a covert war" against the Soviet Union during the Cold

War. [The New York Times](#) also wrote a story and more than 315 news outlets, including the [Los Angeles Times](#), [Wall Street Journal](#), [Houston Chronicle](#), [FOXNews.com](#), [MSNBC.com](#), and [Forbes.com](#), republished the AP article. (12/10, 12/11)

Additional Feature

SOC Adds *Current* to Public Media Initiatives

The New York Times

[The New York Times](#) announced that public media trade publication *Current* will have a new home with American University's School of Communication.

Larry Kirkman, dean of the School of Communication, noted that the school is "a laboratory for the future of public media," as demonstrated by initiatives like the Center for Social Media and the Investigative Reporting Workshop, which produces for PBS's *FRONTLINE*. Several other news outlets, including [The Chronicle of Higher Education](#) and [Politico](#), also published the announcement. (12/13)

Quotes

Healthcare Ruling



"It's just one judge, and on an issue of this importance, the Supreme Court justices will approach it from their own standpoint," said **Dan Marcus**, professor of law, on [NBC Nightly News](#) about a Virginia judge's decision to rule President Obama's healthcare bill unconstitutional. (12/13)

Politicians Fear Military Pay Raise Too Small



While opposition to the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell may be mostly to blame for delaying approval of the Defense Authorization Bill, it isn't the only provision that has politicians sweating. "Dealing with military pay, benefits and health care is a classic third rail of defense planning," **Gordon Adams**, professor of international service, told [CNN.com](#) about the bill's proposal to give military personnel a 1.9 percent pay raise—an amount politicians fear is too small. (12/11)

Obama's History of Compromise Brought Him to Tax-Cut Deal

Bloomberg Businessweek

"This deal is all about stimulating the economy. Obama knows that if the economy recovers over the next two years he will rather easily win re-election, much like Reagan in 1984," said **Allan Lichtman**, professor of history, to [Bloomberg BusinessWeek](#)

about President Obama's compromise on taxes with congressional Republicans. (12/16)

AU Expert on WikiLeaks, Health Care Law



Stephen Vladeck, professor of law, spoke to [MSNBC.com](#) and

[PBS.org](#) about the WikiLeaks controversy. He said the single biggest problem with the Espionage Act is that its limits have never truly been

tested. Vladeck was also a guest on [WAMU's The Kojo Nnamdi Show](#) to discuss a Virginia federal judge's ruling of the healthcare bill. "The question here is whether imposing [the] healthcare requirement is a bridge too far," said Vladeck. (12/12, 12/14, 12/15)

Changing D.C.'s Adoption Laws

WAMU 88.5 FM
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY RADIO

"A lot of policies around child welfare had incentives that a lot of people hadn't thought about," said **Mary Hansen**, professor of economics, on [WAMU's Metro Connection](#). Hansen discussed her research—which uncovered a subsidy discrepancy that made adoption in D.C. less financially beneficial than being a foster family—and how it helped change D.C. adoption laws. (12/13)

Much of Obama's Agenda in Hands of Courts



"The fact that Obama's political agenda is sunken into litigation reflects how deeply the country is divided over fundamental issues," said **Jamin Raskin**, professor of law, to the [Washington Examiner](#) about the opposition to many of the president's sweeping policy changes leading to lawsuits. (12/14)