institutions, including the "first girls' camp of importance," Redcroft, in 1900. Pasquaney continues to thrive today. In 1997, a total of 101 boys from seven countries attended.

Summer camps came into existence as part of the "back to the country" movement that grew out of anxieties about idleness and soft urban life around the turn of the century. It also produced the YMCA camps, the Boy Scouts (imported from England in 1910), and the Camp Fire Girls. For youths who spent their summers in the rustic settings, the experience was often memorable. Diplomat William C. Bullitt, a former Pasquaney boy who attended Yale and Harvard Law School, later said that Pasquaney stood alone as "the best educational institution in the United States."

Cooking Up Soul Food

"The Origins of Soul Food in Black Urban Identity: Chicago, 1915–1947" by Tracy N. Poe, in *American Studies International* (Feb. 1999), George Washington Univ., Washington, D.C. 20052.

Soul food may be a mouthwatering emblem of African American identity, but not so long ago rib joints and chicken shacks were points of controversy among black Americans.

When African Americans journeyed northward in the Great Migration that began during World War I, they brought their rural southern culinary tradition with them, writes Poe, a doctoral candidate at Harvard University in the history of American civilization. But their "backward" ways seemed to threaten the hard-won respectability of the middle-class blacks already established in Chicago and other northern cities.

"With their sidewalk barbecue pits, 'chicken shacks,' and public consumption of watermelon," says Poe, "an ugly stereotype of Southern migrants" as crude, unclean, and backward folk "soon developed, no less among the black middle class than among white Chicagoans." The migrants, however, "could not understand what the problem was" with their traditional southern food.

Southern cuisine (eaten by both whites and blacks) was largely the creation of slave cooks, using foods and preparations of Africa, Europe, and early America, Poe says. Besides fried chicken and fish, typical foods ranged from barbecued pork to one-pot dishes with regional names such as "sloosh," "cush-cush," and "gumbo." "Most significantly, however," she writes, "black people developed an affinity for the parts of animals normally discarded by whites: entrails, known as 'chitterlings' (pronounced 'chitlins'); pigs' heads, which were made into 'souse,' a kind of headcheese; [and] pigs' and chickens' feet." One censorious front-page story in the *Chicago Defender*, an African American newspaper, was simply headlined "Pig Ankle Joints."

Gradually, however, a sense of racial solidarity emerged, Poe says, and the prejudice against southern food and eating rituals faded. By 1940, the *Defender* was reporting a southern heritage celebration, complete with traditional food, sponsored by the NAACP Ladies' Auxiliary. It wasn't called "soul food" yet, but urban African Americans had already embraced southern cooking as a part of a common heritage.

PRESS & MEDIA

Wire(d) Stories

"What I Saw in the Digital Sea" by Frank Houston, in *Columbia Journalism Review* (July–Aug. 1999), Journalism Bldg., 2950 Broadway, Columbia Univ., New York, N.Y. 10027.

Web journalism is fast evolving—but, unfortunately, some of its best potential is being left behind, according to Houston, a freelance writer. The twenty-something journalist went to work for Fox News Online in New York in October 1996, hoping to contribute fresh news feature stories. He quit in disillusion a little more than two years later,

he writes, having come to see "Web journalism for what it is becoming: a machine moving at the speed of the [news] wires, in terms of content, and in the direction of television, in terms of form. Experiments in storytelling are on an indefinite hiatus."

Houston's job originally was "to create feature stories that push the technological and interactive envelopes, working with a graphic designer, two producers, a photo editor, and, usually, a video producer." Early in 1997, for example, after IBM's Deep Blue computer bested chess champ Garry Kasparov, Houston and his colleagues prepared a feature about Cassie, an experimental robot equipped with artificial intelligence that was assembled at the State University of New York at Buffalo. Combining video and text "in a new way," he says, the feature—complete with links to various explanatory sidebars and "a meticulously accurate graphical representation of [the robot's] thought processes"—proved one of their most popular feature stories, getting some 7,000 "page views" during the week it was on the site.

But top online news stories get that many page views in mere hours, Houston notes, and most people, research has found, spend only seconds visiting a news Web page. Not surprisingly, he and his colleagues soon found the Web moving away from costly and complicated features. "Technology's thrust, it turns out, is to satisfy the need for speed. The emphasis shifts to shorter, more frequent stories and breaking news"—a trend evident not only at Fox but at its .com competitors, CNN, MSNBC, and ABCNews. The result:

between late 1997 and late '98, daily page views on the Fox site as a whole roughly doubled—from 600,000 to 1.2 million (and reached 2.2 million on one particularly hot news day).

In their unquenchable thirst for breaking news, ironically, the Web sites have turned to the established wire services, such as the Associated Press and Reuters. The broadcast owners of online news sites lack the staff to compete with the wire services—and, in the absence of substantial Web ad revenues, the willingness to spend money to develop one. Newspaper owners of Web sites give priority to their newspapers and aren't accustomed to publishing on the frenetic schedule of the wire services, with their continual stream of updates, adds, and new leads. "When an Amtrak train crashes . . . the *New York Times* and other newspaper sites go with wire copy on their home pages," Houston notes. Only after the newspaper's reporters have written their stories for the paper's next edition are the wire stories on the home page replaced with the "homegrown" ones.

One way that Fox and other news organizations have tried to distinguish themselves from the wire services, Houston observes, is by providing, on big stories, a wealth of background material, from interviews to interactive maps. But "appending a library" to breaking wire stories, Houston says, is hardly the same as innovative journalism, with fresh insight and compelling stories. For now at least, he sadly concludes, Web technology's own imperatives seem to be driving out that kind of journalism.

RELIGION & PHILOSOPHY

The Antiliberal Philosopher
A Survey of Recent Articles

Imagine a world in which the whole scientific enterprise has been virtually destroyed by a vengeful public maddened by a series of environmental disasters. Eventually, enlightened people try to revive science, but all they have to work with are shards of the past, devoid of the theoretical context that gave them meaning. They have

no way of coherently reassembling the surviving fragments, yet they connect them anyway—and almost no one realizes that what now comes to pass for "science" is not proper science at all.

That, according to philosopher Alasdair MacIntyre, is much the situation in which moral discourse is conducted today, with