

DCRP NOTES

DCRP Notes will be a regular feature of the *Berkeley Planning Journal*. Its purpose is to disseminate information about the research, teaching, and design activities of the students and faculty in the Department of City and Regional Planning at the University of California, Berkeley. We encourage members of the Berkeley DCRP to submit brief descriptions of noteworthy activities for publication.

Plant Closures Research Group

Since 1982, The Plant Closures Research Group at the University of California, Berkeley, has monitored plant shutdowns and job loss in California. The Research Group has established a computerized data base on plant closures that have occurred in California from 1980 to the present. The data base developed by The Group has been used by unions, community organizations, and local governments throughout the state. The findings of the Research Group have been cited by *Business Week* magazine as well as local media such as *The San Francisco Chronicle*, *The Oakland Tribune*, and *The Los Angeles Times*. The Plant Closures Research Group also publishes a newsletter that reports on current developments and examines the political issues connected with plant shutdowns and job loss. A series of briefing papers and research papers have also been produced by the Research Group for state legislative hearings.

The Research Group works closely with the Oakland Plant Closures Project, a coalition of Bay Area labor, religious, and community activists committed to helping workers faced with the prospect of a plant closing. Through the research activities of the Research Group and the political networking of the Project, alternative policies and programs have been formulated to prevent runaway shops and plant closures. These efforts have resulted in the state's first plant closing ordinance which the city of Vacaville adopted in January of this year.

The Research Group is currently involved in two principal areas of research. The first area concerns closures and layoffs in high-technology manufacturing sectors in California. The second area deals with the background and implications of the shutdown by Caterpillar Tractor Company of its San Leandro facility.

To contact The Group, write: Plant Closure Research Group
Department of City and
Regional Planning
228 Wurster Hall
Berkeley, CA 94720

The Institute of Urban and Regional Development

The Institute of Urban and Regional Development (IURD) is a research unit whose faculty and student members are concerned

with a wide array of policy-relevant questions. Its foci of inquiry are the processes of urban and regional growth and decline, the consequence that alternative styles of governance have for patterns of development, and the scientific bases for development policy and for policy planning. IURD draws its member from departments throughout the Berkeley Campus, and serves as an umbrella organization for research that brings the intellectual resources of the University into the service of public policy. IURD produces working papers, reprints of journal articles, monographs, and books reporting on research conducted under its auspices.

Rural Development Policy Project

The Rural Development Policy Project is sponsored by the Ford Foundation and located jointly within the Institutes of Governmental Studies and Urban and Regional Development at the University of California, Berkeley. The members of the project are Edward J. Blakely and Ted K. Bradshaw, principal investigators and authors of *Rural Communities in Advanced Industrial Society* (New York: Praeger, 1979), and Nancey Leigh-Preston and Philip Shapira, research specialists and doctoral students in City and Regional Planning at UC Berkeley.

The Rural Development Policy Project is studying the development patterns and planning problems associated with the "rural turnaround" in five states: California, Mississippi, North Carolina, Vermont, and Wisconsin. The primary research focus is on rural economic development and the implications of changing economic conditions for given communities and regions, different segments of the population, job development, and income distribution. The project seeks to articulate rural policy and planning concerns, and to devise appropriate national, state, and local responses to the opportunities and constraints associated with development.

A recent statement of many of the project's concerns and some of its findings may be found in "Rural America: A New Public Policy Frontier," available as a reprint from the Institute of Urban and Regional Development, Reprint No. 200.

The Berkeley Roundtable on the International Economy (BRIE)

BRIE continues to sponsor a variety of research projects concerned with trade and industrial policy issues. Three types of projects are currently being conducted: (1) studies of international competition in specific—particularly high technology—sectors such as micro-electronics, automated production equipment, telecommunications, and biotechnology; (2) particular problems in the conduct of international commerce, including protectionism and technology transfer; and (3) broader analyses of general trends in the international economy, such as the mercantilist challenge to the liberal international trade order. BRIE will continue to host seminars and public affairs programs dealing with international

economic policy issues, and a series of workshops is planned. BRIE is directed by Professors John Zysman and Stephen Cohen. Michael Borrus, Esq., is Deputy Director.

For Information, contact: BRIE-IURD
316 Wurster Hall
University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, CA 94720

Technology and the American Construction and Transportation Industries Project

This research project is sponsored by the U.S. Congress Office of Technology Assessment and administered by IURD. David Dowall and Melvin Webber are the principal investigators. Other faculty members involved in the project include Peter Hall, Bill Garrison, and Mike Teitz. Marcia Salkin and Sabina Deitrick, doctoral students at DCRP, and Mark Hansen, a master's student, are research assistants. The goal of the research is to assess the ability of the construction and transportation industries to respond to changing economic, demographic and technological realities. As such, the study will:

- describe the structure and performance of each industry over the past thirty years;
- examine demographic and technological trends and their likely impacts on future patterns of development;
- identify the challenges and opportunities that these changes create for both industries;
- assess the ability of both industries to respond to challenges posed;
- identify possible avenues of government action to mitigate the potential problems that are uncovered by the study.

For further information, contact the project in care of IURD.

Women and Urban Living—Implications for Planning

This new course has been initiated in the department by Professor Ann Markusen with the help of teaching assistant Nancey Leigh-Preston. The course surveys the theoretical and contextual background of women's planning problems together with novel planning approaches. The course begins with the household environment, looking at theories of the household division of labor and associated issues of housing and design. It then investigates where women live in cities and why, and how city neighborhoods could be improved for women's needs. Attention is also directed to suburban and rural environments. Other topics covered include child care space and policy issues, and transportation patterns. The second half of the course focuses on poverty and work related issues, beginning with an examination of the increasing incidence of poverty among women despite women's increasing labor force participation. Policies for the alleviation of poverty and projects

such as comparable worth are addressed in detail. Special attention is also paid to economic development planning for rural women and women in developing countries. A final section is devoted to women's experiences as planners, architects, public sector workers and organizers. Class members, who are drawn from across the campus, will produce a proposed Women's Economic Agenda as a result of the class.

New Urban Futures Laboratory Introduced

Professor Richard C. Meier returned from a sabbatical year during which he covered thirty cities in Africa and Asia. Along the way he became convinced that a new scale of planning was coming into being. Accelerating flows of money, organizations, airline passengers, telecommunications, ideas, popular arts, students, and scholarship are sweeping over the barriers erected by national states. Some cities (about 110) mobilize the opportunities and enter a global arena.

These metropolises compete for footloose resources by offering "better qualities of life" for organizations and special people who bring with them power, money, knowledge, contacts, influence, artistic creativity, and skill. Cities can now cooperate over great distances as well. No university has been teaching methods for planning at this scale, although it has been noted that "strategic metropolitan planners" are now being assigned the task. To fill this vacuum, the *Urban Futures Laboratory* course (CRP 222) has been started. In it, students construct a gaming simulation model fitted to 6-10 cities at a time. At the end of the term, they are joined by students in the Futures of the City class. In the face of more than twenty global challenges (in the form of scenarios), the cities are guided into the 21st century by student teams.

A paper on the model and technique was presented at the International Symposium on New Directions in Urban Modelling, July 1983, Waterloo, Canada; it will appear in the *Proceedings*.

Infrastructure Study

Professor Fred Collignon has completed a review of California's infrastructure needs in conjunction with the Treasurer's office and the General Assembly Office of Research; the review has been included in a recent report issued by the Joint Economic Committee of Congress. A year ago, Professor Collignon directed a studio on how local governments could inventory their infrastructure conditions and use that information as part of a planning process at the neighborhood level to set priorities. The studio became the basis for the first City of Berkeley Council meeting on the state of Berkeley's infrastructure since 1970. Currently, Professor Collignon is working with the City of San Francisco in developing asset management systems for incorporating maintenance into their ongoing capital budgeting, planning, and public works administra-

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tion. San Francisco will thus be the first large city in the country to shift to asset accounting in the General Fund.

For APA, Professor Collignon is writing the new guidelines manual for planners on capital budgeting. In it, he emphasizes that the shift to asset accounting and management is the real challenge in the public sector for the next two decades, if we are to deal with the infrastructure maintenance problem in our cities.

Regional Seminar on the Defense Industry

Professor Ann Markusen's advanced seminar on regional growth and development has focused on the urban and regional consequences of defense spending. Of particular interest are the employment impacts of changes in defense spending, interregional migration induced by defense spending, the impact of military contracts on the civilian high-tech industries, and regional imbalances in defense spending. The course takes a distinctly interdisciplinary approach, combining location theory, industrial organization, urban economics, and regional research methods. The final product of the seminar will be an integrated report for Congressman Ron Dellums' office.