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February 2005

Dear GSPP Friend:

This eDigest includes upcoming events and recent examples of GSPP alumni, faculty and students in the news. Summaries of the articles follow a quick reference list.

Recent professional activities of the faculty are detailed on the Goldman School website at <http://socrates.berkeley.edu/~gspp/news-events/facNews/faculty-public-impact-Fall2004.pdf>.

## eDIGEST FEATURES

Upcoming Events  
Quick Reference List  
Alumni and Student Newsmakers  
Faculty & Goldman Event Speaker in the News  
Recent Faculty Speaking Engagements & Events  
UCTV Listings & Archive

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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1. "The Passion of My Times: An Advocate's Fifty-Year Journey in the Civil Rights Movement"  
William L. Taylor, co-founder and chair of Citizens' Commission on Civil Rights  
February 2, 2005, 5:00 pm  
Booth Auditorium, Boalt Hall, UCB Campus

Dean Christopher Edley of Boalt Hall School of Law will talk with civil rights attorney William L. Taylor about his remarkable career (in which he worked with Thurgood Marshall and Robert Carter on the Brown v. Board

of Education case) and his recent memoir.

This event is co-sponsored by the Boalt Hall Center for Social Justice, the RICHARD & RHODA GOLDMAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY, and the Graduate School of Journalism.

2. Annual Public Policy Career Fair  
Tuesday, February 8, 2005, 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.  
Pauley Ballroom - Martin Luther King Jr. Student Union  
UC Berkeley Campus

Prospective employers are invited to participate in our Career Fair. Employers can register, or if unable to attend, post any job or internship openings for our students:

[http://gspp.berkeley.edu/career\\_resources/careerfair05.htm](http://gspp.berkeley.edu/career_resources/careerfair05.htm)

Phone: 510/642-1303 or Fax: 510/643-9657

E-mail: [cecille@socrates.berkeley.edu](mailto:cecille@socrates.berkeley.edu)

3. Martin Luther King Jr. Annual LGBT Civil Rights Talk  
Assemblyman Mark Leno  
February 17, 5:30-6:30 PM, GSPP Living Room

Assemblyman Mark Leno, sponsor of "Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Protection Act" (AB 19), will discuss the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. and the Civil Rights movement and how it relates to the current

LGBT movement. What political strategies are LGBT rights activists employing in California and nationally? What coalitions are forming for and against same-sex marriage in the California state legislature? What are

the impacts of introducing AB 19?

Sponsored by Queer Issues in Public Policy, the UC Berkeley Graduate Assembly, and the GOLDMAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY.

4. The 7th Annual Rhoda Goldman Distinguished Lecture in Health Policy  
Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. speaks on "Environment, Health and Democracy"  
March 3rd 2005, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm  
Wheeler Auditorium, Wheeler Hall, UC Berkeley  
All are welcome at this free public lecture.

(Reception for GSPP alumni with Robert Kennedy Jr., 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm, at GSPP, by invitation.)  
Contact: Nancy Hall at 642-9437 or nahall@uclink.berkeley.edu

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#### QUICK REFERENCE LIST

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In addition to the print media referenced below, broadcast media coverage includes numerous interviews with DEAN NACHT by KRON TV, KGO TV and KTVU, among others.

#### ALUMNI AND STUDENT NEWSMAKERS

1. "More Homework -- A Response to Jonathan Rauch" by ELISABETH HENSLEY (The Atlantic Monthly [\*requires subscription], January/February 2005; Volume 295, No. 1; 22-34); Letter to the Editor by ELISABETH

HENSLEY (MPP 2005)

<http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/200501/letters?ca=EciRVLPnzeJSTICSrRZnrVmeoumguss5Tkrzc4dstw%3D>

2. "VENEMAN to take over top post at UNICEF. Outgoing U.S. ag chief will be first Californian to head the global agency" (Sacramento Bee, January 19, 2005); story about ANN VENEMAN (MPP 1971);

<http://www.sacbee.com/content/politics/v-print/story/12077897p-12948075c.html>

3. "VENEMAN outlines policy for UNICEF" (Sacramento Bee, January 18, 2005); story about ANN VENEMAN (MPP 1971); <http://www.sacbee.com/24hour/nation/story/2028570p-10063346c.html>

4. "Budget: Non-Partisan Analyst Weighs In" (The California Report, KQED 88.5 FM Radio, January 13, 2005); program features interview with ELIZABETH HILL (MPP 1975);

<http://www.californiareport.org/domains/californiareport/archive.jsp?date=20050109>

5. "Housing Shrinks As Need Grows. Low-Income D.C. Residents Pinched" (Washington Post, January 13, 2005; Page B01); story featuring study by ANGIE RODGERS (MPP 2003);

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/wp-dyn/A5677-2005Jan13?language=printer>

6. "DC's Shortage of Affordable Housing Worsening" (DC Fiscal Policy Institute, January 13, 2005); press release about report authored by ANGIE RODGERS (MPP 2003); <http://www.dcfpi.org/1-13-05hou-pr.htm>

7. "Plan is no deficit cure, analyst argues" (Sacramento Bee, January 13, 2005); story featuring ELIZABETH HILL (MPP 1975); <http://www.sacbee.com/content/politics/ca/budget/story/12022273p-12892636c.html>
8. "Analyst Is Critical of Spending Controls. ELIZABETH HILL says the governor's proposal for automatic budget cuts is unlikely to work" (Los Angeles Times, January 13, 2005); story featuring ELIZABETH HILL (MPP 1975); <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-budget13jan13,1,2319046.story>
9. "Analyst: Budget worsens problems. Adviser says governor's proposal would limit Legislature's powers" (Ventura County Star, January 13, 2005); story featuring ELIZABETH HILL (MPP 1975); [http://www1.venturacountystar.com/vcs/county\\_news/article/0,1375,VCS\\_226\\_3467652,00.html](http://www1.venturacountystar.com/vcs/county_news/article/0,1375,VCS_226_3467652,00.html)
10. "U.S. Updates Diet Rules for Next Food Pyramid" (New York Times, January 12, 2005); story citing ANN VENEMAN (MPP 1971); <http://www.nytimes.com/2005/01/12/health/12cnd-food.html>
11. "Injured on the Job: Workers' comp bar expects new state reforms to wound lawyers' livelihood" (The Recorder, January 11, 2005, Vol. 129; No. 7; Pg. 1); story citing FRANK NEUHAUSER (MPP 1993); [\*requires subscription] <http://www.law.com/jsp/ca/index.jsp>
12. "National Response Plan Unveiled By Homeland Security Department" (Progressive Grocer, January 10, 2005); story citing ANN VENEMAN (MPP 1971); [http://www.progressivegrocer.com/progressivegrocer/firc\\_new/search/article\\_display.jsp?vnu\\_content\\_id=1000749146](http://www.progressivegrocer.com/progressivegrocer/firc_new/search/article_display.jsp?vnu_content_id=1000749146)
13. "Jobs Data Confirm Analysts' View of 'Measured' Fed Hikes" (The Main Wire, January 10, 2005); story citing MICKEY LEVY (MPP 1974)
14. "VENEMAN leaves as partisanship deepens in D.C." (Sacramento Bee, January 2, 2005); story featuring ANN VENEMAN (MPP 1971) <http://www.sacbee.com/content/politics/nation/story/11917346p-12804259c.html>
15. "Response to 'The Flu Hunters' " (New York Times, November 21, 2004); letter to the editor citing TIM UYEKI (MPP 1985); <http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9F03EFD6143FF932A15752C1A9629C8B63>

#### FACULTY & GOLDMAN EVENT SPEAKER IN THE NEWS

1. "Is There Really A Social Security Crisis?" (ABC-7, KGO/TV, Jan. 26, 2005); report citing ROBERT REICH; [http://abclocal.go.com/kgo/news/politics/012605\\_politics\\_fact\\_check.html](http://abclocal.go.com/kgo/news/politics/012605_politics_fact_check.html)
2. "No such thing as a free debt" (Marketplace [American Public Media], January 26, 2005); radio commentary by ROBERT REICH; <http://marketplace.publicradio.org/shows/2005/01/26/PM200501264.html>
3. "REICH rules out run for governor in 2006. Will remain active in politics, he says" (The Boston Globe, January 25, 2005); story about ROBERT REICH; [http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2005/01/25/reich\\_rules\\_out\\_run\\_for\\_governor\\_in\\_2006?mode=PF](http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2005/01/25/reich_rules_out_run_for_governor_in_2006?mode=PF)
4. "Robert Kennedy Won't Run for State Attorney General" (New York Times, January 25, 2005); story about GOLDMAN EVENT SPEAKER, ROBERT F. KENNEDY JR.; <http://www.nytimes.com/2005/01/25/nyregion/25kennedy.html?oref=login&pagewanted=print&position=>
5. "Tax Breaks Intensify State Fiscal Debate" (Los Angeles Times, January 24, 2005); story citing JOHN ELLWOOD; <http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/la-me-loophole24jan24,1,2471218,print.story>
6. "ROBERT REICH and Steve Forbes debate Social Security Reform" (CNN Late Edition With Wolf Blitzer, January 23, 2005); interview with ROBERT REICH;

<http://transcripts.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/0501/23/le.01.html>

7. "Alameda County residents feeling blue, survey concludes" (Oakland Tribune, January 20, 2005); story about study by RICHARD SCHEFFLER;

[http://www.insidebayarea.com/portlet/article/html/fragments/print\\_article.jsp?article=2531450](http://www.insidebayarea.com/portlet/article/html/fragments/print_article.jsp?article=2531450)

8. "Researchers release first report to compare mental health indicators in California counties" (The Berkeleyan, January 19, 2005); story about study by RICHARD SCHEFFLER;

[http://www.berkeley.edu/news/media/releases/2005/01/19\\_camental.shtml](http://www.berkeley.edu/news/media/releases/2005/01/19_camental.shtml)

9. "Our Own Ownership Society. Here's what George W. Bush's second-term agenda should be," by ROBERT B. REICH (The American Prospect Online, Jan 19, 2005), op-ed by Visiting Professor ROBERT REICH;

<http://www.prospect.org/web/page.ww?section=root&name=ViewWeb&articleId=9068>

10. "MARTIN LANDAU, expert on organization theory and Hong Kong Project founder, dies at 83" (UC Berkeley Press Release, January 18, 2005);

[http://www.berkeley.edu/news/media/releases/2005/01/18\\_landau.shtml](http://www.berkeley.edu/news/media/releases/2005/01/18_landau.shtml)

11. "The Other Legacies: Fac Brats" (The New York Times, Section: 4A, January 16, 2005); article citing DAVID KIRP; <http://www.nytimes.com/2005/01/16/education/edlife/EDPREP.html>

12. "Hydrogen Cars" (Science Friday on National Public Radio, January 14, 2005); program featuring DAN KAMMEN; listen to the program at: [http://www.sciencefriday.com/pages/2005/Jan/hour2\\_011405.html](http://www.sciencefriday.com/pages/2005/Jan/hour2_011405.html)

13. "Writer Urging Inauguration Day Boycott" (New York Times Online [\*requires registration], January 11, 2005; article citing DAVID VOGEL;

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/national/AP-No-Buy-Inauguration.html?pagewanted=print&position=>

14. "Obituary: MARTIN LANDAU -- UC Berkeley professor" (San Francisco Chronicle, January 10, 2005; obituary for Professor Emeritus MARTIN LANDAU;

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/chronicle/archive/2005/01/10/BAGF6ANR8T1.DTL&type=printable>

15. "A Suitable Remedy. When the FDA Is Weak" (Washington Post, January 9, 2005; Page B05); op-ed by ROBERT REICH; <http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/wp-dyn/A58316-2005Jan8?language=printer>

16. "Local Democrats lobby Boxer to officially challenge Ohio vote" (San Francisco Chronicle, January 6, 2005); article citing HENRY BRADY;

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/chronicle/archive/2005/01/06/MNG2VALOMD1.DTL&type=printable>

17. "Donations for Goodwill. \$350 million is a lot of money, but it won't restore America's image" (The American Prospect Online, Jan 5, 2005); op-ed by ROBERT B. REICH;

<http://www.prospect.org/web/page.ww?section=root&name=ViewWeb&articleId=8987>

18. "Wind turbines taking toll on birds of prey" (USA Today, January 4, 2005); story citing DAN KAMMEN; [http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2005-01-04-windmills-usat\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2005-01-04-windmills-usat_x.htm)

19. "Easing the Student Loan Debt Burden" by Michelle Singletary and ROBERT REICH (Washington Post, January 5, 2005; 1:00 PM); Business Columnist and Former Labor Secretary hold online call-in discussion;

read the transcript at: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A47972-2004Dec8.html>

20. "College Loans Need Creative Change" (Washington Post, November 28, 2004; Page F01); column featuring proposal by ROBERT REICH; <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A15940-2004Nov27.html>

## ALUMNI AND STUDENT NEWSMAKERS

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1. "More Homework -- A Response to Jonathan Rauch" by ELISABETH HENSLEY (The Atlantic Monthly [\*requires subscription], January/February 2005; Volume 295, No. 1; 22-34); Letter to the Editor by ELISABETH

HENSLEY (MPP 2005)

<http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/200501/letters?ca=EciRVLPhzeJSTICSrRZnrVmEoumguss5Tkrzc4dstw%3D>

Jonathan Rauch ["Now, for Tonight's Assignment ... ," November Atlantic] believes that if schools simply add more homework to the educational program of all but the youngest students, those students will learn more.

But the author himself notes that a significant majority of U.S. secondary school students are doing the bare minimum to get by, so the challenge is not assigning students more work but actually getting them to do it.

The less intrinsically motivated the students, the greater the external effort required to make sure that they actually spend their time on task in meaningful activities that increase their learning.

The notion that more homework, especially with this unmotivated population, is a virtually costless fix to the student-achievement problem is remarkably naive. A teacher's assigning work is certainly no guarantee that

students will actually complete it. In order to assure that the work is done, teachers must thoughtfully review and evaluate it. This, Rauch would have us forget, takes time, and that comes at a cost. Given that most

teachers are paid salaries based primarily on actual classroom hours, and that the few paid hours beyond instruction time are already crowded with preparation, administrative tasks, and grading, they have little reason

to implement a practice that will force them to give up more leisure hours at a wage of \$0. Ask any first-year teacher what happens when one assigns homework but doesn't evaluate it; it takes little time for students to

respond to subsequent assignments with indifference. And the more demanding and "cheat-proof" the assignments, the greater the time required to evaluate the work.

ELISABETH HENSLEY  
Berkeley, Calif.

2. "VENEMAN to take over top post at UNICEF. Outgoing U.S. ag chief will be first Californian to head the global agency" (Sacramento Bee, January 19, 2005); story about ANN VENEMAN (MPP 1971);

<http://www.sacbee.com/content/politics/v-print/story/12077897p-12948075c.html>

By Michael Doyle -- Bee Washington Bureau

Washington - U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan on Tuesday formally introduced Modesto native ANN VENEMAN as the next head of UNICEF, a storied organization that shoulders some heartbreaking burdens.

In a news conference at United Nations headquarters in New York, Annan described VENEMAN as being "clearly the strongest" candidate among several whose names were floated for the taxing job.

"Her qualifications are outstanding," Annan said, noting VENEMAN's most recent service as U.S. secretary of agriculture.

"(She) has achieved a great deal in the area of agricultural development and food security (and) she has focused strongly on new ways of feeding the hungry around the world."

With the green light from Annan, VENEMAN will take over as UNICEF's executive director on May 1. The 55-year-old graduate of UC Davis, who formerly headed California's Department of Food and Agriculture, will

then be the first Californian to oversee the children's aid organization.

"It is an immeasurable honor," VENEMAN said, noting that only four other executive directors have preceded her since UNICEF's formation in 1946. "It is also a position of immense importance and one I take with the

utmost seriousness."

Certainly, it is a sobering job, despite the rather grand surroundings of the 39-story U.N. headquarters where Annan and VENEMAN held their joint news conference Tuesday.

Nearly half of Asian children below age 5 are moderately or severely underweight, UNICEF's latest annual report shows. In South Africa, 80 percent of pregnant women between 15 and 24 are HIV-positive. In

Afghanistan, the average life expectancy is 43 years - three decades less than in the United States.

Most recently, UNICEF has been among the agencies rushing to help victims of the South Asian tsunamis. About 600 UNICEF staffers are working on tsunami relief in eight countries. They are coordinating all U.N.

relief activities in India, running a water and sanitation program in Indonesia and providing epidemic control in Malaysia, among other efforts.

"The plight of children around the world is enormous," VENEMAN said. "Children today face issues that no child - no human being - should have to confront."

VENEMAN's new position puts her in charge of an agency with about 8,000 employees, regional offices in cities such as Katmandu, Geneva and Nairobi, and a presence in 158 nations worldwide....

The agency identifies its top five priorities as early childhood, immunization, HIV prevention, girls' education and child protection.

"The challenges are imposing," VENEMAN said. "But there is also a vast reservoir of will to solve them. I am committed to tapping into that potential." ...

3. "VENEMAN outlines policy for UNICEF" (Sacramento Bee, January 18, 2005); story about ANN VENEMAN (MPP 1971); <http://www.sacbee.com/24hour/nation/story/2028570p-10063346c.html>

By Edith M. Lederer, Associated Press Writer

United Nations (AP) - Outgoing Agriculture Secretary ANN VENEMAN said Tuesday that in her new job as head of the U.N. children's agency she will focus on promoting education and health rather than on social

issues such as reproductive health and sex education.

She was questioned on key youth-related issues after Secretary-General Kofi Annan introduced her at a news conference and said she would take over for Carol Bellamy as executive director of the United Nations

Children's Fund on May 1 if confirmed by the UNICEF board.

VENEMAN was asked to clarify her views on the U.N.'s longstanding policies of reproductive health programs and education for girls, which are at odds with those of the Bush administration promoting abstinence as

the best prevention for AIDS.

"I don't come with any broad agenda with regard to those or any other social issues," she said. "I come with an agenda of helping children, particularly in the areas of education and health, and to address the issues of

hunger and malnutrition."

She said the issues of reproductive health and education were not relevant "to the mission of UNICEF."

After the formal news conference, she was asked again whether this meant that she would not work on reproductive issues with young people.

"As I get into the job, we'll look at the whole array of issues," she said. "I think what's most important is I don't come with a social agenda, so to speak. Rather, I come with an agenda of helping youth of the world in

terms of hunger, education and health issues primarily as the major missions."

UNICEF's executive board, which is composed of member governments including the United States, has for years promoted reproductive health and education as part of its programs to ensure maternal survival and

healthy babies. The U.N. agency supports governments in their efforts to ensure good health care for women of childbearing age, which includes teenagers in many countries.

VENEMAN, 55, a lawyer who grew up on a family farm in California's San Joaquin Valley, said she comes to her new job "with a commitment to an approach that will yield for the world's children results not rhetoric,

benefits not banalities.

"The plight of children around the world is enormous. Children today must face issues that no child, no human being should have to confront - malnutrition and hunger, illiteracy and disease, especially the scourge of

HIV/AIDS, exploitation and suffering, wars and natural disaster," she said.

"UNICEF was created to address disease and desperation at the end of World War II. Modern crises such as the recent tsunami disaster show the needs today are just as great and the mission of UNICEF is as

relevant as it is noble."

Annan called VENEMAN's qualifications "outstanding," citing her focus on new ways of feeding the hungry and strong support for programs to advance the welfare of children at home and abroad, including one to foster

a new generation of agricultural leadership in the United States.

Since UNICEF was founded in 1946, the United States has been its biggest financial supporter, and the executive director has always been an American.

Annan and VENEMAN were asked whether her appointment would help repair the U.N.'s relations with the United States, which have been seriously damaged over allegations of corruption in the U.N. oil-for-food

program.

"Obviously her relationship and contacts in Washington will be helpful as we have used, in the past, contacts and relationships of others," Annan said.

VENEMAN said the United States believes the United Nations is an important institution and she would work "to strengthen the relationship between the U.S. and the U.N."...

4. "Budget: Non-Partisan Analyst Weighs In" (The California Report, KQED 88.5 FM Radio, January 13, 2005); program features interview with ELIZABETH HILL (MPP 1975);

<http://www.californiareport.org/domains/californiareport/archive.jsp?date=20050109>

The Legislature's non-partisan budget analyst is giving both kudos and criticism to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's new state budget. Legislative Analyst ELIZABETH HILL credits the budget with reducing the size of

the state's financial problems. But she says it also relies on automatic formulas of the kind that Schwarzenegger has complained about. Listen (entire program)

5. "Housing Shrinks As Need Grows. Low-Income D.C. Residents Pinched" (Washington Post, January 13, 2005; Page B01); story featuring study by ANGIE RODGERS (MPP 2003);

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/wp-dyn/A5677-2005Jan13?language=printer>

By D'Vera Cohn, Washington Post Staff Writer

The District's growing number of modest-income households is competing for a shrinking supply of low-priced rental

apartments, according to a report to be released today that documents an increasing shortage of affordable housing.

One result, according to the report by the D.C. Fiscal Policy Institute, is that cashiers, security guards and others among the city's least affluent residents spend far more on housing than experts consider reasonable

-- with most paying at least half their income.

The report offers a new lens into a worsening problem that city officials are under growing pressure to address. Yesterday, three dozen housing advocates met with City Administrator Robert C. Bobb to demand that

Mayor Anthony A. Williams (D) endorse a proposed requirement that any new or renovated residential developments include moderate-priced units....

The proposed requirement, known as inclusionary zoning, is supported by a majority of the D.C. Council but is opposed by developers, who say it will make it harder to get projects built. The D.C. Zoning Commission,

at the request of housing advocacy groups, is considering the proposal.

The D.C. Fiscal Policy Institute report said that the city's lowest-income residents are hit hardest by the affordable housing squeeze. The study follows a report last month by the Urban Institute and Fannie Mae

Foundation concluding that the region's home prices are rising faster than wages.

From 2000 to 2003, the city lost 5,000 apartments with monthly rents under \$500 and gained 7,000 with monthly rents of more than \$1,000, the new report said, based on tenants' answers on a census form. During the

same period, the number of households with incomes under \$20,000 grew by 5,000, according to census figures adjusted for inflation that were cited in the report.

Even though thousands of affordable housing units have been built in recent years, low-priced rentals are getting scarcer as many have been converted to higher-priced condominiums or renovated into upscale rentals.

Some public housing has been replaced by mixed-income developments. And the squeeze no longer is limited to the city's trendiest areas....

The report's lead author, ANGIE RODGERS, said a key reason the low-income population is rising is that wages have not kept up with inflation.

When people spend more than half their income on housing -- as most low-income households do -- they often depend on charity for other needs, RODGERS said. The report recommended that people spend no more

than 30 percent of their income on housing.

"They are getting food and clothing from social services, church and donations," she said. "They are making up for it with all these other things, or they are going without."...

6. "DC's Shortage of Affordable Housing Worsening" (DC Fiscal Policy Institute, January 13, 2005); press release about report authored by ANGIE RODGERS (MPP 2003); <http://www.dcfpi.org/1-13-05hous-pr.htm>

Rapidly rising housing costs in the District are shrinking the housing options for low-income residents, according to a new analysis of Census data by the DC Fiscal Policy Institute. The District lost more than 5,000

low-cost rental units in just the past three years, DCFPI found. At the same time, the number of low-income households competing for the limited supply of affordable units rose notably.

The new report also finds that affordable housing problems are concentrated among DC's poorest households. Four in five District households with income below 30 percent of the area's median income (\$25,440 for a

family of four) pay at least 30 percent of their income for housing; three in five of these households spend half or more of their income on housing. In contrast, only one in six households with incomes above 50 percent

of the area median (\$42,000 for a family of four) has unaffordably high housing costs.

These findings suggest that the Mayor-appointed task force now developing a comprehensive housing strategy for the city should target housing resources significantly on addressing the challenges faced by

low-income households.

"The District's fast-rising housing costs affect everyone, but poorer households are much less able to handle those costs," stated ANGIE RODGERS, a policy analyst at DCFPI and author of the report. "More and

more very poor families are facing housing problems that make it harder for them to hold on to their jobs and provide for their children." ...

"While attracting more residents to DC may be a reasonable goal, this actually could make housing problems worse for many current residents," noted RODGERS. "We need to focus our limited housing resources on

residents with the most serious needs."

["Squeezed Out: The Worsening Shortage of Affordable Housing For Low-Income DC Households" by ANGIE RODGERS; read the full report at: <http://www.dcfpi.org/1-13-05hou.htm> ]

7. "Plan is no deficit cure, analyst argues" (Sacramento Bee, January 13, 2005); story featuring ELIZABETH HILL (MPP 1975); <http://www.sacbee.com/content/politics/ca/budget/story/12022273p-12892636c.html>

By Alexa H. Bluth -- Bee Capitol Bureau

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's proposed spending plan would leave California with at least a \$5 billion budget gap by 2006-07, and its accompanying spending controls would hamper future lawmakers from setting

budget priorities, Legislative Analyst ELIZABETH HILL said Wednesday.

In her initial appraisal of the Republican governor's \$111.7 billion budget proposal, the Legislature's nonpartisan economic adviser said the governor's budget sets forth a realistic picture of the state's financial woes and

contains some reasonable fixes for the deficit, which Schwarzenegger pegs at nearly \$9.1 billion for the fiscal year beginning July 1.

But HILL said Schwarzenegger's spending plan alone will not repair the state's underlying budget problems and would leave the state billions of dollars in the red in future years. She said lawmakers should seek more

ongoing solutions - permanent program cuts or higher taxes - to narrow the gap between revenues and spending obligations to avoid an estimated \$5 billion deficit in 18 months.

Schwarzenegger has acknowledged that his budget does not repair the state's ongoing budget imbalance but said his package of changes to the state's budgeting system will. HILL did not say whether she thinks the

spending controls Schwarzenegger is proposing would bring spending and revenue back into line over time.

She said, however, that the governor's plans to attack spending formulas that cause the state's budget to grow will impose new rules that will lead to even more "autopilot" budgeting.

"Our concern is that the proposal would really put more state spending on cruise control and have it off-limits for policy-makers," HILL said. "The proposed solution increases the problem, rather than addresses it."

She said that the governor's plan to trigger across-the-board spending cuts whenever the budget tilts out of balance would further take budget-setting policy decisions out of lawmakers' hands.

Assembly Budget Committee Chairman John Laird, D-Santa Cruz, agreed with HILL's assessment and called the spending control proposal "unworkable."...

HILL also criticized Schwarzenegger's plans to ask voters to prohibit future Legislatures from suspending the Proposition

98 minimum spending requirements for schools, which guarantees that more than 40 percent of revenues go to education. When voters approved the spending guarantees, they included an opt-out provision that allows lawmakers to suspend the law with a two-thirds vote of the Legislature.

The governor's education proposal, however, "in effect takes 43 percent of the general fund budget off the table as the Legislature would be crafting their budget proposal," HILL said.

That would force lawmakers to look to other areas, including higher education, social services, health programs and corrections to build a balanced budget plan, HILL said. ...

8. "Analyst Is Critical of Spending Controls. ELIZABETH HILL says the governor's proposal for automatic budget cuts is unlikely to work" (Los Angeles Times, January 13, 2005); story featuring ELIZABETH HILL (MPP

1975); <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-budget13jan13,1,2319046.story>

By Evan Halper, Times Staff Writer

SACRAMENTO -- Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's proposal for tough state spending controls is flawed and could force dramatic cuts in programs least able to sustain them while leaving others unscathed, according to

the nonpartisan legislative analyst.

In a report released Wednesday, analyst ELIZABETH G. HILL, whom lawmakers of both parties look to for guidance on fiscal matters, said her office has "serious concerns" with the governor's proposal.

Schwarzenegger's plan would automatically cut spending across the board in years when the budget falls out of balance, and in the event lawmakers and the governor cannot agree on a spending plan by the July 1

deadline.

HILL suggested the proposal is too rigid and could force deep reductions to programs in dire need of funding. The proposal also may shift too much power to the governor, she said, calling it "a serious diminution of the

Legislature's authority to appropriate funds and craft budgets."...

In her annual review of the governor's budget, HILL agreed that major reforms are needed to keep the state from continuing to run deficits. She said that even the governor's budget -- which she called a "reasonable

starting point" with a number of sensible, long-term solutions -- relies heavily on borrowing, and would result in a \$5-billion shortfall by fiscal 2006-07.

But she expressed grave doubts about the governor's strategy for erasing such gaps.

The constitutional spending control, she said "would dramatically reduce the ability of future policymakers to establish budget priorities."

As soon as the governor were to declare a fiscal emergency, according to the proposal, lawmakers would have 30 days to bring the budget into balance and approve it with a two-thirds vote. If they were unable to agree

on how to do that, the automatic cuts would take effect. Democrats say that prospect would embolden Republicans to delay any solutions, forcing the across-the-board cuts.

What appeared to most concern HILL, however, was that even in a fiscal emergency, the plan prohibits the Legislature from tapping money normally set aside for education or transportation. She warned that such a

ban is dangerous. If it had been in effect last year, she said, lawmakers would have had to give schools double the \$2-billion increase they ultimately received, forcing much steeper cuts in other areas, more borrowing

or a tax hike....

9. "Analyst: Budget worsens problems. Adviser says governor's proposal would limit Legislature's powers" (Ventura County Star, January 13, 2005); story featuring ELIZABETH HILL (MPP 1975);

[http://www1.venturacountystar.com/vcs/county\\_news/article/0,1375,VCS\\_226\\_3467652,00.html](http://www1.venturacountystar.com/vcs/county_news/article/0,1375,VCS_226_3467652,00.html)

By Timm Herdt

Sacramento -- The Legislature's fiscal adviser said Wednesday that the proposed budget reforms would heighten exactly the problem Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger proposes to attack: "cruise control spending" that

hamstrings the ability of elected officials to balance the state budget.

In offering her overview of the plan released Monday, Hill said it contains significant savings "but falls well short of fully addressing the state's ongoing structural imbalances." In all, she said, it offers a good starting point

for lawmakers, who now begin a six-month process of negotiating a spending plan to close the state's \$8.6 billion shortfall for the fiscal year that begins in July. ...

As she has for the past several years, Hill urged lawmakers to consider all options -- including tax increases -- as they develop a comprehensive plan to bring state spending into balance. ...

HILL was complimentary of many elements of the governor's budget, including the decision to discount some inflated assumptions about revenue sources that were included in last year's budget. For instance, last year

Schwarzenegger estimated the state would take in \$500 million in new Indian gaming revenues; this year, he dramatically revised that estimate downward, anticipating just \$34 million.

10. "U.S. Updates Diet Rules for Next Food Pyramid" (New York Times, January 12, 2005); story citing ANN VENEMAN (MPP 1971); <http://www.nytimes.com/2005/01/12/health/12cnd-food.html>

By Maria Newman

Newly revised dietary guidelines issued today by the federal government place a stronger emphasis on calorie control and physical activity than past guidelines to help Americans, many of them overweight, maintain

good health.

Balancing nutrients is not enough for a healthy life style, Tommy G. Thompson, the secretary of the department of Health and Human Services, and ANN M. VENEMAN, the agriculture secretary, said today in

announcing the new guidelines. The two secretaries said too many Americans are consuming too much food, pointing out that almost two-thirds of all Americans are overweight or obese.

The new Dietary Guidelines for Americans advises people to reduce their intake, and to exercise for 30 minutes a day to maintain good health, as had past reports. To prevent "gradual, unhealthy body weight gain in

adulthood," it recommends exercising 60 minutes per day, and up to 90 minutes for weight loss in adults....

Ms. VENEMAN said the popularity of diet books and products shows that "Americans are interested in leading healthier lives, but they want credible, consistent and coherent information to help them make the best

possible choices."...

[More details on the guidelines can be found on the federal government's Web site, at [www.health.gov/dietaryguidelines/](http://www.health.gov/dietaryguidelines/) ]

11. "Injured on the Job: Workers' comp bar expects new state reforms to wound lawyers' livelihood" (The Recorder, January 11, 2005, Vol. 129; No. 7; Pg. 1); story citing FRANK NEUHAUSER (MPP 1993); [\*requires

subscription] <http://www.law.com/jsp/ca/index.jsp>

By Justin Scheck

Gwendolyn Davis is at a professional crossroads. The San Francisco solo, who represents applicants for workers' compensation, says new state reforms will force her into another line of work.

"I figure I won't have a workers' comp practice next year," said Davis, who works exclusively on such claims out of her home office.

Applicant firms expect the new permanent disability awards schedule enacted Jan. 1 to slash worker benefits, and thus their own workload and contingency fees. They claim workers' benefits will drop by 40 percent to

70 percent, pushing smaller comp shops out of the business. In response, insurance industry groups have decried them as Chickens Little.

But compensation expert FRANK NEUHAUSER backs the plaintiff lawyers' forecast.

"It's going to be extraordinarily harsh on the applicant attorneys," said NEUHAUSER, a POLICY RESEARCHER AT THE UC-BERKELEY SURVEY RESEARCH CENTER who is preparing compensation studies for the

state and several insurance firms. "I, as a rule, don't have much faith in [applicant attorneys'] research, but in this case I think they're right." ...

The American Insurance Association happily predicts there will be less lawyering to do....

12. "National Response Plan Unveiled By Homeland Security Department" (Progressive Grocer, January 10, 2005); story citing ANN VENEMAN (MPP 1971);

[http://www.progressivegrocer.com/progressivegrocer/firc\\_new/search/article\\_display.jsp?vnu\\_content\\_id=1000749146](http://www.progressivegrocer.com/progressivegrocer/firc_new/search/article_display.jsp?vnu_content_id=1000749146)

Washington, D.C. -- A national response plan developed to protect the country in the event of domestic incidences, including those impacting our food supply, was unveiled by the Department of Homeland Security

(DHS).

The plan, aimed at coordinating efforts between federal, state, local and tribal governments in case of an emergency, would be used when handling agri-terrorism and/or security as it relates to agriculture and the food

supply.

In a statement, Secretary of Agriculture ANN VENEMAN talked about USDA's involvement in developing the plan. "USDA has been an active partner in the development of the National Response Plan by contributing

expertise in food and agriculture and incident management systems."

"By establishing a unified and standardized approach, this plan will improve cross-jurisdictional communications and coordination among government agencies, resulting in more lives saved and more protection of the

public health and our critical infrastructure," said VENEMAN. ...

Using a system established by USDA's Forest Service as a foundation, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced the National Incident Management System (NIMS) in March 2004. NIMS is a web-based

system that outlines a standard structure called the Incident Command System with five functional areas - command, operations, planning, logistics and finance/administration.

USDA has also used NIMS/ICS on the ground to assist in the Columbia Shuttle recovery and to manage the Exotic Newcastle Disease in 2003 and Avian Influenza

13. "Jobs Data Confirm Analysts' View of 'Measured' Fed Hikes" (The Main Wire [\*requires registration], January 10, 2005); story citing MICKEY LEVY (MPP 1974); <http://www.marketnews.com/index.jsp>

By Steven K. Beckner

Market News International - Healthy December job growth tended to confirm expectations that the Federal Reserve's policymaking Federal Open Market Committee will continue with its "measured" firming of monetary policy in coming months, neither pausing nor picking up the pace of short-term interest rate hikes.

The Labor Department reported that the unemployment rate remained at 5.4% last month and that non-farm payrolls rose by 157,000. While the December job gain was somewhat below the median forecast rise of 175,000, October and November payrolls were revised up by a cumulative 34,000.

For all of last year, non-farm payroll gains averaged 186,000 per month. Over the last three months of the year, they averaged 202,000 per month. ...

The pool of available labor, a measure of labor force participation, shrank in December for a second straight month, by 39,000, following an October upsurge.

What's more, the aggregate hours index jumped by 0.4% after dipping 0.2% in November, suggesting that employers were giving their existing workforces more to do even as they increased hiring. Average hourly earnings continued at their modest 0.1% growth pace. ...

BANK OF AMERICA CHIEF ECONOMIST MICKEY LEVY described the jobs figures as "lukewarm," but said that, after allowing for upward revisions, "they suggest strength in industrial production, which is what has been pushing disposable income."

He added that "all the other economic data suggest healthy momentum."

LEVY said the employment report "doesn't do anything different for the Fed." It will continue to raise the funds rate by 25 basis points at upcoming meetings, he predicted.

LEVY and [David] Resler both projected that the funds rate will be at least 3.5% (1.25 percentage points higher than currently) by year's end.

"What would push it higher is higher inflation," said LEVY. "Strong economic growth in and of itself will not push the funds rate higher."

14. "VENEMAN leaves as partisanship deepens in D.C." (Sacramento Bee, January 2, 2005); story featuring ANN VENEMAN (MPP 1971)  
<http://www.sacbee.com/content/politics/nation/story/11917346p-12804259c.html>

By Michael Doyle -- Bee Washington Bureau

Washington - Farm politics are more harrowing than ever, as Agriculture Secretary ANN VENEMAN now knows.

Fights pit crop against crop, region against region. Subsidies invite equal measures of salivating and scorn. Disease threats can suddenly dominate headlines and, all the while, job security can be tenuous.

The Modesto native and former Gov. Pete Wilson administration official could appreciate all of this when she first came to Washington as a midlevel Agriculture Department appointee in 1986. But now, preparing to

leave office as the nation's first female agriculture secretary, VENEMAN can also pinpoint a dishearteningly broader decline in the capital's political environment.

"One of the things that is different is there is less willingness to work together in Congress," VENEMAN said in an interview last week.

"There is so much partisanship in Congress; Congress is different to work with today than it was before."...

"Agriculture is just so split on so many of the issues," VENEMAN said. "You just don't have much commonality."

Country-of-origin labeling disputes, for instance, bedeviled VENEMAN'S department for much of her four-year tenure. Over her department's resistance, Congress in 2002 ordered country-of-origin labels on fruits,

vegetables and fish. The department subsequently received 5,600 public comments displaying considerable dissent among consumers, producers, packers and retailers. Congress has since blocked the fruit and

vegetable labeling from taking effect until at least 2006, although the fish labeling is proceeding.

The record-setting farm subsidy bill passed by Congress in 2002 also revealed major splits among farmers. Some reformers wanted tighter subsidy limits; others wanted limits loosened. The resulting package of

subsidies and other programs projected to cost \$190 billion over 10 years antagonized conservatives and free-market economists.

"Congress gave us a farm bill," VENEMAN said, when asked what she thinks about the bill. "It is not entirely what we wanted, but certainly the president signed it, and we have done a good job in implementing it."

VENEMAN termed it a success that U.S. net farm cash income reached a record \$68.6 billion last year; direct government payments to farmers totaled \$15.9 billion.

VENEMAN, 55, has been navigating the intersection of agriculture, politics and law for two decades. She rose through the Agriculture Department in the Reagan and first Bush administrations, was secretary of the

California Department of Food and Agriculture under Wilson, then returned to Washington as agriculture secretary in 2001.

"I felt very fortunate, coming into this job, in having worked in the department before," VENEMAN said. "I didn't come into the department being surprised."

She likewise credited her prior experience with helping her survive the mad cow scare of December 2003. She took to the airwaves and boosted Agriculture Department inspections - some 153,000 cows have been

tested since June, more than seven times the number tested in all of 2003.

All the while, she has held on to her Modesto condominium, not so far from the peach orchard where she grew up. She's been diligent about staying in touch with friends and family back home. In her second-floor office

on Tuesday, she showed off a picture of her standing next to the White House Christmas tree with a dapper-looking young man in a bow tie: her 11-year-old nephew, Matt.

"He was my date," VENEMAN said.

Genial and often generous with her time, VENEMAN showed clear delight Tuesday in recalling such moments. ...

Her post-Agriculture Department plans remain uncertain. A lawyer by training, with a MASTER'S IN PUBLIC POLICY FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY, VENEMAN said several universities

interested in her experience have approached her.

15. "Response to 'The Flu Hunters' " (New York Times, November 21, 2004); letter to the editor citing TIM UYEKI (MPP 1985);

<http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9F03EFD6143FF932A15752C1A9629C8B63>

Gretchen Reynolds (Nov. 7) is to be commended for her article (with the kind of stunning portraits by George Duncan usually reserved for movie stars), which raises the public's awareness of this growing danger.

Doctors like Keiji Fukuda and TIM UYEKI may never have the public recognition of a Tom Hanks or a Derek Jeter, but they are the true heroes of our society. They work in the background and risk their lives and

professional reputations to save society from dangers that most people never even consider.

I experienced the Hong Kong flu as a medical student in 1968. It was a harrowing experience. I wish these scientists and their dedicated team at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention success in preventing

another flu pandemic. --Stephen Brenner, M.D., New Haven

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FACULTY & GOLDMAN EVENT SPEAKER IN THE NEWS  
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1. "Is There Really A Social Security Crisis?" (ABC-7, KGO/TV, Jan. 26, 2005); report citing ROBERT REICH; [http://abclocal.go.com/kgo/news/politics/012605\\_politics\\_fact\\_check.html](http://abclocal.go.com/kgo/news/politics/012605_politics_fact_check.html)

By Mark Mathews

...The President wants to reform social security and so did President Bill Clinton. Both men have used the word crisis in describing the state of the system. But is it really a crisis?...

Sen. Dianne Feinstein: "I think what the President is trying to do is create the critical mass necessary to move this nation towards a plan to privatize a lot of Social Security."

Democrats say that will be good for Wall Street but terrible for the country.

Sen. Barbara Boxer: "When Wall Street gets a hold of it they'll take a percentage right off the top."

Some of Wall Street's biggest firms are pouring millions into lobbying for the President's plan. Security and investment companies gave the President \$8 million dollars for his last campaign -- twice as much as they

gave to John Kerry. But Republican Congressman Pombo says money from Wall Street traders isn't a liability it's a benefit. ...

And Pombo correctly points out that six years ago President Clinton said Social Security was in crisis. Back then, Clinton had a surplus. Today, the nation is in debt and Social Security is a pay as you go

arrangement. Today's workers are paying the Social Security for today's retirees. What happens to the retirees when you take some of that money and move it into the stock market? We asked CLINTON'S FORMER

LABOR SECRETARY ROBERT REICH.

ROBERT REICH, [GOLDMAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY at] U.C. BERKELEY: "We're going to have to borrow a lot of money and we're already deep in debt. That's a huge fiscal problem in this country."

2. "No such thing as a free debt" (Marketplace [American Public Media], January 26, 2005); radio commentary by ROBERT REICH; <http://marketplace.publicradio.org/shows/2005/01/26/PM200501264.html>

David Brown, anchor:

At a Swiss mountain resort called Davos, one of the year's most important economic meetings is now under way. It's called the World Economic Forum. Business leaders and economists come together to share

ideas. Today from the mountaintop, this warning: Although the world economy is enjoying its best performance in decades, massive US deficits could cause global economies to crash. Yesterday the Congressional

Budget Office reported our deficit grew in 2004 to \$412 billion. Got that? Marketplace commentator [AND VISITING PROFESSOR AT THE GOLDMAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY, UC BERKELEY] ROBERT REICH

worries some of us might be losing the plot.

ROBERT REICH:

These are just huge numbers, and most people's eyes glaze over when they hear them. Your eyes are probably glazing over right now. But it matters because the deficit has huge implications for you and me. Think of

it as a Visa card with a debt we owe the rest of the world totaling a quarter of the whole national economy. That's because as our government slides deeper and deeper into debt and as personal savings continue to

drop and our trade imbalance widens, we're relying more and more on foreigners to lend us money to keep us going.

As we sink into debt, the IOUs we give foreigners--those IOUs are called US dollars--represent a bigger and bigger risk to lenders. So naturally the IOUs become worth less and less, which means the dollar continues

to drop relative to foreign currencies. And as the value of the dollar drops, everything we buy from the rest of the world, including oil, costs that much more. Oh, and one other thing: As we slide deeper into debt, interest

rates here at home have to rise in order to keep foreigners interested in lending us even more money. Get it? There's no such thing as a free debt. Inevitably you and I end up paying more, more for the goods and

services we buy, more on the interest we owe for mortgages and car loans and anything else we bought on credit. And the entire economy slows because the higher interest rates choke off growth.

Those looming federal deficits are big numbers, all right, but your eyes shouldn't glaze over when you hear them. They have real consequences. They're going to make most of us poorer. And why exactly are we

heading down this path? So wealthy Americans, who got the bulk of the tax cuts, will continue to get them, and so younger people can invest their Social Security payments in a stock market that will go nowhere

because the economy is so weighed down with debt. I don't get it. From Berkeley, California, I'm ROBERT REICH for Marketplace....

3. "REICH rules out run for governor in 2006. Will remain active in politics, he says" (The Boston Globe, January 25, 2005); story about ROBERT REICH;

[http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2005/01/25/reich\\_rules\\_out\\_run\\_for\\_governor\\_in\\_2006?mode=PF](http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2005/01/25/reich_rules_out_run_for_governor_in_2006?mode=PF)

By Janette Neuwahl Globe Correspondent

ROBERT REICH, an unsuccessful candidate for the Democratic nomination for governor in 2002, yesterday said he will not run in 2006.

"I feel I took my best shot in 2002," REICH said by telephone from the RICHARD AND RHODA GOLDMAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY, WHERE HE IS

TEACHING FOR THE SEMESTER.

REICH, 58, plans to continue teaching at Brandeis University, where he is a professor of public and social policy. A former secretary of labor in the Clinton administration, REICH currently is an adviser to Democratic

candidates across the country and is a radio commentator. He has also written 10 books on labor issues and politics.

"I'm always working on projects and will continue to be involved in politics. I was enormously pleased with the legacy of the 2002 campaign in terms of the number of people who came into politics who had never been

politically active before and the number of young people who got involved," he added.

Reich was defeated in the 2002 Democratic primary by Shannon O'Brien, who later lost to Governor Mitt Romney. He had trouble raising money against other candidates with a stronger political base in the state.

"2002 was a campaign that emphasized ideas and values and not attacking anyone else, which was the kind of campaign I believe in," he said. "Now, I love teaching and value other things more [than running for

governor]."

In 1997, Reich left the Clinton administration to work at Brandeis so that he could spend more time with his family in Cambridge. While he was labor secretary, Reich oversaw an increase in the minimum wage and

implemented the Family and Medical Leave Act

4. "Robert Kennedy Won't Run for State Attorney General" (New York Times, January 25, 2005); story about GOLDMAN EVENT SPEAKER, ROBERT F. KENNEDY JR.;

<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/01/25/nyregion/25kennedy.html?oref=login&pagewanted=print&position=>

By Jonathan P. Hicks

Mount Kisco, N.Y., Jan. 24 - Robert F. Kennedy Jr., the environmental lawyer and the son of the onetime senator from New York, said on Monday that he had decided not to run for state attorney general after having

considered a bid for several months.

Mr. Kennedy said he had concluded that a successful campaign would have left him too little time with his wife and six children and he was unwilling to make that sacrifice. He said he had spent the last few weeks

conducting meetings with politicians throughout the state and other members of the Kennedy family before making his decision.

In a two-hour interview at Mr. Kennedy's sprawling home here, he insisted that his decision had nothing to do with the prospect of his running against his brother-in-law Andrew M. Cuomo, who is getting a divorce from

Mr. Kennedy's sister Kerry.

"I talked about it a lot with my wife, with my kids, my uncle and my brothers and sisters," said Mr. Kennedy, whose older brother, Joseph, was once a congressman from Massachusetts and whose sister, Kathleen

Kennedy Townsend, served as lieutenant governor of Maryland.

"It's funny," he continued. "All the family members who had not been in political office urged me to run and the ones who had served in office urged me not to."

Mr. Kennedy, who is the chief lawyer for Riverkeeper, an environmental advocacy group, caused a stir in the state's political world within the last week when it became widely known that he was considering running for

attorney general. Mr. Kennedy said that in the last week, he had received hundreds of calls and e-mail messages from politicians and ordinary New Yorkers urging him to run....

But in the end, he said, he could not embark on a campaign that would cause him to be away from his family, particularly his younger children.

"The kinds of hours I would put into this job would mean that I would never see my kids," Mr. Kennedy said, sitting in a large family room where he keeps an owl and where peacocks and turkeys often peek through the

back doors.

"But I feel certain that I will run for office one day," Mr. Kennedy said. "But I think I need to wait a few years until my younger children get a little older."...

For years, Mr. Kennedy has been a well-known leader of environmental causes in New York. One of his most prominent efforts has been to campaign to shut down the Indian Point nuclear power plant complex, in

Buchanan, N.Y. And he said that one of his deepest regrets about not running was that he would not be able to use the position as a means of protecting the environment in New York State.

5. "Tax Breaks Intensify State Fiscal Debate" (Los Angeles Times, January 24, 2005); story citing JOHN ELLWOOD; <http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/la-me-loophole24jan24,1,2471218,print.story>

By Evan Halper, Times Staff Writer

Sacramento -- As Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger seeks to force down government expenses, his blueprint for long-term reform leaves one area untouched: tax breaks for the wealthy and corporations.

The tax breaks allow yacht owners to avoid paying sales taxes, business partnerships to keep their property tax bills down and large corporations to move money offshore to avoid paying what would otherwise be owed

to the state.

Assembly Speaker Fabian Nuñez suggests that closing such loopholes could wipe out as much as half of the state's \$8.6-billion deficit. Analysts say such projections are far too optimistic, but they question the

governor's refusal to even look at the tax breaks.

"There are a lot of people in California who are not asked to bear any of the burden of balancing this budget," said JOHN ELLWOOD, a PROFESSOR OF PUBLIC POLICY AT UC BERKELEY. "The governor has made

a policy choice. He is willing to hit the poor more than the upper-middle class and the rich."....

6. "ROBERT REICH and Steve Forbes debate Social Security Reform" (CNN Late Edition With Wolf Blitzer, January 23, 2005); interview with ROBERT REICH;

<http://transcripts.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/0501/23/le.01.html>

Wolf Blitzer, Host

...Blitzer: President Bush in his inaugural address, signaling his plans for what he likes to call an ownership society.

Helping us sort out what may lie ahead for the U.S. and the world economy, two experts with different views: in Berkeley, California, the former Clinton labor secretary [and VISITING PROFESSOR AT THE GOLDMAN

SCHOOL, UC BERKELEY], ROBERT REICH. And in New York, Steve Forbes, the president and CEO of Forbes, Inc., himself a former Republican presidential candidate....

I'll begin with you, Robert Reich. And I'll play for you a soundbyte of what the president said on the need to reform Social Security right now....

Blitzer: Robert Reich, what about that? Is this a crisis right now that must be dealt with right now, the top priority domestically in the U.S.?

ROBERT REICH, FORMER LABOR SECRETARY: Not at all, Wolf. It ain't broke, and don't fix it.

In fact, even the Congressional Budget Office, an arm of the Republican Congress, has estimated that Social Security will not be in trouble until 2054. That's almost 50 years from now.

And if we have economic growth that averages about the same economic growth we've had per year since the Civil War, we're not going to have a problem with Social Security any time in the 21st century.

This is not a crisis. And indeed, not only is it not a crisis, but Bush's plan to privatize would divert about \$2 trillion over the next 10 years out of Social Security. I mean, you're not going to fix a system, even if you think

it's broken, by taking money out of it....

7. "Alameda County residents feeling blue, survey concludes" (Oakland Tribune, January 20, 2005); story about study by RICHARD SCHEFFLER;

[http://www.insidebayarea.com/portlet/article/html/fragments/print\\_article.jsp?article=2531450](http://www.insidebayarea.com/portlet/article/html/fragments/print_article.jsp?article=2531450)

By Rebecca Vesely, Staff Writer

Alameda and San Francisco county residents reported the lowest sense of well-being and greatest need for mental health services among state residents, according to a UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY,

STUDY released Wednesday.

About 55,400 adults statewide answered a phone survey on sadness, work limitations due to emotional problems, anxiety, nervousness, lack of energy, binge drinking and perceived need for mental health care....

"We don't know why Alameda County did so poorly," said RICHARD SCHEFFLER, CO-AUTHOR OF THE REPORT AND DIRECTOR OF THE PETRIS CENTER ON HEALTH CARE MARKETS AND CONSUMER

WELFARE AT UC BERKELEY. "Perhaps it's the way they organize their mental health care or the acuity and diversity of the population."...

Attributing such angst to the dot-com bust that began in 2001 or to Sept. 11 doesn't add up, SCHEFFLER said. "9/11 would have affected the entire state, and we factored in Silicon Valley unemployment," he said....

The researchers said they hope counties will use the report as they prepare funding proposals to access monies raised by Proposition 63. The November ballot initiative is a new tax on millionaires to fund mental health

services.

"I think the timing is good because now there is funding to improve the system," SCHEFFLER said....

[Other stories on this study appeared in the <a href="http://www.sacbee.com/content/news/v-print/story/12086581p-12956668c.html">Sacramento Bee</a> and <a href="http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/archive/2005/January/20/local/stories/04local.htm">Santa Cruz Sentinel</a>]

8. "Researchers release first report to compare mental health indicators in California counties" (The Berkeleyan, January 19, 2005); story about study by RICHARD SCHEFFLER;

[http://www.berkeley.edu/news/media/releases/2005/01/19\\_camental.shtml](http://www.berkeley.edu/news/media/releases/2005/01/19_camental.shtml)

By Sarah Yang, Media Relations

Berkeley -- In the first attempt to compare measures of mental health and general well-being among California's general population on a county-level basis, health policy researchers at the University of California,

Berkeley, found significant differences.

A number of counties, including Sacramento and San Diego, scored higher than expected -- with fewer reports of mental health problems -- based upon their population's socioeconomic and demographic

characteristics. At the same time, Alameda and San Francisco counties were among those that scored lower than expected.

The report, "Measuring Mental Health in California's Counties: What Can We Learn?" was released today... by the Nicholas C. Petris Center on Health Care Markets & Consumer Welfare at UC BERKELEY'S SCHOOL

OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

"We expected that factors such as gender, income level and amount of education would explain a certain amount of the variation in mental health indicators across counties," said Timothy Brown, associate director of

the Petris Center and co-author of the report. "The fact that variations across the state were found even after we adjusted for socioeconomic and demographic factors suggests that other factors are at play."

The analysis includes data from 55,428 adults who participated in the 2001 California Health Interview Survey (CHIS), conducted by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research. The researchers compared responses

to standard questions used to indicate mental health and general well-being, such as limitations on general activity or work

due to emotional problems, sadness, anxiety, lack of energy, binge drinking, and perceived need for mental health care.

"The questions were not meant to make a clinical diagnosis for the respondents, but were used to construct a comparative picture of mental health indicators in California counties," said Daniel Eisenberg, formerly a research associate at the Petris Center and lead author of the report...

"This report raises more questions than it answers, but the questions are really important," said RICHARD SCHEFFLER, UC BERKELEY PROFESSOR OF HEALTH ECONOMICS AND PUBLIC POLICY, DIRECTOR OF THE PETRIS CENTER AND CO-AUTHOR OF THE REPORT. "Why do the self-reported indicators of mental health differ so widely among the California counties even when you adjust for socioeconomic

differences? Do the counties that scored higher have better-organized mental health systems? How are they spending their money? Are their treatment programs different? Finding the answers to these questions

requires us to dig down and understand the mental health systems -- both public and private -- available in these counties."...

The full report can be found online at <http://www.petris.org> .

9. "Our Own Ownership Society. Here's what George W. Bush's second-term agenda should be," by Visiting Professor ROBERT B. REICH (The American Prospect Online, Jan 19, 2005), op-ed by ROBERT REICH;

<http://www.prospect.org/web/page.wv?section=root&name=ViewWeb&articleId=9068>

By ROBERT B. REICH

I want to be among the first to commend the president for choosing as his major domestic theme the "Ownership Society." What could be more important than giving more Americans an opportunity to own assets and

build wealth? The president is obviously concerned that ownership in America is now more concentrated in fewer hands than it's been since the days of the robber barons in the late 19th century. The richest 1 percent

now own as much as the bottom 90 percent put together.

I can't tell you exactly what he'll propose, but if his goal is to spread the wealth I expect he'll acknowledge that the present tax system isn't fair. People earning over half a million dollars a year are subject to the lowest

tax rate in over 50 years, and much of their unearned income isn't being taxed at all. Meanwhile, he'll explain that if you figure in payroll taxes, sales taxes, and property taxes, average working Americans are paying

more in taxes than ever before. So in the president's Ownership Society, middle- and lower-income workers will pay less tax. And this won't bust the budget because he'll reverse course and raise taxes on the rich.

I expect the president will also call for massive new federal investments in education, the key to spreading wealth in the new economy. In the Ownership Society, Washington will spend more on the nation's schools

than it now spends on Iraq -- starting with universal early-childhood education so the minds of toddlers and pre-Ks are ready to learn, followed by smaller classrooms with fewer students and better-paid, highly-qualified

teachers. And access to college for any young person who can make good use of it, regardless of parental income.

Finally, the president will surprise some by saying he's not in favor of privatizing Social Security after all. That would just line the pockets of Wall Street bankers who'd rake in huge fees managing all those private

accounts. No, in the Ownership Society, the first \$10,000 of income will be exempt from Social Security taxes -- and the president will make up the difference by raising the cap on earnings subject to the tax.

Now I may have some of the details wrong, but assuming the president is serious about creating an Ownership Society,

he'll be announcing initiatives just like these. Won't he?

[Robert B. Reich is co-founder of The American Prospect. A version of this column originally appeared on NPR's Marketplace.]

10. "MARTIN LANDAU, expert on organization theory and Hong Kong Project founder, dies at 83" (UC Berkeley Press Release, January 18, 2005);

[http://www.berkeley.edu/news/media/releases/2005/01/18\\_landau.shtml](http://www.berkeley.edu/news/media/releases/2005/01/18_landau.shtml)

By Kathleen Maclay, Media Relations

Berkeley - University of California, Berkeley, professor of political science Martin Landau died of cancer on Dec. 27, 2004 at the age of 83. He was known for applying the concept of redundancy from the design of

information systems to the study of public organizations and showing that duplication -- rather than streamlining -- of important functions increased reliability.

Landau also was known for his contributions to the philosophy of social science and the theory of public management and large-scale organization.

He also was recognized for founding the Hong Kong Project that trained senior level public managers from Hong Kong to apply concepts of organizational theory to practical administrative decision-making and

problem-solving. Over 17 years, more than 100 professionals participated in the program that was financed by the Hong Kong government and based at UC Berkeley's Institute of Governmental Studies and later at the

campus's GOLDMAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY.

Bureaucratic organizations tend to make rote decisions, without reviewing approaches from new perspectives, said Claudia Archer, who worked with Landau as assistant director of the Hong Kong Project. The project

challenged its scholars with a rigorous curriculum aimed at expanding their "repertoire of organizational response," she said.

"He was a great guy and just brilliant," Archer said.

The first group of Hong Kong Project's visiting scholars arrived in Berkeley in 1986 as Hong Kong was preparing for handover to China. "Through the program, we gained intellectual capital about a more politically

charged form of governance (so unlike the executive-led milieu in Hong Kong then)," said project alumnus Anthony Tong. "We were more articulate, more focused on world issues and more sensitive about alternative

cultures."

UC Berkeley Professor Todd LaPorte, who worked with Landau in the same field of public organization, recalled Landau's mental acuteness and legendary teaching skills. "He served as kind of a beacon for those of us

who shared his enthusiasm for intellectual exchange in the classroom," LaPorte said.

Landau also served as a consultant on organizational design in the United States, Thailand, the Philippines, Nepal, Italy, France and elsewhere, said his daughter, Madeline Landau, a political anthropologist. He was

awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship, named a fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences and a senior fellow at the National Academy of Public Administration. He also received the Danforth

Foundation Habison Awards for distinguished teaching and scholarship, and an honorary doctorate from the University of Paris.

The son of a Brooklyn shopkeeper, Landau sparred in neighborhood boxing clubs as a boy and dreamed of becoming a professional boxer, his daughter said. Yet, his interests in politics, a positive role for government,

the labor movement and civil rights led him to earn a B.A. in political science from Brooklyn College and a Ph.D. in political science from New York University, she said.

"He was the most egalitarian spirit I've ever met," she said, adding that he lent personal support to women, students of color, and others from a diversity of backgrounds.

Martin Landau's early education was interrupted by World War II. He served with the U.S. Army Signal Corps, earning several medals for valor. Landau's wartime service was spent in Germany, where he witnessed the

horrors of concentration camps.

While deeply affected by those experiences, Madeline Landau said, her father was always "a profound humanist who opposed all forms of tyranny. He had a lifetime commitment to freedom and social justice."

After the war, Landau taught at Lincoln University, Brooklyn College and the City University of New York before coming to UC Berkeley in 1971. He retired in 1991.

Friends recalled Landau's longtime support for the labor and civil rights movements and his keen sense of humor and storytelling ability, as well as his love of opera and fine wine.

Landau died at Alta Bates Hospital in Berkeley. He is survived by his wife, Bernice (Bobbie); and daughters, Claudia and Madeline Landau, all of Berkeley; brothers, Gerry Landau of Lexington, Mass., and Herbert

Landau of Boynton Beach, Fla.; and a sister, Bernice Golden of Suffern, N.Y.

Donations may be made to the Martin Landau Center on Organizational and Social Change. More details are available by calling (510) 642-7884.

A memorial is planned for 3 p.m. Friday, Feb. 18, in the Seaborg Room of the UC Berkeley Faculty Club.

11. "The Other Legacies: Fac Brats" (The New York Times, Section: 4A January 16, 2005); article citing DAVID KIRP; <http://www.nytimes.com/2005/01/16/education/edlife/EDPREP.html>

By Laura Randall

Mark McMenamain had two daughters attending Mount Holyoke College last year. With a tuition of about \$30,000, it's one of the more expensive private colleges in the country. But he didn't fret. The all-women's college

in South Hadley, Mass., waives tuition for children of full-time employees, and he had factored that into his decision to accept a job there teaching geology, even though his eldest daughter was only 2 at the time. He

estimates that the perquisite will ultimately save him about \$240,000. "We didn't constrain either one to go there," he says, "but that certainly was a factor in their decisions."

In addition to the financial break, Sarah McMenamain, who graduated last May with a degree in biology, and her sister Amy, now a sophomore, were the beneficiaries of another perk. While children of faculty and staff

have to meet the same academic standards as everyone else admitted to Mount Holyoke, administrators say, they often receive special treatment from admissions offices, much the way applications from relatives of

alumni are handled.

"We do give a personal eye to those applications, and we are very sensitive to the fact that a negative decision is going to be difficult for that family," says Jane Brown, vice president for enrollment and university

relations at Mount Holyoke, which admits about half of its applicants. Ms. Brown estimates that two or three daughters of employees are admitted in an average year....

Such preferential treatment is not limited to private institutions. John A. Blackburn, dean of admissions at the University of Virginia, estimates that 20 to 25 children of faculty and staff enroll each year, about 1 percent

of the class, even though the university does not waive tuition. "We don't admit them carte blanche, but I think all of us try

to give special consideration to faculty children," Mr. Blackburn says. "It's probably even better

than legacy consideration. These are parents who are on our admissions committee. They are teaching the students we admit, and they are such a part of the institution."

The thought of being edged out by a "fac brat" may not sit well with high-school seniors who find themselves with wait-list or rejection notices from their top choices despite stellar credentials. Record numbers of

students -- 1.7 million in 2004, compared with 1.5 million in 1994 -- are applying to college, while the number of slots at competitive institutions has stayed about the same, according to the National Association for

College Admission Counseling.

The practice of preferential admissions for alumni offspring, or "legacies," as they are known, has come under increasing fire. Texas A& M University ended its legacy policy last year after acknowledging that it favored

white students. In fall 2003, Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts, introduced legislation that would require institutions to make information about their legacy admissions public, including the

socioeconomic and racial composition of those admitted. ...

Children of faculty and staff, though, have been excluded from the argument.

Senator Kennedy's office says their limited numbers make faculty children "not relevant to the assessment of the racial and socioeconomic diversity of the school." Legacies tend to outnumber employee offspring by a

significant margin. At the University of Southern California, for instance, children of alumni make up more than 20 percent of freshmen, while children of faculty and staff, whose tuition is waived, make up about 1

percent.

"It shouldn't be easier for the faculty kid to get in than it is for other students," says DAVID L. KIRP A PROFESSOR OF PUBLIC POLICY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT BERKELEY AND AUTHOR OF

"SHAKESPEARE, EINSTEIN AND THE BOTTOM LINE: THE MARKETING OF HIGHER EDUCATION." "But it seems to me less problematic because what you're trying to do is further the educational mission in a

direct sense. Professors are the lifeblood of the institution. The education of their kids just feels different as an institutional value than the education of the kids of rich alums." ...

12. "Hydrogen Cars" (Science Friday on National Public Radio, January 14, 2005); program featuring DAN KAMMEN; listen to the program at: [http://www.sciencefriday.com/pages/2005/Jan/hour2\\_011405.html](http://www.sciencefriday.com/pages/2005/Jan/hour2_011405.html)

Hosted by Ira Flatow

This week in Detroit, auto giant GM unveiled its newest hydrogen car prototype, the Sequel. In this hour, we'll take a look at the Sequel, and other green cars. Will hydrogen cars like the Sequel ever hit the showroom

floor? And, when it comes to its environmental effects, how does your car match up? We'll go under the hood in this hour.

Guests: ...DANIEL KAMMEN, Class of 1935 Distinguished Chair in Energy, Energy and Resources Group & GOLDMAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY, Director, Renewable and Appropriate Energy Laboratory,

University of California, Berkeley, California.

13. "Writer Urging Inauguration Day Boycott" (New York Times Online [\*requires registration], January 11, 2005; article citing DAVID VOGEL;

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/national/AP-No-Buy-Inauguration.html?pagewanted=print&position=>

By The Associated Press

Detroit (AP) -- David Livingstone says the idea behind the economic boycott he's organizing is simple: If people don't show up at work or buy things, companies lose money. As he sees it, that's money the Bush

administration can't tax, and can't use to run the war in Iraq, protect polluters or chip away at the Constitution.

So the Detroit Democrat and a handful of other anti-Bush groups across the country are urging others of like mind to withhold their cash and labor on Inauguration Day -- from all businesses. They don't think they'll

inflict a huge economic pain, but they do want to make a point....

"I can't imagine it would have any impact whatsoever," says DAVID J. VOGEL, PROFESSOR OF BUSINESS ETHICS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT BERKELEY. "Even if everyone didn't buy on that day,

they'd make up for it the next day."...

[This story also appeared in the [San Francisco Chronicle](http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/news/archive/2005/01/11/national0335EST0436.DTL&type=printable) and [Sacramento Bee](http://www.sacbee.com/24hour/nation/v-print/story/2003048p-10024319c.html)]

14. "Obituary: MARTIN LANDAU -- UC Berkeley professor" (San Francisco Chronicle, January 10, 2005; obituary for Professor Emeritus MARTIN LANDAU;

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/chronicle/archive/2005/01/10/BAGF6ANR8T1.DTL&type=printable>

By Nanette Asimov, Chronicle Staff Writer

MARTIN LANDAU, A UC BERKELEY POLITICAL SCIENCE professor who challenged the idea that streamlined organizations run better than those with some duplication, has died after a lengthy battle with cancer. He

was 83....

The consummate professor -- informal, a bit gruff and ever curious -- he blended his passion for civil rights and the labor movement with his intellectual life -- then shared it all with his students and his family.

"One thing that struck me was how many of his former students have told us that he changed their lives," said Claudia Landau, his youngest daughter. "He taught me that to live a life with integrity, you had to challenge

your own assumptions so you wouldn't become dogmatic. That was a really huge part of who he was."

Professor Landau also challenged prevailing notions in society, looking to the physical world for principles that made sense in both realms.

Once, while participating in a conference at UC Berkeley, Professor Landau sat uncharacteristically silent among scholars debating who had written the U.S. Constitution, the Jeffersonians or the Madison faction.

Asked his opinion, Professor Landau responded that Sir Isaac Newton had written the Constitution.

"It was because Newtonian physics demonstrated the idea of force and counterforce, changing the way we think about systems," said his eldest daughter, Madeline Landau. "The American system of governance is

based on checks and balances -- it's the key idea in the Constitution."

It was this way of thinking that led Professor Landau to develop his central theory: that large-scale public organizations run better when there is some duplication of expertise, of communication flow and of

accountability -- just as electronics require backup systems for maximum efficiency.

"He deeply disagreed with the elimination of backups -- you want some wiggle room," Madeline Landau said. "Yet this became the management perspective of the past 40 years -- and it's wrong." ...

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While serving in the U.S. Army Signal Corps (9th Army) in World War II, he was present at the liberation of a concentration camp. It affected him deeply and transformed him into a "profound humanist," Madeline

Landau said. ...

During the 1950s, Professor Landau joined the United Mine Workers, not because he knew anything about mining, but to support the labor movement. He took a job teaching at Lincoln University in Pennsylvania, a

historically black college, where he worked with Horace Bond, father of civil rights leader Julian Bond.

He also returned to New York to teach at Brooklyn College, where he supported the hiring of John Hope Franklin, now regarded as the pre-eminent African American historian. Later, Franklin involved Professor Landau

in planning sessions for what was to become the landmark Brown vs. Board of Education case outlawing school segregation.

He then taught at City University of New York Graduate Center before joining the political science department at UC Berkeley in 1971.

During his career, Professor Landau won many awards, including the Danforth Foundation Harbison Award for Distinguished Teaching and Scholarship and the Docteur Honoris Causa from the University of Paris. He

also served as a John Simon Guggenheim Fellow.

Professor Landau traveled the world, lending his expertise to governments from Nepal to France, and within the United States. He helped Hong Kong prepare for the 1997 handover of the British-led government to China.

He founded and for 17 years was Director of The Hong Kong Project at UC BERKELEY'S GOLDMAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY....

Donations may be made to the Martin Landau Center on Organization and Social Change at the Institute Of Governmental Studies at UC Berkeley. Call (510) 642-1474 for information and for details of a pending

memorial.

15. "A Suitable Remedy. When the FDA Is Weak" (Washington Post, January 9, 2005; Page B05); op-ed by ROBERT REICH; <http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/wp-dyn/A58316-2005Jan8?language=printer>

By ROBERT B. REICH

[ROBERT B. REICH, secretary of labor under President Bill Clinton, is University Professor of Social and Economic Policy at Brandeis University (and VISITING PROFESSOR AT THE GOLDMAN SCHOOL OF

PUBLIC POLICY). He is the author, most recently, of "Reason" (Knopf). ]

The White House doesn't seem too worried about the medicines we take. Chief of Staff Andrew Card said recently that the Food and Drug Administration is doing a "spectacular" job overseeing drug safety. Really?

Even though the agency reportedly didn't act on warning signs linking blockbuster arthritis painkillers to increased risk of heart trouble and strokes? When it failed to warn doctors and parents about the risk of suicide

among children taking antidepressants?

Meanwhile, the president is calling for "tort reform." As a first step, his Republican allies in Congress are working on a bill to limit the liability of pharmaceutical companies from lawsuits brought by people injured by

drugs or medical devices the FDA had okayed. But the administration can't have it both ways. Either it should move to strengthen regulatory agencies or it should maintain the present system of tort liability. Take away

both, and consumers are in deep trouble.

Over many years, the federal government has evolved two systems for preventing the lure of profits from compromising

Americans' health or safety. The first is an alphabet soup of federal regulatory agencies stretching from the FDA to the Federal Trade Commission, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and on into nooks and crannies at the Department of Labor, the Environmental Protection Agency and elsewhere.

As anyone who has dealt with (or tried to run) one of these agencies knows, the regulatory system is far from perfect. Laws and rules are blunt instruments.... And then there are the subtle (and not-so-subtle) conflicts

of interest -- revolving doors between the regulatory personnel and the industries they're supposed to regulate, political pressures from elected officials indebted to certain companies or industries, an endless parade of

lobbyists and influence-peddlers through agency hallways.

The second system for protecting consumers works through private lawsuits. Individuals who are harmed can sue companies, typically in state courts, for lost wages and medical costs, as well as physical impairments

and psychological harm ("pain and suffering") and possibly punitive damages. Sometimes plaintiffs join together in class-action suits under the aegis of trial lawyers who specialize in such cases ("ambulance chasers"

if you're a Republican, "consumer champions" if you're a Democrat).

This tort liability system is also imperfect. Lawsuits are expensive and risky for plaintiffs. Large portions of awards go to attorneys. Verdicts can be devastatingly expensive for companies that are found liable. Cases are

often complex, and juries can at times be swayed more by emotion than by logic. Further complicating matters, different states often have differing standards of liability. But the tort system has at least one large virtue:

It creates a powerful financial incentive for companies to ferret out potentially harmful side effects before they market their products, and to withdraw or redesign dangerous products if and when injuries occur. ...

Even at their best, then, regulatory agencies would be challenged by today's economy. But now they're barely able to cope. Most of their budgets have been whacked over the last four years, their enforcement staffs

have shrunk, and corporate political clout is arguably stronger than it's been in more than a century. At the same time, the tort liability system is coming under attack. Republicans who have been urging tort reform for

years are in firm control of Congress and the White House and are intent on capping damage awards, limiting lawyers' contingency fees, ending punitive damages and preempting lawsuits involving products already

approved by regulatory agencies. ...

Under current law, the FDA has no power to mute such promotional hype -- all it can do is approve new drugs as safe and effective, or not. Nor does the agency have any systematic way to monitor the safety of drugs

once they've been approved, other than by relying on the manufacturers to report side effects and injuries. It can't require manufacturers to undertake post-approval studies. (The studies that eventually discovered heart

problems associated with these drugs were done independently of the FDA.) The FDA lacks authority to suspend the sales of a drug, except under extraordinary circumstances, or to dictate how drugs are distributed

or marketed.

Merck & Co. decided on its own to take Vioxx off the market last fall. Pfizer Inc. continues to sell Celebrex but has stopped advertising it pending further study. Manufacturers took milder action on two other painkillers:

Warnings about heart risks have been added to Bextra's label, and Aleve users are being instructed not to take it for more than 10 consecutive days. These were the manufacturers' decisions.

An important factor in convincing Merck to remove Vioxx from the market was the mounting threat of lawsuits. Hundreds have already been filed, representing thousands of plaintiffs and including a number of class

actions, blaming Vioxx for heart attacks and strokes and alleging a link to more than 1,200 deaths.

Analysts have projected that the litigation might eventually cost Merck \$10 billion or more. Pfizer also faces a lot of litigation, although clinical studies suggest that Celebrex might not pose as great a risk as Vioxx.

(Nor have any documents emerged, as they did at Merck, showing that Pfizer had doubts about its drug before the studies showing dangerous side effects.) The warnings and instructions now being offered to Bextra

and Aleve users could reduce any potential liability in connection with those drugs.

Hence the importance of the tort system. Yet Republican congressional leaders, prodded by Bush's pledge to reform tort law, are expected to introduce legislation soon to prevent consumers from winning hefty damage

awards from pharmaceutical companies if they're harmed by drugs and medical devices approved by the FDA. The proposal would cap medical malpractice awards at \$250,000 per injured party -- effectively ending such

suits, since the attorney's share of damages would barely cover the cost of trying the case. ...

On its face, the legislation seems only logical. There's no reason why juries should be invited to do the same risk-benefit analyses that the FDA has supposedly already undertaken. Indeed, companies that go through

the expensive FDA approval process shouldn't have to continue to fight state court battles in order to effectively keep that approval.

But there's one big flaw in that logic. The FDA is no longer able to do its job effectively. The same sort of logical flaw undermines the argument for tort reform generally. Surely both systems -- regulatory and tort -- can

function far better than they do now. But unless or until our regulatory system is up to the task, the current tort liability system is our only real defense against corporate negligence.

16. "Local Democrats lobby Boxer to officially challenge Ohio vote" (San Francisco Chronicle, January 6, 2005); article citing HENRY BRADY;

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/chronicle/archive/2005/01/06/MNG2VALOMD1.DTL&type=printable>

In a scene that could be reminiscent of the end of the bitter 2000 presidential race, several members of the House of Representatives plan to challenge Ohio's election results today when Congress meets to confirm

President Bush's reelection.

That challenge is based on what they said were "widespread irregularities" in the Nov. 2 vote in Ohio and legal problems with the subsequent recount conducted last month.

The Ohio secretary of state's office adamantly rejects all those claims, and the House members need a senator -- any senator -- to join them in order to levy an official challenge. No senator has said he or she would do

so, though several -- including California's Barbara Boxer -- have been lobbied hard by constituents....

Additionally, the nonpartisan Social Science Research Group looked at major claims of irregularities in Ohio and Florida and found no indication of fraud or tampering.

"We found that no single claim held water to any degree," said HENRY BRADY, A POLITICAL SCIENCE PROFESSOR AT UC BERKELEY and an author of the group's study....

17. "Donations for Goodwill. \$350 million is a lot of money, but it won't restore America's image" (The American Prospect Online, Jan 5, 2005); op-ed by ROBERT B. REICH;

<http://www.prospect.org/web/page.ww?section=root&name=ViewWeb&articleId=8987>

By ROBERT B. REICH

The United States government has pledged \$350 million in disaster relief for countries devastated by the underground earthquake that sent a wall of water across the Indian Ocean. \$350 million is a lot of money, but,

notably, it's less than the \$660 million pledged by Germany. And America's contribution is far less, as a proportion of our national wealth, than other advanced nations. Even tiny Norway has pledged \$180 million.

America's \$350 million isn't even new money. The administration admits it's taking it out of what's already budgeted for disaster and famine assistance around the world. That means the United States will be

contributing \$350 million less to relief efforts in the Sudanese region of Darfur, for example, and other needy places -- sort of robbing Peter to pay Paul.

Of course, the U.S. government's contribution is just a fraction of what America as a whole is actually contributing to the relief effort. To underscore this point, the president has just appointed his father and former

President Bill Clinton to head up an effort to raise money from individuals and from the private sector.

It's a good idea to get the private sector involved. IBM has already allocated a million dollars in cash and services. Microsoft has committed \$2 million. Many of America's other big global corporations -- especially with

businesses in or around South Asia -- will surely contribute.

But let's not fool ourselves into thinking that the contributions of these global enterprises will necessarily burnish the image of the United States. These days, big companies don't exactly advertise that they're

headquartered in America. This is partly because of the unpopularity of the United States after the invasion of Iraq. Mostly it's because global corporations want to be thought of as responsible citizens of the nations

where they do business. They hire managers from the region, tailor their products to local tastes, and contribute to local causes. That's just good business. Their goal is to maximize profits, not to advance the interests

of the United States.

Of course, the most important thing now is to help the people in need, however and wherever that help comes from. So even if the American government is contributing a somewhat small amount by international

measures, as long as individuals and global corporations do more, we're helping get the job done.

But I can't help but wonder whether we're losing sight of the importance -- both to the international community and also to ourselves -- of contributing to this effort as a nation, as a people. IBM, Microsoft, and other

global brand names are doing well by doing good -- and that's fine. But what about the brand that represents all of us -- the United States of America?

[Robert B. Reich is co-founder of The American Prospect. A version of this column originally was broadcast on NPR's Marketplace, January 5, 2005. Listen to the commentary at:

<http://marketplace.publicradio.org/shows/2005/01/05/AM200501051.html> ]

18. "Wind turbines taking toll on birds of prey" (USA Today, January 4, 2005); story citing DAN KAMMEN;  
[http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2005-01-04-windmills-usat\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2005-01-04-windmills-usat_x.htm)

By John Ritter, USA Today

Altamont Pass, Calif. - The big turbines that stretch for miles along these rolling, grassy hills have churned out clean, renewable electricity for two decades in one of the nation's first big wind-power projects.

But for just as long, massive fiberglass blades on the more than 4,000 windmills have been chopping up tens of thousands of birds that fly into them, including golden eagles, red-tailed hawks, burrowing owls and other

raptors.

After years of study but little progress reducing bird kills, environmentalists have sued to force turbine owners to take tough corrective measures. The companies, at risk of federal prosecution, say they see the need to

protect birds. "Once we finally realized that this issue was really serious, that we had to solve it to move forward, we got religion," says George Hardie, president of G3 Energy....

Wind energy is a tiny but fast-growing share of U.S. energy -- 0.4%, up from less than 0.1% five years ago. Since November, when Congress reinstated a key tax credit for wind producers, the industry is poised to

expand by as much as a third this year, the American Wind Energy Association says

In 2004, wind generated enough electricity to power 1.6 million households, the association says. Altamont's turbines are the nation's No. 2 producer. Few energy experts think environmental concerns will discourage

wind development long-term because the tradeoff is too appealing.

"When you opt for wind turbines, you don't opt for pollution that harms children and crops from fossil-fuel power plants," says DAN KAMMEN, AN ENERGY PROFESSOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF

CALIFORNIA-BERKELEY....

19. "Easing the Student Loan Debt Burden" by Michelle Singletary and ROBERT REICH (Washington Post, January 5, 2005; 1:00 PM); Business Columnist and Former Labor Secretary hold online call-in discussion;

read the transcript at: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A47972-2004Dec8.html>

Join Post personal finance columnist Michelle Singletary and former Labor Secretary ROBERT REICH online Wednesday, Jan. 5 at 1 p.m. ET for a discussion about reforming the U.S. student loan system.

As Singletary wrote in her Nov. 28 column, REICH envisions a "student loan program in which people who borrow to attend graduate school would then pay back a small percentage of their annual salary over a 10- or

15-year period? Everyone would pay the same percentage regardless of income. All the money would go into a general student loan fund and then be lent to others for graduate school. Private lenders could provide the

loans, which would be guaranteed by the federal government." ...

[Former labor secretary ROBERT REICH] was talking about his plan to change the student loan system so that students who choose to enter less-lucrative careers aren't saddled with huge amounts of debt. Here's an

excerpt from the chat.]

San Diego, Calif.: Are you suggesting that everyone pays back the same amount regardless of your loan amount?

ROBERT REICH: The idea is simple. Everyone would be required to pay a certain percentage (say, 3 percent) of his or her earnings for the first ten years of full-time work. If you took a job that paid relatively little, your

total repayment would be less than someone who took a job that paid a lot. In other words, the person in the high-paying job would in effect be subsidizing the loan-repayment of the person in the low-paying job.

Washington, D.C.: This process would be a gift to lower achievers that couldn't get into private jobs. Now, when they get their B- average, they don't have to worry about paying back loans and can live off a welfare-like

system. Sure, this may allow for some high achievers to take lower paying jobs, but I'd bet fewer of these people would do so than the reverse situation. High achievers strive to make the big differences, this

(realistically) can't be done by taking a public high school teaching job.

ROBERT REICH: I know of a lot of high achievers who have taken low-paying jobs because they loved the work, and/or they thought the work was socially important. And I've come across many, many high-achieving

students and grad students who would like to take lower-paying jobs for the same reason, but cannot due to the burdens of

repaying their student loans.

Michelle Singletary: Oh, I so beg to differ with [Washington, D.C.] about what makes a BIG difference. Please. Remember when the government shut down? All of us who mock government workers finally realized how

much they really do. And don't you get me started on your comment about not making a big difference as a public high school teacher. Shame on you. Teachers are a gift from God. They are teaching OUR future and

that is one of the MOST important jobs in this country. ...

20. "College Loans Need Creative Change" (Washington Post, November 28, 2004; Page F01); column featuring proposal by ROBERT REICH; <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A15940-2004Nov27.html>

By Michelle Singletary

For many people, a higher education is the ticket to a high-paying job.

But what happens when the cost of that ticket becomes a deterrent to choosing a career that will pay a modest or middle-income salary?

"My worry is that even if people can afford to take out the loans, their career choices are going to be biased in favor of paying off their loans -- biased in favor of careers that will make more money," says former labor

secretary ROBERT B. REICH.

I recently had the pleasure of hearing REICH speak to several hundred financial aid professionals attending a conference in Phoenix.

REICH, who is now the Hexter Professor of Social and Economic Policy at Brandeis University [and VISITING PROFESSOR AT THE GOLDMAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY], spoke with compassion for the many

people who are graduating from graduate and professional schools with a record amount of student loan debt.

But worrying isn't going to help people pay for their education. We have to come up with bold, creative solutions to address the rapidly rising costs of higher education and the steady reduction in government-subsidized

help to finance such education, REICH said.

In fact, REICH has an idea -- an idea I think is worth debating.

What would you think of a student loan program in which people who borrow to attend graduate school would then pay back a small percentage of their annual salary over a 10- or 15-year period? Everyone would pay

the same percentage regardless of income.

All the money would go into a general student loan fund and then be lent to others for graduate school. Private lenders could provide the loans, which would be guaranteed by the federal government.

"This would allow people to follow their hearts rather than make a lot of money," REICH excitedly told the conference attendees.

True enough, when faced with high student loan debt, many graduates are reconsidering careers in public service.

Since 1975, the share of new lawyers who entered public-interest fields has declined from 5.4 percent to 2.9 percent, according to a survey by the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators.

In the same time span, the proportion of new law-degree holders who got jobs in private practice rose from 49.2 percent to 58.1 percent.

It's understandable why people who may have intended to work as public school teachers, counselors or public defenders go for the money.

For graduates who received master's degrees in arts, sciences, education and business administration at private colleges and universities, the median loan repayment burden was equal to about 11 percent of their starting salaries.

For law school graduates from private institutions, student loan repayments accounted for 16 percent of starting salaries.

...For example, law and medical student borrowers report an average accumulated debt from all years (undergraduate and graduate study) of \$91,700, while the average combined debt for all graduate students is

\$45,900, according to student lender Nellie Mae.

In 2002, the median annual starting salary of new lawyers who entered public-interest fields was \$36,000, compared with \$90,000 for those who got jobs with private-practice law firms, according to the report by the

financial aid administrators.

The average starting salary for new graduates with master's degrees in engineering was \$57,370, while graduates who received master's degrees in education had an average salary of \$34,737, according to data from

the National Association of Colleges and Employers.

Based on median income and repayment data, monthly student loan repayments represented 19 percent of the monthly income of new lawyers in public-interest fields who received degrees from public colleges and 27

percent of the income for those who received law degrees from private institutions.

"I agree with Professor REICH's idea," said Perry Studevent, assistant director of financial aid at Georgetown University Law Center, who attended the Phoenix conference.

But Studevent knows that such a loan program would be a hard sell: "It will be politically sensitive to implement. Many students simply will not feel that it is fair to subsidize those who choose lower-paying areas of

employment. An MBA or law student may lean strongly against subsidizing the education of a theater major. It will take true leadership, vision and effort to get his idea implemented."

It will also take something else -- unselfishness.

If young people come out of school saying "Show me the money," who will teach in public schools? Who will work as social workers? Who will take lower-paying physician jobs in urban and rural hospitals? Who will

legally represent the downtrodden?

I think REICH's idea is worthwhile and worth exploring. How about you?

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#### RECENT FACULTY SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS and EVENTS

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January 27, 2005 "GIS in Public Health & Medicine," a conference on how Public Health GIS is being implemented to address key focus areas of: public health infrastructure, injury and violence prevention,

cancer, and environmental health. This event was held by the Bay Area Mapping Association (BAAMA), co-sponsored by UC Berkeley's GOLDMAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY and School of Public Health.

January 28, 2005 "Reluctant Neighbors: Dispute Resolution in Housing Development," a free public conference that addressed overcoming neighborhood resistance and supportive housing in America's

communities. Co-sponsored by: Berkeley Program on Housing and Urban Policy, Institute of Governmental Studies, Institute of Urban and Regional Development, and the GOLDMAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY.

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Gary Hart: "National Security in the Age of Terror"  
<http://www.uctv.tv/search-details.asp?showID=9089>

Michael Nacht and John Yoo debate: "Decision 2004: The Issues -- Terrorism and National Security"  
<http://www.uctv.tv/library-test.asp?showID=9061>

Robert Reich: "Why a Massachusetts Liberal Will Be the Next President (and Other Amazing Prophecies)"  
<http://www.uctv.tv/library-test.asp?showID=8713>

A Year and a Half After 'Black September': Problems and Prospects of International Anti-terrorist Coalition  
<http://www.uctv.tv/library-test.asp?showID=7612>

Conversations with History: Changing Paradigms in National Security Policy with Michael Nacht  
<http://www.uctv.tv/library-test.asp?showID=7240>

An Update on the War on Terrorism and Iraq with Dean Michael Nacht  
<http://www.uctv.tv/library-test.asp?showID=7055>

Daniel Ellsberg: "Secrecy, Freedom and Empire" - Lessons for Today from Vietnam and the Pentagon Papers  
<http://www.uctv.tv/library-test.asp?showID=7041>

Dr. Marion Nestle: Food, Politics and the Obesity Epidemic: How the Food Industry Influences Diet and Health  
<http://www.uctv.tv/library-test.asp?showID=7606>

Goldman School of Public Policy Conversations: Kirp & Thompson  
<http://www.uctv.tv/library-test.asp?showID=7604>

Harmat Karzai, the First Secretary to the Embassy of Afghanistan in Washington, DC: Planting the Roots of Peace in Afghanistan  
<http://www.uctv.tv/library-test.asp?showID=7602>

Alexey Arbatov, Deputy Chairman, Committee on Defense for the Russian State Duma: Superterrorism - Implications for a New Common Security Strategy  
<http://www.uctv.tv/library-test.asp?showID=7614>

"The Truth About Medical Marijuana" featuring ROBERT J. MACCOUN in panel of legal and medical experts.  
<http://www.uctv.tv/library-test.asp?showID=8463>

"Young, Beautiful and Dead: Growing Up with Disease and Democracy in South Africa," featuring DAVID HARRISON (MPP 2000), CEO of loveLife, South Africa's national HIV prevention campaign for teenagers.  
<http://www.uctv.tv/library-test.asp?showID=8466>

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If you would like further information about any of the above, or hard copies of cited articles, we'd be happy to provide them.

We are always delighted to receive your material for inclusion in the Digest. Please email the editor at [wong23@berkeley.edu](mailto:wong23@berkeley.edu).

Sincerely,

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(This digest was edited by Theresa Wong)