

eDigest January 2006

GOLDMAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY
2607 HEARST AVENUE
UC BERKELEY
BERKELEY, CA 94720-7320
PH: 510-642-4670
WEB: GSPP.BERKELEY.EDU

January 2006

Dear GSPP Faculty and Staff:

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.

We are always delighted to receive your material for inclusion in the Digest. Please email the editor at wong23@berkeley.edu.

eDIGEST FEATURES

Upcoming Events
Quick Reference List
Alumni and Student Newsmakers
Faculty in the News
Videos & Webcasts

Thank you for your active interest in and support of GSPP.

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. "Should Coal Be King? Confronting the Human & Environmental Costs"
Presented by: GSPP and the Graduate School of Journalism
Friday, February 10, 2006, 7:00 pm -- 8:30 pm
North Gate Hall, Room 105

Panel discussion with
Barbara Freese, author of "Coal: A Human History,"
Daniel Kammen, GSPP Professor, and
Melanie Light, writer and author of "Coal Hollow."

2. PUBLIC POLICY CAREER FAIR
February 9, 2006. 1-4 pm. Martin Luther King Jr. Student Union -- Pauley Ballroom
Register at: <http://www.easepubpol.com/gspberkeley/index.php?script=local-login>

3. "California and the Future of Environmental Policy"
The Center for Environmental Public Policy's spring conference will address the state's environmental agenda for the next 20 years.
Feb. 16-17, 2006. Contact Blas Perez-Henriquez for more information: 510-643-5170.

4. "Urban Policy In Real Estate Markets After Catastrophes"
The Berkeley Program on Housing and Urban Policy's annual symposium commemorates the centennial of the 1906 earthquake in San Francisco. Mar. 23-24. (Dates not yet finalized.) Contact Larry Rosenthal for information: 510-643-3507.

5. 2006 AARON WILDAVSKY FORUM FOR PUBLIC POLICY
Professor John DiIulio, Jr.: "Faith-Based Initiatives and Public Policy"

April 6, 2006 (evening time TBA). Discussion session the following morning.

QUICK REFERENCE LIST

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. "Tuition hikes may be halted. Governor's plan would avert increases for UC, CSU systems" (Sacramento Bee, December 29, 2005); story citing MIKE GENEST (MPP 1980); <http://www.sacbee.com/content/politics/ca/budget/story/14023750p-14856131c.html>
2. "Non-Profit RRG Adds New Members, Gets Upgrade to 'A-'" (The Risk Retention Reporter, Vol. 19, No. 12, December 2005); story citing PAMELA DAVIS (MPP 1987).
3. "UNICEF Urges Big Boost In Services To Prevent Mother-To-Child HIV Transmission" (Global News Wire, December 16, 2005); story citing ANN VENEMAN (MPP 1971).
4. "Millions of children invisible to the world: UN" (Xinhua General News Service, December 14, 2005); story citing ANN VENEMAN (MPP 1971).
5. "Bay Area Wages" (Forum, KQED-88.5 FM, December 14, 2005); features commentary of DAVID CARROLL (MPP 2000); listen to the program at: <http://www.kqed.org/programs/program-landing.jsp?progID=RD19>
6. "Study: wage gap grew in Bay Area" (Sacramento Bee, December 13, 2005); story citing study by DAVID CARROLL (MPP 2000); <http://www.sacbee.com/content/news/story/13974169p-14808106c.html>
7. "Funding bid pulled for BART San Jose spur. Move will improve chance of approval by feds, officials say" (San Francisco Chronicle, December 10, 2005); story citing STUART COHEN (MPP 1997); <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2005/12/10/BAG10G5OUK1.DTL&hw=stuart+cohen&sn=001&sc=1000>
8. "National Commission For Children On The Anvil, Says Somnath Chatterjee" (Hindustan Times, Dec. 9, 2005); story citing ANN VENEMAN (MPP 1971).
9. "Civil strife, overloaded healthcare systems main barriers to vaccination, UNICEF head says" (Associated Press worldstream, December 8, 2005); story citing ANN VENEMAN (MPP 1971).
10. "UN aid agency chiefs urge WTO negotiators to protect food aid" (Agence France Presse, December 8, 2005); story citing ANN VENEMAN (MPP 1971).
11. "Vaccine testers" (San Francisco Chronicle, December 4, 2005); letter to the Editor citing MARK CLOUTIER (MPP 1993); <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2005/12/04/EDGQIF5U1N1.DTL&hw=cloutier&sn=005&sc=703>
12. "Governor appoints new finance director" (San Francisco Chronicle, December 2, 2005); story citing MIKE GENEST (MPP 1980); <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2005/12/02/BAGNPG1QU81.DTL&hw=genest&sn=001&sc=1000>
13. "Analysis: State thinks big on bonds plan" (Sacramento Bee, December 4, 2005);

eDigest January 2006

story citing ELIZABETH HILL (MPP 1975);
<http://www.sacbee.com/content/politics/story/13936542p-14773244c.html>

14. "Regional Agencies Consent To Work Together, Separately - Transportation, Air Quality And Local Government Boards Won't Merge But Will Unite To Implement Growth Plan" (Contra Costa Times, November 28, 2005), story citing STUART COHEN (MPP 1997).

15. Society Desk: "Joan Reller, Jesse Rothstein" (New York Times, October 23, 2005); story citing JOAN RELLER (MPP & MPH 2001) and JESSE ROTHSTEIN (MPP 2003).

FACULTY IN THE NEWS

1. "A new measure of prosperity?" commentary by ROBERT B. REICH (Marketplace, American Public Media, December 28, 2005); listen to the commentary at:
<http://marketplace.publicradio.org/shows/2005/12/28/PM200512286.html>

2. "Editorial: There's no stopping the move to absentee voting" (Oakland Tribune, 12/31/2005); editorial citing HENRY BRADY;
http://www.insidebayarea.com/portlet/article/html/fragments/print_article.jsp?article=3359776

3. "It's Not Just for Poor People Anymore" commentary by ROBERT REICH (Marketplace, American Public Media, December 14, 2005); listen to the commentary at:
<http://marketplace.publicradio.org/shows/2005/12/14/PM200512145.html>

4. "No-brainer: invest now in college access" (East Bay Business Times, December 9, 2005); editorial citing report by HENRY BRADY;
<http://eastbay.bizjournals.com/eastbay/stories/2005/12/12/editorial1.html>

5. "Skylights highlight bright niche. Clients eager to save money" (East Bay Business Times, December 9, 2005); story citing DAN KAMMEN;
<http://eastbay.bizjournals.com/eastbay/stories/2005/12/12/story5.html>

6. "Climate strategy for state proposed. Advisers flesh out governor's call to cut 'greenhouse gases'" (Sacramento Bee, Page A1, December 9, 2005); story citing MICHAEL HANEMANN;
<http://www.sacbee.com/content/politics/story/13957973p-14792326c.html>

7. "Op-Ed: Editorial: Master Plan II. Give higher education a new commitment" (Sacramento Bee, December 8, 2005); story citing study by HENRY BRADY;
<http://www.sacbee.com/content/opinion/story/13953666p-14788123c.html>

8. "Universal preschool's big payoff" (Los Angeles Times, December 7, 2005); op-ed by DAVID KIRP;
<http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/opinion/la-oe-kirp7dec07,1,4201520.story>

9. "Governor's clemency review to determine whether to execute Stanley Tookie Williams" (KPFA News, December 4, 2005); features interview with LEE FRIEDMAN.

10. ABC News' This Week (ABC TV, Dec. 4, 2005); features commentary by ROBERT REICH;
<http://abcnews.go.com/ThisWeek/print?id=466>

11. "Berkeley: Detainee policy debate comes to Cal. Pentagon officials say old rules on prisoners don't apply" (San Francisco Chronicle, December 2, 2005); story citing GOLDMAN SCHOOL event;
<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/c/a/2005/12/02/BAGNPG1SUM1.DTL&type=printable>

12. "College ROI a 3-to-1 proposition for California" (East Bay Business Times, December 2, 2005); cites study by HENRY BRADY;
<http://eastbay.bizjournals.com/eastbay/stories/2005/12/05/story5.html?t=printable>

13. "California: State is urged to spend more on higher education. Study suggests that in the long run, it would actually save taxpayers money" (San Francisco Chronicle, December 1, 2005); story citing study by HENRY BRADY; <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/c/a/2005/12/01/BAG23G12MS1.DTL&type=printable>

14. "Study says state could get huge return on investment" (Inland Valley Daily Bulletin, December 2, 2005); story citing study by HENRY BRADY.

15. "Contra Costa County, Calif., 15 unions near draw" (Contra Costa Times, October 20, 2005); story citing JOHN ELLWOOD; <http://www.contracostatimes.com/mld/cctimes/>

ALUMNI AND STUDENT NEWSMAKERS

1. "Tuition hikes may be halted. Governor's plan would avert increases for UC, CSU systems" (Sacramento Bee, December 29, 2005); story citing MIKE GENEST (MPP 1980); <http://www.sacbee.com/content/politics/ca/budget/story/14023750p-14856131c.html>

By Peter Hecht, Bee Capitol Bureau

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger will propose a budget increase to avert tuition hikes for undergraduate and graduate students at California's public universities, a senior administration official said Wednesday.

Under the plan the governor will submit to lawmakers in January, Schwarzenegger will propose a \$129.4 million increase in higher education funding to enable the University of California and California State University systems to avoid scheduled fee increases for the academic year beginning in September.

The official said anticipated increased tax revenues resulting from the state's improving economy inspired the governor to boost higher education spending in his 2006-07 budget plan. The official was interviewed on the condition of anonymity while putting out the word on a state budget proposal expected to be viewed positively by voters.

In October, the CSU system approved fee increases of 8 percent for 360,000 undergraduate students and credential candidates and 10 percent for 64,500 graduate students.

In November, the UC system followed suit when the Board of Regents approved 8 percent increases for 176,000 undergraduate students, 10 percent for 34,000 graduate students and 5 percent for more than 11,000 students earning medical, law or doctorate degrees.

Charles Reed, chancellor of the 23-campus California State University system, said he was notified of the governor's budget proposal in a telephone call Wednesday from STATE FINANCE CHIEF MIKE GENEST.

"This is really, really good news for CSU students," Reed said. "They are mostly middle-class, working students. And they will now not see a fee increase, which is great."...

2. "Non-Profit RRG Adds New Members, Gets Upgrade to 'A-'" (The Risk Retention Reporter, Vol. 19, No. 12, December 2005); story citing PAMELA DAVIS (MPP 1987).

... ANI-RRG, formed through the efforts of PAMELA DAVIS who serves as the RRG's president and CEO, is one of four companies that comprise the Nonprofit Insurance Alliance Group (NIA Group)...

In November 2005, A.M. Best upgraded ANI-RRG's financial strength rating to A- (Excellent) from B++ (Very Good), with the rating also applying the NANI. According to Best's, "The rating recognizes the groups' excellent capitalization and operating performance, strong management, and effective niche market strategy. It also considers the companies' strategic roles and the benefits they derive as part of the Nonprofits Insurance Alliance Group." Best's also reaffirmed NIAC's "A" letter rating...

Included in DAVIS' annual report "Message" is a note of appreciation from a volunteer employed by one of the non-profits insured by ANI-RRG who had been named personally in a lawsuit. The volunteer writes: "I appreciate having your support in this very difficult episode of my volunteer activities. Without it, I fear that John F. Kennedy's call for volunteers would find itself with no one listening." Another note DAVIS includes in her "Message", is from a broker in appreciation of the group's efficiency. He writes, "I made a request for an endorsement via email today at 4:01 p.m. I received the endorsement at 4:11 p.m. Absolutely amazing!"

In August 2003, CIO magazine identified NIA Group "as one of its 100 award winning organizations around the world that excel in positive business performance through resourceful information technology management and practices" (see RRR, Sept.'04).

DAVIS herself has also been recognized as one of the 15 Best Bosses for 2005 by Fortune Small Business and winning workplaces. Finalists are selected from a group of 100 nominees. A panel of judges then evaluates employee satisfaction, investment in workers, employee benefits as well as other measures. Nominees are subjected to a comprehensive performance review by judges talking with customers, financial and legal advisors, board members, and randomly selected employees about the nominee's management style and philosophy.

On receiving the award, DAVIS acknowledged that it was a "great honor," but said, "the real praise goes to our terrific staff, management and boards of directors who have so patiently and painstakingly helped me to understand what it means to be a leader. It is a privilege to work with such a wonderful group in service to the best customers in the world-nonprofit organizations."

3. "UNICEF Urges Big Boost In Services To Prevent Mother-To-Child HIV Transmission" (Global News Wire, December 16, 2005); story citing ANN VENEMAN (MPP 1971).

Tashkent -- The number of children becoming HIV positive every year - some 600,000 - could be more than halved if infected pregnant women received comprehensive services including anti-retroviral drugs, but less than 10% are now getting them, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said.

""Hundreds of thousands of children are needlessly born with HIV every year, and many of them die in the first year of life. Yet effective interventions exist,"" UNICEF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ANN VENEMAN said on the eve of world AIDS Day. ""We can dramatically reduce the number of children infected by HIV by providing these services to mothers."" ...

4. "Millions of children invisible to the world: UN" (Xinhua General News Service, December 14, 2005); story citing ANN VENEMAN (MPP 1971).

London -- Hundreds of millions of children are suffering from severe exploitation and discrimination and have become virtually invisible to the world, a United Nations agency said in its annual report on the state world's children released here on Wednesday.

The State of the World's Children 2006: Excluded and Invisible, launched by UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), highlighted the dire circumstances of millions of children who disappear from view when trafficked or forced to work in domestic servitude.

The report "takes you into the lives of hundreds of millions of children who are hidden from view, lost to statistics, programs and budgets and growing up beyond our reach," said UNICEF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ANN VENEMAN at the launch.

"Without focused attention, millions of children will remain trapped and forgotten in childhoods of neglect and abuse, with devastating consequences for their long-term," she said.

"Meeting the Millennium Development Goals depends on reaching vulnerable children throughout the developing world," said VENEMAN.

"There cannot be lasting progress if we continue to overlook the children most in need -- the poorest and most vulnerable, the exploited and the abused," she continued.

The report finds that children who lack vital services are more vulnerable to exploitation because they have less information on how to protect themselves, and fewer economic alternatives.

The report argues that children in four circumstances are most likely to become invisible and forgotten-- children without a formal identity, children without parental care, children in adult roles and children who are exploited.

"We have to begin by addressing the underlying causes of exclusion and abuse," said VENEMAN.

"It's up to all of us to give a face to these children," she said...

"Governments, families and communities must do more to prevent abuse and exploitation from happening in the first place and to protect children who fall victim to abuse," says the report.

"To ensure that children are protected, the abuse and exploitation of children must be brought to light and those who violate children brought to justice," VENEMAN said.

[This story was also reported in BBC News, Agence France Presse, Japan Economic Newswire, China Daily, et al.]

5. "Bay Area Wages" (Forum, KQED-88.5 FM, December 14, 2005); features commentary of DAVID CARROLL (MPP 2000); listen to the program at:
<http://www.kqed.org/programs/program-landing.jsp?progID=RD19>

Forum discusses the results of a report on wages in the Bay Area. Host: Michael Krasny.

Guests: DAVID CARROLL, SENIOR POLICY ANALYST AT THE CALIFORNIA BUDGET PROJECT...

6. "Study: Wage gap grew in Bay Area" (Sacramento Bee, December 13, 2005); story citing study by DAVID CARROLL (MPP 2000);
<http://www.sacbee.com/content/news/story/13974169p-14808106c.html>

By Jocelyn Wiener -- Bee Staff Writer

The gap between the haves and have-nots widened more quickly in the Bay Area than elsewhere in the state during the past quarter century, and especially during the dot-com boom of the late 1990s, according to a report released today by the California Budget Project.

Between 1979 and 2004, the report's authors say, the average Bay Area worker's wages increased three times as quickly as those in the rest of the state.

But the scenario was different for workers in the bottom fifth of the pay scale, many of whom work in the hospitality and retail sectors and in some parts of the health care industry.

Their earnings, adjusted for inflation, declined by nearly 5 percent over that 25-year-period. At the same time, the top fifth of earners saw their earnings increase by more than 30 percent.

"We often hear economic growth is a solution to poverty," said Jean Ross, executive director of the California Budget Project, a nonprofit policy research group that conducts economic and policy analysis to benefit the poor. "Clearly what we found is that wasn't the case during the boom in the Bay Area."

The report's authors [DAVID CARROLL with assistance from Jean Ross] say the widening wage gap was driven by "phenomenal wage growth" among the Bay Area's high-wage earners in the late 1990s.

In some respects, Bay Area low-wage workers appeared to fare better than their counterparts across the state. They had lower unemployment rates and lower poverty levels. Wages in the Bay Area are approximately 20 percent higher than in the rest of the state, the report says.

But the higher cost of living in the Bay Area effectively cancels out the higher wages, Ross said...

The report says that Latino workers, in particular, lost ground over the past 25 years in the Bay Area; the earnings of the typical Latino worker dropped more than 10 percent during that time period.

Ross said she hoped the report's findings would be used to spark informed debates at the local level about policies that help working families make ends meet.

[Read the full report, "The Rising Tide Left Some Boats Behind: Boom, Bust, and Beyond in the San Francisco Bay Area," at: http://www.cbp.org/2005/0511_bareport.pdf]

7. "Funding bid pulled for BART San Jose spur. Move will improve chance of approval by feds, officials say" (San Francisco Chronicle, December 10, 2005); story citing STUART COHEN (MPP 1997); <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2005/12/10/BAG10G5OUK1.DTL&hw=stuart+cohen&sn=001&sc=1000>

By Michael Cabanatuan; Chronicle Staff Writer

Plans to extend BART to San Jose ran into another obstacle Friday when Santa Clara County transportation officials withdrew their application for \$750 million in federal funds rather than face being rejected for a third time...

Officials at the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, known as the VTA, said they decided to pull the agency's application out of the competition for new rail system funding because "it is not likely to be accepted by (the Federal Transit Administration) in its current form."

For the past two years, the federal agency has rejected the South Bay application for the extension, citing the lack of a solid financial plan to pay for operating the line and questions about the project's projections for ridership and cost per rider...

South Bay transportation officials said they will work with federal transit authorities to satisfy them that the latest ridership projections for the extension -- 11,100 per weekday -- are accurate and that there is a reliable plan to pay for

construction and operation of the extension...

But BART-to-San Jose critic STUART COHEN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE TRANSPORTATION AND LAND USE COALITION, which advocates less-expensive forms of mass transit to San Jose, said the withdrawal continues "the downward spiral" for the project.

"It's highly unusual to elect to take yourself out of the (federal funding) pipeline, as it's called," COHEN said. "Things must be pretty bad for VTA to decide to withdraw."...

8. "National Commission For Children On The Anvil, Says Somnath Chatterjee" (Hindustan Times, Dec. 9, 2005); story citing ANN VENEMAN (MPP 1971).

New Delhi, India -- Ms. ANN VENEMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, UNICEF delivered the fourth Lecture in the Series for Members of Parliament on "Children's Development: Challenges Facing India" in the Main Committee Hall of Parliament Library Building today.

Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Somnath Chatterjee, in his introductory remarks, urged the legislators to earnestly address the issues concerning children...

Shri Chatterjee appreciated UNICEF for its avowed mission to advance the Millennium Development Goals by supporting child health and nutrition, by providing quality basic education for all boys and girls, by enabling access to clean water and sanitation, and by protecting children from violence, exploitation and AIDS.

MS. ANN VENEMAN, in her lecture, stressed the importance of the role that can be played by parliamentarians. "Voice of the parliamentarians has a unique resonance. They are champions of children," she said.

India, a forerunner in the global economy and world affairs has to make a substantial contribution for the development and protection of children, she said.

Emphasizing the need to educate children, especially the girl child, Ms. ANN VENEMAN said that education is the key for eradicating poverty and it has disproportionate impact on women and children. While expressing dismay on the fact that too many Indian children are being the easy targets of violence, abuse and exploitation, Ms. VENEMAN said, "Let us first allow our children to go to school and complete schooling."

Ms. VENEMAN also urged the parliamentarians to work for the cause of an AIDS free society. Recalling the slogan "Unite for children, Unite against HIV", Ms. ANN VENEMAN said that the disease is an issue of humanity. She also recalled with ecstasy the proud relationship existing between the UNICEF and the world's largest democracy, India...

9. "Civil strife, overloaded healthcare systems main barriers to vaccination, UNICEF head says" (Associated Press worldstream, December 8, 2005); story citing ANN VENEMAN (MPP 1971).

By Nirmala George; Associated Press Writer

New Delhi -- More and more children are dying of preventable diseases in 14 mostly African countries torn by civil strife or whose health care systems are overloaded by the AIDS crisis, the head of the UNICEF said Thursday, urging developed countries to take action.

Rich nations need to "find ways to assist countries in crisis or other fragile states," said EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ANN VENEMAN at a meeting of government, aid and health care officials from around the world organized by the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization in New Delhi...

A lack of health facilities and poorly funded health programs in developing countries restrict the number of children who are covered by immunization programs, participants said...

10. "UN aid agency chiefs urge WTO negotiators to protect food aid" (Agence France Presse, December 8, 2005); story citing ANN VENEMAN (MPP 1971).

Geneva -- The heads of three of the largest UN relief agencies on Thursday called on world Trade Organisation negotiators to ensure food aid is protected amid efforts to liberalise global farm commerce.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees, plus the leaders of the world Food Programme (WFP) and children's fund UNICEF, said they are concerned because international food aid "is already under threat" after slipping last year to 7.5 million metric tonnes from 10.2 million metric tonnes in 2003.

"We strongly believe reform of international agricultural trade is vital and can help overcome poverty in the developing world. This may well include disciplines on some types of food aid," said high commissioner Antonio Guterres, WFP director James Morris and UNICEF HEAD ANN VENEMAN in a joint statement.

"But reforms should be carefully designed to protect millions of the world's children, refugees and malnourished people who count on donations of food aid for their survival, nutrition and health."

Food aid donations have come under scrutiny at the Doha Round of negotiations among the 148 member states of the WTO.

The talks were launched in 2001 with the aim of tearing down barriers to global commerce and using trade to cut poverty.

Critics in particular have spotlighted the United States, saying that many of its food aid programmes are a disguised way of subsidising American farmers to offload their produce in poor countries, undercutting the agricultural sector in the developing world...

11. "Vaccine testers" (San Francisco Chronicle, December 4, 2005); letter to the Editor citing MARK CLOUTIER (MPP 1993); <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2005/12/04/EDGQIF5U1N1.DTL&hw=cloutier&sn=005&sc=703>

Editor -- Jay Levy's and MARK CLOUTIER's World AIDS Day commentaries (Open Forum, Nov. 28) demonstrate that the urgent need for an HIV vaccine persists and remind us that in order to find a vaccine that works for everyone in need, it is important to include people of color as volunteers and as active voices in the planning and conduct of clinical trials. In the S.F. Department of Public Health, we are conducting studies of several promising vaccine candidates. The test vaccines do not contain whole, live or weakened virus, so it is impossible for volunteers to become HIV-infected from the vaccines. For more information, readers can visit our web site, www.SFisReady.org or call (415) 554-9068.

Susan Buchbinder, M.D.
AIDS Office
Department of Public Health
San Francisco

12. "Governor appoints new finance director" (San Francisco Chronicle, December 2, 2005); story citing MIKE GENEST (MPP 1980); <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2005/12/02/BAGNPG1QU81.DTL&hw=genes>

t&sn=001&sc=1000

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed a veteran budget officer Thursday to take over as his finance director.

MIKE GENEST, who has been acting director of the finance department since early September, was elevated to the top position and will guide development of the 2005-06 budget that Schwarzenegger will release next month.

GENEST takes over for Tom Campbell, who has served as Schwarzenegger's finance director until returning to his position as dean of UC Berkeley's Haas School of Business.

"MIKE's decades of experience in state government as a budget professional qualify him uniquely to serve as my director of finance," Schwarzenegger said in a statement. "Over the past two years, we have successfully worked to balance our state budget and reduce our debt without raising taxes. I look forward to working with MIKE and the Legislature to build upon this foundation and rebuild California."

GENEST served as the chief deputy director of finance when Schwarzenegger first took office. Prior to that, he was the director of the Senate Republican Fiscal Office and adviser to the GOP leader of the Senate on matters relating to the state budget and state and local government finance.

GENEST also served as deputy director for welfare programs at the Department of Social Services and worked for 10 years with the independent legislative analyst's office...

13. "Analysis: State thinks big on bonds plan" (Sacramento Bee, December 4, 2005); story citing ELIZABETH HILL (MPP 1975); <http://www.sacbee.com/content/politics/story/13936542p-14773244c.html>

By Amy Chance -- Bee Political Editor

In town halls and talk shows just a month ago, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger was predicting dire financial consequences if voters didn't pass an initiative that gave him expanded budget-cutting powers.

"We can't continue this way, the way we are doing it now ... spending, spending, spending," he said...

Voters rejected Proposition 76, Schwarzenegger's budget plan, but the financial talk emanating from the Governor's Office has done a dramatic turnaround as a new state budget season approaches.

Schwarzenegger now is talking about spending on a massive scale, in part by using bonds that future generations will pay for. He says he wants to work with Democrats on a multibillion-dollar package to finance roads, levees, schools and other infrastructure needs...

Not everyone at the Capitol is taking those kinds of numbers seriously. Most believe Republican lawmakers would balk at such an ambitious package, even one sent to voters piecemeal over five or more years. And not everyone has confidence that Schwarzenegger's circle of advisers can execute the plan.

Schwarzenegger's political team has yet to vet what sort of appetite voters would have for that kind of building program in this economic climate. And while the state's fiscal picture has brightened somewhat, government is still spending more than it takes in...

Then there's the current condition of California's finances. The state has the lowest bond ratings in the nation, and already pays out a significant percentage of

its general fund to service existing debt.

STATE LEGISLATIVE ANALYST ELIZABETH HILL reported in November that, including the state's deficit-financing bonds approved by voters, California's debt service will peak at slightly over 6.8 percent of the general fund in 2009-10. The number, she said, is still within the range that many bond market participants consider acceptable, although it is higher than in many past years....

14. "Regional Agencies Consent To Work Together, Separately - Transportation, Air Quality And Local Government Boards Won't Merge But Will Unite To Implement Growth Plan" (Contra Costa Times, November 28, 2005), story citing STUART COHEN (MPP 1997).

By Lisa Vorderbrueggen, Times Staff Writer

Three Bay Area regional agencies have agreed to plan growth cooperatively and share resources, but they will remain separate organizations.

The joint initiative is outlined in a report headed to the Legislature in December, as mandated by Senate Bill 849, written by Sen. Tom Torlakson, D-Antioch, in 2004.

The law ordered the Bay Area to study and report to lawmakers the feasibility of merging the duties of its regional transportation planning agency, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, and the local government membership organization, called the Association of Bay Area Governments.

Torlakson has long argued that to effectively fight urban sprawl and congestion, the Bay Area must more closely tie its land-use decisions to transportation investments....

The work plan, as adopted by a joint committee of the agencies, which also includes the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, calls for the panel to implement a regional growth initiative called the Smart Growth Strategy or the Regional Livability Footprint Project....

It recommends communities build adequate numbers of houses and apartments near jobs, shops and transit stations.

But the joint policy committee has no authority to impose the strategy on Bay Area cities and counties, which control land-use decisions within their boundaries. Many local officials view regional planning as unwelcome interference with local control.

So, the committee will take the footprint project on the road early next year and make the case that "smart growth will not occur without substantial changes in local land-use policy, which involves primarily changes to housing densities," said Ted Droettboom, the joint panel's hired director.

"If the Bay Area can get more housing in the right places, it will have a more effective transportation system, healthier communities and can start to save agricultural land and open space," he said.

Unwillingness to participate in regional planning could soon come with a price too large to ignore.

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission has created smart-growth grant programs and linked the receipt of prized transit dollars to minimum ridership levels at new stations....

Also, proceeds of a \$10 billion statewide infrastructure bond proposed by Torlakson and Sen. Don Perata, D-Oakland, will likely require compliance with regional planning initiatives or the adoption of urban growth boundaries....

"I was very skeptical about the joint policy committee but I have to say that I have

eDigest January 2006

been very impressed with its work plan so far," said STUART COHEN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE TRANSPORTATION AND LAND USE COALITION.

"If the bond passes and we are able to incorporate strong incentives, I think the strategy has a chance to become more than a planning exercise."

15. Society Desk: "Joan Reller, Jesse Rothstein" (New York Times, October 23, 2005); story citing JOAN RELLER (MPP & MPH 2001) and JESSE ROTHSTEIN (MPP 2003).

Joan Elizabeth Reller and Jesse Morris Rothstein were married yesterday by Cantor Linda Hirschhorn at the Piedmont Community Hall in Piedmont, Calif.

The bride and bridegroom, both 31, work in Princeton, N.J. She is a program officer at the Center for Health Care Strategies, a public health advocacy organization, and he is an assistant professor of economics and public affairs at Princeton University.

They met at the UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY, WHERE EACH RECEIVED A MASTER'S DEGREE IN PUBLIC POLICY. The bride also received a master's in public health and the bridegroom a doctorate in economics there...

FACULTY IN THE NEWS

1. "A new measure of prosperity?" commentary by ROBERT B. REICH (Marketplace, American Public Media, December 28, 2005); listen to the commentary at: <http://marketplace.publicradio.org/shows/2005/12/28/PM200512286.html>

The monthly numbers for consumer confidence came out today, and Americans are feeling a little better about things as the year comes to a close. But commentator Robert Reich says we may be a little over-confident.

By ROBERT B. REICH

...what's the point of economic growth if most people aren't any more prosperous?

Maybe it's time we stopped measuring the success of the American economy by how much larger the GDP is from one year to the next, and started using a new measure that reflects how most of us are doing from one year to the next. Instead of GDP, let's look at what might be called the MDP -- median domestic prosperity.

The American economy is strong when the MDP is rising, weak when it's falling. When it declines for four years in a row, we're in an MDP recession.

Look, I don't want to end the year on a downer. I want to cheer as much as anyone. But let's be honest. Unless you happen to be in the top 20 percent of income, this economy is nothing to cheer about.

Happy new year.

[A version of this commentary was published in a column: "Our worrisome MDP" by Robert B. Reich (The American Prospect, web exclusive 01.03.06); <http://www.prospect.org/web/page.wv?section=root&name=ViewWeb&articleId=10794>]

2. "Editorial: There's no stopping the move to absentee voting" (Oakland Tribune, 12/31/2005); editorial citing HENRY BRADY; http://www.insidebayarea.com/portlet/article/html/fragments/print_article.jsp?article=3359776

There may come a time in 10 or 20 years when no one goes to a polling station on Election Day. And that may not be a bad thing for our democracy.

That's because absentee voting is soaring in the state. A record 40 percent of voters in the November special election cast their ballots through the mail, a 10 percent increase over the 2003 recall election.

Absentee voting used to be limited to the elderly, shut-ins and the disabled. No more. It's easy and convenient, something traditional Election Day-voting has never been in this country.

Indeed, America has almost developed an art form out of making elections as inconvenient as possible, holding general elections in the middle of the work week and testing the patience of even the most determined voters with long lines and complicated ballot measures....

Research has shown that absentee voters are better informed. "I think they're busier, I think they're more attentive than average to politics, and because they're more attentive they want to make sure they vote no matter what happens to them on Election Day," said HENRY BRADY, A PUBLIC POLICY PROFESSOR AT UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY.

The problems that counties are having with the new electronic voting systems may also be driving many to absentee ballots.

For myriad reasons, absentee ballots are clearly here to stay. And if it means more people participate in the political process, that's all for the good.

3. "It's Not Just for Poor People Anymore" commentary by ROBERT REICH (Marketplace, American Public Media, December 14, 2005); listen to the commentary at: <http://marketplace.publicradio.org/shows/2005/12/14/PM200512145.html>

The House passed a bill a couple weeks ago cutting \$50 billion from the budget; some of that money came from Medicaid. The cut's running into more political opposition than its backers might have expected. Robert Reich explains why.

By ROBERT REICH:

It wasn't supposed to be this way. The plan was to extend tax cuts for the wealthy and reduce the alternative minimum tax for the upper middle class. To pay for this, they'd cut Medicaid and other programs mainly for the poor who don't have political clout in Washington. That may still be the result, but not without a fight. You see, the little secret of Medicaid is that it's not just a poor people's program. A significant portion of its beneficiaries are members of the middle class and they do have political clout.

Consider, for example, the millions of seniors who own their homes and possess some savings but need nursing home care. Nursing home bills typically run \$60,000 to \$90,000 a year. How can they afford it? They turn to Medicaid. Some of them qualify for Medicaid by transferring their assets to their kids and becoming poor, at least on paper. But even if they pay for nursing home care themselves, they often find that within a year or two, they've used up all their assets, and then they turn to Medicaid. All this is a big relief to their middle class adult children who would otherwise end up with the tab.

Not surprisingly, Medicaid is now paying half the costs of all nursing home care in the United States. Other middle class beneficiaries of Medicaid include people whose children or other close relatives suffer severe disabilities, such as cerebral palsy, mental retardation, MS, Parkinson's and HIV-AIDS. Medicaid pays for their personal care, physical therapy, drugs and where necessary, institutional care. These are also costs that could otherwise bankrupt their families. In other words,

rather than it being just a poor people's program, Medicaid is what keeps a lot of the middle class from becoming poor. Legislators who want to cut it are discovering that middle class America doesn't want its last remaining safety net ripped apart.

4. "No-brainer: invest now in college access" (East Bay Business Times, December 9, 2005); editorial citing report by HENRY BRADY;
<http://eastbay.bizjournals.com/eastbay/stories/2005/12/12/editorial1.html>

No one needs a college degree to understand this math: For every additional dollar spent on higher education now, the state will realize a net return of \$3 in economic benefits.

That's the finding of a draft report by UC-BERKELEY RESEARCHERS [headed by HENRY BRADY] on behalf of the Campaign for College Opportunity, a nonprofit alliance of business, education and labor leaders. Through December, the campaign will trek across the state on a 20-city tour to rally support for investing in education...

The campaign's analysis of the economic benefits - the necessity - of increased funding wipes out any so-called practical counterarguments...

5. "Skylights highlight bright niche. Clients eager to save money" (East Bay Business Times, December 9, 2005); story citing DAN KAMMEN;
<http://eastbay.bizjournals.com/eastbay/stories/2005/12/12/story5.html>

By Jeff Nachtigal

A list of 13 California power companies sits on Jeff McAuliff's desk. It includes Pacific Gas & Electric Co., Silicon Valley Power and the Truckee-Donner Public Utility District. Each has the power to boost sales for his energy efficiency products.

In a perfect world free of red tape and political roadblocks, every California power company would offer rebates to customers who purchased McAuliff's tubular skylights and solar attic fans....

Green-approved is a big thing these days, said McAuliff, who got out of the roofing business two years ago because skylights and solar fans sell so well. At a recent green builders show in San Francisco, McAuliff said the response to his products was phenomenal.

Home builders are looking toward energy efficient products to put in new homes because the state provides mortgage rate discounts for new, energy-efficient homes.

"It really is growing, and the incentives are growing for green builders," he said of the trend toward energy efficient building products. "We're hearing from a lot of customers that they are trying to save energy."...

The Bay Area's biggest power company, PG&E said it isn't considering offering rebates for fans or skylights, although it does recommend the use of skylights to reduce power consumption.

Skylights and attic fans are an important piece of the larger energy savings picture, said UC-BERKELEY PROFESSOR DANIEL M. KAMMEN.

"It's a big deal, you can get a lot out of it, and it makes a real difference if there are some incentives out there, and better mortgages out there if you hit a few energy marks," said KAMMEN, DIRECTOR OF THE RENEWABLE AND APPROPRIATE ENERGY LAB AT UC-BERKELEY.

And although the state of California is the far-and-away leader of promoting energy efficiency, there is more that can be done.

"It's a direct and measurable gain, every time there is solar on a home, that a home will not cause a new increment for a new power plant to be built," KAMMEN said. "That's invaluable to a state like California, where we are very constrained where we can build power plants, and there are air quality issues."...

[This story also appeared in the Silicon Valley San Jose Business Journal]

6. "Climate strategy for state proposed. Advisers flesh out governor's call to cut 'greenhouse gases'" (Sacramento Bee, Page A1, December 9, 2005); story citing MICHAEL HANEMANN; <http://www.sacbee.com/content/politics/story/13957973p-14792326c.html>

By Edie Lau and Chris Bowman -- Bee Staff Writers

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's climate advisers issued ambitious recommendations Thursday for reducing gases linked to global warming, including a new fee on gasoline and diesel.

The draft proposals fill in the blanks of an executive order Schwarzenegger issued in June, giving California the most aggressive goals in the world for fighting global warming. He commanded the state to reduce "greenhouse gas" emissions 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050.

The state Climate Action Team's proposals reflect the growing commitment of California's leaders to control greenhouse gases despite opposition within the federal government to mandatory limits on the heat-trapping pollutants...

Greenhouse gases produced by modern society, principally carbon dioxide released by burning fossil fuels, are thought to be changing the world's climate, potentially causing more extreme weather. Most scientists who study the issue believe human activities are at least partly responsible for global warming...

Transportation produces more than 40 percent of the state's emissions, the largest share of any sector. Burning a single gallon of gasoline produces nearly 20 pounds of carbon dioxide.

MICHAEL HANEMANN, AN ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMIST AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY, who contributed to the report, said taxing petroleum is a bold idea, but not new.

"The notion that using transportation fuels creates what are considered harmful effects is well-established in economics," HANEMANN said. "So is the notion of introducing that into the cost of gasoline." However, he said he knows of no such fees or taxes in any other states.

The climate team did not say how much the fee should be, but noted that a charge of 2.57 cents per gallon would be comparable to the existing public-goods charge on electricity.

A 2.57-cent charge would raise \$408.6 million, based upon the current consumption by Californians of 15.9 billion gallons of gasoline a year...

7. "Op-Ed: Editorial: Master Plan II. Give higher education a new commitment" (Sacramento Bee, December 8, 2005); story citing study by HENRY BRADY; <http://www.sacbee.com/content/opinion/story/13953666p-14788123c.html>

After an election in which voters made it clear that they expect Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and legislators to work together to solve the state's problems, one

potential act of cooperation stands out.

They should renew the state's commitment to access to higher education....

A broad-based, nonprofit calling itself the "Campaign for College Opportunity" is leading the charge for change. It will be working with the governor and legislators to come up with a legislative package for 2006. It would like the state to build on the 1960 Master Plan and the governor's 2004 compact by setting targets for improved college participation and completion rates - and then budgeting to meet those targets.

The campaign estimates this will cost an additional 2 percent to 4 percent per year of the state's general fund, which is currently \$90 billion. The strategy would require adjusting priorities.

The campaign also wants to link student costs more closely to ability to pay. Students and families who can pay more for their higher education should do so while aid for needy students should be increased....

The group also is posting good information on the state's demographic challenge, including a new report from the UC BERKELEY SURVEY RESEARCH CENTER [CO-AUTHORED BY HENRY BRADY], "Return on Investment: Educational Choices and Demographic Change in California's Future" (find it at www.collegecampaign.org)....

The report shows that investing in expanded college enrollment pays tangible returns to the state within 10 years: "The payback for these investments is not immediate, but it is surprisingly quick," the report concludes....

[Read the report, "Return on Investment: Educational Choices and Demographic Change in California's Future" at:
http://ucdata.berkeley.edu:7101/new_web/pubs/Return_On_Investment_Final_Report.pdf]

8. "Universal preschool's big payoff" (Los Angeles Times, December 7, 2005); op-ed by DAVID KIRP;
<http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/opinion/la-oe-kirp7dec07,1,4201520.story>

By David L. Kirp

DAVID L. KIRP, a PUBLIC POLICY PROFESSOR AT UC BERKELEY, is writing a book, "Before School," about the universal preschool movement.

It has long been an American article of faith that early schooling for poor children can work wonders. A word-rich classroom gives poor 3 and 4-year-old kids the basic tools for learning and for sharpening their talents for solving problems. A nurturing environment teaches children, many of them from worlds in disarray, how to work and play well with others. Such an experience can create something close to a level playing field, not only in kindergarten but for an entire lifetime....

These days the rallying cry is preschool for everyone, not just poor children. This idea - on the California ballot next spring - is attracting a broad constituency....

Yet the model programs served only poor youngsters, and so relying on their results to support pre-kindergarten for all children is something of a stretch.

There is, of course, a strong moral case for treating every child alike, and it's also smart politics to give middle-class families a stake. But there has been no proof coming straight from the classroom that universal preschool is a smart investment - until now, that is.

A study released this week by the National Institute for Early Education Research, the leading think tank in the field, makes the case. The research examined the effect of a good preschool experience on the academic skills of children entering

kindergarten in five states representing a cross section of the country. Its findings are eye-opening.

On vocabulary tests, children who attended state-supported preschools scored 31% higher than a similar group of youngsters who didn't participate - the equivalent of three months of learning. On tests of early math skills, the state preschoolers outscored their peers by 41%. A recent study of state pre-kindergarten classes in Tulsa, Okla., showed essentially the same result.

By contrast, a recent evaluation of Head Start reports much more modest gains....

The message of the five-state study is that these differences matter. Whether preschool has a significant effect depends crucially on its quality....

These state preschools aren't extra special, but they are good enough for children from varied backgrounds to learn a lot. That's excellent news to those who favor universal preschool.

9. "Governor's clemency review to determine whether to execute Stanley Tookie Williams" (KPFA News, December 4, 2005); features interview with LEE FRIEDMAN.

LEE FRIEDMAN IS AN ECONOMIST AND A PROFESSOR OF PUBLIC POLICY AT THE GOLDMAN SCHOOL [OF PUBLIC POLICY] AT UC BERKELEY. He talks about some of the downsides, including the financial costs, of using capital punishment.

"So much time and money is being spent on appeals of capital punishment, in expensive court time and court trials and so on, that it does turn out that the cost of capital punishment is substantially greater in most cases than ordinary life imprisonment. And of course, we know there are errors made. There are people who have been erroneously convicted of capital murder, and so that makes it a pretty big burden on those who are in favor of capital punishment. You don't have very good evidence of deterrence effect, it's expensive, and we don't administer it perfectly and we make extremely important mistakes sometimes.... [The governor's clemency decision] can have important incentive effects. If it's used in a rare case by somebody who's setting an extremely good example in terms of rehabilitation -- there are a lot of people behind bars whom we are not successfully rehabilitating -- that having the right example and having the governor stand up and say that this is a right example -- I'm not saying what is the right example -- somebody who has demonstrated that they can be rehabilitated, that's an incentive for others who are in prison to do the same thing. That's not to be overlooked."

10. ABC News' This Week (ABC TV, Dec. 4, 2005); features commentary by ROBERT REICH; <http://abcnews.go.com/ThisWeek/print?id=466>

Moderated by: George Stephanopoulos

...At the roundtable: ROBERT REICH, former Labor Secretary, editor of The American Prospect [AND PROFESSOR AT UC BERKELEY], joins ABC News' Cokie Roberts and George Will to discuss the continuing debate over what to do in Iraq, the politics of the death penalty, new questions about Samuel Alito's position on abortion and the state of the economy....

11. "Berkeley: Detainee policy debate comes to Cal. Pentagon officials say old rules on prisoners don't apply" (San Francisco Chronicle, December 2, 2005); story citing GOLDMAN SCHOOL event; <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/c/a/2005/12/02/BAGNPG1SUM1.DTL&type=printable>

By Charles Burress, Chronicle Staff Writer

eDigest January 2006

As the Bush administration faces mounting international criticism on alleged torture, "disappeared" prisoners held at secret CIA facilities and denial of due process for detainees, two Pentagon policymakers appeared at UC BERKELEY this week to justify administration prison policies.

How can the Pentagon say forcible shaving of a Muslim prisoner's beard "falls within 'humane' and outside of 'cruel and degrading'?" asked a skeptical audience member Thursday.

"It's simply outside my understanding of the plain English definitions of the words."

Christina Filarowski-Sheaks, a former interrogation trainer at Guantanamo, said shaving off a Muslim's beard or playing loud music fall far short of the "customary understanding" of cruel and degrading treatment, which is banned by the Geneva Conventions. The officials' appearance at UC'S GOLDMAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY reflected Pentagon efforts to win public support and correct what it sees as public misunderstanding of Bush administration treatment of prisoners in the war on terror....

The media's treatment of the issue has contained many errors and lacked necessary context, Filarowski-Sheaks told a UC Berkeley class Wednesday night.

"It has created a tremendous amount of misperception as to what really takes place," she said. For instance, she said, reports of the Pentagon using "water boarding" -- a technique that makes a prisoner feel as though he is drowning -- were false, as was the claim that guards flushed a Quran down a toilet at Guantanamo....

12. "College ROI a 3-to-1 proposition for California" (East Bay Business Times, December 2, 2005); cites study by HENRY BRADY;
<http://eastbay.bizjournals.com/eastbay/stories/2005/12/05/story5.html?t=printable>

By David Goll

For proponents of increased funding for California's system of public higher education, the reasons are as easy as 1, 2, 3.

For every \$1 of increased investment, the state will eventually realize a net return of \$3 in economic benefit. But for every \$1 decrease, the state's economy will lose \$2.

That's the bottom line from a draft report issued this week by UC-Berkeley researchers on behalf of the Campaign for College Opportunity, a nonprofit organization of business leaders, educators, union officials and others promoting greater funding of public colleges and universities to increase educational access to a broader cross section of Californians....

"Our state is at a crossroads," HENRY BRADY, A PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND PUBLIC POLICY AT UC-BERKELEY AND CO-AUTHOR OF THE REPORT, said during a conference call with statewide media. "If we continue to fund public higher education at the current levels over the next decade, we will end up with a very mediocre system."

BRADY's report cites a report by the Public Policy Institute of California. The study concluded that over the next two decades, the state's employers will increasingly require their employees to have educational training at the community college or university level.

BRADY and his co-authors contend the present situation doesn't bode well for the future. California has a per capita income that is only 6 percent above the national average, and the percentage of those who have earned a four-year college degree has slipped from a high of 25 percent above the national average to 10 percent today. Even worse, the percentage of those with high school diplomas today is 5 percent

below the national average....

Stepping up funding will have the immediate effect of increasing access to the state's two-year and four-year colleges and universities, BRADY said, leading to a better-educated work force and economic benefits for California....

13. "California: State is urged to spend more on higher education. Study suggests that in the long run, it would actually save taxpayers money" (San Francisco Chronicle, December 1, 2005); story citing study by HENRY BRADY; <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/c/a/2005/12/01/BAG23G12MS1.DTL&type=printable>

Carrie Sturrock, Chronicle Staff Writer

California's college-age population is growing, and if the state doesn't invest more money in higher education and financial aid, it's going to have greater numbers of people in jail, living in poverty and jobless, according to a study by UC BERKELEY researchers.

The study, commissioned by the bipartisan Campaign for College Opportunity, for the first time breaks down the financial cost of doing nothing in light of changing demographics -- as well as the financial benefits of taking action now.

As a general rule, the study found that for every new dollar the state spends on community colleges, public universities and student financial aid, it will receive \$3. Conversely, for every dollar California doesn't spend, it will have a net loss of two tax dollars....

By the time those students turn 35, the study contends, the state will have been repaid for its initial investment and simply be making money over the next 30 years.

That's because better-educated people are likely to pay more taxes and use fewer social services. They are also less likely to be jailed.

Welfare use among college graduates is a quarter of that of those who hold just a high school diploma, according to the report. A Californian with a high school education is nine times more likely to spend time in jail than someone with a college education.

"It's a better quality of life for everyone in California," said POLITICAL SCIENCE PROFESSOR HENRY BRADY, THE STUDY'S LEAD AUTHOR AND DIRECTOR OF UC BERKELEY'S SURVEY RESEARCH CENTER. "It's a way by which California can maintain its greatness and maintain itself as a golden state."...

"California is at a crossroads," said BRADY. "We're in danger of going from great to just good enough."

[Other stories on this topic appeared in the San Jose Mercury News, San Francisco Chronicle Online, Contra Costa Times, Sacramento Bee, Oakland Tribune, and dozens of other sources nationwide]

[The full report will be available online at: <http://srcweb.berkeley.edu>]

eDigest January 2006

14. "Study says state could get huge return on investment" (Inland Valley Daily Bulletin, December 2, 2005); story citing study by HENRY BRADY.

By Kenneth Todd Ruiz, Staff Writer

Graduating from college has done more than just bolster Aida Cuenza's personal earning potential.

Were it not for her financial independence, the Guam-born California transplant said her parents would be a drain on taxpayers.

"Having the income to help them is of significant value," said Cuenza, a high school outreach coordinator at Mt. San Antonio College. "Otherwise they would depend more on state services."

A new study published this week argues that California will have to spend money on higher education to make money, and halt its slide "from exceptional to ordinary."

Every dollar California puts toward graduating students from college, according to the Campaign for College Opportunity, will return to its coffers three-fold and go toward restoring the state's economic luster.

On the other hand, if the state does not prepare now for a "tidal wave" of new students and increase in enrollment, it will receive less tax revenue and pay out more for social services and incarceration, said HENRY BRADY, PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND PUBLIC POLICY AT UC BERKELEY.

"Right now, we have the Tidal wave II generation coming in, with roughly 426,000 18- to 24-year-olds hitting the system between 2005-2010," said BRADY, co-author of the report.

Tidal wave II is the population swell of baby boomer children coming of age...

BRADY said the state needs to spend about 20 percent more than the \$12 billion currently going toward the public community college, Cal State and UC systems...

BRADY said California's college crunch in 1960 prompted the adoption of its master plan, and bipartisan legislation to address the issue is needed now because the student tsunami is already hitting shore.

"We have a terrible access problem," he said. "A lot of students are going to community college and finding out a course is not being taught or is full."

15. "Contra Costa County, Calif., 15 unions near draw" (Contra Costa Times, October 20, 2005); story citing JOHN ELLWOOD; <http://www.contracostatimes.com/mld/cctimes/>

By Rebecca Rosen Lum

Far, far away in private industry, unions are giving up benefits as jobs disappear. In the public sector, unions still flex a relatively mighty muscle.

But Contra Costa County, now renegotiating contracts with its 15 employee unions, is also flexing. Its bargainers are calling for a two-year wage freeze. The county is also pitching higher co-pays for medical and retirement benefits.

Framing the talks are last year's revelation of a \$ 1.5 billion deficit -- the upshot of a generous pension benefit the county did not have the money to pay for -- and soaring health care costs.

Many predict an impasse. If that happens, the county can impose the terms of the existing agreement for a year without mediation.

eDigest January 2006

That means no raises. The 2005-06 budget provides for none.

"This is the tip of the iceberg, what's going to happen all over the country," said JOHN ELLWOOD, PROFESSOR AT THE GOLDMAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY. "We just saw the (United Auto Workers) essentially cave on health care costs."

Their jobs will never be sent overseas, but public employees must reckon with the exploding costs of medical care, which has risen 3 percent above inflation every year since 1946.

"Health care is eating up the money you would use for other things -- like wages," ELLWOOD said.

VIDEOS & WEBCASTS

To view a complete list of GSPP videos, visit our Events Archive at:
http://gspp.berkeley.edu/news-events/events_archive.htm

Recent webcasts on <http://webcast.berkeley.edu/events/index.php>

"A Conversation with Ambassador Joseph Wilson, IV"
<http://webcast.berkeley.edu/events/details.php?webcastid=14197>

"9th Annual Mario Savio Memorial Lecture & Young Activist Award: Seymour Hersh on the Chain of Command: The Road from 9/11 to Abu Ghraib"
<http://webcast.berkeley.edu/events/details.php?webcastid=14186>

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 .

Sincerely,

Annette Doornbos
Director of External Relations and Development

visit the Goldman School's website at:
<http://gspp.berkeley.edu/>

(This digest was edited by Theresa Wong)

f

Annette Doornbos
Director of External Relations and Development
Richard & Rhoda Goldman School of Public Policy
(510) 642-8005