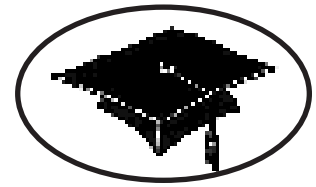


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# Berkeley Emeriti

# TIMES



June 2002

**Saturday, June 15, 2002**

## **Professor Emeritus Austin Ranney**

### **“Research and Rules: The Protection of Human Subjects”**

The talk at the next UCBEA luncheon meeting will be given by our outgoing president, Austin Ranney, Professor Emeritus of Political Science. He says that his talk will be based on his experiences during his time (1992-1996) as chair of UCB’s Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects. The talk will cover such topics as the origins of laws governing research using human subjects, the activities of the federally-mandated UCB committee, a review of its main rules, and the sometimes-uneasy relationship with researchers in fields ranging from anthropology to public health. Austin has earned degrees from Northwestern, the University of Oregon, and Yale, and honorary degrees from Northwestern, Yale, and the State University of New York at Cortland. Before coming to Berkeley in 1986 he taught political science at Illinois, Wisconsin, and Georgetown. From 1976 to 1986 he was a Resident Scholar at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, D.C. At Berkeley he served as chair of the Department of Political Science from 1987 to 1990.

He has published eight books and a number of articles and is now preparing a ninth edition of his introductory textbook *Governing*. He has served as managing editor of *The American Political Science Review* and president of the American Political Science Association. The activities of the Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects have affected the research of many retired and active Berkeley faculty, and an inside look at those activities should

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**Mailing Address**

UC Berkeley Emeriti Association

2 Boalt Hall, # 7200

Berkeley, CA 94720-7200

**Director, UCB Retirement Center**

Shelley Glazer

510-643-3212

sdg@uclink.berkeley.edu

**Administrative Specialist**

André S. Porter

asporter@uclink.berkeley.edu

Office UCB Retirement Center  
2 Boalt Hall, # 7200  
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**STEPS TOWARD PEACE ON EARTH**

German armies were poised to invade England to complete the conquest of Europe when Franklin Roosevelt initiated the "Lend-Lease" program to send Britain obsolete warships and other materials to support the defense of the island nation. The question arose- what should be asked of the British in return for the critical aid. Consideration was given to a proposal that the English government be requested to replace their complicated monetary system based on the number twelve with the simpler decimal system used by most of the world. The British did not make the change until some ten years after the end of World War II.

England and the United States still retain an antiquated system of measurement having its origins in ancient antiquity (inch derives from Assyrian, ynce). It is time to forsake such incongruous units of measurement as, foot, yard, fathom, rod, furlong, mile, and embrace the metric system (we use it for measurement in science and alcoholic beverages). In the metric system the basic unit is ten and measurements are expressed in logical, simple terms such as, centimeter, millimeter, and kilometer.

When the United States finally accepts the metric system that would be a first step toward a united world, a world at peace.

A second step has been taken by the majority of European nations. Among the exceptions are Britain and Switzerland which have an historical record of being insular. This step was the establishment of a common unit of currency, the Euro, promoting a sense of unity in the economy of the nations.

The monetary system of America has it antecedents in Germany, Spain, and ancient Rome — dollar derives from the German, *taller*, cent from the Latin, *centum*, and two-bits (twenty-five cents) had its origin in the practice of breaking Spanish pieces of eight into four pieces for use as coins in early America.

If the United States were to take the second step and adopt the Euro another artificial barrier toward global unity would be eliminated. That could happen here and now, and the prospects for world peace would be enhanced. The tragic events of September 11<sup>th</sup> have brought about a new awareness of the need to nurture the brotherhood of mankind. We must overcome

**REVIEW OF JACK CITRIN'S TALK**

At our luncheon meeting on March 30, 2002, Jack Citrin, Professor of Political Science at UCB, spoke on the topic "To Vote or Not to Vote: Myths and Realities about American Political Participation." He began by noting that American voting turnout is lower than in any other nation

*Continued p.3*

**Berkeley Emeriti**

**F I M E S**



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Published two weeks before each meeting of the UC Berkeley Emeriti Association: To provide closer networking for members with meeting announcements, meeting reviews, executive committee actions, pertinent campus news, and to reach out to members who cannot attend the meetings.

Editor: Claude Babcock

Phone: (510) 848-3368

**EDITOR'S NOTE**

If you have an article or even a short item that might interest our group, contact me at 510-848-3368. Material (preferably typed) also may be mailed to: UCBEA, 2 Boalt Hall #7200, Berkeley, CA 94720-7200, or sent by email to: [ucbrc@uclink.berkeley.edu](mailto:ucbrc@uclink.berkeley.edu). Don't overlook suggestions for our "Satisfactory Services" column.

**BOOK EXCHANGE**

Reminder: bring books you're finished to the luncheon to leave at the book-exchange post (usually a table in the hall), and take home one or more that you might want to read.

except Switzerland. On average, about half of Americans of voting age vote; in the 2000 presidential election the turnout was 51 percent, and it is predicted the 2002 midterm congressional election turnout will be less than 40 percent. He compared this with Canada (70 percent), Great Britain (76 percent), and France (80 percent). Professor Citrin next compared a number of widely-believed myths about American voting with the realities that political science research has revealed. **Myth One:** the policy and candidate preferences of nonvoters are very different from those of voters; if the turnout in every election were 100 percent the outcomes would be very different. Many liberals believe most nonvoters are poor people, and if they all voted the winners would be liberal policies and candidates. Most conservatives believe, with Barry Goldwater, that most nonvoters (the “silent majority”) are conservative, and if they all voted the winners would be conservative policies and candidates. **Reality:** survey research shows that the policies and candidates preferred by nonvoters are almost identical with those preferred by voters. If all Americans voted there would be little if any difference in the election outcomes.

Citrin then took up the question of what makes the turnout in the United States so low. **Myth Two:** many nonvoters believe that the American political system is hopelessly corrupt and unrepresentative; its parties do not offer real choices, and its politicians do not deliver on their campaign promises, so voting is meaningless and not worth the effort. **Reality:** survey research comparing the levels of political alienation, cynicism, and rejection of the political system among Americans with those in other democracies has consistently found Americans have significantly lower levels of alienation and higher levels of political trust and patriotism than the citizens of other democracies. Disgust with the political system is not the explanation for Americans’ low turnout; there is a more likely explanation.

**Myth Three:** it is more difficult and burdensome to vote in the United States than in other democracies. **Reality:** the myth is largely correct. In all other democracies, individual citizens need take no initiative to get registered; government agencies take care of it automatically, and at every election almost all eligible citizens are on the national voting register. In the United States, registration is controlled by the states, and in most, eligible citizens must ask the registering authorities to put them on the rolls. In other democracies the eligible citizens and registered voters are one and

## SATISFACTORY SERVICES

### MEMBER RECOMMENDATIONS



Phone numbers are area code 510 unless otherwise noted  
New Recommendations



**Lorraine Hauser** has used Bruce De Benedictis (763-4657) for Piano Tuning and Repair for over 20 years, and his work has always been very good.

**Phyllis Brooks Schafer** (704-9951) uses Kevin Combs (540-5139; kevcombs@yahoo.com), technical support specialist for computer software/hardware problems, Mac and PC. He provides house calls and has rescued files — and my sanity!

For previous listings call the Center or surf to <http://thecenter.berkeley.edu/ucbea-services.htm>

the same, but in the United States only 62 percent of the age-eligible citizens are registered voters.

In other democracies when registered voters move from one area to another, they remain on the national register; in the U.S. when they move from one state to another, they are dropped from the first state’s register and must apply for registration in the second state. Americans move more than the citizens of other nations (about thirty-two percent move during any five-year period), and many forget or do not bother to re-register. Registration has been made easier in recent years by measures like the Motor Voter Act, but the burdens of registration remain an important cause of low turnout.

However, Citrin concluded, perhaps the most important cause of nonvoting in America is “voter fatigue” caused by the large number of elections and the large number of decisions to be made at each election. In most democracies elections are held only every three or four years, and at each election the voter is asked to make no more than three or four choices in voting for candidates for the national legislature.

In America there are many elections for national, state, and local offices. Moreover, there are primary elections to choose the parties’ nominees followed by general elections. Add to this the many state, county, and municipal referendum elections on a variety of issues, and the result is that a voter is asked to make many decisions: in the California election of November 2002, each voter will be asked to make well over fifty decisions – more than a British, Canadian or French voter will make in ten years. He noted that Switzerland is the only other democracy with a frequency of elections and a number of decisions at each election approaching those in the United States, and Swiss turnout is even lower than

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## SUMMER COLLECTIONS & EXHIBITS

### Berkeley Art Museum/Pacific Film Archives

#### *Near and Far* - through July 14

In an exhibition of approximately sixty works from the museum collection, *Near and Far* explores a panorama of nineteenth century views from all reaches of the globe.

#### *XXL* - through July 14

Grand scale is a hallmark of the UC Berkeley Art Museum's distinctive spaces and many works of art in the collections. "XXL" features a dynamic array of large-scale paintings and sculpture dating from the 1950s to present.

#### *New Knowledge: The 32nd Annual UC Berkeley Master of Fine Arts Graduate Exhibition* - through July 28

Every spring for the past three decades, the BAM/PFA has collaborated with the Art Practice Department at Cal, dedicating one of the museum's galleries to a selection of new work by MFA graduates.

For more information: Call (510) 642-0808 or surf to [www.bampfa.berkeley.edu](http://www.bampfa.berkeley.edu)

### Phoebe Hearst Museum of Anthropology

#### *A Century of Collecting*

Drawing from 3.8 million objects collected over a century, the Museum features several hundred world-class, visually impressive objects that have not been exhibited in many years. At the same time, the display explains how anthropology museums go about their work of preserving and interpreting the world's diverse cultures.

*Please Note:* The exhibit "Ishi and the Invention of Yahi Culture" has closed and has been integrated into a new exhibit. The new exhibit, "Native Californian Cultures," features a permanent display of the Museum's California Indian Collections.

#### *Approaching a Century of Anthropology*

An introduction to the history and breadth of the collections of the museum, featuring California Indian, ancient Peruvian and Egyptian, African and Indian collections.

Call (510) 642-3682 for more information.