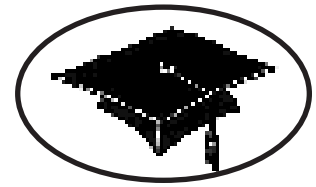

Berkeley Emeriti

TIMES



November 2002

Saturday, November 9, 2002

Professor Bruce Cain

“Looking Back at this November’s Elections”

Professor Bruce Cain is a popular commentator, often interviewed on radio and TV concerning the meaning of certain election results, implications for the future and shifting voter demographics. Bruce Cain joined the Department of Political Science and the Institute of Governmental Studies in July 1989, after teaching at the California Institute of Technology in the fields of California politics, political theory, and comparative government from 1976 to 1989. He was appointed IGS Associate Director and made Robson Professor of Political Science in 1995. In July 1999, he became Director of IGS. He received his Ph.D. from Harvard, was a Rhodes Scholar, and was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in April 2000.

UCBEA is fortunate to have him as our guest speaker Saturday, November 9, 2002.

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2002-2003

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REVIEW OF KEITH GILLESS' TALK

On Saturday, September 14, 2002, Professor Keith J. Gilless addressed the UCBEA luncheon on "Forest Fire Management: From Simulation Models to Better Protected Homes."

The California Department of Finance has concern for the large and unpredictable expense of fire protection and has supported Professor Gilless's research in gathering data on what drives these costs.

Following a fire a few years ago at Santa Barbara which destroyed over 100 homes, Gilless's group obtained data with clear indications. Houses with tile roofs had a survival rate of 70%, whereas houses with shake roofs had only a 20% survival rate. It was also found that clearing vegetation 40 feet from structures prevented their loss. Both of these observations are in accord with intuitive

expectations. However, where trees rather than chaparral are the fuel, the picture is much less clear. In studying the Oakland fire of 1991 the benefits of fire resistant roofs and clearing vegetation were not apparent. It was finally concluded that in forest vegetation the status of the tree canopy is the key factor. Where the canopy is closed, not open, the crown fire dominates all other factors. Only where trees are sparse is clearing them away from houses beneficial. In closed canopy fires, houses themselves become a major fuel source. I find these conclusions very sobering, particularly when I observe the intimate proximity of houses and eucalyptus forests in the East Bay and Marin county.

There is shared individual and public responsibility and the emphasis should be on preventive activities prior to fire incidents. However, in addition to complacency, special interests may trump community interests. After the big fire of 1923, the city of Berkeley banned shake roofs, but the forest industry had the ban rescinded within six months.

The Bush administration's proposals for revising forest management practices, ostensibly to reduce fire hazard, expose deep divisions of opinion between the timber industry and environmental groups. The latter fear that the proposals are only a pretext for increased logging. Professor Gilless advises taking a skeptical attitude toward expressions of certainty in any case, because data are lacking to make a definitive judgment.

Berkeley Emeriti

F I M E S



Volume 12, Number 1

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. 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.

MEDICAL PLAN CHANGES

Because there will be several major changes in the medical plans offered to UC annuitants and their families next year, the Health Care Facilitator Program and UCB Retirement Center are co-sponsoring **Open Enrollment Information Sessions** to help explain the 2003 medical plans. The sessions are Thursday, November 7 and Friday, November 15 from 9 to 11 am. To register call the Center.

If you cannot attend the information sessions you can attend the **Annuitant Open Enrollment Faire**, Wednesday, November 20 Regatta Room, Waterfront Plaza Hotel, Jack London Square, from 8 to 11 am. *All*

A NEW EVENT

At our September luncheon, UCBEA Board plans to hold a special event was announced for Wednesday October 9, 2002 at 4:00 p.m. at the Faculty Club, followed by an optional "Early Bird" dinner in the Kerr Dining Room. Costs would be kept to a minimum. Due to the high cost of an extra mailing, the Board regretfully must withdraw this invitation. Please watch the Newsletter for future special events planned for February 21 and April 11, 2003 from 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

Louise Taylor

GUEST LECTURERS WANTED

Arrowsmith Academy, a small independent high school next to the UC Berkeley campus, is seeking guest lecturers.

Virtually any topic is welcome; However the teacher is mostly interested in putting his students in contact with scholars of another generation. Topics of particular interest are:

Liberal Arts Seminar:

Dionysus, The Socratic Method, Euclid's Elements, Islamic Mathematics, The History of American Education, Language Peirce's Theory of Signs, Thermodynamics, The Ramayana, General Systems Theory, Walt Whitman's "Song of Myself"

Sophomore Biology:

Ichthyology, Botany, Genetic Engineering, Twin Studies, Paleontology, California Ecology, Entomology, The Ohlone Indians.

Anyone interested might email Matthew Rahaim at

SATISFACTORY SERVICES

MEMBER RECOMMENDATIONS

Phone numbers are area code 510 unless otherwise noted



Current Listings

Please submit any new listings you might have to ucbrc@uclink.berkeley.edu, or you can phone the editor at 510/848-3368.

Bruce De Benedictis (763-4657) for piano tuning and repair for over 20 years, and his work has always been very good (Lorraine Hauser).

Kevin Combs (540-5139; kevcombs@yahoo.com) technical support specialist for computer software/hardware problems, Mac and PC (Phyllis Brooks Schafer).

Anne Vigneri (444-5665; annevigneri@webtv.net). Excellent painter of house interiors and one who will take on relatively small jobs. She provides a written estimate, shows up promptly, gets work done in the estimated time, and leaves rooms as neat or neater than she found them (Sheldon Messinger).

Tim Warner, Clerestory (415-740-6452 or 510-525-1762) web site design, maintenance and custom illustration (Jane Bendix).

Johnny Murberg (532-9800) is recommended as a superior (Norwegian) gardener and garden designer-at "Dreamscapes"; he is hard-working, reliable, and imaginative (Leonard Johnson).

Sullivan Counter Tops (652-2337) is recommended without hesitation for a high quality, no fuss, and on-time completion (Valerie and Dick Herr).

Draperies by Susan (652-7027) various window treatments; (Mappie Seabury).

David Love (415-661-3666), piano tuning, rebuilding, repairs, etc. (Mappie Seabury).

Accurate Appliance (925-676-5060) appliance repair; (Alan Foss).

CJS Systems (849-3730) Mac repair; (Alan Foss).

Herta Weinstein (845-8724) yoga classes; highly recommended; (Juanita Neiland).

Christopher at Handiworks (391-4705) Provides general (Joe Garbarino).

Naomi Friedman (525-1031) an excellent lady plumber (David and Gilda Feller).

Note: Between newsletters you can view updates to this list at the following web site:

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FALL NOON CONCERTS



Hertz Hall is the venue for these concerts held from Noon-1pm. Concerts are free and open to the public.