Section News

Comparative Politics

As of the Winter 2002–03 issue, the Comparative Politics Organized Section Newsletter, *APSA-CP*, will be produced by an editorial team at the University of Notre Dame, composed of Michael Coppedge, Scott Mainwaring, and Anthony Messina. After the Summer 2002 issue of APSA-CP, all submissions should be sent to the new editorial staff at coppedge.1@nd.edu. Submissions that arrive by October 2002 will be considered for the Winter 2003 issue.

The section would like to express its appreciation to the editorial teams from the department of political science at UCLA who have provided exemplary editorial service for the past eight years.

State Politics and Policy

State Politics and Policy Quarterly and the State Politics and Policy organized section are proud to announce the establishment of a new annual award: the *SPPQ* Best Paper Award. Nominations are sought for this award for papers presented in 2001 (for the first award to be presented in August 2002) and in 2002 (for the award to be presented in August 2003).

The annual *SPPQ* Best Paper Award will be presented by *State Politics and Policy Quarterly* and the State Politics and Policy organized section to the best paper on the U.S. states presented at any political science conference during a calendar year.

Any paper presented at a professional conference during the calendar year which explores issues of U.S. state politics and policy and/or uses data drawn largely from the U.S. states is eligible for nomination.

Nominations should be made to the editor of *State Politics and Policy Quarterly*. Nominations must include a copy of the original paper (in electronic form, if possible), as presented at the conference and sent to:

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Washington Insider

Bipartisan Effort to Nullify Bush's Executive Order

On April 11, 2002, the leadership of the House Committee on Government Reform—including Stephen Horn (R-CA), Dan Burton (R-IN), Henry Waxman (D-CA), and Janice D. Schakowsky (D-IL)—introduced legislation seeking to nullify President Bush's Executive Order 13233 ("Further Implementation of the Presidential Records Act"). The bill, "The Presidential Records Act Amendments of 2002" <www.fas.org/sgp/congress/2002/hr4187.html>, states that E.O. 13233 "shall have no force or effect."

Rep. Horn chaired a hearing titled "The Importance of Access to Presidential Records: The Views of Historians," and introduced testimony from a number of presidential historians, for all of whom access to presidential records has been vital. Kutler stated that E.O. 13233 "has everything to do with protecting our exclusive club of ex- and future ex-presidents"; Rep. Horn concurred that E.O. 13233 "violates the letter and spirit of the Presidential Records Act." The testimony of the historians is located at <www.fas.org/sgp/congress/2002/index.html#pra>.

Bush Considers Restricting Foreign Students' Access

The Chronicle of Higher Education reports that a White House Office of Science and Technology Policy committee is considering barring some international students from studying certain fields, particularly those fields that have a "direct application to the development and use of weapons of mass destruction." Although the White House committee comprises officials from several cabinet-level departments, it contains no representatives from colleges or universities.

President Bush created the committee on October 29, 2001, with the express purpose of "implement[ing] measures to end the abuse of student visas and prohibit[ing]... international students from receiving education and training in sensitive areas...." George Leventhal, a policy analyst with the Association of American Universities, proposes that instead of restricting foreign students' access to certain fields, the Bush Administration should ensure that "persons who pose a real security threat to the United States [are not] granted a student visa."

National Humanities Alliance Testifies, Hosts Jefferson Day

On April 5, 2002, the National Humanities Alliance submitted testimony to the House and Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittees. The NHA requests that the National Endowment for the Humanities receive an FY03 appropriation of $155 million; President Bush has requested only level funding of $126.9 million. NHA states that, due to budget cuts and inflation, NEH has demonstrated a reduction in the number, diversity, and buying power of its awards; NHA estimates that NEH currently operates at 55% of its capacity of 10 years ago. NHA also emphasizes the humanities' potential role in homeland defense, citing the NEH *Budget Request*'s assertion that "Americans need to understand the ideals, ideas, and institutions that undergird our nation if we are to defend it."

In other NHA news, from March 21–22, NHA hosted Jefferson Day 2002. This humanities advocacy event, for the third year in a row, brought representatives from academic institutions and scholarly societies to Washington, DC, to visit more than 120 congressional offices representing 26 states. Jefferson Day was sponsored by 28 national organizations, including APSA. Jefferson Day advocacy materials may be found at <www.nhalliance.org/new/2002/>.

Marburger Boosts Social Sciences

In his address to the American Association for the Advancement of Science Colloquium on Science and Technology Policy, John Marburger, director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), criticized America's neglect of the social sciences in addressing societal problems. "We have failed in the past to develop and use the social sciences more effectively as a tool for public policy or for solving societal issues," Marburger said. OSTP hosts a transcript of Marburger's remarks at <www.ostp.gov/html/02_4_15.html>.

Sources for this column include the National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History's NCC Washington Update, the Chronicle for Higher Education, *Shirley Hale, and the National Humanities Alliance.*

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