



Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies
E-Newsletter – October 14, 2003

Announcements

Faculty News

Price Delivers Paper at National Conference and is Appointed to Board

Dr. Clement Price, Professor of History and Director of the Institute on Ethnicity, Culture, and the Modern Experience, will travel to the University of Illinois on November 10, 2003 to participate in the “Imagining America: Artists and Scholars in Public Life” Conference. The conference is a national consortium of scholars, artists, and institutions dedicated to putting cultural work in the public interest at the heart of American higher education and local community life. Dr. Price’s paper is titled, “Liberating Research”.

Dr. Price was also appointed to the Board of Directors of the Urban Libraries Council (ULC). ULC is an association that brings together public libraries and the corporations that serve them in metropolitan areas. The organization strives to support collaborative leadership among the trustees, library directors, and corporate officers of member institutions.

Snyder Participates in Several Upcoming Seminars

Dr. Robert Snyder, Associate Professor of Journalism, will participate in a special seminar on the history of New York City since 1945. The seminar will be held at the Gotham Center for New York City History, located in the Graduate Center at the City University of New York. Dr. Snyder will also chair a session on responses to 9/11 in news media, cultural institutions, and journalism at the annual meeting of the American Studies Association in October. At the end of the month he will present, "The Journalism of Witness and the Journalism of Spectacle: From 9/11 to the Iraq War in the U.S. News Media," at a seminar sponsored by the Public History Program at New York University.

Piotrowski Takes Part in ASAP’s Annual Conference

Dr. Suzanne J. Piotrowski was an invited speaker at the American Society of Access Professionals (ASAP) Annual Conference in Washington, DC on September 17th. Dr. Piotrowski presented research titled "Governmental Transparency and the National Performance Review: Implementing the Freedom of Information Act." This project was based in part on a survey conducted among ASAP members.

Miller Travels to Washington, D.C. to Participate in ABFM’s Annual Conference

In September, **Dr. Gerald Miller**, Professor of Public Administration, participated in the Association for Budgeting and Financial Management’s annual conference, held in Washington, D.C. Miller delivered two papers: “State Debt Affordability Studies: The Results They Produce” with W. Bartley Hildreth and “Finance Managers’ Propensity to

Save” with W. Bartley Hildreth, Sam Yeager, and Jack Rabin. Dr. Miller also moderated a plenary session on “State Revenue Estimation Models, Practices, and Legitimacy Threats of Large Errors.”

Tractenberg to Deliver Two Seminars in November

While on sabbatical at the University of London’s Institute of Education, **Professor Paul Tractenberg** will present, “Education Reform US Style: The Court Made Me Do It” to faculty and graduate students at the School of Education Foundations and Policy Studies and the School of Curriculum, Pedagogy, and Assessment. The seminar will focus on the unique roles US courts play in triggering and supervising systemic reform of public education.

On November 28th, Tractenberg will return to the US to take part in a daylong seminar on school choice issues. The seminar entitled “Private Sector Participation in the Public Sector Education” is the first in a series of seminars that will inaugurate a three-year project. The next two seminars will deal with "Forms of Privatization / Private Participation" and "The Education Services Industry: An Overview." The project is designed to develop and expand the network of researchers and practitioners involved in private sector participation, and assist in creating a "broad and coherent research agenda."

Faculty Publications

Miller Authors Two Recent Publications

Dr. Gerald Miller recently published the following two articles:

- “How financial managers deal with ethical stress.” Public Administration Review, in press, 2003. With Samuel J. Yeager, W. Bartley Hildreth, and Jack Rabin.
- “Debt and the local economy.” Public Budgeting and Finance 22 (4): 99-113, 2002. With W. Bartley Hildreth.

Price’s Recent Publications

Dr. Clement Price recently authored the following publications:

- “Race, Blackness, and Modernism During the Harlem Renaissance,” in Aberjhani and Sandra L. West, eds., Encyclopedia of the Harlem Renaissance (New York: Checkmark Books, 2003).
- “Home and Hearth: The Black Town and Settlement Movement of Southern New Jersey,” in Wendel A. White, Small Towns, Black Lives: African American Communities in Southern New Jersey (Oceanville, NJ: The Noyes Museum of Art, 2003).

Sadovnik Publishes Article on Coeducation

Dr. Alan Sadovnik, Professor of Education, teamed up with Dr. Susan Semel at Hofstra University to write “Coeducation at Wheaton College: From Conscious Coeducation to Distinctive Coeducation?” forthcoming in The Coed Challenge: The Fate of Women’s Colleges, edited by L.M. Bernal and S. Poulson, Nashville: Vanderbilt University Press.

Upcoming Events

Philosophy Conference Looks at Rethinking Intellectual Life

The Rutgers-Newark Department of Philosophy, supported by a grant from the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, will host the 10th Annual “Philosophy Born of Struggle Conference” October 24th and 25th. This year's theme is “Rethinking Intellectual Life.” It is free and open to the public. Dr. Cornel West, University Professor of Religion, at Princeton University, will deliver the keynote address. Dr. West is an internationally known philosopher and the author of 14 books including the highly acclaimed Race Matters. For additional information on the conference, please visit www.pbos.com.

Institute on Ethnicity, Culture and the Modern Experience to Host Seminar on Nutrition and Health Concerns of Urban Youth

In an on-going series that began in 1998, the Institute on Ethnicity, Culture, and the Modern Experience, supported by a grant from the Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey, will host “City Children and Their Cultures: Nutrition and Urban Youth”. The program will focus on nutritional and health concerns related to the diets of urban youth. The seminar will be held on Wednesday, November 12, 2003 at the Covenant House (330 Washington Street, Newark, NJ) from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm. Although the event is free and open to the public, they ask for a donation of new toiletry items for Covenant House residents. To reserve space call 973-353-1871 ext. 11 or visit their website at <http://ethnicity.rutgers.edu/>.

Police Institute Convenes Conference on Understanding and Preventing Auto Theft

The Rutgers-Newark Police Institute, in cooperation with the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety, will host a conference on understanding and preventing auto theft. Presentations will be geared toward professionals in law enforcement, policy makers, and people who deal with auto theft. The conference will be held in the Robeson Campus Center from October 16th through October 18th. For additional information please visit their website at: www.policeinstitute.org/atc.htm.

School of Criminal Justice Dedicates Library

The School of Criminal Justice will hold a dedication ceremony for the Don M. Gottfredson Library of Criminal Justice on Wednesday, October 15, 2003. The celebration will begin with a symposium on “Criminal Justice Policy and Research: Bridging the Gap” in honor of Dean Gottfredson, who served as Dean of the School of Criminal Justice from 1973 to 1986. The symposium begins at 2:00 pm and the dedication is at 5:00 pm. For additional information please call Lawanda Thomas at 973-353-3311.

English Department Sponsors Lecture and Book Signing

The Rutgers-Newark Department of English will sponsor a lecture by author Sherry B. Ortner, Chair of the Department of Anthropology at Columbia University. Ortner's new book, New Jersey Dreaming: Capital, Culture and the Class of '58, presents an in-depth look at Weequahic High School's graduating class of 1958. Ortner, herself a class member, tracked down many of her fellow alumnae and conducted extensive interviews.

She shows how social class affected their lives in many hidden and unexamined ways. The lecture will be held on Monday, October 27th from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm in the Robeson Galley of the Robeson Campus Center. For additional information, please contact the English Department at 973-353-5279 ext. 503.

New Jersey Historical Society Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

In October, the New Jersey Historical Society celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month with the opening of a new exhibition, "Que Bonita Bandera!: The Puerto Rican Flag as Folk Art." The exhibit opened on October 8, 2003 and explores ways the Puerto Rican flag is used as a form of cultural expression. The display is open to the public through Spring 2004. The Historical Society will also offer, "What is Folk Art?" a family program that explores the exhibit. Participants will learn about traditional folk art and create their own items to take home. The program will be held on Saturday, October 18th from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm and 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm. For additional information contact Consuelo Jackson at 973-596-8500 ext. 243.

News

Local News

School district rallies parents; schools celebrate new programs. The Newark Public School district sponsored its first ever parent unity rally to kick off the 2003-4 school year. The event was the first in the school district's campaign, "Parents Make a World of Difference".

Children at Vailsburg Middle School will participate in a health-oriented reading program over the next several months. The program is aimed at reducing negative health indicators that are repeatedly documented among Newark children. Students at Newark's TEAM Academy started the year off celebrating an impressive first year of accomplishments at the school. The TEAM concept is shared among 32 schools in 13 states and has been featured on 60 Minutes, a news magazine.

Related articles: "Parents rally for schools in Newark," Star Ledger, Sunday, September 21, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?base/news-4/1064123564277820.xml>

"Reading project will focus on health: Serious subjects await Newark students," Star Ledger, Tuesday, September 23, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/essex/index.ssf?base/news-3/1064293870255960.xml>

"One very impressive school!: Newark's TEAM Academy chalks up a year of success," Star Ledger, Sunday, September 28, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/printer/printer.ssf?base/news-4/106472470862590.xml>

Proposals to meet anticipated spending gap face opposition. The Newark City Council has reversed its support for the mayors plan to designate a nonprofit to run the city's watershed and water and sewer utilities. The watershed plan was one of three ways Mayor Sharpe James proposed to close an anticipated spending gap. The other options

were to increase revenue by raising property taxes and installing new parking meters. Property tax increases are also likely to face opposition. The mayor warned that the city faces future deficits caused by loss of revenue and increasing demand for fire and police department spending.

Related articles: “James' plan to operate water utility loses steam,” Star Ledger, Thursday, September 18, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/essex/index.ssf?/base/news-3/1063866616166790.xml>

“Mayor foresees budget shortfalls for Newark: James cites loss of 1-time revenue and increase in police-fire outlays,” Star Ledger, Wednesday, October 01, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/essex/index.ssf?/base/news-3/1064987131179650.xml>

“Council rescinds James' water plan: Newark business administrator warns of 'serious layoffs' as effort to privatize services fails,” Star Ledger, Thursday, October 02, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/essex/index.ssf?/base/news-3/1065073822290910.xml>

Mayor and council at odds over city spending: citizen's group initiates recall effort. For several months Newark administrators and city council members have clashed over control of spending power. The dispute prompted the council to sue the mayor—a battle that remains in the courts. The mayor's office recently suggested abolishing the council and engaging citizens and the college community to review city proposals. Council members accused the city of bringing them together in a fiscal meeting that violated laws to protect public participation rights. Some members said they believed the meeting was intended to bring the two sides together to discuss their working relationship.

A dispute over funding that contributed to the cancellation of the Newark Festival of People in September is one such budget battle. Festival organizers claim that the city reneged on the amount of promised financial support.

A citizen's group held a press conference in early October urging recall of the city's 5-term mayor. The group charged that the mayor has failed to work with the city's elected leadership and questioned whether his actions and policies were in the city's best interest. In Newark a recall election requires the assent of 25% of register voters—about 29,000 signatures. In an effort to enhance the public's understanding of issues and opinions advocacy groups have also asked the council to broadcast the public comment portion of council meetings.

Related articles: “Council urged to broadcast public comments,” Star Ledger, Sunday, September 21, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/essex/index.ssf?/base/news-3/1064123707277820.xml>

“Council and mayor still feuding over bills: Control of purse strings at issue in Newark,” Star Ledger, Wednesday, September 24, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/essex/index.ssf?/base/news-3/106438035529090.xml>

“Newark councilman says meeting violated 'Sunshine Law',” Star Ledger, Sunday, October 05, 2003.
<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/essex/index.ssf?/base/news-4/1065331218209330.xml>

“Newark mayor is target of recall effort,” Bergen Record, Tuesday, October 7, 2003.
<http://www.northjersey.com/page.php?qstr=eXJpcnk3ZjczN2Y3dnFIZUVFeXk3JmZnYmVsN2Y3dnFIZUVFeXk2NDM1MTAzJnlyaXJ5N2Y3MTdmN3ZxZWVFRXl5Mg==>

“Group seeks to recall James: Difficult task would require 25 percent of Newark's registered voters,” Star Ledger, Wednesday, October 08, 2003.
<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/essex/index.ssf?/base/news-4/1065621147154510.xml>

Cost saving transfers debated between city and county. While the City continues to press county officials to absorb Newark’s welfare caseload, the county is seeking to transfer control of local vocational and technical schools to the Newark Public School (NPS) district.

County Executive Joseph DiVincenzo opposes the welfare move. He contends that the added caseload would overwhelm the county welfare office and compromise the quality of services provided to clients. Newark’s business manager, Richard Monteilh, says the move makes sense and will save the city \$3 million. Although the state urges consolidation of welfare services into county agencies to streamline costs and procedures, it is not mandated that they do so. The county presently handles less than 2,000 welfare cases. Newark’s caseload is more than twice that.

DiVincenzo does favor transferring the county’s four vocational schools so they will be eligible for more state aid. At present the state provides \$2,538 for each vocational student—about \$4,000 less than Newark public school students. The move, called “highly unusual” would save the county money. NPS Superintendent Marion Bolden welcomes the move once issues with teacher’s unions and other concerns are worked out.

Related articles: “Newark presses welfare changes: City wants to move 4,100 cases to county,” Star Ledger, Sunday, September 28, 2003.
<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/essex/index.ssf?/base/news-3/106472484462590.xml>

“County seeks to transfer vo-tech control to Newark: Aid would more than double for 2 schools,” Star Ledger, Wednesday, October 08, 2003.
<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/essex/index.ssf?/base/news-4/1065621032154510.xml>

New developments. A controversial proposal to build condominiums in downtown Newark is back on the table, this time with city support. The project, sited in Newark’s East Ward, was thrown out in July after receiving public opposition. Developers say their intentions were misunderstood the first time out and have launched a public campaign to explain the project this time.

Other communities are showing signs of rebounding due to an influx of market rate developments. These new homes are changing the face of areas plagued by crime and drugs. City officials support new development in the hopes of transforming once-blighted communities. However, others warn that in a city is already dense with houses, it is important to consider the effects of development on small lots.

The city recently opened the new Route 21 viaduct, a conduit to the downtown from busy Routes 1&9, 78, and 22 and the NJ Turnpike. The work began in 1998. In November, the city will return a section of Irving Turner Boulevard to two-way traffic. The effort is intended to reduce drug trade in the once quiet neighborhood. Irving Turner Boulevard was converted into a major artery connecting the city to Route 78 in 1988. Since that time the quality of life in the area has eroded due to high traffic volume that allows out-of-towners to swoop into the area, purchase drugs, and return to the highway with relative ease. By slowing and moderating the flow of traffic, officials hope to help curb this activity in the once quiet neighborhood. A few miles away, residents of Fairmount Avenue were reluctant to see the removal of police barricades used to curb drugs and other illegal activity in the wake of gun violence there. Police say that the barricades were removed because the area had stabilized. Citizens, along with Councilman Charles Bell rallied in the area hoping to encourage young people to avoid violent behavior.

Related articles: “Builders renew push for project in Newark: Residents oppose condemnation of 13-acre downtown site for condos,” Star Ledger, Sunday, September 14, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/essex/index.ssf?/base/news-3/106351525473450.xml>

“New ramp hooks up downtown Newark,” Star Ledger, Tuesday, September 16, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/essex/index.ssf?/base/news-3/1063691442111620.xml>

“New lane for a Newark street: Irvine Turner Blvd. to return to two-way traffic in effort to curb drug trade,” Star Ledger, Sunday, September 21, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/essex/index.ssf?/base/news-3/1064123702277820.xml>

“Houses too close for his comfort: In Newark, only inches separate some homes,” Star Ledger, Sunday, September 28, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/essex/index.ssf?/base/news-3/106472483262590.xml>

“Barricades help police stabilize Newark street,” Star Ledger, Wednesday, October 01, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/essex/index.ssf?/base/news-3/1064987181179650.xml>

Among the blight, urban pioneers are finding a home: Communities springing up in places once considered dead zones in Newark,” Star Ledger, Sunday, October 12, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/index.ssf?/base/news-11/10659361629320.xml>

Other local and economic development news:

“Essex will get federal aid to offset blackout expenditures,” Star Ledger, Thursday, September 25, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/essex/index.ssf?/base/news-3/106446910195930.xml>

“Two transit plans get injection of \$127M,” Bergen Record, Wednesday, October 1, 2003.

<http://www.northjersey.com/page.php?qstr=eXJpcnk3ZjczN2Y3dnFIZUVFeXk1MjYmZmdiZWw3Zjd2cWVIRUV5eTY0MzI4MjYmeXJpcnk3ZjcxN2Y3dnFIZUVFeXkz>

“Newark's role in bioterror fight expands: U.S. agency awards \$21 million for high-security lab in University Heights Science Park,” Star Ledger, Wednesday, October 01, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/index.ssf?/base/news-11/1064987040179650.xml>

“Bright future no flight of fancy as Newark Airport turns 75,” Bergen Record, Thursday, October 2, 2003.

<http://www.northjersey.com/page.php?qstr=eXJpcnk3ZjczN2Y3dnFIZUVFeXk1MjYmZmdiZWw3Zjd2cWVIRUV5eTY0MzMyNjQmeXJpcnk3ZjcxN2Y3dnFIZUVFeXkz>

“Essex and nonprofits mine Green Acres,” Star Ledger, Thursday, October 02, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/essex/index.ssf?/base/news-3/1065073847290910.xml>

“Newark's hopes ride on new link for city subway,” Bergen Record, Wednesday, October 8, 2003.

<http://www.northjersey.com/page.php?qstr=eXJpcnk3ZjczN2Y3dnFIZUVFeXk3JmZnYmVsN2Y3dnFIZUVFeXk2NDM1NjgyJnlyaXJ5N2Y3MTdmN3ZxZWVFRXI5Mg==>

“3 make \$200M bids to buy the Nets,” Bergen Record, Thursday, October 9, 2003.

<http://www.northjersey.com/print.php?qstr=ZmdiZWw3Zjd2cWVIRUV5eTY0MzY5NzcmEXJpcnk3ZjcxN2Y3dnFIZUVFeXky>

“Newark to open \$5 million firehouse: Troubled project is done after 14 years,” Star Ledger,

Sunday, October 12, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/essex/index.ssf?/base/news-4/10659366679320.xml>

“Chambers now envisions a hockey-only arena for Newark,” Star Ledger, Thursday, September 18, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-4/1063866632166790.xml>

“Arena deal increases chance Nets will stay put: Jersey bloc would fund fixes, get profit,” Star Ledger, Wednesday, October 08, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/printer/printer.ssf?/base/news-11/1065621219154510.xml>

State News

New Jersey economic conditions produce good news, bad news. In New Jersey the rate of housing foreclosures fell during the first half of 2003 and the number of filings declined for the first time since 2001. But the number of homeowners with mortgage delinquencies of 30 days or more rose slightly and the number of bankruptcies also increased leaving economists to ponder the meaning of the mixed indicators. The unemployment rate, currently at 6.1%, is the major contributing factor.

Safe, decent housing affordable to renters remains out of reach for many of the state's working poor. An annual report released by the National Low Income Housing Coalition ranks New Jersey the third most expensive state for renters. The fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit in the state is \$1,026. At minimum wage (\$5.15 per hour) a renter would need to work 153 hours per week to afford that unit. Proposed changes to the state's affordable housing policies are drawing criticism from housing advocates who contend that the new changes would reduce the number of available units. Waiting lists for housing subsidy programs like Section 8 continue to grow. The state recently dedicated more than \$24 million in state housing aid and earned more than \$95 million in federal tax credits. The funds will be used to support 18 low-income rental housing developments statewide, including projects in Newark and Elizabeth.

The poor economic conditions has caused the state's welfare roles to swell and slowed the ability to depart from the welfare system. Reliance on food stamps, and other state aid has also increased. Food pantries in Northern New Jersey reported running out of food to distribute due to increased demand. The number of welfare recipients went up each month in the last quarter for the first time since 1997, the year the state adopted tight welfare reforms. A recent report on the reform process indicates that the state may need to relax that policy. Although more families are working many make salaries too low to survive without support. Declining job markets, loss of service sector jobs (such as labor reductions at Newark Airport), and job readiness may impede workers from finding employment.

Related articles: Jersey rents climb out of reach of many workers: Thousands of families struggle to afford housing, report says," Star Ledger, Friday, September 12, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-4/1063344996315920.xml>

"Economy sends mixed message: Foreclosures decline but bankruptcies rise," Star Ledger, Saturday, September 13, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/business/ledger/index.ssf?/base/business-5/1063648200200183.xml>

"18 housing projects earn cash, tax credits: Aid supports construction for low-income renters," Star Ledger, Thursday, September 25, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/essex/index.ssf?/base/news-3/106446909595930.xml>

"Welfare recipients are on the increase: State will shift focus from jobs to a career," Star Ledger, Tuesday, September 30, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-4/1064901316162440.xml>

“Sour economy slows exodus from welfare,” Bergen Record, Tuesday, September 30, 2003.

<http://www.northjersey.com/page.php?qstr=eXJpcnk3ZjczN2Y3dnFIZUVFeXk3JmZnYmVsN2Y3dnFIZUVFeXk2NDMyNDI1JnlyaXJ5N2Y3MTdmN3ZxZWVFRXI5Mg==>

“Chief of affordable-housing panel resigns: Blamed on friction with boss, move comes when council is taking flak over new rules,” Star Ledger, Thursday, October 02, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/statehouse/ledger/index.ssf?/base/news-1/106507501115490.xml>

“Pantries in North Jersey have less food to distribute,” Bergen Record, Sunday, October 5, 2003.

<http://www.northjersey.com/print.php?qstr=ZmdiZWw3Zjd2cWVIRUV5eTY0MzQ0NjYmeXJpcnk3ZjcxN2Y3dnFIZUVFeXky>

Jersey schools found lacking by new federal standard. Under provisions of the Bush administration’s No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act, 245 New Jersey high schools and 376 elementary schools—including many of the state’s “Blue Ribbon” and “Star Schools”—have received “needing improvement” notices. Schools in urban districts fared worse than their suburban counterparts, receiving many more warnings overall.

The NCLB policy sets minimum achievement requirements, including 100 percent achievement in reading and math by 2014, and uses more than 40 indicators. School administrators in districts unaccustomed to the attention expressed frustration with the strict policies that would impose sanctions for deficiencies in just one area. In urban districts officials worried that the announcement failed to give attention to gains made in recent years. In a letter to Education Secretary Rod Paige, Governor McGreevey criticized the NCLB for the rigidity of the standards. McGreevey also warned that the policy puts special education programs in jeopardy and that it fails to match promises of aid. McGreevey recommended an overhaul of the federal policy. Federal education officials contend that the purpose of the law is to alleviate reliance on averages—penalties will be assessed for even one child failing to meet standards. The new policy calls for more assessments and stricter graduation standards. However, the state recently announced that a record number of students earned their diplomas using an easier alternative testing program.

The early warnings were issued in mid-September, just as the new school year got underway and schools began to adjust to shortfalls in proposed budgets. Although New Jersey received an increase in federal funding this year for implementing its “No Child” program many school districts received no additional funding to implement special education programs needed to meet the demands of the federal program or the state’s own Abbott education guidelines. NJ Department of Education officials maintain that federal funds were far from adequate to meet rising special education costs.

In May, New Jersey officials won court approval to scale back funding to its poorest districts due to budget shortfalls. However in a series of decisions by administrative law

judges, the state is criticized for its failure to provide districts with \$80 million in new school aid. The judges differentiated between waste—like salaries and expenditures for non-essential services—and the need to supplement education in the poorer districts.

Related articles: “McGreevey cites threats to special ed,” Bergen Record, Wednesday, September 10, 2003.

<http://www.northjersey.com/page.php?qstr=ZmdiZWw3Zjd2cWV1RUV5eTY0MjQxMDcmeXJpcnk3ZjcxN>

“High schools not making the grade,” Bergen Record, Thursday, September 18, 2003.

<http://www.northjersey.com/page.php?qstr=eXJpcnk3ZjczN2Y3dnFIZUVFeXk3JmZnYmVsN2Y3dnFIZUVFeXk2NDI3NzI0InlyaXJ5N2Y3MTdmN3ZxZWVFRXl5Mg>

“Star schools' warned they're in danger of failing,” Star Ledger, Thursday, September 18, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-4/1063866714166790.xml>

“Record number used easier test to finish high school,” Star Ledger, Friday, September 19, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-4/1063949519264160.xml>

“Many Jersey schools in danger of failing: More than half of state's public institutions are in jeopardy of violating new federal law,” Star Ledger, Thursday, October 02, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-0/1065074162290910.xml>

“State's list of 'failing' schools gets longer,” Bergen Record, Thursday, October 2, 2003.

<http://www.northjersey.com/page.php?qstr=eXJpcnk3ZjczN2Y3dnFIZUVFeXk3JmZnYmVsN2Y3dnFIZUVFeXk2NDMzMzE5InlyaXJ5N2Y3MTdmN3ZxZWVFRXl5Mg==>

“N.J. issues high school warnings: Special education scores spell trouble for majority,” Star Ledger, Saturday, October 04, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-4/106524662866180.xml>

“Courts seek \$80M in new school aid: Judges mostly criticize attempt to reduce spending in the state's poorest districts,” Star Ledger, Monday, October 06, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-4/1065415819320590.xml>

“Urban schools take the brunt of state warning: Reaction is mixed over alarm,” Star Ledger, Wednesday, October 08, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/index.ssf?/base/news-11/1065621222154510.xml>

“245 schools failing to meet new U.S. standards,” Bergen Record, Wednesday, October 8, 2003.

<http://www.northjersey.com/page.php?qstr=eXJpcnk3ZjczN2Y3dnFIZUVFeXk3JmZnYmVsN2Y3dnFIZUVFeXk2NDM2ODEzInlyaXJ5N2Y3MTdmN3ZxZWVFRXl5Mg==>

“Governor urges education law 'overhaul,’” Star Ledger, Saturday, October 11, 2003.
<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-4/1065849039171600.xml>

School construction program plods forward: urban districts unhappy with delays. The School Construction Corporation (SCC), a state run \$6 billion dollar program to build and improve schools throughout the state is moving forward although critics express frustration over the rate of progress. Land acquisition issues have been particularly problematic. At times confusion over property rights and ownership has delayed projects. Site owners have attempted to bypass the process by petitioning local zoning officials to designate the property for other uses. Some believe these actions are designed to drive up the price of property before it is taken by the state for public purposes.

The program has recently come under fire for rising costs associated with its administration—more than \$1.7 million per month. In a move that surprised many Governor McGreevey replaced Alfred McNeill as head of the construction effort. McNeill is praised by some as a “doer” who got the program moving after more than two years of stagnation. Jack Spencer, formerly a deputy engineer for the Port Authority will take over the SCC.

In Newark plans for the first construction project, Science Park High School, were unveiled in September. Advocates have long fought for the project that will replace Science High School—“temporarily” cited in a 100 year-old brewery 30 years ago.

Related articles: “McGreevey ousts school-building chief: P.A. engineer will replace tough Alfred McNeill as director of \$6 billion state program,” Star Ledger, Saturday, September 13, 2003.
<http://www.nj.com/statehouse/ledger/index.ssf?/base/news-1/1063428672203250.xml>

“A science experiment to sing about: After decades of frustration, Newark unveils design for new high school,” Star Ledger, Tuesday, September 16, 2003.
<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-4/1063691552111620.xml>

“School construction landlocked: Disputes delay \$6 billion, court-ordered overhaul in N.J.'s poorest districts,” Star Ledger, Monday, September 22, 2003.
<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-4/106420743051040.xml>

“Costs rise with pace of school rebuilding” Bergen Record, Monday, September 29, 2003.
<http://www.northjersey.com/page.php?qstr=eXJpcnk3ZjczN2Y3dnFIZUVFeXk1JmZnYmVsN2Y3dnFIZUVFeXk2NDMyMTUwJnlyaXJ5N2Y3MTdmN3ZxZWVFRXl5Mg==>

State gets tough on environment. The state of New Jersey is suing the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for policies that it claims allowed high levels of pesticides to be used by fruit and vegetable growers. The suit contends that the levels of pesticides allowed was unacceptably high and that the foods were those likely to be consumed by children—including apples, potatoes, corn, bananas, grapes, and carrots.

New Jersey joined Connecticut, Massachusetts and New York in pursuing the legal action.

The state is demanding penalties from companies charged with damaging and destroying natural resources. More than 80 companies, including several industrial giants, were assessed penalties over and above their required clean up of the contaminated sites. The policy is the most aggressive in the nation, stunning the accused and prompting them to debate whether to pay up or sue—either proposition costly and likely to refocus negative public attention on the companies. The policy received praise from environmental watchdog groups around the country. However local environmentalists were not pleased by the McGreevey administration's proposal to lighten penalties against corporations that confessed to environmental violations. Proponents of the proposed action argue that the policy would encourage businesses to work with the state rather than attempting to hide problems. Environmentalists disagree, suggesting that there is no evidence that such policies enhance cooperation between polluters and states.

Related articles: "Jersey sues EPA over pesticide residues: 4 states say levels in foods children like are too high and violate law," Star Ledger, Tuesday, September 16, 2003. <http://www.nj.com/statehouse/ledger/index.ssf?/base/news-1/1063692601158170.xml>

"N.J. tells polluters it's time to pay up: State seeks millions in damage claims," Star Ledger, Wednesday, September 24, 2003. <http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/index.ssf?/base/news-10/106438064829090.xml>

"Polluters are all ears as state calls for fines," Star Ledger, Thursday, September 25, 2003. <http://www.nj.com/statehouse/ledger/index.ssf?/base/news-1/106446934495930.xml>

"Pollution amnesty plan angers environmentalists," Star Ledger, Sunday, September 28, 2003. <http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-4/106472472062590.xml>

New Census reports document changed demography. NJ Census figures show that the minority population is growing faster than the white population in 14 of the state's 21 counties. The change is a reflection both of population growth in the minority community as well as out migration of the white population.

Two New Jersey cities are among those with the highest percentage of persons with disabilities. Paterson ranks number one and Newark third according to 2000 Census figures. Officials speculate that a more inclusive definition of disability and the way in which the questions were asked in the 2000 Census contributed to this trend.

Related article: "Census: Diversity is rising in Jersey: Minority population shows strong gains," Star Ledger, Thursday, September 18, 2003. <http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/essex/index.ssf?/base/news-3/1063866708166790.xml>

“Paterson, Newark on a puzzling top 10 list,” Bergen Record, Monday, September 22, 2003.

<http://www.northjersey.com/print.php?qstr=ZmdiZWw3Zjd2cWVIRUV5eTY0Mjg0ODYmeXJpcnk3ZjcxN2Y3dnFIZUVFeXky==>

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If you would like to add an item or add / remove a name from our distribution list, please contact Katherine Accousti at [accousti@andromeda.rutgers.edu](mailto:accousti@andromeda.rutgers.edu) or 973-353-1750 ext. 224.

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