

PUBLISHED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, CENTER FOR URBAN AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Since its inception in 1967, the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) has maintained a continuous flow of projects. Many of the projects operate out of CURA-sponsored programs, others are individual projects administered through the CURA central office. The purpose behind all CURA programs and projects is three-fold:

- to allow the University of Minnesota to be more responsive to community needs by sponsoring projects that are cross-disciplinary; that address major problems in the community; that coordinate University and community resources; and that stimulate interactions between faculty, students, and the wider community.
- to create experimental pilot projects that will help facilitate change.
- to spin-off successful projects into permanent operation with either community agencies or regular academic units in the University.

CURA projects are proposed both from the community and from within the University. CURA does not work independently but acts, rather, as a clearing house, making it possible for the University to serve as a pool of talent and resources for community groups and government agencies. Specific projects reflect the major problems facing our communities today, problems such as housing, urban transportation, community design, human services, land use, environment, aging, and intercultural education.

This issue of the *CURA REPORTER* presents a capsule view of new and ongoing CURA projects in 1978. Earlier CURA projects were presented in summary form in the March 1977 issue of the *CURA REPORTER* and in CURA's seven-year report: *THE FIRST SEVEN YEARS: 1968-75*. Copies of these earlier reports are available from the CURA central office, 311 Walter Library, 117 Pleasant St. S.E., University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455 (612-373-7833).

New and Ongoing CURA Projects

AGING

under the direction of the All-University Council on Aging

Issues of Longer Life—Is it possible to substantially prolong physical and mental health? What social, biological, or cultural factors affect longevity? How does quality of life relate to life extension? Will increased lifespan alter our social, political, and economic institutions? These questions were asked in a conference held in St. Paul in late April. Keynote speaker was Dr. Robert Butler, director of the National Institute on Aging. Other national speakers were drawn from the fields of government, sociology, anthropology, history, medicine, and biology. The multidisciplinary conference was the first major conference to be organized by the Council.

Older Adult Program—CURA has provided some funding for the Older Adult Program of the University's Center for Continuing Education and Extension (CEE). The program has developed courses in aging, a pilot project to train older persons to become peer counselors, and an undergraduate Certificate of Aging to be offered jointly through General College and CEE. Future grant proposals will seek funds to support course development in many units.

New Course—"Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Aging" is a new University class offered for the first time during spring quarter. Areas of study include psychology, physiology, and public policy on aging. Faculty are drawn from a number of University departments. Over seventy students have registered for credit in the new all-University course.

Faculty Development—Monthly seminars on aging for University faculty and advance graduate students have continued throughout the academic year.

Guest speakers have included both local and visiting scholars speaking on a diversity of subjects from depression in the elderly, to smoking as a risk factor in longevity, and the problems and promises of middle age.

Reference and Information—The Council has expanded its library holdings to include newsletters, reports on aging programs throughout the country, and a clipping file. Books and articles by conference and course presenters have also been acquired.

Course Guide—*COURSES AND PROGRAMS OF STUDY IN THE FIELD OF AGING: A STUDENT GUIDE* was recently published. Revised from the 1975 edition, the cross-indexed guide provides information on 120 courses for graduates and undergraduates, extension and independent study students. Conferences and opportunities for practical experiences are also described. The guide includes a listing of all 116 University faculty involved in the field of aging.

Hennepin County Internship Program—A Public Affairs graduate student was placed with the Hennepin County Office of Planning and Development to study health and social services for the aged. The student has written working papers on programs, planning, and financing services based on interviews and review of the literature and existing programs. The papers will be circulated in appropriate county agencies.

AUCA Coordinator—A search is underway to find a full-time executive coordinator for the All-University Council on Aging (AUCA).

COMMUNITY DESIGN

*under the direction of the
Urban Education Center*

Assessment of the Urban Education Center Experience—CURA is evaluating the eight year experience of the Urban Education Center and making plans for its future. A report on the UEC experience has been prepared and distributed for comment to a great many faculty, students, and community people who were involved. Based on the experience and the suggestions, a proposal is being prepared for the continuation of community based service-learning activities.

Architecture Studio—Assistance has been provided to a senior design studio of the School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture which has been developing proposals for the improvement of the Selby Avenue area in St. Paul. Forty students have worked with Old Town Restorations, a non-profit community corporation, as well as with many other residents and groups in preparing development options.

St. Paul Mississippi River Plan—The Governor of Minnesota has designated the Mississippi River Corridor between Anoka and Hastings as a critical area. St. Paul's Departments of Parks and Recreation and of Planning and Economic Development have prepared a proposed plan for the section within the city. Students and faculty in a number of disciplines will be working with city staff on many aspects of the detailing of the plan. Areas of inquiry may include the history of settlement on the river, an inventory of fauna and flora in river related undeveloped areas, the location and design of recreational facilities, and the relationship of the river to various kinds of private development.

ENVIRONMENT

*under the direction of the
All-University Council on
Environmental Quality*

"Common Ground"—This award-winning radio program, begun in 1973, is produced through the University radio station, KUOM. The five minute daily programs present the facts and arguments involved in current environmental issues and controversies. The program is offered free of charge to any radio

station in Minnesota. About half (fifty) of Minnesota's radio stations broadcast "Common Ground."

University Bulletin—COURSES AND PROGRAMS IN THE ENVIRONMENT was the first bulletin to describe related courses and programs throughout the University. Published every two years, it lists classes, programs, facilities, libraries, and other activities relating to the environment. Community facilities are included along with programs from all of the University's campuses.

Environmental Education—The Council is looking at environmental education at the University of Minnesota. What are the current programs and options in environmental studies? What is the level of student interest? Is there a need for a more formalized environmental studies program? These questions are being examined by a special committee set up by the Council.

Sun Day—Sun Day, a nationwide celebration of solar energy, was held on May 3, 1978. Activities and educational efforts to focus attention on the sun as an energy source occurred throughout the country, as well as in Minnesota. The Council, in a joint effort with the Gradu-

ate School of the University, published a brochure, *SEE THE SUN AGAIN*, on solar and solar-related research currently taking place at the University of Minnesota.

Appropriate Technology—The Council is making a preliminary investigation of current projects and activities in Minnesota that pertain to "appropriate technology." In addition to compiling a bibliography of articles and books on appropriate technology, the staff is also preparing an inventory of state and federal legislation dealing with appropriate technology and alternative energy. The Council also plans to research state laws and regulations which may be inhibiting the application of appropriate technology and alternative energy sources in Minnesota.

TREE Collection—The Renewable Energy-Environment (TREE) Collection is a small library of papers, reports, documents, and books on various aspects of bio-energy and solar energy and their relationship to the environment. CURA has assisted in maintaining the collection for some years. The collection has recently been moved to the Engineering Library where it will now be maintained by the Institute of Technology Library.



HOUSING

*under the direction of the
Office of Planned Residential
Development and Housing
Research*

Strategies for Conserving and Renewing Developed Urban Neighborhoods—Continuing high household formation rates, energy shortages, and the high costs of land and construction combine with a host of other elements to maintain the pressure on the existing housing stock and developed urban neighborhoods. Government at every level is attempting to develop and use techniques for encouraging housing rehabilitation and neighborhood reinvestment. CURA has a continuing interest in the resulting issues and strategies and has begun a series of studies aimed at their description and analysis.

St. Paul Rehabilitation Study—The first of these studies has just been completed. CURA has studied and assessed the St. Paul Identified Treatment Area program of neighborhood rehabilitation at the request of the city government. A report on the study was presented to the mayor and his staff and to the staff of the city's Department of Planning and Economic Development at meetings early in April.

Social and Economic Consequences of Historic Preservation—The resurgence of older neighborhoods with the accompanying investment and physical improvement has many significant social and economic effects, both anticipated and unanticipated. Residents are displaced and housing values increase. Neighborhoods shift their position in the metropolitan housing market. CURA is developing a research program to document and analyze these phenomena. An initial pilot study this spring and summer will analyze population movement in and out of St. Paul's Historic Hill area with special attention to the dislocation of low-income people. Further research in the general area of social and economic consequences of neighborhood reinvestment and historic preservation is anticipated.

Studies by Others—CURA would like to learn of any study of neighborhood revitalization and residential rehabilitation being undertaken by others. Please write the *CURA REPORTER*, 311 Walter Library, 117 Pleasant St. S.E., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455.

Standard Building Permit Project—Research has begun to develop a standard building permit for use throughout the state. Such a permit would contain information required by statute and items used by a large number of jurisdictions. Geocoding would be required. Permits could be flexible enough to provide space for extra data to be used by individual jurisdictions. The form would be designed to facilitate transfer of information to machine-readable form and to generate multiple copies. The project should be complete by summer.

Housing Faculty Group—CURA has organized and provided secretarial services for a group of some thirty faculty members representing more than a dozen departments, who exchange information on the current state of housing through meetings, discussions, and dissemination of literature. Recent meetings have explored the use of current information in research and teaching, prospects of state legislation on housing, and economic and energy aspects of housing. The Housing Faculty Group has an open membership. Any University faculty member interested in the field of housing is welcome. Call 373-3684 for information.

HUMAN SERVICES

*under the direction of the
Office of Social Services
Training Projects*

Northside Women's COPE—The failure of existing employment programs to reach women in public housing on the north side of Minneapolis has led to the formation of this project: Comprehensive Opportunities in Preparation for Employment (COPE). A proposal is being prepared requesting CETA funding. A coalition of University staff and representatives from community organizations are engaged in planning creative approaches to supportive services and training and employment opportunities for this special population.

Human Needs and Services Curriculum for High School Students—After a national search of social science literature, CURA staff have developed a proposal to introduce basic content on social welfare issues into the social science curricula for high schools. The proposal has been submitted for Title III funding. It will use a rural, a suburban, and a small town school as demonstration sites. Social

welfare issues such as income maintenance for dependent populations, social policy responses to care of the young and the old, and emerging issues in the social services will be introduced to the high school students. Values clarification will be a chief focus. Students' attitudes will be measured before and after the program.

Neighborhood Counseling Center Study—A student, in association with Abbott-Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis, has documented the organizational structure of a mental health center. The center's staff decision-making process, a nonhierarchical team approach, was studied along with staff materials, interviews, and surveys.

Women in Administration in Social Services—Women professionals have always been well represented in social services, but most have not achieved positions of leadership. CURA and the University's School of Social Work sponsored a conference to identify career development needs of women in the social services who aspire to be administrators. Proceedings from the conference forum are currently being prepared for publication.

An Evaluation of Displaced Homemakers Program—This study project is assessing and evaluating services provided by agencies funded under a special legislative appropriation. Women who have had disrupted sources of income because of a spouse's death, separation, or divorce are the target population. Three sites have been designated for this experimental program by the state's Department of Economic Security—one metropolitan, one inner city, and one rural. The demonstration program will provide training and employment counseling for older women who have chiefly worked inside the home and are suddenly forced to provide income for themselves and (often) for their family. The study may yield important data on the characteristics and feasibility of effective employment for this little-known constituency.

Assessment of CAP Programs—University researchers recently completed a collection of data on Community Action Programs (CAP) throughout Minnesota. CAPs administer federally-funded service programs for low-income residents in twenty-eight communities throughout the state. Researchers analyzed CAP budgets, size of area, percentage of poor and aged clients, and the poverty index to assist CAPs in assessing their program development.



INTERCULTURAL PROGRAMS

under the direction of the Office of Intercultural Programs

Tribal Constitutions Project—Some American Indian tribes, such as the Cherokee, have written constitutions dating back to the early 1800s. Most developed their constitutions or articles of association in the 1930s and 1940s. Support was recently provided by CURA and the Center for Educational Development

to allow a graduate student to collect and index American Indian tribal constitutions. The collection is now complete. It includes 242 American tribal constitutions, plus the constitution used by the Alaskan tribes. Housed in the American Indian Studies Department at the University, it is considered one of the most complete collections of its kind. The collection is available as a resource for coursework and research.

Human Rights Facilitation—A staff member was assigned for one year to the state's Department of Human Rights. Several projects evolved during that time. 1) A project was implemented to enable the Department of Human Rights

and local human rights commissions to support each other in resolving human rights cases filed in either system. Twelve memoranda of agreement have been signed to date. 2) The Human Rights Institute was formed to enhance public awareness of the Minnesota Human Rights Act and to train and educate participants in the procedures used in handling discrimination complaints. 3) A program was developed that provides for working agreements between the Department of Human Rights and community-based human service agencies. A number of agencies have been identified that can file grievances on behalf of their clients when the agency believes that a denial of services to their client was in violation of the Minnesota Human Rights Act. This new process will allow agencies to negotiate a settlement of disputes. For matters that cannot be resolved, the Department of Human Rights will initiate normal procedures associated with a formal charge.

Sandstone Tutor Program—Now in its sixth year, the Sandstone Tutor Program has continued to provide tutors for the Indian inmates at Sandstone Prison. The program, based in Duluth, includes student tutors from the University of Minnesota, Duluth and the College of St. Scholastica as well as individuals from the community. All of the tutors are American Indians. The scope of the program has expanded and includes tutoring for the high school graduate equivalent diploma (GED); legal assistance for Indian inmates; liaison between the prison and halfway houses, treatment centers, and jobs; and cultural programs. Student tutors receive class credit.

Housing Forum—For Black History Month, University and private organizations funded a two-day conference: "Black Americans and the Issue of Housing." Keynote speaker was Dr. Robert Weaver, former Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Workshops led by representatives of community organizations, financial institutions, and local government departments concerned with housing, examined issues such as: the impact of housing policy on blacks and urban areas, the role of the private sector in providing housing opportunities, and the use of Community Development Block Grants. Written recommendations from evaluation sessions were submitted to the appropriate government and private sector entities.

OSLO in the Community—This program is seeking to increase the number of minority students taking advantage of internship programs offered through the Office of Special Learning Opportunities (OSLO). Internships have been established with community non-profit organizations which provide services to various minorities. Placement is available for Chicano, Black, American Indian, and Asian students. College credit is earned as a "directed study" project. Community agencies participating in the program include: Oficina Legal del West Side, Governor's Office of Spanish Speaking People, Migrants in Action, and the Chemical Abuse Service Agency.

LAND USE

*under the direction of the
Office of Land Studies*

Minnesota Atlas Update—*THE ATLAS OF MINNESOTA RESOURCES AND SETTLEMENT*, published by CURA and the Minnesota State Planning Agency in 1968 (revised 1969), is again undergoing revision. This document will incorporate newly collected data, along with new maps and an increased use of maps. The atlas, meant to be a working document, is used by state agencies and planners, and as a reference text for some University geography courses. This revised edition will be designed for a larger distribution among the general population as well.

Land Records and Computer Assisted Assessment—This joint project with the state's Intergovernmental Information Systems Advisory Council is developing a strategy for implementing a land record and computer-assisted assessment system at the local level in Minnesota. Literature in this area was reviewed to help define the ideal system. Statutory and operational aspects of the current system were also reviewed and a survey of counties (and municipalities with the full power of a county assessor) was made to determine the current level of automation. Auditors were surveyed to determine which applications they planned, desired, or did not need. The Phase I report, already completed, defines the scope and limits of the project. Phase II, now nearing completion, will specify the requirements for an operational system in Minnesota. A request-for-a-proposal is being prepared that would allow Minnesota to develop a pilot system in several jurisdictions. The development of data and processing

standards will be accompanied by recommendations for office procedures and statutory changes to support the system. Standards and recommendations will be developed for the flow of data into the assessors' office and outward to other offices.

Minnesota Cadastre Advisory Committee—In 1976 an informal committee was formed to advise the state in matters relating to the cadastre. The cadastre is a public record, survey, or map of the value, extent, and ownership of land. Here cadastre goes beyond the simple definition of ownership of the land to include precise spatial descriptions of land. CURA is funding a graduate student to research questions of concern to the committee. A first paper, noting spatial accuracy of digitized section corners from the U.S. Geological Survey 1:24000 quadrangles, is now in draft form. A second paper, describing the means and priorities for densifying the survey net in Minnesota, is being researched.

State Planning Agency/CURA Wall Map Series—This joint project has produced several useful dot maps of population and population shifts in Minnesota and adjacent counties in surrounding states. Map 1 indicates the 1970 population distribution. Map 2 indicates population change 1960-1970. Map 3 is unavailable. Map 4 indicates projected population changes 1970-1980. Map 5, just published, is a group of maps indicating fuel types used for residential heating in 1970.

Region 10 Agricultural Lands Study—Research being carried out using Olmsted County as a pilot project will determine if nonfarm residential development is encroaching upon productive agricultural lands and, if so, the extent of land lost for production. Data will be gathered from building permits, other records, and from land use control policies and correlated with actual development patterns. The information this study yields will also be used in conjunction with the maps of prime agricultural lands recently completed. Conclusions and recommendations will be conveyed to state agencies and planning bodies. Additional survey research will be carried out in Olmsted County to provide data on the who, what, and why's of this dispersed settlement. Methodology worked out in Olmsted County will be assessed as to application for all of Region 10 (eleven counties).

Physical Change in Duluth—Researchers in both the geography and political science departments of the University of

Minnesota, Duluth are studying the magnitude and direction of growth in Duluth during the last twenty-five years. Data on building permits, demolition, and construction of multifamily dwellings will reveal residential shift patterns as Duluth assumes importance as a tourist/recreation center. Zoning changes, tax increment financing, and public involvement in planning will also be studied.

Conservancy Zoning—A comparative study has been completed identifying the extent and type of variances from zoning ordinances in wetland areas adjacent to lakes. These ecologically valuable areas may be dredged or otherwise damaged when recreational or residential development is permitted. The study determines the consistency of zoning ordinance administration, patterns of exemption, and areas affected. Counties in Minnesota and Wisconsin were studied. The results will be turned over to agencies such as the Department of Natural Resources.

Metropolitan Growth Trends—A study is nearing completion which explores the process used by large and small builders in selecting sites for their developments. Ten suburban municipalities in northwestern Hennepin County were selected for this pilot project. Through a study of building permits issued, especially for single family dwellings, and through interviews with builders, financiers, and government officials, a paper is being prepared which outlines the step-by-step process of decision-making used by builders in determining where they will build. The criteria used in making these decisions are also considered. The presence of an existing sewer system, for example, is a critical factor. The effect of public policies on builders' decisions appears to vary depending on the size of the project. This study attempts to understand the role of government in influencing builders.

Wright County—A related project on land use in Wright County is in its final stages. Data on permits of all types have been collected from the county and from cities within the county. Geographic identifiers have been appended to the permit data, and maps showing where permits were issued have resulted. The purpose is to determine whether permits are an adequate device for locating changes in land use. Locations of changes in land use are being studied to determine the extent to which site characteristics determine development. The spill-over effect of land use controls in the adjacent metropolitan area are also being examined to determine the extent

to which development skips over undeveloped land to rise in areas where controls are less stringent. Results of the project will be available this summer.

TRANSPORTATION

under the direction of the Urban Transportation Program

Mn/DOT/Plan—The Minnesota Legislature charged the new state Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) with developing a transportation plan for the state. This plan is to cover all modes of transportation as well as the many issues which cut through all modes, such as energy. The plan has received substantial citizen participation through public hearings as it is being developed. University faculty have worked closely with Mn/DOT issue team leaders in develop-

ing the plan and assuring comprehensive coverage of the literature and other sources of information. Faculty involvement will probably continue throughout the year. In addition, graduate students are assisting Mn/DOT in the actual writing of the plan.

Ride Sharing in Transportation—A review of pertinent books, articles, and reports has been made and a bibliography compiled of local and national documents and reports obtained from professionals. The bibliography, along with a state-of-the-art paper now being prepared on incentives and disincentives to ride-sharing may serve as position papers for agencies contemplating the introduction of car-pooling or van-pooling programs.

Urban Transportation Collection—This library continues to expand its broadly based collection of materials relating to transportation. Literature on problems ranging from urban transportation plan-

ning to innercity freight, passenger planning, and operations is included. The library, housed in the Experimental Engineering building, serves both the academic community and members of the transportation profession.

Transportation Advisory Group—This group, now in full operation, consists of faculty members from a number of different University departments. Its functions include: a) disseminating information to interested faculty and students as well as persons off-campus concerning course offerings, seminars, and special events in any area of transportation; b) furnishing information to interested faculty about potential research projects and research funding, and stimulating discussion concerning current and projected research; and c) advising CURA about investment in transportation and related activities. The Transportation Advisory Group has an open membership. Any University faculty member interested in the field of transportation is welcome. Call 373-7833 for information.



OTHER CURA PROGRAMS

Operation Resource Exchange—In 1977 the Association of St. Paul Communities formed Operation Resource Exchange to share and catalog talents and resources, to assist newly-formed community organizations, and to research common neighborhood problems. CURA's role as an advisor has included helping the group define appropriate projects and search for a staff person to work on them. The new staffer, hired in February, will do interviewing, prepare a catalogue of resources available in the St. Paul communities, and develop a series of in-depth case studies of efforts by the communities to solve problems. These case studies will provide living examples of a community in action. CURA will be updated periodically on the project's progress.

Phillips Neighborhood Project—A graduate student is currently monitoring the efforts of citizen organizations in the Phillips Neighborhood (Minneapolis) to have a voice in planning policy and other programs in their community. Some of the area's concerns are: gaining community-based ownership of housing, business development, and lobbying efforts.

Corporate Influence Patterns—Corporate contributions and their influence on Twin Cities cultural organizations are being studied through interviews, financial records, and analysis of internal structure. The longitudinal study is using a cross-section of foundations, theater and music groups, museums, and colleges to demonstrate how patterns of financing have shifted from self-support to dependence on private corporations and government funds, and how this may be affecting programming.

Native Americans and the Criminal Justice System—Why are so many American Indians involved in crimes or criminal activity in Minnesota? This research project is attempting to describe and develop an explanation for the overrepresentation of American Indians in the Minnesota criminal justice system. Statistics on the Indian population (their numbers, residence, social class, education, and income) are being collected as well as statistics on their involvement within the criminal justice system (types of crime, where they are placed within the system, etc.). Indians with criminal records are being compared with blacks and with a 2 percent sample of the white

criminal population. The project, which will be completed this summer, has been training American Indians as research assistants and is being monitored through an Indian community board so that results will be readily available to those concerned within the Indian community.

Local Government Training Service—This new public, joint powers organization provides training and consulting services to local public officials, employees, and employers in the state of Minnesota. Its members include the League of Minnesota Cities, the Association of Minnesota Counties, the University of Minnesota, the School Boards Association, State Planning Agency, and the State Department of Personnel. CURA cooperated and assisted in the development of the Government Training Service. The program is expected to include eventually all consumers and providers of local Minnesota government training. Government Training Service will be able to assess training needs systematically, develop new programs and techniques, and evaluate programs for its member organizations.

Ah-be-no-gee—Now completing its third year of operation, this project aims at developing a community of child care and concern within the Native American community in Minneapolis. The project is administered through CURA and funded by the National Center for Child Abuse and Neglect (Department of Health, Education, and Welfare). Native American students are trained in family advocacy, to develop prevention services in child abuse and neglect, and to enhance the environment of the Native American community. The students assist the Indian community where child protection cases are involved by helping residents to obtain full participation in public service agencies, by assisting public service agency personnel in coordinating services to the Indian community, and by providing a liaison between these agencies and the Indian community. The Ah-be-no-gee Center also provides traditional and family crisis counseling, a youth drop-in center with special events and weekend activities organized and supervised by the staff, emergency housing and emergency transportation for families in child crisis situations, youth counseling, and a twenty-four hour youth crisis service.

Minnesota State Survey Research Center—This feasibility study for a center that would be organized to service the survey research needs of University faculty and of state, local, and regional government agencies has been completed.

Potential users of such a center were surveyed to determine their feelings about the need for and value of such a center. Response from University faculty was strongly in favor of creating a survey research center. There are no obvious conflicts with existing University service units. Response from government units was mixed. Strong disapproval was voiced by some. Academic survey research centers operating at other institutions were also surveyed to obtain information on how they were organized and developed. This information would aid in the initial development of a survey research center, should one be attempted. A final report is available from CURA.

Public Sector Information Systems—CURA has long worked to bring together individuals interested in information systems in the public sector. In the past year CURA and other organizations have instituted a series of semi-monthly dinner meetings to bring people together for informal discussion and a key speaker. In April, the acting director of the state's Information System Division gave her views of new directions for computing at the state level. In June, Hennepin County will present its land parcel information system which has a strong graphic base. The goals of this effort are the same as those of the national Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA). It is hoped that a local URISA section can be formed. Two to three dozen people have attended most meetings. CURA is acting as the secretariat for this local group. Any person wishing to be on the mailing list should contact CURA at 373-7833.

Fiscal Research Office—Projects from this office were formerly known as RAFT (Rapid Analysis Fiscal Tool). RAFT's software and data base still remain but the office has expanded its program, thus the change in name. Working closely now with the State Planning Agency, the Fiscal Research Office is involved in analyzing the fiscal condition of cities in Minnesota, with special attention to city debts. A bill passed recently in the Minnesota State Legislature was a direct result of this joint research. The bill directs improvements in fiscal reporting state-wide. These reports, made to the state auditor, are used as a computer data base, allowing for quick comparison of different cities and areas within the state. Research in monitoring the effects of the fiscal disparities law is also being considered.

Photographs in this issue courtesy of the Graduate School, Research Development Center, and Kenneth Greer, photographer.

THIS ISSUE of the CURA Reporter is being distributed more widely than usual because of its content. If you are interested in the types of programs described and are receiving the CURA Reporter for the first time, you may have your name added to the mailing list by phoning (612-373-7833) or writing the CURA central office.

CURA

reporter

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The Center for Urban and Regional Affairs was established to help make the University of Minnesota more responsive to the needs of the larger community and to increase the constructive interaction between faculty and students, on the one hand, and those dealing directly with major public problems, on the other hand.

The **CURA REPORTER** is published by CURA to provide information about:

- what CURA projects are doing,
- related programs and projects in the University,
- related programs in other Minnesota colleges and universities, and
- actions outside the educational establishment which affect our plans and programs.

Comments and contributions are welcome. Thomas M. Scott, acting director; Thomas L. Anding, associate director; William J. Craig, assistant director; Judith H. Weir, editor.

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