AAG Urban Geography Specialty Group NEWSLETTER

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Letter from the Chair

Let me begin by welcoming Larry Ford, Joanna Regulska, and Damaris Rose to the Board of Directors, and by thanking Joanna for assuming the responsibilities of Secretary/Treasurer and Damaris for agreeing to coordinate UGSG sessions at the AAG meetings in Phoenix. Let me also thank Hazel Morrow-Jones, Eric Sheppard, Neil Smith, and Rebecca Smith for their excellent work on the Board over the past two years. Peter Muller deserves special mention for his effective leadership as UGSG Chairperson during 1986-87.

In addition to organizing a set of special sessions at next year's meetings, this year we will continue to work on the recommendations of the Long Range Planning Committee. As we saw in Portland, the Policy Review Committee, through a set of working groups, has been very active. One group has been led by Jennifer Wolch (University of Southern California), who completed a paper on homelessness in the U.S. Another group, led by Tom Clark (University of Colorado, Denver) is examining U.S. urban policy (both group's activities are further described elsewhere in this issue). Another Long Range Planning Committee goal focused on increased student involvement in the UGSG, and Neil Smith has led efforts to do so. As noted in the Business Meeting minutes (below), the structure of the Board soon will change to reflect those efforts.

I have been working on the recommendation dealing with improving the teaching of urban geography. Darrick Danta (CSU, Northridge), Vicky Rivizzigno (University of South Alabama), and Diane Whalley and Jim Wheeler (University of Georgia) have agreed to be a part of this working group. For many departments, intermediate and upper level courses in urban geography, whether they focus on North America or deal with urbanization at the global scale, remain important elements of the curriculum in enrollment terms. In that regard, this group is focusing on two major activities: i) organizing a special session on the teaching of urban geography for the Phoenix meeting; and ii) bringing together classroom materials to be assembled in a workbook fashion and distributed to members at various institutions. If you would like to participate in any of these activities, please contact me.

As you can see, we remain a very active specialty group, and I urge you to become involved in the various projects currently underway.

W. Randy Smith Chairperson

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Thanks...

Production costs for this issue of the <u>UGSG</u> <u>Newsletter</u> were paid by your membership dues. Mailing costs were supported by the Department of Geography at the University of Kentucky.

Dues Reminder

UGSG members are reminded that in order to keep your membership in the specialty group you must designate the UGSG on your AAG membership renewal form each year. Do not confuse the specialty group codes with the area codes or the topical specialty codes. We receive a rebate from the AAG only for those who have paid their dues by January 1, 1988.

Minutes of Portland Business Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Peter O. Muller, the Chairperson for 1986-87.

- 1. The election results were announced. The new officers are: W. Randy Smith (Chairperson); Hazel A. Morrow-Jones (Vice-Chairperson); and Larry Ford, Joanna Regulska, and Damaris Rose (new Board members). The chair expressed thanks to outgoing members Eric Sheppard, Rebecca Smith, Neil Smith, Hazel Morrow-Jones, and especially to the past chair, Robert Lake.
- 2. Hazel Morrow-Jones circulated the treasury report, which indicated an initial budget of \$1,171.69, which, with an AAG rebate of \$351.75 and interest earned of \$47.19, totaled \$1570.63. The payments included Newsletter costs (\$153.14) and expenses incurred in judging dissertation competition (\$19.50).

The remaining balance is \$1,397.99.

- 3. The new committee appointments were announced: <u>Secretary-Treasurer</u>: Joanna Regulska; <u>Nominating Committee</u>: Tom Clark, Vera Chouinard, Peter O. Muller. (October 1 was suggested as a deadline for nominations.) <u>Dissertation Committee</u>: Janet Washbon, Susan Christopherson, and Eric Sheppard. <u>Coordinator of the 1988 UGSG sessions in Phoenix</u>: Damaris Rose.
- 4. Neil Smith, chair of the Dissertation Award Committee, announced that a record 14 dissertation were submitted. The co-winners are: Michele LeFaivre (Johns Hopkins University) and Kay Anderson (University of British Columbia). The chair of the Dissertation Award Committee for 1987-88 will be Susan Christopherson. The deadline for submission will be December 1, 1987. Each dissertation will be read by two members. [For more on the 1986-87 and 1987-88 competition, see elsewhere in the Newsletter.]
- 5. The editor of the <u>Newsletter</u>, John Paul Jones, asked for departmental contributions to offset the costs of printing and distribution. In the past, greatly appreciated support has come from the University of Kentucky and the University of Colorado.
- 6. The Long Range Planning Committee reported progress on individual tasks discussed at the 1986 Minneapolis meeting. The chairperson of the Policy Review Committee, Paul Knox, reported that two working groups are currently in operation. The first, led by Jennifer Wolch, prepared a report on homelessness. The second, led by Tom Clark, is organizing several initiatives dealing with U.S. urban policy. [For more on the activities of the Policy Review Committee, see elsewhere in this issue.]
- 7. Neil Smith raised the issue of student involvement in the activities of the UGSG and their participation at the board level. The motion that "the Board of Directors of UGSG be expanded to include two student members of the UGSG, and that the by-laws be amended appropriately," was passed by voice vote.
- 8. Other Business: A. John B. Fieser from the U.S. Department of Commerce discussed funding opportunities for geographic research in the Economic Development Administration. Anyone interested should contact him at: Research Division, EDA, U.S. Department of Commerce, Room 7866, Washington, D.C. 20230. Phone: (202) 377-4085. B. Ruth Fincher announced that the Urban Commission is organizing a meeting the week before the 1988 IGU conference in Australia. For information, contact her at: Dept. of Geography, Univ. of Melbourne, Parkville, Victoria 30 52 Australia.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m. Submitted by Joanna Regulska, Rutgers University.

1988 Phoenix Meetings

The UGSG is currently in the process of preparing sessions for the 1988 AAG annual meeting to be held in Phoenix. The following sessions have been proposed:

- 1. Topic: Childcare (joint session with Geographic Perspectives on Women Specialty Group). Organizers: Enid Wray and Kim England, Dept. of Geography, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH 43210.
- 2. Topic: Urban Systems in Transition (joint session with IGU Commission on Urban Systems). Organizer: Larry S. Bourne, Dept. of Geography, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 1A1 Canada.
- 3. Topic: Urbanization in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. Organizer: Yuri Medvedkov, Dept. of Geography, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH 43210.

- 4. Topic: Marginally Subsistent Populations Living Downtown (joint session with Aging Specialty Group). Organizer: Fred Stutz, Dept. of Geography, San Diego State University, San Diego, CA 92182.
- 5. Topic: Problems of Method and Theory in Comparative Urban Research. Organizer: Paul Knox, Urban Affairs Program, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA 24061.
- 6. Topic: Territorial Politics and Fiscal Policy (joint session with Political Geography Specialty Group). Organizer: Andy Jonas, Dept. of Geography, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH 43210.
- 7. Topic: Foundations for Urban Policy. Organizers: Tom Clark, Office of Academic Affairs, University of Colorado at Denver, Denver, CO 80202, and Paul Knox, Urban Affairs Program, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA 24061.
- 8. Topic: National Urban Policy: Prospects. Organizers: Tom Clark, Office of Academic Affairs, University of Colorado at Denver, CO 80202, and Paul Knox, Urban Affairs Program, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA 24061.
- 9. Topic: Teaching Urban Geography. Organizer: W. Randy Smith, Dept. of Geography, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH 43210.
- 10. Topic: Race, Class and Housing: Cross-National Perspectives. Organizer: John Mercer, Dept. of Geography, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY 13244.

If you are interested in presenting a paper in any of these sessions, please contact the organizer directly. Starting this year, session organizers communicate directly with the AAG Central Office and are responsible for getting the <u>complete session package</u> (Program Participation Forms, abstracts, and fees, as well as the Group Participation Form) to the Central Office by <u>September 25</u>, <u>1987</u>. Full details and the necessary forms are in the May, 1987, <u>AAG Newsletter</u>.

Organizers of sessions are asked to contact this year's UGSG annual meeting coordinator, Damaris Rose, regarding the status of their sessions. From July 20 to September 3 she can be reached at: 86 Route 344, RR 1, St-Philippe d'Argenteuil, Quebec, JOV 2A0 Canada. Phone: (514) 562-9147. After September 3: Institute National de la Recherche Scientifique, Universite du Quebec, 3465 Rue Durocher, Montreal, Quebec, H2X 2C6 Canada. Phone: (514) 842-4191. (BITNET ADDRESS: S2SPROG@UQAM). Please bear in mind that trans-border mail takes about 7-10 days.

Report of the Policy Review Committee

Since there was not an opportunity for the Committee to meet formally in Portland, this is by way of an informal annual report. Two working groups have now established themselves, and the Committee is currently thinking about identifying further topics/policy issues to pursue. The Committee, which is open to all UGSG members, will meet formally in Phoenix to review progress, set new objectives, etc.; but you need not wait until then to join or to initiate new working groups. What follows is a report on the Policy Review Committee's progress to date.

Working Group on Homelessness

Jennifer Wolch and Andrea Akita (both University of Southern California) have completed an analysis of federal policy toward the homeless. Entitled, "Hear No Evil, See No Evil: The Federal Response to Homelessness and its Implications for American Cities", the analysis examines the policies of the Reagan administration, reviewing the general ideology of the administration, its broad social expenditure priorities, and federal programs for health, housing, income maintenance, and human services which affect the homeless. The report also reviews the specific programmatic response of the administration to

the homelessness crisis, detailing DOD, FEMA, HUD, HHS, and other agency programs targeted to the homeless population. The report indicates that the federal government, guided by a conservative and individualist ideology, has sought broad social spending reductions and macro-economic policies that have increased the risk of homelessness, and has made only a minimal effort toward directly ameliorating the homelessness crisis.

Seven basic implications for American cities and their homeless populations are also spelled out in the report: (1) There will continue to be growing numbers of homeless people due to lack of adequate support and continued pressure on low-income housing supply; (2) Skid Row districts across the country will be dismantled due to urban renewal and gentrification; (3) Homeless populations will disperse to the suburbs, or remain in their suburban communities of origin; (4) Suburban jurisdictions will try to exclude the homeless; (5) Local fiscal burdens associated with the homelessness crisis will deepen; (6) Urban violence related to the desperate problems of the homeless may increase; and (7) Segments of the homeless will be removed from urban communities and reinstitutionalized in jails, shelters, and asylums.

This Task Force Report will be distributed to selected members of Congress, Administration officials, and public interest organizations. If you would like to receive a copy, please contact: Jennifer Wolch, School of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA 90084.

Working Group on National Urban Policy

In view of the extreme delays in the publication of the President's Report on Urban Policy, the group has refocused its efforts somewhat. The chief concern now is to take a more positive approach, identifying issues and taking a stance on them with the intention of contributing to the debate during the presidential election and, hopefully, contributing to the urban policy stance of the incoming administration.

As a first step, Tom Clark (University of Colorado, Denver) and Paul Knox (VPI & SU) are organizing two session for the Phoenix meetings. An initial session will address the "Foundations for National Urban Policy" and a second session will focus on "National Urban Policy: Prospects" (see announcement elsewhere in the Newsletter).

The group also intends to publish a special issue in one of the major journals on national urban policy. It is anticipated that this will include versions of papers presented at Phoenix, together with some invited contributions. Drafts of these papers will be circulated among Committee members in order to foster our internal dialog. Abstracts or short summaries will then be circulated to contacts in the media, and brief issue papers will be sent to presidential candidates with an invitation to respond to our position/conclusions. Your suggestions and help in these matters would be very welcome.

Meanwhile, Tom Clark is to explore the possibility of a series of short pieces in the <u>Professional Geographer</u>, perhaps addressing the recent history of the national policy debate, summarizing programmatic alternatives, and comparing U.S. urban policy to policies in other nations. Another idea is to follow up the Phoenix sessions and the special issue papers with a policy forum or seminar -- perhaps in Washington, D.C. -- to which we would invite public officials, members of congressional committees, etc. Finally, Tom is also going to explore the possibility of a book on national urban policy, in which we would set out the findings/recommendations derived from the working group's activities alongside commentaries solicited from 'outsiders' -- academics, bureaucrats, and politicians.

UGSG members who would like to participate in the work of the Policy Review Committee should contact: Paul Knox, Urban Affairs Program, Virginia Polytechnic and State University, Blacksburg, VA 24061.

[Thanks to Jennifer Wolch and Paul Knox for contributing this material to the Newsletter. -- ed.]

Fifth Annual Dissertation Award

The 1987 Urban Geography Dissertation Award attracted a record 14 submissions leading to some fast reading by the three-person Award Committee (Neil Smith, Chair; Susan Christopherson; and Janet Washbon). Given the especially high quality of this year's entries, judging a winner was difficult, but in the end the panel decided to award the 1987 prize jointly to: Kay Anderson, from the University of British Columbia, and Michele LeFaivre from Johns Hopkins University. Congratulations to both winners who received a book selection from John Wiley Publishers. Abstracts of the winning dissertations follow.

Kay Anderson University of British Columbia

"East" as "West": Place, State and the Institutionalization of Myth in Vancouver's Chinatown, 1880-1980.

Over the century 1880-1980, settlers of Chinese origin in Vancouver, British Columbia have been perceived primarily through the nexus of a racial category that defines them as preeminently "Chinese" or "Oriental." Similarly, their place in the urban landscape, "Chinatown," has in one sense been a product of host-society categories and institutional practices that have acted to single Chinatown out, and to render it continuously a place apart.

The point of departure for this thesis is the view that "race" is not an objectively given biological trait, but an idea, defined by the significance people attach to it. It is an idiom around which have been erected epistemological distinctions of insider and outsider, "we" and "they." In view of the problematic nature of race, it is argued that one of the tasks of the social science of race relations is to uncover the sociohistorical process by which racial categories are themselves constructed and institutionalized over time and in certain contexts. In developing this argument, the thesis demonstrates the role played by place and state in the continuous making of a racial category, the "Chinese."

The significance of place is identified for its role as the historically evolving nexus through which the racial category is structured. It is argued the "Chinatown" - like race - is an idea, a representation that belongs to the white European cultural tradition and the intention of the thesis is to trace the career of its social definition over the course of a century. In so doing, the claim is made that Chinatown reveals as much of the "West" as it does of the "East."

Ideas of place and identity would not be so enduring or effective, however, but for the fact that they have been repeatedly inscribed in the practices of those with the power of definition. It is argued that the three levels of the Canadian state, as the legislative arms of a hegemonic "white" European historical bloc, have granted legitimacy to, and reproduced the race definition process through their national, provincial and neighborhood practices. This process continues through the long period when "Chinatown" was reviled as a public nuisance, promoted as a "Little Corner of the Far East," reconstructed as a "slum" and finally under the aegis of multiculturalism, courted in the 1970s by the Canadian state precisely for its perceived "Chineseness." Underlying these changing definitions of Chinatown, it is argued, is a deeper racial frame of reference that has been continuously re-created through discriminatory and more subtle ways as part of the exercise of white European cultural domination.

Lying behind the career of the racial category, therefore, is the history of the relationship between place, racial discourse, power and institutional practice in a British settler society. The study is undertaken with a view to uncovering those relationships and by way of a contribution to the recent rediscovery of place in human geography.

Michele Lynne LeFaivre Johns Hopkins University

Representing the City:
Daniel Hudson Burnham
and the Making of an Urban Strategy.

The Chicago World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 was an occasion to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the discovery of America. Conceived as a natural outgrowth of America's path of development, the fair had as its theme the modern city as the path of America's future. Charged with the material realization of this goal, Daniel Hudson Burnham -- architect, planner, and Director of Works for the fair -- devised an urban strategy that I argue remains as one of the inaugural assessments of the relation between urbanism and social change.

The main concern of the thesis is the interpretative framework through which Burnham mobilized and rendered intelligible his practical experience as the pivotal figure in the making of the "White City." Burnham found in an emergent form of visual representation, what I call stereologism, a focal point for his endeavors and through it formulated an urban strategy that was both organizing mechanism and critical tool of urban and social change. One is its role in the accumulation and spatial organization of the allocative resources of the fair (materials, money, the physical layout of the fair, and the spatial organization of work in a planned office space). The other is the administrative power granted the emergent class of urban professionals through the supervisory institutions rendered necessary by the outpouring of visual documentation around the fair, which was never planned apriori.

Attention is then directed to stereologism as a cultural medium of modern thought and culture. Working backwards from the formal features of Burnham's diaries, field notes and drawings, and a significant number of self-made "picture-books" of the fair, a picture emerges of how he changed America's conception of self and place in an urban world and brought them into alignment with the project of modernity. I explore Burnham's re-rendering of the formal conventions that situated Burnham's audience in a new attitude toward the city in the context of other types of urban reporting which had a similar mission: urban guidebooks, urban cartography, and especially urban photography. Specific attention is given to the parallels between Burnham's intentions and the contemporaneous photographic time-space studies by the photographer/scientist Edward Muybridge, whose conscious manipulations of time and space are used as an optic through which we may put Burnham's achievements in the same realm into sharp focus.

In this regard, a powerful characteristic of Burnham's urban strategy as an expression of modernity and an interpretative locale is its bracketing of the time-space relations of urban modernism. If the geometries of projection guiding the composition and framing of his stereologic viewpoint communicated a supervalorization of the future, the same geographic movement permitted a new perspective on the city for the professional and public alike. The temporal experience of viewing spatially perceptible changes in pictorial or actual physical views of the fair grounds provided the broader public with a new sense of urbanism. It also created new habits for urban managers responsible for the synchronization of a wide range of activities operating on different time-cycles and in different spaces.

By working his visual strategy as both administrative apparatus and critical tool, Burnham was able to radically alter how America was to understand an explain the nature of the urban experience. Enveloping his urban vision in temporal terms, Burnham set a new agenda for the analysis of the geography of urban modernism and urban modernity.

Sixth Annual Urban Geography Dissertation Award

The UGSG of the AAG announces its Sixth Annual Dissertation Competition for recent doctoral dissertations in urban geography. Dissertations addressing any aspect of urban geography and submitted for a degree awarded during the 1987 calender year are eligible. Previous winning dissertations have examined the spatial structure of local labor markets, the casual poor in Third World cities, family and class in a new industrial city, historical districts, the role of 19th century political machines in building urban infrastructure, and the relationship between home ownership and political sentiment.

Individuals submitting dissertations are strongly encouraged to present a paper at the annual meeting of the AAG. The winner will be announced at the AAG meeting in Phoenix, where he/she will receive a selection of books courtesy of John Wiley & Sons. The dissertation review committee is composed of Susan Christopherson (Cornell), chair; Janet Washbon (Urban Information Consultants); and Eric Sheppard (Minnesota).

To enter the competition please send one copy of your dissertation and a dissertation abstract to: Susan Christopherson, Department of Planning, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853. Entries must be received by December 1, 1987.

Resolution on AAG Conference Resolutions

At the most recent annual meeting in Portland, a number of members expressed frustration with the procedure for submitting resolutions at the annual business meeting. Below is a resolution which Neil Smith was asked to prepare in order to have the resolution procedure opened up again. Could members who support the resolution please take a second to sign the form and send it to: Neil Smith, Department of Geography, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ 08903. You must be an AAG member in order to vote.

Resolution

Whereas this procedure has tended to stifle open debate at the annual meeting, and whereas the present procedure prevents members of the Association from presenting for resolution those issues that emerge as a result of the annual meeting and as a natural result of the conference itself, and whereas this thereby defeats the very function of the conference, be it resolved that the rule concerning resolutions shall be altered and returned to its previous wording whereby resolutions for consideration at the annual conference can be presented to the President in writing up to 24 hours previous to the annual business meeting.

I support this	resolution:		,		
Signature		 Date		Name	

Call for Papers: Phoenix Meetings

Tom Clark and Paul Knox invite interested persons to contribute to two UGSG sponsored sessions addressing national urban policy for the 1988 AAG meetings in Phoenix. The first, "Foundations for National Urban Policy," encompasses the efficacy of national policy for cities, alternate rationales for federal involvement in cities, and critiques of existing federal policy approaches in managing and directing change in cities with special attention to economic development, income and other assistance, urban labor markets, education, housing and infrastructure, health care, and transportation. Participants will be encouraged to respond not only to the substantive issues which confront policy development in these areas, but also to the diversity of types of cities in which policy would apply. A second session entitled, "National Urban Policy: Prospects," will assess the prospects for the development of national urban policy in the face of conflicting interests, the devolution of responsibility to the states, ambivalence regarding the responsibility of government arising from alternative conceptualizations of the state, and uncertainty regarding the utility of available instruments for translating policy into intended effects. Submit abstracts by August 17th to: Tom Clark, Office of Academic Affairs, University of Colorado, Denver, Denver, Colorado 80202, (303) 556-2611, or Paul Knox, Urban Affairs Program, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA 24061, (703) 961-7506. Be sure to indicate the session in which you would like to participate.

Andy Jonas is soliciting papers for a session entitled, "Territorial Politics and Fiscal Policy," to be cosponsored by the UGSG and the Political Geography Specialty Group. Some of the issues which might be addressed in this session include: local effects of or local responses to changes in Federal-local intergovernmental funding; the role of local government fiscal/financial policy in local economic development initiatives; case studies of fiscal stress/crisis (e.g., in State and local government in Texas or in local communities in the Farmbelt); the politics of urban policy at the local level; the current restructuring of the welfare state and its socio-spatial impacts. Submit abstracts to: Andy Jonas, Dept. of Geography, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH 43210, (614) 292-1357.

Recent Books of Interest

Ages of Imagination: An Intellectual History of City Planning in the Twentieth Century, by Peter Hall. Basil Blackwell, 1987.

<u>The Changing Face of Cities: A Study of Development Cycles and Urban Form</u>, by J. W. R. Whitehand. Institute of British Geographers Special Publications Series, 1988.

The Comfortable House: North American Suburban Architecture 1890-1930, by Alan Gowans. MIT Press, 1986.

Energy, Planning and Urban Form, by Susan Owens. Pion Press, 1986.

The Future of Housing Markets: A New Appraisal, by L. S. Burns and L. Grebler. Plenum, 1986.

Handbook of Regional and Urban Economics, Vol. 1: Regional Economics, Vol. 2: Urban Economics, by Peter Nijkamp and E. S. Mills. North Holland, 1987.

Studies in Indian Urban Development, by E. S. Mills and C. M. Becker. Oxford, 1986.

<u>Urban and Regional Planning in Canada</u>, by J. Barry Cullingworth. Transaction Books, 1987.

<u>Urban Dynamics</u> and <u>Urban Externalities</u>, by T. Miyao and Y. Kanemoto. Harwood Academic Publishers, 1987.

Network on Marginalized Groups and Polarization in the City

Paul White (University of Sheffield) is setting up an international network of scholars interested in the process of marginalization and polarization in the modern city. The objectives of the research network include the exchange of research findings from individual projects, the organization of joint seminars and conferences, and the setting up of comparative research projects on a cross-national or international basis.

Anyone interested in joining the network should contact Paul White, Department of Geography, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, S10 2TN England, or Paul Knox, Urban Affairs Program, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA 24061.

Neighborhood Systems Association

The May 1987 issue of <u>Neighborhood Systems</u> includes articles on the evolution of modern American neighborhoods. The NSA studies neighborhood systems, specifically comparing and evaluating low density, car-dependent suburban and high density/mid rise neighborhoods using non-car modes. The NSA attempts to do this quantitatively and systematically, and to look for ways to implement dense, non-car neighborhood systems. To order the journal, write to: Sherman Lewis, Editor, <u>Neighborhood Systems</u>, Dept. of Political Science, California State University, Hayward, California, 94542.

Your Newsletter

Do you have an item for the next issue of the newsletter? If so, you are encouraged to send it 'express' to the editor via BITNET (address: GEG172@UKCC). Or send it the old fashioned way to: John Paul Jones, III, Department of Geography, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40506. Phone: (606) 257-6950.

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