

## EDITOR'S REPORT\*

Since I assumed the position of co-editor of the **International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters** in 1987, many have assisted. The improved quality and regularity of the journal issues reflects their contributions and support provided by the University of Denver and Arizona State University. Joanne Nigg supervised the production and distribution of the IJMEAD until she left ASU to become Director of the Disaster Research Center; Ron Perry assumed these responsibilities thereafter. We thank them both and the ASU staff members who assisted.

A special word of thanks is due to Ruth Ann Drabek. Throughout my term she contributed many hours of editorial and administrative assistance, especially in keeping track of the 63 manuscripts that formally were reviewed during the past three years. Of these, 21 have been published, 27 were rejected, 3 remain in process, and 12 were revised to appear in our "Feedback from the Field" section. Of course, these figures do not include manuscripts that I rejected without formal review because of inappropriate content or overall quality. All manuscripts published went through at least one revision cycle; many required two or three rewrites to attain publication quality.

An additional word of thanks also is due to Henry Quarantelli who served as Book Review Editor; Neil Britton who assisted as co-editor; and the following individuals who edited special issues: Russ Dynes, Gary Kreps, and Rick Sylves.

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\*Summary of remarks made at the Business Meeting of Research Committee 39; Sociology of Disasters, XIIth World Congress of Sociology, Madrid, Spain, July 9-13, 1990.

I also want to thank the following individuals who served as reviewers.

Aguirre, Benigno	Kunreuther, Howard
Anderson, William	Leik, Robert
Baker, Earl	Mileti, Dennis
Bates, Fred	Nigg, Joanne
Berke, Philip	Palm, Risa
Bolin, Robert	Perry, Ronald
Bolton, Patricia	Quarantelli, E.L.
Britton, Neil	Saarinen, Thomas
Dynes, Russell	Scanlon, Joseph
Forrest, Thomas	Sorensen, John
Gillespie, David	Stallings, Robert
Hoetmer, Gerard	Turner, Ralph
Key, William	Wenger, Dennis
Killian, Lewis	Wyner, Alan
Kreps, Gary	

While several improvements await Ron Perry, who has agreed to succeed me, the IJMEAD is alive and well and increasingly can function as the key dissemination mechanism within the disaster research community. We wish Ron the best with his new responsibilities.



## EDITORIAL COMMENTARY

We open this issue with a brief report regarding the *Journal*. It presents a summary of remarks I made at the July Business Meeting of the Research Committee (#39: Sociology of Disasters, International Sociological Association). This afforded me an opportunity to thank those who have been most helpful during these critical years in the *Journal's* history.

Peter Walker has experienced the trauma of famine firsthand while serving as director of a relief agency in Ethiopia. He synthesized his observations regarding famine relief and illustrates a fundamental rationale for disaster research. Unless practitioners understand the social dynamics of such community responses, well-intentioned relief programs will remain subject to error and misdirection.

Ronald Perry and Michael Lindell provide us with another in their long series of analyses of the human response to Mount St. Helens. Which families will take protective action when such hazards continue to threaten? Their rigorous assessment of data collected from people living near this volcano provide us with a new element in our knowledge base. Ron, by the way, will assume co-editorship of the *Journal* starting with the March 1991 issue.

John Harrald opens the "Feedback from the Field" section with a penetrating analysis of the response to the Exxon Valdez accident. Through it, we obtain a snapshot of the emergent crisis organization and an analysis of the complex decision-making process. His assessment is followed by a brief description of disaster preparedness and planning efforts in Tasmania, Australia that was submitted by John Lunn. Rationale, course objectives, and administrative details are included here to aid readers in an expanded awareness of the professionalization that is occurring on a worldwide basis within emergency management. Numerous book reviews conclude this issue.

*Thomas E. Drabek*