'96 Congressional Budget: A Reflection of a World Upside Down
by Dana Wise

Everyday, we see more signs of a world upside down. As I write this, today's newspaper (New York Times, 11/1/95, page 1) contrasts record stock market prices, soaring corporate profits, and workers' wages that grew by just 0.2 percent last year, "the smallest amount on record" according to the Labor Department. Current budget politics in Washington reflect this trend. Doug Henwood, publisher of The Left Business Observer wrote this week that when you combine tax and spending changes, the income distribution effects of current "balanced" budget proposals are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Dollars</th>
<th>% of income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poorest</td>
<td>-2,497</td>
<td>-23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second</td>
<td>-1,085</td>
<td>-3.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third</td>
<td>-419</td>
<td>-0.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richest</td>
<td>760</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
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According to Henwood, the poorest among us will lose $2,497, or 23% of their existing income by the time the budget is "balanced", while the wealthiest will gain $760. Calling this "balanced" is upside-down logic. The combination of stagnant wages, record profits, and a federal budget that redistributes existing income streams from the poor to the richest summarizes the sorry politics underlying the current Washington budget debate. [And I think we need to be careful in labeling this simply a product of the Republican victory in last year's election: three Democratic Representatives recently voted for the House budget reconciliation bill.]

On the housing front, both houses of Congress are working on authorization bills (setting policies and rules) and appropriation bills (that fund the programs). The most significant of these is the United States Housing Act of 1995 introduced by housing authorizing subcommittee chairman, Representative Lazio (R-NY). This bill repeals the United States Housing Act of 1937 which established public housing and substantially rewrites the federal commitment to low-income housing. The National Budget/page 13

A few words from the editor

The response to the newsletter's new design has been overwhelmingly positive, with a fair number of suggestions thrown in as to additional changes which could be made. Thanks for your comments.

Also being developed is a new editorial style; mainly trying to integrate more feature articles along with our usual resource listings and information on PN projects. This month make it a point to read the page one analysis of the federal budget proposals, and the guide to planning resources on the internet, which can be found on page 14.

Since this newsletter is as much of the membership as it is for the membership, we'll also be pushing for increased participation in its production. Readers who have suggestions for the resources section, ideas for articles, or even completed articles, are encouraged - implored, even - to submit them. This newsletter can truly only be as good as its readership.

Also featured this month is the long-overdue Planners Network Membership Roster. It includes the names and addresses of everyone

Editor/page 11
Call for Papers

- Latinos. The Harvard Journal of Hispanic Policy is soliciting articles which provide analysis on public policy effecting Latino communities in the United States. Articles which provide insight into the practice of developing and implementing useful and effective public policies are especially encouraged. Deadline is January 1, 1996. For more information, contact Harvard Journal of Hispanic Policy, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, 79 John F. Kennedy St., Cambridge, MA 02138; 617/495-1351.
- Please see more calls for papers in the conference listings on page 9.

Jobs

- Professor/Los Angeles. Occidental College is filling a tenure-track, Asst. Prof. position in Minority Politics, Public Policy, beginning Fall 1996. Lit/c/v/3 ltrs. of recommendation by Nov. 10 (may be flexible if this newsletter arrives after that date) to Prof. Peter Dreier, Dept. Politics, Occidental College, LA, CA 90041.
- Executive Director/New Hampshire. Whole Village Family Resource Center in Plymouth, NH, is looking for an Executive Director. The new organization will house 12 social agencies and serve the children and families of 19 towns in central New Hampshire. For more information contact Whole Village Family Resource Center, Executive Director Recruitment, P.O. Box 538, Plymouth, NH 03264; 603/536-3720.

PN’er Updates

- Energy Efficiency as Credit Enhancement. PN’er Roger D. Colton’s report “Energy Efficiency as a Credit Enhancement: Public Utilities and the Affordability of First-Time Homeownership” is available from him at 34 Warwick Road, Belmont, MA 02178; 617/484-0979.
- Group Housing. PN’er Daniel Lauber’s article “Group Think” about community residence regulations was published in the October issue of Planning. Available from American Planning Association, 122 S. Michigan Ave., Ste. 1600, Chicago, IL 60603; 312/431-9100.
- Accessible Neighborhoods. I am an Italian architect at the end of a Masters in City Planning. I am preparing a thesis on how to build accessible and affordable neighborhoods (ADA, Fair Housing Act, Universal Design). I would appreciate any help in identifying books, articles, reports, video or audio tapes, or other documents. Maurizio Antonini, 2220 Cam. de la Reina, #207, San Diego, CA 92108; 619/294-8899.
- Citizen Participation Via Public Consultations. We are a University of Montreal based group working on a research project on public consultations from the point of view of local democracy. We are interested in studying and collecting information from cities of comparable size and population to Montreal, who use public consultations as a mechanism of involving citizens in the decision making process. For exchange of information contact Pierre Hamel, Institut d’urbanisme, Université de Montréal, C.P. 6128, succ. centre-ville, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, H3C 377.

Funding

- Housing and Urban Empowerment. The Discount Foundation has a Dec. 31 deadline for its 1996 grants ($5,000-20,000 for housing & urban empowerment, all with a public organizing focus). Applications from Susan Chin at 250 5th Ave., New York, NY 10010; 212/570-1520.

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- The New York Chapter of Planners Network continues its annual series of forums.
  - December 1 • Grassroots planning in Puerto Rico
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For more information call Winton at 718-636-3486.

Renewing Hope, Restoring Vision: Progressive Planning in our Communities

June 14-16, 1996 • Pratt Institute, Brooklyn New York

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  This project will present case studies of United States that have undertaken a proactive approach to planning and set forth an independent vision for their future. The case studies will focus on planning as an integral part of a process of political empowerment in communities that have historically been marginalized. The cases should be varied geographically and reflect varied experiences.
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For more information and to participate in any of these projects, contact Tom Angotti or Winton Pitcock at the PN Office 718-636-3486.
E-mail: tboc@citymum.cuny.edu, wintonp@ix.netcom.com.

Letter to the editor (and everyone else)

PN’er Francis Goldin, in response to a postcard reminder, writes:
I guess the reason I have had two minds about staying on Planners Network’s mailing list is that I’ve concluded that more newsletters and conferences and events aren’t going to do much to turn the bad tide we’ve been in for the last year or so, only looking like it’s getting much worse.
Not that all of the above aren’t important - we know they are - but unless we take a more “in-your-face” and activist role, as planners, we’re not going to be able to turn the tide.
You know, when a shook from a community gets up before the City Planning Commission, or the City Council, or wherever, we’re just another nameless, faceless cry in the wilderness. But when a planner, with credentials and with the backing of an organization, on whose behalf the person or persons are speaking get up, those clowns tend to listen. After all, it’s another “professional” and they stop yawning and are forced to listen.
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E-mail: thoc@sunyvm.suny.edu, wintonp@sk.netcom.com

**Project on Globalization and Habitat II**

This project will seek to develop a progressive agenda for cities on a global scale that reflects the interests and needs of the majority of urban dwellers throughout the world who are poor, live in substandard housing and have inadequate services. The analysis will consider the urban impacts of globalization and the structural adjustment programs mandated by international lending institutions. It will entail an examination of the official positions taken by the United Nations delegation to Habitat II, and delegations from other developed nations.

The end product of the project will be position papers and resolutions to be submitted by Planners Network at the Habitat II conference, to be held in Istanbul June 3-13, 1996. The Planners Network National Conference will include workshops to discuss the Habitat II Conference and its outcome.

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- **Public Employees.** "Public Employees: Facts at a Glance?" is a 53-page, 1995 pamphlet from the AFL-CIO Public Employee Dept., offering lots of data on services provided by the public sector, how public services are paid for, public sector expenditures & characteristics of public employees. Possibly free, from the Dept., 815 16th St. NW, Washington, DC 20006; 202-393-2820.

- **Living Wage Jobs.** The Los Angeles Living Wage Coalition - labor unions, community organizations & research cts. - has initiated an effort to bring decent jobs to tens of thousands of LA's low-wage workers. They have an ordinance before the City Council requiring companies benefitting from City subsidies or contracts to provide livable wages and job security to their employees. Similar efforts are under way in Boston, Dallas, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, New Orleans, Little Rock and Baltimore (where BUILD, a citywide church-based organization, teamed up with AFSCME to win legislation guaranteeing that employees of companies holding service contracts with the City receive wages of $7.70 an hour.) Further info. from Madeline Janis-Aparicio at the Coalition, 634 S. Spring St., #1016, LA, CA 90014, 213/486-9880.

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- **Energy Sources.** "Power Source: Guide to the Coming "Energy Revolution" predicts a coming showdown between traditional power companies and newer energy corporations. $10.95 from WorldWatch Institute, 1776 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20036; 202/452-1999.

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- **Housing Awards.** HUD is seeking submissions of local housing projects that represent outstanding examples of creative problem-solving. Application packets are available by calling 800/248-8188, or e-mail habitat@aspensym.com.


- **Nonprofit Housing.** "Status and Prospects of the Nonprofit Housing Sector" examines nonprofit organizations' efforts to meet national goals in providing low-income housing, and suggests policy recommendations toward strengthening the nonprofit sector. Ask for publication number 5976 from The Urban Institute, PO Box 7273, Dept. C., Washington, D.C. 20044.

- **CDCs/Communities.** The September/October issue of Shelterforce: The Journal of Affordable Housing Strategies focuses on CDCs and the Future of America's Communities. Available from Shelterforce, 439 Main St., Orange, NJ 07050; 201/678-3110.

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• American Indians. "American Indians & Home Ownership" is a new 18-page report prepared by the American Indian Research & Policy Institute, 749 Simpson St. N., St. Paul, MN 55104; 624-1427.


• Demolition. "Demolition Watch" is a project of the Natl. Low Income Housing Coal., tracking the impact of public housing demolition and replacement around the country on the lives of residents and neighborhoods. For more information contact Deborah Austin at the Coalition, 1014 12th St. NW, #1200, Washington, DC 20005; 202/662-1530 x227.

• Race and Residence. "Failures & Facts About Race & Residence" is available from Don DeMarco, OPEN, 311 S. Juniper St., #400, Philadelphia, PA 19107; 215/735-6915.

• Census Abstracts. "Housing of American Families on Reservations – Structural Characteristics" is a 2-page article, 1995 Census Bureau Statistical Brief, available, free from Robert Bonnette, 301/763-8553. Other Statistical Briefs:
  *Home Equity Lines of Credit: A Look at the People Who Obtain Them" (2 pp., June 1995), from Howard Savage, 301/763-8552.


• HUD Rentals. Promoting Housing Choice in HUD's Rental Assistance Programs," by John Goering, Abdolrahag Hatghi, Helane Sivanonan & Michael Seward, is available from HUD USER, PO Box 6091, Rockville, MD 20849; 800/245-2691

• Nonprofit Housing. "Status & Prospects of the Nonprofit Housing Sector," by HUD’s Office of Policy Development & Research, is available ($5) from HUD USER, PO Box 6091, Rockville, MD 20849; 800/245-2691.


• Fair Housing. The Fair Housing Report is the new newsletter of the Fair Housing Council of Greater Washington, 927 15th St. NW, #600, Washington, DC 20005; 202/289-5360. The premier, Fall 1995, 20-page issue contains articles on racial discrimination experienced by members of the armed forces, CRA, developing allies in the real estate profession, Hispanics' housing conditions and the insurance rating debate.


• Housing Hotline. The Housing Counseling Clearinghouse now has a toll-free hotline, 800/217-6790, giving access to information, HCC's quarterly newsletter and its calendar of events; it has bilingual (Spanish) capabilities. HCC is at PO Box 9057, Gaithersburg, MD 20879; 301/251-5389.


• Homelessness and Education. "A Foot in the Schoolhouse Door: Progress & Barriers to the Education of Homeless Children" surveys service providers from more than 120 family shelters in 20 states and DC; surveys state officials responsible for removing barriers to homeless children's education; and reviews plans states must submit to US DOE to receive program funds. The report also examines the DOEd's administrative treatment of the problem in Lakemont v. DC -- the first and only court decision interpreting (constructively) the McKinney Education statute. $15 (+ postage) from the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty, 918 F St. NW, #412, Washington, DC 20004; 202/638-2535; discounted rate $5 for small nonprofits.

• Homeless Families. "Coalition Projects Increase in Homeless Families Sheltered by State in FY95" is the heading of a story from the Feb. 1995 issue of OverdriveSoftware, the newsletter of the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless, 288 A St., Boston, MA 02210; 617/737-3508.

• Homelessness and Education. "School Programs & Practices for Homeless Students" is a 2-page, April 1995 article of the ERIC Clearinghouse on Urban Education Digest. Free with a $1.00 subscription to Urban Minority & Educational Equity, Box 40, Columbus University Teachers College, NY, NY 10027; 212/678-3436.

POVERTY / WELFARE


• Human Services Funding. "Maintaining Funding for Essential Human Services; A Necessity, Not an Option" is a 27-page + exhibits, July 1995 report to DC government by the Fair Budget Coalition, prepared with the pro bono assistance of the Hogan & Harlan law firm. For copies, contact the Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless, 1800 Massachusetts Ave. NW, 6th flr., Washington, DC 20036; 202/872-1494.

• Census Poverty Data. "Poverty Areas" is a 4-page, June 1995 Census Bureau Statistical Brief, available (free) from Leath Lamison-White, 301/763-8578. A related June 1995 2-page is "How Much We Earn -- Factors That Make a Difference," also free, from Kirby Posey; 301/763-8576.

• Poverty and Death. "Poverty & Death in the US -- 1973 and 1991," by Robert Kahn, Elaine Eaker, Nancy Barker, Steven Teutsch, Vindhya Kondak & Nancy Kriger, from the 1991 issue of Epidemiology, calculates that the extent of mortality due to poverty is of the same order as that attributed to tobacco (which IHIS considers to be the leading cause of death in the US). Reprinted from PNAS, at the Dept. Health & Social Behavior, Harvard School of Public Health, 677 Huntington Ave., Boston, MA 02115; 617/432-1571; E-mail: nkrieger@hsph.harvard.edu.

• Welfare Reform. The Leadership Conference on Civil Rights has a "2-page Principles on Welfare Reform." Contact them at 1629 K St. NW, #1010, Washington, DC 20006; 202/466-3311.

• Welfare Research. Welfare Research Partnership: The Inst. for Women's Policy Research is interested in forming partnership with academics, researchers, advocacy groups & others to develop a research agenda and undertake research projects to track, monitor, analyze & evaluate the AFDC block grants-to-come programs and their effects. Contact Jill Braunitz, IWPR, 1400 20th St. NW, #104, Washington, DC 20036; E-mail: jillbraun@iwpr.com.

• State Welfare Programs. "Welfare to Work: State Programs Have Tested Some of the Proposed Reforms" (32 pp., July 1995, GAPOEMD-95-26) is available, free from the US General Accounting Office, PO Box 6015, Gaithersburg, MD 20884-6015; 202/512-6000.

• TV Documentary. Across the River, the new PBS documentary by former NY Times reporter Hedrick Smith, "about people who are making a difference East of the Anacostia River [Wash., DC]." is scheduled for nationwide broadcast November 24 @ 9pm (the usual "check your local listings" caveat applies). Information from 301/654-9684.

• Census Data. Demographic Data has available census and political information by race, relating to voter participation, mainly for the Boston area; contact Walter Jonas, 3 Hawthorne Rd., Milton, MA 02186; 617/698-6828.

• Race and Class. Facing Up to the American Dream: Race, Class & the Soul of the Nation, by Jennifer Hochschild (412 pp., 1995), has just been published by Princeton Univ. Press, 41 William St., Princeton, NJ 08540; 609/258-7514, $26.95.

• Inclusiveness. "Five Commandments for an Inclusive America" is the keynote address by President Hugh Price at the National Urban League's 1995 annual conference Available from Wayman Ezel at the League, 500 E. 62nd St., NYC, NY 10021-8379; 212/310-9021.

• Racial Discrimination. The Working Group on Racial Discrimination (WORD) has been convened by ESRWAN (the Economic & Social Human Rights Advocacy Network), in order to prepare a report to the Commission on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, established under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, which the US ratified in October 1994. Contact Peggy Crane of ESRWAN, 782 West End Ave., #91, NY, NY 10025; 212/316-5036, to participate in the WORD effort, and to get a copy of the Convention.

TRANSPORTATION


Demolition. "Demolition Watch" is a project of the Natl. Low Income Housing Coal., tracking the impact of public housing demolition and replacement around the country on the lives of residents and neighborhoods. For more information contact Deborah Austin at the Coalition, 1014 12th St. NW, #1200, Washington, DC 20005; 202/662-1530 x227.

Race and Residence. "Facilitates & Facts About Race & Residence" is available from Don DeMarco, OPEN, 311 S. Juniper St., #400, Philadelphia, PA 19107; 215/735-6915.

Census Abstracts. "Housing of American Indians on Reservations -- Structural Characteristics" is a 2-page, April 1995 Census Bureau Statistical Brief, available, free, from Robert Bonnette, 301/763-8553. Other Statistical Briefs:

* Home Sweet Home -- America's Housing, 1970 to 1995 (2 pp., July 1995), from Jeanne Woodward; 301/763-8553;


HUD Rentals. "Promoting Housing Choice in HUD's Rental Assistance Programs," by John Goering, Abdullah Haghibi, Halima Siebers & Michael Seward, is available from HUD USER, Box 6091, Rockville, MD 20849; 800/245-2691.

Nonprofit Housing. "Status & Prospects of the Nonprofit Housing Sector," by HUD's Office of Policy Development & Research, is available ($4) from HUD USER, Box 6091, Rockville, MD 20849; 800/245-2691.


Fair Housing. The Fair Housing Report is the new newsletter of the Fair Housing Council of Greater Washington, 927 15th St., NW, #660, Washington, DC 20005; 202/289-5360. The premier, Fall 1995, 20-page issue contains articles on racial discrimination experienced by members of the armed forces, CRA, developing allies in the real estate profession, Hispanics' housing conditions and the insurance redlining debate.


Housing Hotline. The Housing Counseling Clearinghouse now has a toll-free hotline, 800/217-6970, giving access to information, HCC's quarterly newsletter and its calendar of events; it has bilingual (Spanish) capabilities. HCC is at PO Box 9057, Gaithersburg, MD 20879; 301/251-5389.


Homelessness and Education. "A Foot in the Schoolhouse Door: Progress & Barriers to the Education of Homeless Children" surveys service providers from more than 120 family shelters in 20 states and DC; surveys states officials responsible for removing barriers to homeless children's education; and reviews plans states must submit to US DOE to receive program funds. The report also examines the DOE's administrative treatment of the program and Lamkin v. DC -- the first and only court decision interpreting (constructively) the McKinney Education statute. $15 (+ postage) from the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty, 918 F St. NW, #412, Washington, DC 20004; 202/638-2535; discounted rate for small nonprofits.

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Homelessness and Education. "School Programs & Practices for Homeless Students" is the 2-page, April 1995 issue of theERIC Clearinghouse on Urban Education Digest. Free with a SASE. Prof. Schill, National Clearinghouse for Urban Minority Education, Box 40, Columbus University Teachers College, NY, NY 10027; 212/678-3436.

POVERTY / WELFARE


RACE / RACISIM

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covaries). Information from 301/654-9848.

Census Data. Demographic Data has available census and political information by race, relating to voter participation, mainly for the Boston area; contact Walter Jonan, 3 Hawthorn Rd., Milton, MA 02181; 617/698-6828.

Race and Class. Facing Up to the American Dream: Race, Class & the Soul of the Nation, by Jennifer Hochschild (412 pp., 1995), has just been published by Princeton Univ. Press, 41 William St., Princeton, NJ 08540; 609/258-7714, $29.95.

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TRANSPORTATION


Traffic. Two articles by PW/er Tom Samuels, "Traffic Calming: Towards Reclaiming Urban Neighborhoods" and "Traffic Expands to Fill the Available Road Space: Re-Thinking Traffic Congestion" are available from The Better Transportation Coalition, 517 College St., Suite 323, Toronto, Ontario, M6G 2A2, Canada; 416/961-5676; tsmuels@web.aop.org.
**Planners Network 1995 Roster**

States are in alphabetical order, names within states are in zip code order. International members follow U.S. states, in alphabetical order by country.

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**Ralph Neeson**  
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I administer a statewide incentive scholarship fund for impoverished single parents, mostly women, who want to complete their higher education in preparation for skilled work. The Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund is a privately funded, grassroots effort to develop educational support for single parents at the community level.

**Stanko Gavric**  
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Fax: 707-826-0105

### Miscellaneous

- **National Urban Policy.** President Clinton's first National Urban Policy Report, "Empowerment: A New Covenant with America's Communities," is available ($4) from HUD USER, PO Box 6091, Rockville, MD 20849, 301/245-2691.
- **Policy Research Action Group.** The PRAG Report is a new newsletter of the Policy Research Action Group, a Chicago area operation. Available from PRAG, Grandna Centre, Ste 2646, 6525 N. Sheridan Rd., Chicago, IL 60614; e-mail: wwecl itch@uic.edu.
- **Economics, Politics, and the Media.** "The Triumph of the Market: Essays on Economics, Politics, and the Media, by Edward Herman (278 pp., 1995), is available ($16) from South End Press, 116 S. Bostol St., Boston, MA 02115; 617/266-0629. Among the topics: The "New Racist Onslaught" (on The Bell Curve), "The Best Man" (on Clarence Thomas and super-affirmative action for righting whites), "Politically Correct Holocausts (Columbus and N. Amer. Indians, the slave trades, the Vietnam War, etc.), "Law & Order," "Survival of the Fattest," and "Reparations."
- **Citizen Planners.** A publication called Planning Commission Commentary, specifically designed for municipal county, and regional planning boards but also very valuable to any citizen (or professional) planner, is available from Planning Commissioners Journal, PO Box 4295, Burlington, VT 05406; 802-864-9083; pcj@together.net. Standard subscriptions are $40, but ask about quantity and small town discounts. The Fall issue featured articles about fast food restaurants and rules of parliamentary procedure for boards and committees.

**Nonprofit Boards.** A catalog of resources for board members and directors of nonprofit organizations is available from the National Center for Nonprofit Boards, Suite 510-FT, 200 L St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20036-4907, 202/452-6262.

**Corporate Welfare.** The September issue of Voice Unltd, published by the SouthWest Organizing Project, features a special section on Corporate Welfare in New Mexico. Copies are available from the SouthWest Organizing Project, 210 11th St., SW, Albuquerque, NM 87102.

**Internet Resources.** A booklet entitled "The Internet: What it can and Can't do for Activists" is available for $4.50 from Social Justice Connections, Dept. 7, PO Box 4090, Arlington, CA 22204; 703/553-4440; lumberjake@aol.com

**Labor.** Grassroots Economic Organizing Newsletter's (GEO) August/September issue leads off with the heartwarming headline "Labor's Activism Renewed." It's available from GEO, PO Box 5065, New Haven, CT 06522; 203/389-6194.
Planners Network 1995 Roster

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and provides a wide range of social and support services for the homeless and very low-income.

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I am associate director of West Hollywood Community Housing Corp., a 501(c)(3) low-income housing developer. WHCHC produces housing for seniors, families and person living with AIDS. In addition, WHCHC self-manages its 5 developments. My interest at this time is in furthering the capacities of non-profits to self-manage their development project over the long-term, the interface between management and supportive services.

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Richard Appellbaum is Professor of Sociology and Director of the Community and Organization Research Institute at the University of California at Santa Barbara, where he also Co-Directs the Institute's Center for Global Studies. He is an expert and a co-editor of *Competition and Change: The Journal of Global Business and Political Economy*. His current interests are in the areas of housing and homelessness, and the social, cultural and political ramifications of economic globalization. He is studying the return of the sweatshop industries to the United States, and he is studying the apparel industry in Los Angeles, as well as global subcontracting by US firms in East Asia. He is a recent book include *Richmond Rental Housing, Kar Marx, States and Economic Development in the Asian Pacific Rim: An industry textbook that highlights globalization*. 

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After nearly a decade of first economic development and then community development at the City of Berkeley, I am now a consultant in the same field.

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I have a small architectural practice in S.F., focusing on existing buildings and special expertise in historic preservation and disabled access design. Projects include

residential and institutional uses for private and non-profit clients. My interests include work that integrates preserving the physical, social and cultural fabrics of communities.

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After fifteen years as a businessperson and five years running a non-profit, I am in my third year of consulting. Newbom & Associates does everything from strategic plans to Web pages. But mostly we try to get too nostalgic for the old days of the Peace Corps, California Coastal Commissions and youth corps in their prime.

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I work for the Enviromental Redevelopment Agency and manage their affordable housing projects. My biggest concerns are with NIMBYism and the increasing bent of elected officials to favor housing over rental and want to do mixed income on even the smallest of projects.

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I am interested in issues related to economic restructuring urban impacts of globalization, and changing organization of production. I work to support grassroots economic organizing and local economic development that counter negative aspects of globalization. I have worked extensively with civic organization in South Africa and with unions and community organizations in the San Francisco Bay Area.

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I am principal of a 10 person architectural firm serving non-profits producing affordable housing, neighborhood plans, and community facilities. I am a full professor at the University of Washington School of Architecture supervising graduate students designing facilities with community participation.

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I am the coordinator for HUD's preservation programs in the San Francisco office. The future of this program and of the agency are unclear. I am actively looking for meaningful work in the area of affordable housing.

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In mid-July, after almost 8 years as Berkeley’s current Planning Manager and Zoning Officer, I returned to private practice in partnership with my architect husband. A good time to go as Berkeley abandon’s many of the progressive policies that gained notice and notoriety during the past decade or so. I’m doing some permit assistance work and am particularly interested in working on affordable housing projects. Also teaching some planning courses for UC Extension and have written a couple of articles. I continue to serve on APA’s Board and Legislative and Policy Committee, do volunteer with housing groups in Oakland, and recently joined the board of the Greenbelt Alliance to help promote urban infill as an alternative to sprawl.

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I am a cooperative development specialist at the Center for Cooperatives, UC Davis. My focus is on testing and applying cooperative models in economic development and housing. Recent work developing alternatives to timber industry jobs in Northern California and forming rural recycling marketing networks.

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I am a land economist specializing in California regional economic development, public finance, and real estate feasibility. I am a senior associate at Economic and Planning Systems (EPS). EPS consults to public agencies and private developers on issues related to land development. I am interested in issues related to local economic development planning, integrated land use, and transportation modeling and land disposition.

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I am currently writing about barriers to mixed use housing development along transit corridors—why environment urban density are not easily realized—and a post mortem on the Berkeley strong rent control experience. I am also the VP/President of the Berkeley Chapter SEIU Local 535, which represents most of the City’s professional workers.

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I continue to be a planner for the City of Berkeley, California. After having passed the West Berkeley Plan, which sought to preserve land for manufacturing and industry, in 1993, I am now staffing the effort to write the implementation plan. Although the real estate industry still insists otherwise, the amount of manufacturing and industrial use in West Berkeley has picked up substantially in the post-Plan years. I am also participating in the revision of the City’s General Plan.

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As president and CEO of Petie's Coffee and Tea, a twenty-six store coffee roaster and retailer in Berkeley, I continue to apply my vision of organization and planning to a dynamic, quirky, highly quality conscious business. Increasing business can be seen as community. I am interested in issues of quality of life, training, education and training insulcation of values.

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Pattison as an environmental justice and national conferences of APA. Consultant on integrated community development, U.S. and Israel. Consultant (Pro-Bono) to EcoPeace, cooperative effort by NGOs, in Jordan, the Palestine Authority and Egypt to solve transnational and domestic environmental problems as part of Middle East peace process. Board of Directors, Resources for Community Development, Berkeley, non-profit housing and community development corporation.

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I am an administrative assistant to an elected County Supervisor, and also occasionally teach classes at the University of California, Santa Cruz in Environmental Studies. I would appreciate any information regarding research done on the effeciveness of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) or particularly the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

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I’m employed by the California Coastal Commission, regulating development and reviewing local coastal plans. Planning interests include plan evaluation, wetland protection, carrying capacity and new towns. I’m interested in promoting bicycling as an alternative transportation mode.

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Director, U. Conn summer semester program and community organizations. Faculty member, serves 2 years on Hartford City Council with local 3rd party, author of Organizing in Hard Times: Labor and Neighborhoods in Hartford, 25 years of local activism.

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Currently working as a policy analyst with state legislatures while getting my degree in Urban and Regional Planning. My primary concern is affordable housing—and especially in “boom towns” such as Denver.

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I currently serve as a community planner focusing on economic development and marketing for the Greater Bridgeport Region. My desire is to assist individuals and communities more directly in accomplishing their goals. My special interests include neighborhood development where poverty, illiteracy, crime and discrimination afflict both adults and children.

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1-oedit GEO with six or seven other folks, work in New Haven with the RLM Haven Public Housing Residents Council to help create self-employment and community-based economic development, including the RLM Haven Express-ina, a resident-shaped newsletter. Active also in developing coalitions around youth entrepreneurship, community-based financing and local currencies.

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I have just taken a position as the coordinator of the Neighborhood Assistance Center and the Calvinst Environmental Resource Center at a small university on Chicago's south side. I will be dealing with issues of community development and environmental justice.

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Principal of an eight year old women and minority owned consulting firm which provides program evaluation, technical assistance and applied social research services. Current work includes Industrial Modernization Networks, Job Creation and Workforce Development.

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Since I am retired, my work is all volunteering. I am treasurer of 3 community organizations (one a land trust) and a development corporation (non-profit) which is building new and renovated affordable housing for home ownership in Baltimore. I use my computer extensively for financial data and mailing lists for this and other non-profit community organizations.

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I finished my masters in community planning and I am looking for work in this field. Without experience other than my internship, I am having difficulty breaking into this area, I would love more information on jobs. When I get one, I am hoping to contribute.

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Massachusetts

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I am interested in social and political aspects of land use and public space.

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I am the Director of Special Projects at the Citizens’ Housing and Planning Association, a statewide advocacy organization based in Boston. I am currently co-coordinating several programs to help low-and moderate-income households purchase foreclosed properties. I am particularly interested in housing and community development issues.

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I take an interdisciplinary approach to community development, concentration on linkages between physical, social, political and economic aspects. Through field projects, I combine teaching professional skills with providing service to community organizations. particular emphasis is placed on developing racial and cultural awareness in community planning and participatory planning methodologies for community empowerment.

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I am continuing my long standing involvement with housing affordability, housing finance and the right to housing. In addition, I have become interested in issues around the disposition of Federal and State facilities: the opportunities for determinants of meaningful participatory planning and equitable, sustainable community benefit.

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After a decade of working on affordable housing issues, I've shifted to work more directly on tax, budget and equity issues. I'm working with Share The Wealth, a national project working to draw public attention to growing inequality and its dangerous implications for our democracy, economy and civic life.

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Jerry Robin
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Louise Dunlap
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After 15 years teaching writing in the MIT planning department, I am now working on a book, Writing For Social Change, and doing staff training in planning related non-profit, unions and women’s groups mostly recently in South Africa.

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I am interested in the impacts of land-use, transportation, and housing policies and programs on low-income minority groups.

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I have worked on community planning since the days of advocacy planning. Since then, I have worked as a community plan- ner, architect, and an academic in different settings in New York and Boston. My pri- mary interest is to examine Place: the pol- icies of place and development of place by people of color and women. I am currently teaching planning at UMass Amherst and trying to reassert the MA chapter of Planners Network. I am also the sys-op of Plan.Net.

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Work: continuing in transition from urban planning and research work for the city of Cambridge, Mass. to a Ph.D. program in Public Policy at U. Mass. Boston. Likely focus: community economic development, informed by sectional and market analysis, political theory and regional spatial trends. Am also interested in telecommunica-tions — both its potential as a tool for economic interest, and in the "net" as a tool for progressive local/community planning.

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I am currently managing the HUD HOPE VI Urban Revitalization Demonstration project taking place in Far Rockaway, Queens. The project team includes archi-tects, engineers, social planners and organ-izers and is working closely with residents in the public housing development. I’m interested in the success/failures of compre-hensive community initiatives being tried elsewhere. What works? What’s just hype?

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Minnesota

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Fredric Markus
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I work with neighborhood-level planning sce-narios in a 90% voter/10% owner inner-city area headed for major demographic change. I also teach and write about sexual diversity issues. I have a major Mosaic habit, using map info and other computer graphics tools.

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Kim McCarty
People of Phillips
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We are organizing a community driven neigh-borhood action plan which will solicit $15 mil-lion in funds to be sent on community chosen and initiat-ed projects. These projects include a housing revolving loan fund, job training for youth and a focus on cultural and ethnic specificity in delivery of services.

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As a planning and design consultant I have worked for 20 years with community organizations conducting democratic planning processes and developing housing projects. I began working in development planning as an architect and have learned through trial and error to do community organizing, financial planning, organization and local development and housing management.

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of low income resident ownership organiza-tions., building the community base of CDC’s.

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Still organizing to get low-income neigh-borhoods a seat at the development table. Also, through consulting and doctoral pro-gram, building more systematic under-standing of what neighborhoods do, how they change, why and how to measure change. Is residential use a transitional stage or a sustainable part of evolving neighborhood structure?

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Capital needs assessments, planning, financing, project management. Primarily multi-family housing, focusing in public and other assisted states. Faith-based com-munity development.

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At HUD’s Boston office, I am working as a multifamily housing analyst, overseeing HUD’s partnerships with private for-profit and non-profit multifamily rental of coop-erative housing owners. Very interested in the prospective development of these partnerships from the federal to the state/local level, including, especially. Urban level low income housing advocacy may thereby be strengthened.

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Currently focused on developing public building/facilities with private money. Private R.E. money is attracted to the re-sitive security of governmental needs, com-plementing the public lack of funds. Work performed as principal of TBA architects, Inc. Also active in non-profit, being presi-dent of Newton City Museum, chairman of academic appeals/student affairs at Boston Architectural Center.

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After too many years of abuse in archi-technal firms, I am delighted to be working steadily as an architect for a state agency (Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency) creating and rehabilitating public housing (in HUD’s Demonstration Disposition Program). I am interested in workplace issues for architects in the private sector and how to break into the politics of local housing authorities.

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I work with a non-profit consulting firm that serves state and local governments, community-based organizations and labor organizations on social justice issues. We seek to keep those who often can’t afford experts “in the game” when “the game” requires technical analysis.

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I’m currently staff to the Neighborhood Development Support Collaborative, a col-laborative of local and national funders based at Boston LISC. We fund Boston area CDC’s with a goal of strengthening CDC operations and capacity building. Previous/Ongoing interests strengthening
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I am currently a fellow in the department of Public Policy Studies and Urban Research at Saint Louis University. I have been involved in a few community organizing projects/campaigns that have depredated my interest in progressive political organizing especially in urban areas.

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Degrees in anthropology and urban planning have helped me to view a variety of cultures and lifestyles, not to mention job titles. However, I have yet to find the position in which I feel able to utilize all of my best (perceived strengths — human interaction, organization, efficiency in using resources [human, natural, cultural]). Texas is proving difficult place in which to do this but perhaps my eyes have been opened. Am interested in discussions with others holding similar views. Where does one get the job without "experience?" Where does one have the chance to gain experience?

New Hampshire

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New Hampshire’s fair housing act requires municipalities to plan for construction/reconstruction of affordable housing units for candidates in low/very low income categories (HUD) or risk lawsuits by developers. The state affordable Housing Management Service works with interested candidates primarily helping them to buy or rent units offered within the program guidelines. I work with AHMS coordinating programs among municipal officials, developers and low/very low income categories.

New Hampshire - New Jersey

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Manager of the Community Development and Housing Division for the City of Duluth since 1993. I am also on the staff of the Duluth Housing Trust Fund, Inc., a private non-profit organization that works to secure and disburse funds for affordable housing development. Interests include: equity, community and neighborhood planning.

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My work involves providing support services to non-profit housing and community development organizations through the Affordable Housing Network of New Jersey, a statewide advocacy and capacity building association.

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Currently consults, planning, housing and community development. Recent assignments have been with hazard mitigation staff of FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency). Also member, Board of Trustees, Lawrence Township Conservation Foundation and programs involved with Open space Preservation (and programs for lands acquired). Other interests/activities involve mass transporta- tion feasibility analysis and importance of downtown residential development.

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1. I have taught in the Rutgers University Planning Department for 25 years. My areas of specialization is planning theory, political economy, and urban redevelopment. My most recent book is The City Builders, chronicling the politics and outcomes of property development in New York and London.
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Transportation Planner with the New Mexico State Highway and Transportation Department. Duties: to implement federal statewide planning requirements (STEA act of 1991) for local, municipal, county and tribal government and for public involvement. Concern: To identify other FN members with alternative ideas for state transportation planning.

New York

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I work for an intermediary non-profit foundation that specializes in housing and community development. We use federal low-income housing tax credits as a vehicle to achieve our mission. My concern is the long-term survival of low-income housing in light of budget cuts from all levels of government funding.
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I am currently the interior director of the NYC deputys for the 80s empowerment zone office. My own research interest is the political economy of reinvestment including comparative US-UK national urban policy, "gripes" vs. "place-ness" targeting issues, incentives to spare private sector involvement in inner cities, CRa effectivenes and neighborhood - region linkages.
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I am currently writing an essay on the nefarious needs of Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) particularly in mid town Manhattan. It will be published in 1996 (Roundhouse Press) as part of a catalog installment on contemporary urbanism at the RIBA in London, England.
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Among other things, I teach a graduate course at the New School for Social Research on social movements and the anti-profit sector. It covers tenant-housing, civil rights, feminism, pro-choice vs. pro-life, disability rights, gay rights, and environmentalism. I'd appreciate any materials, including book suggestions, pertaining to internal organizational issues - approaches to organizing, strategy, burnout, etc.

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I am working in community development, with non-profit organizations and residents of “inner city” areas including public housing residents, preparing plans, providing training in strategies and planning. Grassroots empowerment is slow but surely underway in Puerto Rico.

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I provide expert litigation involving construction disputes, codes and standards, housing discrimination, zoning and planning issues. Applying my standards cure approach has been successful therein. I continue to design buildings, plan a few neighborhoods, and stay active fighting City Hall et al. on urban design and planning matters.

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I am working in community development, with non-profit organizations and residents of “inner city” areas including public housing residents, preparing trainings in strategies for neighborhood empowerment. Grassroots empowerment is slow but surely underway in Puerto Rico.

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I have spent 13 years as a full-time teaching faculty in small colleges; my teaching specialties have included community analysis, social change, social stratification, poverty in the U.S. and Environmental Sociology. Having been denied tenure, I am now hoping to make a career change in the direction of applied sociology. Advice from anyone who has made such a transition is welcome.

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Prentice Bowsher
Prentice Bowsher Associates
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Phone: 202-347-2981
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Prentice Bowsher Associates is a 15 year old community economic development consultant, specializing in low income housing. Clients range from national organizations such as Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation to local tenant groups. Works break down into editorial services, management support, board training and advising funders.

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I am a Database Manager/Program Director responsible for the research, development, and marketing of the Exchange's computerized information on community economic development. I work with organizations all over the country to develop resources and strategies which promote community economic development, manage a database containing that information and work on developing products which make our data more easily accessible (CD-ROM, Internet, on-line, etc.). I am primarily concerned with advocacy planning, ecological planning and sustainable development practices, as well as issues concerning affordable housing, equal access to credit, community reinvestment and fair housing.

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Law Income Hsg. Information Service
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Youth Policy Institute
1221 Massachusetts Ave. N.W.
Washington, DC 20005

Lynn Pender
Physicians for Social Responsibility
1011 14th St. NW Suite 700
Washington, DC 20005
Land Use. The Lincoln Institute of Land Policy’s 1995-96 course catalogue is available from The Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, 113 Brattle St, Cambridge, MA 02138-3400; 800/LANDUSE. Courses are taught in various cities around the country, and include courses on Community Growth and Change and “The Interaction of Land Policy and Taxation.”

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Affordable Housing. “Preserving Affordable Housing: On the Road to Success” is a series of free HUD workshops highlighting how residents & nonprofits can preserve affordable rental housing. Contact HUD Regional Office at 800/274-2435 for more information.


Wealth Distribution. “Share the Wealth: Organizing Against Corporate Power,” a workshop to educate the public about growing inequalities of the U.S. and implications for our economy, civic life, and culture. The workshop, sponsored by The Learning Alliance and Share the Wealth Project will be held Tuesday, March 12, 6:30 - 9 p.m. at The Learning Alliance, 324 Lafayette St., 7th Floor, New York, NY 10012. Cost is $8-12. For more information: 212/226-7717.

Livable Cities. The 18th International Conference on Making Cities Livable will be held in Carmel, CA, March 12-16, 1995. The conference will focus on three themes: “Restructuring Urban and Suburban sprawl,” “Creating Successful Urban Places,” and “Conversion of Military and Industrial Facilities.” For more information about the conference or to request information on presenting papers or case studies: Suzanne H. Crowhurst Leonard, IMCL Conference, P.O. Box 7586, Carmel, CA 93921; 408/626-9080.

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Sustainable Resources. “The Sixth International Symposium on Society and Resource Management: Social Behavior and Natural Resources, and the Environment” will be held May 18-23, 1996, at The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA. An interdisciplinary symposium dedicated to the study of sustainable relationships between natural resources and society, the symposium’s focus on the usefullness of the social sciences to natural resource managers and policy makers and managers. Anyone interested in participating, or presenting a paper can get more information from Jim Finley, Program Co-Chair, School of Resources, The Pennsylvania State University, 2B Ferguson Building, University Park, PA 16802-2601; 814/863-0401; fj4@psuvm.psu.edu.

Community Development. The 28th Annual Conference, Community Development, will be held July 22-24 in Melbourne. A Call for Presenters has been given. Deadline is Dec. 1 deadline. Inf. from the Society, 1123 N. Water St., Milwaukee, WI 53202, E-mail: 1547.2561@compuserve.com.
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I am involved in urban politics in Germany and in the United States, and researching new roles for neighborhood groups and social movements in urban restructuring.

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I am also engaged as team leader for a Forest Policy/Parking project in Mali (1992-1993). I will be back in Mali in the winter of 1995 as a leader of a private consulting firm interested in local development. I am also interested in natural resource management and forest conservation in the third world.

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Conference and Workshops
November 1995

Planners Network

Conferences and Workshops

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Beyond Communities: Looking at the Global Roots of Urban Poverty

The 1996 Habitat II Conference in Istanbul will be a unique opportunity to focus the world on issues of urban poverty. But will it get at the global roots of poverty? Will it allow governments committed to the free market -- like U.S. government -- to continue to ignore any commitment to the right to housing and a decent living environment?

The Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), to be held in Istanbul in June 1996, will bring global attention to the challenges and opportunities created by global urbanization. As in the other recent United Nations summits conferences such as the Earth summit in Rio in 1992, the Population and Development Conference in Cairo in 1994, and the Women and Development Conference in Beijing in 1995, this forum will provide non-governmental and grassroots organizations (NGOs) an opportunity to voice their perspectives on the problems of rapid urbanization, poverty, inadequate housing and community services, and to collectively influence national governments. Planners Network has been accredited as an NGO.

Some community based organizations have been participating in Habitat II preparatory activities to raise awareness in their communities of global developments, to involve people who have never participated in such events before, and to influence the principles and resolutions adopted by governments at Habitat II.

The U.S. delegation's official position paper, which will be issued in December, is expected to emphasize the importance of local initiatives while avoiding commitment to the right to housing and the allocation of resources for low income communities. This approach stands in sharp contrast with the position taken by many NGOs in other parts of the world, who call for a commitment by governments to address inequalities in the urban standard of living. The U.S. is not likely to acknowledge the role played by transnational corporations, the World Bank and International Monetary Fund in creating global urban problems.

The Planners Network Project on Globalization is working in three areas: 1) developing a progressive agenda for cities at a global scale; 2) participating in activities related to the Habitat II Conference; and 3) developing directions for post Habitat II activities. Conference workshops will reflect these themes.

We would like to generate short working papers that highlight a progressive urban agenda reflecting the needs and interests of the majority of urban residents throughout the world, who live in poverty and without adequate housing and services. These working papers will analyze the urban impacts of globalization and structural adjustment programs, and critically examine the positions of official government delegations, especially the US delegation, to the Habitat II Conference.

We would like to engage in discussions and collaborate with other NGOs in the preparations for Habitat II. We hope to develop position papers to be submitted at the Third Preparatory Meeting of NGOs (PrepCom) in New York City in February 1996, and at the Habitat II Conference in Istanbul in June 1996.

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-- Ayse Yonder

Ayse Yonder is Associate Professor at the Pratt Institute Graduate Center for Planning & the Environment.

Moving Beyond Empowerment: Planners Network Project on Community Planning

Rely are individual community planning concerns and initiatives considered within the broader contexts of national or global plans, policies, or practices. Many planners would argue that community planning is, by its very nature, "progressive." Advocacy planning, as originally described by Paul Davidoff, sought to give voice to community concerns within the planning and decision-making process. Davidoff argued that only through the full participation of all "stakeholders" affected by planning policies and decisions was it possible for the planning process to be inclusive and democratic. Since the late 1960's community planners have, in fact, successfully empowered numerous community groups to be active participants in the planning process.

Yet in the political climate of the 1990's, planners must ask if empowerment alone is sufficient to make community planning "progressive." Far too often community planning has been relegated to a very limited sphere; one where "local" victories are raised, "local" battles are waged, and "local" victories are won. Frequently the larger underlying causes of problems are left unexamined and unchanged. Community planning has often satisfied itself with winning its specific case in court instead of questioning the validity of the laws themselves. Lacking a broader analysis of the root causes of local concerns, community alliances focusing on municipal, national, and global policies are generally not included in community plans. Thus, other communities (or even the same community at a later date) find themselves fighting the same "local" battles over and over.

The conference provides an ideal opportunity for establishing an expanded agenda for progressive community planning that recognizes the still valid significance of community advocacy and empowerment, yet also strives to eliminate the false dichotomy between community planning practice and national and global policy analysis.

The segregation of these areas of inquiry serves to perpetuate a narrow view of community planning and the "ivory tower" isolation of national and global analysis. Opportunities for using community planning to actively support progressive national and global policies are not explored.

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--- Eva Hanhardt

Eva Hanhardt is Project Manager for the Greenpoint-Williamsburg Environmental Benefits Program at the New York City Dept. of Environmental Protection.

Editor / from page 1

who gets the newsletter, along with phone and fax numbers, e-mail addresses, and biosketches from those who submitted that information. Out of nearly 800 members, about 250 submitted biosketches. Please look for your own listing in the roster and notify me if any information is incorrect.

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Finally, don't forget that the three projects for the 1996 conference (June 15-16) are underway, and we'd like them to be a real project effort. Read about them on pages 3 and 10-12, and then call me at 718-636-1486 (e-mail me at winter@fzx.netcom.com) to let me know how you would like to participate.
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- Winter Pincock, editor
Planners Network Updates

PN96 Conference Update

- About a dozen people responded to the call in the last newsletter to work on or participate in the PN96 Conference in Brooklyn June 14-16. We haven’t been able to respond to everyone yet; please be patient.
- Working groups have been set up for each of the three main focus areas -- community-based planning, national urban policy and globalization. They will be generating working papers and action-oriented resolutions for the conference. To get involved, contact Winton or Tom at the PN office.
- Jennifer Fuqua is Conference Coordinator at Pratt. Jennifer is coordinating fundraising, scheduling, promotion and logistics. If you’d like to help out, call Jennifer at 718-384-3099 or 718-636-3500.
- Conference workshops will be led by Facilitators to promote broad participation. Jennifer will be organizing and orienting Facilitators. Two people have volunteered to help out, but we’re going to need many more. To volunteer, contact Jennifer.
- Jennifer is organizing an exhibit at Pratt’s Schaffler Gallery of community plans and projects. Contact her if you would like to contribute something or have suggestions.
- Ken Reardon will be organizing pre-conference walking tours, on Thursday June 13, in Manhattan’s Lower East Side and Harlem and the South Bronx. Post-conference tours (Sunday afternoon, June 16) are expected to include a bicycle tour sponsored by Transportation Alternatives and a Brooklyn bus tour.
- The Association of Community Design Centers will hold their annual conference concurrently with the PN Conference at Pratt.
- Luis Garden Acosta of El Puente Academy in Brooklyn has agreed to be one of the keynote speakers. We are still looking for another keynote with national draw. Any ideas?

PN at Columbia University

Columbia University’s Avery library has begun purchasing a complete set of PN newsletters, and will complete that acquisition early in 1996.

Planners Network On-Line

Planners Network operates an on-line listserv for members to stay in touch, discuss issues, and exchange ideas. It only works if people participate, though, so sign up today!

To subscribe, send e-mail to: PLAN-NET-Request@umbky.umbc.umb
With a one-line message: SUBSCRIBE PLAN-NET

PN at ACSP

Fun was the way many people described the Planners Network roundtable and reception at the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) Conference in Detroit on October 19. That’s not an adjective normally used at scholarly events. The reference is to the excitement elicited by the three panelists, who spoke about different experiences of building hope in central city communities, and the lively discussion that followed. The panelists were June Thomas and Reynard N. Blake, Jr., who spoke about Detroit and faith-based community development, Jackie Leavitt on Los Angeles and Ken Reardon on East St. Louis. The format of short, lively presentations and open discussion is one we hope to repeat at the PN Conference next June.

Budget / from page 1

Housing Law Project points out that while Congress in 1949 set the national housing goal to be “a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American,” the United States Housing Act of 1995proclaims that the Federal Government “cannot . . . provide for the housing of every American citizen; or even a majority of its citizens.” Furthermore, the Federal role is limited to the responsibility to “assist responsible, deserving citizens who cannot provide for themselves because of temporary circumstances or factors beyond their control.” Not-so-subtle rhetoric from the current war against the working class and immigrants.

For the first time in 20 years, the House bill proposes to elimi-
nate incremental Section 8 rental assistance to needy poor and working families. Existing Section 8 recipients, with median family incomes of $6,800, would see their rents increase by an average of $200 a year.

Both houses would repeal or substantially reduce the “Brooke Amendment” that ties public housing Section 8 rent to a percentage of a tenant’s income (usually no more than 30 percent). Public Housing Authorities would have wide discretion in setting their rents, regardless of a needy family’s ability to pay. The combination of reduced public housing operating subsidies (through reduced appropriations) and the elimination of restrictions on rent levels would reduce the availability of housing to the neediest families. Other provisions of the housing bills include:

- Relaxation or repeal of the targeting requirements in public housing;
- Substitution of local preferences, based on weak or subjective guidelines, for current federal preference rules;
- Lowering of Fair Market Rents from the 45th to the 40th per-
centile;
- Elimination of good cause lease termination requirements in the Section 8 Program;
- Consolidation of the Section 8 Certificate Program into the project-based Section 8 program, eliminating federal preferences for needy families, and protection from evictions without “good cause” during the lease term; and,
- Transfer of Fair Housing Enforcement to the Department of Justice.

Also in this year’s authorization bill are provisions that will reduce community accountability and deregulate Public Housing Authorities’ decisions surrounding severely distressed projects. Gone would be the one-for-one replacement rule that ensured that, for each unit of public housing demolished, a new one would be created. The Senate bill eliminates the requirement that residents and their organizations get notification and considera-
tion in a PHA’s decision to demolish or sell a property. The Senate bill further tilts the balance of power against the poor by reducing and eliminating many tenant protections, like adequate notice, and the requirement of “good cause” evictions.

Combined, the provisions reverse Congress’ historic commitment to public housing as the housing of last resort for low-income families.

Planners Network

During last Spring’s close encounter with the balanced budget amendment, the Washington, D.C.-based Center on Budget and Policy Priorities projected that the balanced budget by 2002 would require roughly $1.4 trillion of fed-
eral spending cuts over the next seven years when you include the proposed tax breaks for the wealthy. Because powerful lob-
bies protect the sacred cows in the military and elsewhere, dras-
tic reductions are coming for the poor.

In order to balance the budget and pay for the proposed tax cuts by 2002, all federal expenditures other than Social Security and defense (and the required interest on the national debt) would have to be cut by at least 30 percent.

But it is also probable, if not altogether certain that some areas of federal spending such as federal prisons, veterans benefits, and border control will not be cut. Those programs that serve large numbers of people with income support, education, training, health care, housing and community development are facing as much as a 50 percent cut between now and 2002.

Immediately after the 1994 elections, HUD produced its famous "Blueprint for Change" that consolidated and devolved the Department’s programs. Like many predicted, Congress took the Blueprint as a license for radical restructuring and so has done some of its own consolidating and restructuring. Congress’ recommended appropriation levels for 1996 repeat the rescissions in the 1995 budget; proposed spending would be roughly 23 percent below the levels originally appropriat-
ed at the beginning of the last fiscal year. Furthermore, we need to incorporate the effect of a 2.5% rate of inflation on the budget amounts. The Congressional proposals further reduce the Annual Contributions Account by an average of 14% (16% when adjust-
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cive cut in spending in relatively flat numbers in terms of budget authority. In other words, those numbers hide some very deep cuts in assisted housing.

Fortunately, public opinion polls show that the vast majority of Americans do not share Washington’s upside down view of social justice. Most Americans are not sharing in the party that’s going on in Wall Street, the boardrooms, and in Congress. As long as we stay focused on the phony logic at work there, we weaken the political support necessary to continue the trend.

- Dana Wise studies economic geography at Johns Hopkins University. He can be reached at dwise@jhuics.jhu.edu
Planners Network Updates

PN96 Conference Update

About a dozen people responded to the call in the last newsletter to work on or participate in the PN96 Conference in Brooklyn June 14-16. We haven't been able to respond to everyone yet; please be patient.

Working groups have been set up for each of the three main focus areas -- community-based planning, national urban policy and globalization. They will be generating working papers and action-oriented resolutions for the conference. To get involved, contact Winton or Tom at the PN office.

Jennifer Fuqua is Conference Coordinator at Pratt. Jennifer is coordinating fundraising, scheduling, promotion and logistics. If you'd like to help out, call Jennifer at 718-384-3099 or 718-636-3509.

Conference workshops will be led by Facilitators to promote broad participation. Jennifer will be organizing and orienting Facilitators. Two people have volunteered to help out, but we're going to need many more. To volunteer, contact Jennifer.

Jennifer is organizing an exhibit at Pratt's Schaffler Gallery of community plans and projects. Contact her if you would like to contribute something or have suggestions.

Ken Reardon will be organizing pre-conference walking tours, on Thursday June 13, in Manhattan's Lower East Side and Harlem and the South Bronx. Post-conference tours (Sunday afternoon, June 16) are expected to include a bicycle tour sponsored by Transportation Alternatives and a Brooklyn bus tour.

The Association of Community Design Centers will hold their annual conference concurrently with the PN Conference at Pratt.

Luis Garden Acosta of El Puente Academy in Brooklyn has agreed to be one of the keynote speakers. We are still looking for another keynote with national draw. Any ideas?

PN at ACSP

Fun was the way many people described the Planners Network roundtable and reception at the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) Conference in Detroit on October 19. That's not an adjective normally used at scholarly events. The reference is to the excitement elicited by the three panelists, who spoke about different experiences of building hope in central city communities, and the lively discussion that followed. The panelists were June Thomas and Reynard N. Blake, Jr., who spoke about Detroit and faith-based community development, Jackie Leavitt on Los Angeles and Ken Reardon on East St. Louis. The format of short, lively presentations and open discussion is one we hope to repeat at the PN Conference next June.

Planners Network On-Line

Planners Network operates an on-line listserv for members to stay in touch, discuss issues, and exchange ideas. It only works if people participate, though, so sign up today!

To subscribe, send e-mail to: PLAN-NET-Request@umbcyy.cccmb.umb
With a one-line message: SUBSCRIBE PLAN-NET

Budget / from page 1

Housing Law Project points out that while Congress in 1949 set the national housing goal to be "a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American," the United States Housing Act of 1995 proclaims that the Federal Government cannot... provide for the housing of every American citizen, or even a majority of its citizens." Furthermore, the Federal role is limited to the responsibility to assist "responsible, deserving citizens who cannot provide for themselves because of temporary circumstances or factors beyond their control." Not-so-subtle rhetoric from the current war against the working class and immigrants.

For the first time in 20 years, the House bill proposes to eliminate incremental Section 8 rental assistance to needy poor and working families. Existing Section 8 recipients, with median family incomes of $6,800, would see their rents increase by an average of $200 a year.

Both houses would repeal or substantially reduce the "Brooke Amendment" that ties public housing Section 8 rent to a percentage of a tenant's income (usually no more than 30 percent). Public Housing Authorities would have wide discretion in setting their rents, regardless of a needy family's ability to pay. The combination of reduced public housing operating subsidies (through reduced appropriations) and the elimination of restrictions on rent levels will reduce the availability of housing to the neediest families. Other provisions of the housing bills include:

- Relaxation or repeal of the targeting requirements in public housing;
- Substitution of local preferences, based on weak or subjective guidelines, for current federal preference rules;
- Lowering of Fair Market Rents from the 45th to the 40th percentile;
- Elimination of good cause lease termination requirements in the Section 8 Program;
- Consolidation of the Section 8 Certificate Program into the project-based Section 8 program, eliminating federal preferences for needy families, and protection from evictions without "good cause" during the lease term; and,
- Transfer of Fair Housing Enforcement to the Department of Justice.

Also in this year's authorization bill are provisions that will reduce community accountability and deregulate Public Housing Authorities' decisions surrounding severely distressed projects. Gone would be the one-for-one replacement rule that ensured that, for each unit of public housing demolished, a new one would be created. The Senate bill eliminates the requirement that residents and their organizations get notification and consideration in a PHA's decision to demolish or sell a property. The Senate bill further tilts the balance of power against the poor by reducing and eliminating many tenant protections, like adequate notice, and the requirement of "good cause" evictions.

Combined, the provisions reverse Congress' historic commitment to public housing as the housing of last resort for low-income families. During last Spring's close encounter with the balanced budget amendment, the Washington, D.C. based Center on Budget and Policy Priorities projected that a balanced budget by 2002 would require roughly $1.4 trillion of federal spending cuts over the next seven years. By including the proposed tax breaks for the wealthy. Because powerful lobbies protect the sacred cows in the military and elsewhere, drastic reductions are coming from elsewhere. In order to balance the budget and pay for the proposed tax cuts by 2002, all federal expenditures other than Social Security and defense (and the required interest on the national debt) would have to be cut by at least 30 percent.

But it is also probable, if not altogether certain that some areas of federal spending such as federal prisons, veterans benefits, and border control will not be cut. Those programs that serve low income people with income support, people, education, training, health care, housing and community development are facing as much as a 30 percent cut between now and 2002.

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Nothing but ‘Net: Planning resources on the Internet

There’s no avoiding it any longer. The Internet is fast growing out of its reputation as a toy for computers-heads and game players, and is just as rapidly becoming a valuable tool for research and networking.

Resources for planners and community organizations abound on the internet, and to attempt to compile a comprehensive list would be impossible; new sites crop up and disappear every day. But there are a handful of sites on the World Wide Web, the internet’s fastest growing and easiest to use segment, which are crucial first stops for any planner or organizer. Each site provides links to other sites. Those are listed here, along with a few other sites which are good starting points for internet exploration for planners.

**Resource Sites**

**Neighborhoods Online**
http://libertynet.org/community/phila/natl.html
This is the most comprehensive site for neighborhood resources. Information is divided into categories such as housing and community development, health and human services, and neighborhood environment and appearance. The neighborhood news site contains continuously updated articles and information on goings-on in government that are likely to affect neighborhoods, and frequently takes the extra step of suggesting actions to effect change. The people who maintain the site (The Institute for the Study of Civic Values) seem to be on top of what’s going on with the internet, and are constantly adding links to new sites.

**The University of California at Berkeley**
http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/ENVCityweb.html
These are the best sites for resources relating to planning and community development. They provide listings of WWW sites by topic, ranging from housing to the environment, to historic preservation resources.

**The Guide to Internet Resources for Non-Profit Public Service Organizations**
http://au.nlg.library.unich.edu/chodocs/nonprofits/nonprofits.html
This site has hundreds of links to sites with information on topics ranging from immigration to urban development. Also available at this site are job postings, funding announcements, and Federal Register information relevant to non-profit public service organizations.

**List of Planning Schools Worldwide**
http://www.ncl.ac.uk/-n270556/planning.html

**Government Sites**

**Department of Housing and Urban Development**
http://wwwhud.gov
**US Bureau of the Census**
http://www.census.gov
**US Department of Transportation**
http://www.dot.gov/80/
**US Congress**
http://thomas.loc.gov/
Full text of congressional bills, and the Congressional Record.

**Organization Sites**

**The Community Development Society**
http://www.infostats.com/cds/
**Center for Neighborhood Technology**
http://www.cnt.org
**The Neighborhood Works**
http://www.cnt.org/tnw/twhome.htm
**Policy Research Action Group**
http://www.luc.edu/depts/sociology/prag
**The Planning Commissioner’s Journal**
http://www.webcom.com/~pcj/welcome.html

**Mailing Lists**
For those who can’t get enough e-mail, “listserve” are essentially electronic mailing lists devoted to a particular topic. Subscribers post information or queries, which then get sent to everyone on the list, often resulting in informative “discussions.” One of the best is CDUURBAN, a list devoted to the discussion of community development issues. To subscribe, send an e-mail message to listproc@uwashington.edu that reads “subscribe cdurban (without the quotes) followed by your name. Instructions on how to post messages to the list will be sent to you, and you’ll start receiving whatever messages others might be posting.

Another worthwhile listserve is Civic Values, which bills itself as “a mailing list devoted to an ongoing dialogue on . . . how people in communities can work together to fulfill America’s ideals and how we can build support for a “neighborhood agenda” in local and national politics.” To subscribe, send a message to majordomo@civic.net containing the single line: “subscribe civic-values” (again, no quotes). See pg 8 for information on PNN’s own listserve!

Thanks to Ric Stephens (ricstephenz@jard.com), whose “Infothohan Tourguide for Planners” was helpful in preparing this guide.

-Winston Pistoff

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The surest sign of an effective network is as much participation as possible. As we strive to fill Planners Network each month with information and resources, we can only do so much without your help.

**Send us your:**
Resource listings • Job Postings
Article ideas (or articles, even) • Suggestions, comments, critiques of the newsletter.

**The Planners Network**

The Planners Network is an association of professional, activists, academics, and students involved in physical, social, economic, and environmental planning in urban and rural areas, who promote fundamental change in our political and economic systems.

We believe that planning should be a tool for allocat- ing resources and developing the environment to eliminate the great inequalities of wealth and power in our society, rather than to maintain and justify the status quo. We believe that planning should be used to assure adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical care, jobs, safe working conditions, and a healthful environment. We advocate public responsibility for meeting these needs, because the private market has proven incapable of doing so.

The Planners Network Newsletter is published six times a year as the principal means of communication among Network members. Annual financial contributions are voluntary, but we need funds for operating expenses. The Steering Committee has recommended the following amounts as minimums for Network members: $15 for those with incomes under $25,000; $25 for those between $25,000 and $50,000; and $45 for those over $50,000. Organizations may subscribe for $30.

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U.S. Congress http://thomas.loc.gov/

Full text of congressional bills, and the Congressional Record.

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Center for Neighborhood Technology http://www.cnt.org

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The Planning Commissioner’s Journal http://www.webecom.com/~pcj/welcome.html

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NEXT ISSUE
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As always, our thanks to those who can type their notes. It reduces our chances of misreading what you write. Feature articles of 500-1,500 words are always welcome; a diskette is greatly appreciated.