

PLANNERS NETWORK

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March, 1996

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Campus/Community Partnerships in the 90s

by Kenneth M. Reardon and Thomas P. Shields

Structural changes in the U.S. economy caused by ongoing technological innovation, communication and transportation improvements, integration of capital markets and increased international competition have fostered great uncertainty regarding the future of our economy. Nowhere are the impacts of these changes more dramatic than in the residential neighborhoods of our nation's older central cities.

The challenges of the global restructuring have combined with the long-standing problems of suburban competition, manufacturing decline, rising poverty, municipal overburden, and middle-class flight to undermine the stability of our cities' older residential neighborhoods. Citizen leaders and municipal officials from cities such as Bridgeport, Camden, Benton Harbor, East St. Louis, Detroit, and South Central Los Angeles are becoming increasingly concerned about the future viability of their communities. This crisis of confidence has led to new criticism of the urban planning profession for its failure to develop policies, programs and plans to stabilize and revitalize our most distressed neighborhoods.

The failure of university-trained planners to provide workable solutions to the problems confronting our declining inner city neighborhoods has generated new criticism of our nation's colleges and universities; they are

coming under increasing public scrutiny for pursuing research that does not appear to address society's most pressing environmental, economic and social problems and for being inattentive to the educational needs of today's undergraduate students. The efforts of California's Governor Pete Wilson and New York's Governor George Pataki to gain greater control over their state university

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systems, along with proposed cutbacks in Federal funding for university-based Cooperative Education Services, reveal the depth of the public's disenchantment with higher education.

These criticisms of our nation's colleges and universities threaten to undermine the basic social compact that

has existed between higher education and civil society in the Post-Sputnik era. Throughout the Post World War II period, the state, supplemented by private and corporate philanthropy, supported the research, education and service missions of the university while allowing faculty and administrators to determine educational policies and programs with little accountability. Colleges and universities, in return, produced basic and applied research and graduates who were capable of maintaining U.S. economic, political and military power in the highly polarized context of the Cold War. The disintegration of the Soviet Union, which

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Bulletin Board

PN'ER UPDATES

- PN'er **Micky Lauria** has been made co-editor of the Journal of Planning Education and Research, and is making an effort to include more practicing planners in the process of reviewing articles for the publication. If you're interested in such a task, or would like to recommend someone, contact Micky Lauria, Associate Professor and Director, Division of Urban Research and Policy Studies, College of Urban and Public Affairs, University of New Orleans, New Orleans, LA 70148; 504/286-7106; e-mail: mylur@uno.edu.
- PN'er **Peter Dreier** has published "U.S. Housing Policy at the Crossroads: A Progressive Agenda to Rebuild the Housing Constituency," which "analyzes the factors contributing to HUD's vulnerability, reviews the various proposals to reorganize the agency, and proposes an alternative, and more comprehensive, policy that has the potential to expand the political constituency for federal housing policy." The paper is available for \$3 from The International and Public Affairs Center of Occidental College at 213/259-2991.
- PN'er **Maurie Cohen** writes: "I have recently organized a debate on the topic of voluntary simplicity and whether a scaled-down lifestyle that places less dependence on the consumer culture provides a realistic path toward ecological sustainability. The debate featured Duane Elgin, author of the widely acclaimed book **Voluntary Simplicity: Toward a Way of Life That Is Outwardly Simple, Inwardly Rich** (William Morrow, 1993), and Juliet Schor, author of **The Overworked American** (Basic Books, 1991). Copies of the transcript and video are available. I am currently engaged in a comparative project on ecological modernization in Europe, Japan, and the United States. Forthcoming work in the academic literature includes an article on environmental equity which examines the spatial distribution of industrial emissions in the Midwest and an article on the economics of environmental risk events. I can be contacted at Oxford Centre for the Environment, Ethics, and Society, Mansfield College, University of Oxford, Oxford, OX1 3TF, United Kingdom. Telephone and fax: 44-(0)1865-270886; e-mail: maurie.cohen@mansfield.oxford.ac.uk."
- PN has come up a number of times recently on various electronic bulletin boards and mailing lists, not the least of which was a posting from PN'er **Randy Stoecker** saying "While most professional organizations hole up in luxury hotels for their annual conferences, barely giving a second thought that they are reinforcing some of the most unrepentant sources of race and class inequality in any city, the Planners Network held its 1995 annual conference in East St. Louis, one of the most devastated victims of late 20th century capitalist disinvestment and structural racism. . . If you are dissatisfied with the politics of the status quo in the planning field, and if you think planning should be about developing democracy, empowering the powerless, and organizing communities to make change, you will appreciate the Planners Network. It's not just for Planners. Those with a commitment to empowering forms of community organizing and development, and academics looking for a way to practice progressive thinking will also find a home." Thanks, Randy.
- PN'er **Robyn Bancroft** has moved from the East Coast back to the Midwest and joined the City of Rockford, Illinois' Department of Community Development in the position of planner. Her new work address is City of Rockford, Department of Community Development, 425 E. State St., Rockford, IL 61104; 815/987-5612.
- "How 'bout some articles on the rural side of planning?" suggests PN'er **Jean Garren**. "Although urbanists (and some of my best friends are urbanists) may think everyone should live in cities, not all of us do. We face significant problems out here on the 'frontier,' not the least of which is urban flight (of a couple of kinds) which has brought with it, among others, issues of affordable housing, environmental pollution/degradation, and culture conflict." Look for such an article from Jean in an upcoming issue, and get in touch with her if you're interested in contributing to it, or just discussing rural/urban issues. Jean Garren, P.O. Box 880525, Steamboat Springs, CO 80488; 970/638-4648.
- Thanks in particular to some membership solicitations posted on a few student-oriented electronic mailing lists, PN has had quite an influx of new student members in the past two months. Welcome to new members, welcome back to returning members, and thanks to renewing members (in no particular order): Robyn G. Bancroft, Reynard N. Blake, Rianne Hadrian, Dinah Wayne, Roger Feinstein, Raphael Fischler, Aiyana Trotter, Jim Elias, Lori Baudro, Yvonne Margedant, Lisa Ton, William Potapchuk, Michael Banish, Maurie J. Cohen, Helena Czosnyka, Maurizio Antoninetti, Seema Agnani, Rachel Hyman, C. Cahill, Diane Gormely, Roger Borgenicht, Anna Bubel, Brenda Reilly, Saskia Sassen, Peggy Newfield, Mary Snyder, John Schwab, David Finet, San Boskey, Dr. Fukuo Akimoto, Matthew Mitchell, Karen Westmont, Jim Farnam, Caroline Havey, Marisa Liliana Lopez, Nathan Weber, Charles Hoch, Kelly Rosenleaf, Mary Catherine Snyder, Ray Bromley, Sylvia Star-Lack, Michael G. Dean, Pamela Hughes, Scott Campbell, Kenneth Tanzer, Merrill Lawrence, Thom McCue, Angela C.S. Stuber, Lori Baudro, Jim Converse, Francis Moore Lappe, Ron Nash, Jennifer Lindbom, Peter Laskowich, Rodney Brown, Anne Miller, Todd Swanstrom, Sharon Baranofsky, Rasmia W. Kirmani, Jean Garren.

POLICY UPDATES AND ALERTS

- **Istook Rises from the Dead.** The Nonprofit Advocacy Bill (known as the Istook Amendment for Rep. Earnest Istook (R-OK) who proposed it) was revived on the House floor in early March, and attached to the continuing resolution which would provide funding for the federal government through fiscal year 1996. The amendment was a severely watered down version of the original proposal, still requiring that nonprofits receiving federal grants file a report every year that discloses all their lobbying activities and expenses. While it doesn't have some of the harsher aspects of the earlier bill, such as limits on lobbying and "bounty hunter" provisions, it still imposes a major new record-keeping burden and broadens the definition of lobbying extensively. The bill passed 211-209, but has not been taken up in the Senate yet. PN'ers are asked to contact their senators and ask that they oppose any measure with any version of the Istook Amendment attached to it. For more information contact Tim Saasta at Center for Community Change: 202/342-0567.
- **Campaign to Save the Brooke Amendment.** A national call for action has been issued for housing groups to lobby Congress to reject the proposed repeal of the Brooke Amendment, which caps public housing rents at 30% of family income. Groups and individuals are asked to contact their senators and representatives and insist that they "Keep the Cap." For more information contact Lisa Rangelhelli at the Center for Community Change: 202/342-0567.

JOBS

- **Executive Director, Los Angeles.** SRO Housing, a nonprofit corporation which owns and operates residential hotels for very low income individuals in Los Angeles, is seeking an executive director with 9 years of nonprofit housing or social service experience. The ability to diversify funding, build community partnerships, establish a fundraising program and relate to a broad range of people is essential. Resumes by 4/19/96 to Norman Roberts & Associates, Inc. Attn: Maxene Johnson, Vice-President, 1800 Century Park East, #430, Los Angeles, CA 90067-1507; fax 310/552-1113; e-mail nras-soc@aol.com. EOE/ADA.
- **Project Director, Chicago.** The ACORN Housing Corporation of Illinois is seeking an experienced housing development professional with a strong desire to be part of a people's movement for social justice to serve as Project Director for its Chicago program. More information from (and resumes to) ACORN Housing Corporation, 117 W. Harrison St., 2nd Fl., Chicago, IL 60605; e-mail: ahcxdirect@igc.acorn.org.
- **Executive Director / Palo Alto, CA.** East Palo Alto Community Alliance & Neighborhood Development Organization (EPA CAN DO), a grassroots community development corporation which provides a vehicle for increased

capital investment in EPA and to ensure that development happens in terms acceptable to community residents and business owners, is looking for an executive director with at least two years experience in non-profit housing development and management. For more information or to apply contact Search Committee/EPA CAN DO, 2369 University Ave., East Palo Alto, CA 94303; 415/473-9838.

FUNDING / FUNDRAISING

- **Fundraising.** Kim Klein's Grassroots Fundraising Series is a 7-session (Basics of Fundraising; Role of Board; Asking for Money; Major Gifts; Direct Mail; Special Events; Donor Loyalty) videotape by the author of Fundraising for Social Change. Available from The Headwaters Fund, 122 W. Franklin Ave., #518, Mpls., MN 55404, 612/879-0602; contact them re price.
- **Religious Funding.** ResourceWomen has published the 1995/96 Religious Funding Resource Guide, a guide to funding sources from religious institutions. The 500-page guide is available for \$75 from ResourceWomen, 4527 South Dakota Ave., NE, Washington, DC 20017; 202/832-8071.
- **Foundations.** The National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy has published Foundations in the New Era, a special report examining how foundations have responded to changing public policy in the U.S. It's available for \$25, or \$12.50 if you're a NCRP member or organization with an annual budget under \$200,000, from NCRP, 2001 S St., NW, #620, Washington, DC 20009; 202/387-9177.

CALLS FOR PAPERS

- **Information Technology.** The Information Society journal has invited authors to submit papers for review on the topic of "Virtual Societies: Their Prospects and Dilemmas" for a special issue. Full guidelines for submissions can be found on the World Wide Web at <http://www.ics.uci.edu/~kling/tis>. Submissions are due by July 31 to Magrid Igbaria, Guest Editor, TIS, Programs in Information Science, The Claremont Graduate School, 130 E. 9th St., Claremont, CA 91711; e-mail: igbariam@cgs.edu
- **Progressive Planning.** Planners Network is always looking for ideas (and authors) for articles on topics of activism, progressive planning, and policy issues, for publication in this newsletter. Contact Winton Pitcoff, Planners Network/Pratt GCPE, 200 Willoughby Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11205; 718/636-3461; wintonp@ix.netcom.com.

Resources

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- **CRA.** "Community Reinvestment Act: Challenges Remain to Successfully Implement CRA" is a 111-page, Nov. 1995 report (GAO/GGD-96-23), available from the US GAO, PO Box 6015, Gaithersburg, MD 20884; 202/512-3000.
- **CRA/Fair Lending.** "Community Reinvestment & Fair Lending Training Manual" (in 4 parts: Legal Overview, Checklists & Worksheets, Model Forms, Resource Guide) is available (\$10 hard copy, \$2 diskette) from the Comm. Reinvestment Clearinghouse, NY Law School, 57 Worth St., NYC, NY 10013; 212/431-2899. The Clearinghouse also offers technical assistance, a resource library, regulatory alerts on new CD legislation, and conferences.
- **National Urban Policy.** "Empowerment: A New Covenant With America's Communities," President Clinton's 1st Natl. Urban Policy Report, is available (\$4) from HUD USER, PO Box 6091, Rockville, MD 20849; 800/245-2691; e-mail: huduser@aspensys.com. You might be able to get a free copy of the 57-page report from American Communities, 800/998-9999.
- **Empowerment Zones/Enterprise Communities.** A 2-volume set of studies, "The Evaluation & Learning Initiative of the National Empowerment Zone & Enterprise Community Program: Review & Recommendations for Phase II Support" (vol. 1 [70 pp.]: "Project Overview & Recommendations"; vol. 2 [156 pp.]: "Literature Review"), by John Gaventa, Janice Morrissey & Wanda Edwards, may be available from Dr. Gaventa, Univ. of TN Comm. Partnership Ctr., 1400 Cumberland Ave.-Hoskins Rm. 108N, Knoxville, TN 37996-4015; 615/974-4542.
- **Microenterprise Development.** "Enabling Entrepreneurship: Microenterprise Development in the US" presents findings from the first year of a 5-year study of 7 leading microenterprise programs. \$18 from the Aspen Inst., PO Box 222, Queenstown, MD 21658; 410/820-5326.
- **Economic Outlook.** "The 1996 Portrait: Regional Economic Review & Outlook" (64 pp.) is available from the Northwest Policy Ctr., University of Washington Graduate School of Public Affairs, Box 353060, Seattle, WA 98195-3060; 206/543-7900.
- **Community Publications.** The Campaign for New Community has produced a series of handbooks & research documents, under the direction of USC Prof. Michael Dear, among them: "Seeing People Differently: Changing Constructs of Disability & Difference" (29 pp.); "Case Studies of Successful & Unsuccessful Siting Strategies" (21 pp.); "Community Relations: A Resource Guide" (65 pp.); "The State of the District: NIMBYism in Washington, DC" (25 pp. + tables, maps); "Accepting & Rejecting Communities" (28 pp.). For prices and availability, contact the Campaign, 212 E. Capitol St. NE, Washington, DC 20003; 202/543-2249.
- **Business Incubators. A Comprehensive Guide to Business Incubation,** a 400-page collection of advice, lessons, and wisdom from top incubation professionals, has been published by the National Business Incubation Association. Price is \$65 for members, \$80 for non-members, plus shipping and handling (discounts for school and bulk orders). For more information contact the Association at 20 E. Circle Dr., Ste. 190, Athens, Ohio, 45701; 614/593-4331.
- **Land Use.** In their new book **Land Use in America**, co-published by the Lincoln Institute and Island Press, Henry L. Diamond and Patrick F. Noonan propose a 10-point agenda to help America's communities accommodate future growth in more environmentally sound and fiscally responsible ways. A good synopsis is available in the March issue of *Land Lines* from the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, 113 Brattle St., Cambridge, MA 02138-3400. The book is available from Island Press, 1718 Connecticut Ave., NW, Ste. 300, Washington, DC 20009; 202/232-7933.
- **Government Cuts.** The March issue of *The NNC Information Report*, the National Neighborhood Coalition's newsletter, features a synopsis of a speech given by Robert Greenstein on the losses neighborhoods face due to Congressional cuts. It's available from NNC, 1875 Connecticut Ave., NW, #710, Washington, DC 20009; 202/986-2096.
- **Activist's Handbook. The Activist's Handbook: A Primer for the 1990s & Beyond,** by Randy Shaw, an attorney who directs San Francisco's Tenderloin Housing Clinic, will be available (\$20.95 pb) in June from Univ. Calif. Press, 1445 Lower Ferry Rd., Ewing, NJ 08618, 609/883-1758.
- **Community Strategy.** The Labor/Community Strategy Center has a new publications catalog on its books, articles & films for organizations, activists, faculty & students, covering a range of issues (immigration, corporate control, air quality, transportation, etc.). Available from 3780 Wilshire Blvd., #1200, LA, CA 90010, 213/387-2800.
- **Organizer Resources. The Organizer Mailing,** a quarterly collection of reprinted articles and documents of interest to organizers, leaders, and supporters of organizing, is available for \$40 for individuals, \$50 for organizations, from Organize Training Center, 442-A Vicksburg, San Francisco, CA 94114; 415/821-6180.

ENVIRONMENT

- **Environmental Justice.** "An Update on Developments in the Environmental Justice Movement: An Open Letter to Funding Colleagues," from Ann Bastian (New World Fdn.) & Dana Alston (Public Welfare Fdn.), is available from Edna Iriarte, New World Fdn., 100 E. 85 St., NYC, NY 10028; 212/249-1023. Also available is their 1993 memo, reviewing formation of the EJ movement. Alston (202/965-1800) and Bastian (212/249-1023) welcome responses to the memo.
- **Race, Class & Environment.** "Race, Class & Environmental Health: A Review & Systematization of the Literature," by Phil Brown, appeared in vol. 60 (1995) of **Environmental Research**. Reprints of the 16-page article are available from the author, Box 1916, Brown Univ., Providence, RI 02912.
- **Environmental Solutions.** Renew America, "America's leading source for environmental solutions," offers a range of publications and programs chronicling successful environmental programs around the country. The 165-page Environmental Success Index is \$25, \$15 for members and nonprofits, from Renew America, 1400 16th St., NW, Ste. 710, Washington, DC 20036; 202/232-2252.

HOUSING

- **Lead.** "Guidelines for the Evaluation & Control of Lead-Based Paint Hazards in Housing" is available (\$4) from HUD USER, PO Box 6091, Rockville, MD 20849, 800/245-2691, E-mail: huduser@aspensys.com.
- **Universal Housing.** "Housing for All: Keeping the Promise" is a 17-page, Nov. 1995 document prepared by a 22-person Working Group convened by the Natl. Housing Law Project and the Legal Services Homelessness Task Force. Copies are \$1 each from the Law Project, 2201 Broadway, #815, Oakland, CA 94612, 510/251-9400, E-mail: Handsnet HN0108. There's a 10-copy min. order at that price; contact them for price of smaller orders.
- **Non-Profit Housing.** "Status & Prospects of the Non-profit Housing Sector" is available (\$4) from HUD USER, PO Box 6091, Rockville, MD 20849, 800/245-2691, E-mail: huduser@aspensys.com.
- **Shared Housing. Under One Roof: Issues and Innovations in Shared Housing,** a book of essays on topics which suggest that current housing policy and regulations, supported by popular opinion, limits the development of multiple-dwelling houses, houses which would provide a much needed option for low- and moderate-income families, will be available in July from State University of New York Press. For more information, contact SUNY Press at 518/472-5000.

- **Special Needs Housing.** The Fall/Winter 1995 issue of the Community Information Exchange's **Strategy Alert** is entitled "Would You Live There? Housing for People with Special Needs." It's available from the Exchange at 1029 Vermont Ave., NW, Ste. 710, Washington, DC 20005; 202/628-2981.

POVERTY / WELFARE

- **EIC.** "A Hand Up: How State Earned Income Credits Help Working Families Escape Poverty -- 1996 Edition," by Iris Lav & Edward Lazere (62 pp. + App.), is available from the Ctr. on Budget & Policy Priorities, 777 N. Capitol St. NE, #705, Wash., DC 20002, 202/408-1080; contact them for price.
- **Welfare Reform.** "Federal Welfare Reform: A Preliminary Guide for States," by Nancy Ebb (32 pp., Jan. 1996), is available (no price listed) from Children's Defense Fund, 25 E St. NW, Wash., DC 20001, 202/628-8787.
- **Poverty Statistics.** "Poverty's Revolving Door" is a 2-page, Aug. 1995 Census Bureau Statistical Brief (SB/95-20), available from Martina Shea, 301/763-8578. Also: "Beyond Poverty: Extended Measures of Well-Being: 1992" (4 pp., Nov. 1995, P70-50RV), by and from Shea; "Dynamics of Economic Well-Being: Income, 1991 to 1992" (4 pp., Aug. 1995, P70-49), by and available from Wilfred Masumura, 301/763-8576; "Getting a Helping Hand: Long-Term Participants in Assistance Programs" (2 pp., Nov. 1995, SB/95-27), from Shea (see above).
- **Welfare Curriculum.** "Welfare: Opposing Viewpoints" is the title of h.s./college text in preparation by Greenhaven Press. If you have articles, documents, position papers, book excerpts, bibliographies to submit for inclusion, contact Annie Girtan at Greenhaven, PO Box 289009, San Diego, CA 92198-9009, 619/485-7424. If you would like your organization listed in the appendix, contact them as well.

New York Planners Network Forums

The New York Chapter of Planners Network continues its annual series of forums.

March 29 • Advocacy in Health Care

May 3 • Community Based Organizations:
Organizers or Property Managers?

Forums begin at 6:00 p.m. and will be held at the Puck Building in Manhattan, 295 Lafayette St.

For more information call Winton at 718-636-3461.

- **General Assistance.** "When Welfare Ends: Subsistence Strategies of Former GA Recipients - Final Report of the General Assistance Project," by Sandra Danziger & Sherrie Kossoudji (43 pp., Feb. 1995), is available from the authors, Univ. of Mich. School of Social Work, 1065 Frieze Bldg., Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1285.

RACE / RACISM

- **Glass Ceiling.** "A Solid Investment: Making Full Use of the Nation's Capital: Recommendations of the Federal Glass Ceiling Commission" (61 pp., Nov. 1995) is available from the US Govt. Printing Office, Supt. of Docs., Mail Stop: SSOP, Wash., DC 20402-9328, 202/512-1800. The Commission's background research papers, as well as its earlier fact-finding report and the recommendations report, are available via Internet: <http://www.ilr.cornell.edu>.
- **Washington D.C.** Between Justice & Beauty: Race, Planning & the Failure of Urban Policy in Washington, DC, by Howard Gilette, Jr. (1996), is available (\$35.95) from Johns Hopkins Univ. Press., Hampden Sta., Baltimore, MD 21211, 800/537-5487.
- **Race Relations.** "Race Relations in America: The Best & Worst of Times," a Los Angeles Town Hall speech by Sen. Bill Bradley, is available from his office (US Senate, Wash., DC 20510-3001).
- **Washington D.C.** Urban Odyssey: A Multicultural History of Washington, DC, ed. Francine Curro Cary, (320 pp., 1996), a Smithsonian Institution Press book, is available (\$37.20) from the Humanities Council of Wash., 1331 H St. NW, #902, Wash., DC 20005, 202/347-1732.
- **Multiculturalism.** "Creating Community Through Dialogue: Bridging Differences in a Multicultural Society," sponsored by the Natl. MultiCultural Inst., will be held May 30-June 2 in Wash., DC. Inf. from the Inst., 3000 Conn. Ave. NW, #438, Wash., DC 20008-2556, 202/483-0700.

WOMEN, CHILDREN AND FAMILY

- **Families and Schools.** Raising Our Future: Families, Schools & Communities Joining Together, by Heather Weiss (560 pp., 1995), is available (\$28.90) from the Harvard Family Research Proj., 38 Concord Ave., Cambridge, MA 02138.
- **Communities and Schools.** The Basic School: A Community for Learning, by Ernest Boyer of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching (255 pp., 1995), is available (\$10) from Calif. Princeton Fulfillment, PO Box 7780-4721, Phila., PA 19182-4721, 800/777-4726. Other related materials are also available.

MISCELLANEOUS

- **Urban Social Health.** "Urban Social Health: A Chart Book Profiling the Nation's 100 Largest Cities" (163 pp., Dec. 1995) is available (\$50) from the Natl. Public Health & Hospital Inst., 1212 NY Ave. NW, #800, Wash., DC 20005.
- **Advocacy Strategies.** The Advocacy Institute, a 12-year old organization dedicated "... to share[ing] the skills, guidance, and inspiration that we gain from working together with those who are advocates for social and economic justice," has many publications available, on topics ranging from media advocacy to the environment to lobbying. A publications list is available from the Institute at 1707 L St. NW, 4th Fl., Washington, DC 20036; 202/659-8475.
- **Philanthropy.** The Winter, 1996 issue of **Responsive Philanthropy** features articles on the Republicans' belief that charities will pick up the slack left by budget cuts, transformations in the media world, and criticisms of foundations. It's available from the National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy, 2001 S St., NW, Ste. 620, Washington, DC 20009; 202/387-9177.
- **Planning Schools.** The Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP)'s quarterly newsletter provides good information on the activities of planning schools around the country. It's available from ACSP, Dept. of Urban Planning, College of Architecture and Planning, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306-0315; 317/285-1963.
- **Environmental Graduate Program.** Antioch University in Yellow Springs, Ohio, has announced the founding of a two-year, limited-residency Master of Arts Degree in Environment and Community. The program is intended for professionals working or wanting to work on environmental issues, but who are unable to leave their jobs or relocate for studies. For more information contact The Program on Environment and Community, The McGregor School of Antioch University, 800 Livermore St., Yellow Springs, OH 45387; 513/767-6321.
- **Globalization.** The January, 1996 issue of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy's **Landlines** focuses on "Global City Regions: Searching for Common Ground," and includes an analysis of the growth of 12 case study cities. It's available from the Institute, 113 Brattle St., Cambridge, MA 02138-3400; 800/LAND-USE.
- **Organizational Development.** ResourceWomen has published a manual entitled Organizational Development Tools, which includes hands-on activities, worksheets and assessment tools, together with exercises for each step in the organizational development process. It's available for \$25 from ResourceWomen, 4527 South Dakota Ave., NE, Washington, DC 20017; 202/832-8071.
- **Planners Directory.** A 30-page Directory of International Planning Organizations has been published by Keith

International, Inc. It is available from Ric Stephens, Director of Planning, Keith International, 22690 Cactus Ave., Ste. 300, Moreno Valley, CA 92553; 909/653-0234; e-mail: rix-tephens@aol.com.

- **Resource Directory.** *Tranet*, a bi-monthly newsletter for the alternative and transformational movement, continues to publish an extensive guide every two months to resources available "of, by, and for people who are creating the new social paradigm - people who are changing the world by changing their own lives - people who are adopting appropriate technologies and lifestyles." It's available from Tranet, Box 567, Rangeley, ME, 04970-0567; 207/864-2252; e-mail: tranet@igc.apc.org.
- **Media Advocacy.** The Center for Living Democracy publishes a quarterly newsletter called **Doing Democracy** ("Democracy is not what we have. It's what we do."). The Winter, 1995 issue focuses on the launch of their new American News Service, a new syndicated service providing stories of solution-oriented action directed at readers' most

pressing concerns. The newsletter can be obtained from The Center, RR #1 Black Fox Rd., Brattleboro, VT 05301; 802/254-1234.

- **Urban Indicators.** A new quarterly newsletter, **Urban Quality Indicators**, seeks to describe the various urban "benchmarking" efforts (i.e., measures of community quality) in North America. Jacksonville, FL & "Sustainable Seattle" are featured in the 1st 2 issues - plus critiques on their choices of indicators. Also in each issue - a City Culture Map - locating "people zones" you won't see on maps in your local planning office, like youth gangs, the homeless, gay residential areas, teen hangouts, red light districts and much more (Detroit in 1st issue). Plus data and library sections. \$21.75 for 1 year subscription (4 issues), or 1st (March 1996) issue for \$3. To order or get more info, Urban Quality Communications (UQC), Suite 239, 1756 Plymouth Rd. Ann Arbor, MI 48105; 313-996-8610; e-mail: cyyoakam@umich.edu.

— Conferences and Workshops —

- **Regionalism.** "Linking Regional & Local Strategies to Create Healthy Communities," a conf. sponsored by the Univ. of Minn. Inst. on Race & Poverty will be held April 12-13 in St. Paul/Mpls. Keynote speaker is former Albuquerque Mayor David Rusk, author of **Cities Without Suburbs**. The conf. "brings together regional strategists, community development corps. & neighborhood activists to develop strategies for overcoming the problems facing poor communities of color." Inf. from the Inst., 415 Law Ctr., 229 19th Ave. S., Mpls. MN 55455, 612/625-1580.
- **APA.** The American Planning Association, APA, will hold its annual conference, "Planning for Tomorrow's World," April 13-17, in Orlando, FL. FFI: 312/431-9100.
- **Earth Day.** Earth Day Lobby Day, a full day of speeches, rallies, and workshops, will be held Monday, April 22, at the New York State Capitol in Albany, NY. For more information contact Earth Day Lobby Day, 9 Murray St., New York, NY 10007; 212/349-6460.
- **Regional Planning.** "From Risk to Recovery: Implementing the Third Plan for the New York-New Jersey-Connecticut Metropolitan Area," the Regional Plan Association's 6th Annual Assembly, will be held April 23 at the Marriott Marquis Hotel, in New York, NY. Features of the event include workshops on the RPA's plan, and an address by HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros. Registration is \$90 before April 5, \$100 after. For more information contact RPA, 570 Lexington Ave., 20th Fl., New York, NY 10022; 212/980-8530, x208.
- **Local Government.** The Local Government Commission will host "Putting Our Communities Back on their Feet," April 26-27, in San Francisco, CA. FFI: 916/448-1198.
- **Association for Enterprise Opportunity.** The Association for Enterprise Opportunity (AEO) will hold its sixth annual conference and membership meeting, "Impact Through Collaboration," May 1-4 in Providence, Rhode Island. Workshop topics include grantwriting, program design, and policy issues. Registration is \$450 for non-members, \$350 for members. For more information contact Kelly Stepto at AEO, 70 E. Lake St., Ste. 520, Chicago, IL 60601; 312/263-2383.
- **Sustainable Resources.** "The Sixth International Symposium on Society and Resource Management: Social Behavior, Natural Resources, and the Environment" will be held May 18-23, 1996, at The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA. Anyone interested in participating, or presenting a paper can get more info. from Jim Finley, Program Co-Chair, School of Forest Resources, Pennsylvania State University, 2B Ferguson Building, University Park, PA 16802-2601; 814/863-0401; fj4@psuvm.psu.edu
- **Association for Community Design.** The Association for Community Design (ACD) will hold its annual conference in Brooklyn, NY, June 13-16. A portion of the conference will be held in conjunction with the Planners Network conference, with a focus on community based planning by community design centers. For more information contact Rex L. Curry, c/o PICCED, 379 DeKalb Ave., Brooklyn NY 11205; 718/636-3486; e-mail: hn0336@handsnet.org.
- **Computers for Social Change.** Computers for Social Change will hold its 10th anniversary conference, "New Technology for A Change," June 21-22 at Hostos Community College, Bronx, NY. For more information contact CSC, c/o ECCO at Hunter College School of Social Work, 129 E. 79th St., New York, NY 10021; 212/452-7132.

renewing **HOPE**

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Progressive Planning in our Communities

June 14-16, 1995 • Pratt Institute • Brooklyn, NY

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

- Visits and workshops (June 14) hosted by community-based organizations in Brooklyn neighborhoods: Red Hook, Williamsburg, Greenpoint, Bushwick, Bedford-Stuyvesant, and Fort Greene. Site visits include mutual housing projects, low-income rehabs, a New Vision school, military conversion, industrial incubator, and comprehensive neighborhood planning projects.
- Workshops organized by activists from local and national advocacy groups, including Transportation Alternatives, Natural Resources Defense Council, and the Association for Community Design.
- Analysis of the UN Habitat II conference by Planners Network delegates and other participants
- Workshop topics include:

Environmental Justice	Faith-based Development	National Urban Policy
Sustainable Development	Privatization and Deregulation	Regionalism Today
Labor and Communities	Healthy Cities	Reinventing HUD
Immigration and Cities	Women and Labor	Employment and Joblessness
Role of Transnationals	Habitat II	Gay and Lesbian Issues
- Exhibit of community-initiated plans
- Videos of urban protest and survival
- Working papers and action proposals on progressive planning strategies
- Case studies of community-based planning efforts
- Pre-conference walking tours of Harlem, the South Bronx and the Lower East Side
- Bus tour of Brooklyn's waterfront and diverse neighborhoods
- Bicycle tour of Brooklyn led by activists from Transportation Alternatives
- Subway tour led by activists from the Straphangers Campaign
- Keynote Speeches by Luís Garden Acosta (El Puente Academy), Ruth Messinger (Manhattan Borough President), and Bernie Sanders (U.S. Congress)(*invited*)
- Cultural Event featuring music for dancing by La Borinqueña

Call for Participants

If you would like to participate as a facilitator or presenter in a workshop, let us know. We are putting workshops together now.

PN96 Co-Sponsors

Pratt Institute Graduate Center for Planning & Environment • The Tides Foundation, Pequod Fund
Brooklyn Union Gas Co. • Pratt Institute Center for Community & Environmental Development

PN96 will be held concurrently with the national conference of the Association for Community Design. For more information on the ACD conference, contact: Rex Curry, Pratt Institute Center for Community & Environmental Development, 379 DeKalb Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11205; 718/636-3486.

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Progressive Planning in our Communities

June 14-16, 1995 • Pratt Institute • Brooklyn, NY

Name: _____

Title/Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Country: _____

Phone (days): _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

Registration Fee

(includes all conference events and some meals)

General: \$80 per person before April 15, \$95 per person after April 15 \$ _____

Student/Unemployed: \$40 per person before April 15, \$50 per person after April 15 \$ _____

One day registration: \$25 per person per day \$ _____

Tours: \$10 per person for Thursday or Sunday tours (circle below) (_____ tours x \$10) \$ _____

Thursday 6/13 Walking Tours

Harlem (9a.m. - 1p.m.) • Lower East Side (9a.m. - 1p.m.) • South Bronx (10a.m. - 3p.m.)

Sunday 6/16 Tours (all 2 - 5p.m.)

Bicycle Tour • Brooklyn Bus Tour • Subway Tour

Total: \$ _____

Full payment must accompany registration. Please make checks payable to Planners Network. Send to:
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Room reservations

There are a limited number of single and double dormitory rooms available on campus at Pratt.

Single rooms:

Total persons: _____ Arrival date: _____ Departure date: _____ Number of nights: _____
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Double rooms:

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@ \$25 per person, per night, amount enclosed: \$ _____

Linens: (sheets, towels, blankets) @ \$10 per set, duration of conference, amount enclosed: \$ _____

If there is someone else registering for the conference who you would like to room with, please let us know who:

If not indicating a specific roommate, please let us know your preferred roommate characteristics: Gender (M / F) Smoker (Y / N)

Town/Gown / continued from page 1

marks the end of the Cold War, has denied higher education its former raison d'être.

Higher education must re-focus its research and instructional resources on a new social objective if it is to re-establish its basic social compact with civil society. Many universities are seeking to do so, in part by encouraging faculty to develop service-learning projects that offer students opportunities to acquire critical knowledge and skills while completing research and service projects for community-based organizations serving low-income neighborhoods. This recent movement for university-based service-learning gained important momentum in the mid-1980s when the presidents of one hundred of the nation's most prestigious public and private colleges and universities formed a group, called the Campus

Compact, to promote such activities. Students involved in these initiatives added their organizational resources to this campaign for socially-responsible education by forming a similar advocacy group called the Campus Outreach Opportunity League (COOL).

These two organizations were instrumental in working with the Clinton Administration to secure funding for several new Federal programs supporting service-learning activities involving universities and marginalized communities. Among these were the National Community Service Corporation's AmeriCorps Program; the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Outreach Partnership Center, Joint Community Development and Urban Renaissance Programs; and the Department of Education's Urban Service Programs. Since 1992, thousands of university students have earned academic credit in recognition of learning they achieved as community researchers and service providers through Federally-funded, university-based service-learning programs.

While many students, faculty and administrators have joined with representatives of the Clinton Administration and members of the press to applaud these efforts, many experienced community activists remain skeptical of this latest wave of university/community partnerships. Many colleges and universities were deeply involved in efforts to support the voter registration campaigns of SNCC, CORE, SCLC and the Freedom Democratic Party throughout the South in the mid-1960s. University students engaged in a wide range of direct service activities in low-income urban communities through various programs funded by the Equal Opportunity Act in the late 1960s and early 1970s. College students were encouraged to participate in student volun-

teer activities in the 1970s through the Federally-funded Office of Student Volunteer Programs and the University Year for Action.

Campus support for off-campus service projects in low-income urban communities appeared to wane in the 1980s as economic uncertainty led administrators to eliminate many non-teaching programs. The current groundswell of campus interest in the plight of the nation's poorest communities is viewed by many community activists as just the latest in a series of university-initiated community service efforts. Neighborhood leaders representing financially-strapped, community-based organizations are hesitant to invest too much human capital in building relationships with nearby campuses when they appear to be such fickle partners.

Colleges and universities seeking to build long-term partnerships with community-based organizations serving nearby low-income neighborhoods must, in light of these historical problems, adopt a collaborative approach that seeks to build the organizing, planning and development capacity of these groups.

Neighborhood leaders are also concerned about the nature of the "partnerships" that colleges and universities wish to establish with community-based organizations. In the past, university faculty and administrators have secured funding for community research and service activities in low-income neighborhoods close to their campuses. These grants frequently provided campus personnel with salaries, benefits and expenses while producing few, if any, tangible benefits for the residents of these communities. Quoting one East St. Louis community leader, "Show me one thing in this town that was produced through the activities of a uni-

versity-funded researcher." These experiences have led many long-time community activists to view university faculty as intellectual carpet-baggers who use the problems confronting distressed communities to justify research contracts that offer little to the communities being studied. These leaders are reluctant, in light of these experiences, to become involved in the latest round of Federally-funded university/community partnerships.

Finally, community leaders experience the effects of university policies and programs on a variety of levels. In many towns and cities where the university is one of the major employers and landlords, campus policies and programs have a dramatic effect on the residents of nearby low-income communities. When a college builds additional residence halls, the demand for off-campus housing can plummet, de-stabilizing residential and commercial real estate markets. When a university purchases single-family homes to acquire land needed for additional stadium parking or a storm-water retention facility, long-time residents can be displaced, creating bitter feelings towards the campus. When a university constructs a major new research center without providing

an entrance on the community side of the facility, residents get a clear message that their presence is not welcome on campus. When a university's expansion plans necessitate the relocation of a historic public market, local residents and businesses question the sensitivity of campus administrators. When a gulf exists between the overall strategic plans and programs of the campus and their service-learning commitment, community leaders will hesitate to enter into partnership relationships.

Colleges and universities seeking to build long-term partnerships with community-based organizations serving nearby low-income neighborhoods must, in light of these historical problems, adopt a collaborative approach that seeks to build the organizing, planning and development capacity of these groups. Such an approach should be characterized by strong commitments to the following principles of good practice in university/community partnerships.

1. Recognizing the structural nature of the economic and political problems facing our nation's poorest urban communities, campus administrators should only initiate university/community partnerships to which they are willing to make **long-term financial and organizational commitments**.
2. Understanding the symbolic, economic and political importance of institutional commitment, campus administrators should only seek outside funds for university/community partnership programs they are already **supporting with internal university funds**.
3. Appreciating the truly reciprocal nature of the most successful service-learning programs, campus administrators should create **joint policy-making boards with equal representation from the campus and the community** to provide leadership to such efforts.
4. Acknowledging the real costs incurred by community collaborators involved in partnership activities, campus administrators should **make a sustained effort to assist these organizations in covering these costs**.
5. Recognizing the importance given to faculty participation in university programs, campus administrators should seek to appoint a **senior faculty member to direct these projects**.
6. Seeking to encourage broad-based faculty participation in these projects, campus administrators should work **to change promotion and tenure guidelines that recognize and reward excellence in public service education and action**.
7. Understanding the inherent power and resource imbalance that exists between large educational institutions and their community partners, campus administrators should make **organizational capacity-building the primary goal of these relationships**.
8. Acknowledging the central importance of organizational capacity-building in most university/community partnerships, campus administrators should **adopt a participatory action research approach to all community planning and development activities** to promote social learning for all participants.
9. Understanding the pessimism that many low-income families feel regarding the possibilities for positive change, campus

administrators should emphasize the importance of program implementation and execution. Participating students and faculty must focus on **devising workable solutions to important community problems and raising the funds needed to carry out such programs**.

10. Recognizing the importance of organizational capacity-building to any university/community partnership, campus administrators should develop programs that offer **classes, training programs and mentoring opportunities to community leaders** as well as students.

Kenneth M. Reardon, Co-Chair of Planners Network, is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where he serves as the Co-Director of the East St. Louis Action Research Project. Thomas P. Shields is the Acting Executive Director of the Winstanley/Industry Park Neighborhood Organization in East St. Louis.

While few university/community partnership programs would embody all of the above mentioned principles of good practice, many such programs have been supporting the empowerment efforts of local community-based organizations in the areas for many years. Among these programs are the following:

- Center for Neighborhood Development, **Cleveland State University**, UB228, Cleveland, Ohio 44115, 216-687-2241. Phil Star, Director.
- Senior Extension Associate, **Cornell University**, 16 E. 34th Street - 8th Floor, New York, New York 10016-4328, 212-340-2937. John Nettleton, Director.
- Community and Economic Development Program, **Michigan State University**, 1801 W. Main Street, Lansing, Michigan 48915-1097, 517-353-9555. Rex LeMore, State Director.
- Morgan State University**, 213 Soldiers Armory, Baltimore, Maryland 21239, 301-444-3004. Elva E. Tillman, Senior Research Associate.
- Pratt Institute Center for Community and Environmental Development**, 200 Willoughby Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11205, 718-636-3486. Ron Shiffman, Director.
- Haas Center for Public Service, **Stanford University**, 558 Salvatierra Walkway, Stanford, California 94305, 415-723-4437. Tim Stanton, Director.
- Roy P. Drachman Institute, **The University of Arizona**, 819 E. First Street, Tucson, Arizona 85721, 520-623-1223. Corky Poster, Professor.
- East St. Louis Action Research Project, **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**, 312 Temple Buell Hall, Champaign, Illinois 61820, 217-244-5384. Ken Reardon, Co-Director.
- The Great Cities Initiative, **University of Illinois at Chicago**, 601 S. Morgan, Chicago, Illinois 60607, 312-413-3375. Wim Weiwei, Director.
- Department of Urban Studies and Planning, **University of Maryland at College Park**, 1117 LeFrak Building, College Park, Maryland 20742-8225, 301-405-6790. Jim Cohen, Assistant Professor.
- College of Community and Public Service, **University of Massachusetts at Boston**, 100 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125-3393, 617-287-7276. Marie Kennedy, Professor.
- Department of Urban and Regional Planning, **University of Michigan**, 2000 Bonisteel Boulevard, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109, 313-763-5960. Barry Checkoway, Professor.
- Institute for Leadership Education, **Wartburg College**, 222 9th Street, NW, Waverly, Iowa 50677-1003, 319-352-8259. Fred Waldstein, Director.

An Isolated US Opposes Housing as A Human Right

by Tom Angotti and Peter Marcuse

The following is a revised version of a statement prepared by Tom Angotti and Peter Marcuse on behalf of Planners Network for the U.N. Preparatory Committee meeting for Habitat II held in New York in February, which both authors attended.

What is Habitat II and why is it important?

The Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) will be held in Istanbul, June 3-14, 1996. United Nations conferences like Habitat II provide an opportunity for open discussion and debate of the most critical issues facing cities throughout the world. It is tempting to discount the UN events as simply forums for political leaders and government bureaucrats to swamp us with rhetoric. There is indeed much high-sounding prose produced by both official and unofficial participants at such events. But increasingly these global events involve broad participation of NGOs and individuals representing diverse interests and experiences who are working for progressive social change. Thousands of NGOs were engaged in the UN Conference on Environment and Development (The Earth Summit) held in Rio in 1992; the 1995 World Summit on Social Development in Copenhagen; and the 1995 Conference on Women and Development in Beijing. These conferences have created greater public awareness of global problems and opened up new opportunities for grass roots activists to influence public policy.

The first UN conference on human settlements took place twenty years ago in Vancouver. At that conference, there was relatively little participation by NGOs. Partly as a consequence of this lack of participation, many of the principles affirmed at that meeting remain unfulfilled. There are at least four reasons to become involved in Habitat II: 1) networking with similar groups in other countries can be mutually rewarding; 2) the stronger the Habitat Agenda the more ammunition we have at home to press for a progressive housing policy; 3) to promote a socially responsible role for the U.S. in the global arena; and 4) and to stand in solidarity with others struggling for social justice around the world.

What is the U.S. government's position on the Habitat Agenda and why do we oppose it?

The Habitat Agenda is a draft document prepared by a UN committee for discussion and eventual adoption in Istanbul. The Agenda focuses on: 1) adequate shelter for all; 2) sustainable human settlements; 3) capacity building and institutional development; 4) international cooperation and coordination; and implementation and follow-up.

The U.S. government has expressed opposition to specific sections of the document that consider housing a human right, and stands virtually alone on this issue. It isn't entirely clear why the U.S. government is opposed to a simple declaration of the right to adequate shelter. The U.S. is signatory to a number of international documents that include the right to housing, beginning with the Universal Declaration on Human Rights of 1948. The

1949 Housing Act in the U.S. speaks of "a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family." Henry Cisneros, the progressive Secretary of HUD, is the featured speaker at the National Low-Income Housing Coalition's annual conference, which has the theme "Housing is a Human Right."

However, U.N. staff characterized the U.S. position as "regressive" and "impermissible" - strong language in diplomatic circles. The U.S. came up with a "compromise" proposal stating that "in the context of other international documents, the U.S. has accepted language that recognizes what many involved in the preparation of the Global Plan of Action for Habitat II refer to generically as a 'right to housing'". Since this is perceived mostly as a dodge, the debate will continue in Istanbul.

The U.S. position is not simply an ideological concession to the Republicans in Congress, who see the U.N. as un-American. It is consistent with the Administration's fear that any suggestion of public responsibility for housing will be interpreted as a potential incursion on the market. We think the U.S. should unequivocally state its support for the right to housing as a first step towards government action to make adequate shelter a reality for all.

The U.S. National Plan of Action

The draft Plan of Action prepared by the U.S. Habitat committee illustrates what's wrong with the U.S. position. On the positive side, the Plan of Action recognizes the importance of central cities and the particular urgency of addressing the issues of urban poverty in the U.S. The Plan highlights the need to improve education, public safety and health care; urban environmental problems such as water and air quality, lead poisoning and brownfields. And it acknowledges the importance of grass-roots efforts in community re-building.

The problem with the Plan is that it ultimately ends up placing the main responsibility for rebuilding central city communities on those communities themselves:

Solutions to the problems confronting metropolitan regions -- as well as the leadership and resources to implement them -- must come primarily from within. . . . Grassroots efforts in re-building urban communities must be recognized as the primary catalyst for progress and change and the shared with other communities.

The Plan concludes with praise for the "work ethic," local government and community-based organizations.

The problem is that the U.S. government has not committed the resources needed to solve urban problems, or to help local government and community-based organizations. On the contrary, since the 1980s, cutbacks in social expenditures have had the greatest impact on central city and low-income populations. Programs aimed at the poorest communities have been severely cut or terminated.

Local governments and community-based organizations in cen-

tral cities cannot prosper without state and federal government support. Many rely on federal transfers for sizable portions of their budgets. Grassroots initiatives are essential, but they are not sufficient to address the myriad external causes of poverty.

Also absent from the Plan is mention of the historic role of racism and discrimination in reproducing urban inequalities; the environmentally unsustainable form of urban growth in the U.S. characterized as suburban sprawl, and its contribution to global pollution; the increasing discrimination against immigrants in the U.S. and many other developed nations; and the severe problems of unemployment and economic livelihood in central cities related to global market trends.

In sum, the U.S. National Plan of Action is filled with much rhetoric about self-help and the market, but little promise of action.

For more information on organizing around Habitat II, contact:

(North America)

Rooftops Canada
2 Berkeley St., Ste. 207
Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5A 2W3
416/366-1445
e-mail: rooftops@web.apc.org

(US)

Center for Economic and Social Rights
105 E. 22nd St., Ste. 909
New York, NY 10010
212/982-1950

(For the US Housing as a Right effort)

National Housing Law Project
2201 Broadway, Suite 815
Oakland, CA 94612
510/251-9400

or

Chester Hartman
Poverty & Race Research Action Council
1711 Connecticut Ave. NW, Ste. 714
Washington, DC 20009
202/387-9887

(The best source of detailed information and analysis of the international housing rights situation)

Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE)
Havikstraat 38 bis
Postbus 15100
3501 BC Utrecht
3514 TR Utrecht
The Netherlands
fax: 31 30 (2)72 1453
e-mail: leckie@antenne.nl

PN Member Profile: Theresa Kilbane

by Margaret Seip

Coming in on the ground floor of community management, technical assistance and cooperative housing, Theresa Kilbane has worked in Latin America and the United States in community-based housing and urban development. In Mexico, New York, and now as Director of the Cooperative Housing Fund for Honduras and Guatemala, she fuses an emphasis on community control and participation with the nuts and bolts of non-profit housing finance, development and management.

CHF Honduras/Guatemala provides financing, technical assistance and training to local organizations for low-income housing development and infrastructure improvements. Its innovative loan programs provide credit for home improvements to low-income households which would otherwise be unable to obtain formal bank credit.

Honduras, the second largest country in Central America, is one of the poorest in all of the Americas. Bearing the mark of extended United States military and corporate involvement, its economy is characterized by spiraling inflation (now 25%), devalued currency, and slow growth. Though it has a 54% rural majority, the urban growth rate approaches 5% and is occurring in marginal neighborhoods at the urban periphery. In 1992, nearly three-quarters of the population lived below the poverty level. Only one-third were adequately housed with more than 40% living without access to sanitation and 32% without access to water.

In the capital city Tegucigalpa, 60% of the population live in "barrios marginales," or informal squatter settlements, formed from land invasions that began 20 years ago. Residents of these neighborhoods earn an average of US\$147 per month, most often through informal sector activity. Female-headed households are concentrated there -- over 37% of the population of the Tegucigalpa barrios are single women with children. In general, the barrios lack basic services such as paved roads, solid waste removal, schools, clinics, water and sewage lines.

Theresa grew up in Cleveland, Ohio and graduated in 1978 with a degree in political science and international relations from Kent State University. Her first experience in cooperative housing was in New York City, where she came after studying and traveling in Europe. Working with the Urban Homesteading Assistance Board (UHAB), a non-profit provider of training and technical assistance for low-income tenant-owned cooperatives, Theresa worked with self-help housing cooperatives in low-income areas throughout the city. She assisted cooperatives in determining rehabilitation feasibility and in obtaining financing, and developed an emergency loan program. With her husband David Calvert, she also worked to create a tenant cooperative in the city-owned building in Manhattan Valley where they lived.

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At UHAB she learned first hand the impact of community control and the potential for non-profit housing programs. Working and living in Latino communities in New York City sparked her interest in Latin America. Desiring a deeper understanding of Latino culture and history with which to inform her work, she moved to Mexico City in 1983 to work with the Centro Coordinador de Proyectos Ecumenicos, a community-based organization working in marginal neighborhoods on the city's periphery. Witnessing the scope and breadth of popular organizations and learning about the struggles for self-determination of Central Americans inspired and augmented her sense of possibility.

Returning to New York in 1985 with their newborn daughter Ana, Theresa continued to work on cooperative housing and community planning initiatives. She served on the board of directors of the Valley Restoration Local Development Corporation and was a parent representative for a family day care network in East Harlem. She also began her studies in urban planning at Columbia University. As a member of the studio in Haiti following Duvalier's departure she experienced the power and capability of people working in barrios and popular organizations. As in Mexico, she witnessed in Haiti what can be accomplished with hope and a belief in change -- despite the daily events that run counter to it. Her twin daughters, Marie and Elizabeth, were born in 1987. Completing her masters in urban planning at Columbia in 1989, Theresa returned to UHAB as the Director for Program Development and then as Assistant Director.

In 1992, Theresa and her family moved to Honduras where she consulted for CARITAS and Save the Children, then took over the CHF Honduras/Guatemala programs. CHF has worked with 14 groups locally to provide financing, technical assistance and training for low-income housing development, housing improvements and community infrastructure improvements -- about 6,000 total families served in just over ten years. Their over \$1 million US loan portfolio finances small-scale credit programs directed at poor residents of peri-urban areas in the capital of Tegucigalpa, Honduras' secondary city San Pedro de Sula, and the Bay Islands. CHF's experience shows that given the opportunity, low-income households can make productive use of credit to improve their environment and standard of living and pay back the loans so that other households can continue to benefit.

Theresa oversees the administration and operation of CHF's several revolving loan funds utilizing their reflows for housing and sanitation improvement loan programs. In her tenure, she has funded and implemented an innovative low-cost housing improvement program with local non-profit organizations.

Among her greatest challenges has been the design of projects that serve poor people and are financially sustainable, especially in economies with spiraling inflation. Understanding the right

mix necessary for supporting local institutions without building dependency has been another critical focus.

Theresa's husband, David Calvert, is the Country Director of Casa Alianza de Honduras (Covenant House' Honduran agency) which runs outreach and shelter programs for "street kids." She has written on a variety of subjects including **American Class Society in Statistics** (Kent Free Press, 1978), **A Guide to**

Cooperative Management (UHAB, 1982), and "An Urban Environmental Sanitation Loan Program in Honduras" in **Down to Earth - Community Perspectives on Health, Development and the Environment** edited by Bonnie Bradford and

Among Theresa's greatest challenges has been the design of projects that serve poor people and are sustainable financially, especially in economies with spiraling inflation.

Margaret Gwynne (Kumarian Press, 1995).

Theresa and her family are planning to return to live in New York City this July. To reach Theresa by mail: T. Kilbane, c/o CHF Honduras, IMC-TGU #290, P.O. Box 02-5320, Miami, FL 33102-5320. FAX/PHONE 011-504-36-8963. email: teresa%chf%sdnhon@sndhg.undp.org.

PN Member Profiles is a new regular feature in Planners Network. If you know of a PN member who should be profiled in the newsletter, or would like to write a profile of someone, please contact the editor:

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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 professionals, 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 allocating 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, students and unemployed; \$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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Moving?

Please make sure to let PN know if you're moving. It saves us money and helps ensure that you don't miss an issue!

Don't forget to register for the 1996 Planners Network conference! Information and registration materials are on pages 8-9.

NEXT ISSUE

ARRIVAL DEADLINE FOR *PLANNERS NETWORK* #117 COPY:

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 1996.

All materials should be sent to:

**Planners Network/Pratt GCPE
200 Willoughby Ave.
Brooklyn, NY 11205
718/636-3461; fax: 718/636-3709**

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.