

THE SEVENTH GENERATION

Sustainability: Who Benefits?

The term "sustainability" has become problematic. Some now argue that it is so overused as to be useless, co-opted by many for self-centered agendas.

The four main articles in this issue of *Planners Network* attempt to come to grips with the term. All four recognize that it is necessary to address both physical and social sustainability.

Peter Marcuse raises some broad questions about the term "sustainability," suggesting that it may be better described as a constraint than a goal. He also addresses the social costs of sustainability. The article makes a good introduction to the more specific issues raised in the other three pieces. Versions of these were presented at the Canadian Institute of Planners conference in July 1997 and the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Conference in November 1997. They represent an interdisciplinary work-in-progress between Sandra Rodriguez, Sherilyn MacGregor and me. All three of us found that our work at York University in Toronto was touching on the issue of sustainability, but we were dissatisfied with the way the subject was being discussed.

We were willing to accept that
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SUSTAINABILITY IS NOT ENOUGH

By Peter Marcuse

"Sustainability" as a goal for planning just doesn't work. In the first place, sustainability is not a goal; it is a constraint on the achievement of other goals. No one who is interested in change wants to sustain things as they are now. Taken as a goal by itself, "sustainability" only benefits those who already have everything they want. It preserves the status quo, making only those changes required to maintain that status.

You could argue that the status quo is not sustainable socially, because an unjust society will not long endure. That is more a hope than a demonstrated fact. You could also argue, and with more evidence, that the status quo is not environmentally sustainable; indeed, that is the origin of the "sustainability" slogan. But changes can be made within the present system to cope with problems such as environmental degradation and global warming. Nor is it inevitable that such changes will be socially just.

Certainly "sustainable" means sustainable, physically and environmentally, in the long run. But what does "in the long run" mean? How long is that, and who is to determine it? Never mind Lord Keynes' "in the long run, we will all be dead." We may be dead, but our children and their children will live. Two quite separate problems arise here,

one social and political, the other scientific.

The Social Problem

The costs of moving towards environmental sustainability will not be born equally by everyone. In conventional economic terms, different people have different discount rates for the same cost or benefit. Meeting higher environmental standards increases costs; some will profit from supplying the wherewithal to meet those standards. Others, not able to pay for them, will have to do without. Thus, the effects of income inequality are likely to be aggravated by the raising of environmental standards in this way. This problem is evident when it comes to the issue of atomic power plants in developing countries that have no other available sources of energy, or in the rain-forest disputes in South America. Similar issues are raised in the environmental justice movement in the United States. Better environments for some will be at the expense of worse environments for others, as waste disposal sites, air pollution, and water contamination, are moved around. Even when there is a solution that improves conditions for some without hurting others, the benefits will be unevenly distributed.

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UPDATES

Congratulations to PNER **Dan Lauber** for receiving the APA's 1998 Paul Davidoff Award. The award recognizes "a project, group, or individual demonstrating a sustained social commitment to advocacy planning in support of society's less fortunate members." Advocacy has been a central part of Dan's career. He states in the April 1998 issue of *Planning*: "All planning is social planning. All plans have social impact, social consequences." In speaking out on exclusionary zoning, racial equity, or the importance of socially informed planning, Dan has remained true to his ideals. Through his writings, consultations, testimonies, and television appearances he has spread the word about planning's social impacts. According to Dan, "Planning is all about its effects on people. What good is beautiful housing if people are in misery?"

Kate White is interested in meeting other PNERs in the San Francisco area who would like to start a Bay Area PN Chapter. Interested folks can reach her at <ueblueprint@igc.apc.org>.

Peter Meyer writes that the Center for Environmental Management at the University of Louisville is trying to locate all planners actively engaged in working with or doing research on urban brownfields and other urban infill, with an eye to collaborative exchange or possible joint efforts in comparative analysis of planning and policy approaches. No formal commitments are involved, but simply identifying ourselves to one another. If opportunities for funding arise, so much the better, but they would be mutual arrangements of participants. To avoid excess email (and possible exclusivity) a new listserv is *not* contemplated at present. To make contact, please send name of a *person*, organization information with address, phone, fax, and email to the CEM Director, Peter Meyer, at: <pbmeyer02@homer.louisville.edu>. Peter also sent some web addresses members may find useful. They are listed in the Resources on page 18.

Lois Gibbs was honored at a special reception on May 12th in New York City. Sponsored by Mothers & Others for a Livable Planet, the event commemorated

the 20th anniversary of Love Canal and recognized Lois' contribution to the grass-roots movement in the fight against toxic waste. Lois was one of the original Love Canal organizers. A town meeting, "Voices from the Communities: The Politics of Pollution in Our Homes and Neighborhoods," followed the reception.

Ron Shiffman was honored on May 16 in Chicago, Illinois, where he received the 1998 Lewis Mumford Award for Development given by Architects, Designers, Planners for Social Responsibility. Ron is being honored for the work he performs as Director of the Pratt Institute Center for Community & Environmental Development.

Thanks to all for sending in their Updates. I still look forward to more input from our members to beef up this section of the newsletter.

—*Dalila Hall, Membership Editor*
<dhall@pratt.edu>

Welcome...

new **PLANNERS NETWORK** members!

Ramya Bavikatte, Suby Bowden, Yoonjong Choi, Whitney Dahlman, Penelope Duda, Margaret Fox, William Kubal, Judith Mayer, Bill Ng, Anne Ray, Jeffrey Segal, Rosemary Wakeman.

Thank You

renewing members!

Emily Achtenberg, James M. Buckley, John E. Davis, M. Russel Feldman, Diane Gormely-Barnes, Matthew Haas, Stephan Klein, Cathy Klump, Ann Markusen, Andrew Schiffrin, Ron Shiffman, Angela C.S. Stuber, Paul Sussman, Carol C. Williams.

Thanks for supporting PN.... Since we will not be holding a national conference this year, your support is especially critical!

Send your PN Update to us today! You can email Membership Editor Dalila Hall <dhall@pratt.edu>, send a fax to her at (718) 636-3709, or write a postcard or letter and send it to our national office:

PLANNERS NETWORK
379 DeKalb Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11205

CORRECTIONS

... from the last issue

In the March/April issue, the announcement of a future special PN issue on "Planning and Race" omitted the names of two of the guest editors. The special issue will be co-edited by Marie Kennedy, Mel King and Luis Aponte-Pares. It will appear in early 1999, not September 1998.

In the March/April issue, Ruth Yabes was incorrectly listed as a PN Co-Chair

PUERTO RICO NOT A STATE IN THE UNITED STATES

The PN Roster included in the March/April issue mistakenly listed Puerto Rico members in the "United States" section instead of the "International" section.

We are embarrassed by this seemingly minor mistake, especially on the 100th anniversary of the U.S. colonization of Puerto Rico. The United Nations recognizes Puerto Rico as a colony of the United States. Puerto Rico is formally a "Commonwealth" with a special relationship to the U.S., but it is not a state of the United States and never has been. Congress has authorized a referendum on the island which would supposedly settle the issue of Puerto Rico's status. Many conservatives support statehood despite the jeers of racist and English-only red-necks in and out of their ranks.

Progressives have been historically pro-independence or pro-Commonwealth. We should question both the motives and possible impacts of statehood, and for now consider Puerto Rico as part of the Caribbean and Latin America.

MIDDLE EAST MILITARY DOLLARS AND OUR CITIES

by Richard Platkin

North American cities pay dearly for U.S. military policy in the Middle East. According to the July 1997 issue of *Foreign Affairs*, the cost of the U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf is between \$30 to \$60 billion dollars a year. This is no small gift to the major U.S. oil companies who feed their profits with Persian Gulf oil.

But as demonstrated a generation ago during the Vietnam war, this country does not have enough resources for guns and butter. Each billion for the military build-up in the Persian Gulf is a billion not spent on homeless programs, public education, transit, and a host of other municipal programs for which there have been and ought to be federal dollars.

The costs of protecting U.S. oil are greater when we consider the impact of oil on public health and the urban environment. According to John Berger, author of the recently published *Charging Ahead*, this vast military expenditure not only fortifies the investments of oil companies, it postpones the eventual conversion to clean energy sources. Berger argues that this conversion will come, inevitably, as oil runs out, and we can respond to this certainty in one of two ways. We can accelerate the conversion, with such obvious benefits as lower reduction of greenhouse gases, or we can resist it, with all of the attendant degradation of the environment and public health

which comes with the use of fossil fuels.

If the oil glut continues and consumption grows, there will be continuing blight to urban life. Vehicles powered by internal combustion engines will continue for at least another 50 years. Since most of these vehicles are cars, 40 percent of the land in the typical North American city will be devoted to streets, parking lots, drive-ways, and garages, as it is now. This is bad news for the urban environment for at least two reasons. First, these land uses create heat island effects which increase ambient temperatures by about 5 degrees. Secondly, general air quality will suffer from vehicle exhaust, refineries, petroleum-based chemical industries, and coal-fired power plants.

Another Middle Eastern war, spurred by an intense U.S. bombing attack on Iraq, was narrowly averted this February. But the success of U.S. brinkmanship is no reason for jubilation. The U.S. military build-up in the Persian Gulf is unabated, and disputes over oil, the underlying cause for war in this region, are growing.

Iraq ranks number two in proven oil reserves and, according to the *Wall Street Journal*, some experts believe that Iraq, when fully explored, will have more proven oil reserves than Saudi Arabia. In a world with an unquenchable thirst for oil, there is no shortage of private oil companies intent on cashing in on this thirst. This is a perfect recipe for intense

This is the first of a regular column by PN Steering Committee members on current political issues. Responses and alternative viewpoints are welcome.

commercial competition, including wars, to explore, extract, refine, ship, and sell Middle Eastern oil to foreign customers.

Optimists argue that there is enough oil in this region to make everyone happy — including foreign companies, local companies, governments, and local residents. A nice theory, but divorced from reality because both local and foreign companies are in the business of making money, not just selling oil. The more oil available, the more profits, and the more competition for those profits. And the more competition, the greater the danger of war.

Some argue that all Americans benefit from the foreign business successes of U.S. companies in areas like the Persian Gulf. No doubt the major investors benefit. But what of the 60 percent of Americans who own no stock, and what of the bulk of stock owners whose trickle down dividend checks amount to a tiny fraction of their income and of their needs?

For us the conclusion is inescapable. North American cities and their residents could experience tremendous benefits from an end to the subsidies and protection of oil profits in the Middle East. Billions will be available to meet critical urban needs. This means new opportunities for equitable and efficient planning.

SUSTAINABLE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY JUST SOCIETIES

By Sandra Rodriguez

Communities of color have much to contribute to sustainability because of their front-line experiences in struggles against environmental degradation and health risks they face in their neighborhoods and workplaces.

The environmental issues faced by communities of color reflect everyday life experiences of social, economic and political disenfranchisement. Yet, for the most part, their concerns and perspectives have been marginalized from mainstream discussion about sustainability and the environment. These concerns are with environmental racism, the unequal burden of pollution borne by communities of color, and the exclusion of environmental justice principles from visions of sustainable societies.

Environmental Justice

A landmark 1987 study by the Commission for Racial Justice of the United Church of Christ, *Toxic Waste and Race in the United States*, documented how commercial hazardous facilities were concentrated in and near communities with the highest proportion of racial and ethnic minorities. In the United States, and more recently in Canada, further documentation has shown how the most common victims of environmental pollution are people of color. These communities are disproportionately burdened by environmental hazards including hazardous waste facilities, incinerators, contaminated soil and polluting industries.

Environmental inequities are being countered by an emerging movement working towards environmental justice. In October 1991 in Washington D.C. over 600 people working on environmental justice issues came together at the First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit. This was the first time that people of color from throughout North America convened in order to define their environmental agenda and develop a process that would guide what has been described as a multi-racial movement for change. An important outcome of this summit was the development and adoption of seventeen "Principles of Environmental Justice" (see page 6). As a whole, these principles represent a call to action against environmental inequities and address issues of democracy, marginalization, poverty, and discrimination. They state the right of people of color to live in and fully participate in healthy and just communities. They outline a vision for a just and sustainable society, and include elements necessary to any discussion about sustainability.

Rev. Benjamin Chavis, civil rights leader and Executive Director of the Commission for Racial Justice, defines environmental racism as "any policy, practice, or directive that differentially affects or disadvantages (whether intended or unintended) individual groups, or communities based on their race and color." Environmental racism "combines with public policies and industry practices

to shift the costs of industrial pollution to people of color." This form of oppression is maintained by a system of ideas, laws, and practices that work to regulate the aspirations, actions and livelihood of people of color. The education system, political and administrative bodies, private corporations and the mainstream media reinforce racism on a continuing basis. Racism experienced by these communities is inseparable from their broader experiences of social, economic, and political marginalization. As a result, they seldom frame their struggles as "environmental" problems, but rather as issues of social justice.

Issues such as poverty, racism, and access to decisionmaking, which are central to environmental justice struggles, have been noticeably absent from discussions about sustainability. The sustainability literature has mostly been concerned with the physical degradation of the environment and the ecological limits to economic growth. Only recently have social issues been dealt with in any depth. This interest can be seen in the work of Trevor Hancock, a leader in the international healthy cities movement. In his article, "Healthy Sustainable Communities: Concept, Fledgling Practice and Implications for Governance," Hancock makes the point that social issues need to be addressed if truly sustainable societies are to be achieved. But while there is increasing discussion about the social dimensions of sustainability, these discus-

sions fall short of addressing and naming systemic power relations based on race, class, and gender.

Racism and Sustainability

The truth is that sustainability discussions do not adequately deal with the issue of racism. In some sustainability literature there is an acknowledgment that discrimination in general must be dealt with, but I have yet to encounter a discussion on sustainability that confronts racist relations directly. Discussions of sustainability do not adequately deal with how racism works to limit life choices and reduce the quality of life in communities of color. Nor do they address the systemic nature of racism and how it is reproduced within the institutional framework of capitalist societies.

For planners this is particularly important since the unequal distribution of environmental degradation is partly the result of inequitable and discriminatory planning processes which mediate how zoning and other environmental regulations are organized and enforced. Environmental justice activists have begun to document and expose how discriminatory planning processes not only marginalize the interests of communities of color, but limit their participation, representation, and access to decisionmaking power. It is vital that institutional racism be named and confronted so that power relations are exposed and communities empowered.

Are "We" in This Together?

An underlying premise in discussions of sustainability is that "we" are in this together. This generic "we" assumes that all people are equally to blame for society's environmental problems, and that "we" all have a responsibility to change

our lifestyles to "save the planet." As Catherine Lerza asks in her article "Race, Poverty and Sustainable Communities": "Are the poor, the marginalized equally to blame for the waste and pollution that exists, when they are the people least benefiting from economic growth and they are bearing most of the environmental burden?"

East Los Angeles, a predominantly Latino neighborhood, is currently considered a "human sacrifice zone" because there is a large concentration of polluting industry in the area and new polluters

Issues such as poverty, racism, and access to decisionmaking, which are central to environmental justice struggles, have been noticeably absent from discussions about sustainability.

continue to locate there. In Toronto, residents of South Riverdale, a predominately low-income community, have been fighting for over twenty years to get lead contaminated soil cleaned up.

Throughout North America, but particularly in the United States, the concentration of poverty in urban areas coincides with the residential segregation of people of color. These communities, located in areas with low land values, receive more unwanted land uses such as polluting private and public facilities. Many are ill-equipped to deal with the pollution. At the same time, they are struggling daily to deal with unemployment, poverty, housing, education, and health problems. Further, many residents do not have the economic means to leave polluted neighborhoods for more desirable (i.e., less polluted) locations.

In their article, "Capitalism and the Crisis of Environmentalism," Daniel Faber and James O'Connor argue that

capital "always seeks to pollute in ways that encounter the least political resistance." Therefore, people and communities that have the least political power and resources to defend themselves are the most vulnerable. Further, these communities are underrepresented on governing bodies where land use siting decisions are made. Under-representation translates into limited access to policy makers and lack of advocates for minority interests.

It is obvious that "we" are not in this together. The assumption that all people regardless of race, class, or gender are in

this together needs to be dispelled, and advocates of sustainability need to understand how the costs and benefits of industrial and economic expansion are not equally distributed. Sustainability needs to address the paradox

that growth and development are sources of both wealth and destruction, with particular ramifications for people of color.

The Future vs. The Present

Discussions of sustainability tend to be forward thinking and futurist, projecting an ideal vision of a "sustainable city." But environmental justice advocates reject the single vision of a sustainable city and are more interested in the amelioration of existing inequities. The forward looking perspective does not take into consideration the immediate problems and struggles for environmental justice such as those in South Riverdale and East Los Angeles. While it is important that sustainability be forward thinking, it should also address existing conditions that are inherently unsustainable.

Many visions of sustainable societies, like that of "new urbanism," reflect the needs and interests of the white middle

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PRINCIPLES OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

The First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit.
October 24-27, 1991. Washington D.C.

PREAMBLE

WE, THE PEOPLE OF COLOR, gathered together at this multinational People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit, to begin to build a national and international movement of all peoples of color to fight the destruction and taking of our lands and communities, do hereby re-establish our spiritual interdependence to the sacredness of our Mother Earth; to respect and celebrate each of our cultures, languages and beliefs about the natural world and our roles in healing ourselves; to insure environmental justice; to promote economic alternatives which would contribute to the development of environmentally safe livelihoods; and, to secure our political, economic and cultural liberation that has been denied for over 500 years of colonization and oppression, resulting in the poisoning of our communities and land and the genocide of our peoples, do affirm and adopt these Principles of Environmental Justice:

1. Environmental justice affirms the sacredness of Mother Earth, ecological unity and the interdependence of all species, and the right to be free from ecological destruction.

2. Environmental justice demands that public policy be based on mutual respect and justice for all peoples, free from any form of discrimination or bias.

3. Environmental justice mandates the right to ethical, balanced and responsible uses of land and renewable resources in the interest of a sustainable planet for humans and other living things.

4. Environmental justice calls for universal protection from nuclear testing, extraction, production and disposal of toxic/hazardous wastes and poisons and nuclear testing that threaten the fundamental right to clean air, land, water, and food.

5. Environmental justice affirms the fundamental right to political, economic, cultural and environmental self-determination of all peoples.

6. Environmental justice demands the cessation of the production of all toxins, hazardous wastes, and radioactive materials, and that all past and current producers be held strictly accountable to the people for detoxification and the containment at the point of production.

7. Environmental justice demand the right to participate as equal partners at every level of decision-making including needs assessment, planning, implementation, enforcement and evaluation.

8. Environmental justice affirms the right of all workers to a safe and healthy work environment, without being forced to choose between an unsafe livelihood and unemployment. It also affirms the right of those who work at home to be free from environmental hazards.

9. Environmental justice protects the right of victims of environmental injustices to receive full compensation and reparations for damages as well as quality health care.

10. Environmental justice considers governmental acts of environmental injustice a violation of international law, the Universal Declaration On Human Rights, and the United Nations Convention on Genocide.

11. Environmental justice must recognize a special legal and natural relationship of Native Peoples to the U.S. government through treaties, agreements, compacts, and covenants affirming sovereignty and self-determination.

12. Environmental justice affirms the need for an urban and rural ecological policies to clean up and rebuild our cities and rural areas in balance with nature, honoring the cultural integrity of all our communities, and providing fair access for all to the full range of resources.

13. Environmental justice calls for the strict enforcement of principles of informed consent, and a halt to the testing of experimental reproductive and medical procedures and vaccinations on people of color.

14. Environmental justice opposes the destructive operations of multi-national corporations.

15. Environmental justice opposes military occupation, repression and exploitation of lands, peoples and cultures, and other life forms.

16. Environmental justice calls for the education and present and future generations which emphasizes social and environmental issues, based on our experience and an appreciation of our diverse cultural perspectives.

17. Environmental justice requires that we, as individuals, make personal and consumer choices to consume as little of Mother Earth's resources and to produce as little waste as possible; and make the conscious decision to challenge and reprioritize our lifestyles to insure the health of the natural world for present and future generations.

—Adopted, October 27, 1991

RODRIGUEZ

◀ Continued from page 5

class. Their prescriptions for a sustainable society are implemented, for the most part, in a top-down fashion that leaves little space for community input.

The environmental justice movement has much to contribute to the sustainability discourse. The movement's knowledge and strategies are not being developed in academic settings, government institutions or by consultants, but at the community level where environmental justice struggles are taking place. These communities have many ideas about the key elements of a sustainable society and the issues that must be confronted.

Discussions of sustainability need to address systemic racism and its impacts, recognize the unequal burden of pollution on communities of color, and question the people with the power to formulate visions of sustainable societies. They must include a broader understanding of the structural and political forces that maintain power inequalities so that environmental problems and the needs of diverse peoples are addressed within the social, political, and economic realities in which they are embedded. As different constituencies redefine issues and set their own agendas according to their own needs, concerns, and identities, a universal strategy for sustainability will not do. Rather, there will have to be multiple and diverse strategies for sustainability.

Sandra V. Rodriguez is a Master's student in Environmental Studies and Urban Planning at York University, Toronto, Canada. She is a co-founder of the Multi-Racial Network for Environmental Justice, a community-based environmental justice organization in Toronto.

IT'S NOT EASY BEING GREEN

Feminist Thoughts on Planning for Sustainability

By Sherilyn MacGregor

Recent interest in "sustainability" has overshadowed issues of social justice in planning. There is an implicit assumption that, in the face of impending ecological destruction, we're all in this together. But, as Peter Marcuse argues, we are clearly not all in this together. The costs and benefits of moving toward a sustainable society will surely be distributed unevenly in an already unjust society. Yet is the addition of "social justice" to the sustainability puzzle enough?

Feminist critics of planning theory argue that it is not. Although feminist critiques of planning have gained acceptance in some circles in recent years, there is a long way to go before gender is taken up consistently in planning discussions. As in many other cases, if feminists do not raise issues of importance to women's lives, such as the gender division of unpaid labor, the gendering of social space, access to urban goods and services, and changing employment patterns in the global economy, they simply go unmentioned.

Social Justice: More than Class and Income

Feminists have pointed out that social justice concerns in planning are mainly focused on the allocation of resources and distribution of wealth. Aspects of social injustice that are not reducible to class or income frequently get left out of the analysis. Gender inequality and sexism

includes but is by no means limited to matters of distributional justice. The domination of elite white men is pervasive in all aspects of Western society. This privileges male interests and needs within political, educational, cultural and familial institutions. Similarly, as Sandra Rodriguez argues, racism is not only a matter of unequal access to opportunities or jobs, it is also about the political and cultural marginalization of people of color.

Sexist assumptions about gender roles and responsibilities are deeply embedded in North American culture. They are manifested in the design of living spaces and the relationships that take place within them. Women are expected to be primarily responsible for the care and maintenance of the living spaces in our society. That women will look after the work of caring — what I call life-sustaining work — is so deeply rooted in our culture that it is commonly taken for granted and poorly rewarded, if rewarded at all. In addition to keeping questions of the distribution of wealth on the agenda, we must also keep in mind the distribution of labor and responsibility necessary to achieve an ecologically sustainable society. Moving toward a more just and sustainable society will require more unpaid labor and more participation by citizens. The question is, on whose shoulders will these added burdens fall?

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MACGREGOR

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Life-Sustaining Work

Decades of empirical research have documented the unequal gender division of labor. Despite some gains for some women in the labor force in recent years, women still do a disproportionate amount of the unpaid work that nurtures and maintains households and communities. Many women who are employees, care-givers and neighborhood volunteers juggle a double and triple day of work without adequate support from family members or government. This workload is unsustainable for individual women who, on average, have less leisure time and lower wages than men do. This division of work and responsibility is socially unjust. It represents an unfair subsidy to men and capital at the expense of the continued subordination of women. Feminist planners, therefore, have tried to find ways to alleviate this burden through innovative social policies and the redesign of gendered urban spaces.

Non-feminist planners have been slow to take these gender concerns into account in their discussions of both sustainability and social justice. They tend to either ignore the importance of life-sustaining work altogether or take the gender division of unpaid labor for granted. Planning theory is masculinist in that it privileges the public sphere and embraces a conventional economic understanding of work that excludes domestic and care-giving activities. As a consequence, there is little recognition of the implications of plans for sustainable societies and for those who will be compelled, by virtue of their socially constructed gender roles, to perform the extra work required to live sustainably in everyday life.

Women's Unpaid Labor

Insofar as planners and environmentalists have realized that changes in living

habits are a necessary part of the search for sustainability, they advocate initiatives that demand particular responses from household and community members, such as waste reduction and energy conservation strategies, and collective efforts to grow and pool resources. Such changes in daily living are no doubt important. But what must be challenged is the lack of awareness that they will intensify the burden on unpaid labor. This increased labor will be borne primarily by women in their socially constructed roles as care-givers and housewives.

For example, planning for municipal solid waste reduction through household recycling, precycling, and composting campaigns (growing in popularity in places like Seattle, San Jose, and Berkeley) demands extra time and effort from those responsible for household maintenance and provisioning. Recycling depends on the diligence of individuals to collect, wash, sort, and transport recyclables, and composting requires increased effort on the part of cooks and gardeners. Precycling involves the reduction of waste that enters the household, a practice that requires cutting down on over-packaged "convenience" goods and environmentally unfriendly household cleaners, and purchasing more fresh foods. Research conducted in German households found that precycling alone adds at least 20% more work time for the two person household. There is clearly a price to be paid for green living.

Many energy conservation strategies, such as the use of "appropriate" technologies, demand increased human labor time. For example, the use of solar ovens is promoted in Sacramento in order to reduce the need for air conditioning in private kitchens. Sustainable community advocates in Toronto, such as the authors of *Get a Life!: How to Make a Good Buck and Save the World While You're At It*, recommend the switch to solar powered composting toilets to conserve water and

electricity. While the cost-effectiveness and environmental benefits of such technologies are celebrated, no mention is made of the demands they place on those who will actually use and maintain them.

Those who promote more sustainable forms of transportation like cycling and walking don't address the logistical problems for those who need to get around the city with children and groceries in tow. Feminists have long criticized the gendered assumptions of transportation planners who forget that some people have different concerns than "the journey to work." Similarly, those who champion the cause of telecommuting (working at home online) in order to reduce car use fail to consider what it means for those workers who already see the home as a workplace (nor do they consider the plight of the underpaid and non-unionized women workers in the electronics industry!).

Sustainable community planners have also advocated the local production of food in community gardens (also known as community shared agriculture) and collective kitchens. While feminists support the concept of collectivization of socially necessary work for social and ecological reasons, the appeal fades when it becomes evident that women tend to do most of this work. In addition to the intensification of unpaid work in the household, women could end up with added responsibilities in the community — all in the name of sustainability.

Environmental Privatization

The sustainability agenda seems to romanticize a return to good old fashioned self-reliance, elbow grease, and homespun goods while taking for granted that gendered individuals will bear the burden of increased work. We need to reconsider a range of energy, resource, and waste intensive practices that we rely on to sustain us, but part of the discussion must be the equitable redistribution of the work that will take their place. Placing respon-

sibility for sustainable living on the household and neighborhood can be seen as a form of environmental privatization. This approach takes the onus off corporate polluters and government regulators. Environmental privatization shifts responsibility to women under the assumption that women's ability to care, provide, and serve is elastic and can expand indefinitely. Rarely is there any mention of the work required or who will do it, because

involvement in planning and administrative decisionmaking will improve the quality of urban life for greater numbers of citizens and result in heightened levels of environmental consciousness and responsibility at the local level.

While feminists support participatory democracy and more inclusive decision-making processes, that support is tempered by concerns for the distribution of responsibility and disparities between men

in the private sphere.

So what happens when the demands on citizens for the political life of a sustainable community increase along with demands on unpaid work? Some people, particularly women, may actually have less time for public engagement. Even if sustainable societies are more participatory, male domination of decisionmaking will persist in the absence of any concerted effort to redistribute and support the work that is necessary to sustain life in the domestic sphere. For women who already perform a double or triple day of work, taking an active role in the planning and on-going management of their community adds an additional burden to their already over-burdened lives.

Yet the majority of activists in local environmental justice and community struggles are women. We need to understand the costs of this triple role, and whether an ecologically sustainable society can be built on top of existing, or intensified, gender inequalities. Without providing support services like child care, or finding innovative ways to collectivize socially necessary work — issues that feminist planners have been trying to put on the planner's agenda since the early 1980s with only limited success — citizenship in the sustainable society will be plagued by the same tensions between public and private that have produced and reproduced gender inequality for centuries.

If we accept that there will be no ecological sustainability without socially just relationships and institutions, then the eradication of sexism and gender inequality must also be seen as an essential piece of the sustainability puzzle.

Sherilyn MacGregor is a doctoral candidate in the Faculty of Environmental Studies at York University, Toronto Ontario. She is a contributing author of Change of Plans: Towards a Non-Sexist Sustainable City (M. Eichler, Ed., Garamond Press, 1995). She can be reached at <shermac@yorku.ca>.

Placing responsibility for sustainable living on the household and neighborhood can be seen as a form of environmental privatization. This approach takes the onus off corporate polluters and government regulators. Environmental privatization shifts responsibility to women under the assumption that women's ability to care, provide, and serve is elastic and can expand indefinitely.

women's work is taken for granted, or "externalized" (in the language of economics). The same writers who argue that there are biophysical limits to human use of the earth seem to forget that there are also limits to the use of labor.

Sustaining Participation

A growing number of sustainability advocates envision a greater role for citizens in the planning and administration of local communities and neighborhoods. Citizen advisory boards, task forces, and round tables on environmental issues, community-based environmental impact assessments, and other forms of participatory democracy are thought to be an essential element of a sustainable society. Eco-guru Murray Bookchin's libertarian municipalism — his vision for the good ecological society — is modeled after the Greek *polis* wherein rational citizens took an active part in the running of public affairs. It is thought that increased public

and women in the ability to participate. Rarely do advocates of citizen participation in sustainability issues take into account that public participation takes time and requires a range of conditions that only a small and relatively privileged segment of the population enjoy.

Feminist Critique of Citizenship

Feminist scholars have developed a critique of the concept of citizenship, asserting that it is based on masculine traits and elite male life experiences. The concept of citizenship itself comes from Greek society (as Bookchin explains so well) wherein males could participate actively in public processes precisely because their basic subsistence needs were met by the labor of women and slaves who were excluded from participation and other citizenship rights. Active participation in public affairs is only possible when people have spare time on their hands and when basic needs are met

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The Scientific Problem

Our knowledge is limited, and the further out into the future we wish to project it, the more the uncertainties grow. Malthus calculated, with the best scientific knowledge of his day, that food production would not sustain a world population much beyond its size at that time. Since then, world population has increased more than five-fold, and is better nourished and lives longer. We know we need to deal with the problem of global warming, and we know that relying on technological fixes is dangerous. Those two propositions should lead us to scale down certain activities linked to growth, and to seek substitutes for others. They mandate adoption of specific policies to achieve specific goals by specific actors in a specific timetable. But absent those specific policies, long-range concerns do not help very much in making decisions about shorter-range questions.

Not Just Environmental

In any event long-term environmental considerations are not the only long-term considerations that need to be taken into account. Matters that have both short- and long-range implications include: social justice, economic development, international relations, democracy, democratic control over technological change, and globalization. For a given policy to be desirable, it should meet the constraints of sustainability in each of these dimensions.

Environmental sustainability seems at first blush to be the most "objective," the most inescapable, of all these constraints. If humankind dies off, the game is over. But may that not also be said of freedom, democracy, or tolerance? Since none of these deaths will be one-shot catastrophes, is the danger of environmental degradation a greater danger in the long run than

war, fascism, poverty, hunger, or disease?

Environmental Justice

In practice "sustainability" had its origins in the environmental movement and in most usage is heavily focused on ecological concerns. But why, given limited resources and limited power to bring about change, are efforts thus focused? I would suggest that the environmental movement is a multi-class, if not upper- and middle-class movement, in its leader-

The pursuit of sustainability is a delusion and snare to the extent that we call for "sustainable" activities that are of universal benefit.

ship, financing and politics. While the environmental justice movement is making a substantial contribution to both social justice and environmental protection, the environmental movement as a whole often proclaims itself to be above party, above controversy, seeking solutions from which everyone will benefit, and to which no one can object. How nice it would be if we could find such a program we could all rally around, and escape the unpleasant business of facing conflicting interests, having to deal with the unequal distribution of power, the necessities of redistribution, and the defeats that accompany the victories? No wonder "sustainability" is an attractive slogan! But if our goal is redistribution of wealth or opportunity, sharing power or reducing oppression, sustainability does not get us far.

All uses of the sustainability concept are not subject to the criticisms I have made. One leading definition is that of the World Commission on Environment and Development (1987): "Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Fine. Clearly here the goal is "meeting needs," and the remainder, making it sustainable, is a constraint on the appropriate means to be used. Other formulations focus on the "carrying capacity of supporting ecosystems," an elusive concept. To the extent that sustainability requires the review of policies designed today to meet the needs of today in such a way that they do not make things worse in the future, it is an important concept, though for planners it is not a very new one.

Among those devoted to the concept, there is also an important debate about the relationship between growth and development, a difficult issue conceptually and one viewed very differently in the developed as against the developing world. So the discussion of sustainability can make a real contribution to advancing the understanding of policy alternatives and their implications.

The pursuit of sustainability is a delusion and snare to the extent that we call for "sustainable" activities that are of universal benefit; activities that everyone, every group, and every interest will or should or must accept in their own best interest. It is a delusion to think that only our ignorance or stupidity prevents us from seeing what we all need to do. Indeed, a just, humane, and environmentally sensitive world will in the long run be better for all of us. But getting to the long run entails conflicts and controversies, issues of power and the redistribution of wealth. The "sustainability" slogan hides these conflicts instead of revealing them.

Peter Marcuse is Professor of Urban Planning at Columbia University in New York.

SUSTAINING DIVERSITY

Participatory Design and Urban Space

By Richard Milgrom

"Sustaining diversity" can be interpreted in two different ways. First, there is a need to sustain the human diversity present in urban environments. Diversity has allowed cities to embrace difference, an essential ingredient in the promotion of social justice and the accommodation of marginalized individuals and groups. The presence of difference has been heightened by increased mobility and emerging globalization. My concern in this regard is that cities are being designed and built in ways that belie, and perhaps suppress this diversity.

Secondly, this diversity is essential to the sustainability of urban environments. Diversity is the strength of cities.

According to Jane Jacobs, innovation is most likely to originate in urban settings where ideas and materials are exchanged. In the culturally diverse cities of the late twentieth century this potential for exchange has increased as a broad range of traditions are brought together in limited areas. This concentration has the potential to produce new, more sustainable ways of life.

Caring to Sustain Cities

Sustaining human settlements requires intentional actions on the part of the inhabitants. In order for cities to be physically and socially sustainable the inhabitants must care to sustain them. In order to have this feeling of responsibility, urban dwellers must find positive meanings, including some sense of identity and

belonging, in their environments. These can only be produced through participation in the ongoing design and management of the urban environment. The achievement of this goal is made more challenging, but also more necessary, by the increasing diversity of urban populations in the late twentieth century.

But the idea of users participating in the design of cities runs counter to current trends in urban development that see decisionmaking concentrated in a few powerful hands, and increasingly homogeneous design "solutions" offered by globalizing development industries.

Participation and Design

How can the built form of the modern city be produced in ways that more accurately reflect the needs and desires of its diverse inhabitants and the meanings that they seek? Over the last few years there has been renewed interest in processes of planning and design that focus on the participation of the end users. This has been driven by concerns for social justice. After all, the rich and powerful have always had a say in the design of cities. The concerns of "empowerment planners" and "community architects" have been with those individuals and groups typically excluded from the decisionmaking process. These efforts have attempted to overcome the paternalistic and often universalizing impositions of previous generations of planners, the prescriptions of designers who thought that they knew best how

people should live.

While consultation with users may be a step in the right direction, consultation alone is not enough. Frequently designs and plans that result from consultation processes represent lowest common denominator solutions, those that the majority of the users can tolerate rather than those that reflect the full range of needs and desires present in the communities consulted. It is only by accommodating the full range of needs and desires of the population that it will be possible for all inhabitants to find positive meaning in their spaces. Furthermore, because human diversity is not static, this participation should continue after initial planning and design have been completed and projects implemented.

Environment and Social Justice

Following the publication of the *Brundtland Commission Report* (1987), and the United Nations Conference on the Environment in Rio de Janeiro, there was also a resurgence in concern for the design of built environments that reduce the human impact on the natural systems that support life on earth. Many of these efforts have originated in the North and have been motivated by the desire to maintain the levels of comfort that the middle and upper classes of the industrial world have come to enjoy (see Peter Marcuse's comments about sustainability in this issue). These concerns have translated into an environmentalism that places a priority on ecological preservation, but does little to address issues of social justice (see Sandra Rodriguez's article in this issue).

When viewed in isolation, some cities, or neighborhoods within cities, may appear more sustainable than others. In *Sustainable Communities*, for example, Peter Calthorpe discusses the energy consumption of two adjacent neighborhoods in Philadelphia, one "gentrified" and the

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other home to many poor working class residents. Although the built forms of the two areas are similar, the energy consumption patterns are significantly different. Those who live in the gentrified area have well maintained houses and high-efficiency furnaces and drive late model cars. Those in the poorer section "make do with gas guzzlers, leaky windows and elderly furnaces much in need of repair." Calthorpe notes that although the poorer residents "live lower on the hog they often consume more energy to do it."

I would suggest that the low wages and poor living conditions of the working class population subsidize the apparent sustainability of their wealthier neighbors. Also, a broader "ecological footprint" analysis of the neighborhoods would probably show that the richer residents use far more of the earth's ecologically productive area to sustain their lifestyles.

As social products, cities are an ideal site for any discussion of the connections between physical and social sustainability. Planning concerns with social justice and with the reduction of the detrimental impacts of human settlements on the physical environment should be connected. While these two streams of planning often function in isolation, the production of sustainable cities requires them both. I am not arguing that participatory design will result in sustainable designs, but that participation is necessary, though not sufficient, for sustainability.

Active Citizenry and Social Learning

The convergence of these two streams of thought is evident in several recent works, including David Orr's *Ecological Literacy*, and Alexander, Gibson and Tomalty's "Putting Cities in Their Place" (in Mark Roseland's *Eco-City Dimensions*). Orr calls for more urban

dwellers to take active roles in sustaining environments, advocating for "ecological" over "technological" sustainability (see July 1997 PN for a more complete description).

Technological sustainability might be characterized (or perhaps caricatured) by the work of Paulo Soleri, whose 1960s designs for megastructures were intended to separate human activities from natural areas, concentrating human settlements in small areas. Soleri suggested that his

"active and competent citizenry," placing a priority on the involvement of all segments of society in the production of human environments, rather than simply consuming those limited options that are offered by the market. Orr sees an educational role in this production, helping citizens to understand their built environments by participating in their creation.

Similarly, Alexander, Gibson and Tomalty seek broader citizen involvement. Their paper is a critique of "ecosys-

Despite their claims of moving towards more sustainable urban development, "new urban" communities still promote new consumption and the resulting environments do little to improve the physical sustainability of urban areas.

"arcologies," a term derived from architecture and ecology, would not only preserve the natural environments of the planet, but would also represent the work of "man the creator." His proposals were highly centralized and relied heavily on industrial processes to sustain the lives of inhabitants. But, perhaps most importantly, the structure of the societies that were to inhabit these "arcologies" would have to adapt to their new environments, rather than take part in their design and implementation. There was no thought given to the potential for the co-evolution of societies and the built forms that they produce. The form of the city would not have reflected the make-up of its citizenry, rather the citizens would be forced to conform to the mold of the "creator."

Ecological sustainability, on the other hand, accepts that humans (including planners) are fallible and recognizes that human societies and their economic systems exist within ecological limits (sustainability as a constraint, as Marcuse notes). As Orr suggests, ecological sustainability includes a central role for an

tem planning" as proposed by the Royal Commission on the Future of the Toronto Waterfront (RCFTW). The RCFTW recommended planning on the basis of natural, rather than political boundaries, consultation with the many communities involved, and the consideration of the inter-jurisdictional effects of decisions. Although Alexander, *et al.* agree with most of the principles put forward, they note that the goal of sustainability cannot be imposed, and that "willing cooperation is crucial." This cooperation requires changes in attitudes that can only be brought about by linking the planning processes to "other aspects of democratic change, social learning, community building, and environmental enlightenment" — in other words by linking aspects of social and physical sustainability.

New Urbanism and Eco-Villages

It is disappointing that many of the most recent proposals for sustainable human settlements have been either anti-urban or anti-diversity, or both. The developments proposed by "new urbanists"

hold out the promise of less car dependency by providing amenities and jobs within walking distance of residences, and greater densities that reduce the amount of land consumed. Despite their claims of moving towards more sustainable urban development, they still promote new consumption (few new urban communities are located within existing urban areas) and the resulting environments do little to improve the physical sustainability of urban areas.

More importantly, they do nothing to address social justice issues or to make space for diversity. For a prototypical neighborhood, new urbanists look back to the pre-1940s American small town, a form that was derived by a decidedly more homogeneous population than is now present in most North American cities. Societies in the 1940s were less tolerant of difference than current urban populations and the model that is invoked as an ideal is a white, middle-class environment. The strict aesthetic rules imposed in new urbanist neo-traditional developments, and highlighted in marketing strategies, make clear who belongs and limit the expression of personal identities that might differ from those of the community as a whole. While new urbanist Peter Katz may claim this is the "architecture of community," it is an exclusionary version of community.

Many proponents of "eco-villages" fall into a similar trap. Eco-villagers propose new self-sufficient settlements of no more than a few thousand inhabitants living in direct relationship with their hinterland. The populations of these communities usually share common sets of beliefs and ideals (villages do not have a tradition of diversity), but there is also a rather disturbing isolationist element to the idea of starting new and separate settlements. The luxury of this choice is only afforded to a privileged few who might be seen as abandoning the city (the environment that helped generate their economic and intel-

lectual wealth) without addressing the long term sustainability problems of the whole population, a problem that they themselves have helped to identify.

Participation and Difference

In *The Production of Space*, Henri Lefebvre argues that under capitalism there has been an emphasis on the production of "objects in space" (commodities) rather than the production of space itself. This has resulted in the production of "abstract" space, space that "tends towards homogeneity, towards the elimination of differences and peculiarities." Space, he suggests, is the result of the interrelationship of three components (simplified for our purposes here): form, use (spatial practice) and meaning. A greater understanding of these connections should eventually lead to a new "differential" space. This new space would accentuate, enhance and celebrate difference, rather than suppress it.

Lefebvre further claims that seeds of this new space can be found in the contradictions present in abstract space. For example, despite the predictions of planners and architects, homogeneous housing forms are used differently as new waves of inhabitants move through them. And the meanings found in these forms are not associated with the freedoms that modernist designers anticipated, but with the repression of traditions and identities.

The acts of design and planning fall broadly into Lefebvre's category of spatial practice (use). Within his understanding of space, design methods that embrace the participation of users should result in different built forms and strengthened varied meanings for the range of participant/users. Understanding that space, meaning and built form are all socially produced is essential to the development of sustainable human settlements.

Guest Editor Richard Milgrom is a doctoral student at York University in Toronto.

WHITHER PN?

Planners Network started 23 years ago with discussion and debate about the role of progressive planners. As the political climate changes, we need to constantly re-evaluate who we are and what we should do — individually and as an organization, within our professions and more broadly.

One of the big questions we have always faced is whether we should be more than a communications network. Should we go beyond the newsletter, conferences, local forums and the many informal activities that bring us together? Should we initiate direct action, lobbying, or other campaigns, and on what issues?

Over the years, PN membership has become more diverse. We include people working in community development, housing, environmental justice, health and human services, transportation, urban and rural planning, etc. What critical issues should we focus on?

We invite you to send in your thoughts and ideas. They can be short notes or longer articles, up to 1,500 words. Items will be considered for a special PN issue this fall. Submit your work via mail to the PN office (listed on page 18) or via email: (pn@pratt.edu).

PLANNERS NETWORK SUSTAINER CAMPAIGN

Planners Network is growing and diversifying. The newsletter is becoming a strong voice for progressive planning. PN's conferences mix community participation with professional planning. More local groups are forming, and new publications are being developed.

But PN has only one source of income — member contributions. Our average contribution is about \$25, which leaves us with an annual deficit of from three to five thousand dollars. This year, there's no PN conference to help make up the difference.

Our Goal is 50 Contributions of at least \$100 each.

If you're having a fairly good year, won't you help sustain PN? If it's time for your annual contribution, can you be a little more generous? Your contribution to PN is tax-deductible. Send a check to:

PLANNERS NETWORK
Attn: Dalila Hall
379 DeKalb Avenue
Brooklyn, New York 11205

7TH GENERATION

◀ *Continued from page 1*

the term "sustainability," although flawed, was here to stay, at least for the foreseeable future. We recognize that we need to work with this term but position ourselves within the debates. One part of this has been to try to decide which nouns we were comfortable using in conjunction with "sustainable."

"Sustainable development" as defined by the *Brundtland Commission Report* may be the most commonly quoted definition: "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." It is somewhat vague. Who defines needs? It is, however, so well known that undergraduate students in Environmental Studies at York University can almost be expected to parrot it-back in unison when lecturers ask for a definition. Other parts of the report are less frequently cited, however, and it is with the sections of the report that recommend rapid economic growth and greater technological transfer that most concerns have been raised, leading some critics to suggest that "sustainable development" is an oxymoron, and that economic growth cannot be sustained within a finite natural environment. Most practicing planners and local governments regard development and growth as synonymous, so for us the term is not acceptable.

Similarly, "sustainable communities" is problematic. For many, the term community is exclusionary. "Commitment to an idea of community tends to value and enforce homogeneity," says Iris Marion Young. Architects, planners and, most notably, developers tend to use the term community to refer to places rather than people, and sustainable communities in this case are too focused on the physical relationships at the expense of the social. "Sustainable cities" presents a similar

problem in that it tends to focus too much attention on the physical form of human settlement, but it also tends to obscure the relationships between cities and their hinterlands (whether local or global). Thus, the implication is that the sustainable city is self-sufficient.

For now we have settled on the term "sustainable societies." For us, societies imply both physical and social structures, and also encompass a diversity of populations and communities. By now, most planners are probably familiar with a family of diagrams that purport to show the need to "balance" the ecological, economic and social spheres of human life. Our concern is with the gaps, or at least the underdeveloped analysis, in the rapidly expanding literature about sustainability. We are particularly concerned with the emphasis that is usually placed on the economic and ecological spheres, while the social sphere receives little more than lip service. The economic and ecological aspects are more easily quantifiable and a concentrated effort to address social equity would require major political changes in terms of power and privilege. The three spheres analogy obscures the fact that all three aspects take place in one sphere, the biosphere. We contend that if these were approached in a truly holistic manner, the planning and design of sustainable societies would be an emancipatory project.

Paying lip service to social equity means rarely raising the issues of gender, race and class inequities. These issues are addressed in this issue of *Planners Network*. Sherilyn MacGregor presents a feminist critique of sustainability. Sandra Rodriguez discusses issues of environmental justice and environmental racism. And I call for participatory planning and design processes in the production of sustainable societies. We hope our contributions further the discussions on sustainability.

—Richard Milgrom

RESOURCES

CONFERENCES, CONVENTIONS, WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS & EVENTS

Thursdays, 7:00 pm. Housing Notebook, WBAI, 99.5 FM, New York. Weekly radio program sponsored by the Metropolitan Council on Housing and hosted by Scott Sommer.

July 9-12: Moving the Economy Conference. Toronto, Canada. An international forum to discuss the economic advantages of sustainable transportation. Contact: Moving The Economy, c/o Urban Development Services, 12th Fl, East Tower City Hall, 100 Queen St, West Toronto, Ontario, M5H 2N2 CANADA. (416) 392-1560, x85854. FAX: (416) 392-0071. EMAIL: <mte@city.toronto.on.ca>.

July 13-19, 1998. 1998 Blitz Build. Calling All PNeters to Volunteer to Help Build 4 new Homes in East St. Louis, IL Home of the 1995 Planners Network Conference. The lack of affordable, safe and decent housing is one of the most serious problems facing families and individuals in East St. Louis. In an effort to address this need, several local church-based and neighborhood-based organizations joined together to develop the Neighborhood-Based Family Housing Program which built four new homes last summer with the goal of building 25 homes over the next five years. Project organizers will help all volunteers secure accommodations for the week at local churches or hotels. For more information contact Patricia Nolan at (618) 271-9605 or at <panolan@primary.net>.

July 15-18: 8th International Planning History Conference and 4th Australian Planning/Urban History Conference. "The Twentieth Century Urban Planning Experience." The University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia. The deadline to submit papers has been extended to the end of February 1998. More detailed information on travel arrangements, accommodation, and sponsors is on the conference internet homepage at: <<http://www.fbe.unsw.edu.au/events/1998/planhist/>>. All conference inquiries and abstracts to: Dr Robert Freestone, Faculty of the Built Environment, University of New South Wales, Sydney NSW 2052, Australia. PHONE: +61-2-9385-4836. FAX: +61-2-9385-6264 EMAIL: <i98@unsw.edu.au>.

July 18-21: Sustainability and Community — Critical Connections. 30th Annual International Conference of the Community Development Society. Kansas City, MO. WEB: <<http://comm-dev.org/>>.

July 27-August 1, 1998: SUN 21, First International WEEK for a Sustainable Energy Future. Basel, Switzerland. WEB: <<http://unep.frw.uva.nl/>>. To go to the agenda click on "SD agenda" in the menu on the main homepage.

September 14-20, 1998. Diverse City-Sustaining and Governing the Multicultural City. This is the first call for participation in the 8th International Network for Urban Research and Action (INURA) meeting in Toronto, Canada. The theme of the meeting is: Further information may be found by visiting our web site at: <www.yorku.ca/faculty/fes/seminars/inura/htm>.

September 18 & 19: Meeting the Urban Health Challenge: A Joint Public Health and Urban Planning Agenda. New York City. Though the disciplines of public health and urban planning emerged with the common goal of preventing urban outbreaks of infectious disease, little overlap between the fields exists today. The health, environmental and development problems facing urban residents cannot adequately be addressed without approaches that integrate public health and urban planning assessment, regulatory and intervention strategies. The conference will explore academic, professional, government and community-development links between the disciplines. Contact: Hunter COEH Conference Abstracts, 425 E. 25th Street, Box 621 New York, NY 10010. EMAIL: <dkass@hunter.cuny.edu>.

September 28-October 1, 1998: Oceans 98, Conference on Coastal Management & Ocean Resources. Nice, France. WEB: <<http://unep.frw.uva.nl/>>. To go to the agenda click on "SD agenda" in the menu on the main homepage.

October 3-7: 1998 International Association for Public Participation Annual Conference, Mission Palms Resort, Arizona. "S.P.I.C.E.: Synergy, Participation, Involvement, Community, Enrichment." Call (602) 965-8736 or (800) 644-4273 for more info, or surf to <www.pin.org/conf.html>.

October 29-30: 1998 Chapter Conference, NY Metro American Planning Association. Call For Presentations. "Planning and the New York Metropolitan Region in the 21st Century." Share your revolutionary ideas, gain visibility and enhance your professional growth. Contact Mike Skowronek, 267 Warren St #1, Brooklyn, NY 11201. (212) 266-8599 daytime, (718) 596-6557 evening. FAX: (212) 266-8555. EMAIL: <mikeskow4@aol.com>

October 30-November 1, 1998: European Round Table on Cleaner Production. Lisbon, Portugal. WEB: <<http://unep.frw.uva.nl/>>. To go to the agenda click on "SD agenda" in the menu on the main homepage.

Essential Skills for Public Officials, The Michigan Municipal League, Lansing Center, Lansing MI. This highly interactive workshop will provide practical ideas for working effectively with both local officials and community residents. This is your opportunity to not only learn more about being a skillful elected leader, but also to network with others who serve as you do. Fee: \$95-\$170. For information, contact MML at (313) 669-6315. FAX: (313) 662-9399.

Building Learning Communities, Management and Community Development Institute. (MCDI). Tufts University, Medford, MA. Thirty-eight one to four day interactive courses that teach skills and examine issues related to creating, developing, and maintaining the capacity of individuals, organizations, and communities to engage in neighborhood revitalization. Contact: Steve Schnapp. (617) 627-5666. EMAIL: <sschnapp@tufts.edu>.

Fundraising for Nonprofits, Coalition for Nonprofit Housing Development. Chevy Chase, MD. Contact the Training Institute, CNHD, 5 Thomas Circle, NW, Suite 209, Washington, DC 20005. (202) 745-0902.

Coordinating Transportation and Land Use, Three Day Intensive Course on Tools and Techniques. The National Transit Institute is offering a new training course to identify and disseminate the most useful information, evidence, tools, and techniques which are now available for integrating transportation and land use planning. Contact Amy Van Doren: (732) 932-1700, ext. 21. EMAIL: <avd@rci.rutgers.edu>.

PUBLICATIONS

Cities: Back From The Edge, a new book from Roberta Brandes Gratz with Norman Mintz. Preservation Press. To Order 1-800-225-5945.

"Career Opportunities for American Planners in International Development," offers a wealth of information Available from the APA International Division for US \$8.00 for members and \$12.00 for non-members, plus \$2.00 per order for shipping and handling. Orders must be to: APA International Division, c/o The Institute of Public Administration, 55 West 44th St., New York, NY 10036.

1998 Tax Fairness Organizing Kit, United for a Fair Economy. 37 Temple Place, 5th Floor, Boston, MA 02111. (617) 423-2148. WEB: <www.stw.org>.

1998 Wage Gap Organizing Kit, United for a Fair Economy. Provides information on the US economy and the wage gap. For info: 37 Temple Place, 5th Floor, Boston, MA 02111. (617) 423-2148. WEB: <www.stw.org>.

National Housing Institute/Shelterforce Online. <www.nhi.org>. Thoughtful news and analysis of housing and community development issues. The site is filled with hundreds of articles and resources and is regularly updated with news and information critical to the housing and community development field.

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David Engwicht, editor

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Videos and other products are available from:

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email: <canderso@slonet.org>

The Encyclopedia of Housing, covering more than 500 topics, from Abandonment to Zoning, will be a valuable resource. Completed after nearly 7 years of work, the new Encyclopedia of Housing includes contributions from nearly 250 housing experts (*many of whom are Planners Networkers* —Ed.). Peer-reviewed entries, selected by a distinguished Board of Consulting Editors and written in plain language, offer brief definitions, historical background, descriptive statistics, policy analysis, and critical assessment. Entries also contain suggestions for further study, listing classic works and key publications. *The Encyclopedia of Housing*, edited by Willem van Vliet, University of Colorado. \$149.95 hardcover. 732 pages. ISBN 0-7619-1332-7. WEB: <www.sagepub.com/sagepage/encyclopedia_of_housing.htm>.

The National Council for Urban Economic Development publishes information about its 6 yearly conferences and 12 professional economic development training sessions on a page in its website. Surf to <cued.org/cued/conference>.

Yellow Wood Notes. This publication concerns itself with rural sustainable community development and planning. Contact: 95 South Main St, St. Albans, VT 05478. (802) 524-6141. FAX (802) 524-6643. EMAIL: <hn4402@handsnet.org>

Natural Resource Defense Council. This site contains a large index of info on environmental issues such as air pollution, toxics, wilderness, land use. <www.nrdc.org/nrdc/world.html>

Dissenting from the President's Initiative on Race. A set of 27 short pieces of “Advice to the Advisory Board [to the president's Race Initiative, chaired by John Hope Franklin].” Available without charge from the PRRAC, 1711 Connecticut Ave NW Washington, DC 20009. Provide a large self-addressed, stamped envelope with \$1.47 postage.

Affordable Housing Costs in Portland, Oregon. The City of Portland and the Housing Development Center, a local nonprofit providing technical assistance for housing development, have just completed a study of the costs (acquisition, construction and soft) of affordable housing in Portland. To order this study, cost is \$8, including shipping and handling: Housing Development Center, Attn: Affordable Housing Cost Study, 2627 NE Martin Luther King, Jr Blvd, Portland, Oregon 97212. (503) 335-3668. FAX: (503) 335-0475. EMAIL: <hdc@teleport.com>.

Transportation, Energy, and Environment: How Far Can Technology Take Us? A new book published by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACCEEE) presents up-to-date assessments of the role of advanced vehicle and fuel technologies in moving transportation systems towards greater sustainability. Available for \$38.00 postpaid from ACCEEE Publications, 1001 Connecticut Avenue NW, Ste 801, Washington, DC 20036. (202) 429-0063. EMAIL: <ace3pubs@ix.net.com.com>.

PN CHAPTERS

Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

Contact: Ken Reardon, (217) 244-5384;
<kmjr@ux1.cso.uiuc.edu>.

New York Metropolitan Area

Contact: Tina Chiu, (212) 854-9564,
<jc307@columbia.edu> or Kevin Huang,
(718) 783-0499, <KHuang8598@aol.com>.

Starting or renewing a local chapter of Planners Network? Tell us, and we will list your contact information and news here! Write to Membership Editor Dalila Hall, <dhall@pratt.edu>.

PN ON THE INTERNET

We have a new web address! The PN web site contains case studies, working papers, and more. Surf to:

<http://www.plannersnetwork.org>

To subscribe to our email listserv, email:

pn-net-request@pratt.edu

with the body blank and the subject:

subscribe your-email-address

DO YOU HAVE A WEBSITE?

Let the Planners Network community know about it! Send a note or email with the URL to us and we'll print it in our PNER Updates. You can also use the pn-net listserv to spread the word.

HELP SUSTAIN PLANNERS NETWORK'S DEVELOPMENT!

During the past few years, we've worked hard to expand the content of the newsletter. Like what you've seen? Because there's no PN conference this year, We need your help — see page 14 for information about our Sustainer Campaign.

JOBS

Looking to fill an open position with someone you can count on? PN is your link to the right person. Send your job announcement to the national office or email it to Resources Editor James Miraglia: <anarcho@prodigy.net>. Please limit listings to 50 words!

CONNECTICUT

Housing Executive Director sought to lead and implement activities of community-based development corp. Need self-starter w/housing development, finance and community outreach experience. CDC is starting tax credit/historic rehab project. Salary low 40's plus benefits. Résumés to 1410 Norman Street, Bridgeport, CT 06604.

NEW JERSEY

Housing and Community Development Specialist, The Affordable Housing Network's Technical Assistance and Training Center. Seeking to hire an experienced Housing and Community Development Specialist to assist non-profit organizations throughout New Jersey with the development of affordable housing New York Acorn Housing Company. Send cover letter and résumé to Martha Lamar, the Affordable Housing Network, PO Box 1746, Trenton, NJ 08607.

Neighborhood Consultant, The Newark Community Development Network. Seeking an experienced individual to provide oversight in the development and implementation of a comprehensive neighborhood plan for Newark's Urban Coordinating Council. Send cover letter and résumé to NCDN, 31 Mulberry Street, 5th Floor, Newark, New Jersey. FAX: (973) 622-6511.

NEW YORK

Executive Director, The Association for Neighborhood and Housing Development. Seeking dynamic Executive Director with exceptional leadership, managerial, financial and fundraising skills. Send cover letter and résumé to Executive Director Search, ANHD, 305 Seventh Avenue Suite 2001, New York, NY 10001. FAX: (212) 463-9606.

Office Manager, ANHD. A citywide Association of community-based housing organizations is seeking an experienced person to manage a small office part-time. Send cover letter and résumé to 305 Seventh Avenue Suite 2001, New York, NY 10001. FAX: (212) 463-9606.

Community Organizer. Mothers on the Move. A grassroots multi-issue membership organization in the South Bronx seeks an experienced community organizer. Send cover letter and résumé to Mothers on the Move, Intervale Ave., Bronx, NY 10459.

Community Organizer. The Community Food Resource Center. A nonprofit organization founded in 1980 to address food, hunger, nutrition, and low income issues in NYC seeks a community organizer. Send cover letter and résumé to Janine Duke, project director, CRFC, 90 Washington St., 27th Floor, New York, NY 10006.

Housing Specialist. Brooklyn-based community development organization seeks housing specialist. Work with tenant associations and boards on resident ownership, tenant and community issues. Assist with housing development projects. Organizing experience; knowledge of housing issues; well-organized; good communication skills. Computer and Spanish a plus. Salary: mid \$20s to low \$30s, based on experience. Résumé and cover letter to: Housing Specialist, Fifth Avenue Committee, 141 Fifth Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11217. FAX: (718) 857-4322.

Director of Housing Development, New York Acorn Housing Company. Seeking highly experienced, energetic and self-motivated person to oversee city-wide housing development operations. Send cover letter and résumé to Ismene Speliotis, Executive Director, NYAHC, 88 Third Ave., 3rd floor, Brooklyn, NY 11217. FAX: (718) 246-7939.

Assistant to Director, New York Acorn Housing Company. Seeking highly motivated, take-charge person willing to work hard. and self-motivated person to oversee city-wide housing development operations. Send cover letter and résumé to Ismene Speliotis, Executive Director, NYAHC, 88 Third Ave., 3rd floor, Brooklyn, NY 11217. FAX: (718) 246-7939.

Program Assistant. New Destiny Housing Company. A not-for-profit housing development agency that develops, owns, and manages housing for domestic violence survivors seeks a Program Assistant/Bookkeeper. Send cover letter and résumé to Executive Director, New Destiny Housing Corp., 2 Lafayette St., 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10007. FAX: (212) 577-7759.

Program Manager. West Harlem Assistance. Seeking a highly motivated self-starter to bring long and short term development projects to West Harlem. Send cover letter and résumé to: West Harlem Group Assistance, 1528 Amsterdam Ave., NY, NY 10031. Attn: Zulema Barnes

OREGON

Transportation Policy Advocate. 1000 Friends of Oregon. 1000 Friends of Oregon is seeking someone with the skills of a transportation planner or engineer to be an advocate for sustainable transportation in Oregon. Community Development Network, 2627 NE MLK Jr. Blvd., #202 Portland, OR 97212. (503) 335-9884. FAX: 335-9862.

VERMONT

Research Assistant. Yellow Wood Associates, Inc. St. Albans, Vermont. A full-time position is available as of August 3, 1998. Our small consulting firm is dedicated to improving the quality of life in rural communities through appropriate economic development that builds on local skills and resources, particularly natural resources. To receive a detailed job description please contact Frances Young by phone at (802)524-6141. Email: <HN4402@handsnet.org>.

FUNDING

Grants to Enhance Community Policing, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. Announces the availability of funding under the COPS Making Officer Redeployment Effective program. Deadline May 29, 1998. For Information: Department Of Justice Crime Bill Response Center, 1100 Vermont Ave., NW, 6th Floor, Washington DC 20530. (202) 302-1460, (800) 421-6770.

Mental Health Services Hispanic Priority Initiative Grants, The Center for Mental Health Services. Accepting applications for grants that will support mental health and/or substance abuse services to Hispanic communities. Deadline May 27, 1998. For Information: Center for Mental Health /services Knowledge Exchange Network, PO Box 42490, Washington, DC 20015. (800) 789-2647. WEB: www.<samhsa.gov>.

International Lelio Basso Prize for Economic and Political Alternatives, The International Lelio Basso Prize consists of two \$10,000 awards to be given to the 2 prize winners. Works to be considered should be submitted by July 15, 1998. Lelio Basso International Prize - Secretariat Raffaele Piria, c/o Prof. Elmar Altvater, Freie Universität Berlin, Dept of Political Science, Ihnestr. 21, D-14195 Berlin, Germany. PHONE: 49-30-838 4964. FAX: 49-30-838 4066. EMAIL: <piriaraf@zedat.fu-berlin.de>.

EDUCATION

Master of Arts and Certificate in Regional Economic and Social Development. University of Massachusetts Lowell. New graduate program that will train development professionals, entrepreneurs, technologists, community activists, to understand, analyze, and intervene in the regional and economic social development process. Further information: (978) 934-2900. EMAIL: <RES@UML.EDU>, WEB: <www.uml.edu/Dept/RESD>.

PLANNERS NETWORK

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IN MEMORIAM

Marsha Ritzdorf

It is with great sadness that we at PN learned of the death of fellow PNER Marsha Ritzdorf on April 28, 1998. The following announcement came from W. David Conn, Professor & Special Assistant to the Provost at Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University.

I am very sad to announce that our friend and colleague Marsha Ritzdorf died this morning as the result of heart and lung problems aggravated by a virulent infection. She had been in the hospital for many weeks.

Marsha is survived by her husband Paul Brozovsky, a senior researcher in Virginia Tech's Office of Institutional Research, her son Jon Ritzdorf, her mother Roz Brown, and two brothers. The family will receive callers on Saturday afternoon at home in Blacksburg.

There will be a small gathering in memory of Marsha in Pasadena in the Fall. When we know the details we will be glad to forward them.

If you would like to send a donation in Marsha's name, please make your check out to: ACSP-Ritzdorf Fund and send it to:

Susan Bradbury, ACSP Treasurer Eastern Washington University Dept. of Urban & Regional Planning 668 North Riverpoint Blvd., Suite A Spokane, WA 99202-1660

The family agree that an ACSP Award or Scholarship in Marsha's name would be a fitting tribute.

The following biographical sketch was prepared by the Department of Urban Affairs & Planning at Virginia Tech:

Marsha came to Virginia Tech in 1993 after teaching at the University of Oregon since 1986. She was active in teaching and research in the area of social policy and planning, focusing on race and gender issues in land use planning. She co-edited "Urban Planning and the African American Community: In the Shadows" published by Sage last December. In November 1997, Dr. Ritzdorf was awarded the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning's Margarita McCoy Award which recognizes outstanding contribution toward the advancement of women in planning at institutions of higher education. Marsha championed women's issues in planning since the beginning of her professional planning career in 1972 and her academic career in 1975. In 1990, she won the Diana Donald Award from the American Planning Association for her contributions to the advancement of women in the planning profession.

We at PN extend our condolences to Marsha's family. PNERs are invited to send in remembrances of Marsha for the next issue.

Your Participation Wanted!

July, Number 130 — Planning and Gender Ann Forsyth, Guest Editor

September, Number 131 — Whither PN? Peg Seip, Guest Editor

Other future issues will cover energy politics, planning and race, and other topics.

Please submit articles, notes, updates, and resources typed and double-spaced. Feature articles of 500 to 1,500 words are always welcome. Submissions on disk or by email are greatly appreciated. All electronic submissions should be sent as ASCII text. Send your submission to the editors at <pn@pratt.edu> or the address given at left. All resource and job listings should be directed to James Miraglia's attention <anarcho@prodigy.net>. Updates should be directed to Dalila Hall, <dhall@pratt.edu>.

FOR MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS, Planners Network has been a voice for progressive professionals and activists concerned with urban planning and social justice. PN's 1,000 members receive this bimonthly magazine, network online with PN-NET, and take part in the annual conference. PN also gives progressive ideas a voice in the mainstream planning profession by organizing sessions at annual conferences of the American Planning Association and the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning.

The PN Conference has been held annually each spring since 1994. These gatherings combine speakers and workshops with exchanges involving local communities. PN conferences engage in discussions that help inform political strategies at the local, national, and inter-national levels. Recent conferences have been held in Washington, D.C., East St. Louis, IL, Brooklyn, NY, and Pomona, CA.

Whether face-to-face, in print, or over the internet, PNers are part of a network that shares progressive ideas and experiences. Join Planners Network and make a difference while sharing your ideas and enthusiasm with others!

Annual financial contributions are voluntary, but we need funds for operating expenses. The Steering Committee recommends the following amounts as minimums for Network members:

- \$15 for those with incomes under \$25,000, students and unemployed
- \$25 for those earning between \$25,000 and \$50,000
- \$45 for those earning over \$50,000
- \$30 for organizations and libraries

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. This includes opposition to racial, economic and environmental injustice, and discrimination by gender and sexual orientation. 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.

Yes! I want to join progressive planners to work for fundamental change.

I'm a renewing member — Keep the faith!

Enclosed is my check payable to **PLANNERS NETWORK** for \$ _____

Mail This Form To:

PLANNERS NETWORK
379 DeKalb Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11205

NOTES: Your contribution is tax-deductible!

International members, please send a check in U.S. funds as we are unable to accept payment by credit cards or in other currency at this time.

Thanks!

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MOVING?

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

YOUR LAST ISSUE?

The date on your mailing label indicates when your current membership expires — make sure to renew if this date is coming up soon! If it is already expired, we need to hear from you before May 1st or you won't receive PN anymore. See the inside back page for contribution suggestions. Thanks for your continued support!

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