# PLANNERS NETWORK

July/August 2000

A Publication of Planners Network, Inc.

No. 142

# THE SEVENTH GENERATION

In our every deliberation, we must consider the impact of our decisions on the next seven generations.

- From the Great Law of the Iroquois Confederacy

# First International PN Conference

by Richard Milgrom & Barbara Rahder

he first Planners Network conference outside the United States was hosted by the newly established Toronto Chapter of PN June 22-25. It was the most international conference ever with over 200 participants from six continents. This extraordinary diversity of national perspectives gave a comparative depth to the conference themes — Insurgent Planning, Globalization and Local Democracy.

The opening keynote address on "Planning and Civil Society" by York University's Gerda Wekerle set the context for the rest of the conference

Continued on Page Thirteen

# INSURGENT PLANNING GLOBALIZATION LOCAL DEMOCRACY

**Stories and Papers from PN 2000** 



Field to Table Tour at PN 2000

## Mexico's Pioneer Experiences in Participatory Planning

By Gustavo Romero Fernández

In the early 1970s, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) began to get involved in urban planning. They were invited to get involved because they weren't "urban planning

professionals" but technicians linked to the social processes of popular urban planning. From the beginning the fundamental aspect of NGO involvement was their participation, closeness, understanding and respect toward the social majorities -- the poor and popular classes. Although social participation wasn't required by law, and public officials and technicians didn't think about it, diverse social groups that had relations with the NGOs were incorporated in this process.

In 1977 the Federal District of Mexico City established its first urban development law that allowed residents (as well as government) to propose local plans. A neighborhood association in one of the oldest down-

Continued on Page Fourteen

3 Civil Society: A Challenge to Planners Gerda Wekerle

Planning & Politics in the Current City Roger Keil

Five Basic Lessons on Globalization Kanishka Goonewardena

19 PN Resources

# Planners Networker IPDATES

Thanks to all the PNers who sent in news this month. Let your fellow members know what you are up to – send in your update today!

> Planners Network 379 DeKalb Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11205 Fax: 718-636-3709 <pn@pratt.edu>

PNer Morris L. Sweet announces publication of Regional Economic Development in the European Union and North America by Greenwood Publishing Group, 88 Post Road West, PO Box 5007, Westport, CT 06881 203-226-3571 (www.greenwood.com). The publisher's blurb follows.

Mainstream economists have given insufficient attention to regional and urban economics and economic geography. Comparing nations in European Union and North America, this book examines government activities aimed specifically at regional economic development. It provides a wide ranging consideration of numerous facets of regional economic development, encompassing both national and subnational levels. Proposing that a period of economic prosperity is the best time to invest in regional development, the author indicates the need for a direct role by the federal government. The study is based on a review of the U.S., Canada, and Mexico, European Union, and supranational organizations, such as NAFTA and the WTO, and their internal impact on regions. The comparison shows that the U.S. lags dramatically behind the European Union. The EU, particularly the Western European countries, has long been in the forefront of regional policy and is actively formulating policy, whereas the U.S. has no semblance of a federal regional policy.

Laura Wolf-Powers writes that, along with her co-instructor Marla Nelson, she assigned to her Rutgers University planning class the PN open letter to Norman Krumholz of AICP and the APA NY Metro Chapter about the conduct of the NY Dept. of City Planning regarding the auctioning of 700 city-owned community gardens. She says the letter is a "great teaching tool" and "a jumping off point for discussion and reflection in the course." One of the questions that might appear on the final exam is: "Describe the objections that the PN Steering Committee had to the department's behavior, and what they thought should have been done instead of or in addition to what was done. Do you think that the SC's ethics complaint against the department was a solid one (why or why not)? Do you concur with Norman Krumholz's determination that the AICP/APA ethics code can be applied only to individuals and not institutions? What ramifications does this (the fact that only individuals can be charged with ethics violations) have for planning?"

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Thanks for supporting PN. PN relies heavily on membership contributions. We have no other regular source of support.

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#### CORRECTIONS

In an effort to reinforce the relative value of space, we've lost our sense of time. The March/April PN issue (#140) was incorrectly labeled Jan/Feb. on the front page. The May/June issue (#141) was incorrectly labeled March/April throughout.

If you're interested in finding out about other PN'ers near you, or in starting a local chapter, contact Tom at:718-636-3461 or pn@pratt.edu

Citizens are making active use of plan-

ning in their resistance to restructuring,

downsizing, and a model of urban

growth that exploits our environment

for short-term profit.

Civil Society:
A Challenge to
Planners

by Gerda R. Wekerle

Planning is generally identified with the state or private sector. 'Citizens' are

often relegated to discussions of citizen participation, which is token and marginal to the real action. Or they are described as "special interests," one of many inputs to the planning process which must be mediated and negotiated. Yet it is citizens who are currently making active use of planning in their resistance to restructuring, downsizing, and a model of urban growth that exploits our environment for short-term profit.

Recent debates about globalization and restructuring and their impacts have argued that planners have abandoned the last vestiges of earlier roles in urban reform movements and, instead, have become firmly

and publicly allied with the state and business in pushing economic development for greater global competitiveness. At the same time, planning theorists argue that we are experiencing a revival of civil society. Civil society has been defined variously: as the place for "public spirited action," and as the space for political mobilization and active resistance. Civil society, according to planning theorist John Friedmann, stands in opposition to the state and to the corporate economy.

The title of this conference includes the term "insurgent planning," an evocative image of a planning that is rooted in social movements and alternative visions of sustainability and governance. James Holston initially outlined what he calls "the spaces of insurgent citizenship," created through grassroots mobilizations and everyday practices. Leonie Sandercock's elaboration of what this means in planning practice, a practice she termed "insurgent planning," has evoked an image of planning without planners, and of new social movements for whom planning has become a tool in their arsenal of resistance strategies and the generation of

alternative ways of living.

# The Oak Ridges Moraine: Inciting Civil Society in the Suburbs

This story of civil society engagement in planning takes place at the regional scale and highlights the issue of controlling urban sprawl and saving clean water. In Ontario, planners have all but given up on regional planning; civil society has newly discovered it. This story is about ongoing battles over the Oak Ridges Moraine, which runs eastwest for 160 kilometers north of the city of Toronto.

In 1995, the Conservative government in Ontario replaced the province's first social democratic (NDP) government. In 1999, the Conservative government was reelected with solid support from the exurbs surrounding Toronto and rural communities closest to the city. As other neo-liberal regimes in the U.S. and U.K. have done, the Ontario government downsized the public sector, targeting especially the Ministry of the Environment. They downloaded costs and responsibilities to the municipalities and

devolved planning responsibility from the provincial government and regional conservation authorities to municipalities. The government drastically changed the Planning Act to reduce restrictions on development, especially requirements to address environmental stan-

dards. Toronto is growing rapidly and the new growth is expanding northward. It's heading straight for the Oak Ridges Moraine. This a massive underground reservoir with deep aquifers that provide the municipal drinking water for ten communities and recharge the headwaters of 22 rivers. It is an area of forests, fields, wetlands and lakes.

This spring, five development applications were made to build 12,000 units of housing on 1,600 hectares of the Moraine. The three regions that have jurisdiction over the Moraine say they cannot deal with land use and environmental protection issues that cross political boundaries. And the province has made changes that have limited the powers of municipalities to freeze development. Although there are development applications throughout the Moraine, the city of Richmond Hill has received the most public attention. In January 1999, the Richmond Hill council voted to amend its official plan to allow rezoning for housing on the moraine. Citing the need to "accommodate"

Cultural centers make gentrification and evic-

# Political Parties, NGOs and the Housing Movement in São Paulo

was pleasantly surprised to read "A São Paulo Squat" about the occupation of downtown buildings by the squatter's movement in the January/February (#139) issue of Planners Network. I really liked the way Barbara Lynch started by describing the project and the occupation, and then went through the workshop, the history of the movement that led to this strategy, the context of Brazilian social struggles over land and housing, and also the way she ended with the broader planning question about the future of the city center. I think she has a very good idea of what is going on here in São Paulo and I agree with the importance she gave to the occupations of vacant buildings by the housing movement.

As noted in the article, although the housing movement is very organized, and despite its growing numbers, the impact on political parties is still modest. Only three out of 32 parties have shown some support. However, one of the three - the Partido dos Trabalhadores (Workers Party) - is among the most important parties in the country and is one of the biggest left parties in the world. As for the others, it

is almost impossible to get any kind of support from the myriad parties which include parties, small and unimpor- for a just housing policy look like privatization tant parties, and corrupt of public space. politicians. The problem is

that most of them would only show some concern if the housing movement had more support from the population, and this is still not happening. Despite all the organized actions they undertake, the mass media manages to make the movement almost disappear, and there is only a public repercussion when something really overwhelming is done, like the simultaneous occupation of six buildings by 6000 people during the night of October 24th last year.

Since last year I have been discussing the current process and future of the city center in a study group. The first occupation by the squatter's movement in the city center was in an old house that belongs to the Secretary of Culture, in 1997. It happened at the same time that investments were announced in the conversion of a train station (located on the same street) into a sophisticated opera house (Sala São Paulo). Since then, they have occupied many buildings including the one Barbara visited, the "Ouvidor." During

the opening concert some protests were held outside by homeless people, and a woman declared that although the government does nothing about them, "they spend a fortune making spectacles for themselves."

We had been thinking of writing about the city center long before but after the announcement of the new opera house we decided to start. We were impressed by the enormous consensus that was being forged among almost everyone about that project and about the democratic nature of the investments in cultural centers of all kinds. An association was created at the beginning of the 1990s for the purpose of renewing the city center, lead by Bank Boston. It looks like an NGO (non-governmental organization) fighting for improvement of the city in a way that would automatically benefit everyone, as if there were no disputes going on there. In the last issue of their magazine, they celebrated what they called "the great turnaround" (a grande virada). That was the title of an insert in their magazine which is actually publicity material for Bank Boston. the insert spoke about what they consider their "conquests." most important conquests they list are the many new cultural centers, but they almost forgot to mention that a large majority of the resources invested in those centers came from public funds and not from the private sector as they suggest in all the advertisements they have been making. This "system" of cultural centers is being announced as a "start" (or "anchor," they say) in the renewal of the city center, as a means to recover the "glory" and "glamour" lost

when the elite abandoned the area (around the 1960's). tion look democratic and make the struggles And with the glamour they recover the land value as well. Sala São Paulo is considered by them a "powerful

cultural anchor to accelerate the process of the city center redevelopment." Although there are thousands of people living in tenements, they do not mention anything about them. Eviction and displacement are usually not referred to in articles about the city center but, according to some people, if they do occur they would be justified by the "democratic nature" of the "above suspicion" cultural investments.

In short, cultural centers appear as something that benefit everyone as if there were no conflicts or disputes over urban space. Actually, they make gentrification and eviction look democratic and, ironically, they manage to make the claims and struggles for a just housing policy by the social movements look like privatization of public space. That is the tricky part of this debate.

-- Mariana Fix, São Paulo

A liberatory urbanist project

must leave the illusory path-

raphy of urbanization.

European

# **Planning and Politics in** the Current City

By Roger Keil

That are the dimensions of possible politics and planning in the current city under the conditions of rampant neoliberalism? With a majority of people world-wide residing in urban agglomerations, I think there is reason to believe that a new urbanism of liberation has to be found globally in order for all of us to be able to continue to exist. Let me be clear, though, that it is rather unlikely that North American or European cities will be the places from where a new urbanism of liberation, a negotiated universalism of democratization, social justice, and urban ecology will arise. Globally, we need to look at the surging urbanism of the developing cities of the South. Any lasting influence on the future of urbanism will probably be exerted from there rather than

from the "mature" cities of Europe and North America.

Notwithstanding this general assumption, those of us who live in American urbanization and Northern and Western cities must, at enter a global history and geogleast, begin a partial reconstruction of our own urbanist discourse. This

reconstruction needs to aim towards doing away with the unfortunate illusion of a neoliberal urbanity as it has been practiced in western urban centers of the 1990s. In what follows, I am suggesting a few possible guideposts for such a reconstruction.

ways

A reconstructed urbanist praxis needs to reestablish a discourse of social justice at its core. The widening gap between rich and poor in our major cities must be responded to in other ways than with the police baton.

City politics must be rescued from the partial and partisan projects of urban neoliberals and reopened to civil society's deliberations. Progressive middle classes, the organized working class and marginalized groups need to find common ground for the sake of their political survival.

New alliances must be forged to articulate the urbanist projects of the city center with those of suburban and exurban communities. Pretending to run cities as distinct central places will continue the urban-suburban antagonism. In recent years, this conflict has been resolved to the advantage of conservative suburbanites (or their mindset). A progressive urbanist project must take the suburbs seriously. Ultimately, the reconstructed urbanist project calls for a regional mode of governance.

The suburbanization of the city must be halted. Instead, the call for the right to the city must be carried to every last nook and cranny of the exurban universe.

Academic practice, which has fallen under the spell of an acclamatory neoliberalism, must be recaptured for liberatory projects of urbanism. The Left needs to make the city a priority again.

Progressive urban practices must rely again on their utopian/revolutionary potential. Progressive urbanism must be proactive rather than defensive. The city's public space must be reconfigured along the demands of civil society (the every day) rather than those of the market (the global).

This project must call for an end to the "competitive city"

and begin an era of liberated urbanity of difference, justice and ecological societal relationships with nature.

A liberatory urbanist project must leave the illusory pathways of European and American urbanization and enter a global history and geography of urbanization.

The progressive urbanist project is only as good as its relationships with the city's nature. It will disregard the ecological at its peril.

A new urbanism of practice — through planning and politics — needs to overcome our obsession with culture, dematerialization and the image and return to the basics of urban life: the reproduction of the body in a field of tension between the global and the private as outlined by Henri Lefebvre. Planning for the new urbanism must be about political liberation, social justice, human diversity, and environmental sustainability.

The new progressive urbanist project must recognize conflicts around these principles and take sides in them.

Roger Keil is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Environmental Studies and Department of Political Science at York University. He would like to thank Kanishka Goonewardena and Peter Marcuse for their helpful comments on these thoughts.

Contrary to popular opinion,

the queer community has never

been predominantly middle

class with an excess disposable

income.

# Accidental Village: A Walking Tour of Queer Toronto

By Deborah Cowen

Poffered this tour with Rick Bebout, one of Toronto's gay and lesbian community pioneers and most dedicated activists. Along for the ride was George Hislop, another longstanding activist and community leader who

shared incredible stories with the group about police raids, protests, arrests, sex, and love — key elements in the struggle to build the community. Bebout's tour led participants around the Church and Wellesley area to sites of historical importance and contemporary change. Bebout presented criti-

cal questions and a thorough analysis of how the neighborhood came to be what it is today, and where it appears to be headed in the future.

Bebout's thesis that the "queer village" is far from a permanent fixture in the city was well supported by his commentary on how and why it came to be. First, he considered why predominantly gay men, but also lesbians, concentrated in this area over the last 50 years or more. An abundance of low-cost, small-unit housing was critical. Contrary to popular opinion, the queer community has never been predominantly middle class with an excess disposable income. Rather, the bulk of the gay and lesbian community has relied on affordable and accessible downtown housing.

Housing also emerged as a key element in the current state of the area, with changes to both the stock and local legislation challenging the stability of the neighborhood. Like many other inner city areas in Toronto, Church and Wellesley is experiencing a wave of loft and condo conversions, new condo construction, and significant losses in the number of rental housing units. The loss of rent control in the city has also had a significant impact on the area, with large rent hikes and increased power in the hands of landlords.

Bebout suggested that the decline in rental housing affordability and availability will eventually dismantle the Church and Wellesley community. In Bebout's words, these



Toronto's
Gay Pride Day

changes are "soon likely to price the very sorts of people and services who made it all happen out of the neighborhood altogether." The result he envisions is an elite and tourist gay area with very little diversity in the resident population.

While some suggest that gay and lesbian neighborhoods should reasonably dissolve as social tolerance increases, Bebout's analysis seems to challenge this interpretation of

> current change in Toronto's gay and lesbian village. Tolerance has certainly increased in Canada and Toronto, in a variety of political, legal and social respects. However, the biggest changes in tolerance seem to come from marketers and property developers who no longer discriminate on the

basis of sexual orientation but now capitalize on it. Outside of a few neighborhoods, occupational fields and social circles, the daily lived experience for lesbians, gays, bisexual and transgendered people can still be an extremely hostile one. The importance of place, of a physical community, has not necessarily waned. Real estate market processes in downtown Toronto seem to have the Church and Wellesley area growing out of the queer community before the community has grown out of the village.

Deborah Cowen is a graduate student in the Programme in Planning, Dept. of Geography, University of Toronto. PN-Toronto would like to thank Rick Bebout and George Hislop for this fascinating tour. For more information about Toronto's Accidental Village, check out http://webhome.idirect.com/~rbebout/bar/intro.htm.

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nity are inextricably linked

because they follow from the

same relentless logic of com-

modification — particularly,

the commodification of culture.

# What You Always Knew **About Globalization but** Were Afraid to Tell

**Five Basic Lessons** 

By Kanishka Goonewardena

**▼**lobalization is a code word for something else. That is why David Harvey has the good habit of reminding his audiences that by globalization he means "the latest stage in the development of capitalism." If he were writing today, Lenin would have been even more direct; he would not have found much use for the term globalization, and called it simply "the development of capitalism." We can start talking straight if only we can see what globalization has to do with capitalism or, more specifically, the universalization of capitalism.

Globalization, like capitalism, has a history. This history is revealed by the standard responses to the question "what is globalization?" — of which three are worth recalling. The

first response says that globalization is nothing new, insisting that it is ancient, thousands of years old. There is some obvious truth in this view but it is usually marred by the ideology that nothing under the sun is new. The second and more sensible response demonstrates the fundamental relationship between globalization and the world market ushered in by capitalism. By

far the best expression of this position comes from Marx and Engels in the Communist Manifesto: "The need for a constantly expanding market for its products chases the bourgeoisie over the whole surface of the globe. It must nestle everywhere, settle everywhere, establish connections everywhere." As a result, "in place of the old local and national self-sufficiency, we have intercourse in every direction, universal interdependence of nations." Even more to the point, this globe-trotting bourgeoisie "compels all nations, on pain of extinction, to adopt the bourgeois mode of production; it compels them to introduce what it calls civilization into their midst, i.e., to become bourgeois themselves. In one word, it creates a world after its own image." The Communist Manifesto, written rapidly in 1848, still describes the essence of globalization as we know it with unrivaled force and clarity.

Yet there is a third useful perspective on globalization, which could not have been formulated in 1848. This view identifies a new stage in capitalism — called global, multinational or late capitalism - by studying the history of its major systemic crises and long waves of growth and decline. Within the Marxist tradition alone one finds several such schemes for periodizing the historical geography of capitalism, such as Ernest Mandel's Late Capitalism and Giovanni Arrighi's The Long Twentieth Century. They all agree on one point (as Harvey reminds us, in The Condition of Postmodernity): "something significant has changed in the way capitalism has been working since about 1970." The term globalization signifies this "significant change," which occurred sometime between the Parisian revolt of May 1968 and the global recession of 1973, somewhere between Watts and Woodstock, and which encompassed not only economics but also politics and culture.

Globalization and postmodernity stem from the same root. Capitalism responds to its systemic crises of accumulation in a predictable fashion: by expanding the system. This can happen basically in two ways. First, by expanding the system spatially, by opening up a wider territory for commodification. Secondly, by inventing radically new types of commodities. What we usually understand by globalization

> age control mechanisms, the injunction to spread into underdeveloped or former socialist regions, or to perish at the center. Today this process takes place under the auspices of multinational capital and free-trade agreements, along with nation-states, provinces, and city governments that have been willingly or unwillingly

mobilized for the project of expanding capital, like Marx said, on pain of extinction (if not annihilation). What we call postmodernity has to do with the second damage control strategy: the introduction of radically new types of commodities by subjecting entire ways of life to the logic of commodification, including whole regions of culture as well as nature, not to mention urban planning — all of which have been able in the past to maintain some autonomy from market forces. Globalization and postmodernity are inextricably linked because they follow from the same relentless logic of commodification — particularly, the commodification of culture. That is why Fredric Jameson has defined postmodernism as "the cultural logic of late capitalism." In the first page of his book Postmodernism he

today refers to the first of these dam-Globalization and postmoderThe fundamental political con-

tradiction to emerge out of glob-

alization is between global capi-

talism and radical democracy.

#### Goonawardena/Continued from Page Seven

explicitly states that "postmodernism is what you have when the modernization [i.e., commodification] process is complete." Beneath the celebrated appearances of difference in many forms, then, both postmodernity and globalization reveal identity: "a picture of standardization on an unparalleled new scale; of forced integration as well, into a world-system from which 'delinking' is henceforth impossible and even unthinkable and inconceivable." Lenin's thesis that imperialism is the highest stage of capitalism still remains true: globalization is the highest stage of imperialism.

The ideology of globalization is neoliberalism. The relationship between globalization and the cultural logic of late capitalism, otherwise known as postmodernism, explains how the economy is now becoming increasingly cultural, and the cultural ever more economic. But what is the ideology that sanctions this colonization of culture by the economy, along with the unprecedented territorial expansion of free-market capitalism? It is neoliberalism, the most successful ideology of the last decade,

if not world history. This is the ideology that causally links free-markets with democracy and freedom, and thus claims the world-historical victory of Western liberal capitalism over all rival political-economic systems as

the best and the last of all possible human worlds. No ideology has posed a greater threat to the kind of planning advocated by the Planners Network than neoliberalism, because neoliberalism legitimates and perpetuates a historical condition in which the economy subjugates human life to its own autonomous laws, often with inhuman consequences. Radical-democratic planning strives for quite the reverse: to guide the economy — society and culture too — according to human purposes.

Globalization doesn't go away because we don't like it. The hegemony of neoliberalism, the relentlessness of globalization, the spectacle of postmodernism. These have fortified the barriers against radical planning and revolutionary politics on the Left. In a recent editorial in the New Left Review (#1, 2000), Perry Anderson identifies two typical responses to this scenario. The first is accommodation: it is the realization that capitalism has come to stay and we must make our peace with it. Or, more affirmatively, if globalization is inevitable, why not sit back and enjoy it? Those who have left the Left and rallied to The Third Way are good examples of this tendency. The second reaction is

consolation. When surrounded constantly by gloomy clouds, one looks for silver linings; and, in such darkness, a few streaks of North American sunlight feel like a tropical delight. The propensity here is to understate the forces of globalization and overestimate resistance. This temptation finds extreme expression in the academia, in theories that call themselves postmodern or poststructuralist, which have declared war on the concept of totality and on metanarratives, as if capitalism would somehow disappear if we refrain from totalizing thoughts and writing grand narratives in our term papers and refereed publications.

But if not accommodation or consolation, then what else can we do? Anderson recommends an "uncompromising realism. Uncompromising in both senses: refusing any accommodation with the ruling system, and rejecting every piety and euphemism that would understate its power." Anderson is right, especially if we also bear in mind, as Peter Marcuse has stressed, that globalization is an unevenly developing and internally contradictory process, driven by agents that stand to benefit from it at the expense of many others. Globalization is a social struggle. It is there-

fore not inevitable. The fundamental political contradiction to emerge out of globalization — to be played out in several arenas in the coming years, with the active involvement of progressive planners — is the one between global capitalism and radical

democracy. This was demonstrated recently in Seattle, Washington D.C., and in Toronto a week before the PN 2000 conference, where a truly diverse group of protesters demanded the accountability of His Majesty the Economy to the people, only to be greeted by police batons, pepper sprays, and tear gas. Objectively viable subjective resistance to globalization, surely, does not flow from accommodation or consolation; rather, such resistance identifies and exploits the systemic contradictions of an otherwise uncompromising social totality. The contradictions of a totality, however, can only be discerned by a rigorous study of that totality, not by proscribing the concept of totality. It is one thing to "deconstruct" globalization; altering the reality of globalization is something else. Instead of slouching toward accommodation and consolation, as seen today in both practice and theory, radical planners would do well to adopt Antonio Gramsci's great dictum: pessimism of the intellect, optimism of the will!

Kanishka Goonewardena is Assistant Professor in the Programme in Planning, Department of Geography, University of Toronto.

## More on Globalization

By Tom Angotti

anishka Goonewardena's lessons on globalization (above) are truly basic and too often forgotten. But there are some more basics.

First, the term "globalization" doesn't convey the systemic and exploitative character of global capitalism. What ever happened to "imperialism?" Expansion to conquer new sources of cheap labor and new markets is as old as capitalism and it became global with colonial rule over 500 years ago, not in the 1970s. Sure, there were fundamental changes in the last three decades, but they were part of a shift to a generalized regime of neo-colonialism following the end of the national liberation movements. This is perceived in the West as postmodernism, a Euro-centric concept that doesn't really address the global inequalities and questions of power. "Globalization" gives the impression of a universally even and equal diffusion of economic, political and cultural phenomena, much like "modernization." But capital today is still concentrated in a handful of wealthy nations, and most of the "global" flows of capital are to these nations. The driving force behind this "globalization" is the accumulation of capital, not technology or the commodification of culture, which are the means to capital's basic objective. Also, while capital may be flowing more freely, labor is still much more constrained and localized. Which shows that capital is still very much in charge of "globalization."

Secondly, the current wave of "globalization" has been made possible by the collapse of the Soviet Union and the military supremacy of the United States (as well as the achievements of national liberation movements). The end of the Soviet Union unleashed new U.S. corporate initiatives in Europe, West and East, in an attempt to capture new sources of highly qualified and low-paying labor. Advances in technology and communication provide greater flexibility to capital in this latest wave of expansion.

Flexible production and consumption are backed up by the ability to wage flexible warfare. Iraq and Bosnia made clear that the U.S. can exercise its military power quickly and viciously at great distances from its own borders. The U.S. Airforce has set up numerous "Aerospace Expeditionary Forces" around the world that allow it to wage 2.5 wars simultaneously without engaging ground forces. This is backed up by a nuclear force capable of

destroying the world several times over. While "totalizing" concepts may be out of fashion, this sure looks total.

Third, resistance all over the world continues to limit and contain the military machine and its corporate sponsors. Without this resistance, which is not new and has occurred at every stage of imperial expansion, the world would be a much meaner place to live in. The U.S. military strategists consistently underestimate the power of resistance, at home and abroad.

The tiny island of Vieques (pop. 9,000) is located in Puerto Rico, one of the world's last remaining colonies. Three-fourths of the land was taken by the U.S. military 60 years ago. The U.S. uses the island for target practice, to the detriment of the health and economic well-being of the Vieques population. 73% of the Vieques population lives below the poverty line, and Vieques has the highest cancer risk in Puerto Rico, in large part due to the effects of the bombing. The local resistance in Vieques, with strong backing from the independence movement in Puerto Rico, has grown over the decades and now has the support of the Puerto Rican government. This isn't resistance to "globalization;" it's resistance to colonialism and a struggle for a better quality of life. Like the current struggle of Okinawans against the U.S. military, the resistence of Vieques has been a much more common occurence than the corporate media will allow. Seattle is as much a part of this movement as it is a new element in it.

Finally, it would be well to get rid of the term "global cities." What we have now are a handful of metropolitan regions in Europe, North America and East Asia where the captains of the financial world hang out. But these cities hold a small percentage of the world's urban population; most metropolitan regions are in Africa, Asia and Latin America, where most of the world's population lives. Furthermore, over 80% of the world's population lives in rural areas, small towns and cities under 750,000 population, so if anything is "global" it's them and not the giant cities of the West.

If anything is global today it's poverty and underdevelopment, both urban and rural.

Tom Angotti is Professor at the Pratt Institute Graduate Center for Planning & Environment in Brooklyn, NY..

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# **Shared Experiences of Gender Based Planning**

By Reggie Modlich

This is a report of the PN 2000 workshop sponsored by Women Plan Toronto. It was moderated by Allison Meistrich and included Reggie Modlich and Abby Bushby, all of Women Plan Toronto, and Connie Guberman of the Metro Toronto Action Committee Against Violence Against Women (METRAC).

of discovery following the 1976 Habitat I Conference in Vancouver. Women participants caucused for the first time and realized that we relate to our environments very differently from men. This small group of women determined to continue to cultivate this emerging awareness among planners and women. In 1982 some of us planners in Toronto started a group we called WIAP (Women in/and Planning). The name was later changed to Women Plan Toronto.

In 1985 we conducted a study of women in different walks of life. We spoke to women in shelters, literacy classes, and high schools. We also spoke to older, immigrant, and business women. We asked them to describe, and evaluate their communities. Then we asked them to try to imagine what their communities *could* be like. Both the process and our findings are reproduced in the study, "Shared Experiences and Dreams." The process employed in this study provided more proof that all women — and everyone else, for that matter — can identify what works and what doesn't. All they need is the will, the ears, a few magic markers, some paper, and a box of tangerines!

When it was all over, each participant received a copy of the report, and was invited to join us at City Hall for a follow up session. Having identified some of the major issues confronting women in the urban environment, we wanted to hear their advice on what to do next. The main areas of concern that re-emerged at this meeting were:

- \* It is hell to get around the city without a car, particularly if you have kids or elderly family members with you. Increasingly, it's becoming hell to get around the city even with a car.
- \* Housing doesn't provide women with a space of our own. Nowadays, it often doesn't even provide a roof!

- \* Segregation of land uses leads to a waste of time, money, and land. It leaves some parts of town des olate and frightening after dark.
- \* The general community has a very limited under standing of women's safety issues.

Both the process and the language of "professional planning" tend to be incomprehensible to outsiders. Thus "ordinary" women are shut out of decisions that profoundly effect their lives.

Women Plan Toronto is now in the process of trying to organize to help address these issues. We are still very unstructured, with all the advantages and disadvantages that implies. Only one thing is certain. Having come this far, we aren't going to give up now.

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# Gender, Policy and Planning: What is the Role of Men?

By Heather McLean

ver the past two decades, non-governmental agencies, academics and institutions have changed their terminology to describe work that focuses on women's subordination from Women in Development (WID) to Gender and Development (GAD). This change in terminology signifies a shift from a focus on women towards a focus on socially constructed gender relations and towards a more holistic perspective of the factors that create women's disadvantage. Nonetheless, despite a transition to GAD discourse, development programs concerned with gender have only recently begun to acknowledge and incorporate men in policies and programs, and have only rarely addressed or confronted the ways constructions of masculine identity affect women's subordination.

Two recent initiatives to incorporate men into gender-oriented programs – a UNICEF project to prevent and control congenital syphilis in Zambia, and efforts by a more radical grassroots organization, ADAPT (Agisanang Domestic Abuse Prevention and Training), to combat domestic violence in the Alexandra township of South Africa – underscore the significance of integrating an analysis of men and masculinity. A comparison of these two efforts can shed light on both the limits and the potential for facilitating community transformation to improve women and men's lives with the help of men.

#### **UNICEF:** The Role of Men in Children's Lives

UNICEF is a forerunner in the search for creative methods to incorporate men in gender programs. UNICEF explicitly calls for the recognition of both men and women in child-care, and in working in partnership with men in programs for children's health and welfare. The importance of creating holistic programs to assist communities in making long-term change to benefit women and girls is central to this policy, and is evident in the UNICEF project for prevention and control of congenital syphilis in Zambia. The main objectives of this project were to break the control of recurrent syphilis infection and to create dia-

logue about sexual health and relationships. On the whole, it has been relatively successful.

When gender and health workshops encouraged men to seek treatment, almost sixty to eighty percent of male partners came to local maternal and child health clinic to participate. Moreover, it was found that men sought treatment not for their own health, but because the treatment would ensure that the baby would be born healthy. This example in Zambia breaks any overarching stereotype of men as oppressors, as fathers and boyfriends take active roles in ensuring their children's health. However, it also raises concerns that, in programs such as these, men may be used by mainstream NGO's to efficiently meet health program goals.

According to social economist Naila Kabeer, the way in which men have been co-opted into health debates as "instruments" to deliver development goals uncomfortably echoes the way in which women have been used as instruments for the delivery of population control in the past. Kabeer also raises the concern that health practitioners who include men in their reproductive health programs are often just seeking a positive response from men about using contraception. These programs can be limiting because they may exclude broader initiatives to analyze power relationships in the household and community and the construction of gender roles that are connected to construction of race, class and sexuality. Some NGO's may simply try to meet the immediate perceived "practical needs" of women and children, But these programs need to be carefully analyzed to assess if attempts to meet these "practical needs" risk dismissing the underlying structural dimensions that reproduce subordination. As Kabeer reminds us, top-down bureaucratic NGO's like UNICEF may fail to fulfill the strategic interests of communities if they pursue a "welfare approach" to promoting health services and do not incorporate "bottom-up" initiatives from members of communities. Also, organizations like UNICEF are often pressured to manage activities around agendas that suit government and donor goals which may impede programs that endorse structural transformation.

# **ADAPT: Including Men in Transformatory Programs**

Mainstream NGO's like UNICEF can learn from and support more radical grassroots organizations, such as ADAPT, that not only aim to improve the immediate health and welfare needs of communities, but also to challenge the belief systems which reproduce subordination. Viewing domestic

#### McLean/Continued from Page Eleven

violence as a community concern as well as a women's concern, the members of ADAPT work with various community groups to achieve their goals. At the "practical needs" level, they provide shelter and innovative health and counseling services for victims of domestic violence. However, ADAPT also initiates programs aimed at addressing the conditions that perpetuate the existing unequal division of resources and responsibilities in South Africa, emphasizing the connections of race, class and subordination in men and women's lives. Their specific programs include: training male counselors to work with men in community groups, prisons and sports teams to initiate dialogue about violence against women; working at the institutional level with local police, schools and churches to reveal and untangle the complexities of domestic abuse and the complicity of these institutions in these practices; and inviting community elders to speak about positive cultural practices, conflict resolution skills and traditional social sanctions that have prevented abuse in the past.

ADAPT's creative, community-based programs are a response to the extremely high rates of violence against women in South Africa. According to human right advocate Robin Levi, the levels of domestic violence and rape in South Africa are the world's highest for a country not at war. Recent statistics reveal that one in two South Africa women is raped at some point in her live, and according to a Women's International Network article twenty-five percent of all South African women live in violent relationships, and one woman is murdered every six days in a violent relationship. The apartheid regime is the basis for much of this violence as people internalized the violent policies of racism and class division; accordingly, ADAPT's efforts are an attempt to deconstruct the oppressive roles of class, race and gender produced during the apartheid era. By creating programs that focus on a range of people and community institutions, the people involved see the complex web of factors that reproduce violence and come up with their own strategies to address their situations. Thus, new forms of collective awareness and association are developed through a participatory process.

#### **Lessons for GAD-Oriented Programs**

Both UNICEF and ADAPT have made positive attempts to include men in their respective gender-specific programs. Yet a comparison of the two programs reveals the limitations when men are included to merely meet efficiency goals. While UNICEF incorporates men in research and programs on children's rights, long-term transformation may not be achieved by simply including men in reproduc-

tive health programs. More political and innovative NGOs like ADAPT can influence UNICEF because they include men in providing practical health needs for women in clinics and shelters, as well as in initiatives to collectively challenge the belief systems that perpetuate domestic violence. By focusing on men's connections with children and the immediate health needs of mothers, UNICEF development practitioners can uncover new terrain to explore the underlying structural factors that reproduce masculine gender roles and, in this manner, translate GAD discourse into effective progressive practice.

Heather McLean is a graduate student in the Programme in Planning, Department of Geography at the University of Toronto.

#### Thanks from the PN 2000 Coordinator

Every one of the more than 200 people who participated in the Planners Network Conference in Toronto contributed to its success, but there are several people I'd particularly like to acknowledge for their efforts.

The conference organizing committee involved faculty and students from all three Toronto planning programs, as well as professional planners working for the City of Toronto and in the private sector. This group worked together for months putting together the program and coordinating all kinds of logistical details for the various events and venues. The only thing that stayed the same from start to finish was the conference theme. I have never worked harder nor enjoyed working with people as much as with this group. They were fantastic.

From York University: Gerda Wekerle, Douglas Young, Marjorie Nichol, Chistina Gallimore, Sue Bunce, Ken Hare, Hon Lu, and Richard Milgrom.

From the University of Toronto: Kanishka Goonewardena, Katharine Rankin, Deb Cowen, Norma Rantisi, and Heather McLean.

From Ryerson Polytechnical University: Brian Milne. From the City of Toronto: Paul Bain and Hillary Pounsett. From Urban Strategies: Antonio Gomez-Palacio.

The conference was also assisted by more than 30 student volunteers, who did everything from driving tour vans and helping at the registration desk to hauling beer and sound equipment out to Ward's Island. What a tremendous effort! Thanks.

And finally, thanks to our funders: the Fannie Mae Foundation, the Pequod Fund, the Canadian International Development and Research Centre, and the planning programs at York University, the University of Toronto, and Ryerson Polytechnical University.

Barbara Rahder

#### Milgrom & Rahder/Continued from Page One

by explaining how new social movements in the U.S. and Canada are using planning methods to create alternatives to mainstream private sector and state planning. These movements, she noted, are putting quality of life for local citizens back on the political agenda, sometimes in very creative and dramatic forms.

The format of the conference was a moveable feast: mornings (with continental breakfast) were devoted to panels and workshops; afternoons were out on the town for tours; and evenings were special events with dinner at various locations around the city. We had 82 presenters in 24 morning sessions, and 18 afternoon tour guides spread over three days. These emphasized social movements, community development and activism, in both local and global contexts. Papers from Latin America, Australia, Africa and Europe added breadth and international perspective to these discussions.

Tours of the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) were often directly linked to morning topics. Walking tours focused on the center of the city in close proximity to the conference site. These emphasized the health and diversity of Toronto's inner city neighborhoods, and also highlighted the threats in the current economic climate and within mainstream planning and development processes. Van and bus tours took participants farther afield. Ted Relph, for example, took a busload of participants to visit suburban, exurban, and new urbanist developments on the fringes of the GTA. Rodney Bobiwash lead the Great Indian Bus Tour, tracing Toronto's lost aboriginal heritage. Saturday afternoon PNers took a 15-minute ferry ride to Wards Island for tours and a bit of history on the Toronto Island neighborhood. Some tried their hands at collective mural making and other popular arts activities.

The most public of the conference events was a panel on "Views on Planning and Local Democracy in Canada, the USA and Mexico" held at City Hall on Thursday evening. This panel, moderated by Roger Keil from York University, had speakers Gustavo Romero from Mexico, Peter Marcuse from the U.S., and Winnie Frohn from Canada. The panelists made frequent references to Gerda's keynote presentation, using her framework as a context for discussing their own local situations. They raised ethical questions and issues that planners should be addressing as tensions increase between local needs and global economies.

The Friday evening event was at Field to Table, a non-

profit organization that promotes healthy food production and consumption, and provides "Good Food Boxes" to thousands of Toronto homes. Conference participants went on tours of the warehouse followed by a fantastic meal, including salad greens grown on site and picked fresh earlier that day. Lauren Baker and Debbie Field, from Field to Table, capped off the evening by presenting convincing arguments for why planners should be taking a closer look at urban agriculture and other food-related issues in their work.

The Fannie Mae Foundation sponsored events on housing and community development throughout the conference, and expressed an interest in playing a more stable role in funding Planners Network activities. In this spirit, the Foundation sponsored a special Friday luncheon event on "Social Inequalities and Urban Governance in Brazil," with presentations by Orlando Alves dos Santos, Fabricio Leal de Oliveira, and Mariana Fix. We hope that events such as this will continue to foster stronger links with PNers in Latin America.

The finale was a Saturday night dance at the Wards Island Clubhouse with live music by Sensación Latina. It was pouring rain and just about everyone got drenched either from dancing up a sweat or walking in the rain or both. Our newly painted collective mural for Planners Network, produced earlier in the afternoon, hung from the rafters, and late in the evening we were joined by local Wards Island youth.

Sunday morning we had close to 100 people show up for breakfast and the bi-annual Planners Network Steering Committee meeting. It was the most energetic and successful business meeting this organization has had in years, with many new people volunteering to join working committees of various sorts.

PN Toronto was a great start for PN in the new millennium.

Richard Milgrom and Barbara Rahder are at the Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University, and were conference organizers.

#### IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF PN:

The presentation at PN 2000 by Fabricio Leal de Oliveira from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro on "Competitivity and Strategic Urban Planning."

Bob Heifitz on radical planning history.

#### Romero/Continued from Page One

14

town neighborhoods, with advice from the NGOs and from students and professors of the National Mexican University, presented their proposal. Government officials were so surprised they didn't know what to do, and they never responded to it or allowed the approval process to proceed.

During the 1980s, especially in Mexico City and some cities in the northern part of the country, the organized urban popular movements developed. These groups fight for the rights to the city and housing and tend to have a left political orientation. After the earthquakes of 1985, these movements gained important strength and demanded participation in the formulation and management of housing and urban policies. They became serious critics of the government's urban plans. In the late 1980s, environmental groups became active in the planning process.

There was also a conservative type of resistance to changes in middle and upper class neighborhoods, and where elderly people lived — a NIMBY (not in my back yard) reaction. A different kind of opposition came from the social movements and environmentalists who were opposed to the process and plans developed by professionals and supported by the authorities. These plans never took into account community participation and only asked for community input at the end because the law required them to do so.

In 1982, the same group of professors who worked on the 1977 plan in the Federal District prepared an urban development plan for an irregular settlement. The professors were members of NGOs and worked with their students. This project called for the setting aside of land for community facilities. In the early 1990s, other groups began to invade these areas. In order to defend their open spaces, and in an almost unique case in this type of settlement, they asked us, the technicians from the NGOs, to develop a proposal for an ecological urban project. This would begin with the original plan and designate an area as a "Controlled Development Zone" (ZEDEC), the term used in the urban development law at the time. Together with the community, and with no outside funding, we undertook the first urban proposal in Mexico with an ecological focus and with lowincome groups through a broad participatory process. As an example of the extent of participation, the residents, with our technical support, completed a census of 100% of the 10,000 homes and 60,000 residents in the neighborhood. After an intense negotiation process it was approved by the government.

In 1997, the first democratic election of the Mexico City government took place in the Federal District. The winner was a left opposition party that opposed the Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI), the state party that until this month was in power in Mexico for 70 years. The new city government proposed to implement selected urban development programs that were put together through participatory planning. The NGOs of the Habitat Mexico Coalition, together with the universities, were invited to take part - not the traditional planners who didn't have experience with public participation or training for working with groups.

#### The Case of San Andres Totoltepec

Our institution, FOSOVI, was asked to take responsibility for planning a zone located on the southern edge of the city, where we had an eight-year old relationship with the community, which had asked us to be involved. San Andres Totoltepec is located along an exit from the highway to Acapulco, in a zone with a lot of competing demands for different uses. The area has rich vegetation and is part of an ecological preserve. At its center is a rural village with people who were originally peasant farmers and who want to maintain the traditions of the area. They are now confronted by new neighbors, both poor and upper-middle class, who see the area as only a place for housing.

We established as a matter of principle that we would help find a different way to analyze urban dynamics and to elaborate responses to the current challenges, looking for the relationships between urban space and the exercise of citizenship. The existing law establishes zoning restrictions and controls density and building occupancy. There are also plans for infrastructure and community facilities that should serve as the basis for the programming of public investments.

The most important part of the experience was the participation of the different social groups, which were actively incorporated from the beginning. Based on the consensus reached around the diagnosis, different options were discussed with the various actors, and the proposal was elaborated and presented for citizen consultation as required by law. The proposal is now up for discussion and approval by the Federal District Chamber of Representatives, the local legislative body.

There were 190 meetings with 35 different groups in the neighborhood during the elaboration of the program. We

# Mexico City: Profile and Background to Planning

Mexico has a population of approximately 99 million inhabitants, with an average per capita income between \$4,000 and \$4,500 U.S. dollars, approximately 7 times lower than our neighbors and "trade partners" to the North. To aggravate the difference even more, the income distribution is several times more unequal within Mexico. We are also the only so called "Third World" country with a long border with the "first world." Mexico is divided between a small minority which has adopted the western culture and lifestyle, the upper-middle and dominating elite classes, and the majority of the population, the "popular" classes, with medium or more often low incomes (\$100-500/month). Most of them make their living in what we call the informal economy, with occasional jobs and no social security, and a more traditional vision of life.

The institutions, laws and national models throughout our history have been imported, copied and brought by the dominant elites, and are entirely foreign to the majority population. Thus there is a great distance between what is real and how things really work and what the laws and regulations say.

Starting in the 1930s Mexico's population grew explosively and a large part of the rural population migrated to the cities. The Mexico City metropolis (which includes the Federal District plus the sprawled suburbs in the neighboring State of Mexico) went from 1.5 million inhabitants in 1940, to 2.9 million in 1950, to 8.5 million in 1970. Although the growth rate has declined, the current population is 18 million.

In 1950, 22% of the Mexico City population lived in popular neighborhoods, and by 1976 they made up an estimated 50% of the population, occupying 64% of the urban area of the city. These areas grew without planning or regulation, through gradual growth and self-building of housing. After decades, most of these settlements have become stable places, better organised neighborhoods, with services and infrastructure, linked to the central city, and with a better community life than many other residential areas. The government and dominant social sectors, who don't understand and scorn the world of poverty, must face the contradiction of not accepting these settlements but having to address their demands. Over the years, these settlements have become legalized and urban services provided. For example, in 1960 more than half the population lacked piped water and drainage. By 1990, 90% had piped water, 75% had drainage, and 95% had electricity.

#### **Urban Planning in Mexico**

In the 1930s, parallel to the beginning of industrial development, Mexico undertook deep structural changes. The government of General Lazaro Cardenas proposed the use of economic planning to organize growth, which was linked to the expropriation of the oil industry. A five-year plan was formulated. While partly inspired by planning in the USSR, the plan was limited to government actions, since Mexico has never ceased to be a capitalist economy where market laws dominate.

In large cities, there were master and indicative plans, zoning and highway plans. In 1976 the Human Settlements Law was enacted. It assumed that poverty and social contradictions could be addressed by planning. Regional and urban plans were made for every municipality in the country—more than 2000 -- and for the 150 main cities. The National Urban Development Plan, and sectoral programs in housing, urban facilities and ecology, were also drafted. The plans were formulated by technocrats from the national capital, with little or no participation by the local authorities, and based on their technocratic criteria and good intentions. Most of the plans were stored away and are now entirely forgotten.

In the 1970s members of NGOs were called on to serve as government officials to formulate a national housing program. This reflected three important steps forward: recognition of housing as a process and not only as a finished product; legal changes that recognized groups such as housing cooperatives and housing associations as eligible for loans and as collective owners of land and housing; and financing adjusted to the needs of groups of informal sector workers without fixed salaries. This opened the way for the authorization by the "Popular Housing Fund" (FONHAPO) of 200,000 loans over a period of 10 years to low-income families organized in cooperatives and civil organizations. Unfortunately, the main public housing institutions didn't follow through and in the 1990s the National Ministry of Finance issued loan criteria based on full recovery of resources, reduction of subsidies, and dependence on market mechanisms.

-- Gustavo Romero Fernández

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Moraine battles bring into sharp

focus the local consequences of

neo-liberal policies that promise

tax cuts at the expense of public

services and support economic

development at the expense of

environmental preservation.

Wekerle/Continued from Page Three

the march of growth," politicians argued that they were following the advice of the planners. The Planning Commissioner of Richmond Hill said, at the time, that the town has no choice but to grant approval of rezoning of rural and agricultural land for housing if it is unable to buy the land for preservation. Environmentalists charged that suburban politicians were afraid to stand up to developers and protect the public interest.

The turning point was a tumultuous February 2000 council meeting when 1,000 residents demanded that the council reject an official plan amendment that would have approved the construction of 17,000 new homes on the moraine. After months of intense public pressure and scrutiny, in April, the Richmond Hill Council denied two development applications to construct housing near a lake on the Oak Ridges Moraine. The province released a position paper, mapping out a two-kilometer-wide green corridor that could not be developed. This was a small portion of the total moraine and the restrictions could be overturned by the (provincially appointed) Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) on appeal from developers.

Over the past six months of debate on the moraine, developers have made their arguments based on "science and good planning" grounds. Citizens have marshalled their own hydrogeologists and planners. A mass email by environmentalists garnered the support of 465 scientists for greater protection of the moraine from housing develop-

Initially, it was the environmental groups who argued on planning grounds for the protection of clean drinking water and the last major green space in the GTA. They want the whole Moraine protected in perpetuity with a buffer around the edges.

ment.

Environmental groups have developed a plan which includes setting boundaries on development, freezing public spending on infrastructure to prevent new development, purchasing land for parks, density transfers to allow developers to build elsewhere. They were supported by Regional Councils that called for the province to create a moraine-wide protection policy that cannot be set aside by the OMB.

These are the same people who voted overwhelmingly Tory in the last two elections. They are suburban, middle class homeowners who are organizing to block suburban residential development on green fields and to contain urban sprawl. These are property owners questioning the rights of private land owners to make profits by rezoning. They are organizing people in the whole watershed, not just local voters and politicians. They are forming coalitions among unlikely allies — homeowner associations and environmental groups. Even Toronto City Council, 25 miles to the south, voted funds to support the campaign.

The terms of the discourse have been set by environmental groups and by developers. Planners have either been complicit, arguing that they had no choice but to rezone rural land for housing development, or they have come in towards the end, at the regional level and from other jurisdictions, such as the city of Toronto, to argue that redevelopment proposals do not meet environmental requirements or the Region's Official Plan.

Extensive media coverage has increased public awareness and education on the need for integrated planning of the moraine and the significance of environmental concerns. The Oak Ridges Moraine debates have raised the question of how we will maintain our aquifers – the sources of our drinking water and local rivers.

#### Walkerton: Death and clean water

On May 23, in a small town of 5,000 thousand residents northwest of Toronto, 600 people became seriously ill from drinking town well water contaminated with e-coli bacteria.

Eighteen people have subsequently died. As the story unfolded, we heard how the province had downloaded responsibility for water testing and safety to the tiny municipality. Since the Conservatives were elected, they had slashed 50 per cent of the staff and 44 per cent of the budget of the Ministry of the Environment. To save money, the Ministry of the Environment had stopped testing for e-coli in its own labs in 1996.

Municipalities were required to pay for water quality testing at private labs, labs that reported test results to their clients, and not to the Ministry of the Environment and the local medical officer of health. Precious days and lives were lost when local officials did not inform the public of water contamination when they first knew of its existence. In this case, there were no organized citizens to blow the whistle on the government and private industry.

Walkerton and the Oak Ridges Moraine battles bring into

#### Wekerle/Continued from Page Sixteen

sharp focus the local consequences of neo-liberal policies that promise tax cuts at the expense of public services and support economic development at the expense of environmental preservation. In the battle for the Oak Ridges Moraine we see contemporary examples of the age-old struggle in cities to define land as primarily a vehicle for wealth creation and investment. Municipal governments are committed to attracting growth and investment more than ever in response the competition among cities and regions for footloose capital. In the province of Ontario, the downloading by the province of responsibilities and costs to municipalities has intensified the pressures to court real estate redevelopment to increase the tax base. It puts at risk a moraine extending almost 200 miles that is the source of pure drinking water and green space for a whole region.

Despite these setbacks, civil society initiatives are resilient. New terrains of struggle open up as old ones close down. The Oak Ridges Moraine battle politicizes conservative suburban homeowners to protect their quality of life and to preserve the environment for future generations. The Walkerton water contamination shakes the faith of small town residents in a government that promises more tax cuts and less government.

Planning, because it deals so fundamentally with the material conditions of our daily lives, is at the center of these struggles. Planning is central to the protection of aquifers and rivers; and to the preservation of agricultural lands, forests and urban green space. Social movements, operating in civil society, have recognized the fundamental importance of planning tools and perspectives. But they reject the notion of the planner as expert, the neutral mediator between the state and capital. Instead, groups in civil society insist on the need for detailed knowledge of place and bioregions; they demand a planning that honors local knowledge and cultures and a planning rooted in fundamental value positions.

Today, we need planners more than ever when the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat, are all threatened in the greedy quest for profits at all cost. The planners we need, and deserve, will take a stand together with social movements to maintain environmental sustainability and social equity rather than being complicit with developers and corporate interests in exploiting and despoiling the places we live.

Gerda Wekerle is Professor in the Faculty of environmental Studies at York University, Toronto.

#### Romero/Continued from Page Fourteen

opened an office in the neighborhood which allowed us to be close to the population. The process was much more complex than we originally expected. Citizens, the various levels and bodies of government, and the NGO team were challenged to work together to find solutions and open paths in a new way with almost no precedence.

#### **Challenges and Problems for Participation**

The first problem is that the laws and programs are divided into different sectors - for example, housing, transportation, and education. Groups and citizens present their problems and demands in a more realistic and integrated way. We have proposed to government officials that there be comprehensive neighborhood development programs, but the officials themselves are divided sectorally.

Because of the extreme centralization in the government it is difficult to move forward clearly and smoothly. An enormous effort must be undertaken to improve governance. In the Anglo-Saxon world and among international institutions this is generally seen as a problem of efficiency and organization, while in Latin America we see it mainly as a political problem. Time is a point of conflict, given that political interests want planning to be kept short while these processes need to be built slowly with patience. This increases the expenses needed for the participation process.

Public participation is complicated by other issues. We have a highly differentiated society without a history of mutual respect. We have inherited a regime that had almost complete control over the groups which it traditionally manipulated. The space for discussion opened by participatory urban planning has become a safety valve for the voicing of other problems. This often obstructs and limits the possibility of undertaking or implementing plans and programs.

There are no comprehensive criteria for public participation. We prefer that participation be open and a mix between the formal-legal structure and free and improvised exchanges and debates. Our democracy and methods for social change need to grow and develop. But the most important challenge is to attract the interest of the people and public opinion in urban projects and to integrate them in the building and implementation of better proposals.

Gustavo Romero Fernández is a Senior Professor at the National Autonomous University of Mexico and Architect with the Fomento Solidario de la Vivienda, A.C., in Mexico.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE NEW PLANNERS NETWORK

#### **Building the Base for Progressive Planning**

By Ken Reardon

A funny thing happened on the way home from this year's Planners Network Conference in Toronto. We had a very productive business meeting! More than sixty PN members from Canada, the United States and Latin America attended the session which was chaired by Tom Angotti. Tom launched the meeting by summarizing some of PN's accomplishments in 1999. Among these were: The 1999 Lowell Conference organized by Marie Kennedy and Chris Tilly, a continually improving PN Newsletter, a new progressive planning reader, and a successful US/Brazil exchange. Tom also reported on PN's modest budget which limits our ability to be as active as we would like.

With this introduction, I reviewed a proposal which Tom and I had co-developed to reorganize the PN National Steering Committee to improve its effectivess. In recent years, the size of the Steering Committee has grown in response to the organization's expanding agenda. The absence of a clear committee structure with specific responsibilities has limited the Steering Committee's effectiveness.

In the last newsletter, we recommended the replacement of the current Steering Committee with a smaller, leaner, and more agile group comprised of single representatives from action committees. After considerable favorable comment, the PN members assembled for the Business Meeting voted to support this re-organization plan. We then asked those attending to identify a committee that they would like to work on and spend twenty minutes discussing ways their committees could advance PN's work during the coming year. These sessions were highly animated and quite productive.

Each group agreed to have a conference call or digital listserv meeting within 60 days. Tom and I agreed to elicit recommendations from each committee regarding who they would like to represent their committee on the new Steering Committee. Furthermore, we agreed to invite other PN members to join these newly organized standing committees and to submit this re-organization plan to our membership via this newsletter for their approval.

If you are interested in joining a group, contact the interim convenor listed to the right.

Newsletter/Magazine
Tom Angotti 718-399-4391 tangotti@pratt.edu.

Professional and International Relations
Joe Grengs 607-277-6539 jdg17@cornell.edu.

Annual PN Conference Teresa Vazquez 817-272-3314. tere@uta.edu.

Web Site/Listserv Xavier Morales 602-793-8867. xmorales@asu.edu

Outreach and Fundraising; Local Chapter Development Francisco Marti. 510-251-6330 mfernan1@uclink4.berkeley.edu.

Radical history/PEO history
Katherine Rankin 416-978-1592 rankin@geog.utoronto

Political Advocacy Richard Milgrom 416-410-2872 milgrom@yorku.ca

The Annual Conference group has proposed that PN 2001 be held in Texas.

## PLANNERS NETWORK READER

This 60-page collection of PN articles is a veritable potpourri of progressive planning. Articles on globalization, sustainability, race, gender, transportation and national urban. Contributions by Tom Angotti, Teresa Cordova, Marie Kennedy, Peter Marcuse, Barbara Rahder, Ken Reardon, and many more.

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# Resources

#### **EVENTS**

July 28, 2000; August 16, 2000:
Manhattan Program Directors Forum, of
Supportive Housing Network of New
York. The topic of this forum will be
"Rent Arrears". Location: Top of the
Times, The Times Square Hotel, 255
West 43 Street, NYC. For more info contact Juliette at (212) 870-3303, or e-mail
<ipalmer@dti.net>.

August 2-3, 2000: South Brooklyn Legal Services is hosting the last of a five Housing Workshop Series for housing advocates and tenants, and anyone involved in eviction prevention work. Location: Catholic Charities, 191 Joralemon St., 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Brooklyn, NY. For info call (718) 237-5500.

August 7-10, 2000: "Building a Better Tomorrow." Best Practices Symposium 2000, Washington DC. Sponsored by HUD. For info call (202) 708-1027.

August 11-14, 2000: "The Cooperative Impulse: Past Present and Future." International Cooperative Alliance and the Network for Cooperative Studies in Norway. European and International Cooperatives Research Conference, Oslo, Norway. For info: NIBR, PO Box 44, Blindern, N-0313, Oslo, Norway. Fax: +47 22 60 77 74.

August 13-16, 2000: 4<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Access Management, Portland, Ore. For more info. call Linda Apple at (503) 986-4128, or email <<u>Linda.m.apple@state.or.us</u>>, or visit <www.odot.state.or.us/access2000.htm>.

August 19-23, 2000: 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association, Orlando, Fla. For more info email <info@urisa.org>, or visit
<www.urisa.org>.

September 1-3, 2000: Twin Oaks Communities Conference, Louisa VA. Issues & activities include international relationships, group decision-making processes, community economics, sustainability and appropriate technology. For more info. call (540) 894-5126, or email <conference@twinoaks.org>, or visit <www.twinoaks.org/cmty/cconf>.

September 8-9, 2000: The Thinning Metropolis, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. For more info email <HG18@cornell.edu>.

September 28-30, 2000: 7<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Transportation Planning for Small and Medium-Sized Areas, Little Rock, Ark. For more info contact Virginia Porta at (501) 569-2602, or fax at (501) 569-2476, or email at <<u>vhpd155@ahtd.state.ar.us</u>>.

October 26-28, 2000 The UMass Lowell International Conference on Sustainable Regional Development will be held in Lowell, Massachusetts. Themes include the sharing of experiences and analyses among people in institutions of higher education engaged in regional development and regional development are linking their efforts with universities. For more info email <Judy\_Blackburn@uml.edu>.

November 1-4, 2000: National Community Capital Association 16th Annual Conference in Philadelphia. For more info. call (215) 923 – 4754, or visit <a href="https://www.communitycapital.org">www.communitycapital.org</a>.

November 10-11, 2000: Connecting Generations, Strengthening Communities is a national conference to explore how generations can work together to promote social change. Info: Temple University Center for Intergenerational Learning, (215) 204-2970; <www.temple.edu/cil>.

December 6-9, 2000 Strengthening our Communities, National Rural Housing Conference at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill. Sponsored by the Housing Assistance Council, 1025 Vermont Ave., NW, Suite 606, Washington, DC 20005, 202-842-8600, ext. 108; conference2000@ruralhome.org or www.ruralhome.org.

December 13-17, 2000 International Making Cities Livable Conference in San Francisco, CA. Contact Suzanne H. Crowhurst Lennard, Ph.D. (Arch.), IMCL Conferences, PO Box 7586, Carmel, CA 93921. Fax 831-624-5126; www.livablecities.org.

#### **JOBS**

#### **FLORIDA**

The Broward County Housing Authority (BCHA)seeks a Community Affairs/ Resource Development Coordinator, responsible for all public relations activities, identifying and securing non-traditional funding sources, and development innovative housing programs. Requires BA/BS in communications, public administration or related field, or any equivalent education training. Salary range: \$27,132-\$40,698 + benefits. Send/fax resume, including salary history to: Broward County Housing Authority, Human Resources Director, 1773 North State Road 7, Lauderhill, FL 33313; fax: 954-484-5650. Application deadline: Aug 2, 2000.

#### **KENTUCKY**

Housing Authority's Board of Commissioners seeks an Executive Director, to direct and be responsible for all aspects of operations, including finance, property management, modernization and resident services. Must have a 4-year degree in public administration, social science or other related field and 5 years experience in public admin, public

# Resources Continued

finance, or similar professional employment. Send a letter, resume and salary requirement to: Chairperson, Housing Authority of Frankfort, 590 Walter Todd Drive, Frankfort, KY 40601. Application deadline: Aug 15, 2000.

#### **LOUISIANA**

The Housing Authority of New Orleans seeks an Executive Director to lead the agency through a transformation process that includes the revitalization of its housing developments and the transition of some of the developments to resident management and private management. Qualifications: Law Degree or Master's Degree in Business Administration, Public Administration, Government, Urban Planning, Architecture, Engineering, or related field; & 7 years of executive level experience leading a multi-departmental agency or organization, including experience in the area of HUD, public housing and Section 8. Send cover letter & resume to Frank Nicotera, Executive Monitor, Housing Authority of New Orleans, 4100 Touro Street, New Orleans, LA 70122

#### **MASSACHUSETTS**

March of Dimes seeks a Regional Youth Volunteer Coordinator at Westborough, MA., to work closely with the Manager of National Youth Programs, chapter and division staff, and volunteers within a region to support the expansion and development of youth volunteer initiatives. 4-year college degree, one year related youth leadership experience; project and volunteer management experience; planning events and coordinate activities. To apply send resume to Mary Jane Scott, Recruiter March of Dimes, 1275 Mamaroneck Avenue, White Plains, NY 10605, or fax: 914-997-4479, or email at <<u>recruiter@modimes.org</u>>.

#### **NEW JERSEY**

The Lakewood (NJ) Housing Authority seeks an Executive Director to direct all aspects of the housing authority's operations. The candidate must have a 4 year college degree in public administration, social science or other appropriate program & 5 years experience in public administration, public finance, realty or similar professional employment. Salary commensurate with experience. Send cover letter and resume to: Leo Dauwer, Dower Associates, Inc., 20 Shady Lane, Needham, MA 02492. Application deadline: July 22, 2000.

Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic seeks a **Director of Development** to lead development in areas including a rapidly growing planned giving program, and the supervision of a development staff. 7+ years extensive and broad-based experience in development, management, planning and campaign leadership; college degree; strong organizational, communication and interpersonal skills and willingness to travel. Competitive salary + benefits. Resume and salary requirements to RFB&D, HR Dept.,20 Roszel Road, Princeton, NJ 08540. Fax: (609) 243-7093, or email <images included in the programment of the prog

#### NEW YORK

Pratt Institute Center for Community & Environmental Development (PICCED) seeks an experienced and self-motivated planner to work closely with its nonprofit clients (neighborhood-based housing and community development organizations) in New York City and vicinity. M.S. in planning + 5 years experience in handson low-income community planning; good written and verbal skills, knowledgeable in land use analysis, economic development, project development finance and related policy issues. Facility with planning and development computer applications required. Salary commensurate with skills and experience + full benefits for this grant-funded position. Open until position is filled. Send resume to PICCED (Dept. UP), 379 DeKalb Ave.,

2<sup>nd</sup> Fl., Brooklyn, NY 11205. An AA/EOE. Women & minorities strongly encouraged to apply.

Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment seeks Assistant Director of Outreach. Must have high-level skills to market services to schools, develop contacts, interface with education program staff, presentations, etc. Excellent computer, communication and organization skills plus familiarity with Brooklyn and school system. Salary mid 30's and benefits. For info call 718-788-8500. Fax resume, writing sample and letter of interest to 718-499-3750 or E-mail to <monaco@bcue.org.>

Community Board 5 in Manhattan seeks a Community Associate.

Responsibilities: lending support to District manager, processing community complaints, maintaining computer records, publishing monthly newsletter and routine office work. Qualifications: Strong administrative, communication and computer skills. Knowledge of NYC government a plus. NYC residency required. Send resume to Kathy Kinsella, District Manager, Community Board Five, Manhattan, 450 7<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 109, New York, NY 10123. Fax (212) 465-1628.

The Pratt Area Community Council (PACC) seeks a Director Of Organizing. Responsibilities include management of community organizing and tenant support services unit, supervising staff, and overseeing departmental budget; investigating, strategizing and directing organizing campaigns regarding housing and garden preservation, economic development, anti-drug and crime issues, and zoning variances; initiating and pursuing building-wide actions in housing court; coordinating trainings, workshops, and researching and writing funding proposals for department. Fax resume & cover letter to: Vivian Becker, PACC, 718-522-2604.

New Destiny Housing Corporation seeks a **Facilities Manager**. Responsibilities include maintenance and operation of residential facilities in Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Staten Island and supervise a staff of six. Required experience in physical facility maintenance, real estate development and management, and/or residential construction. A B.S. in Architecture or a B.A., a minimum of three years of experience in facility management or a related area.. Salary: \$40K - \$47K, + benefits, commensurate with experience. Send cover letter & resume to New Destiny Housing Corporation, 2 Lafayette St., 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10007; fax: 212-577-7759.

The Hunter College Center on AIDS, Drugs and Community Health seeks Research Associate/Senior Research **Associate** (2 positions). Responsibilities include evaluation of community HIV/substance abuse programs, site visits, facilitate focus groups, interview clients, train CBO staff on evaluation technique, and assist in development of research design and instruments. MA/MPH required. Proficiency in Spanish desired. Salary commensurate with experience. Submit resume, cover letter and writing sample to Linda Glickman, Hunter College Center on AIDS, Drugs and Community Health, CUNY, 425 East 25th Street, New York, NY 10010.

Northern Manhattan Improvement Corp. seeks a Community Organizer.
Responsibilities include work on housing code enforcement, organizing tenant associations, inspect apartments, document violations, negotiate repair agreements and strengthen a community tenant union. Organizing experience required. Bilingual English/Spanish preferred. Competitive salary + benefits. Fax resume to: Attn: DH at (212) 740-9645.

The Hunter College Center on AIDS, Drugs and Community Health seeks a Policy Analyst to conduct research and analysis around issues of substance abuse, public health and criminal justice policy in New York City. Draft policy reports and track policy issues in NYC, work with community groups, collect and disseminate information. Masters degree required, PhD pref. Salary commensurate with experience. Submit resume, cover

letter & writing sample to Damyn Kelly, JD, Hunter College Center on AIDS, Drugs and Community Health, City University of New York, 425 East 25th Street, New York, NY 10010.

The Urban Justice Center's Human Rights Project seeks a Senior Policy Analyst. Responsibilities include creation of project's documentation methodology and protocol, survey development, data analysis, writing regular human rights reports and grant writing. BA, Master's degree with strong writing and research skills; knowledge of SPSS; 2 years relevant work experience; knowledge of human rights, bilingual Spanish/English and knowledge of NYC welfare reform issues a plus. Salary \$40K + benefits. Send resume to Heidi Dorow, Urban Justice Center, 666 Broadway 10th Floor, New York, NY 10012 or email: <hd><hdorow@urbanjustice.org>.</hd>

#### **PENNSYLVANIA**

A large Senior Center in Philadelphia seeks a Executive Director for overall operation and development. Require Master's degree, 5 years minimum non-profit agency administration at policy-making level, major grant proposal preparation, program planning and proven fund raising skills. For more info email <sgrossman@katzsearch.com>. Submit resume to Sandra L. Grossman, Health Care Search Division, The Katz Consulting Group, Inc., 531 Plymouth Road, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462; fax: (610) 832-0612.

Congreso de Latino Unidos, Inc. seeks a Manager of Marketing and Public Affairs interested in working with the Latino community in Philadelphia. Responsibilities include event planning, development, supervision, material development and media relations. Exp. in Raiser's Edge a plus. Send résumés with cover letter to Natasha Santiago-Trujillo, HR Manager, Congreso de Latinos Unidos, Inc., 719 W. Girard Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19123, or fax: 215.763.8876, or email <a href="mailto:NatashaS@congreso.net">NatashaS@congreso.net</a>>.

#### **TEXAS**

Multicultural Education and Counseling through the Arts (MECA) seeks a **Project Coordinator** for the renovation of a historic facility and other public art and public spaces initiatives. Required experience of Bachelor's or Master's degree in architecture/planning or relevant humanities/social sciences, project management, grant writing, community organizing, and management. Salary commensurate with experience. Send resume to Susan Rogers, 1900 Kane Street, Houston, TX 77007, or fax: (713) 802-9403, or email

<srogers@dellnet.com>.

#### **VIRGINIA**

Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest seeks a Director of Finance & Human Resources to direct the finance and human resource functions of this developing national landmark undergoing state-of-the art restoration. A minimum of 5 years related experience. MBA preferred. For info visit <www.poplarforest.org>. Send resume, 3 business references and salary requirements to Executive Director, P. O. Box 419, Forest, VA 24551, or Email < cindi@poplarforest.org>, or fax: (804) 525-7252.

#### WASHINGTON, DC

Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation seeks an External Affairs Project Manager for developing relationships with identified national partners and external audiences, managing projects and programs designed to promote public and partner understanding of the Corporation's objectives, functions and accomplishments. 5+ years of demonstrated competencies in partnership development and program management, at a management level, or a BA degree or experience equivalent in public relations, marketing, or journalism. Salary \$40k-50k, + benefits. To apply send resume to Human Resources, Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation, 1325 G Street Nw, Suite 800 Washington, Dc 20005, or fax: 202-376-2664, or email <<u>resumes@nw.org</u>>.

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Planners Network is published six times a year by Planners Network, Inc., a non-profit corporation in the State of New York

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# 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.

## GUIDELINES FOR AUTHORS

Planners Network seeks articles that describe and analyze progressive physical, social, economic and environmental planning in urban and rural areas. Articles may be up to 1,500 words. They should be addressed to PN's broad audience of professionals, activists, students and academics, and be straightforward and jargon-free. Following a journalistic style, the first paragraph should summarize the main ideas in the article. A few suggested readings may be mentioned in the text, but do not submit footnotes or a bibliography. The editors may make minor style changes, but any substantial rewriting or changes will be checked with the author. A photograph or illustration may be included. Submissions on disk or by email are greatly appreciated. Send to the Editor at pn@pratt.edu or Planners Network, 379 DeKalb Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11205. Fax: 718-636-3709. The deadlines are the first day of the first month of the issue (e.g., May 1 for the May/June issue; July 1 for the July/August issue).

FOR 25 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 newsletter, 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 American 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 international 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!

All members must make an annual financial contribution. 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

\$50 for organizations and libraries

\$100 Sustaining Members -- if you earn over \$50,000, won't you consider helping at this level?

Canadian members: See column to the right.

Your contribution to Planners Network is tax deductible.

#### PN MEMBERS IN CANADA

Membership fees by Canadian members may be paid in Canadian funds:

\$25 for students, unemployed, and those with incomes <\$40,000

\$40 for those with incomes between \$40,000 and 80,000

\$70 for those with incomes over \$80,000

\$150 for sustaining members

Make cheques in Canadian funds payable to: "Planners Network" and send with membership form to:

Barbara Rahder, Faculty of Environmental Studies York University

Toronto, Ontario M3J 1P3

If interested in joining the PN Toronto listserv, include your email address or send a message to Barbara Rahder at <rahder@yorku.ca>.

#### PLANNERS NETWORK ON LINE

The PN WEB SITE is at:

#### www.plannersnetwork.org

The PN LISTSERV:

PN maintains an on-line mailing list for members to post and respond to queries, list job postings, conference announcements, etc. To join, send an email message to **majordo-mo@list.pratt.edu** with "subscribe pn-net" (without the quotes) in the body of the message (not the subject line). You'll be sent instructions on how to use the list.

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- 1 The First International PN Conference
- 1 Mexico's Pioneer Experiences in Participatory Planning
- 3 Civil Society: A Challenge to Planners
- 4 Letter from Sao Paulo
- 5 Planning & Politics in the Current City
- 7 Five Basic Lessons about Globalization
- 9 More on Globalization
- Shared Experiences of Gender-based Planning
- 11 Gender Policy and Planning
- 18 Volunteers Needed for the New PN
- 19 Resources: Jobs and Events

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