# **PLANNERS NETWORK**

#67-December 22, 1987

1901 QUE STREET, NW

**WASHINGTON, DC 20009** 

(202) 234-9382

23	<b>                                     </b>	
\$	\$	
\$	MOOLA \$	
\$	\$	
\$	Our cry for help has produced some good responses; 41 \$	
\$	of you contributed \$1,105 since mid-November (including \$	
\$	some very welcome \$50 contributions).	
\$	But it's just not enough. Even with your checks, our bank \$	
\$	account stands at \$799.55, most of which will be eaten up \$	
\$	with editorial/typesetting/printing/mailing expenses for \$	
\$	this issue.	
\$	We've got to have a better cushion than that. We don't \$	
\$	require dues or subscription fees, a system that has worked \$	
\$	well for 12 years; and we don't hassle our members (except \$	
\$	collectively).	
\$	Think back a bit. Take a look at your checkstubs for the \$	
\$	past year. If you haven't made a contribution to PN, please \$	
\$	do so, right away. And if you can make it in the \$25-\$50 \$	
_	range, or even more, please do. Our thanks in advance. \$	
\$ \$	Tange, of even more, piease do. Our thanks in advance.	
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_	DV OFFERDING HINE A LANGE WILL BUILDING	
	PN OFFSPRING III: Networker Nathan Weber and his wife	
W	endy of New York City became parents on August 29 of	

identical twin girls, Rebecca and Venessa. "Yes," he says, "I can tell them apart. And yes, it is possible somehow to function without sleep." (For earlier "offsprings," see the October PN.)

☐ FINANCIAL MINI-REPORT: Sixty-one PNers contributed \$1,520 since the October newsletter, and we are deeply grateful for their support. Our thanks to each of you.

### **Passing the Word**

□ NEW YORK REVISITED: The Fall 1987 Dissent (521 Fifth
Ave., New York, NY 10017) is a special 240-page issue, "In
Search of New York," with articles and commentary covering
"Looking at Our City," "Days of the Developers," "A City
Divided," "Conflicts and Constituencies," "The Culture of the
City," and "Memories and Impressions," among other topics. A
single issue is \$5; subscriptions (quarterly) are \$15.

INFORMATION REQUEST: From Chuck Ogg (124 Bynner St. #2, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130): I am a PhD student at Boston College in sociology, where I am working on my thesis. Its title is "Boston as a New Class City," where I plan on

### The Planners Network

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

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

We oppose the economic structure of our society, which values profit and property rights over human rights and needs. This system perpetuates the inequalities of class, race, sex and age which distort human relationships and limit the potential for a decent quality of life. We advocate a shift in current national budgetary priorities to favor human services, social production and environmental protection over military and other nonproductive expenditures.

We seek to be an effective political and social force, working with other progressive organizations to inform public opinion and public policy and to provide assistance to those seeking to understand, control, and change the forces which affect their lives.

The Planners Network Newsletter is published six times a year as the principal means of communication among Network members. Annual financial contributions are voluntary, but we need funds for operating expenses. The Steering Committee has recommended the following amounts as minimums for Network members: \$15 for students and unemployed; graduated payments for the employed of \$25 plus \$1 for each \$1,000 earned above \$10,000.

Members of the Steering Committee: Chester Hartman, DC, Chair; Emily Achtenberg, Boston; Eve Bach, Berkeley; Bob Beauregard, New Brunswick, NJ; Donna Dyer, Durham, NC: William Goldsmith, Ithaca; Charles Hoch, Chicago; Joochul Kim, Tempe; Judy Kossy, Buffalo; Jacqueline Leavitt, LA; Peter Marcuse, NYC; Jackie Pope, NYC; Alan Rabinowitz, Seattle: Tony Schuman, NYC; Andree Tremoulet, Pittsfield.

Newsletter Editor: Prentice Bowsher.		
☐ Enclosed is my check payable to the Planners Network for		
\$		
☐ Please check here if this is a new membership.		
☐ Please check here (current members only) if this is an address change, and write your former zip code		
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combining New Class theory with Urban Political Economy in a study of post-war Boston. I would love to hear from anyone interested in such work.	□ A/T BIBLIOGRAPHY: The Appropriate Technology Sourcebook is an illustrated 800-page resource for people working in village technology and community development.
☐ MEMBER UPDATE: From PNer Jac Smit (1711 Lamont St. N.W., Wash. DC 20010): I have returned to primarily domestic planning consulting after 20 years in the third world, most recently preparing city and metropolitan plans for Baghdad,	Copies are \$19.95 (paper), from: Appropriate Technology Project, Box 4543, Stanford, CA 94305, 415/326-8581. Separately, a 1,000-book appropriate technology library is available on microfiche for \$695.
Iraq. My key target is the production of food in metropolitan areas, beginning in the tropics and semi-tropics, but including temperate zones. A second line of work is projected as community economic development. I have joined the "on-call" faculty program, and will be lecturing at planning schools and to community groups. I'm committed to producing a book on third world planning methods, and several articles in the next year.	□ BUILT ENVIRONMENT CENTER: The International Center for the Built Environment (54½ E. San Francisco St. #1A, Santa Fe, NM 87501, 505/988-5270) offers semester-length classes, summer courses, and professional seminars to prepare students and professionals to work with clients, users, and workers who are from different cultures and developing countries. Contact: David Stea.
□ U-NM PROGRAM CITED: The Planning Accreditation Board (Wash. DC) has granted five-year accreditation to the Master of Community and Regional Planning Program in the School of Architecture and Planning at the Univ. of New Mexico. The MCRP program began in 1980, and has awarded nearly 40 degrees.	□ CHICAGO AGENDA: Chicago: Race, Class, and the Response to Urban Decline, by Networker Gregory D. Squires, Kathleen McCourt, and Philip Nyden, traces the uneven development of the Chicago metropolitan area to a range of growth policies based on financial incentives to private corporations, focusing on downtown development. It examines barriers to progressive politics, and proposes directions for a
☐ SPANISH CIVIL WAR: Prisoners of the Good Fight: The Spanish Civil War 1936-39, by Carl Geiser, is the tale of a surviving group of 290 American war prisoners from the	more democratic local economic development agenda. The publisher is Temple University Press.
Abraham Lincoln and Mackenszie-Papineau battalions, who were captured by Italian, Moroccan, and Spanish troops in Spain. More than half were killed on capture. The story of courage and survival in prison camps and jails is told by the former political commissar of both battalions. Much of the story has never been told before. For copies: Lawrence Hill & Co., 520 Riverside Ave., Westport, CT 06880.	□ LOAN FUNDS: <i>The Community Loan Fund Manual</i> is a 350-page, loose-leaf guide from the Institute for Community Economics (151 Montague City Rd., Greenfield, MA 01301, 413/774-7956) to developing and managing <sup>a</sup> a community loan fund, with illustrative case studies. Copies are \$45, plus \$2 postage.
☐ HEALTHY CITIES: The Healthy Cities project is a new initiative of the World Health Organization to promote healthy environments and lifestyles through a multi-dimensional perspective, including peace, shelter, education, food, income, a	☐ HOMELESS AID: Saving Lives: Emergency Federal Aid Reaches the Streets is available from the National Coalition for the Homeless, 1439 Rhode Island Ave. N.W., Wash. DC 20005, 202/659-3310.
stable eco-system, sustainable resources, social justice and equity. It has been embraced and is being developed by several major industrialized cities, and now is reaching cities in the developing world. Details: Networker Ximena de la Barra, 67-41 Burns St. #509, Forest Hills, NY 11375.	☐ PEACE CONTEST: The Citizen Education for Peace Project (Box 6021, Irvine, CA 92716) at the Univ. of California-Irvine has announced the Quest for Peace Writing Contest, in connection with the Quest for Peace Broadcast Series. The grand prize is \$5,000. Contact the Project for details.
☐ HOUSING PROPOSALS: New National Housing Policy provides recommendations from more than 71 national and local organizations and individuals for Congress to consider in crafting a new housing bill. The collection runs to more than 1,000 pages. Single copies are free, from: New National Housing Policy, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg. #SD526, Wash. DC 20510,	☐ MONDRAGON VIDEO: The Alternative Center (2375 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, CA 94704, (415/644-8336) has a new 45-minute video on the Mondragon cooperatives in Spain. Copies are \$50 for individuals, cooperatives, and community groups for self-education; \$90 for others. Postage is \$5.
202/224-1579.	□ ELDERLY HOUSING: Housing the Aged: Design Directives
☐ YOUTH POLICY is a monthly report from the Youth Policy Institute (1221 Massachusetts Ave. N.W. #B, Wash. DC 20005, 202/638-2144) on national youth programs and issues. The 72-page November issue included reports on sex education, labor literacy, and empowerment education, as well as a number of	and Policy Considerations, by Victor Regnier and PNer Jon Pynoos, is a 517-page guide to practical design and policy recommendations for creating improved housing and living environments for elderly people. Copies are \$59, from: Elsevier Science Publishing Co., Inc., Box 1663, New York, NY 10163.
updates and short features. Subscriptions are \$75.  □ HOUSTON OFFICEBUILDING: "The Secondary Circuit of Capital: Office Construction in Houston, Texas," by PNer Joe R. Feagin, explores issues of real estate investment in cities. It appeared in <i>The International Journal of Urban and Regional Passarch</i> (Vol. 11, June 1987, pp. 171–192)	□ CONTRAS & DRUGS: The Christic Institute (1324 N. Capitol St. N.W., Wash. DC 20002, 202/797-8106) has published a 12-page special report, <i>The Contra-Drug Connection</i> , which outlines the Institute's research and investigation into Contradrug connections and links with the U.S. government. Single copies are \$2. A fuller Christic Institute "Contra-Drug Information Product" in \$5.
Research (Vol. 11, June 1987, pp. 171-192).	Information Packet" is \$5.  (continued on page 5)

### **PN Special Feature**

## Privately Owned Rental Housing: An Owner's Case

by Dan Garr

Back in 1986, this piece was sent to PN. While we wanted to include it in the newsletter then, we also thought that inclusion of a rebuttal would help spur debate. Time passed, and our efforts to find an appropriate person to write a counter-argument were unsuccessful. Thus it is now 1987, and we present the piece without rebuttal.

Dan Garr's argument is challenging and stimulating; and we hope thereby to spark controversy, and generate a sharing of ideas. Who will take up the challenge?

—Ed.

Having been a PN member for the last five years or so, I've found sustained rewards in the Newsletter, and many interesting perspectives on important societal issues.

However, I disagree with the PN on a very important matter: rental housing.

Having perused Critical Perspectives on Housing (Bratt, Hartman and Meyerson, eds.), it is inevitable that I will continue to drift further from the viewpoints of these individuals, and therefore would like to present my own.

I write as a former 1960's activist who, 15 years later, found himself in a position to do something about the housing crisis in a limited way.

In 1980-81, I refinanced my house, and in a matter of months acquired two buildings totaling eight residential units, of which two were illegal.

My goal was to see if I could rehabilitate the properties, and create sound, lowincome apartments.

I was successful, and created four units via a community development block grant rehab loan and two via an FHA 203k rehab loan. Further, I was able to acquire the capital to purchase the properties before the unprecedented explosion of interest rates.

Nevertheless, more than two years passed before the rehabilitation was completed. And there were many trying moments, including threats to my life (by individuals capable of carrying out their attempted intimidation), vandalism, illegal squatting (requiring police action), evictions (for non-payment of rent and degra-

dation of the premises), litigation (successful) against a financial institution (for improper increases in loan fees), and a poorly-conceived and confiscatory rent control ordinance (which was defeated at the polls).

All this took place in Santa Cruz County, Calif., a surfing and woodland paradise, and a far cry from the festering decay of rustbelt ghettoes.

Today (1986), both properties are flourishing and providing high-quality accommodations to those with incomes below 50 percent of the county median. One property had two illegal units eliminated, a process which required the owner to forego their rents for a period of eight months, for a net loss of over \$6,000.

Given this, what are my differences with mainstream PN thought on rental housing?

First, the ownership of housing should provide benefits that are proportionate to

the risks associated with the investment.

The ownership of housing is risky. Market conditions, major and minor maintenance, and tenant treatment of the premises collectively pose numerous threats to uneventful and profitable ownership.

In addition, low-income tenants have access to Legal Aid, whose courtroom tactics bring justice far beyond the reach of a middle-class property owner.

Further, in a 1985 case decided by the California State Supreme Court (Becker v. IRM Corp.), it was ruled that apartment owners are not only liable for negligent maintenance of a building, but also for defects of which they had no knowledge.

In this case, the plaintiff was injured in a fall against a shower door made of untempered glass. Although the plaintiff settled out of court with the builder of the apartment and with the manufacturer of the shower door, the current owner of the building was also ruled liable for defect in the building, however latent.

Is this a hidden bomb waiting to explode (continued on page 4)

### Children's Books Revisited

In the August Planners Network, we printed an essay on children's author Virginia Lee Burton and the power of her books—The Little House, Maybelle the Cable Car, Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel—to recount social history with an effectiveness that appeals to adults as much as to children.

PN Chair Chester Hartman, for example, recalled that the one book he remembers in incredible detail from child-hood is Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel.

Apparently other PNers have had similar experiences. We print two accounts here. — Ed.

Reading PN #65's feature on Virginia Lee Burton's children's books reminded me of my own source of continual inspiration: the little book entitled *Little Bear*.

In fact, I find in this book the closest thing to a paradigm—or should I say a "bearadigm"—since comprehensive planning.

For those who can't quite place the saga of Little Bear, it goes something like this:

Little Bear is playing outside as the first snowflakes appear. Going inside the cozy hut, the protagonist asks his mother to make him a winter hat.

Later, Little Bear again returns home, and asks for a pair of mittens for the increasingly wintery days. This goes on for a while, with Little Bear getting a scarf, probably some boots, etc.

Finally, in the big scene, Little Bear confronts his mother, and asks for a fur coat to stay warm in. Patiently, Mother Bear takes off the boots, the scarf, the mittens, the hat, leaving Little Bear with the fur coat he thought he needed.

The book ends with my hero playing outside while smoke floats from the hut's chimney.

After learning about plenty of paradigms in planning school, I was asked to describe the one I liked best. So, I patiently wrote off comprehensive planning, incre(continued on page 4)

#### **Rental Housing**

(continued from page 3)

on a responsible landlord?

Rent control is another bugaboo.

Moderate rent control, with its 7-percent annual increases and vacancy decontrol, does not pose a problem for this writer; but the restrictive ordinances of Berkeley and Santa monica are confiscatory.

I view them as attempts to effect a drastic transfer of wealth from one group to another, and an unfair taking. (Such controls will never ameliorate the housing environment, and will produce nothing more than an administratively-costly program to manage as well as parallel a black market in controlled dwellings.

The lip service paid to a "fair return" for property owners would require platoons of CPAs; each property owner faces different and complex calculations concerning this measure of equity.

Second, I see few PN scenarios to contrast with *Critical Perspectives* concerning the immense profitability that landlords enjoy. An exception would be declining neighborhoods in economically depressed cities.

Indeed, housing investments made since 1980 have been extremely unprofitable, as real interest rates have remained high and capital gains negligible when compared to inflation. If expressedin constant dollars, many properties in California and other sunbelt states have in fact declined in value.

Local and regional influences on the real estate market can raise or lower the bottom line significantly. Most recently, the latter has occurred although the former is eventually inevitable due to the cyclical nature of real estate investment.

For a small investor, the highly intensive management required by residential property is often completely ignored when lost calculations are made.

Whether a building is profitable or not, an owner as property manager will have to change his lifestyle and notions of free time or spend 6-10 percent of gross rents on management. In a typical four-plex, this means in excess of \$200 a month.

Money can indeed be made, but it requires dedication, hard work, vigilance, and luck.

Thirdly, indications are that tax reform will put residential real estate (and commercial property even more) on a purely bricks-and-mortar basis, by the severe curtailment of tax shelters.

Unless there is a major increase in rental

#### **PN Special Feature**

In its Special Feature, *Planners Network* presents thoughtful, provocative writings about substantive concerns and issues in the planning professions. Essays typically highlight a single issue, and illuminate it with examples and insights.

The Special Feature editor is Bob Beauregard (Dept. of Urban Planning, Rutgers Univ., New Brunswick, NJ 08903, 201/932-4053; 932-3822).

We are grateful for Networkers' support of this feature, and encourage continued ideas, suggestions, commentary, and dialogue.

subsidies, rents are going to increase at least 5 percent a year above and beyond normal increases. Thus the economic struggle for housing will worsen, and pressures will mount for additional rent control.

There is no question that the Administration is doing its utmost to turn off the housing spigot, in addition to clearly demonstrating its malevolent intents and across-the-board moral bankruptcy.

Even beyond that, our housing problem and its costs also stem from too many small households who are willing to spend 50-60 percent of their income on a one-bedroom apartment, rather than share living space.

There is not a shortage of housing units; but, rather, there is a tendency to pursue lifestyles which exacerbate the housing question.

Americans have lost sight of the fact that housing historically has been a very expensive item, except for two decades following World War II when a small homeownership cohort and huge infrastructure subsidies produced lots of inexpensive housing.

Today's high housing costs are the rule throughout American history, a perspective made more obscure by the environment in which most of us came of age.

The right to a decent home and a suitable living environment as stated in the 1949 Housing Act speaks to a situation characterized by two decades of neglect and inactivity, which began with the Great Depression in 1929.

It is far different from the situation of today; and I very much doubt whether the Supreme Court will declare housing to be a fundamental right.

The housing spigot should not be turned off, and rehab programs should continue; but the days of government's hidden subsidies of the '50s and '60s are behind us.

Lastly, I feel it most unproductive that Messrs. Hartman and Stone should call for a compulsory buyout of the nation's entire rental housing stock (*Critical Perspectives*, p. 498).

Even though government resources are skewed and squandered in murderous directions, such a proposal can only damage the credibility of its authors and their affiliates.

Perhaps a more modest and limited alternative for PN members is to put their resources on the line, and see what can be done by sensitive, enlightened, and politically-aware ownership.

Dan Garr is co-author of The Suburban Environment and Women (NY: Praeger, 1971) and of Suburbia: An International Assessment (NY: St. Martin's, 1986), and teaches planning at San Jose State University.

#### Children's Books

(continued from page 3)

mentalism, and probably others too, leaving myself with Little Bear's discovery that one should understand what nature has provided and respond to it, as opposed to running out and creating a technical quick-fix—including those found in planning theory and practice.

John Wengler
 Chicago, Ill.

Our kids also are *really* taken with Burton's books, especially *The Little House*.

How about an occasional column on the books PN members are reading to their children, to imbue progressive values around PN themes?

I know, for instance, that Bill Goldsmith used to use de Brunhoff's *Babar the King*, even with his graduate classes, to illustrate issues of urban form, class structure, etc.

This summer I picked up a wonderful volume on kid-based community action in the barrio of Caracas, Venezuela: *The Streets are Free*, by Kurusa (Annick Press, \$5.95).

Also, there is a wonderful children's

bookstore in Brattleboro, Vt., PN people should get on the mailing list of: Everyone's Books, 71 Elliot St., Brattleboro, Vt. 05301.

It does a twice-a-year mailing on books that stress cooperation, diversity, nonsexism, interracialism, are written in a variety of cultural/ethnic/lifestyle settings, and are low-cost. It was the source for the Kurusa volume.

 Harvey Jacobs Madison, Wis.

#### **Passing the Word**

(continued from page 2)

□ UK HOMEOWNERSHIP: Home-Ownership Policy in the UK: An Empirical Study of New Purchasers, Properties, and the Process of Privatization, by J.G. Nellis and M.C. Fleming, examines who Britain's new homeowners are, what properties they buy, and how costs affect further expansion. Copies are UK Pounds 5, from: Cranfield School of Management, Cranfield Institute of Technology, Cranfield, Bedford MK43 OAL, England.

□ INTERMEDIATE TECHNOLOGY: The Intermediate Technology Development Group of North America (Box 337, Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520, 914/271-6500) has a four-page publication list of books on agriculture, building and construction, economics and policy, energy, and industry and business.

□ HOUSING INITIATIVES: Nonfederal Housing Programs: How States and Localities Are Responding to Federal Cutbacks in Low-Income Housing Programs, by Michael A. Stegman and J. David Holden, presents the results of a national survey of state and local housing initiatives, and assesses state and local potential for meeting low-income housing needs. Copies from: Urban Land Institute, 1090 Vermont Ave. N.W., Wash. DC 20005, 202/289-8500. The price is \$27 for ULI members, \$36 for others.

□ POLITICS RESOURCES: The Joint Center for Political Studies (1301 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W. #400, Wash. DC 20004, 202/626-3500) has two new political books: Black Elected Officials: A National Roster (16th edition), 478 pages at \$29.50; and Horse of a Different Color: Television's Treatment of Jesse Jackson's 1984 Presidential Campaign, by C. Anthony Broh, 93 pages, at \$7.95. Add \$1.50 for shipping and handling.

□ ARCHITECTURE SLIDES/TAPES: Pidgeon Audio Visual has issued a new set (Series 17) of audio tapes and slides by architects Emilio Ambasz, Mike Davies, Charles Gwathmey, Craig Hodgetts, Lucien Kroll, and Massimo and Lella Vignelli. The set is \$85 (U.S.), from: World Microfilms Publications Ltd., 62 Queen's Grove, London NW8 6ER, England.

□ ACORN UPDATES: ACORN (522 8th St. S.E., Wash. DC 20003, 202/547-9292) publishes periodic updates on its activities around the country. A recent update reported on squatting in Brooklyn, toxics campaigns in New Orleans and Chicago, and an anti-rape campaign in St. Louis, among other issues.

□ RESEARCH NETWORK: The Urban Project of the Institute for Advanced Cultural Studies (Drawer 2980, Wash. DC 20013) and *Postmodern Times* is an international interdisciplinary network for research in architecture, planning, and community development. It will be publishing a newsletter, journal, and books, and is seeking names and addresses of future members and contributors to a small independent press. Contact:

Dennis Crow.

☐ TRANET PROJECT: TRANET (Box 567, Rangeley, ME 04970, 207/864-2252) has provided 100-book appropriate technology libraries to 90 third world villages, with partial support from UNESCO. As the U.S. ended its support for UNESCO, UNESCO dropped its support for the TRANET libraries. But the need remains, and TRANET is seeking contributions to continue the project.

☐ BANNERMAN FELLOWSHIPS: The Youth Project (2335 18th St. N.W., Wash. DC 20009, 202/483-0030) is accepting applications for Charles Bannerman Memorial Fellowships, which provide minority social activists with a \$10,000 stipend for a sabbatical of three months or more.

□ PROGRESSIVE PERIODICALS: Progressive Education (Box 120574, Nashville, TN 37212) is compiling an updated directory of national progressive periodicals published in the United States, and is seeking suggested entries. A previous edition is nearly sold out.

□ UTAH HOUSING: Housing Considerations in Rural Utah: Results of a Structural Survey of Rural Housing Units is a 53-page report by the Utah Housing Coalition (231 E. 100 S., Salt Lake City, UT 84111, 801/521-2035), which among other things recommends state low-income housing appropriations of at least \$1 million a year and establishment of a state housing trust fund. No price listed.

□ FARMLANDS: A Community Issue is a new booklet from Concern Inc. (1794 Columbia Rd. N.W., Wash. DC 20009, 202/328-8160) on ecologically and environmentally sound farming. Single copies are \$3.

□ CHANGING BANKS: The Bankers of Today, the Banks of Tomorrow: The Financial Services Industry and Its Role in Community Reinvestment, by Jean Pogge and David Flax-Hatch, describes the impact of recent changes in the banking industry on low- and moderate-income people and neighborhoods. Copies: The Woodstock Institute, 53 W. Jackson Blvd. #304, Chicago, IL 60604, 312/427-8070. No price listed.

☐ GOVT ASSISTANCE GUIDE: *The Government Assistance Almanac 1988* is a guide to federal domestic assistance programs. Copies are \$24.95, plus \$3.25 shipping/handling, from Regnery Gateway Inc., 950 N. Shore Dr., Lake Bluff, 1L 60044, 800/448-8311.

☐ REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Regions: The Economics and Politics of Territory, by Networker Ann R. Markusen, is a 320-page penetrating and innovative study of the political and economic aspects of American regionalism. Copies are \$37.50; from: Rowman & Littlefield, 81 Adams Dr., Totowa, NJ 07512.

☐ CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTS Quarterly is a new

journal designed to improve the relationship between children and the physical environment. Subscriptions are \$28, from: Children's Environments Research Group, CUNY Graduate School and Univ. Center, 33 W. 42nd St., New York, NY 10036, 212/944-2335.

□ PN AT SOCIALIST SCHOLARS;: The Planners Network has been invited to sponsor a session at the 6th Socialist Scholars' Conference April 8-10 in New York. If you would like to propose a panel or a presentation, please contact: Nancy Kleniewski, 91 Argyle St., Rochester, NY 14607, 716/244-4328.

## **Networkers' Reports**

#### Reflections on the APA Presidency

by Norman Krumholz College of Urban Affairs, Cleveland State University

(Norman Krumholz is Immediate Past President of the American Planning Association.)

I ran for the APA Presidency with three objectives in mind: First, I wanted to reduce the friction that was then wracking the organization.

Second, I wanted to remind APA's membership of the progressive roots of our profession—that the idea of a "good" and "just" city is at least as powerful an idea in the origin of city planning as the "beautiful" or "efficient" city.

Third (and this is related to the second), I wanted to have more planners begin to address seriously the most vexing problems of our society: the destructive effects on cities and people of concentrated poverty and racial discrimination.

To some extent, I guess my year as President has been successful.

With respect to internal friction at the APA board, it is lower than it has been in years.

In the recent past, board meetings were long and bitter, with constant clashes of personality and friction bubbling over on the floor.

By contrast, our last four board meetings (two annual, two mid-year) have been harmonious and pleasant. Meetings have moved as scheduled, and members have been cordial and respectful of one another.

This cordiality is *not* because the board has swept the more serious problems under the rug.

We've acted on a controversial dues increase in a way which has strengthened the organization; we're moving to decentralize some of our services to the chapter level; we've provided funding for the accreditation process in planning schools.

And we've lobbied Congress on a range of important issues, including open housing, economic conversion of war production, and expanded and decentralized low-income housing.

Past President Dan Lauber (PN) deserves a lot of credit for this progress.

As a result, I think APA is now in excellent shape.

With respect to the second objective, I think we did some things to remind our profession of its progressive roots.

For example, we set up an annual award honoring and

commemorating Paul Davidoff; and over the past two years we gave recognition awards to a unique and outstanding group of planners.

When APA honors people like Cushing Dolbeare, who has spent her life lobbying for low-income housing: Marcy Benstock, who stopped NYC's Westway virtually by herself; Delores Hayden and Jackie Leavitt, who have researched and written extensively on housing, homelessness, and feminist issues, we are reminding planners of the need to consider moral values and ethics as well as planning techniques and to do "good" as well as "well."

These awards suggest that at least some members of the planning profession may be interested in more than simply good site plans and improved zoning ordinances.

I'm afraid not too much was accomplished on the third objective.

I don't think many planners are likely to change their basic approach to their jobs unless their mayors or governors ask them to.

But I am vastly encouraged by the "linkage" and "exaction' work that is being done by such planners as Rob Mier (Chicago), Dean Macris (San Francisco), and Stephen Coyne (Boston).

And for me, the peak of the New York APA Conference was Rick Cohen, Jersey City's Redevelopment Director, talking about low-income housing set-asides, as well as aesthetics, in the striking new developments on Jersey City's shoreline.

I think we're only scratching the surface of the possibilities of exactions, and I think planners will be creatively involved in developing this progressive policy.

I hope more PN members who are not also APA members will join APA, get involved in APA politics, and try to move the organization in a more progressive direction.

### Roundup: Columbia

The following items came on groupe from the good folks in the Urban Planning Department at Columbia University. It's a nice idea—getting together a collective report on doings among people at a certain institution. Who's next? — Ed.

Networker Saskia Sassen-Koob is the new Director of the Columbia Urban Planning Program.

She is completing a research project on the electronics and garment industries in New York and California, and also has begun a new project on the impact of the 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act, focusing especially on the occurrence of discrimination as a consequence of employers' sanctions.

Her new book, *The Mobility of Labor and Capital*, is coming out in January from the Cambridge University Press.

Networker Charles Downs of Columbia's Urban Planning Program has been working in Mozambique, Haiti, and Nicaragua.

He was in Mozambique to review institutional aspects of planning for urban rehabilitation.

Research conducted since mid-1986 in Haiti will be published in early 1988 in *Democracy, Development and Basic Needs: Decentralization in Haiti*, co-authored with Leslie Voltaire. This research will also serve as basic material for a conference

scheduled for Port-au-Prince in January.

He is developing a comparative book on the transformation of planning during periods of revolutionary change, based on his experience in Portugal, Nicaragua and Haiti.

He is leading a spring 1988 student studio, addressing priority interventions for basic needs and development in urban shantytowns, with fieldwork in Haiti, as part of Columbia's program on planning in developing countries.

Networker **Robb Burlage**, who teaches in Columbia's Urban Planning Program and who 20 years ago founded Health/PAC, was honored by about 200 health professionals, policymakers, and community and consumer activists at a benefit dinner at Riverside Church in October for the Health Action Resource Center and the Public Interest Health Consortium for New York City, for "his contributions to health and urban planning teaching, analysis and advocacy."

He has just completed a joint report on "Changing Big City Academic Medical Center Complexes in a Proprietary Health Care Market Environment."

Networkers Elliott Sclar and Saskia Sassen-Koob led Columbia University students in a studio project "Chelsea Today, Chelsea Tomorrow: A Plan for Preservation and Development," commissioned by the Chelsea Planning and Preservation Committee of Community Board 4 in Manhattan.

The project received the American Institute of Certified Planners' 1987 Student Project Award.

According to the AICP Committee, the report represents an instance, even in the largest U.S. metropolis, where a community took it upon itself to plan its own future.

Elliott reports that the Chelsea Community Board has used the study, examining housing, population, economic, real estate, and land use changes in the area, as the basis of a comprehensive neighborhood plan, the first to be reviewed by the City Planning Commission under a City Charter provision for such community-based master plans.

Networker **Peter Marcuse** of the Columbia Urban Planning Program was asked by the New York City Charter Revision to sponsor a city-wide conference to deal with complex issues involved in the revision of the Charter.

There were special foci for the conference on whether strengthening community powers in land use matters would aggravate the NIMBY (Not-in-My-Back-Yard) problem, because of which shelters for the homeless, halfway houses, sanitation department garages, and other necessary but unpopular facilities have trouble finding locations, and whether present provisions are adequate to make the best decisions about the density of development, dealing with protests against overdevelopment in some neighborhoods and concerns about underdevelopment in others.

According to Peter, in what might be a model for a participatory planning process on a complex issue, Columbia, together with the Community Service Society and Citizens for Charter Change, facilitated the creation of over 20 working groups, each of which devoted at least three sessions to developing concrete proposals for alternative Charter provisions.

Then, an all-day working conference on Neighborhoods, Land Use, and the Charter was held, preceded by a lively and educational Fred Friendly-type show with Lewis Kaden and 13 leaders in the private/public/community planning scene in New York.

Twelve workshops, under the leadership of planning faculty

from Columbia and each of the other New York planning schools, struggled with the multiple proposals that had come from the earlier working groups, and came out with some major consensus ideas as well as sharply defined alternatives on several controversial points.

Peter reports that the over-flow conference of 400 registrants, and indeed the entire process, was considered by the Commission a major contribution to thinking through methods to improve land use planning procedures.

Networkers **Ruth Messinger**, Manhattan City Councilor, and **John Jeffries**, of the Columbia Urban Planning faculty, were part of a concluding roundtable on policy and planning alternatives.

☐ URBAN VITALITY: The National Main Street Center

(National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1785 Massachusetts

### **Upcoming Conferences**

Ave. N.W., Wash. DC 20036, 202/673-4219) is presenting a conference January 13-15 in Miami on "Bringing Back Urban Vitality." The focus is on older central and neighborhood business districts. Registration is \$225.
□ CONSUMER ASSEMBLY: The Consumer Federation of America (1424 16th St. N.W. #604, Wash. DC 20036, 202/387-6121) will hold a conference February 4-5 in Washington on the theme, "The End of the Reagan Years: Consumer Challenges and Opportunities." Registration is \$75 for CFA members; \$95 for academics and other public interest groups; and \$295 for others.
☐ SOCIALIST SCHOLARS: The 6th Socialist Scholars' Conference will be held April 8-10 in New York. Details: R.L. Norman Jr., Dept. of Sociology, CUNY Graduate Center, 33 W. 42nd St., New York, NY 10036.
□ ELDERLY HOUSING: The National Association of State Units on Aging and the Council of State Housing Agencies (444 N. Capitol St. N.W. #118, Wash. DC 20001, 202/624-7710) are presenting a symposium January 27-28 in San Francisco, "State Initiatives in Elderly Housing." Registration is \$275 for non-profits and government, \$325 for others.
□ SOLID WASTE: The New York State Legislative Commission on Solid Waste Management (150 State St., Albany, NY 12207, 518/455-3711) is sponsoring a conference January 27-30 in New York on solid waste management and materials policy. Registration is \$175 for nonprofits and government, \$250 for others.

☐ DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH: The Research Committee

on Urban and Regional Development will hold a conference

September 26-30 in Rio de Janeiro on the theme, "Trends and

Challenges in Urban Restructuring." Details: Edmond

Preteceille, CSU-CNRS, 59-61 rue Pouchet, 75849 Paris Cedex

☐ INFORMAL DEVELOPMENT: The Community and Regional Planning Program of the Univ. of New Mexico is

organizing a conference April 7-9 in Albuquerque on "Estab-

lishing Linkages: The Informal Development Sector—Mexico

17. France.

and New Mexico." The primary language will be Spanish. Details: Richard Anderson, School of Architecture and Planning, Univ. of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131, 505/277-5939.

### **Calls for Papers**

□ CAR-ORIENTED CITIES: The College of Architecture and Environmental Design at Arizona State Univ. (Tempe 85287) has issued a call for papers for a conference in Tempe April 7-9 on issues of urban design and planning for rapidly devleoping metropolitan areas, especially automobile-oriented cities. The theme is, "The City of the 21st Century." Contact: Conference Chair Madis Pihlak, 602/965-5898.

□ DEINSTITUTIONALIZATION: Community Program Innovations (Box 2066, Danvers, MA 01923) has issued a call for presentations at its sixth annual conference June 15-17 in Boston on community-based alternatives to institutionalization. The theme is, "Community-Based Alternatives: The State of the Art." Topics include residential, foster care, outpatient, management/administrative.

□ CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTS Quarterly (Children's Development Research Group, CUNY Graduate School and University Center, 33 W. 42nd St., New York, NY 10036, 212/944-2335) is issuing a call for papers on theme issues in 1988. Planned topics are children and vegetation, children and the electronic environment, street children and children in homeless families, and adolescents and the environment.

### **Jobs**

It would be awfully good to get some feedback from you on how/whether you use this listing of available positions.

We think It's valuable to let PNers know about job openings; and employers who seek progressive planners feel we are the best outreach to that group. But we almost never hear from either party whether this matching service is working.

So, whether you've inserted a notice here in order to fill a position or are a job-seeker, please let us know what kinds of results have occurred (we promise not to levy a finder's fee).

— Ed.

☐ PN REMINDER: Some of the jobs we list may have application deadlines earlier than when you receive the Newsletter. But deadlines can be adjusted sometimes. So we urge you to phone first, if a number is listed, and check on the deadline schedule.

☐ EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: The Citizens' Research Education Network (32 Elm St., Hartford, CT 06106), which provides technical assistance to community groups, is seeking an Executive Director. Salary is \$20,000-\$23,000.

☐ ECONOMIC RIGHTS: The National Community Relations Division of the American Friends Service Committee (1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102, 215/241-7000) has created a new position, National Representative for Economic Rights, to develop an economic rights program parallel to existing programs on women's and third world issues. Salary is \$26,000-\$28,000. Contact: Rick Boardman.

□ LIHIS STAFF: The Low Income Housing Information Service (1012 14th St. N.W. #1006, Wash. DC 20005, 202/662-1530) has openings for two positions: Director of the LIHIS National Mutual Housing Network Project (\$2,500-\$3,333/month); Director of the LIHIS National Anti-Displacement Project (\$2,333-\$2,750/month).

□ CENTER DIRECTOR: The Center for Neighborhood Development of the College of Urban Affairs, Cleveland State Univ. (Cleveland 44115) is searching for a Director, with a Master's in Urban Planning, Public Administration, or a related field, and at least five years' experience in neighborhood development activities. Salary is based on qualifications. Contact: Networker Dennis Keating, Acting Director.

□ PLANNING CHAIR: The Department of Planning in the College of Architecture, Arizona State Univ. (Tempe 85287) is initiating a search for a new Chair, who should be qualified for appointment as a tenured associate or full professor, with a record of teaching, research, and publication, and experience in academic administration and service. Salary is based on qualifications. Contact: Search Committee Chair Richard Tseng-yu Lai, 602/965-7167.

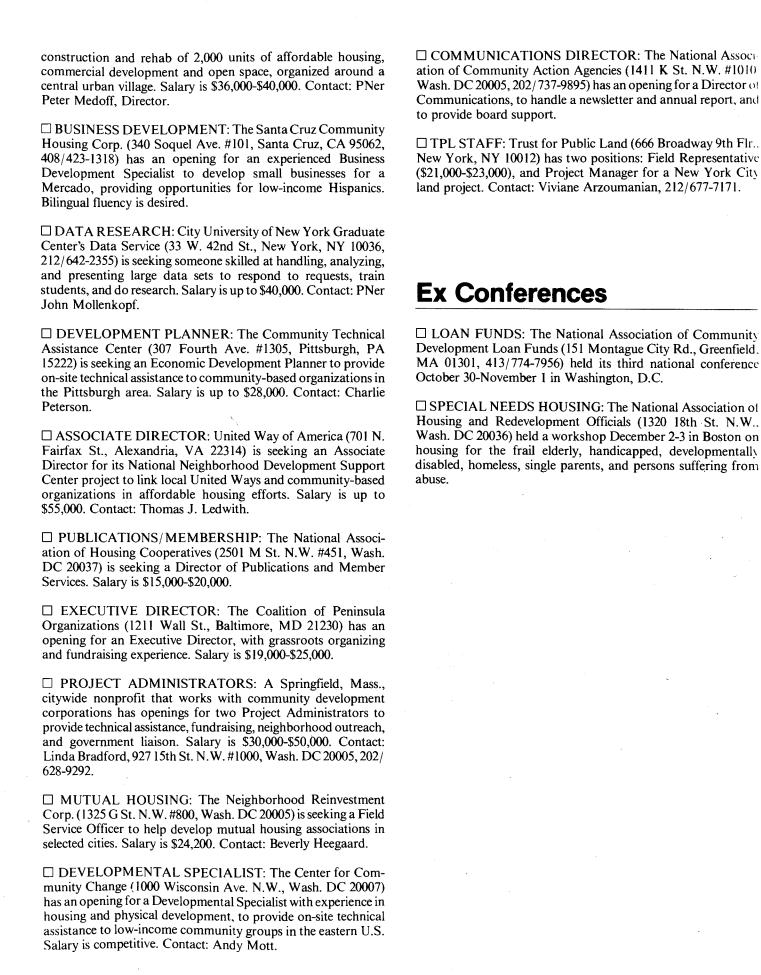
□ EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: The Chicago Rehab Network (53 W. Jackson, Chicago, IL 60604, 312/663-3936), which provides technical assistance and coordinates advocacy for a coalition of neighborhood-based housing development organizations, has an opening for an experienced Executive Director. Salary is \$30,000-\$35,000.

☐ HOUSING STAFF: The Camden Lutheran Housing Corp. (Box 3346, Camden, NJ 08101, 609/963-3547) has openings for an Executive Director, Construction Supervisor, bookkeeper, and secretary. The group's first project involves 13 units of new construction and rehab of 17 vacant structures in three sites for low- and moderate-income families and individuals.

☐ LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT: The American Planning Association (1776 Massachusetts Ave. NW., Wash. DC 20036) has an opening for a temporary, half-time Chapter Legislative Assistant. Contact: Nancy S. Willis, Director of Government Affairs, 202/872-0611.

☐ ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: The Office of Planning and Project Management, in the New York City Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Alcoholism Services (93 Worth St., New York, NY 10013) has an opening for an experienced Assistant Director. Salary is in the \$40,000 range. Contact: Networker John Kastan, Assistant Commissioner for Planning and Project Management, 212/925-3800.

DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST: The Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative (385 Dudley St., Roxbury, MA 02119, 617/442-9670) is searching for an experienced Development Specialist to implement a revitalization plan that calls for



## **Etcetera**

□ FEBRUARY PN DEADLINE: The arrival deadline for copy for the February <i>Planners Network</i> is Monday, February 1. We look forward to hearing from as many Networkers as possible. As always, our thanks to those who type their notes. It's a great help in production, and it reduces our chances of misreading what you write.  Arrival deadline for PN #68 copy: Monday, February 1.
TALK UP PN: Please don't be shy about sharing news of the Planners Network with others. Let them know about us. Probably the best outreach we have is when you educate and recruit your friends, co-workers, acquaintances, and others. We have a good, one-page introductory sheet, "The Planners Network—What It Is," which we can send you in any quantity you wish. "What It Is" includes a statement of our principles, a brief organizational history, a list of Steering Committee members (who also double as regional contacts) and the method for calculating contributions. If you wish, you can also send us a list of prospective Networkers, and we will contact them for you.
☐ PERSONAL UPDATES: There are a number of short communications in this issue from Network members, letting us know about new jobs, projects, what's happening in their lives, etc. We encourage this. Sharing this kind of "where-I'm-at" information helps create a sense of community, provide contact, generate support, and generally act like the network we strive to be.
□ ADDRESS CHANGES: Many Networkers seem to move around a lot. When you do, please let us have your old address and zip code as well as your new ones. Names (like luggage) sometimes are identical, and we want to be sure we change the right address card. Moreover, our cards are maintained in zip code order (because that's the way the Post Office wants the mail); so if we don't have your old zip code, we can't find your old card; adn we wind up paying postage for phantom recipients. So please help out and send both old and new addresses.
□ "CALL" STATEMENT: We have a one-page, broadside version of the "Call for Social Responsibility in the Planning and Building Profession," which appeared in PN #49. Copies are available on request. It makes a good addition to "The Planners Network—What It Is" in recruiting members.