

PLANNERS NETWORK

#81—April 19, 1990

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PN FREELoadERS/POSTCARD: Well, El Postcard Obnoxioso went out Monday, April 2, to some 480 PNers who (our records show) had not contributed financially in more than a year. Fear of receiving it (after the warning in PN #80) sent quite a number of you into a last-minute contributing frenzy (see the Financial Mini-Report, below). Often, the contributions were accompanied by short notes: "I am truly embarrassed and ashamed . . .," "Mea culpa! Mea culpa . . .," "My most humble and sincere apologies . . ." Even so, many checks and postcards no doubt will have crossed in the mails. We will adjust our records accordingly. We really do hope and expect that those of you who still are in the freeloading category—the most penurious excepted—will ante up. Not fair otherwise. (Once again, our apologies in advance to anyone unfairly accused; just let us know the true facts, and we'll correct our records.)

PN PURGE ALERT: Our quasi-annual PN Purge is about to happen once again. A reminder of the simple rules by which we play: "We don't hear from you; you don't hear from us." Unlike the issue of financial contributions (see PN Freeloaders/Postcard, above), on which we rely on cajoling and embarrassment, this rule we enforce. We keep records of any communication we get from you—whether it be an item for the newsletter, a check, a complaint, a compliment, whatever—anything that shows you're alive and reading the newsletter. We have no reason to keep sending you the newsletter unless you want to keep getting it; and, if we're not to have a huge, expensive mailing list, half of

which is "dead," we need tangible evidence of your continued interest.

So: Look to your address label to see whether you're headin' for Purge-ville. The key is the number of # signs: One means you're heading for a PN-less life; two means you're okay. If your label has only one # sign, you still can take evasive action, by communicating with us (preferably accompanied by a check). Otherwise, you will get one more issue, with another warning. Then—you'll be dropped (a condition we can reverse whenever you come to your senses, and realize the gaping hole in your PN-less life). Take heed.

REVISING PN DUES: The process of developing a revised PN dues structure has taken longer than anticipated: so, instead of a proposal as promised in PN #80 for this issue, we have to ask your patience for one more newsletter. Meantime, please forward any and all dues ideas, complaints, etc. to Bob Beauregard, Dept. of City and Regional Planning, Rutgers Univ., New Brunswick, NJ 08903, 201/932-3822, -4053.

FINANCIAL MINI-REPORT: Since the February newsletter, we have received contributions from 76 Networkers totaling \$2,692. Our thanks to each of you. Our year-to-date contributions have come from 162 PNers, totaling \$5,700. These totals compare with 343 contributions providing \$11,122.50 in all of 1989. Clearly, we're ahead of the curve, and credit has to go to your response to our efforts at converting PN freeloaders into paying Networkers.

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; 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 _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Planners Network • 1601 Connecticut Ave. N.W.
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Passing the Word

□ **WOMEN ORGANIZERS:** *A Beginning Collection of References and Resources*, by the Women Organizers' Collective, is a compilation of both published and unpublished books, articles, manuals, films and videos about and by women organizers. Contact: Terry Mizrahi; ECCO, Hunters College School of Social Work, 129 E. 79th St., New York, NY 10021, 212/452-7112.

□ **MUMFORD MEMORIAL:** A memorial for Lewis Mumford is planned for May 20 at the Hotchkiss School Chapel in Lakeville, CT, close to Mumford's Amenia, NY, home. Details were still in process at press time. If you're planning to attend, please contact W.H. "Ping" Ferry (914/725-5262), co-organizer of the memorial, with Kirkpatrick Sale.

□ **PROGRESSIVE PLANNERS/QUERY:** From Clara M. Thagard (719 Albritton Rd., Andalusia, AL 36420): Our small town of 12,000 in south-central Alabama is beginning environmental studies, and would like some information on ways to find progressive community planners in our area. Thank you for any help you can provide.

□ **GREAT BOOKS/PLANNING:** PNER Paul Niebanck (College Eight, Univ. of California, Santa Cruz, CA 95064) offered again last winter his "Great Books in Planning" seminar, and has compiled a two-page list of books chosen by his students.

□ **NETWORKER UPDATE:** From Julie Moed (790 Church St., #314, San Francisco, CA 94114): For the past year I've been running the recycling program for the San Francisco Conservation Corps, which is the first nonprofit youth corps in the country working with out-of-school, unemployed youth aged 18-24. The majority of corpsmembers are from Central America or Mexico, nearly all the others are black, and 90 percent are male. My job is a combination of project development, grant management, and direct service in recycling and youth development. I would enjoy hearing from other PNERs working in solid waste management or youth development. I also would encourage other planners to consider jobs in youth service and development; the work has been extremely rewarding and challenging.

□ **NETWORKER UPDATE:** From Jill Nathanson (29 51st St., Weekhawken, NJ 07087, 201/348-6119): I am an artist who also runs an architectural color consulting business, doing interior and exterior color work at very low cost for housing-for-the-homeless projects. I don't choose colors to create a decorative feeling, or use color psychology for control; I am working to develop ways to use color that are expressive, beautiful, and dignified, i.e., truly hip. I want to work with tenants of affordable housing to develop color choices for their buildings as well as with planners and architects.

□ **PUBLIC SERVICES/QUERY:** From David S. Burgess, Executive Director, Metropolitan Ecumenical Ministry (404 University Ave., Newark, NJ 07102, 201/623-9259): The Newark mayor and city council are prepared to study the city's need for housing, health care, nutrition, education, welfare, and police protection, including an expected shortfall in local tax revenues. Rutgers (Newark) Graduate School of Administration is preparing a study outline, and has asked us to prepare one also. We

need copies of similar studies and study outlines from other cities, which include comparisons of total costs, local tax revenues, and projected outside revenues.

□ **CONFERENCE PROPOSAL:** The Washington School, a continuing education project sponsored by The Institute for Policy Studies, is interested in organizing a national conference with other public education projects which focus on political education, critical thinking, activism and social justice. If you know of any similar types of programs, or if you are interested yourself in such a conference, please contact: Sue Goodwin, The Washington School, c/o Institute for Policy Studies, 1601 Connecticut Ave. N.W., Washington, DC 20009, 202/234-9382.

□ **DEVELOPMENT BURDEN/QUERY:** The city of Little Rock, AR, is annexing land west of the city, and is increasing user fees in older, incorporated areas (e.g. sewer fees) to pay for the new development. Arkansas ACORN is looking for ways to place the burden of development more on developers and less on residents of older, low- and moderate-income sections of the city. Contact: Lisa Hack, Arkansas ACORN, 523 W. 15th St., Little Rock, AR 72202, 501/376-7151.

□ **ENVIRONMENT/MARYLAND:** *The Foghorn* is a monthly newsletter supporting individual action for the environment, published by Friends of Gaia Inc. (Box 302, West River, MD 20778). No price listed. Contact: Keith Oliver, 301/263-7590.

□ **CRITICAL TEACHING** is a new bi-monthly newsletter of the Washington-Area Working Committee for Critical Teaching, an open and diverse group of educators and activists involved in participatory, liberating education. No price listed. Contact: Sue Goodwin, The Washington School, 1601 Connecticut Ave. N.W., Wash. DC 20009, 202/234-9382.

□ **ALTERNATIVE PHILANTHROPY:** The National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy (2001 S St. N.W. #620, Wash. DC 20009, 202/387-9177) has a four-page list of publications on workplace fundraising, corporate philanthropy, women's funds, and foundations and the United Way.

□ **HOUSING/WOMEN:** The Women and Housing Task Force (c/o National Low Income Housing Coalition, 1012 14th St. N.W. #1500, Wash. DC 20005, 202/662-1530), chaired by PNER Cushing Dolbeare, has issued a 16-page report, *Unlocking the Door: An Action Program for Meeting the Housing Needs of Women*. The report sets forth the dimensions of the housing problems facing women, and makes specific recommendations for solving them. Copies are \$5, plus postage.

□ **HOUSING LENDERS:** *Directions in Affordable Housing Finance* is a new bimonthly newsletter provided as a membership service by the National Association of Affordable Housing Lenders (43 Commercial Wharf #9, Boston, MA 02110, 617/742-0532). Membership is open to low- and moderate-income housing lenders, and also to non-lenders involved and concerned with affordable housing finance.

□ **HOUSING PRINCIPLES:** Following the October 7 Housing Now! march on Washington, representatives of a number of the sponsoring organizations (including PN Chair Chester Hartman) met to develop a set of principles to guide future housing work by
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Homelessness: Sign of the Times

by Ira Goldstein

Over the past several months, citizens of most major metropolitan areas have been treated to a series of opinions on the roots and resolutions of "the homeless problem." Many of these opinions reflect anger and frustration at those who are homeless; others express outrage in a more constructive direction—at the structural causes of homelessness.

In an attempt to gain some insight into some of the most fundamental questions about this special segment of our growing population of persons in poverty (numbering over 32.5 million in 1987), a statewide study of Pennsylvania's homeless was undertaken by the Coalition on Homelessness in Pennsylvania and Temple University's Institute for Public Policy Studies.

Data were collected on 3,736 sheltered homeless households constituting some 5,445 persons. Adjusting for known undercount, there were approximately 7,260 homeless persons across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania huddled in public and private shelters on that frigid January night in 1988, approximately 60,000 throughout 1987. Detailed data were collected on each household including: (1) household size and composition; (2) location prior to shelter; (3) source and level of income; (4) personal problems and circumstances contributing to the household's homelessness; and (5) age, race, gender and school attendance for each individual in the household.

Because we have come to rely on a fair and impartial "invisible hand" to insure that there will be jobs and ample housing available, even for those of limited means, we now suffer the effects of a system out of control. What this invisible hand has done is shove hundreds of thousands of people across our nation into the streets, abandoned buildings, automobiles and public shelters. In Philadelphia, we estimate that every 15 minutes, another person experiences homelessness.

What we have learned all too painfully is that the "housing market" has not magically provided low- and moderate-income housing in sufficient quantity for all those in need, nor have those charged with distributing and financing housing

done so in an equitable and color-blind fashion.

Two entities integral to the production, distribution and financing of our nation's housing stock, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the savings and loan industry, are rotten with fraud, mismanagement and moral bankruptcy. Neither economic system nor laws nor regulatory agencies have seen to this.

How bad is the problem? Housing experts have determined that a household should spend no more than 30% of its income on housing in order to be able to afford the other necessities of life. Nationally some 5.9 million owners (10.5%) and 8.5 million renters (26.2%) are spending in excess of 40% of their incomes towards housing; this represents approximately 16% of all households.

In Philadelphia, approximately 100,000 households are spending 35% or more of their income on housing. Of those 100,000, 90,000 are households with annual incomes at or below \$12,000; 48,000 are households headed by minorities; and 65,000 are headed by women. In short, one in six Philadelphia households is in serious jeopardy of having either to downgrade substantially or lose their homes.

Simultaneously, Philadelphia maintains a stock of approximately 20,000 aban-

doned units, and is a victim of a local housing authority which has a waiting list extending years into the future, while thousands of units wait to "come on line."

Compounding these supply problems are those of effective demand for housing. As of 1987, 20% of Philadelphia households had incomes under \$6,700, meaning they could afford under \$200 a month for housing; this is well below the \$335 approximate average monthly cost of rental housing in Philadelphia.

Among homeless Philadelphians, approximately 14% have no income at all to put towards temporary or permanent shelter; 28% have monthly incomes below \$300; and another 24% have incomes between \$300 and \$600 monthly. Clearly, the market has not equilibrated.

Besides the growing disparity between the level of income and the cost of housing, what other forces influence the level and nature of homelessness? How about 10 years of federal administrations dedicated to serving only the "truly needy," shifting the burden of supporting social programs to states and from states to local governments?

How about six years of state welfare policy—implemented in Pennsylvania by (now Attorney General, then Governor) Richard Thornburgh—designed specifically to punish the poor?

Compounding these irresponsible and punitive acts were a careless deinstitutionalization of a mentally ill population; inexpensive, highly addictive drugs; governmental, institutional and inter-personal racism and discrimination with impunity. With all this in the public policy background, is it any wonder that we consider the enforcement of vagrancy laws and temporary lean-to villages as solutions to the homeless problem?

The development of meaningful social policy aimed at eradicating homelessness at its roots is, without question, possible. However, it involves making a commitment to real change. At the most fundamental level, it requires suturing the *corpus callosum* of social programs which, after eight years of Ronald Reagan and two years of George Bush, stand as fragmented, ill-founded, and under-funded as ever.

What follows is a series of proposals, informed by the analysis of data on homeless Philadelphians, which begs to be evaluated as a package; picking and choosing among them will simply serve to

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.

perpetuate the problem.

- Homelessness is not a problem easily solved within the temporal constraints of a fiscal year or a term of office. That is, serious proposals to address the homeless problem call forth an investment model in which the returns are likely to come years after any official leaves public office.

- Direct anger, energy and resources toward systemic solutions. Homelessness is a systemic problem. When people work—and seek work—and still cannot afford housing we must rethink our approach of relying on the private market to provide for the poor amongst us. Data on homeless Philadelphians indicated that 11.4% were employed but with incomes too low to obtain suitable housing.

- Advocate for reform of state welfare policies which, in Pennsylvania, limit “able bodied” persons to 90 days of assistance (approximately \$600 a year). This program is targeted to those persons aged 18 to 45 whom the state assumes are able bodied (i.e., they can walk into the welfare office). Among homeless persons in Philadelphia, this age cohort constitutes 67.1% of all homeless, and 87.5% of these individuals are black.

- Establish an aggressive and coordi-

nated job development and training program.

- Establish and support a flexible, vigorous low-income housing program.

- Adequately fund drug and alcohol treatment programs, which are integrated with other areas of need. 32.8% of homeless households in Philadelphia have drug and/or alcohol problems serious enough to have been a force in their homelessness.

- Provide a realistic opportunity for community life for the mentally ill, retarded and disabled. 32.7% of the homeless households in Philadelphia are either mentally ill or retarded.

- Coordinate homeless programs with schools. Approximately two-thirds of homeless children between 5 and 17 years of age do not attend school. Develop programs through which parents, along with children, receive the additional benefits of life skills training and education in the area of parenting and family planning. Data on homeless Philadelphians indicate that 58.5% suffer from these deficiencies.

- Coordinate all existing programs and services. Job training cannot be effective if an individual is a substance abuser; and detox programs cannot work if there is no incentive at the end of that long hard

journey. This means funders and providers of service to the homeless must put aside any turf mentality for the good of the population we all desperately wish to serve.

- Hold each level of government appropriately responsible. Cities can't do it all, particularly in an era when the federal government brags of tax cuts but neglects to mention that they are more than offset by state and local tax rises. But certainly, if cities make homelessness their priority, more can be done. In fiscal 1989/1990, Philadelphia cut its homeless budget in half; it is expected that perhaps another 30% will be cut in fiscal 1990/1991.

Homelessness can be resolved. But, it will not simply fade away beneath the glow of 1,000 or 1,000,000 points of light.

Ira Goldstein is Associate Director of the Institute for Public Policy Studies, Temple Univ., Philadelphia, PA 19122. Copies of Homelessness in Pennsylvania: How Can This Be? (\$10), and Homelessness in Philadelphia: Roots, Realities and Resolutions (\$15), are available from: Philadelphia Committee for the Homeless, 802 N. Broad St., Philadelphia, PA 19130.

Passing the Word

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progressive housing activists. This nine-point document is available by sending a SASE to PN (1601 Connecticut Ave. N.W., Wash. DC 20009).

□ **MOBILE HOMES/SITE RENT:** Owners of mobile homes frequently rent the land on which they place their homes, using short-term leases, often one year. Rent increase requests in this housing sector are potentially abusive because the cost of moving can be \$10,000-\$15,000. In Florida, with over 400,000 rented mobile home slips, this is a major problem. Attempts to mediate rent disputes are seldom successful (only 25% reach any form of agreement). A team at the Florida State Univ. Dispute Resolution Center is examining this problem in the hope of making recommendations for programmatic reform. We welcome news of experiences in other areas, and would be happy to share our results. Contact: PNER Bruce Stiftel, Dept. of Urban and Regional Planning R117, Florida State Univ., Tallahassee, FL 32306.

□ **ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT:** The vast majority of environmental violations result in negotiated settlements. In Florida, we estimate these at about 95%. But, little is understood about the consequences of negotiations on the satisfaction of statutory intent. Neil Sipe and PNER Bruce Stiftel are beginning a study of the impact of various negotiation approaches on

settlements and incidence of repeat violations. Like minds please call: Dept. of Urban and Regional Planning R-117, Florida State Univ., Tallahassee, FL 32306.

□ **HOUSING/AIDS-CANADA:** The Univ. of British Columbia Center for Human Settlements (Vancouver, BC V6T 1W5, 604/228-5254) is carrying out a national study for Health and Welfare Canada on the existing housing situation and on policy and program options for persons with AIDS. It is interested in contacting others doing similar research. Contact: PNER David Hulchanski, Director.

□ **RURAL WORKING POOR:** The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (777 N. Capitol St. N.E. #705, Wash. DC 20002, 202/408-1080) has issued *Fulfilling Work's Promise: Policies to Increase Incomes of the Rural Working Poor*, a 56-page report which calls for expanding the earned-income tax credit and full restoration of the minimum wage. No price listed.

□ **THE ECOLOGIST,** a 21-year-old, British periodical, which has become the leading international “Green” journal, is now offered for distribution in North America by MIT Press (55 Hayward St., Cambridge, MA 02142, 617/253-2889). Subscriptions are \$25 for students, \$30 for other individuals.

□ **GLOBAL ECONOMY:** *The Global Factory* is a 94-page analysis of and guide to action on the links between economic dislocation in the United States and distorted development in the

Third World. Copies are \$7.50, from: Maquiladora Project/Community Relations Division, American Friends Service Committee, 1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102.

□ TAX JUSTICE: *Inequality & The Federal Budget Deficit* is a 20-page analysis from Citizens for Tax Justice (1311 L St. N.W., Wash. DC 20005, 202/626-3780), which traces the federal deficit "to huge tax breaks granted to the most wealthy Americans," and proposes a strategy highlighted by "reversing the tax cuts previously granted to the wealthiest five percent of the people." No price listed.

□ HOUSING POLICY: *Housing America: Learning from the Past; Planning for the Future* is a 40-page summary of a series of housing policy seminars sponsored by the Urban Institute, 2100 M St. N.W., Wash. DC 20037, 202/833-7200. The seminars reviewed present policies and programs, and explored policy alternatives. No price listed.

□ INSURANCE REDLINING: *Agency Location and the Process of Urban Disinvestment*, by PNER Gregory D. Squires, William Velez, and Karl E. Taeuber, is a 20-page analysis which documents a connection in Milwaukee between insurance redlining and the location of insurance agents, and also proposes a series of corrective steps. Over a 20-year period, the analysis found agents leaving increasingly minority neighborhoods, with significant redlining consequences, since two-thirds of an agent's homeowners' policies are sold to residents of the agent's office neighborhood. Copies: Center for Demography and Ecology, Univ. of Wisconsin, 1180 Observatory Dr. #4412, Madison, WI 53706, 608/262-2182.

□ PN UPDATE: From Networker Patrick Morrissy (National Housing Institute, 439 Main St., Orange, NJ 07050, 201/678-3110): I've taken some time off from my community development corporation (H.A.N.D.S. Inc.) to study architecture and work on a book to guide CDCs in cutting construction costs on affordable new housing. In May, I will be going to Sweden, courtesy of the Swedish-American Bicentennial Fund, to look at factory-built, high-quality housing, with an eye to adapting such a system for better-quality, less-expensive affordable housing in the U.S.

□ FINANCIAL SERVICES: The Southern Finance Project (329 Rensselaer, Charlotte, NC 28203, 704/372-7072) has available several publications on financial markets, institutions, and policy issues in the South. Among them: *What's the Guaranty? Insurer Insolvencies, the Public, and Guaranty Funds in the South* (\$2); and *Democratic Money: A Populist Perspective* (\$1).

□ HOUSING VIDEO: *There's No Place Like H.O.M.E.* is a 26-minute, prize-winning, color documentary about a community-based development organization, Homeworkers Organized for More Employment of Orland, ME, and its efforts to construct low-income housing in rural seacoast Maine. Available in film (\$50 rental) or VHS (\$29.95), from: Renato Tonelli, Saturn Communication, 1454 84th St., Brooklyn, NY 11228, 718/236-0153.

□ RECYCLING/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: *No Time To Waste* is a 32-page special publication from the Center for Neighborhood Technology (2125 W. North Ave., Chicago, IL 60647, 312/278-4800), which provides case studies and other reporting on how communities can reap economic development

benefits from the burgeoning shift to recycling. Single copies are \$5; bulk rates are available.

□ FIGHTING HUNGER in Your Community is a guide from the League of Women Voters Education Fund (League of Women Voters, 1730 M St. N.W., Wash. DC 20036, 202/429-1965) on establishing a local hunger effort, with profiles of 10 model projects and lists of local and national contacts on hunger and homelessness. Copies are \$7.50; bulk rates are available.

□ HOUSING PRIMER: *Low-Income Housing in America: An Introduction*, by PNER Larry Yates is a 48-page essay on the housing situation of low-income Americans, and the institutions and politics that affect it. Copies are \$7, from: Low Income Housing Information Service, 1012 14th St. N.W. #1500, Wash. DC 20005, 202/662-1530.

□ CONSUMER ELECTRONICS/TRADE: *The Consumer Electronics Industry and the Future of American Manufacturing: How the U.S. Lost the Lead and Why We Must Get Back in the Game*, by Susan Walsh Sanderson, is a 48-page report on industrial competitiveness issues. Copies are \$8, from: Economic Policy Institute, 1730 Rhode Island Ave. N.W. #812, Wash. DC 20036, 202/775-8810.

□ TECHNOLOGY GUIDE: *The Processes of Technological Innovation*, by Louis G. Tornatzky and Mitchell Fleischer, is a 320-page compilation of research-based knowledge about innovation that updates a 1983 edition. Copies are \$46.75, from: Lexington Books, 125 Spring St., Lexington, MA 02173, 800/235-3565.

□ NETWORKER UPDATE: From Kate Foster (506 Lawrence Apts., West Drive, Princeton, NJ 08540): After a two-year assignment with the Peace Corps as an urban planner with the Swaziland Ministry of Natural Resources, I'm studying for a Ph.D. in public affairs at Princeton. My research interest is in government/administrative cities, the interplay between different levels of government in the planning process, and the cities' potential for "industrial diversification." I'm focusing on Washington, DC, and would like to hear from PNERs there involved in planning activities.

□ CDBG NEWSLETTER: *Targeting Times* is a new newsletter from the Coalition for Low-Income Community Development (1000 Wisconsin Ave. N.W., Wash. DC 20007, 202/342-0594), which focuses on the community development block grant program, and efforts to increase its low-income benefits. Subscriptions are \$10.

□ PUBLICATIONS LIST: The Urban Land Institute (1090 Vermont Ave. N.W., Wash. DC 20005) has issued a four-page tabloid publication list, *Tools for Building a Community*, which includes among other titles: *Nonfederal Housing Programs: How States and Localities Are Responding to Federal Cutbacks in Low-Income Housing* (231 pages, \$36); *Affordable Housing: Twenty Examples from the Private Sector* (106 pages, \$22); and a video, *Affordable Housing: Restoring the Dream* (12 minutes, \$29.95).

□ ENVIRONMENTAL MAGAZINE: *Garbage: The Practical Journal for the Environment* is a six-month-old independently published environmental magazine, with articles on food, health,

gardening, and more. Subscriptions (six issues) are \$21, from: Garbage, Box 56520, Boulder, CO 80321. Editorial offices: 435 9th St., Brooklyn, NY 11215, 718/788-1700.

□ **NONPROFIT ADVOCACY:** The Union Institute Center for Public Policy (1731 Connecticut Ave. N.W. #300, Wash. DC 20009, 202/667-1313) has announced a Project on Nonprofit Advocacy to increase public awareness of the nonpartisan importance of advocacy work for all aspects of democratic life, and to develop an action agenda of policy and other suggestions which enhance, expand, and improve nonprofit advocacy work. It is seeking ideas at-large on how to increase and enhance nonprofit advocacy.

□ **HOMELESSNESS LEGISLATION:** The Planners Network has joined a number of organizations in endorsing a homelessness legislative proposal, the Homeless Outreach Act, which would require the Social Security Administration to conduct outreach to homeless persons, either directly or through grants to state or local governments or to private nonprofits. Details: PNER Maria Foscarinis, National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, 1575 Eye St. N.W., Wash. DC 20005, 202/289-1680.

□ **LEARNING ALLIANCE** (494 Broadway, New York, NY 10012, 212/226-7171) has issued a 16-page April-August catalogue of workshops, conferences, travel opportunities, and action/study groups on such issues as New York City's future, the environment, housing, children, social investing, and human rights, among others.

□ **NEWSLETTER/ENVIRONMENT:** *The Wrenching Debate Gazette* (Wrench Sq., 14 Lincoln Ave. #3, Somerville, MA 02145, 617/625-1786) is an occasional newsletter giving a progressive slant on the environment movement, published by Richard Grossman, former Executive Director of Greenpeace USA, and co-author of *Fear at Work: Job Blackmail, Labor, and the Environment*.

□ **CO-HOUSING QUERY:** From Chris Ryan (RR1, Box 106, West Chazy, NY 12992): I am writing for information on how to set up and maintain a co-housing community. We live in northeastern New York, in a rural setting, produce our own electricity in an owner-built home, and share this lifestyle with 14 other families. Presently, we own land and houses as independent families. But some of us are planning to expand our living space, and are considering a co-housing design. Such a plan would solve many difficulties relating to a lifestyle without traditional homes and power hook-ups.

□ **ACCESSORY APARTMENTS:** *The State of the Art* is a semi-annual research service on using accessory apartments as housing for the elderly and cost-sharing for first-time homebuyers. Subscriptions are \$75, prepaid, from: Patrick H. Hare Planning and Design, 1246 Monroe St. N.E., Wash. DC 20017, 202/269-9334.

□ **HOMEOWNER DEDUCTION:** "Deductio Ad Absurdum," by PNERs Peter Dreier and John Atlas, is a three-page article in the February 1990 *Washington Monthly* magazine, which describes how the homeowner tax deduction amounts to a \$34-billion annual federal subsidy that primarily benefits the wealthy. Single copies: \$3; subscriptions: \$33, from: Washington Monthly, 1611 Connecticut Ave. N.W., Wash. DC 20009, 202-462-0128.

□ **MEMBER UPDATE:** From John E. Davis (11 Germain St., Burlington, VT 05401): I am Housing Director for the City of Burlington, and a part-time teacher and consultant on issues of limited-equity housing, neighborhood planning, and municipal regulation of land and housing.

□ **HOMELESSNESS RESOURCE:** *A Study Circle on Homelessness and Affordable Housing* is a course book for a project of the Topsfield Foundation Inc. (Rt. 169, Box 203, Pomfret, CT 06258, 203/928-2616), which also created recently a Study Circles Resource Center. Single copies are \$5.

□ **HANDSNET NETWORK:** HandsNet (819 Pacific Ave. #2, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, 408/427-0808) is a national computer-based information and communications network on a broad range of social justice issues. Participants include 650 organizations in 45 states.

□ **ANTI-APARTHEID:** Any Harvard degree-holders in Networkland who haven't joined HRAAA? Harvard-Radcliffe Alumni/ae Against Apartheid is an organization of progressive grads trying (for now) to force their alma mater to divest completely from South Africa—as over 60 colleges and universities already have done. As in past years, they're running a slate of petition candidates for the Board of Overseers, one of the University's two government bodies, elected directly by degree-holders. They've already won four seats on the 30-person Board (including Archbishop Tutu last year). Among this year's slate are Donald Woods (the South African editor exiled for his writings on the Steven Biko murder, whose autobiography was the basis for the film *Cry Freedom*) and Boston City Councillor Dave Scondras, one of the nation's few openly gay elected office-holders. If you haven't joined HRAAA (or if you'd like to mount a similar effort at your alma mater), contact Robert Paul Wolff, its Executive Director, at 107 Buffam Rd., Pelham, MA 01002, 413/253-3452 or Chester Hartman at PN, who's on the HRAAA Executive Committee. Overseers ballots have been mailed out and are due at the end of May.

□ **HOUSING/CANADA:** "Homewreckers," by Grant Wanzel of the School of Architecture faculty at the Technical Univ. of Nova Scotia, is a critical assessment of Canadian government efforts to dismantle Canada's 40-year record of developing effective affordable housing programs. It appeared as a four-page article in a 1989 *This Magazine*. For a copy, send a SASE to PN (1601 Connecticut Ave. N.W., Wash. DC 20009).

□ **LANDLORD LIABILITY:** Tenants in two New York Chinatown apartment buildings made homeless by fires have succeeded through legal actions in forcing the building owners to use insurance proceeds to repair the buildings. Low-income housing advocates have viewed the outcome as signaling a new trend in preserving affordable units in a neighborhood where cleared sites are more valuable to investors than occupied, rent-regulated buildings. Details: Asian Americans for Equality, 98 E. Broadway, New York, NY 10002.

□ **HUD INFORMATION QUERY:** HUD Information Clearinghouses (1600 Rockville Blvd. #5-L, Rockville, MD 20850, 301/251-5154) is seeking academic reports and other information sources for its three databases, HUD User, the Fair Housing Information Clearinghouse, and the Drug Information and Strategy Clearinghouse, that address HUD Secretary Jack

Kemp's Department priorities: expanding homeownership and affordable housing; creating jobs and economic development through enterprise zones; ending homelessness; encouraging resident management and homesteading; enforcing fair housing; and helping make public housing drug free.

□ S&L BAILOUT/HOUSING: Planners Network has joined with ACORN (522 Eighth St. S.E., Wash. DC 20003, 202/547-9292) and other organizations to force the Resolution Trust Corp. to comply with provisions in the S&L bailout legislation for low-cost financing for low- and moderate-income purchases of RTC properties, and for price reductions to nonprofit housing developers and low-income homebuyers. Details: Brian Maney or Jane Uebelhoer at ACORN.

□ PEACE DIVIDEND: *The World's Wasted Wealth*, by J.W. Smith, is a 300-page book which describes how to claim the "peace dividend" created by lowered superpower tensions and reduced arms requirements. Copies are \$12.95 (paper) from: New Worlds Press, Box 1458, Kalispell, MT 59903, 406/756-7067.

Networkers' Reports

East Germany: Transition to Capitalism

by Peter Marcuse

(PN Steering Committee member Peter Marcuse of the Columbia Univ. Urban Planning faculty is spending the year in East Germany on a Fulbright Scholarship. His address: Max-Beer Strasse 54, 05/02, 1054 Berlin, German Democratic Republic, (37) (2)-28-17-153.)

As the recent elections show, the promise of a higher standard of living is an overwhelming pull from the capitalist West for the residents of Eastern Europe. For East Germany, combined in addition with nationalist sentiments of varied tones, the pull gave the conservatives an absolute majority in the new Parliament.

Only tiny fringe parties in the German Democratic Republic oppose unification—the Spartacists, for instance. All of the other left parties in the G.D.R., whether they oppose unification or not, take the public position that it should go more slowly, with better protection for East German citizens, but that it must and should come.

That also was the position of the Modrow regime; Modrow's party, the Party of Democratic Socialism, the former ruling Socialist Unity Party, concedes the inevitability of German unity, and simply opposes the unconditional surrender that the most conservative West German leaders are calling for. The conditions most often called for are the protection of the social benefits built up over 40 years of a centralized and paternalistic state system.

But, till recently, going slowly and protecting social benefits have been generalized slogans, playing on widespread uneasiness with the aggressive and overweening tactics of Bundeschancellor Kohl, rather than the results of specific threats or concrete fears. Protection against unemployment has been the only social benefit that has figured widely in the political debates so far.

A new fear now is taking hold in the G.D.R., however, that may change the terms of the discussion on unification significantly: the fear of dispossession, displacement, homelessness.

The newly formed East German Tenants Association held its first mass rally last month in Alexanderplatz in Berlin; represent-

atives of all major political groupings spoke, with the notable exception of the conservatives.

The organization was touched off by the reappearance of private landlords who years ago had abandoned their property to communal management because of strict rent controls, but now are coming around talking to tenants about repairs and higher rents. Rents, in public as well as private housing, have been amazingly low: about 4% of income, on the average. Maintenance also has been low, because the society is not rich enough to do more; everyone wants better quality, but many cannot afford the price.

The conservatives see the private market as the simple answer, with housing allowances for the poor.

There is tremendous interest here in our experience with housing allowances, and with the private market generally.

Recently a West Berlin firm with something of a shady record made an offer to the local communal housing office to manage all of its 50,000 units for it, for 2 marks a unit a month, coupled with a right to buy as soon as sales were permitted. Figuring out how to analyze or respond to such an (outrageous!) offer is something new for people here; Westerners unfortunately have experience with such dealings.

Ownership issues are also high on the list of concerns; most are content with public ownership (or would be if the KWVs, the managing public entities, were more open and democratic and had adequate resources), but are very worried if the "public" now becomes conservative Western-run. So models of cooperative ownership are being explored; when we add "limited equity" or "nonprofit," the concept sounds strange, because profit from speculation in housing is only known about from newspapers or television.

On paper, and in important ways in reality, the housing system here is an example of a social way of handling a basic need. It's too bad the future agenda probably will be only to preserve what can be defended against the private market, instead of opening the system out and improving it within its own context.

Upcoming Conferences

□ HOUSING RIGHTS: The Shelter for the Homeless Foundation (22 Mowat Ave. #100, Toronto, ONT M6K 3E8, Canada, 416/538-7511) will sponsor a conference May 11-13 in Ottawa on "Working for Housing Rights." Registration is \$135 (Canadian). A separate conference, "Leadership in Housing: The Next Decade," has been scheduled in Ottawa May 13-16.

□ LAND TRUSTS: The Institute for Community Economics (151 Montague City Rd., Greenfield, MA 01301, 413/774-7956) will sponsor the third National Community Land Trust Conference August 14-19 in Burlington, VT. The theme: "Land & Affordable Housing: A Legacy for Our Children."

□ SRO HOUSING: The National Alliance to End Homelessness (1518 K St. N.W. #206, Wash. DC 20005, 202/638-1526) will sponsor a conference June 13-15 in Los Angeles, "Housing for the Homeless: A National Conference on Single Room/Efficiency Housing."

□ HOUSING NOW! (425 Second St. N.W., Wash. DC 20001, 202/347-2405) will sponsor a conference May 26-28 in Cincinnati for decent and affordable housing and an end to homelessness. The conference is a follow-up to its October 7, 1989, rally in Washington.

□ TUFTS INSTITUTE: The Lincoln Filene Center (Tufts Univ., Medford, MA 02155, 617/381-3549) will present the seventh annual Management & Community Development Institute June 4-9 at the Center. The Institute offers 44 one- and two-day courses in professional training for people active in community development.

□ WOMEN/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: The Ms. Foundation for Women and The Women's Foundation of Northern California are co-sponsoring the third annual Institute on Women and Economic Development, scheduled for June 7-10 in Berkeley, CA. Registration fee of \$430 includes tuition and room and board; financial aid is available. Please contact: Sara Gould, 212/353-8580.

□ PEACE/HUMAN SERVICES: A May 14 forum at Hunter College School of Social Work (129 E. 79th St., New York, NY 10021) will utilize videos to inform, illustrate connections, and mobilize participants to action in relation to the enormous military establishment and its role in the deterioration of human services. Contact: Solveig Wilder, 212/452-7112.

□ COMPUTERS/SOCIAL CHANGE. June 8-9 are the dates for the fifth annual conference on "Computers for Social Change: Tools for Political and Community Organizing," to be held at Hunter College (129 E. 79th St., New York, NY 10021, 212/452-7112). The conference is sponsored by the Education Center for Community Organizing at Hunter's School of Social Work. Registration is \$40; limited scholarships are available.

□ HOUSING MINISTRY: The McAuley Institute (1320 Fenwick Ln. #600, Silver Spring, MD 20910, 301/588-8110) will sponsor the third housing ministry conference June 1-3 in Baltimore. The theme: "If Not Us, Who? If Not Now, When?" Registration, room, and board are \$190 (double occupancy).

□ GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT: A "World Congress of Local Governments for a Sustainable Future," has been called at the United Nations on September 5-8 to design a strategy for local governments to address the global environmental crisis. The United Nations Environment Programme has joined with the International Union of Local Authorities, the U.S.-based Center for Innovative Diplomacy and the National League of Cities, to hold the gathering. Details: Jeb Brugmann, Congress Director, 45 Rice St., Cambridge, MA 02140, 617/491-6124.

Calls for Papers

□ TRAFFIC CONGESTION: The Institute of Transportation Engineers and the American Society of Civil Engineers (c/o Eva Lerner-Lam, The Palisades Group, 85 Palmer Ave., Tenafly, NJ 07670, 201/567-8638) have issued a call for papers for a May 6-8, 1991, conference in New Jersey on "Implementing Urban Mobility Solutions." The conference will focus on cooperation among the public and private sectors and transportation professionals on implementing/paying for mobility solutions.

□ HUMAN SERVICES/COMPUTERS: The Special Interest Group on Computers & Society of the Association for Computing Machinery (c/o Ron Anderson, 5116 Edgewater, Mound, MN 55364, 612/472-8760) has issued a call for papers for a September 13-16, 1990, conference in Washington, DC, on "Computers and the Quality of Life." The focus will be on promoting computer applications for people with special needs.

□ RURAL DEVELOPMENT: The Economic Research Service of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (1301 New York Ave. N.W. #324, Wash. DC 20005) is seeking papers for a planned symposium on "Rural Development: Strategies That Work," which also will be published. One-page proposals are due July 2. Details: P.N. David Sears, 202/786-1544.

□ RADICAL SCHOLARS: The Open Univ. of the Left (Chicago), *Monthly Review*, and the Union for Radical Political Economics-Midwest are co-sponsoring a conference in Chicago, October 19-21. Planning committees are soliciting papers on the following topics (among others): Ecology, Labor, Political Economy, and Race and Class. Details: David L. Williams, Conference Coordinator, Open Univ. of the Left, Box 3034, Chicago, IL 60654.

Jobs

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.

SENIOR ASSOCIATE: The Ms. Foundation for Women (141 Fifth Ave. #6S, New York, NY 10010, 212/353-8580) is hiring a half-time Senior Program Associate to staff a new funding initiative called the Collaborative, to support innovative economic development projects benefiting low-income women, and increase learning in the field. Contact: Sara Gould.

ICE INTERNS/STAFF: The Institute for Community Economics (151 Montague City Rd., Greenfield, MA 01301, 413/774-7956) is seeking to fill three staff positions and several internships. The staff positions are Revolving Loan Fund Officer, Housing Technical Assistance Provider, and Maintenance and Property Manager. The one-year internships begin in June. Compensation is based on need.

REINVESTMENT SPECIALIST: The North Carolina Legal Services Resource Center Inc. (112 S. Blount St., Box 27343, Raleigh, NC 27611, 919/821-0042) has an opening for a Community Reinvestment Specialist to aid local groups in benefiting from statewide CRA agreements. Salary is \$20,000.

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR: The National Housing Institute (439 Main St., Orange, NJ 07050, 201/678-3110) is seeking a Communications Director, to oversee, develop, and implement short- and long-range communications strategies in support of Institute programs and activities. Salary is up to \$30,000. Contact: David Steinglass.

SF/REDEVELOPMENT: The San Francisco Redevelopment Agency (Box 646, San Francisco, CA 94101) has openings in several staff positions: Development Specialist (\$49,374-\$60,034), and Assistant Development Specialist (\$40,690-\$49,374), both with experience in housing development; Senior Planner (\$47,710-\$57,980), with experience in large-scale urban redevelopment; and Financial Operations Manager (\$55,770-\$67,782), with accounting and personnel experience. Contact: Administrative Services Officer.

RESEARCH/ANALYSIS: The Southern Finance Project (329 Rensselaer, Charlotte, NC 28203, 704/372-7072) has an opening for a Researcher/Policy Analyst, with experience in investigating and analyzing firms and issues in the financial industry. Salary is \$18,000.

DEVELOPMENT SPECIALISTS: The Santa Cruz Community Housing Corp. (Box 632, Santa Cruz, CA 95061, 408/423-1318) has openings for two Housing Development Specialists and also for an Economic Development Specialist, to help implement new projects in the rebuilding of downtown Santa Cruz in the aftermath of the October 17 earthquake. Salaries depend on qualifications.

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE: The Community Information Exchange (1029 Vermont Ave. N.W. #710, Wash. DC 20005, 202/628-2981) is seeking a Research Associate to help community groups understand strategies and resources for community revitalization, and use information and computer technology in their community development work. Salary is based on experience.

PN Quilt Raffle?

Ralph Nesson, Executive Director of the Washington County Economic Opportunity Agency (Fayetteville, AR), suggests we might do a raffle for a genuine handstitched Ozark Mountain quilt to raise funds for PN—something he has done quite successfully in his community.

It will work, of course, only if PNers will buy (and sell) raffle tickets. Ralph has generously offered to carry out some of the basic tasks. We need to get feedback on the idea.

Please use the coupon below to let us know your interest/commitment. Only if we get sufficient response will be go ahead with the plan.

Please clip and return a.s.a.p. to PN (1601 Connecticut Ave. NW, Wash. DC 20009).

YES! Count me in for a commitment to buy/sell to others
_____ PN quilt raffle tickets at \$2.00 a ticket.

Name _____

Address _____

Etcetera

JUNE PN DEADLINE: The arrival deadline for copy for the June *Planners Network* is Monday, June 4. 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 #82 copy: Monday, June 4.

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 of calculating contributions. If you wish, you can also send us a list of prospective Networkers, and we will contact them for you.

MOVING? TELL PN: When you move, please let us know directly. If our (non-forwardable) Third Class newsletter is returned to us, with your new address, which is the way we usually learn of Pners' moves (we mark the newsletter "Return &

Forwarding Postage Guaranteed"), it costs us 69¢ per; a thoughtful change-of-address card to us on the other hand will cost you just 15¢.

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; and 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.