

PLANNERS NETWORK

#92—March 24, 1992

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MORE PN FEEDBACK: The whither/wither PN issue raised in PN #91 by John Friedmann, Michael Brown, and Pat Morrissy, and annotated by PN Chair Chester Hartman, didn't exactly elicit a flood of responses. Herewith the lot of them:

• From an academic Networker who asked to be anonymous: "I disagree with Brown and Friedmann (who suggested time may have passed PN by), and hope we will not take their comments as typical of other PNers. Surely, the world has changed, and the nature of progressive planning within it; but, in my view, there is no other mechanism that serves the same function as PN.

"However, if I thought their comments were typical, I probably would suggest some sort of national meeting or gathering to address the status of progressive planning today—and of PN as one effort related to it."

• From Margit Mayer of the Free University in Berlin: "I still find the newsletter with all its information and connections very useful, maybe because I'm usually far away, and don't have as many opportunities to find out about these things as other U.S. Networkers do."

• From Karen Brown of the Families and Work Institute in New York: "I hope PN does not fold in the near future. As someone tentatively exploring the planning and nonprofit housing development fields, I find the newsletter a valuable source of information—both in terms of written and 'people' resources."

• From Harvey Jacobs of the University of Wisconsin in Madison: "I really appreciate PN's existence, but would also not object to a transformation of PN into another forum—perhaps something more like a magazine or journal—so we could share more of our thoughts and experiences."

• From Maggie Grieve of Washington, DC: "I would not like to see the newsletter stop, but think a more active, face-to-face event or two might revive interest."

Surely, other Networkers have more to say than this on the subject. Please drop us a note with your thoughts, and the discussion can continue in an upcoming PN.

PN AT THE APA? Following a query in PN #91, we've gotten just three responses to our idea of a PN presence, either formal or informal, at the May conference of the American Planning Association in Washington, DC. That doesn't seem like enough to act upon. But, via some other, non-PN input and energy, there is a real possibility of a very interesting and useful "counter-session" or two of some type (plus maybe an informal gathering of PNers).

If you're going to be at the APA meeting, please let us know (202-234-9382, ext. 258), so we can keep you informed of plans and events.

FINANCIAL MINI-REPORT: Since PN #91, we have received contributions from 91 Networkers totaling \$3,164, including two very generous ones of \$100 or more. We deeply appreciate your continuing support, and the individual generosity of each contributor. You've gotten us off to a great start in 1992.

For comparison, our first-newsletter numbers for 1991 were \$2,001 from 48 contributors.

To tell quickly when you last supported PN with a check, look for the date after your name on the mailing label. We change (or

add) the date when we get a check. The absence of a date means you have not yet contributed, and we'd like a check from you if possible.

PN INCOME/EXPENSES: Following our practice of reporting annually on PN expenses, as well as periodically on income, the following numbers cover the 12 months ending December 16, 1991 (the closing date of our bank statement):

Our total income was \$14,525, including \$14,248 in contributions and \$277 in bank account interest. Total expenses were \$13,402, including \$4,552 in editorial and administrative services, \$4,181 in printing, \$1,978 in addressing and mailing, \$1,839 in typesetting and layout, and \$695 in postage. We finished the year with a \$1,123 surplus.

Our solvency for the year was due entirely to the terrific response to our November reminder postcard, which we sent to more than 400 of you who had not made a financial contribution in more than a year. By year's end more than 160 PNers had responded with more than \$5,600.

The reminder postcard was such a success we may consider adopting it as an ongoing annual mailing—to those who qualify.

FROM THE CHAIR: In this newsletter is a travel note by Newsletter Editor Prentice Bowsher. Lots of you go abroad on professional and vacation trips, and it would be good for you to think about similar brief accounts, relating what you see in other countries to what's going on in the U.S., in the way of planning issues.

While I'm on the subject: I really want everyone in the Network to recognize how important Prentice is to our operation. He handles newsletter editing (I do a bit, but he's the key editor), oversees its production, keeps our mailing list current, and handles our finances. All on about 2½-3 days a month. He's probably the easiest and most efficient person I've ever worked with, a true professional (he also has his own consulting firm, carrying out a wide variety of tasks), and PN simply *wouldn't be* without him. Thanks, Prentice.

— Chester Hartman

Passing the Word

PARTICIPATORY DESIGN: Theory & Techniques, by Henry Sanoff of the North Carolina State University School of Design, is a 212-page collection of essays exploring the movement toward involving the user in the process of design decision-making. No price indicated. Contact: Henry Sanoff, 405 W. Park Dr., Raleigh, NC 27605.

TRANSPORTATION RESOURCES: Transportation 2000 (Box 2389, Boulder, CO 80306, 303/444-2100), of which PNER Michael Replogle is a board member, has a list of publications, posters, and videos, encouraging public involvement in transportation issues.

HOUSING/REGULATORY BARRIERS: PN Chair Chester Hartman has a commentary on the work of the

Department of Housing and Urban Development's Advisory Commission on Regulatory Barriers to Affordable Housing, in the form of a response to Advisory Commissioner Anthony Downs' account of the Advisory Commission's work. Both pieces are in Vol. 2, No. 1 of *Housing Policy Debate*, and we'll send you a copy of the Hartman piece with a self-addressed stamped envelope. (The Downs piece is very long, and free subscriptions to *HPD* are available from the Office of Housing Policy Research, Fannie Mae, 3900 Wisconsin Ave. N.W., Wash. DC 20016.)

□ CHAS/NEW YORK: Networker Peter Marcuse (of Columbia's Division of Urban Planning—but visiting for the Spring quarter at UCLA's Graduate School of Architecture and Urban Planning, Los Angeles, CA 90024) has available a draft critique of New York City's Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy. He'll be glad to send a copy, and is interested in learning whether other cities have the same problems with their CHASes as New York has.

□ NETWORKER HONORED: Networker John Atlas, Executive Director of the Passaic County, NJ, Legal Aid Society, was honored recently by resolutions in both houses of the New Jersey state legislature for his housing work at Legal Aid and with the National Housing Institute. We'll be happy to mail to Atlas fans a copy of a nice feature story on John's work from the July 24, 1991, *Bergen Record* (please send a SASE).

□ CITIES IN CONTRAST: *Community versus Commodity: Tenants and the American City*, by PNers Stella M. Capek and John I. Gilderbloom, recounts the sharp contrast in policies and outcomes for low-income rental housing and its tenants between progressive Santa Monica, CA, and ultra-free enterprise Houston, TX. "An illuminating case study," says PN Chair Chester Hartman in a back-cover commentary. No price indicated. Contact: SUNY Press, State University Plaza, Albany, NY 12246.

□ STUDY CIRCLES: Study Circles Resource Center (Rt. 169, Box 203, Pomfret, CT 06258, 203/928-2616) has new discussion programs on homelessness, and the Arab-Israeli conflict, among other topics, as well as new application procedures for mini-grants for local issues programs and statewide networking.

□ FAIR HOUSING: The National Fair Housing Alliance (1400 Eye St. N.W. #530, Wash. DC 20005, 202/898-1661) is encouraging activists to apply the highly successful 1991 National Fair Housing Media Campaign themes and materials at the state and local levels. Among the materials were radio and TV public service announcements, posters, print ads, a booklet and a brochure. Contact: Shanna L. Smith.

□ CHICAGO LAW PROJECT: The Community Economic Development Law Project (1 Quincy Ct., 220 S. State St. #322, Chicago, IL 60604, 312/939-3638) provides pro-bono legal assistance to Chicago-area low-income community groups for corporate, tax, and real estate matters, including homeless issues and affordable housing. Contact: Irene B. Cramer, Staff Attorney.

□ EL SALVADOR: *Going Home: Building Peace in El Salvador, The Story of Repatriation*, edited by Vic Compber and others, is a 200-page illustrated account of how the repopulated villages in El Salvador are providing a model of cooperation and

concern about the basic needs of all citizens. Copies are \$20.30, from: Apex Press, 777 United Nations Plaza #9-A, New York, NY 10017.

□ DRUGS/HOUSING: *Housing on the Brink: Drug Activity's Threat to Apartment Buildings in The Bronx*, by David M. Muchnick, is a 116-page report on the dimensions of drug activity's threat to housing in a single New York City borough, and how tenants, owners, police, courts, and nonprofits reacted. Copies are \$15, from: Bronx 2000, 1809 Carter Ave., Bronx, NY 10457, 212/731-3931.

□ ASSISTANCE RESOURCE: *Assistance and Benefits Information Directory* is a forthcoming, two-volume guide to more than 1,800 public and private programs and publications offering assistance, from tuition aid to victim compensation, to individuals and families. Copies are \$135, from: Omnigraphics, Penobscot Bldg., Detroit, MI 48226, 313/961-1340.

□ ANTIPOVERTY/THE SOUTH: In an effort to understand the history of antipoverty efforts in the rural South, Duke University's Institute of Policy Sciences and Public Affairs (4875 Duke Station, Durham, NC 27706) is preparing oral history interviews with activists and policy makers who have worked in the region since the 1960s. Suggestions on appropriate individuals and organization are welcome. Contact: Kathy Hoke, 919-684-5027.

□ HOUSING RIGHTS/CANADA: Rooftops Canada Foundation, the international program of the Cooperative Housing Federation of Canada (22 Mowat Ave. #100, Toronto, Ontario M6K 3E8, 416/538-7511) has prepared a housing-rights pamphlet, *Adequate Housing Is Essential to Freedom, Dignity, Equality, and Security*, drawn from efforts of a 1990 housing-rights conference in Ottawa. Contact: Marg Bacon.

□ NYC CITY COUNCIL GUIDE: The Community Service Society (105 E. 22nd St., New York, NY 10010) has issued a 30-page pamphlet, *Making New York City's Government Serve Our Communities: A CSS Citizen's Guide to the New York City Council*, explaining City Council changes in the recently adopted New York City Charter. Single copies are \$3.

□ NETWORKER PUBLICATIONS: Networker Pat Wilson (Graduate Program in Community and Regional Planning, Univ. of Texas, Austin, TX 78712) has completed three publications: a study for the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment on the potential impacts of the U.S.-Mexico free-trade agreement on employment in the electronics industry (Publication #H3-7200-0), and two working papers, *Microenterprise Loan Funds for Women: Support Group or Economic Development Tool?*, and *The Growth Potential of Secondary Cities in Central America* (both available as part of a Working Paper Series from the UT-Austin Graduate Program in Community and Regional Planning). No prices indicated.

□ PNER UPDATE: From PNER Dick Platkin (City Planning Dept., 200 N. Spring St. #561, Los Angeles, CA 90012): I am the Project Manager for a very large corridor plan (Ventura Boulevard Specific Plan), which is based on the principles of limiting new development to transportation-infrastructure capacity and of forcing developers to bear the full cost of doing business through impact fees. The year-old plan will soon
(continued on page 4)

Appropriate Responses to Homelessness

by Conrad Levenson

In cities large and small, homeless individuals are gathered every day from the streets, shuttled to gymnasiums, armories, schools, and church basements for a night's sleep in spaces jammed with cots. In the morning, they return to the streets, and join those without shelter, wandering in search of warmth, food, or a public bathroom until evening comes again.

Homeless families are grudgingly provided temporary accommodations in congregate shelters or dilapidated hotels.

Other homeless people struggling to survive often seek shelter in public places—in parks, under bridges and highways, and in the subways and transportation terminals. They frequently display substantial individual and collective initiative and imagination, under very difficult circumstances, in creating personal shelters.

The official response to the creation of such communities of the homeless has been indignant and hostile. Mass evictions like those in New York City at Tompkins Square Park, the West Side Highway, and the New York Coliseum are evidence not only of current fiscal constraints, but also of bankrupt public imagination, creative leadership, and political will.

The victims of these recent political actions have been clear and articulate about their needs and concerns. They have made "rational" decisions based on limited "choices" to shun the available shelter alternatives for safety and health reasons. In so doing, they are attempting to preserve the remnants of dignity, self-esteem, and independence which they desperately need for survival.

It is irresponsible and short-sighted to remove forcibly homeless men, women, and children from their self-created havens in public places, without offering dignified and secure alternatives, and doing so in a compassionate and undemanding way.

We must stop punishing these individual victims of racism, poverty, addiction, and physical and mental illness for their homelessness.

Instead, we have an individual and collective responsibility to provide short- and long-term solutions by creating alter-

native settings which address the physical and emotional needs of all segments of the homeless population.

Supportive environments for homeless individuals and families must be one with the process of restoring their integrity and self-esteem, and reintegrating them as quickly as possible into the larger community.

A "home" is both a physical place and also a set of relationships which develop among the residents, their building, their immediate community of neighbors, and the neighborhood at large, with all the choices and opportunities which full participation in communal life implies.

Sites should be selected in viable neighborhoods, which can provide support services and the necessities of daily life. The difficulty of obtaining public acceptance of homeless housing in neighborhoods has led to the selection of less desirable sites in remote locations.

Homelessness itself creates a desperate sense of loss and isolation. Individuals and families in need of support should not be further isolated and stigmatized by placing them in antiseptic compounds remote from access to transportation, schools, shopping, recreation, and other positive features of community life.

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 (Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, Forbes Quadrangle, Univ. of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 15260, 412/648-7600; Fax: 412/648-2605).

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

The creation of smaller-scale residential settings is to be preferred over institutional ones, and reuse of existing buildings over new construction, as means of quickly, cost-effectively, and unobtrusively integrating homeless shelters into existing communities.

Homelessness is an emergency, the duration of which is indeterminate. The fact that transitional shelter may be temporary for the current residents does not mean that it should provide less space, less privacy, less amenities, or less quality. On the contrary, higher standards of design and construction are required for people in transition, attempting to bring order and stability to their lives.

Temporary homes, no matter how long the stay, should be designed to emphasize opportunities for individual initiative and personalizing space, which homeless people desperately need. The image of their space, which residents are able to create, will contribute to the reestablishment of self-worth, and improve their ability to increase control over other aspects of their lives.

The homeless must have at least the psychological essentials, if not the full comforts of "home." For some, it may be a long time before they are able to establish permanent homes of their own.

In the current atmosphere of fiscal austerity and retreat from traditional social and housing programs, one cannot expect much support from government at any level.

At the same time, creating homes and communities for the homeless cannot be considered charity or philanthropy—something that we do in our spare time.

In fact, the importance we attach to creating supportive environments for the homeless will determine in large part the respect and support—including the political will and resources—it receives in our communities and throughout the nation.

Conrad Levenson is Vice President of Phoenix House Foundation Inc., 164 W. 74th St., New York, NY 10023, 212/595-5810, the nation's largest nonprofit substance abuse education and treatment program. He is in charge of design and construction.

Passing the Word

(continued from page 2)

undergo an extensive review, and produce a sequel, addressing the public streetscape.

Separately, I'm also active in the Department's South Central Task Force, concerned with planning issues facing ghetto communities.

□ **COMMUNITY PLANNING:** The Univ. of Michigan (Ann Arbor, MI 48109) has announced a 2½-year, dual-degree program in Community Planning, offered by the School of Social Work and College of Architecture and Urban Planning. Details: PNER Barry Checkoway, School of Social Work.

□ **WOMEN ORGANIZERS:** *Women, Organizing, and Diversity: Struggling with the Issues* is a 25-minute video about the strengths and struggles of 50 women organizers from across the country working for progressive social change. Copies are \$35, from: Women Organizers' Project, Education Center for Community Organizing, 129 E. 79th St., New York, NY 10021, 212/452-7112.

□ **COMMUNITY POLITICS** is a 42-page working paper from the Kettering Foundation (200 Commons Rd., Dayton, OH 45459, 800/221-3657) on effective alternative approaches to solving community problems, highlighting the benefits of constructive "choicework" and the dangers of "politics as usual." No price indicated.

□ **HOUSING PHONE-IN:** The Two Cents for Housing Campaign (c/o National Low Income Housing Coalition, 1012 14th St. N.W. #1200, Wash. DC 20005, 202/662-1530) sponsored a Congressional phone-in March 9-10, with the messages housing is a human right and full funding for low-income housing programs.

□ **INHERITED WEALTH:** *We Gave Away a Fortune*, by Christopher Mogil and others, recounts the stories of 16 people who committed substantial portions of their inherited wealth to fund progressive change. Copies are \$18, from: The Impact Project, 21 Linwood St., Arlington, MA 02174.

□ **PNER UPDATE/QUERY:** From PNER David Desiderato (52 Lincoln St., Hartford, CT 06106): In January, I became Staff Director for the new Hartford City Council, a new position that will involve more research, policy analysis, and community relations than in the past. I would appreciate hearing from others with experience in and ideas about ways that a small, poor city in an affluent region can provide needed services and stimulate its economy without raising taxes.

□ **BOARDING HOME SAFETY:** A Fire Safety Task Force of the Philadelphia Coalition for Boarding Home Residents is concerned with the upcoming adoption of a new city fire code that required safety improvements not be so costly as to put homes out of business. This may be new ground. Any other similar efforts around the country? Contact: Networker Gray Smith, 16th Flr. Sylvania House, Juniper & Locust Sts., Philadelphia, PA 19107, 215/546-4985.

□ **ELDER HOMEOWNERS:** The Senior Citizen Judicare Project (1101 Market St. #1170, Philadelphia, PA 19107, 215/238-8943) has received a two-year grant to create a com-

munity-based legal advocacy program on the needs of elder homeowners, focusing on home repair and consumer problems. Any PNERs aware of similar efforts in other communities? Contact: PNER Mary Scherf.

□ **THE ROLE OF CITIES:** *Does America Need Cities?: An Urban Investment Strategy for National Prosperity*, by PNER Elliott Sclar and others, examines the role cities play in regional, national, and global economies—as a counterargument to burgeoning assertions that cities increasingly are economically obsolete and politically irrelevant. Copies: Economic Policy Institute, 1730 Rhode Island Ave. N.W. #200, Wash. DC 20036, 202/775-8810). No price indicated.

□ **HOUSING MANAGEMENT:** PNER Tom Nutt-Powell (On-Site Insight, 501 Providence Hwy., Norwood, MA 02062, 617/762-6870) has available two resources on planning for capital needs in long-term building management: an OSI newsletter on capital planning requirements in new HUD audit guidelines; and an OSI-authored article, "Capital Planning for Repair and Replacement," in the September/October 1991 *Journal of Property Management*.

□ **NETWORKER UPDATE:** From Networker Mary Vogel (Ancient Forest Adventures, 16 N.W. Kansas Ave., Bend, OR 97701, 503/383-2976): This is a new address for me. Ancient Forest Adventures focuses on eco-tourism in the Cascade Mountains, with snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and backpacking, in addition to a range of hiking experiences. I'm excited about the potential here.

□ **LAST CHANCE/BOOKS:** *America's Housing Crisis: What Is To Be Done?* (Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1983—note the date) is a collection of answers to that question by PNERs Cushing Dolbeare, Florence Roisman, Michael Stone, John Atlas/Peter Dreier, the late Paul Davidoff, Emily Achtenberg/Peter Marcuse, and Chester Hartman. The Institute for Policy Studies (which produced the book), as part of its cleaning-house activities, has just laid on Hartman its four remaining excess copies. We'll send one to the first four PNERs who write in (enclosing a self-addressed book envelope with \$1.44 postage).

□ **CORRECTION:** *LA's Lethal Air: New Strategies for Policy, Organizing, and Action*, by Eric Mann and the Labor/Community Watchdog Organizing Committee is an 80-page manual (not 8, as described in PN #91). Copies are \$15, from: Labor/Community Strategy Center, 14540 Haynes St. #200, Van Nuys, CA 91411.

□ **CITIZEN POLITICS:** Project Public Life (Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455, 612/625-0142) offers a number of publications and events around a new kind of politics in which citizens are powerful actors in public problem-solving. A 50-page 1991 annual report, *Teaching Politics*, also is available.

Networkers' Reports

'Planning' in the Global Village

by Prentice Bowsher

(PN Editor Prentice Bowsher spent part of a recent sabbatical traveling in Asia.)

The opportunity to travel for a month as a tourist in Hong Kong, Thailand, and Nepal was a long-time dream come true, and turned out even better in reality than in prospect.

It was my first experience in Asia, and (Hong Kong excepted) a rare excursion into the deeply troubling poverty and deprivation of the Third World. All my senses were on high alert.

Local English-language newspapers were part of my alert system, and my workaday interest in urban, social, and ecological planning issues soon began turning up local stories of planning-related activities.

First in Hong Kong and then later in Thailand and Nepal, English-language papers, citing major local events, raised serious planning issues around urban development, forcible relocation of indigenous people, and ecologically damaging deforestation. Curious, I began saving key stories.

I was interested, for example, in who the local players were, and how seriously they regarded the issues; how the public and private sectors related; what roles the press, nongovernmental organizations, and academic centers had taken up; how citizen participation was valued, and how active it might be.

As cut from newspapers, the stories are "issue snapshots" only. They capture a moment, but leave unaddressed a host of related questions (which, perhaps, other, more informed PNers can pursue). Even so, they underscore the broad reach of such issues in sites far from the U.S., and suggest a mix of similar and contrasting roles among the key actors.

In Hong Kong, the issue is what to do with the 568-acre Kai Tak International Airport in Kowloon when a new airport at Chek Lap Kok on remote Lantau Island becomes operational in 1997. Lantau, now largely undeveloped and reachable by ferry, will be linked to the city then by rail and highway connections.

According to the *Hong Kong Standard*, \$15 million has been allocated for government planners to redesign the Kai Tak site, plus an additional 815 acres from a projected Kowloon Bay reclamation. Principal Town Planner Ted Pryor has said the vacated site will form the basis for a new city-within-a-city, New Kowloon, to accommodate 250,000 people in public and private developments, plus hotels, offices, retail outlets, and government buildings.

The study is to be completed by mid-1993. A separate study on building density and airport height restrictions in Kowloon and New Kowloon is also set for completion about the same time.

Road links through the new site will connect with a grid system of major highways, tunnels, and rail links to service the high-density development.

The outcome, according to a January 1992 Metroplan for Hong Kong, is hoped to be "a very convenient city" for urban dwellers, without traffic jams, pollution, crowded transport, noise, and stressful situations.

In Thailand, the issue is forcible government resettlement of indigenous people from their ancestral forest land in impoverished northeast Thailand, and government conversion of the land to commercial tree farming by large paper companies.

According to the *Bangkok Post*, both plans—massive resettlement and tree farming—have raised extensive opposition from

the press, nongovernmental environmental organizations, and the landless poor, who have been (or are about to be) evicted from their ancestral lands in forest reserves.

Even the Chairman of Phoenix Pulp and Paper Co. Ltd., which stands to be a major corporate beneficiary of the moves, has described them as unfair to the people and unacceptable to him, and has said the villagers' welfare must be the ultimate objective of the program. His alternative, opposed by the Thai Forestry Department, would allocate 75 percent of the land in the degraded forests to farmers, and split the rest evenly between natural and economic forests.

Finally, in February 1992, the Thai Interior Minister conceded to local officials in the Northeast that the resettlement program, for which he has direct responsibility, was flawed in its implementation (although he defended the concept). He pointed to a case in which several villages had been forcibly evacuated without proper planning or adequate basic facilities for accommodating the settlers.

Calling the Minister's admission "quite unusual," the *Post* challenged the government to "rethink" the entire resettlement program, and to begin by recognizing the right of farmers to have a say in the project, and in managing their environment and natural resources.

In Nepal, the issue is massive deforestation by illegal settlers and loggers, with ineffective government replanting and forest management programs, resulting in recurring and impending ecological disasters.

According to *The Rising Nepal*, hundreds of thousands of acres of forests have been lost in past decades to illegal settlers (some of them formerly landless peasants) and logging.

Further losses have come from firewood production, in a country where 75 percent of the people still depend on wood as their main source of energy.

Timber smuggling is another cause. More than 184,000 cubic meters of timber, for example, were smuggled out of Nepal in the year ending May 1991, according to the Forest Ministry.

Illegal logging thrives because of huge recurring shortfalls in the legal supply of fuelwood and finished lumber for homebuilding and furniture. According to government figures, the 1990-91 supply of fuelwood was 9.7 million tons, against an estimated demand of 12.6 million tons; the 1990-91 supply of finished lumber was less than 1 million cubic meters, against an estimated demand of 1.5 million cubic meters.

The cumulative impact on Nepal's forests, once considered its prime wealth, is staggering. By 2000-01, government projections say, forest degradation for firewood, timber, and fodder will have reached more than 2,856 square miles (more than 5 percent of the country's land area). Ten years later, forest degradation will have more than doubled, the government says, to 5,789 square miles.

Government reforestation has achieved little success. Saplings are planted, but lack follow-up care, and usually die or are eaten by cattle.

The ecological results include massive landslides and wholesale soil erosion. One estimate says Nepal countrywide is losing nearly one-tenth inch of topsoil a year, washed down into the Indian Ocean. Some environmentalists are warning of the country's impending desertification.

Against these trends, the government is struggling to balance conflicting interests. Some 1.4 million Nepalese (nearly 10 percent of the country's 1982 population), for example, find fulltime employment in forests and forest-related activities.

Among its actions, the Forest Ministry has taken the politically unpopular decision to evict "illegal" settlers; some top-ranking Ministry officials have been fired; and a deferred master plan for

balancing forest-product supply and demand has been refurbished for implementation next year.

In sum, it is heartening to see the seriousness with which the issues are regarded, frustrating to see the public sector part of the problem occasionally instead of part of the solution, and sobering to sense the inexorable press of events against sometimes ineffective and conflicted responses.

Planning issues—along with CNN, the BBC and high-visibility sports—clearly have become part of the weave in the fabric of the global village. That alone is a singular accomplishment; but is it enough, or should the profession be doing still more?

Upcoming Conferences

□ **SHELTER/FIRST & THIRD WORLDS:** The Univ. of Michigan College of Architecture and Urban Planning (Ann Arbor, MI 48109) is hosting an international conference May 7-9 on "Shelter, Women and Development: First and Third World Perspectives." Registration is \$225. Details: Hemalata C. Dandekar, 313/763-1114.

□ **CDCs:** The National Congress for Community Economic Development (1875 Connecticut Ave. N.W. #524, Wash. DC 20009, 202/234-5009) will hold its 22nd annual conference March 25-27 in Philadelphia, on the theme "Beyond Bricks and Mortar: Rebuilding Healthy Communities."

□ **NATIONAL PEOPLE'S ACTION** (810 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL 60622, 312/243-3038) will hold its 21st annual conference April 4-6 in Washington, DC.

□ **NCUED:** The National Council for Urban Economic Development (1730 K St. N.W. #915, Wash. DC 20006, 202/223-4735) will hold its annual conference April 5-8 in Washington. The theme: "Transitions to the Future American Economy."

□ **CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:** Tufts University's Lincoln Filene Center (Medford, MA 02155) will sponsor a conference April 24-26 in St. Paul, MN: "The National Conference on Citizen Participation, 1992: Building Citizen Government Initiatives." Contact: Ken Thomson, 617/627-3450.

□ **BUDGET MARCH:** Save Our Cities! Save Our Children! (424 C St. N.E., Wash. DC 20002) will sponsor May 16 a nonpartisan national march on Washington in protest against cutbacks in federal funding for cities. Contact: Wendy Grassel, 202/944-5092.

□ **TRANSPORTATION:** Transportation 2000 (Box 2389, Boulder, CO 80306) will hold a conference November 8-10 in Washington, DC, on "What the U.S. Can Learn from Abroad." Contact: Merry Havens, 303/444-2100.

□ **TUFTS INSTITUTE:** The ninth annual Tufts Univ. Nonprofit Management and Community Development Institute (Lincoln Filene Center, Medford, MA 02155) will be held May 30-June 6 in Medford, with some 40 one-, two-, and three-day courses. Details: Mike Fogelberg, Program Assistant, 617/627-3549.

□ **DRUGS/HOUSING:** UCSD Extension/Alcohol, Tobacco & Other Drug Studies (9500 Gilman Dr., La Jolla, CA 92093, 619/534-2324) will host a conference April 10-11 in San Diego on

"Recovery-Conducive Affordable Housing Strategies." A related conference, "Developing Social Model Recovery Resources," will be held June 4-5, also in San Diego.

□ **SOUTH AMERICA:** The Center for Urban and Regional Studies (Corrientes Ave. 2835 7th Flr., (1193) Buenos Aires, Argentina) and the Univ. of Buenos Aires' Institute of Geography will hold the second international conference October 23-25 in Buenos Aires on "Economic Integration, Society, and Social Participation in South America: An Alternative Analysis." Details: Elsa Laurelli, Center for Urban and Regional Studies.

□ **COMMUNITY LAND TRUSTS:** The Institute for Community Economics (57 School St., Springfield, MA 01105) will sponsor a workshop March 27 in Rockford, IL, on "Introducing the Community Land Trust Approach to Permanently Affordable Housing and Farmland Preservation." Details: Carrie Nobel, 413/746-8660.

□ **NONPROFIT HOUSING/NEW YORK:** The Association for Neighborhood and Housing Development Inc. (236 W. 27th St., New York, NY 212/463-9600) will sponsor a conference April 3 in New York on "Community-Based Housing: Visions and Challenges for the Nineties."

□ **HOUSING CO-OPS/NEW YORK:** The Urban Homesteading Assistance Board (40 Prince St., New York, NY 10012, 212/226-4119) will sponsor a conference April 11 in New York on "Managing Your Cooperative: Neighborhoods at Work."

Calls for Papers

□ **GENDER/ECONOMIC RESTRUCTURING:** *Economic Development Quarterly* has issued a call for papers on gender and regional economic restructuring for a planned focus issue. One-page proposals are due June 15. Details: PNER Margaret Dewar, Urban Planning Program, Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109, 313/936-0247.

□ **HUMAN ECOLOGY:** The Society for Human Ecology has issued a call for papers and workshop proposals for its sixth conference October 2-4 in Snowbird, UT, on the theme "Human Ecology: Crossing Boundaries." Submission deadline is April 1, but some flexibility may be possible. Details: Scott D. Wright, FCS Dept., Univ. of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT 84112, 801/581-8750.

□ **BUILT ENVIRONMENT:** The Bartlett International Summer School has issued a call for papers and workshop proposals for a conference September 5-10 in Brussels on "The Production of the Built Environment: Europe 1992." Submission deadline is May 22. Conference Secretariat: Marcel Pesleux, Institute Supérieur D'Architecture de la Communauté Française, Place Eugene Flagey 19, B-1050 Brussels, Belgium.

Jobs

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

DEPUTY DIRECTOR: The National Community Reinvestment Coalition (1000 Wisconsin Ave. N.W., Wash. DC 20007, 202/342-0717) is seeking a Deputy Director, familiar with community reinvestment issues and experienced in grassroots organizing and coalition-building. Salary is \$40,000-\$43,000. Contact: John Taylor.

PLANNING DIRECTOR: The City of Berkeley, CA, is seeking a Planning Director, with demonstrated skills in planning, zoning and codes and building inspection, and managerial experience supervising a large professional and technical staff. Salary is \$69,300-\$95,000. Details: Berkeley Personnel Dept., 2180 Milvia St., Berkeley, CA 94704, 510/644-6460.

PLANNING FACULTY: The Curtin University of Technology School of Architecture and Planning (Box U-1987, Perth, Western Australia 6001) is seeking applicants for a tenure-track position as Professor/Associate Professor in Urban and Regional Planning. Salary is \$60,475-\$66,625, Associate Professor; \$73,800-\$77,900, Professor.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION: The Program for Community Problem Solving and the National League of Cities (1301 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W. #600, Wash. DC 20004) are seeking a Staff Associate to assist in promoting conflict resolution, collaboration, and consensus-building strategies in communities. Salary is \$32,000-\$40,000. Contact: Elisabeth McClain, 202/626-3183.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR: The City of Burlington, VT, is seeking a Director of Public Works, with administrative/managerial experience in operations, fiscal management, planning, and employee relations. Salary is in the high \$40s. Contact: Personnel Director, City Hall, Burlington, VT 05401.

Ex Conferences

HOMELESSNESS: The National Alliance To End Homelessness (1518 K St. N.W. #206, Wash. DC 20005, 202/638-1526) held a conference March 18-20 in Anaheim, CA, in conjunction with the SRO Housing Corp. on "Making the Transition to Permanent Housing."

REINVESTMENT: The National Community Reinvestment Coalition Inc. (1000 Wisconsin Ave. N.W., Wash. DC 20007, 202/342-0717) held its first annual meeting and reception February 28 in Washington.

The Planners Network

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

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

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, Pittsburgh; 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.
Washington, D.C. 20009**

Etcetera

MAY PN DEADLINE: The arrival deadline for copy for the next *Planners Network* is Monday, May 4. We look forward to hearing from as many Networkers as possible. As always, our thanks to those who can type their notes. It reduces our chances of misreading what you write.

Arrival deadline for PN #93 copy: Monday, May 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 double as regional contacts), and how to calculate contributions.

MOVING? TELL PN: When you move, please let us know directly. A thoughtful change-of-address postcard will cost you just 19 cents. On the other hand, if the Post Office returns our (non-forwardable) Third Class newsletter with your new address, which is how we often learn of PNers' moves (we mark the

newsletter "Return & Forwarding Postage Guaranteed"), it costs us far more. So please help us cut our costs, send us a postcard.

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, and generate support.

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 one. Names (like luggage) sometimes look alike, 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 us, 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.

**Planners Network/IPS
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