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Self-Reliance

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INSIDE:

Resident-run Programs

Neighborhood Solutions for Crime Prevention

Few community issues provoke a stronger response than the problem of crime. When it hits, individuals and property owners, rich and poor of all races agree that something should be done. Until recently, the grassroots response to crime meant needling police and courts with demands for increased patrols, tougher sentencing or civilian review boards. Lately, however, a few communities have begun dealing with crime on their own. The results so far are a mixed-bag of successes, failures, promising efforts and potential trouble spots.

People who have had to deal with police or courts, whether they win or lose in the traditional sense of guilt or innocence, often find the experience alienating and discouraging. A victim of a purse snatching, describing her experience in a New York newspaper, said that despite her intent to see the offender punished, neither the process nor the punishment proved satisfying. "After the case dragged on for months," she said, "All I really wanted was for the kid to say 'I'm sorry.' But I never got to look him in the eye, much less talk to him."

In a more academic sense, criminology professor Nils Christie says that when a dispute reaches a court, the victim and defendent totally lose control over the case; it becomes the "property" of the lawyers and the judge. According to Christie, the community at-large is robbed of the chance to examine the conflict as a symptom of a profound community problem, and is denied the opportunity to resolve that problem.

In some foreign countries, communities maintain much greater local control over their conflicts. Tanzania has a court system that starts with citizen conflict-solving gatherings in rural villages. In Cuba, a more formal local court system called Popular Tribunals works in both rural and urban neighborhoods. The tribunals, run by residents, deal with social problems, such as those caused by overcrowded housing, rather than crimes. The sessions, held in the evening, are often jammed, and, according to one U.S. attorney who has studied the tribunals, they tend to make courts popularly accepted institutions rather than tools of coercion.

There are vast differences, of course, between Tanzania, Cuba and the United States in terms of economics, size and social life. But despite these differences, a number of experiments in this country are putting responsibility for crime control on the neighborhood level. These programs do not just assist police and court efforts through block watches or seminars in effective door and window locks. They create mechanisms in which residents themselves can help resolve conflicts with their neighbors.

The San Francisco Experiment

One such experiment receiving considerable attention around the country is the San Francisco Community Board Program **(149 Ninth Street, San Francisco CA 94103, 415/552-1250).** Begun in 1977, the program is run completely by local residents in two San Francisco neighborhoods, Visitacion Valley and Bernal Heights. Serving a total population of 40,000 people, the (continued on page 4)

Notes

The third annual statewide survey of recycling in Washington has produced some impressive statistics. About a third of the state's 379 recycling operations responded to the survey. They reported recycling a total of 478,028 tons of material valued at $26,455,638. By estimating the energy needed to manufacture items from virgin materials as opposed to recycled materials, recyclers saved the equivalent of 2.7 *billion* kilowatt hours. When considering the cost of collection and disposal had this material not been recycled, recyclers saved even more. Estimates range from $2 million to $23 million, depending on the variety of collection and disposal fees in the state. Recycling also provided 1,181 full-time jobs and 36,145 part-time jobs. These figures, remember, are the totals from only one-third of the state's recyclers that responded to the questionnaire. For more information on recycling in Washington, contact: **State of Washington, Department of Ecology, Olympia WA 98504.**

Buffalo, New York is investigating the use of wind to meet its energy needs. Average daily wind speed for this city is about 12.3 miles per hour, making it one of the three best regions of the country (along with the New England coast and the Great Plains) for large-scale wind projects. Buffalo is studying the potential for a wind powered six-mile light rail transit system through the city, a waterfront naval museum complex, and the replacement of gasoline and diesel power in grape cultivation and harvesting industries south of the city. For more information, contact: **Energy Research Group and Environmental Design Associations, 1600 Statler Hilton Hotel, Buffalo NY 14202.**

***Save Money/Save Energy* is a 67-page booklet describing how community organizations can conduct their own home energy auditing programs.** The information comes from a successful one-year auditing program conducted by OASIS 2000, a community group in Rice Lake, Wisconsin. The booklet documents the process in Rice Lake and explains how a similar program can be administered by any interested community organization. A limited number of free copies are available from : **Project Save M/E, UW Center-Barron County, Rice Lake WI 54868.**

***Food Preservation* is a 28-page booklet providing a useful introduction to operating a community cannery.** The booklet outlines operating costs, offers some tips on production and management, and lists 11 community canneries along with a bibliography. Community canneries are often suggested as a means for year-round food production in northern climates, but as this booklet indicates, running one as a profitable business isn't easy. Copies of the booklet are $1.50 from: **Hunger Action Center, Alaska Bldg., Rm. 300, Seattle WA 98104, 206/682-3326.**

The March of "Progress" . . .

You Are What the Feds Say You Are: A booming metropolis is growing along the banks of the Susquehanna River in central Pennsylvania by federal decree. Last fall, the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) decided that five rural communities were really a single urban area. As a result, federal housing funds were completely cut off. Now, FmHA has added sections of three more towns to the original five. The ruling has left the area with few sources of mortgage financing or home rehabilitation loans. Says John Frederick, borough manager for one of the affected communities, "The worst thing is that they pulled out without any warning. No agency has the right to make a decision affecting such a large number of people without notifying them first."

—Information from Rural America

Solar Van Takes Exit Ramp: An attempt by the National Solar Heating and Cooling Information Center to take its show on the road with a solar van has flopped. It seems the van had such a low fuel efficiency its organizers were too embarrassed to drive it around. Now if only the Department of Energy would do something about its stormwindowless headquarters in Washington.

—Information from Outlook, formerly Acorn Magazine

No Muck Raking in Memphis: What would you do if you had 90 million gallons of sewage sludge and 4000 acres of nearby vacant land? You might figure out a way to apply the sludge to the land, turning waste into a resource and solving two problems at once. But not city planners in Memphis, Tennessee. They prefer to dump the sludge in the Mississippi River while they figure out a way to burn it. Terra Tech, a private consulting firm, is trying to convince the city, so far without success, that the sludge can be safely applied to vacant land which can then be used to grow cotton, sod or other non-edible crops. For more information, contact: **Phil Mummert, Memphis State University, 226 Johnson Hall, Memphis TN 38152.**

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Adams Morgan Revisited: Lessons from Community Technology

Karl Hess
Community Technology
Harper Colophon Books, New York NY
1979. 107 pp. $2.95.

"Everything should be made as simple as possible, but no simpler."—Albert Einstein

Most of Karl Hess' slim book, *Community Technology,* was published three or four years ago, so at this date it adds little to the increasingly sophisticated debate about the proper role of technology in an urban setting. It does, however, accurately reflect the thinking of many within the decentralist movement. And given Karl's fame, and the efforts of Harper and Row, we can expect it to be widely distributed. It becomes important, therefore, to analyze the book both for what it says, and what it does not say.

The strength of the appropriate technology movement derives from its enthusiasm and sense of positive purpose. Citizenship is based on production. Community technology encourages self-reliance, self-confidence, and craftsmanship. Its message is clear: one person can make a difference. The household can be productive. The neighborhood can serve the major needs of its population. The city can meet many of the remaining requirements for the good life.

This movement is a worthy antidote to those who spend a considerable effort to prove to us that little can be done on the small scale. That is the scholarship of paralysis, for, by assuming that everything must be changed in order to change anything, by ascribing to the forces arrayed against both omniscience and omnipotence, the critics of small-scale endeavors encourage passivity and cynicism.

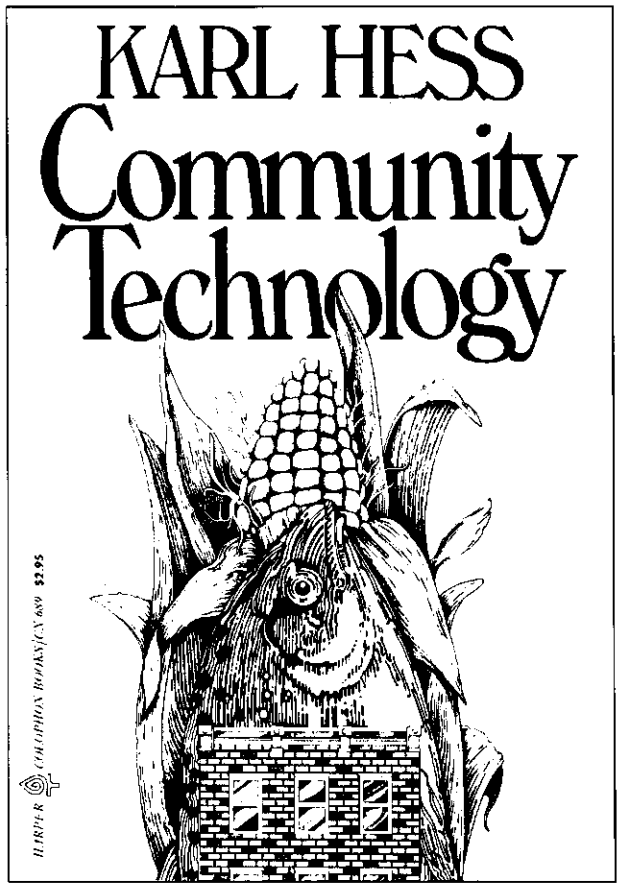
However, when exaggerated and isolated, optimism can easily slip into romanticism and idealism. Karl's booklet presents us with a classic case. He anticipates this major criticism in the first chapter: "Much of the criticism levelled against this book will call it 'unrealistic' dreaming." To anticipate criticism is not, of course, to answer or deflect it. Just as the scholarship of "realism" can paralyze us, the romanticism of idealism can disillusion us. It can lead to small gasps of effort followed by disappointment, bitterness and retrospective cynicism.

Romantic idealism takes three forms. First, it exaggerates and distorts history, oversimplifying and misleading readers. Second, it is extremely personalist, ignoring the large context that circumscribes and influences any local activities. Finally, and possibly most important, it ignores the central issue of power and institution building, giving us the message that getting from here to there is nothing more than convincing our neighbors to lend a hand.

Exaggeration

We need myths. They give us a vision and a sense of solidarity. Adams Morgan residents hoisted the neighborhood flag up the centrally located flagpole and created the myth of political independence. Ernest Callenbach's book *Ecotopia,* gives us the myth of solidarity among all the peoples of the Pacific Northwest. Karl Marx created the myth of the working class.

In the early days of the appropriate technology movement, we publicized efforts that were still half-formed. Any movement that seeks publicity, or funding, exaggerates its successes. But it is now time that those with the most experience in this movement seriously analyze its strengths and limitations. Karl Hess does us all a disservice by not doing this. Rather, he continues to rewrite history to conform to his dreams.



In Karl's book, Community Technology as an organization that developed tools and programs to make Adams Morgan self-reliant was a success; the neighborhood was at fault. Dozens of people, after reading the book, have asked me what went wrong with Adams Morgan. The answer is—nothing. The fact of the matter is that Community Technology was a small group of people who pursued their favorite technologies. It was less community technology than personalist technology. This is not meant to demean the effort. It was an exciting time of experimentation. But if Karl wants to use it as a model of neighborhood technology, it must be examined in a different light. The group decided to experiment with bacteriological toilets, when the neighborhood saw no need for them. It decided to raise trout, which if successfully raised, would have cost almost twice that of the fish or chicken purchased in stores in that neighborhood.
(Continued on page 10)

Neighborhood Dispute Centers Practice Crime Prevention

(continued from page 1)

two boards last year resolved approximately 100 cases ranging from burglaries and assaults to housing and consumer disputes.

The boards' primary purpose is crime prevention through conciliation of disputes. They don't necessarily prevent a dispute from happening, but community boards can prevent a dispute from escalating into a crime which eventually involves the police and courts.

Community residents of various backgrounds and income levels serve as panelists to hear disputes. Each has received training in problem solving and communication, but the panelists don't pass judgments of guilt or innocence; they help the parties open up and talk freely about the dispute so that they can reach a resolution on their own.

"We designed a dispute/responsibility process," said organizer Ray Shonholtz, "so that in resolving a case, we do not take it away from the parties that have the problem. They have to take responsibility to work toward resolving it themselves."

The Community Boards will not take a case unless both parties agree to participate. No cases are solicited from the police or courts, and 75 per cent of the cases come directly from the disputants. The Boards have no legal authority or sanction. No records are kept, and no lawyers are needed (in fact, professional participation is discouraged). If either party is dissatisfied with the outcome, he or she can take the case to court.

Shonholtz estimates that a full-time community board serving a population of 75,000 people would cost between $85,000 and $100,000 a year to operate. For the first year of the San Francisco program, Shonholtz raised $150,000 from private foundations. The program recently received a $20,000 grant from the National League of Cities and ACTION, but Shonholtz says he does not pursue government funding because of the sponsor's demands and evaluation measures involved. Although future funding is uncertain, the two community boards are so popular that plans are now being drawn for community boards in two other San Francisco neighborhoods.

Portland, Pittsburg Programs

Similar although less ambitious mediation projects are underway in Portland and Pittsburg. The Neighborhood Mediation Pilot Project in Portland began last June as a one-year CETA sponsored demonstration. The Project has three centers in middle-income neighborhoods. Each center costs about $75,000 to operate. More than 500 cases have been handled, with 80 to 90 per cent settled by conciliation rather than formal mediation. Relatively minor disputes handled by the centers include harassment, pet control, trash, noise, petty theft, trespassing, minor property damage, physical confrontation and housing disputes. About half the cases involve alleged criminal activity, including disorderly conduct and minor assaults.

The centers get referrals from 60 different sources, mostly city and social service agencies. About a quarter of the cases come from law enforcement agencies, and Legal Aid offices are the primary source for private referrals.

The Portland project is sponsored and monitored by the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission **(Corbett Building, Room 312, Portland OR 97204, 503/248-4187).** Community mediators are recruited from the neighborhoods surrounding each center and are screened and trained by the Commission's staff. The project has recently won a six-month extension from CETA, and the Portland City Council has voted to support one of the centers when the pilot-project funds run out.

The Pittsburg program, called Community Association for Mediation, is privately run and works more informally than either the San Francisco or Portland programs. The program has no centralized office and holds meetings in people's homes. It conducts on-site mediation, and although its goal is to reconcile disputes, it takes a more active third party role than other mediation programs, proposing resolutions that are mutually beneficial to the parties involved. Community Association for Mediation **(511 Junilla Street, Pittsburg PA 15219 412/621-3050)** works on trust which it has built up over the years. As the city gears up for school desegregation next year, the Association has been invited to develop a forum mediating desegregation-related problems for students and parents.

Another informal dispute-solving process has been working in Chicago for the past 40 years. The Back of the Yards Council **(1751 West 47th Street, Chicago IL 60609 312/523-4416)** co-founded by Saul Alinsky, resolves disputes as part of an overall program on housing, health and other social issues. A typical case, organizers say, involved a homeowner who was steaming because a neighbor blocked a driveway with house painting materials. A minor problem, but one that could easily escalate into a major property destruction case. The angry homeowner contacted the Council, which then brought the homeowner and neighbor together to mutually resolve the problem.

Block Watch Associations

Another community crime control project—the block watch association—is more closely linked with police and court efforts and has had mixed results. Successful block watch programs, where a neighborhood organizes to make residents more aware of crime and to report it quickly, operate in Philadelphia, Detroit and Hartford neighborhoods. In some programs, burglaries have dropped by 40 per cent or more and robberies have been cut

almost in half. A common situation, however, is that block watch associations form in a burst of enthusiasm and then die out. One reason is that it is hard to maintain active participation without numerous meetings or a strong support organization.

A variation of the block watch has often worked successfully with a specific kind of community dealing with a specific crime, such as women organizing to fight rape. Programs such as Community Action Strategy to Stop Rape **(PO Box 62084, Columbus OH 43202)** rely on volunteer citizens rather than professional agencies, and concentrate on rape prevention. The key to success, say its organizers, is creating an awareness of the issue that removes the "psychological" as well as physical darkness which leads to crimes like rape.

Community Control Versus Vigilantism

While the intent of these kinds of efforts is admirable, citizen action on crime also has a potential danger. In New York City, for example, tension between Hassidic Jews and blacks, coupled with poor response from police, has led to well-organized and well-financed citizen patrols, sometimes with two-way radios and their own emergency vehicles. In many situations, such as traffic accidents, these citizen patrols beat New York police to the scene. But in situations with racial overtones, the citizen patrols have sometimes added to the tension. Likewise, a citizen group called the South Boston Marshalls formed radio-equipped auto patrols during Boston's school desegregation four years ago. The Marshalls said they were simply protecting their neighborhood, but most blacks in the city interpreted the patrols as a warning to stay out of South Boston.

Another variation of community crime control efforts has ties with both citizens and conventional agencies dealing with crime. In Atlanta, Los Angeles and Kansas City, for example, pilot Neighborhood Justice Centers were established in 1977 to ease the burden on the traditional criminal justice system. Programs such as the Urban Court in Boston and the New York Institute for Mediation and Conflict Resolution Dispute Center can also be characterized as agency-based, even though trained citizens work in the programs.

These kinds of programs tend to be more trusted by criminal justice professionals, but community-based crime control advocates say they are reactive, rather than preventative mechanisms.

"It seems to me," said Ray Shonholtz of the San Francisco Community Boards, "that a community program serious about crime prevention would want those people active in the community to review the cases before they escalated to a point of violence that necessitated law enforcement intervention. The agency model could pick up after the community model if both were operating in a city. The two are not antithetical, they just have different approaches and different interests. The agency-based is a helper to the justice system, the community model is more preventative."

Federal interest in community crime prevention is increasing rapidly. The Law Enforcement Assistance Administration and ACTION are co-sponsoring a $5.5 million Urban Crime Prevention Program that evolved from President Carter's urban policy. Details have yet to be ironed out, but a significant amount of money will be dispersed for crime prevention and dispute settlement programs, probably by September.

On Capitol Hill, two community dispute settlement bills are pending. The Senate recently passed Senator Edward Kennedy's Consumer Controversies Settlement Act, which provides $15 million to establish a national clearinghouse for dispute settlement and to make grants to programs aimed at dispute resolution, especially consumer cases. In the House, HR2863, sponsored by Robert Kastenmeier of Wisconsin and 14 other Congressmen, would provide $12 million to create a national dispute resolution center to give financial assistance to citizen-based groups to settle a wide range of civil and criminal disputes. Community organizers prefer the Kastenmeier bill over Kennedy's for the broader range of dispute resolution cases that would qualify for funding.

—Deborah Stewart

Funds for Community Crime Control

There are two basic funding sources for community crime control projects—the federal Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) and private foundations. There are also two organizations which assist groups in developing community crime control projects and can help get them funded. One is the Center for Community Change, which has a Law Enforcement Assistance Administration Project to help community groups prepare proposals, and if awarded grants, technical assistance to operate programs. CCC is most up to date source on the amount of funding LEAA has to offer for community crime prevention projects. CCC further provides a "mini-clearinghouse" on anti-crime projects, and is very good at putting community groups together with funding sources. On-site technical assistance is available, as is extensive expertise in fundraising techniques. For further details, contact: **Alicia Christian, Center for Community Change, 1000 Wisconsin Avenue, Washington, DC 20007, 202/333-5700.** The Grassroots Citizen Dispute Resolution Clearinghouse will give community organizations guidance and support in organizing dispute resolution programs in their neighborhoods. The Clearinghouse provides technical assistance to programs through aid in planning and implementing dispute resolution programs, aid in obtaining funding, and aid in refining program procedures. The Clearinghouse also publishes a quarterly journal on citizen dispute resolution, *The Mooter*, available for $5 a year. Other resource materials include the *Citizen Dispute Resolution Organizer's Handbook* ($3). For more information, contact: **the Grassroots Citizen Dispute Resolution Clearinghouse, Paul Wahrhaftig, 4401 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213 412/621-3050.** Community groups that want to go the route of LEAA funding should contact: **Cornelius Cooper, Office of Community Anti-Crime Programs, Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, Washington, DC 20531.**

The National Criminal Justice Reference Service will provide computer printouts on community crime topics to interested persons. Requests made to the Reference Service should be as specific as possible. For example, the Reference Service won't handle requests for "community crime" information, but it will respond to requests for "alternative dispute settlement," "community dispute resolution," or "neighborhood mediation and arbitration." The Reference Service will also provide copies of state-of-the-art studies on Neighborhood Justice Centers and other federal community anti-crime efforts. Contact: **the National Criminal Justice Reference Service, Box 6000, Rockville, MD 20850.**

Low-cost Solar Systems Thrive in Rugged San Luis Valley

The San Luis Valley in south-central Colorado is a rough, rural area surrounded on three sides by high mountain ranges. Running 100 miles long and 75 miles wide, the Valley has only 40,000 inhabitants. Alamosa, the largest town, has a population of 7,500.

San Luis Valley is a poor area. Twenty-three per cent of the families there have incomes below the poverty level. High fuel costs have a tremendous impact on two of the Valley's main sources of income: agriculture and tourism.

Yet, in this vast, isolated area, citizens have been busy for several years proving that low-cost solar energy systems can be built by almost anyone—helping cut down on hot water and space heating energy costs, both for homes and on the farm.

Although there are now a number of organizations and programs spreading solar energy throughout the Valley, experimentation began by individuals without outside support or funds. In 1973, a 77-year-old retired pharmacist named Paul Wise built a solar collector on his house from scrap materials. The following year, a school teacher named Bill Evans involved students in his class in building low-cost solar devices. Since then, interest has grown. The Valley now boasts over 250 solar collectors, greenhouses, water heaters and food dehydrators. Most cost less than $200, and almost all were financed by their owners. Many are locally developed and tested designs geared specifically to the needs of the low-income rural farming community.

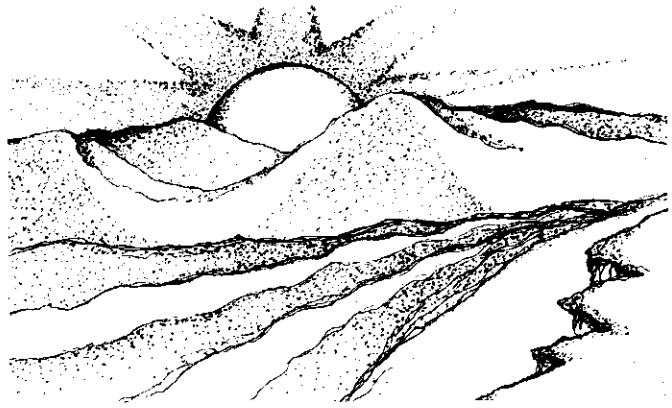
One example is the "North" collector, developed by Bill North and his father-in-law, J.K. Ramstetter. The collector is a simple vertical-wall daytime solar system for homes and farm buildings. It is meant to supplement a conventional heating system by capturing daylight sun for space heating. It has no storage system, so it is only useful while the sun shines. But because the system can be built for under $200, it is an option that can be chosen by people of low incomes. Bill North, before moving to Wyoming earlier this year, helped build 50 solar installations in the Valley. He has also conducted workshops in the Valley and throughout the state on how to build the "North" collector.

Since its creation, the North collector has been adapted to include a rock storage system and a forced air furnace distribution system. This complete solar heating system, which many valley homeowners claim has saved them 50 per cent on their energy bills, costs approximately $15–18 per square foot, much less than the $35–40 per square foot cost of a typical commercial complete solar system.

'Volkswagen' Solar Systems

People in the San Luis Valley refer to their low-cost approach as "Volkswagen" or "economy model" solar energy systems. Architect Akira Kawanabe, who is president of the San Luis Valley Solar Energy Association, claims that the technical efficiency of these low-cost systems is 80 to 85 per cent that of commercial systems. He notes that the low-cost systems require more maintenance, such as oiling fans and repainting the collector-plate, than do commercial systems. But the money invested yields proportionately about the same energy and dollar savings as do commercial systems. And the "Volkswagen model" can be used by many people who cannot afford the initial cost of a more expensive system.

Arnie and Maria Valdez are two other San Luis Valley solar pioneers. Now directors of Peoples Alternative Energy Services (PAES), these fifth-generation Valley residents built their own adobe solar home. They have conducted workshops in the Valley, elsewhere in Colorado, in North Dakota, and in Utah. Their workshops have resulted in the construction of 30 solar food dryers, four solar collectors, 10 thermo-syphon hot water heaters, seven community solar greenhouses and four home greenhouses.



In 1977, the Valdezes received a small grant from the Carolyn Foundation—the first money from outside the Valley for solar projects—to encourage demonstrations of alternate energy systems. Hands-on workshops on building solar crop dryers, space heating and water heating systems were conducted across the Valley. The Valdezes, who speak both English and Spanish, were able to involve the large Hispanic community in energy education and design projects. Through the Community Services Administration, PAES was given a subcontract by the Colorado Migrant Council to install a solar heating system and greenhouses for farm labor housing in the Valley. The organization has recently received another foundation grant for its continued work.

The San Luis Valley Solar Energy Association has also begun to receive some outside funding for its information dissemination and coordination responsibilites. A $7,800 grant from the National Center for Appropriate Technology will pay for a year's salary for an organizer/administrator.

The San Luis Valley experience shows how far a low-income rural community can develop solar energy on its own. As Akira Kawanabe emphasizes, "Community-based efforts can bring about energy awareness and action programs which Federal and State programs have not been able to accomplish." Local projects and organizations can—and often do—lead the way. They can show large bureaucracies just what people want and need in their communities—and how eager and resourceful they can be in getting what they want.

—Richard Kazis

Community Realty Company Helps Fight Housing Speculation

For the past several years speculators have been buying up homes in Riverwest on Milwaukee's East Side, forcing out long-time residents and low-income families. In one case, a realty company convinced a family its home was worth only $17,500. Two months after buying the home, the realty company sold it for an additional $15,500.

This year, neighborhood residents decided to fight speculation by starting a community realty business. The business, run by the East Side Housing Action Committee (ESHAC), has handled about ten real estate transactions in the past few months and has another 20 or so families interested in buying homes in Riverwest. Although the business is designed to eventually become self-sufficient through commissions, profit is not the first priority. Homeowners are encouraged to sell to owner occupants, and current renters are counseled so they can buy homes from their landlords or other homes in the area. The company also focuses on sections of Riverwest with weaker housing markets, in an effort to encourage overall stability.

The community realty business operates with the help of $22,000 from the Wisconsin Department of Local Affairs and Development. The award came after ESHAC carefully studied Riverwest's housing situation and documented the need for the program. Local private realtors protested the grant, but ESHAC, with 500 families as dues-paying members and a six-year reputation in Riverwest, had enough credibility with state and local officials to withstand the challenge from private realtors.

Many of the ESHAC house listings come from a service available to all licensed realtors in the area. Other homes, as well as most buyers, come through word-of-mouth or through other activities in the ESHAC organization. The ESHAC Neighborhood Improvement Project, for example, trains unemployed residents in home repair skills by fixing homes of low-income homeowners. The group also distributes 8,000 copies of a free monthly newsletter throughout Riverwest.

Jim Schultz, coordinator for the realty business, says the program is growing beyond expectations, but that several factors limit its overall impact. One is that many people want to buy homes but can't find financing. Schultz also says that the program's most valuable services, such as counseling for tenants who want to buy their buildings, are not profitable in a traditional sense. So although the business will soon be able to compete on the private realty market based on its commissions, Schultz would like to see some sort of permanent subsidy—perhaps $5000 to $10,000 a year—to cover the counseling. "Otherwise," Schultz said, "We could become just another realty company."

Riverwest Profile

Riverwest, a community of about 13,000 people, in many ways typifies both the problems of many urban neighborhoods and the potential for solving these problems through local self-reliance. Settled in the 1880's as a neighborhood of workers in Milwaukee's nearby tanneries and mills, Riverwest has experienced most of the shocks typical to urban areas: migrations of various ethnic groups; suburbanization and the weakening of the city's overall economy; an aging housing stock; and development, such as highway expansion, which threatened to destroy what was already significantly damaged.

In the last five or six years, however, Riverwest has staged a modest comeback. Residents organized to successfully defeat the highway. Two local food coops and a credit union have formed, and the community, largely through ESHAC, is tackling head-on its biggest problem—housing.

The turning point for Riverwest came in 1973 with the battle against expansion of Locust Street. City plans for this major boulevard in Riverwest would have destroyed many homes and businesses. Up until then, residents had staged only minor and often unsuccessful protests, usually against slumlords, in an attempt to halt a thirty-year decline in their neighborhood. But the proposed Locust Street expansion outraged and mobilized so many residents and local organizations that the city was forced to drop its plans. The victory convinced many residents that Riverwest could stop reacting against outside forces which threatened the community and could start taking positive action on its own.

ESHAC Grows with Riverwest

ESHAC has been a focus for this shift in thinking. Started in

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BLOCK ADDRESS	PURCHASED BY	PRICE/ DATE	PRICE/ DATE
3100 N. Bremen	M. J. Schramm	$25,000 6/78	$37,000 8/78
3100 N. Bremen	M. J. Schramm	17,500 9/77	33,000 4/78
1120 E. Auer	Robert Hoag Co.	5,500 4/76	24,500 9/76
3200 N. Booth	Robert Hoag Co.	14,000 8/78	25,200 10/78
2500 N. Pierce	Robert Hoag Co.	14,500 6/78	22,500 7/78
3400 N. Palmer	Ridgeway Realty	14,500 6/78	25,900 9/78
2700 N. Holton	Ridgeway Realty	10,700 10/77	24,700 3/78
900 E. Hadley	Jack Waldheim	5,000 5/78	15,500 5/78
3400 N. Hubbard	Ettenheim and Zimmerman	13,000 5/78	21,400 6/78
3400 N. Richards	Ettenheim and Zimmerman	10,000 8/78	23,500 9/78

Private real estate transactions such as these, documented by the East Side Housing Action Committee in Milwaukee's Riverwest neighborhood, led to the formation of a community-based realty company.

Progress Reports

New Funds for Recyclers

Raising money for recycling programs is not easy, but a number of recyclers are benefitting from new sources of funds. The biggest help is coming from the state of California, which recently passed a special tax on state wholesalers and manufacturers that will raise an estimated $4 million for state recyclers. The tax is not without faults, however. Small companies pay a relatively high price, while huge retailers like McDonald's, which generate a considerable amount of waste, pay nothing. Also, a major portion of the funds raised by the tax go to less than effective anti-litter campaigns and even less desirable high technology resource recovery plants. Finally, the tax has been backed by business interests as a way to avoid a state bottle bill.

Currently, the state is considering a revised funding mechanism which will spread the tax burden more equitably among businesses and raise even more revenue. Recyclers would also like to see a "sunset" clause in the bill, restricting it to two years. This way, recyclers would benefit from the short-term gains to stabilize operations, and then push for a state bottle bill. For more information, contact: **Hal Conklin, California Resource Recovery Association, PO Box 448, Santa Barbara CA 93102, 805/962-2210.**

In Colorado, recyclers in Littleton and Englewood got $30,000 in a fundraising effort that started out as a joke. Pete Grogan of Ecocycle, which runs a recycling program in Littleton and Englewood, heard that the two towns had been fined $30,000 by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for accidentally dumping raw sewage in the Platte River. Grogan thought it would be great if funds were returned to the communities for local recycling, rather than going to the federal treasury. When he mentioned the thought to regional EPA officials, Grogan was shocked to find they took him seriously. The towns, which had balked at paying the fines, were delighted with the idea. "It was the easiest money I've ever come across," said Grogan, who said the negotiations took place mostly over the phone in just a few weeks, despite the precedent setting nature of the arrangement. Grogan now has his eye on a $300,000 EPA fine levied against the town of Colorado Springs. For more information, contact: **Pete Grogan, Ecocyle, Box 4193, Boulder CO 80306, 303/444-6634.**

In Michigan, recyclers are pushing for a state bill which would place unclaimed soft drink and beer container deposits in a special state fund for conservation and recreation purposes. Because some beer and soft drink customers never return containers to the retail outlet to regain their deposit money, about 10 to 15 percent of the deposits paid remain unclaimed. This money, recyclers estimate, adds up to as much as $40 million per year. For more information on the progress of the bill, contact: **the Ecology Center, 417 Detroit Street, Ann Arbor MI 48104, 313/761-3186.**

—Information in part from Compost Science magazine

Small Businesses for Teeenagers

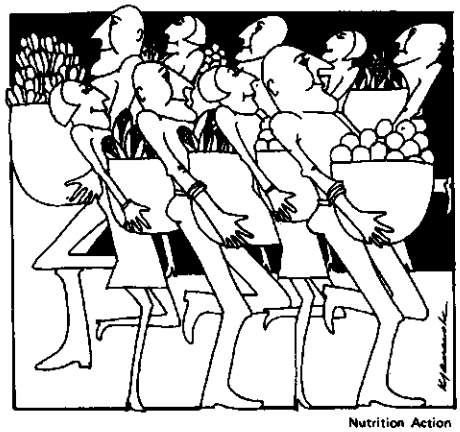
A Toronto-based organization called Learnx has created four small businesses employing drop-outs from the city's schools. The businesses, currently receiving subsidies from the Toronto Board of Education, are designed to become self-sufficient and financially viable within three years.

The businesses include a paper recycling project where scrap paper from a local education center is baled and sold for recycling, a community kitchen and catering facility where meals are prepared for local day care centers, meals-on-wheels and private customers, a furniture refinishing business, and a small wood product manufacturing enterprise where a complete line of small wood novelties are produced and marketed.

As a result of this experience, Learnx has received a federal grant to study the feasibility of three additional small businesses for youth. They include recycling paper from downtown office buildings, a tour guide service and urban farming using large-scale hydroponics. The businesses will be analyzed both for their job creation potential and their ability to become self-sufficient operations. For more information, contact: **Dale Shuttleworth, Toronto Board of Education, 155 College Street, Toronto, Canada M5T 1P6, 416/362-4931.**

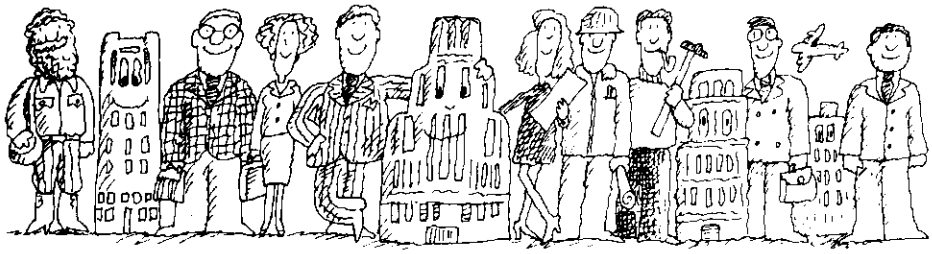
Toledo Mothers Launch Food Coop

Women of the Old West End started as a group of Toledo mothers meeting informally at a local library to talk about their children's schools. In the past year, however, the group has held a neighborhood fair which attracted 10,000 to the Old West End and has organized a block watch program to reduce crime. Now the group is planning a food coop which will work with neighborhood youths who have run into trouble with the law. The city's juvenile court has agreed to refer youths from the Old West End to the food coop. A few small grants will help buy equipment such as coolers and sinks, and a local church is interested in donating space. The group began the project by looking into what other communities had done with unemployed youths. They quickly learned about programs and funding from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (see article on community crime control, page 1). "The alternative community in Toledo is not very visible," says organizer Mary Tucker, "but things are changing. Our Solar Opportunities League sponsored a Renewable Energy Fair in May, and we have a variety of people with expertise in many areas." For more information, contact: **Women of the Old West End, PO Box 4745, Toledo OH, 43620, 419/242-7386.**



Nutrition Action

When writing to any of the contacts mentioned in SELF-RELIANCE, please send a self-addressed stamped envelope. It will speed the reply and will save these folks some money.



Self-Reliance through the Ballot Box

Campaigning on a platform of community self-reliance, a group called Berkeley Citizens Action (BCA) captured the Mayor's Office, three seats on the City Council and the City Auditor's post in a Berkeley, California election April 17.

Citing successful examples of community-based economic development around the country, BCA candidates stressed the need to develop local resources in Berkeley, as well as new technologies such as solar energy. As part of the campaign, BCA produced a handbook explaining the concepts of community self-reliance, proposals for short-term and long-term action based on the concepts, and answers to frequently asked questions about locally-based development in housing, jobs, energy, food and health.

Although the BCA campaign is to date the country's best organized and most forceful presentation of community self-reliance in a local election, the winners are moving cautiously. Low-voter turnout in conservative sections of the city combined with a three-way race for mayor were big factors in the BCA victory, and understanding of community self-reliance is still low among most Berkeley citizens. Also, several BCA winners, particularly mayor-elect Gus Newport, are inexperienced politicians. This, along with the limits facing any elected official attempting to produce real change, means that the BCA will have a hard time turning its proposals into reality. For more information, contact: **Berkeley Citizens Action, 3126 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley CA 94705, 415/549-1616.**

* * *

In Denver, a more modest neighborhood campaign strategy for a city election in May had considerably less success than Berkeley Citizens Action. A coalition of 16 organizations called Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation wrote a neighborhood platform and asked candidates to endorse it. Many candidates did, but the effort had little impact. Because Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation is a coalition of divergent community groups, the platform lacked the specifics of the Berkeley program, and much of it could be endorsed by almost any candidate. Also, the platform and candidate's positions on it received almost no publicity. Finally, on election day, most of the candidates the coalition preferred were unsuccessful. The few victories were those in which candidates not friendly to the coalition were kept out of office. Coalition chairperson Bernie Jones says the group is planning a post-mortem on the election to discuss neighborhood strategies for future elections. For more information, contact: **Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation, 1459 Ogden Street at Colfax, Denver CO 80218, 303/832-3526.**

Anti-redliners Win First Round

In its first test of strength, the Community Reinvestment Act has come up a winner. This federal anti-redlining law, passed in 1977, penalizes banks that do not lend money to finance improvements in inner-city neighborhoods. Last month, a New York City savings bank was denied a permit to open a new branch because the bank had granted too few residential mortgages in its community. This precedent setting case reduces fears that the Community Reinvestment Act would be ineffective in the fight against redlining. For more information on anti-redlining or the Community Reinvestment Act, contact: **Center for Community Change, 1000 Wisconsin Avenue NW, Washington DC 20007, 202/338-8920.**

Sudbury 2001: Company Town Fights Back

Residents of Sudbury, Ontario have been hit hard by an eight month-long strike at INCO, a nickel mine which had been the region's largest employer. As a result, Sudbury is pursuing a program of local self-reliance in a big way.

With the help of almost $1 million from the Canadian Department of Supply and Services, Sudbury is constructing a two-acre solar and wood-headed greenhouse, with plans to expand the facility over five more acres in the next few years. Planners expect the crops to eventually produce over a half million dollars in revenue and supply ten percent of the vegetables for the region. Food wastes will be composted to supplement and eventually replace reliance on fossil-based fertilizers.

The city is also considering an experimental organic farming operation on 2000 acres south of the city that were once used as a minimum security prison/farm. If plans go through, the area will also house 500 mohair goats recently imported into the region to create a mohair wool industry that is expected to employ 250 to 300 people within five years. The mohair industry received $100,000 seed money from Sudbury 2001, a coalition of business, labor and government people designed to reduce the region's dependence on the single industry of nickel mining.

The Sudbury Region is also experimenting with alternative sewage treatment methods. This summer, 44 students will work on a project to break down sewage in lagoons using algae and minute animal species and specially selected plants. It is hoped this organic treatment will break down chemicals and toxic compounds into harmless elements and waste water clean enough to be released into water bodies.

Another part of the self-reliance strategy for Sudbury is a "buy local" campaign. A directory of locally made products has been compiled to develop consumer awareness and encourage consumption of local goods and services. For more information about Sudbury 2001, contact: **William Bradley, Box 1313, Sudbury Ontario, P3E 4S7, Canada, 705/674-2001.**

Adams Morgan Revisited: Lessons from Community Technology

(continued from page 3)

The group decided to build a solar cooker, rather than storm windows or solar collectors, even though the cooker was really designed for non-industrialized tropical nations.

In addition, the projects were unsuccessful. As the *Rock Creek Monitor,* Adams Morgan's newspaper, stated succinctly in early 1979, "Most of the projects of Community Technology failed." The trout died before reaching maturity. The solar cooker never operated reliably (if at all). The bacteriological toilet operated so poorly that it fell into disuse after a few months. This is not to say the projects could not technically have worked. But theory and practice are two different things.

Lack of Context

The strength of the appropriate technology movement—the focus on small communities—can also be its major failing. It presumes reconstruction can take place through internal revitalization, ignoring the larger world. "The reality is that when most people want something to change, it will change," writes Karl Hess, and he means this in a neighborhood context. For him, the basic ingredients of social change are a committed neighborhood, adequate access to tools and know-how, open meetings, and a small amount of capital. However, although participation and knowledge may be necessary conditions, they are not sufficient.

In a book that purports to be about Adams Morgan, there is only one paragraph that describes the setting:

Adams-Morgan is a small country afloat in a great city. It is a neighborhood of some seventy blocks in the center—almost the exact center—of Washington, D.C. The population is 58 per cent black, 22 per cent Latin American, 18 per cent white, with a remainder mostly Middle Eastern. It is a neighborhood in transition; as a small country, it's in decline.

What does this tell a reader living in Portland, or San Francisco, or Chicago or Des Moines? One cannot discuss the prospects of a neighborhood without explaining the social forces that intersect and define its context. Karl does not mention that Washington D.C. was 75 percent white in 1950, only to become 75 percent black in 1975. He does not mention that D.C. was stripped of political authority after the Civil War, when migrating blacks threatened to become a majority in the city. He does not mention that D.C. was governed for almost one hundred years by three commissioners, usually retired military personnel, appointed by the President.

The strength of the appropriate technology movement—the focus on small communities—can also be its major failing.

District residents in fact, could not vote for the President until the 1964 Pesidential elections. We could not elect a local school board until 1968. We did not have even a non-voting representative in Congress until 1972, or an elected mayor and city council until 1974. Because of this, Adams Morgan in 1974 was a neighborhood in the middle of a colony. The colony was gaining a measure of self-determination and was fighting for more. So was the neighborhood.

By ignoring this larger context, Adams Morgan in Karl Hess's book appears to stand outside of history. When Karl writes of Community Technology as an organization, he makes it seem as if there were a dormant neighborhood which became activated by people like himself, only to slip back into passivity after a short energetic spurt. Karl ignores the rich history of activism in Adams Morgan, both before his arrival, and after his departure. In the 1960's, the neighborhood fought long and hard against an urban renewal program that would have destroyed major sections of it. It struggled for 14 years to get the city to purchase a four-acre park in the middle of the neighborhood.

Personal Politics

One major reason the community never related closely to the activities of Community Technology was that the group never addressed itself to what the community perceived to be its primary concern: housing. Solar collectors, trout farms, community gardens, even credit unions, or self-managed businesses, mean little until one controls the land.

With regards to housing, D.C. is a city under siege. According to one recent study, almost 110,000 people in a city of 680,000 face imminent eviction. Children of the post-war baby boom are now buying homes. A declining birth rate and entry of women into the labor force have produced the double income family with few, or no offspring. As a result, housing prices are driven up and low-income families are pushed out.

Karl does touch on the issue of housing briefly, but more as an example of neighborhood passivity than as an issue that concerned his organization:

In meeting after meeting, for instance, the idea of pooling money was brought up, pooling money to establish neighborhood ownership of key properties, to provide homes for the evicted, to set new patterns of ownership for a new kind of neighborhood. Plenty of "right ons." No cash.

He continues:

The pool of money needed to buy our neighborhood would have been relatively modest, the weekly equivalent of a carton of cigarettes or a bottle of whiskey from each member of the assembly. Of course, it would have meant sacrifice.

In an article in *North Country Anvil,* Karl repeats this idea. Rather than organizing to give housing to poor people, he encourages us to "see the problem of housing as one in which the desirable goal is to turn people away from being merely consumers of housing toward being producers of housing . . . Money is usually not the thing standing in the way."

This attitude is remarkably naive, for several reasons. First, assuming an attendance of 300 people at assembly meetings and $500 per year in contributions ($10 per week) the community would raise $150,000. This is sufficient to buy maybe two houses, not an entire neighborhood. If one could find a rich

person willing to co-sign a loan, it might be sufficient to purchase six or seven houses. Second, there is little space left in our cities for massive building. Third, the major cost of a house is not in labor, but in land acquisition, finance charges and materials. Fourth, if a poor person has lived in a house for 10 or 20 years, doesn't he or she have more of a "right" to it than an absentee owner who has long since written it off his taxes?

There has also been considerable activity on housing issues in Adams Morgan that is not mentioned in Karl's book. The neighborhood has been in the forefront of actions designed to halt land speculation and assist low-income people in preserving their homes. Jubilee Housing has purchased more than $1 million of apartments, converting them into low and moderate income cooperatives. The Adams Morgan Organization raised $60,000 to purchase a block of buildings for low-income tenants, and gained an additional several hundred thousand dollars for rehab loans from the city. It may be relevant to point out here that Karl himself was forced to leave his home because of speculation. (In addition, Community Technology had free rent, but the warehouse was sold after Karl left.)

But these housing victories are drops in the bucket. When D.C. passed a rent control bill, landlords began converting rental units into condominiums. When D.C. passed a bill stopping all condominium conversion, landlords began converting rental units into "apartment-hotels," an ingenious mechanism for subverting the intent of the law. Now D.C. has an anti-speculation tax, and this may have some impact. Yet, the tidal wave continues to engulf the tiny neighborhood. In one month in early 1979, about 7 percent of all housing units in Adams Morgan filed requests for conversion to condominiums. That's about 90 percent per year. While Karl talks about passing the hat, the Adams Morgan Organization recently put up several thousand dollars to hire organizers to help tenants fight eviction. And the Adams Morgan Organization fought hard against permitting a zoning change for a new savings and loan branch until the savings and loan first agreed to provide loans to low and moderate income residents, and establish a loan oversight committee of neighborhood people.

Power and Arrogance

Which brings us directly to the issue of power. Karl ignores, avoids or criticizes those who direct their attention to power. His pollyannish attitudes toward social change has its counterpart—arrogance. In this book the arrogance is directed at blacks:

The people who seemed to talk about and do the least in support of our group's proposals were black . . . Blacks think black, as they continually say. So black has come to mean poor and oppressed. Black demands have come to mean black reparations; to be given something rather than seeking the chance to do something.

Such a statement, directed at 75 percent of Washington, D.C. and 60 percent of his own community, screams for elaboration. Karl chides blacks in D.C. for striving for power instead of production. He fails to mention that many people in D.C., blacks as well as whites, chided *him* for exactly the opposite: ignoring power and concentrating on what they perceived as interesting backyard hobbies and inventions.

There are many blacks who view the neighborhood movement with suspicion. They see it, and the concomitant move to metropolitan authorities, as not coincidentally arising just as blacks were becoming the major political force in central cities. At the same time blacks were winning mayoral and city council elections, the twin demand for neighborhood power and metropolitan government undercut the power of the city.

We need to reach out, to build coalitions with labor unions, city governments, professional organizations, state legislatures . . .

In the final analysis, it is this conscious avoidance of power and institution building which dooms Karl's philosophy to failure. It is not a coincidence that in *Community Technology* there is no mention of small business development and no discussion of city political authority. Institutionalization, representative government and political power are not goals to be achieved. They are evils to be avoided. Yet, by not addressing the needs of his community, and refusing to deal with the larger forces impinging on the security of his neighbors, Karl is left with little more to do than to criticize.

The strength of the community technology movement is that it can harness our vast scientific and engineering expertise in moving toward small systems. Its strength lies in the way it encourages average citizens to begin transforming themselves and their communities into places of production. But if it stops there, it will degenerate into a cynical, isolated voice, criticizing those who don't drop everything to raise fish in the basement.

We need to reach out, to build coalitions with labor unions, city governments, professional organizations, state legislatures, machine tool shops. It is only when the movement can link scientific knowledge to political power, only when it can acknowledge the larger context of this revival of small-scale living, that it can have a substantial, permanent impact on our way of life.

—David Morris

(David Morris is a 12-year resident of Adams Morgan.)

Notice to Subscribers

Self-Reliance subscribers may have noticed their address label is now printed by a computer and includes a mysterious collection of numbers and letters. The computer will help us quickly process the growing number of people ordering publications from the Institute. It will also help us keep track of the particular interests of our diverse audience. While the new system promises long-term benefits, the immediate effect has been less than a success. Setting up the system proved to be a nightmare, resulting in many erroneous mailings and considerable delays. Most of this trouble, however, appears to be behind us.

One side effect of our computer mailing is that we are now in a position to sell or exchange our list. Considering the nuisance it may cause our readers, we are approaching list selling with extreme care. Because list selling is not a money-making situation, readers should not worry that we will offer names to all comers. Nevertheless, there may be occasions (we estimate less than ten times a year) when it makes sense to offer all or part of our list in order to expand our own audience or to benefit a worthy effort. If you want no part of even this limited use of your name, simply tell us. Now that we have a computer, we can code your name so it won't appear on any list we offer or sell.

The Harsh Realities of International Oil

***Self-Reliance* rarely discusses national and international trends. Other magazines and journals do a more than adequate job. However, occasionally we run across an article that puts into perspective situations which for most people are confusing and obscure. The international oil situation is a case in point. Local energy strategies such as neighborhood buying arrangements for conservation materials, car pooling and solar energy are all tied directly or indirectly to the world price of oil. Almost all newspaper stories focus on the issue of government ineptness, oil companies conspiracy, or oil producing nations' greed. A recent issue of the excellent weekly newsletter, *Energy Planning Report*, clarifies the global situation by emphasizing simple arithmetic and international treaty obligations. The information is from an analysis by Burt Kline, director of Energy Policy and Programs for the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. With pleasure we reprint a portion of *Energy Planning Report's* special issue on international oil.**

In late 1978, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) was able and willing to produce approximately 31 million barrels of oil per day for export to meet their own economic and political needs. At the same time, the Western world, industrialized and developing nations imported 28 million barrels of OPEC oil per day.

In December 1978, however, Iran stopped producing oil, decreasing the OPEC oil exports by approximately six million barrels per day. This resulted in a shortage of 3 million barrels of oil per day on the world oil market. Both Saudi Arabia and Kuwait raised their oil production levels, but their actions still left supply about a half million barrels of oil per day below demand.

When the OPEC nations met in December to set new prices, it was the first time they had ever convened a meeting when demand for importing oil was greater than the supply of oil available for export. Although a five percent price increase was expected, OPEC actually agreed to a 15 percent oil price increase, to be phased in over the course of 1979 with an annualized increase during the phasing of ten percent. A month later, Saudi Arabia cut its oil production, leaving a daily supply deficit of 2.5 million barrels of oil.

As a result of world oil shortages, several oil producing countries raised or considered raising their prices unilaterally in addition to the 15 percent price hike approved just months earlier.

In March, Iran resumed oil production, recognizing that without its oil, the Western world would face energy shortages and severe economic dislocations. Iranian production brought supply and demand back to approximate balance, but at a price. Iran opted to auction its oil to the highest bidder, and oil tankers of all Western nations stood in line to pay prices reported to range from $18 to $25 per barrel. The most frequently reported figure was $22. This is nearly a 100 percent increase in price for Iranian oil in only a few months time.

International Energy Alliance Agreement

In 1975, Japan and the United States joined a group of oil importing nations to form the International Energy Alliance (IEA) set up as a political and economic counterforce to OPEC. Its main proviso is to share oil shortages equitably among member nations. Because of the Iranian shutdown in December, Japan, which imports 99 percent of its oil, was close to falling 7 percent short of its needs and was looking to other industrialized nations to help out.

In March, Japan was close to triggering the IEA mechanism, but the United States was experiencing shortages of its own. Iran had cut off supplies to Israel, which had previously been getting 70 percent of oil from the deposed Shah. The U.S., based on a guarantee to Israel to provide the oil it needs, began exporting oil to Israel despite shortages of its own and the likelihood it would soon have to export oil to Japan as well.

Maintaining Credibility

Faced with this predicament, the U.S. called on IEA members to cut oil consumption by five percent, decreasing demand for OPEC oil by 2 million barrels per day. But under penalty of losing credibility among Western nations and reinforcing its already bad image of an "oil glutton," the U.S. will have to risk significant economic dislocations by cutting its own oil consumption. These dislocations will include further gas shortages, higher prices for gas, heating oil and oil-based products, and higher electric rates.

In the past several months, political events have aggravated the world oil situation. Saudi Arabia, which supplies the U.S. with 10 percent of its total oil consumption, is under extreme pressure to cut back its supplies. The Saudis are unhappy with the Egyptian-Israeli treaty, which they feel does not redress all the Arab grievances. They do not think the U.S. did enough to protect interests in Iran, and therefore cannot be trusted should hostile forces threaten Saudi security. For a variety of cultural and economic reasons, growing forces in Saudi Arabia are urging that country to move more slowly in its modernization, its ties with the West, and its oil production. Because of this pressure, and because the Saudis can easily meet their economic needs with lower production, particularly with higher prices, a cut in Saudi production from 8 million barrels per day to something close to 6 million barrels per day is quite possible.

As OPEC prices continue to rise while production levels are likely to fall or at least stay consistently below demand, Western nations, and the U.S. in particular as the largest consumer of imported oil, can look forward to high inflation, mandatory conservation measures, and shortages of oil-based products.

As difficult as world oil shortages may be, the preceeding account shows that the situation is largely one of simple supply and demand, in a market with few sellers that is threatened by intense political considerations. The U.S. does not really have a choice. It must cut back on energy consumption and begin alternative energy planning that will minimize economic disruption. For a complete account of this report, write to: Energy Planning Report, 655 National Press Building, Washington DC 20045, 202/347-7272.

Milwaukee's ESHAC Grows With the Neighborhood

(continued from page 7)

1972 by 20 tenants, the group now has an annual budget of about $300,000 and a full-time staff of ten. With its office on Locust Street, ESHAC helped lead the fight against highway expansion in Riverwest. The three-year battle transformed ESHAC from a single issue tenant organization into a broad-based neighborhood group of homeowners and renters.

One of ESHAC's first non-housing programs was the Gordon

Park grocery coop, formed when the Gordon Park Foodland store closed in 1973 because of the threatened Locust Street expansion. A coop took over the building, but inexperienced management and a lack of funds got it off to a shaky start. ESHAC stepped in to help manage the store for two-and-a-half years until it achieved self-sufficiency. Today Gordon Park is a full-service store, selling everything from fresh fish, meat, vegetables to Coke, beer and cigarettes.*

ESHAC also helped start the First HUB Credit Union, founded in 1977 after Riverwest's savings associations and bank left. A state charter was won after a long struggle by ESHAC, local parishes, local political representatives and community residents. Anyone who lives or works in the Riverwest area can join First HUB. After one year of operation, the credit union has about 400 members, many of them also members of ESHAC, and about $150,000 in assets.

A big boost to the Riverwest's local economy came when another food store—Outpost Natural Foods Coop—opened in the neighborhood. Outpost is now probably the leading purveyor of organic and natural foods in Milwaukee, with annual sales topping $750,000, more than 4000 members and a full-time staff of eight. Although Outpost brings shoppers into Riverwest from all over the metropolitan Milwaukee area, its business is linked to the significant influx of University of Milwaukee students and graduates into Riverwest, attracted by low rents and cultural diversity in the area.

The presence of a new, younger population is not without tension, but the University community has offered some real advantages to Riverwest as well. One is the Children's Discovery Center, a day care center once located on campus, but which recently moved into a residential area of Riverwest and now serves a large number of non-university families. The school has also been a useful source for research documenting economic activity in Riverwest that has helped lead to specific strategies for change.

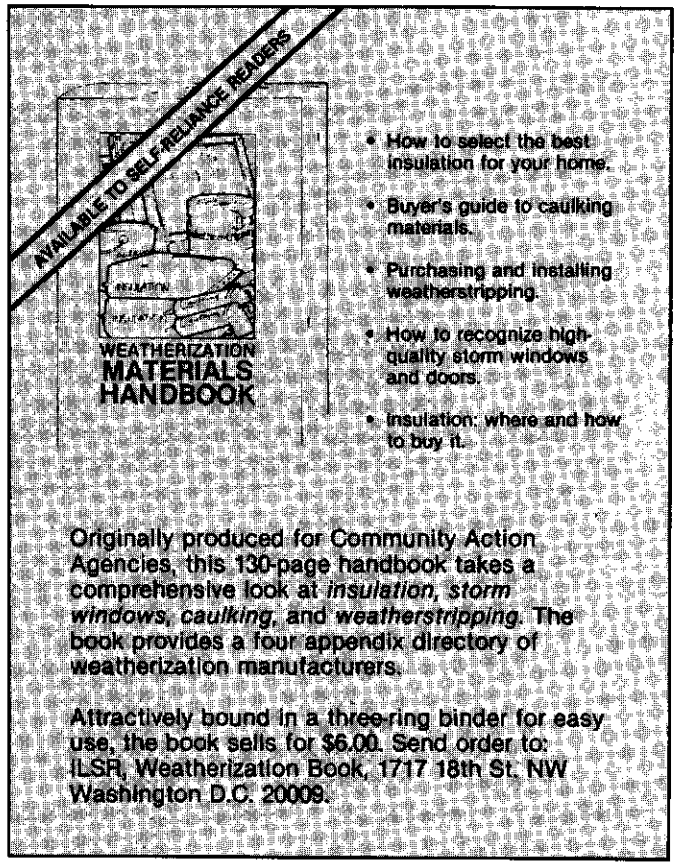
A Strategy for Redevelopment

One such study is *A Strategy for Redevelopment of Riverwest,* produced by ESHAC and the faculty at the University's economics and architecture and urban planning departments. This 82-page report, detailing housing and local business characteristics in Riverwest, has become a blueprint for local self-reliance activities in the neighborhood. The report analyzes where problem or potential trouble spots are located, and suggests strategies for locally-based development. The community realty company is one such suggestion which has already been carried out. ESHAC will send a free summary of the study on request, and copies of the complete report are available for $3. For more information on activities in Riverwest, contact: **ESHAC, 531 East Burleigh Street, Milwaukee WI 53212, 414/372-2473.**

*These commercial products helped stabilize the coop's finances, but alienated many of the coop's original founders, who objected to "unhealthy" merchandise. A split over this issue, common to many struggling food coops, almost put Gordon Park out of business.

ILSR Annual Report

The Institute has recently published an annual report which explains our various projects and also provides information about our finances, staff and advisory board. If you would like a free copy of the report for yourself or for someone else, contact: Publications, ILSR, 1717 18th Street NW, Washington DC 20009.



Off the Shelf

Looking Forward and Looking Back

John A. Garraty
Unemployment in History
Harper Colophon Books, New York NY 1979. 273 pages. $3.95.

This is probably the first broad history of unemployment, and it is a useful reminder of how unscientific the science of economics generally is. Garraty wisely chooses to focus not on numbers or even on specific reasons for unemployment in different periods. Rather, he studies how different societies, from Greek and Roman times to the present, have perceived and dealt with unemployment. In effect, this is a history of the development of the discipline of economics. What emerges most clearly from this history is the sense that the theories of economists, like those of all social scientists, are the product of the economic conditions and times they live in. Keynes criticized classical economists for having developed a theory for one specific era. He thought he had developed a "general" theory. But the stagflation of the seventies has made Keynesian theory look like a response to one more specific case, that of an economy in need of stimulation but not plagued by "galloping" inflation. In 1970, before the 1974 recession, economists confidently talked about 3.5 percent unemployment as the acceptable upper limit, as the condition of full employment. Now, after unemployment hit 9 percent in 1975 and it has become clear that any significant attempts to bring unemployment down to 4 percent would spur further inflation, economists have altered their "laws" upward. Throughout the book, Garraty explains the evolution of economics and of attitudes toward joblessness in the Western world in the context of how each crisis changes professional and public perceptions. This is an interesting and a helpful exercise in historical perspective.

Mary Procter and Bill Matuszeski
Gritty Cities
Temple University Press, Philadelphia PA, 1978. 276 pages. $9.95.

A good, catchy title, some fine photographs of hidden architectural gems in East Coast industrial cities, but too little information make this a frustrating book. Those of us who live in and travel up and down the coast, through cities like Hoboken, Paterson, Wilmington, Bridgeport and Allentown, generally feel that these cities get a bum rap. And a careful "second look" would be welcome. But, like too many architectural books, *Gritty Cities* settles for thumbnail sketches of the 12 cities profiled and a series of photographs that capture the local architecture, but make the reader feel that the cities' residents have been evacuated en masse. So, to appreciate these old manufacturing towns, you'll still have to drive through and walk around them. But that is as it should be, for no book has ever been able to capture or substitute for the vitality and diversity of people's lives in relation to their physical surroundings.

John Case and Rosemary C.R. Taylor (eds.)
Co-ops, Communes and Collectives
Pantheon Books, New York NY 1979. 329 pages, $5.95.

The generation of the Sixties, combining counterculture and New Left, was not known for its sense of historical perspective. The late Sixties were, however, a time when thousands of people across the country experimented with building institutions and formulating new ways of living and working that pointed the way to a new society. Food co-ops, free schools, free clinics, law collectives, alternative media, and communal living arrangements were all part of an explosion of experiments—a "new wave" as food co-op organizers have called their movement in the Seventies. Now, as the Eighties approach and many of the alternative networks have faded and fallen—victims of burnout and economic realities—the various authors of articles in this book try to analyze and place the phenomenon of the past decade's alternative institutions, to give some historical and sociological perspective. The case studies vary from a journalistic account by Andrew Kopkind of the transformation of Boston's alternative media, to a careful analysis by Allen Grauder of the incorporation of free schools into public school system "educational alternatives." The analytical articles are perhaps even more interesting. Larry Hirschorn discusses the broader issue of the crisis in the helping professions that the creation of alternative service institutions addressed and reacted to. Several articles discuss the results of sociological research projects on equality and participatory democracy in alternative institutions. The book ends positively—neither nostalgic nor cynical—with David Moberg's important distinction between the focus on services and consumption among alternatives of the early Seventies and the shift in the past several years to an emphasis on production, on local control of resources and wealth. *Co-ops, Communes and Collectives* is a useful and, at times, quite insightful look at our recent past.

Lane de Moll and Gigi Coe (eds.)
Stepping Stones
Schocken Books, New York NY, 1978. 204 pages. $2.95.

This is the companion volume to the indispensable *Rainbook.* The *Rainbook* provided access to the active groups and important information in the many areas of concern that fall under the title "appropriate technology." This book provides the theory. Parts I and II consist of the classic arguments for small-scale, ecologically sound, locally-based development, made by the classic authorities: E.F. Schumacher, Murray Bookchin, Amory Lovins, Wendell Barry, Leopold Kohr, Ivan Illich *et al.* These are intelligent articles and it is useful to have them all assembled in one place. The third section is a collection of essays that look "beyond technology." These address some of the problems with A.T.—the compatibility of low technology with "good business sense," the problem of developing a "living lightly" ethic among people who have never had any choice but to live lightly and would like to experience the other option before giving it up, the limits of an argument based on technology in dealing with real issues of power and control.

People are generally more convinced by what they experience and see than by what they need, and we should not expect *Stepping Stones* to turn any angry heads. But it is a very useful reference and, for people to whom this is a first exposure to the concepts and ideas of appropriate technology, it is a good place to begin.

Notes

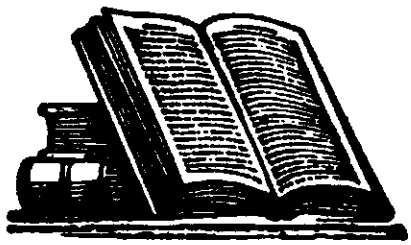
Jeremy Rifkin and Randy Barber
The North Will Rise Again
Beacon Press, Boston MA 1978.
279 pages. $4.95.

This book has spurred much debate and discussion among union leaders, governmental officials in industrial states and members of the business community since its publication last year. Rifkin and Barber, both of the Peoples Business Commission in Washington (a descendant of the Peoples Bicentennial Commission) argue that the coming decade will be a critical period for the future of organized labor and the 16 states that make up the Northeast/Midwest quadrant of the United States. Over sixty percent of all unionists are concentrated in this "Graybelt," but industry and capital are steadily leaving the region to take advantage of lower wages and cheaper resources in the non-union Sunbelt. If the trend continues, the power of organized labor will wane and the political representation and power of the Southern states will rise. Barber and Rifkin argue that there is a way to stem the outflow of capital from the industrial Graybelt. Today, over $200 billion in pension-fund capital comes from the combined deferred saving of 19 million union members and the public employee funds of the sixteen Graybelt states. Although control of these powerful assets has been relinquished to the financial establishment, the possibility exists of using pension funds creatively to help the Graybelt states build their own independent economic base. Unions and northern state governments could become "investors, owners, planners and participants in the economic process." It all depends on how daring the unions and state governments are able to be and choose to be. In this book, the authors lay out the history of the decline of the Graybelt and of organized labor, carefully analyze the issues of ownership and control of pension capital, and propose a battle strategy for the Eighties based on pension fund capital as a means of rejuvenating the economies of northern states and, consequently, membership rolls of industrial unions. The book has created a stir and has sparked some activity among union officials. But Rifkin and Barber can only write a book, they cannot force political change. Whether pension fund capital is used to benefit union contributors by focusing investment in industrial states—rather than to finance non-union Sunbelt development—depends upon the unions and the governments of Graybelt states. The authors argue persuasively that the battle is critical "if American unions and northern industrial states to free themselves once and for all from their dependence on the private capital sector." They also believe that the confrontation is also inevitable.

Paul Cowen
The Tribes of America
Doubleday and Co., Garden City NY,
1979. 311 pages. $10.95.

It is easy for those of us involved in politics and policy-making, in journalism and theorizing, to forget who our suggestions are supposed to benefit. *The Tribes of America* is one journalist's attempt over the past eight years to give a voice to and publicize the struggles and culture of different segments of the American public—striking truckers, illegal Mexican immigrants, Orthodox Jews in New York City, fundamentalists in West Virginia, blacks in Chicago—these are some of the "tribes" visited by Paul Cowan and reported on by him in the pages of the *Village Voice.* In the tradition of Studs Terkel and, before him, James Agee, Cowan is able to humanize the social conflicts and the fears that motivate people as individuals and as members of special interest groups.

These are not careful sociological studies as much as sensitive journalistic essays. But they are readable, interesting and sometimes powerful descriptions of the frustrations—and the hopes—that motivate people in their daily lives. And, the more that people involved in planning and policy work can keep sight of the personal dreams that are the central concerns of most Americans, no matter what this "tribe" (as Cowen calls them), the better the chance that change will have broad impact—and be welcomed.



Reviews by Richard Kazis

***The C.D. Citizen* is a new newsletter dealing with issues relating to Community Development Block Grant programs.** The first issue is filled with useful information for those participating in block grant programs and for non-participants who want to learn more about CDBG. Subscriptions are free. Contact: **Working Group for Community Development Reform, 1000 Wisconsin Avenue NW, Washington DC 20007, 202/338-6382.** *An Advocacy Guide to the Community Development Block Grant Program* is a product of training sessions held last spring by the Legal Services Corporation and the National Housing Law Project. Copies are $2 from: **National Clearinghouse for Legal Services, 500 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 1940, Chicago IL 60611, 312/353-2566.** *Community Development Block Grants: A Strategy for Neighborhood Groups,* is a 274-page book from the National Economic Development and Law Center. Copies are $3.50 for community organizations eligible for assistance from their local Legal Services office and $7.50 for all others. Contact: **Alison Bronstein, National Economic Development and Law Center, 2150 Shattuck Avenue, Suite 300, Berkeley CA 94704, 415/548-2600.**

***Organizing Production Coops* is a 220-page "how-to" manual describing the basic structural and procedural features of a production cooperative.** Chapters include business feasibility, using outside resources, legal questions and cooperative management. Copies are $5 for community organizations eligible for assistance from their local Legal Services office and $7.50 for all others. Copies are available from: **the National Economic Development and Law Center, 2150 Shattuck Avenue, Suite 300, Berkeley CA 94704, 215/548-2600.**

A cooperatively operated fleet of 30 electric cars helps more than 4,000 members in Amsterdam, Holland make low-cost, non-polluting trips around town. Coop members pay $19 for a key that unlocks the cars and are billed at three and one-half cents per minute for each use. The cars are monitored by four computer-controlled charging stations. (*Information from Co-Op, the Harbinger of Economic Democracy.*)

Notes

A good example of initiative and professional planning by local citizens is the Kickapoo Valley Energy Alternative Project. This group developed a solid waste and recycling program with limited funds, and a report they prepared on their efforts would be useful to others. Included in the report is a market survey, summary of resource recovery alternatives and individual efforts, federal and state legislation and good statistics. For a copy, send $2 to: **Solid Waste Prospectus, PO Box 153, Viola WI 54664.**

While most efforts to curb city pollution look to sources like cars and industry, **a group in Dayton, Ohio is doing some interesting work in designing cities to better cope with pollution.** The Dayton Climate Project has come up with the "wet roof" concept and "lawned parking lots" as ways to cool and clean dirty city air. Manipulating the "mini-climates" in cities, the group says, can go a long way toward making them more pleasant. The study is part of a larger program run by the City Beautiful Council, billed as "The Creative Agency of Dayton City Government." Other efforts include what the Guiness Book of World Records says is the world's largest community garden project, and a wind-powered floating garden that has caused a sensation in downtown Dayton. For more information, contact: **Paul Wick, 101 W. Third Street, Dayton OH 45401, 513/225-5339.**

***The IPM Practitioner* is a new newsletter dealing with integrated pest management,** a technique for controlling pests without chemicals. Good advice for community gardeners and solar greenhouse managers. For subscription information, contact: **Bio-Integral Resource Center, PO Box 7242, Berkeley CA 94707.**

Solar greenhouses work, but can they make money growing food? Many commercial solar greenhouses are trying, and a good description of a few of these efforts can be found in the April/May issue of *Solar Greenhouse Digest,* available for $1.25 from **PO Box 3218, Kingman AZ 86401.** In Chicago, six community groups are building solar greenhouses with the intention of raising cash crops. Contact: **the Center for Neighborhood Technology, 570 W. Randolph St., Chicago IL 60606, 312/454-0126.**

Green Power Farm is a 20-acre tract of land just outside of Boston which last summer produced about 75 tons of vegetables for city residents. The farm is owned by the town of Weston, a wealthy suburb, and is not run as a money-making operation; food is distributed by Boston social service agencies at a nominal $1 a crate. But Green Power is a good example of both the production potential of land near large cities and cooperation between city and suburb. Weston teenagers learn gardening alongside Boston youths, and low-income city residents can come out to the farm to pick their own. For more information, contact: **Bill McElwain, 650 Boston Post Road, Weston MA 02193, 617/893-5775.**

Thirty-three organizations that have developed low-cost, active solar collectors are listed in a free booklet published by the National Center for Appropriate Technology. The descriptions and diagrams included don't tell you much, but the names and addresses will tell you where to write for more details. Contact: **NCAT, PO Box 3838, Butte MT 59701, 406/723-6533.**

***Actions and Campaigns* details five ACORN organizing campaigns** on issues including redlining, neighborhood parking and utility regulation. Included is a short article on planning a successful organizing campaign. Copies are available for $3 from the Institute, the research arm of ACORN: **628 Baronne Street, New Orleans LA 70113.**

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